

Persecution, mass murder and genocide in comparative perspective

Blok 4, 2025; Studiegidsnummer 112210476Y; Studielast 6 EC

Dr. Vladimir Petrović

v.petrovic@niod.knaw.nl

Time and place

Wednesdays 9-12, Roeterseiland, zaal GS.11

Contents

In December 1948, the United Nations ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. Despite the promise to prevent genocides, numerous cases of genocide have since occurred in culturally, technologically and politically very diverse societies. This course focuses on the question of how and why this could happen. The course will focus on the international context, as well as intra-state power relations between political elites. Ideological radicalization, structural preconditions and individual agency will be examined, both of perpetrators and victims. Finally, denial and recognition, punishment and prevention are discussed in a comparative manner. After an introductory lecture, important cases of mass political violence are discussed in depth.

Learning goals

The purpose of this course is to provide bachelor students with introductory level knowledge and insight into processes of persecution, mass murder and genocide in the twentieth century, especially in the post-war era. The course is grounded in historical overview of process of mass political violence. Critical reflection on this phenomenon is encouraged by using theoretical insights from the social sciences.

Participation and assessment

Active attendance is expected from participants. In the event of an unexpected absence, the teacher must be informed in advance. Grading will be based on writing a book review (33%) and an essay exam (66%). Deadlines are deadlines! The book review requires a scholarly book to be discussed; if in doubt you can ask for advice. Instructions for writing a review can be found here:

https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/library/InfoLitFiles/Book_Reviews.pdf

Required reading

Adam Jones, *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2016/2017, third edition). In addition to this book, participants read a number of other texts that are available digitally.

Program

WEEK I: INTRODUCTION

- Verenigde Naties genocide-verdrag (1948), op: <http://www.preventgenocide.org/law/convention>
- Üngör, Uğur Ümit (2012) "Studying Mass Violence: Pitfalls, Problems, and Promises," *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*: Vol. 7: Iss. 1: Article 8. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/gsp/vol7/iss1/8>
- Adam Jones, chapters 1 and 2.

WEEK II: CAMBODIA

- Adam Jones, chapter 7.
- Pivoine Beang & Wynne Cougill, *Vanished: Stories from Cambodia's New People under Democratic Kampuchea* (Phnom Penh: Documentation Center of Cambodia, 2006).

WEEK III: RWANDA

- Adam Jones, chapter 9.
- Samuel Totten (red.), *Century of Genocide* (New York, 2009), pp.402-420.
- Eyewitness accounts (videoclips), op: <http://www.rwandanstories.org/genocide.html>

WEEK IV: YUGOSLAVIA

- Adam Jones, chapter 8.
- Ton Zwaan, *Genocide en de crisis van Joegoslavië*, pp.57-91.
- Emir Suljagić, *Briefkaarten uit het graf* (Amsterdam, 2005), pp.151-177.

SUBMISSION OF BOOK REVIEW: upload on Canvas, deadline

WEEK V: PERPETRATORS

- Adam Jones, chapter 10.
- = The Scorpions – A Home Movie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZVleRvjtoY>
- Slavenka Drakulić, *Oorlogsmisdadigers uit de Balkan* (Breda, 2003), pp.97-109.

WEEK VI: AFTERMATH

- Jones, *Genocide*, chapters 14 and 15.
- Lidija Zelović, "My Friends", op: <https://vimeo.com/60188251>

WEEK VII: ESSAY EXAM

Deadline