

GENOCIDE: ATTEMPTING EXTINCTION IN PRACTICE

GENOCIDE

→ *What Is and What Is Not Genocide?*

- forced labour regimes
- displacement/dispossession
- demise of traditional political structures
- dispossession of children
- decline in native language use
- suppression of native religions
- massacres
- epidemics
- subsidized alcoholism
- prohibition against hunting and gathering, forced welfare dependency
- changes in diet
- erosion of native judicial systems
- discrimination
- persecution by police, harsh penalties by courts
- contamination of lands

- Drawing on Greek word “genos” for race, 1944, Polish lawyer Rafael Lemkin coined the word genocide.
- Lemkin examined the genocidal policies of the Germans, defining genocide simply as “the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group.”
- “is effected through a synchronized attack on different aspects of life of the captive people.”
- Elimination of the “essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves.”
- “The objectives of such a plan are the disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of the personal security, liberty, health, dignity and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups.”

→ legal definition, United Nations, 1948: acts committed which intend to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the 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.

ETHNOCIDE

→ *Assimilation efforts*

Q: Is culture an organic entity? Can it “die”? Can it be killed? If so, can it be “revived”?