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## Preface to the Series

JÖRN RÜSEN

before it, dead, "historical matters" have come back with a vengeance. ambivalent associations to mind. On the one hand, the last decade has witto name but a few). In other words, after "history" was declared to be, like god goslavia, European unification, or the various heritages of totalitarian systems, negotiations (the discussions about the aftermath of the wars in the former Yumovies, becoming an ever more important factor in public debates and political entered the sphere of popular culture, from history channels to Hollywood tion, postmodernism, multiculturalism) quickly turned out to be intrinsically cal" by their nature: the building of personal and collective identity through has been a global wave of intellectual explorations into fields that are "historicalled postmodernism, or to the challenge to Western dominance by decolofundamental changes in the global political situation around 1989/90, or to sonessed numerous, declarations of the end of history. Whether in reference to the "historical" phenomena. Moreover, "history" and "historical memory" have ing. Even the subjects that seemed to call for an "end of history" (globalizapast": and the psychological structures of remembering, repressing, and recall— "memory"; the cultural, social, and political use and function of "narrating the dead, outdated, overcome, or even a myth at its end. On the other hand, there nization and multiculturalism, "history" as we know it has been declared to be At the turn of the twenty-first century the term "history" brings extremely

This paradox calls for a new orientation or at least a new theoretical expression. Indeed, it calls for a new theory of history; and such a theory should serve neither as a subdiscipline reserved for historians nor as a systematic collection of definitions, "laws," and rules claiming universal validity. What is needed is an interdisciplinary and intercultural field of study. Hayden White's deconstruction of the narrative strategies of the nineteenth-century historicist paradigm somehow came to be regarded by many as historical theory's famous

## CHAPTER 14

## The Holocaust and World History Raphael Lemkin and Comparative Methodology

A. DIRK Moses

#### Introduction

historical claim. It has four not entirely compatible versions. teenth century, this "lachrymose history" (Salo Baron) of Jewish life since the such that no other people has experienced." If, by the middle of the ninethe eighteenth hundred-year era of the Diaspora, of unprecedented suffering studies, Holocaust historiography and genocide studies when they declare that locaust that occurred a hundred years later required an updating of the world destruction of the second temple constituted unparalleled suffering, the Hothat this exile "was a history of suffering to a degree and over a length of time of uninterrupted martyrdom without parallel in world history," indeed adding the prominent German-Jewish historian Heinrich Graetz lamented, "This is claims have roots that long precede the genocide of the 1940s. Already in 1846, unparalleled, or singular-compared to other genocides in world history. Such the Nazi attempt to exterminate European Jewry is unique, unprecedented, phers of history or world historians. It is implied most often by scholars in Jewish "The Holocaust and world history" is not a theme usually posited by philoso-

and partial.<sup>5</sup> The third version invokes the significance of the Enlightenment aimed to destroy all Jews everywhere whereas other genocides were only local or political reality. The second version of the claim maintains that the Nazis civilians, the Holocaust was driven by hallucinatory ideology devoid of a social other genocides, an actual civil or military conflict subtended the targeting of stressed. Only the Jews were targeted for ideological reasons alone. Whereas in In the first, the Holocaust's irrational, purely-ideological character is

on genocide through the ages, figured the Holocaust's meaning in terms of its and technology. In this vein, Frank Chalk, in his pioneering co-edited book German perpetrators as representatives of western civilization:

ancient genocides, unlike the Cathars, the Japanese Christians, the Pequots and it poses to Western values from within our society, the Holocaust stands alone in the Hereros, unlike the Armenians and the victims of Stalin's terror, the Jews and The Holocaust has a special meaning for Western civilization: unlike the dead of the history of the West and in the history of genocide. Gypsies were murdered in post-Enlightenment Europe by a people steeped in Western culture and rich in scientific knowledge.... We agree that in the challenge

Again, the judgment is made against the horizon of world history.

of unique suffering to the uniqueness of the victims' message when he wrote: about the unique role of the Jews in human history. Graetz linked the question claim within Jewish theology and later, in a secularized form in Jewish politics, as a "profound civilizational break." This last point derives from an associated tion, sin and revelation." For this reason, Dan Diner refers to the Holocaust the monotheistic values that the Nazis denied and violated: "God, redempof western civilization. Their intended destruction was therefore not a regular case of genocide, but rather a nihilistic attack on that civilization, that is, on Holocaust is entailed by the special status of the victims: Jews as representatives Still another version of the claim for the world-historical nature of the

morality, a doctrine from which the salvation and redemption of the world would which the nations would eventually be educated to the knowledge of God and pride in bearing, and in suffering for a doctrine which reflected eternity and by The proscribed, outlawed Jew, pursued over the entire earth, felt an exalted, noble

