

FILM REPRESENTATION OF GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING



Armenian genocide victims



Duch, head of infamous torture camp

(FM 343, TH343: Tuesday, 3:00-5:30 PM))

Prof. John J. Michalczyk
Rev. Raymond Helmick, SJ
TA Jordan Jennings

How do we represent the un-representable? The term genocide was introduced to the world in 1944 by Raphael Lemkin, although the world had experienced countless genocides with the Biblical account of Herod's massacre of young Jewish males being one of the earliest documented. It is very difficult to balance the authentic and realistic images with the voyeuristic tendencies of human nature. We fear and loathe, often simultaneously, the depictions of bloody massacres. Yet important films, especially about the Holocaust, have dominated the media over the past half-century, experienced with new popularity in *Schindler's List*, *The Pianist*, and *Hotel Rwanda*. The course serves as a visual and historical witness to this scar on society's conscience.

REQUIRED READING:

Samantha Power: *A Problem from Hell: America & the Age of Genocide* (Basic/Harper & Collins)

James Waller: *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing* (Oxford)

Peter du Preez: *Genocide*

Course packet: *Genocide and Film*, Kristi Wilson et al. (Be in touch with Andrea of U. of Wisconsin Press for which chapters, sometime after June)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Adam Hochsfeld: *King Leopold's Gold*

Alexander Brown: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*

Christopher Browning: *Origins of the Final Solution*

Henry Friedlander: *Origins of Nazi Genocide*

Peter Balakian: *Burning Tigris*

Iris Chang: *Rape of Nanking*

Don Shriver: *Honest Patriots*

Class:

1. Sept. 6: Introduction/Native Americans

History of the Genocide: America, Manifest Destiny and the Native Americans.
Hitler was inspired for his genocidal actions from reading American History:

Films: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (Yves Simoneau, 2007)
Stagecoach (John Ford, 1939) and the image of “Indians” in John Ford’s films

Soldier Blue (Ralph Nelson, 1970): Revisionist history of 1864 massacre

Reading: Kristi Wilson (Course Packet): “Massacre at the Movies”

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee (rec.)

2. Sept. 13: Armenian Genocide

In 1915, the government of the Ottoman Empire initiated a systematic destruction of the Armenian population through massacres and deportation. The brutal death marches in insufferable conditions devastated the population. It is acknowledged that between 1 million and 1½ million Armenians lost their lives in what they refer to as “The Great Crime.” The Turkish government still refuses to consider this an act of genocide.

Films: *Ararat* (Atom Egoyan, 2002)

Everyone’s Not Here (William S. Parsons, 1987)

Aghet: A Genocide (Eric Freidler, 2010)

Open House (Atom Egoyan, 1982)

Next of Kin (John Irvin, 1984)

Family Viewing (Atom Egoyan, 1988)

Readings: Du Preez: *Genocide: The Psychology of Mass Murder* (rec.)

Peter Balakian: *Burning Tigris* (rec.)

Kristi Wilson (course packet): “Power to Imagine: Ararat”

3. Sept. 20: Rape of Nanking

From December 1937, for a six-week period, the Japanese Imperial Army wreaked havoc in the city of Nanking, the former capital of the Republic of China, as documented in Iris Chang’s detailed account, *The Rape of Nanking*. Hundreds of thousands of civilians and disarmed

soldiers were massacred while thousands upon thousands of women were systematically raped. Controversies have arisen over the acts of violence as well as the number of victims of the massacre.

Films: *Nanking* (Gu Hentag and Sturman, 2007)

Rape of Nanking (Bill Spahic/Anne Pick, 2007)

Black Sun: The Nanking Massacre (Tun Fei, 1995)

The Truth about Nanking (Mizushima Satoru, 2008)

City of Life and Death (Lu Chuan, 2010)

Reading: James Waller: *Becoming Evil* (req.)

Iris Chang: *Rape of Nanking* (rec.)

4. Sept. 27: Holocaust (1): Guest Speaker—Sharon Rivo (National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University)

The Final Solution did not occur in a vacuum, but through a step-by-step process of identifying the Jew as “The Other,” a strong belief in Aryan supremacy, deep-seated Anti-Semitism, along with a German population willing to create a Brave New World Order, the Holocaust gradually evolved. Jews, gypsies (Roma/Cinti), homosexuals, resisters, all were caught up in the desire to create this new Aryan nation. More than six million Jews and three million non-Jews were caught up in this genocide that took place, after which we ironically said—“Never Again!”

Films: *Night and Fog* (Alain Resnais, 1955)

Shoah (Claude Lanzmann, 1985)

Amen! (Costa-Gavras, 2002)

The Pawnbroker (Sidney Lumet, 1964)

Reading: Christopher Browning: *Origins of the Final Solution* (rec.)

Kristi Wilson: Course Packet: “Film and Atrocity”

5. Oct. 4: Holocaust (2)

Films: *Memory of the Camps* (Sidney Bernstein, 1985)

Architecture of Doom (Peter Cohen, 1989)

Saviours in the Night (Ludi Boekn, 2010...memoir of Marga Spiegel)

Reading: Henry Friedlander: *Origins of Nazi Genocide* (rec.)

6. Oct. 11: Cambodia

Following the end of the Vietnam War, the Khmer Rouge (Communist Party) in 1975 immediately attempted to fill the political vacuum as the American troops scrambled to fly to safety. Pol Pot and others in his government embarked on a policy of social engineering to create a “pure Communism,” that can be considered genocide, resulting in the massacre of 2.5 million in the “killing fields” of Cambodia.

