

GENOCIDE

Genocide is “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group.” This includes:

- a) killing members of a group
 - b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
 - c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
 - d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
 - e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group
- 1948 UN Genocide Convention

Genocide is a form of one-sided mass killing in which a state or other authority intends to destroy a group, as that group and membership in it are defined by the perpetrator.

—Chalk, Frank. “Genocide in the 20th Century: Definitions of Genocide and Their Implications for Prediction and Prevention,” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, 4(2), 151.

The term genocide is “...more and more an empty vessel, a word in search of its meaning.”

—Huttenbach, Henry R. “Defining Genocide: Issues and Resolutions” in Samuel Totten, ed. *Teaching About Genocide: Issues, Approaches, and Resources*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing, 2004, p. 84.

Genocide is a denial of the right of existence of entire human groups, as homicide is the denial of the right to lives of individual human beings... When racial, religious, political, and other groups have been destroyed entirely or in part....

—Initial UN Resolution (1946) prior to the creation of the 1948 Convention (Totten, p. 60)

Genocide can include... the destruction of the entire creative heritage of a people: its literature, its architectural monuments, its arts, its entire legacy, in short, its culture.

—Huttenbach, Henry R. “Defining Genocide: Issues and Resolutions,” in Samuel Totten, Ed. *Teaching About Genocide: Issues, Approaches, and Resources*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing, 2004, p. 85.

Genocide is “the wanton murder of human beings on the basis of any identity whatsoever that they share—national, ethnic, racial, religious, political, geographical, ideological.”

—Charney, Israel. “Genocide, the Ultimate Human Rights Problem,” *Social Education*, 49(6), 1985, pp. 448–452, in Totten, p. 66.

ETHNIC CLEANSING

In Bosnia, I think we all got ethnic cleansing mixed up with genocide. To me they are different terms. The horror of them is similar, but the purpose is not. Ethnic cleansing is not “I want to destroy an ethnic group, wipe it out.” It’s “They’re not going to live with us.”

—United States National Security Advisor Brent Snowcroft. In Samantha Power. *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. New York: Basic Books, 2002, pp. 288–289.

An attempt at creating a perceived purity in a group or society through any means.

<www.politics-and-candidates.com/dictionary/politicscandidates_aprioriexecutivebranch.php>

...According to the U.S. State Department, ethnic cleansing generally entails the systematic and forced removal of members of an ethnic group from their communities to change the ethnic composition of a region. It includes:

1. forced expulsions
2. looting and burning
3. detentions
4. summary execution
5. rape
6. violations of medical neutrality
7. identity cleansing

<americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/justiceontrial/keyterms.html>

Ethnic cleansing – the use of force or intimidation to remove people of a certain ethnic or religious group from an area—was the central fact of the wars of Yugoslavia’s destruction. The practice has a method: terror. It has a smell: the fetid misery of refugees. It has an appearance: the ruins of ravaged homes. Its purpose is to ensure—through killing, destruction, threat, and humiliation—that no return is possible.”

—Cohen, Roger. “Ethnic Cleansing.” <www.crimesofwar.org>.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Crimes against humanity are “part of a systematic or widespread attack against a civilian population... [which includes] murder, extermination, deportation... forcible transfer of a population... imprisonment, torture, rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization....”

—Wald, Patricia M. “Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity,” *Washington University*

Global Studies Law Review, 6(3), 2007, pp. 623–625.

Serious criminal human rights abuses. They are distinguished from domestic crimes by their scope or their “mass nature” (that is, whether they are targeted against particular groups and/or sponsored by the state). www.icons.umd.edu/reslib/display_glossary

WAR CRIME

A war crime is a punishable offense, under international (criminal) law, for violations of the law of war by any person or persons, military or civilian.

Every violation of the law of war in an interstate conflict is a war crime, while violations in internal conflicts don't necessarily amount to war crimes.... It comprises such acts as mistreatment of prisoners of war or civilians. War crimes are sometimes part of instances of mass murder and genocide though these crimes are more broadly covered under international humanitarian law described as crimes against humanity.

www.gettherealnews.info/html/glossary.html#war%20crime

The 1945 Charter of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg defined war crimes as “violations of the laws or customs of war,” including murder, ill treatment, or deportation of civilians in occupied territory; murder or ill treatment of prisoners of war; killing of hostages; plunder of public or private property; wanton destruction of municipalities; and devastation not militarily necessary.

—Ratner, Steven R. “War Crimes, Categories of.” www.crimesofwar.org

