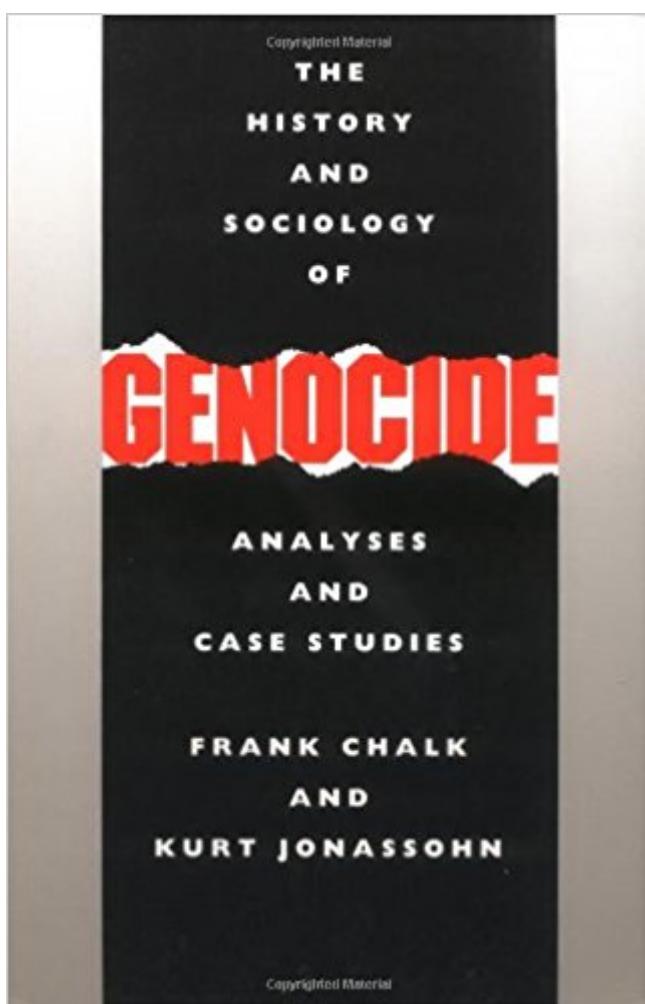


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# The History And Sociology Of Genocide: Analyses And Case Studies



## Synopsis

Genocide is not an invention of the twentieth-century, say Frank Chalk and Kurt Jonassohn in this absorbing book, but has occurred throughout history in all parts of the world. This study—*the first comprehensive survey of the history and sociology of genocide*—presents over two dozen examples of the one-sided mass slaughter of peoples, spanning the centuries from antiquity to the present. By including political and social groups as potential victims, Chalk and Jonassohn provide a definition of genocide that is considerably broader than that contained in the United Nations Convention on Genocide. They present a typology of genocide according to the motives of the perpetrator: to eliminate a perceived threat; to spread terror among real or potential enemies; to acquire economic wealth; or to implement a belief, theory, or ideology. Chalk and Jonassohn show how the first three motives have played a role in the establishment and maintenance of empires. They note that since empires have almost disappeared, so have these three types of genocides become rare, and that ideological genocides have become the most important type of genocide in the twentieth-century. The second part of the book consists of selected studies. These include Rome's final war with Carthage, the Mongol Conquests, the Albigensian Crusades, the Great Witch-Hunt, Christians in Japan, Indians in the Americas, Ndwandwe under Shaka Zulu, Hereros in German South West Africa, Armenians in Turkey, the Soviet Union under Stalin, the Holocaust, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Burundi, and Cambodia, among others. The last part of the book presents topical bibliographies to aid the student and researcher.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Genocide is not an invention of the twentieth century, say Frank Chalk and Kurt Jonassohn in this absorbing book, but has occurred throughout history in all parts of the world. This study--the first comprehensive survey of the history and sociology of genocide--presents over two dozen examples of the one-sided mass slaughter of peoples, spanning the centuries from antiquity to the present.

Frank Chalk is associate professor of history and Kurt Jonassohn is professor of sociology at Concordia University, where they direct the Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies.

If you are looking for a book on Genocide it would be hard to find such a quality book - the topic is not a highly common theme to be found in most bookstores, this volume is well worth a go. The book starts introducing Raphael Lemkin's coining of the word "genocide" during WWII, and the UN's adoption of the term in 1946, but looks at a much longer history (of course) when discussing cases from around the world: I was going to list nations addressed but there are just too many. The Americas, Asia, India, Africa, Australia, Japan are all covered to some degree. I should emphasize that the book is academic in nature. A reader should be keen on either developing an understanding of Genocide, Sociology or History. It will only be a riveting read for such an audience and perhaps a reference for others, but because you are searching for this topic (reading this review) you obviously have interest - so I would not hesitate in recommending this book. Other reviewers have rated this book high as well. As of the time of this posting there was one 3 rating - but this had more to do with the shipping of the book and not related to the product itself. Its 4 Star +.

The book is an excellent presentation of genocide through history, but it does not deal with cases of genocide where the uprooting or indigenous population is done through a policy of long-term attrition designed to change the demographic structure of a geographical space by the implementation of policies whose purpose-by making their life miserable through confiscation of land, destroying social structures, hampering free circulation and propaganda, dehumanizing them, delegitimizing political revendications etc. is to force the local population to empty the country. A state in the middle east has been particularly successful in the implementation of this policy for the last 62 years with the unconditional military and political support of all the great democracies in the world. But censorship, however water-proof it is, will not do the job of totally suppressing the legitimate rights of the original people, even if the other party claims a divine right to this country.

This anthology begins with an analysis of genocide, specifically how the authors/editors defined it

and decided which historical acts were genocidal and which were not. It includes readings covering 1,000 years of gruesome history. More a source book than an analytical monograph.

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