attempt at the UN to institute a Holocaust Memorial Day. 12 and even United Nations (UN) position, exemplified by the successful Israel the Holocaust as a unique genocide. This position is now the official Zionist of monotheism—"God, redemption, sin and revelation"—has been replaced but by "redeeming" their ancestral land and establishing a just society. 10 The "light unto the nations," not by converting others as in Christianity or Islam, doctrine for humanity as a whole persists in the present day. Jewish religious by the secular ideals of human rights and minority protection via memory of historic import: to be a nation with a moral message." Since 1945, the light "The State of Israel is not merely the Jews' protective shield, but an ideal of Israeli president, Shimon Peres, underlined this point when he said in 2009, for example, regarded Jews as a "unique people" whose destiny was to be a for humanity—and therefore a mission in world history. David Ben Gurion, and Israeli political leaders commonly refer to a special Jewish moral mission The "exalted, noble pride in bearing, and in suffering for a" redemptive

ness claim, a means of interrogating the Holocaust's world-historical import In all four assertions, human history becomes a backdrop for the unique-

and of endowing it with meaning; while, in turn, the Holocaust becomes an episode in the unique Jewish mission to "sanctify life and prevent murder and discrimination," that is, to impart the universal yet characteristically Jewish values of human rights and minority protection. In the fourth version, in particular, history becomes a kind of theodicy, the evil committed against the Jews eliciting the revelation of human rights and the genocide prevention. In this mode, Holocaust historiography is as much an ethical discourse, indeed a political theology, as a secular investigation.

For all their claims to universality, the uniqueness claims betray the generally ethno- and western-centric matrix from which they stem, much like Graetz's much earlier reasoning about why diasporic Jews did not become "a vagabond horde of gypsies"—it is because they had the civilizing Law.<sup>13</sup> Their particularity is revealed by those who directly experience its effects. Any listener would naturally wonder what a Palestinian would think when Peres brandishes Israel's ethical mission and behavior:

We never set out to conquer. We did not rush towards domination. We rejected lordship, we fought discrimination, we protested slavery, we forbade violence. We believe in the preeminence of man, and we pray for Tikkun Olam [repairing the world] and world peace.

Indeed, non-European critics regard the humanism proclaimed in uniqueness positions as the very source of their own oppression, because it distinguishes so starkly between civilization and barbarism (or savagery). The view from outside the North-Atlantic consensus looks very different. W. E. B. Du Bois, for instance, wrote in *The World and Africa* in 1947 that

[t]here was no Nazi atrocity—concentration camps, wholesale maining and murder, defilement of women or ghastly blasphemy of children—which the Christian civilization of Europe had not long been practicing against colored folks in all parts of the world in the name of and for the defense of a Superior Race born to rule the world.<sup>14</sup>

For this reason, the Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka, explicitly challenges the uniqueness thesis by arguing that the Atlantic slave trade, not the Holocaust, places "the first question mark on all claims of European humanism—from the Renaissance through the Enlightenment to the present-day multicultural orientation." Similarly, Frantz Fanon argued that the enduring problem was racism against and, exploitation of, non-whites. The Holocaust was an intra-European affair: "They are hunted down, exterminated, cremated. But these are little family quarrels." Whereas Jews are "slaves of an 'idea'" (antisemitism), he was enslaved "by his own appearance." Although he recognized certain commonalities in the Jewish and Black experiences, Fanon observed that the latter embodied the lowest cultural values, indeed evil itself, in Europe's collective unconscious. <sup>16</sup> Finally, there is the criticism that the very ambition to write world history can evince a Euro-American hegemonic global imaginary, in fact

that their "world conquest and ideological structures ... produced the notion of world history' in the first place." 17

Chapter 14: The Holocaust and World History

Like the Holocaust uniqueness claims, these positions are indentured to a particular stance and similarly questionable ethical discourse: equating antisemitism with anti-Black prejudice in the name of a generic anti-racism, flattening out the differences between all genocides, and attributing all evil in world history to European imperialism.

There are, then, two rival narratives about the meaning of the Holocaust and the course of modern global history: one that insists on its uniqueness, even if coded by other terms like "unprecedented" and so forth, and links Holocaust memory both to the universal values of human rights and the particular geopolitical agenda of Israel; and the other that regards the Holocaust less as a racially-driven genocide against a helpless minority than the logical outcome of imperial-racial conquest that it holds Zionism to embody. In both cases, blindness to their subject positions leads the protagonists of each narrative to a Schmittian friend/enemy stance and therefore to express empathy selectively in scholarly as well as political analyses. They impute malevolent (greed) or purely irrational motives (fanaticism/racial hatred) to the enemy-other, while their favored object's behavior is explicable by the laws of cause and effect: if their own "side" commits an act of violence, they were "forced" to do so defensively by the unbridled and unprovoked aggression of the enemy-other.

of Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959), the Polish-Jewish jurist who coined the contention is metahistorical claim-making about the Holocaust is the first contextualize the Holocaust in world history, an impossible undertaking in a deployed in an even-handed manner.18 Consequently, this chapter does not linked his moral purpose—to prevent and criminalize genocide—by seeking proposing a comparative approach that did not take any particular genocide as social scientific explanations to both victims and perpetrators; and second, by by extending empathy to all victims of genocide and persecution, applied two ways: first, by proposing an immanent and cosmopolitan discourse that, will see that he extricated himself from these metahistorical discourses in after World War II. How did this complex figure, proud Jew and non-Zionist term "genocide" in 1943 and wrote an unpublished world history of genocide do so by reconstructing the first serious attempt to address this question: that methodology for historians writing about the Holocaust in world history. I task—as I hope I have shown here. The second task is to conceive of a viable methodological implications? Demonstrating that the underlying bone of uniqueness with their overshadowing geopolitical stakes and unsatisfactory to explain its occurrence throughout history with the latest scholarly tools, the prototype, model, or paradigm against which all the other are judged. He Polish patriot, conceive of world history and the Holocaust's place in it? We How does one avoid this competitive discourse of uniqueness and counter-

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short contribution. Instead, it explicates Lemkin's methodology as a guide for current and future research, which is thematized in the last section.

# Raphael Lemkin, World History, and the Holocaust

everywhere; their suffering was part of the same human story: "A line of blood of Christians. By learning about the travails of many ethnic groups over the uity, beginning with the Roman Emperor Nero's attempted extermination also read widely about the persecution of human cultural groups since antiqby converting swords into ploughshares seemed to recreate his presence." The so urgent, as if the oppressed stood now outside our door. The appeals for peace widow" (Isaiah 1:17), he drew a cosmopolitan conclusion: it "sounded to me evil; learn to do well; relieve the oppressed; judge the fatherless, plead for the like that in Białystok, 50 miles away, in 1906. From Isaiah's call to "Cease to do would have been compelling to a youth who as a boy heard about pogroms, "words lived long for they were deeds dressed as words." These sentiments was drawn to the ancient Hebrew prophets. Suffering for their struggle, their accordingly animated by the fate of nations and peoples. Like many Jews, he which children studied the Bible and Jewish literature, his imagination was pressed for its criminalization. Raised in an observant Jewish environment in for centuries, invented a concept to name the destruction of nationalities and and experience of nationality was so intense and where Jews had been persecuted It is no accident that Lemkin, a Jew from Eastern Europe, where consciousness them "that classical victim of genocide"20—his sympathies were for people he concluded that ethnic destruction was a universal and enduring problem. centuries—the Huguenots of France, Catholics in Japan, Muslims in Spain hints he left in his unpublished autobiography indicate that, as a boy, he had the temptation either to flatten out or to hypostasize distinctions.  $^{22}$ that carefully negotiated the differences and similarities between cases, avoiding Białystok."21 His was a cosmopolitan rather than sectarian moral imagination led from the Roman arena through the gallows of France to the pogrom of While the persecution of Jews was part of this sorry tale—indeed, he called

I identified myself more and more with the sufferings of the victims, whose numbers grew, and I continued my study of history. I understood that the function of memory is not only to register past events, but to stimulate human conscience. Soon contemporary examples of genocide followed, such as the slaughter of the Armenians. It became clear to me that the diversity of nations, religious groups and races is essential to civilization because every one of these groups has a mission to fulfil and a contribution to make in terms of culture. To destroy these groups is opposed to the will of the Creator and to disturb the spiritual harmony of mankind. I have decided to become a lawyer and work for the outlawing of Genocide and for its prevention through the cooperation of nations. These nations must be made to understand that an attack on one of them is an attack on them all.<sup>23</sup>

This quotation also makes clear that Lemkin couched his appeal to end genocide not in terms of abstract human rights and individual suffering, but in relation to an ideal of world civilization whose constituent parts were national, religious, and racial groups. However Jewish his roots and sympathies—he wrote for Jewish and Zionist newspapers in the 1920s while working as a lawyer in Poland—he seemingly did not became a Zionist or devote exclusive attention to the Jewish experience in World War II.

Misunderstanding his cosmopolitanism, Lemkin's commentators have accused him of illegitimately conflating the experiences of Jews and other groups, and of succumbing to a false (Christian) universalism, even implying that he did so for careerist reasons. The implicit charge that he neglected the metahistorical significance of the Holocaust is also based on the proposition that he did not fully understand the ambition of the Nazi genocide of Jews when he coined the term genocide.<sup>24</sup> Indeed, Lemkin thought the Nazis' policies unprecedented towards a number of victim groups, not just Jews. And even then he said they recalled other cases of genocide.

The above-described techniques of genocide represent an elaborate, almost scientific, system developed to an extent never before achieved by any nation. Hence the significance of genocide and the need to review international law in the light of the German practices of the present war. These practices have surpassed in their unscrupulous character any procedures or methods imagined a few decades ago by the framers of the Hague Regulations. Nobody at that time could conceive that an occupant would resort to the destruction of nations by barbarous practices reminiscent of the darkest pages of history.<sup>25</sup>

For all that, Lemkin was acutely conscious of the Jewish experience. Although he fled his native Poland in 1939, he was well informed about subsequent Nazi rule. He devoted a separate chapter in his book Axis Rule in Occupied Europe (1944) to the Nazi treatment of Jews, outlining the "special status" for them in every conquered country, as well as noting that they were "one of the main objects of German genocide policy." Indeed, they were "to be destroyed completely." He knew about the extermination camps. His analysis of Nazi policy towards the Jews exemplifies his defit touch, shuttling back and forth between the similarities and specificities of the Jewish case.