Films: *Killing Fields* (Roland Joffe, 1984)

Facing Genocide (David Aronowitsch/Staffan Lindberg, 2010)

Enemies of the People (Thet Sambath, 2010)

Cambodia: The Betrayal (John Pilger and David Monroe, 1991)

Swimming to Cambodia (Spalding Gray, 1987)

Reading: Susan E. Cook: *Genocide in Cambodia and Rwanda* (rec.)
see also Yale’s Cambodian Genocide Project)

Samantha Power: *A Problem from Hell* (req.)

7 Oct. 18: Rwanda (1)

In April 1994, political tensions escalated in Rwanda with the death of the President in a plane crash. Violence immediately broke out as the Hutus began to massacre the rival Tutsis, and Tutsi sympathizers. In the end, more than 800,000 people died in one of the largest genocidal acts since the end of World War II. Films have been produced to show both the violent actions as well as the attempts at reconciliation.

Films: *Hotel Rwanda* (Terry George, 2004)

Shake Hands with the Devil: Journey of Romeo Dallaire (Peter Raymont, 2004)

Sometime in April (Raoul Peck, 2005)

Shooting Dogs (Michael Caton-Jones, 2005)

Sunday in Kigali (Robert Favreau, 2006)

Triumph of Evil (PBS) (Mike Robinson, Ben Loeterman, 1999)

Ghosts of Rwanda (Greg Barker, 2004)

100 Days (Nick Hughes, 2005)

Reading: Roméo Dallaire/Samantha Power: *Shake Hands with the Devil* (rec.)

Linda Mulvern: *Conspiracy to Murder: The Rwandan Genocide* (rec.)

Michael N. Barnett: *Eyewitness to a Genocide: The U.N. and Rwanda* (rec.)

8. Oct. 25: Rwanda (2)

Films: *Rwanda: Living Forgiveness* (Marc Villiger?, 2004)

Mothers Courage (Kalinda, 2005)

In the Tall Grass (Metcalf, 2006)

The Diary of Immaculée (LeDonne, 2006)

In Rwanda We Say: ... The Family That Does Not Speak Dies (Anne Aghion, 2004)

Killers (Keane, 2004)

Reading: Kristi Wilson (Course packet): “Genres of Yet Another Genocide: Rwanda”

Immaculée Ilibagiza: *Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* (rec.)

Gérard Prunier: *The Rwandan Crisis* (rec.)

9. Nov. 1 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gary Mason

Reconciliation in a Post-Genocide Situation

10. Nov. 8: Ethnic Cleansing (Northern Ireland, Kurds, Bosnia)

Ethnic cleansing differs from genocide in that it is not focused on massacre and extermination but on forced removal of a specific national, ethnic or religious group. In Northern Ireland, the Protestants and Catholics cleansed respective neighborhoods of the other denomination; Saddam Hussein in Iraq saw ethnic Kurds as a threat to the well-being of Iraq and engaged in a massive campaign to ethnically cleanse the Kurds in 1988; during the Balkan conflict (1992-1995), the Serbs envisioned a “Greater Serbia,” and seeing Bosnian Muslims as a threat, massacred close to 8,000 Muslim men and young boys in Srebrenica in July 1995. Ratko Mladic, the general who supervised the massacre, is accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity during his violent campaign of rape and murder of Muslims.

Films: *Pretty Village, Pretty Flame* (Srdjan Dragojevic, 1996)

Vukovar (Boro Draskovic, 1994)

Srebrenica: A Cry from the Grave (Leslie Woodhead, 1999)

Sarajevo: Ground Zero (SAGA/Ademir Kenovic/Danny Schechter, 1994)

Years Eaten by Lions (Boro Kontic, 2010)

Good Kurds, Bad Kurds (Kevin McKiernan, 2001)

Possible Northern Ireland film

Reading: Norman Cigar: *Genocide in Bosnia* (rec.)

Michael Scharf: *Balkan Justice* (rec.)

Andrew Bell-Fialkoff: *Ethnic Cleansing* (rec.)

Michael Mann: *The Dark-Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing* (rec.)

11. Nov. 15: Sudan

The secession of Southern Sudan from the country and its 2011 declaration of independence terminates on one hand a long string of violent acts and civil war. On the other hand, animosities have not been extinguished with independence.

Films: *Lost Boys of Sudan* (Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk, 2003)

Sudan: The Darfur War (Phil Cox, 2004???)

The Devil Came on Horseback (Ricki Stern, Anne Sundberg, 2007)

Reading: Don Shriver: *Honest Patriots* (rec.)

12. Nov. 22: Congo

The domination of the Congo region by Belgian Leopold III

Films: *The Last Survivor* (survivors of the Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur and Congo)
(Michael Kleiman and Michael Pertnoy, 2010)

The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo (Lisa F. Jackson, 2007)

CONGO: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death (Peter Bate, 2003)

Reading: Adam Hochsfeld: *King Leopold's Gold*

13. Nov. 29

Speaker

14. Dec. 5: Conclusions

Requirements:

Attendance and participation

Reading of required texts

Short reflection essays each week/Blackboard Vista

Final Exam (date tba)

Student Input/Participation Sheet filled out at end of the term

Contacts:

Prof. John Michalczyk

Fine Arts Dept.

420 Devlin Hall (office)

434 Devlin Hall (main office)

Hours: M/T/W/Th: 11-12; and by arrangement

Phone: 552-3895 (during hours; voice also)

552-4295 (dept. phone)

E-Mail: michalcj@bc.edu **[Best and fastest contact]**

Fr. Raymond Helmick, SJ

Theology Dept./

St. Mary's Hall

helmick@bc.edu

(617)552-8215

[To contact, call or email]



Balkans: Result of Serbs' ethnic cleansing of Muslim population

A Congolese woman nurtures her child, as the conflict causes death, disease and destruction.