

CRES 10
Day 9 Notes

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- Structural vs short term genocide
- Law vs Justice

Where does the language we use come from? How is it used and why is it deployed?

Why do certain words stick more to certain contexts than others? What motivates choices in language and associations.

- History of Genocide

1. Most common genocide comes from UN. Goal was to prevent another Holocaust.
2. Goal was to create a criminal context where intervention is justifiable and clear.

Signatory implies agreement that a convention should exist. A ratifier agrees to this specific convention.

3. Anti colonial movements, end of many empires. US was looking to be an imperial power so it only ratified the convention under the convention that the US was immune to prosecution.

The US participated in many proxy wars where the military committed acts which were at least adjacent to genocide.

The US had in the past and at the time still engaged in practices which would fall under genocide. The US did not wish to be held accountable for these past and ongoing crimes.

- International law is about protecting power, as much as it is about challenging power.
- One of the colonial powers that came out of the UN was Israel. Countries who practiced antisemitism on a systematic level for centuries applauded themselves for being better than the Nazis.
They also found themselves coming up with a place to dump the Jews they expelled from their own countries.
- UN definition of Genocide comes from the aftershock of a sudden genocide.
- Structural genocide is about legitimacy. It is often clad in claims of improvement, spreading civilization, etc.

Improvement weaponized as a means of ordaining the destruction of culture and the conquest of land. Production as a measure by which the indigenous is determined to be undesirable.

- Structural genocides always create resistance and that resistance is used to further justify the genocide.

Foster care, and boarding schools are two institutions of genocide.

Foster Care was similar to slavery, more so than the boarding schools. Foster care, and boarding schools are two institutions of genocide.

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Some examples include

- HAMAS human shields
- Resisting arrest
- Rioting
- looting
- Follow the system
- etc.

- All successful resistance includes both violent and non-violent tactics.

MLK carried and owned many guns for self defense. The Black Panthers carried weapons but also engaged in nonviolent community action programs.

- Structural Genocide manifests as a systematic statistical difference in conditions which produce more suffering and earlier deaths.
Often colonial states will blame the victims of structural genocide for their own poor condition, rather than economic exploitation, the massive stealing of resources, discrimination, less opportunity, etc.
- Wealth is about time and the ability to safely explore and make mistakes. Nothing about that should be exclusive to a few. Structural genocide is about the ways in which people are deprived of safety, of exploration, of time.
- American Indian Movement fought the US government. They engaged in nonviolent action as well as violent action, in order to create homes and safety for multiple Native American Nations.
- Why genocide for only sudden genocide rather than structural genocide?

Legal terms are not the same as common usage. We can reappropriate the terms of law for our own usage.

The law matters but it is not the only means of change, nor is it the law which should decide what we view as justice.