In Sweden until 1941, he collected Nazi occupation documents and published them with extended commentary in Axis Rule, the book in which he introduced the genocide concept. In terms of Lemkin's view of historical progress, the Nazi occupation marked a dramatic regression to "the wars of extermination, which occurred in ancient times and in the Middle Ages," when the distinction between civilians and combatants was not well observed. This was how he described premodern genocide in Axis Rule:

As classical examples of wars of extermination in which nations and groups of the population were completely or almost completely destroyed, the following may be cited: the destruction of Carthage in 146 B.C.; the destruction of Jerusalem by

Tirus in 72 A.D.; the religion wars of Islam and the Crusades; the massacres of the Albigenses and the Waldenses; and the siege of Magdeburg in the Thirty Years War [May, 1631]. Special wholesale massacres occurred in the wars waged by Genghis Khan and by Tamerlane. 27

The difference between barbarism and civilization was the distinction between civilians and combatants, and he saw international law as advancing this marker of civilization. From its inception, then, the genocide concept, like the Jewish genocide (Lemkin did not use the term Holocaust, which was not common currency in the 1940s), was embedded in a world historical frame.

Rather than study the Jewish case alone, Lemkin wanted to study genocide, which he said was a "generic notion" that applied to any human situation in the present and the past. <sup>28</sup> One could only understand the significance of the Jewish experience by relating it to the experience of others. His basic point was that genocide named a single evil—the destruction of peoples: "Genocide is a new word, but the evil it describes is old. It is as old like [sid] the history of mankind. It was necessary, however, to coin this new word because the accumulation of this evil and its devastating effects became extremely strong in our own days." <sup>29</sup> For that reason, he explained, "All cases of genocide, although their background and conditions vary, follow, for the most part, the same pattern. The object of destruction is a specific human group." <sup>30</sup>

Already while he was lobbying for the UN Convention on the Punishment and Prevention of Genocide (1948), Lemkin turned to popularizing and legitimating his new concept by writing a major academic study of genocide. His correspondence with funding organizations and publishers shows that he was soliciting interest in a book on the subject as early as 1947 and that he had produced substantial draft chapters by the next year. The historical analysis is designed to prove that genocide convention, he noted, "The historical analysis is designed to prove that genocide is not an exceptional phenomenon, but that it occurs in intergroup relations with a certain regularity like homicide takes place in relations between individuals." Lemkin's point was that genocide was not sacred but profane, to use Durkheim's distinction; far from the irruption of the inexplicable and irrational into normal life, it was the outcome of normal—and explicable—social interaction.

This agenda naturally told against making the Holocaust, let alone genocide, a metahistorical-singular event; after all, why devote a lifetime to criminalizing something so rare and specific that it is unlikely to recur? Moreover, how could countries be convinced to ratify the Genocide Convention if they thought it really pertained only to the Jewish Holocaust and therefore did not immediately concern them? Regarding his lobbying of UN delegates, he said that his Axis Rule book and "the Nazi experience was not a sufficient basis for a definition of genocide for international purposes. One cannot describe a crime by one criminal experience alone; one must (rather) draw on all available experiences.

of the past."<sup>33</sup> Accordingly, Lemkin routinely referred to the world history of genocide in his public advocacy of ratification.<sup>34</sup>

Alas, Lemkin's book never eventuated. Publishing houses and funding agencies did not think it a viable or marketable proposition. <sup>35</sup> His book proposals and chapters are scattered in three North American archives; while some are seemingly lost, it is still possible to reconstruct his project in considerable detail. <sup>36</sup> In his "Description of the Project" for his book, *Introduction to the Study of Genocide* (the first of a projected two-volume work), Lemkin detailed how he would combine legal and historical analyses for consciousness-raising purposes:

This book will deal with the international and comparative law aspects of this crime. Moreover, the particular acts of genocide will be illustrated by historical examples from Antiquity, the Middle Ages and Modern Times. These examples are necessary not only to prove that genocide has always existed in history, but also to explain the practicality of the Genocide Convention which up to now has been ratified by the parliaments of 58 nations.<sup>37</sup>

The project was to be interdisciplinary because genocide, like the nationhood it attacked, was multidimensional.

