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## Darfur and Genocide

# STUDY

### GENOCIDE

*From the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website:*

<http://www.ushmm.org/conscience/history/>

The term "genocide" did not exist before 1944. It is a very specific term, referring to violent crimes committed against groups with the intent to destroy the existence of the group. Human rights, as laid out in the **U.S. Bill of Rights** or the **1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, concern the rights of individuals.

In 1944, a Polish-Jewish lawyer named **Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959)** sought to describe Nazi policies of systematic murder, including the destruction of the European Jews. He formed the word "genocide" by combining geno-, from the Greek word for race or tribe, with -cide, from the Latin word for killing. In proposing this new term, Lemkin had in mind "a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves." The next year, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg charged top Nazis with "crimes against humanity." The word "genocide" was included in the indictment, but as a descriptive, not legal, term.

On December 9, 1948, in the shadow of the Holocaust and in no small part due to the tireless efforts of Lemkin himself, the United Nations approved the **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**. This convention establishes "genocide" as an international crime, which signatory nations "undertake to prevent and punish." It defines genocide as:

Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- Killing members of the group;
  - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
  - Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
  - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

While many cases of group-targeted violence have occurred throughout history and even since the Convention came into effect, the legal and international development of the term is concentrated into two distinct historical periods: the time from the coining of the term until its acceptance as international law (1944–1948) and the time of its activation with the establishment of international criminal tribunals to prosecute the crime of genocide (1991–1998). Preventing genocide, the other major obligation of the convention, remains a challenge that nations and individuals continue to face.

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## DARFUR

From UNICEF

[http://www.unicefusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=duLRI8O0H&b=50755&gclid=CLilj\\_6LiJICFQH1PAodvC3nCc](http://www.unicefusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=duLRI8O0H&b=50755&gclid=CLilj_6LiJICFQH1PAodvC3nCc)

For the last five years, Sudan has been a country in crisis. Its region of Darfur has been subjected to tremendous violence. Set off by a rebel raid on the Sudanese military in 2003, the ongoing conflict that has spread across Darfur has affected over four million people. Thousands have been killed. Over one million children have lost their homes and are currently living in refugee camps in Sudan and Chad. The situation in Darfur has been called one of the worst humanitarian crises in history.

## MORE

### **Crisis in Darfur**

*International Crisis Group: Working to Prevent Conflict Worldwide*

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3060&l=1&gclid=CLq-rN3mjJICFRX2QAodBxMa\\_A](http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3060&l=1&gclid=CLq-rN3mjJICFRX2QAodBxMa_A)

### **Eyes on Darfur**

*Amnesty International*

<http://www.eyesondarfur.org/>

### **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

<http://www.ushmm.org/>

### **The United Nations Responds to the Crisis in Darfur: A Timeline**

[http://www.un.org/News/dh/dev/scripts/darfur\\_formatted.htm](http://www.un.org/News/dh/dev/scripts/darfur_formatted.htm)

### **TIMELINE: Darfur conflict, peace efforts (Reuters)**

[http://www.un.org/News/dh/dev/scripts/darfur\\_formatted.htm](http://www.un.org/News/dh/dev/scripts/darfur_formatted.htm)

### **The Real Roots of Darfur**

*The Atlantic Monthly Article asserting that the roots of the crisis are in global warming*

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200704/darfur-climate>

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## READ

Cheadle, Don and John Prendergast. *Not On Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond* (Hyperion) 2007.

ISBN-10: 1401303358 ISBN-13: 978-1401303358

de Waal, Alex. *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan* (Oxford Studies in African Affairs), (Oxford University Press) 2004.

ISBN-10: 0195181638 ISBN-13: 978-0195181630

de Waal, Alex and Julie Flint. *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War* (Zed Books) 2008. ISBN-10: 1842779508  
ISBN-13: 978-1842779507

Kiernan, Ben *Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur* (Yale University Press) 2007.

ISBN-10: 0300100981 ISBN-13: 978-0300100983

Marlowe Jen, Aisha Bain, and Adam Shapiro (Preface by Paul Rusesabagina) *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival* (Nation Books) 2006.

ISBN-10: 1560259280 ISBN-13: 978-1560259282

Prunier, Gerard. *Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide* (Cornell University Press) 2005.

ISBN-10: 0801444500 ISBN-13: 978-0801444500

Reeves, Eric. *A Long Day's Dying: Critical Moments in the Darfur Genocide.*(Te Key Publishing House) 2007

ISBN-10: 0978043146 ISBN-13: 978-0978043148

Steidle, Brian and Gretchen Steidle Wallace. *The Devil Came on Horseback: Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Darfur.* (Public Affairs) 2007.

ISBN-10: 1586484745

Totten, Samuel and Eric Markusen. *Genocide in Darfur: Investigating the Atrocities in the Sudan.* (Routledge) 2006.

ISBN-10: 0415953294 ISBN-13: 978-0415953290