The etiology and the reasons motivating the crime of genocide in different periods of history and in different cultures will be examined. The research will deal also with matters of psychology, economics, political science and cultural anthropology, the latter playing a great part in cases where genocide can be explained as resulting from a cultural conflict.<sup>38</sup>

Why did genocide occur? Lemkin listed a number of hypotheses:

One of the basic reasons for genocide is a conflict of culture as it appeared for example in the migrating nomadic societies and sedentary ones. Also this conflict was particularly violent when the ideas of the absolute appeared in the course of the encounter of various religions. The economic and political expectations which were attached to the annihilation of a group worked always as a generating force of genocide. Also colonialism cannot be left without blame. The basic difficulty consists in the fact that the standards of conduct between individuals disappear in relations between one group and another.<sup>39</sup>

It is immediately evident that Lemkin did not set store on inter-group enmity as the starting point for explaining genocide. Such enmity arose from dramatic transformations in the interaction between migratory and sedentary and societies. Material factors were consequently important. 40

At the same time, emotional factors were paramount to mobilizing a population for genocidal violence. As he made clear in a draft chapter called "The Concept of Genocide in Social and Individual Psychology," situational factors were as important as individual and cultural dispositions in leading to genocidal violence. "I Above all, he appealed to sociology—the discipline that studies societies with generic concepts—for methodological inspiration. Genocide is "primarily sociological, since it means the destruction of certain social groups

by other social groups or their individual representatives."<sup>42</sup> Accordingly, he was interested in tracing various processes that recurred in genocide, combined differently in each case. Murder was the last resort: "Actual physical destruction is the last and most effective phase of genocide." More commonly, genocide was effected by "political disenfranchisement, economic displacement, cultural undermining and control, the destruction of leadership, the break-up of families and the prevention of propagation."<sup>43</sup>

Even so, because Lemkin was acutely conscious of cultural difference and contingency in historical events and social processes like genocide, he opposed the application of a single model for each genocide. Instead, he devised a set of questions for the comparative analysis of historical case studies that would balance careful contextualization with systematic rigor. His template for each case study, reproduced in an abbreviated form below, highlights not only the multi-dimensional nature of genocide but also his eschewal of the Holocaust as a paradigm of genocide.

- 1. Background-historical
- Conditions leading to the genocide
- 3. Methods and techniques of genocide
- The genocidists
- . Propaganda
- 6. Responses of victims
- 7. Responses of outsider groups
- 8. Aftermath. 45

He wrote draft chapters on most of the following extensive list. This is how he named and organized the cases:

Antiquity: Canaanites/Biblical genocide, Assyrian invasions, Egypt, Greece, Celts, Carthage, Early Christians, Pagans, Gauls, Genocide in Ancient Greece.

Middle Ages: Goths, Huns, Vandals, Vikings, Charlemagne, Albigeneses, Valdenses, England, Jews, Mongols, Moors, the French in Sicily. By the Vikings, Spanish Inquisitions, Genocide against the Moors and the Moriscos, by the Huns, against the Jews. By the Goths. Crusades.

Modern Tines: 1. Genocide by the Germans against the Native Africans, 2. Assyrians in Iraq, 3. Belgian Congo, 4. Bulgaria under the Turk, 5. Genocide against the Greeks, 6. Chios, 7. Greeks and Franks, 8. Greeks in Exile from Turkish occupation, 9. Genocide by Greeks against the Turks, 10. Genocide against the Gypsies, 11. Hereros, 12. Haiti, 13. Hottentots, 14. Huguenots, 15. Hungary under the Turks, 16. Genocide against the American Indians, 17. Ireland, 18. Genocide by Jannisaries, 19. Genocide by the Japanese against the Catholics, 20. Genocide

against Polish Jews, 21.Genocide against Russian Jews, 22. Genocide against Jews in South Africa, 23. Genocide against Rumanian Jews, 24. Korea, 25. Latin America, 26. Genocide against Aztecs, 27. Yucatan, 28. Genocide against the Incas, 29. Genocide against the Maoris of New Zealand, 30. Genocide against Mennonites, 31. Nuremberg Trials, 32. Parsis, 33. Serbs, 34. Slavs, 35. Smyrna, 36. South Africa, 37. Genocide against the Stedinger 38. Tasmanians, 39. Armenians, 40. SW Africa, 41. Natives of Australia.<sup>46</sup>

We do no have the space to examine each chapter but it is worth noting that Lemkin wrote a substantial manuscript on the Nazi policies for the purposes of indicting German leaders for genocide. As in Axis Rule, he treated the persecution and murder of European Jewry as a case of genocide among others perpetrated by the Nazis, noting its distinct features while highlighting its similarities. Ever the sober lawyer, he made the case for their guilt in terms explicable to an international readership with secular premises. Lemkin's was the first account of the "Holocaust and world history," then, but it never saw the light of day. His work was promptly forgotten as the uniqueness thesis began to structure the conceptual approach to the study the Holocaust.

# The Holocaust and World History: Following Lemkin's Program

could be a hereditary or blood enemy, which meant that all its members were global interest, the Holocaust needs to be deprovincialized from its significaesting or relevant to world historians who are more interested in themes like wrote his proposals and draft chapters? How can the Holocaust be made inter-How can one revive Lemkin's method today, more than half a century after he people" since Biblical antiquity as an example for this approach explanations for its occurrence. Of particular interest is the notion that a people set forth by Lemkin, namely to advance immanent rather than transcendental point out such features. Far more, such an exercise is intrinsic to the program Holocaust—to name the anxiety of those who insist on its uniqueness—to features of genocide that recur in the Holocaust. It does not "diminish" the achievement of human rights and genocide prevention. That narrative is simply tion within an exclusively Jewish and western narrative about the triumphant climate change, demography, migration, and state-formation? To be of genuine interest in world history. A world history gaze can illuminate some generic implausible for large sections of the global population and shows no genuine In the following brief exposition, I focus mainly on the concept of "enemy ipso facto guilty, to be exterminated with impunity, indeed with divine warrant.

It has been often pointed out that the Bible contains numerous examples of genocide by the ancient Israelites of their enemies, although they were no

exception to Near Eastern norms at the time. Significant for genocide studies is that the Bible deals with the fate of peoples. The Amalek, an enemy people of the Israelites, embodied the concept of hereditary enemy. Just as the Bible teaches that their name was to be "blotted out" (Deuteronomy 25:19), their putative genocidal intentions towards the Israelites serve as ready historical analogy for Israeli leaders today.<sup>48</sup> The Bible was also the source for "the Judeo-Christian history of salvation" in which "the obliteration and replacement of peoples was a principal motor of advance and historical change." Genocide could be thereby imbued with metahistorical significance, as it was for medieval Europeans for whom the Bible provided "ancient prototypes" "for recounting acts of inter-ethnic slaughter."

Other cases in antiquity indicate alternative modalities of enemy people construction. Rome's armies occasionally exterminated entire cities that resisted its rule or rose up in rebellion. To be sure, they did not always destroy the enemy, but nor did they pardon those who could not be trusted. Security considerations dictated their fate. Fo Punishing and avenging treachery and betrayal, experienced as an insult and expression of contempt, was another motivation for destroying a people or city. Rome's attack on Carthage, which it accused of basic breaches of trust, is a classic example of this modality. Carthage's behavior meant that Rome withdrew the right of pity and limited warfare. Vengeance and indignation drove it to impose mass, collective capital punishment rather than ethnic or racial hatred. Betrayal was also a common theme in Asian and Central Asian empires. The Mongols were acutely conscious of treachery by peoples they had absorbed into the multi-ethnic empires. Peoples who broke alliances—and therefore an oath—by joining the enemy were sometimes exterminated years later by Mongol leaders who did not forget such betrayals. For the mongol leaders who did not forget such betrayals.

people shared consanguinity and territory, rigidly distinguishing between locals humiliating tutelage over the Chinese.<sup>54</sup> Also anti-colonial in nature were the example. They were to be pulled "out by the roots" for betraying their oath nationalists against the Manchu Dynasty in the late nineteenth century, for extermination of an enemy people was also a common refrain by Chinese perial relationship in a phenomenon called "subaltern genocide." <sup>53</sup> The total ever of these might have been the rebels' initial object of attack."55 The local and sections of the population hostile to the peasantry, irrespective of whichamong them from the 'bad,' and secondly ... [hitting] ... out against all classes of a given class of enemies without pausing to sort out the 'good' individuals colonial rule. Such targeting was often collective, directed "against all members peasant insurgencies in nineteenth-century India. Their targets were not only to protect China from foreign penetration. The Manchus were racialized as a and alien newcomers. Theirs was a struggle for the homeland against foreign the British occupiers but Indian tribal groups seen as agents or beneficiaries of "barbarous lineage"; revenge was to be taken on them for their centuries-long Genocidal intentions could also be generated by the other side of the im-

Indians, members of other tribes who exploited the peasantry and who were held responsible for moral and material decline, especially if they were money lenders and traders, bearers of the incipient commercial economy. Alien influence was coded as the beginning of general decline. The rebels sought to expel or destroy the commercial interloper to recover a harmonious past as future. So

At the same time in North America, European settlers were racializing Apache Indians as enemies who were congenitally dangerous to their presence and should therefore be exterminated. This disposition was, by all accounts, the consensus on the frontier. The tendency to collective thinking of dangerous people was also evident in Imperial Russian elites in their conquest of the Caucasus between the 1830s and 1860s. Noting the French tactics in their pacification of Algeria, the Russians engaged in wholesale population expulsions with virtually genocidal consequences for groups like the Circassians. Decades later, during the Russian Civil war, both Red and White forces routinely "sifted" and "filtered" captured troops and populations for members of suspect groups they regarded as corporate enemy groups. White forces, for instance, executed tens of thousands of Jews, Balts, Chinese, and Communists because they were seen as "incorrigible." 58

The concept of enemy people (vnag navodo) and classes became a central element of the Soviet security paranoia. Stalin thought the so-called Kulaks an irredeemable enemy. Because of their large number and geographical dispersion, he found that expulsion was not an option. Starvation was a substitute policy, with genocidal consequences for Ukrainian and Caucasian peasants. So Less well known but equally devastating was the genocidal deportation in 1943–1944 of the Caucasian peoples, who were accused of collaborating with the Nazi invaders. For their alleged betrayal of the Soviet Fatherland, the Chechens became a "bandit nation"; according to Beria, they were a nation of "active and almost universal participation in the terrorist movement directed against the Soviets and the Red Army."

Since the 1920s, the Soviet leadership had felt encircled by enemies abroad and their agents within Soviet borders: peoples thought to be in league with these foreign enemies were necessarily "unreliable elements," "suspect nations," "nationalities of foreign governments." In this context, leaders could make genocidal statements like this one:

We will annihilate every such enemy, even if he is an old Bolshevik, we will annihilate his entire clan, his family. We will mercilessly annihilate anyone who in actions or thoughts—yes, even in thoughts—who attempts [to undermine] the unity of the socialist state. 61

Security rather that racial imperatives governed the logic of this rhetoric and policy.

Other aspects of genocide can be briefly noted. In all these empires, terror played an important role in conquest and governance. Massacring entire towns

hastened the surrender of others when they heard the news. The relentless pursuit of enemy peoples is also a recurring feature of genocide through the ages. Sometimes the destruction was total, sometimes it was not. Enemies were pursued to the extent that they no longer represented a threat or that sufficient vengeance had been exacted. Equally important is the question of preemption. We know from Richard Tuck's study of western thought on war and peace that one tradition—expressed by Tacitus and Cicero, for instance—justified preemptive strikes against enemies on the basis of fear, glory, and generally vaison d'erat. We also know that this justification found application in practice, such as the habit of European settlers to preemptively exterminate indigenous peoples collectively because they might pose a threat. Out of fear or by projecting their own genocidal designs onto the other, settlers murdered entire groups on the basis of the proposition that the Native Americans were apparently bent on destroying them.

that was therefore a permanent security risk to attack preemptively and colwhose fundamental disloyalty was proven by the betrayal of an army in 1917, and mortally dangerous, that was responsible for moral and material decline by European Jewry: the identification of an enemy people that was incorrigible grees, in genocides generally.66 that pronounce civilians to be potential security risks is present, in varying denotions of global conspiracy—just as paranoia and accusations of "ethnic guilt" out saying that branding "the Jews" an enemy people was based on fantastical as Lemkin did, that genocides, for all their variation, share recurring features in world history"—the dreaded "relativization" of the Holocaust. It is to note, ence in the Holocaust is not to suggest that it is "just like any other genocide own genocidal amalgam of these historical examples. To point to their presthe Mongols—in justifying his stance and policies. <sup>65</sup> The Nazis concocted their Hitler referred explicitly to some of these cases—particularly the Romans and lectively, to be pursued relentlessly, to be terrorized and exterminated. In fact, its commercial activity, that collaborated with and represented foreign enemies, that congeal in different constellations in different conjunctures. It goes with-Now all these aspects of genocide can be detected in the Nazi genocide of

#### Conclusion

What then of "the Holocaust and world history"? Lemkin studied both scientifically as he would any history and any genocide; he seems not to have invested the Holocaust with any metahistorical significance. Taking the perspective of the *longue durée* naturally told against such investment. He observed patterns of immanence rather than transcendence, the quotidian rise and fall of nations and empires, rather than moments of world-historical significance. His own assumption was that the norm of diversity resisted the imposition of

homogeneity. Note how he includes the Nazi regime in this list of homogenizing empires:

At different stages of history some cultures have been stronger, some have been weaker, but the diversity of cultures in the world has been aspired to from earliest times. And once a tendency was felt to impose one culture upon the rest of the world, like in the case of Greece, Rome, Assyria, France (under Louis XVI), Nazi Germany under Hitler, this tendency was always broken up by counter-forces which ultimately secure the principle of diversity, 67

Despite his valorization of cultural difference, he was no cultural relativist, believing that the West, as the origin of humanitarian international law, was the motor of civilizational development. It drove the transition from the barbarism of total warfare and wars of extermination of antiquity and the Middle Ages to the modern laws of war and occupation with their distinction between civilians and combatants. If this view, shared by other liberal Jews of his generation like Norbert Elias, has been powerfully challenged by critics who associate genocide and the Holocaust with modernity, his nascent theory of cultural learning processes is worth recalling. Memory of genocide spurs the effort to prevent it, perhaps a secular manifestation of the Jewish notion that "the secret of redemption is memory:" "6"

The history of genocide displays the presence of a vicious circle. The preservation of nations contributes to the creation and development of original cultures. However, the presence of original cultures in certain, especially limitrophe [border zones, ADM], areas of the world caused cultural conflicts and genocide. It also created the concern to prevent genocide by permitting the natural development and co-existence of cultures without excluding one another by violent means. 69

The terrible events of World War II "created the concern to prevent genocide," he noted, because they "shocked the conscience of mankind," as the UN General Assembly put it in 1946. Contrary to the common view that the Holocaust was the impetus for the drafting of the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the Genocide Convention, the Nazi genocide and persecution of many other groups—that is, genocide—was the international community's point of reference: the Holocaust was not a term used at the time, after all."

What of his legacy today? World histories of genocide are being written, alas with no regard for Lemkin's work. The best recent scholarship on the Holocaust to embody the Lemkinian spirit is Donald Bloxham's tellingly-titled study of the Holocaust, The Final Solution: A Genocide. A genuine comparativist with expertise in war crimes trials, the Armenian genocide, and geopolitics since the Eastern crisis of the 1870s, Bloxham reasons inductively, showing how the Nazi policies grew out of but also exceeded the ethnic warfare in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. Along the way, he disposes of the uniqueness myth that the Nazis intended the total destruction of the Jews, while also referencing Lemkin's observation that "crippling" a group was genocidal because it destroyed its agency and prevented its reproduction.

Defily negotiating the complex historiography of the field, he shows that any one paradigm, whether industrial killing, modernity, antisemitism or imperialism cannot do justice to the Holocaust's complexity, which was, ultimately, a multi-causal event. In the manner of Lemkin, then, Bloxham has successfully deprovincialized Holocaust scholarship.

placed by middle-range inquiry amenable to empirical testing. empire-states. Explicit or implicit ascriptions of transcendent meaning in world of imposing and resisting hegemony in a competitive system of nation- and frame and a genuine interest in all civilizations and cultures facing the challenge tory, then, takes us far from the uniqueness claim, where we began, to a global history, in particular about the evils of antisemitism or imperialism, can be refor the genocides of that period.74 To ask about the Holocaust and world his-Japanese, and Italian empires of the 1930s and 1940s, are the global context the core powers and the system they govern, exemplified by the Nazi, Soviet, to break into or dominate the system. This pattern of revisionist challenges to responsible for hindering resource mobilization or betraying previous efforts order had been defeated in World War I, scapegoat domestic minorities held that wish to catch up, like Imperial Germany whose challenge to the established by old core powers accompanied by newcomers like the United States. Those and modern genocide, he thinks the twentieth century context is distinctive. systematically pursued this question. Abjuring the distinction between ancient system of empire- and nation-states. Mark Levene is the historian to have most Unique is the development of competitive nation-states in a system dominated in the usual comparative calculus. It must ask after its location in the world A world history approach to the Holocaust must also do more than engage

#### Z

- 1. Thanks to Avril Alba, Donald Bloxham, Nick Doumanis, Yotam Hotam, Geoffiey Brahm Levey, Dan Stone, and Natasha Wheatley for critical feedback on drafts of this chapter. An elaborated version of the argument will appear in my Canadide and the Terror of History, forthcoming.
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- 27. Raphael Lemkin, Axis Rule, 80 n. 3. The book was finished in 1943 but negotiations with the publishers delayed its appearance by a year. See Cooper, Raphael Lemkin and the Genecide Convention, 54.
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- Raphael Lemkin, "Introduction into Part 1: The New Word and the New Idea," New York Public Library, Lemkin Collection, Box 2, Reel 2, Folder 2, 1.

- 30. Raphael Lemkin, "Memorandum on the Genocide Convention," American Jewish Historical Association, Lemkin Collection, P-154, Box 6, Folder 5.
- 31. His research was financed by a special "Genocide Research Fund" at Yale Law School, to which donors contributed. See Harry Start, Lucius N. Littauer Foundation to Lemkin, 13 February 1951, American Jewish Historical Association, Lemkin Collection, P-154, Box 8, Folder 10.
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- 33. Lemkin, "Totally Unofficial Man," 390.
- 34. College Roundable: United Nations: Genocide Convention (undated), American Jew-ish Archives, Cincinnati, Collection 60, Box 4, Folder 2, 2.
- 35. A typical rejection letter from Roger F. Evans, Rockefeller Foundation, to Lemkin, 6 November 1947, New York Jewish Historical Association, Lemkin Collection, P-154, Box 8, Folder 10.
- 36. Studies of these manuscripts can be found in Dominik Schaller and Jürgen Zimmerer, eds., The Origins of Cenocide: Raphael Lemkin as a Historian of Mass Violence (Abingdon, 2009), and Cooper, Raphael Lemkin and the Cenocide Convention, chs. 15 and 16.
- 37. Raphael Lemkin, "Description of the Project" (undated), New York Public Library, Lemkin Collection, Box 2, Reel 3, Folder 1, 2.
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- 40 Ibid
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- 43. Lemkin, "The Concept of Sociology in Sociology."
- 44. Raphael Lemkin, "Reflections on Cure and Treatment," New York Public Library, Lemkin Collection, Box 2, Reel 2, Folder 2. "It is therefore useless to apply to it [genocide] the same standards and methods used by chemists or biologists."
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