

Genocide and the Europeans

Genocide is one of the most heinous abuses of human rights imaginable, yet reaction to it by European governments in the post-Cold War world has been criticised for not matching the severity of the crime. European governments rarely agree on whether to call a situation genocide, and their responses to purported genocides have often been limited to delivering humanitarian aid to victims and supporting prosecution of perpetrators in international criminal tribunals. More coercive measures – including sanctions or military intervention – are usually rejected as infeasible or unnecessary. This book explores the European approach to genocide, reviewing government attitudes towards the negotiation and ratification of the 1948 Genocide Convention and analysing responses to purported genocides since the end of the Second World War. Karen E. Smith considers why some European governments were hostile to the Genocide Convention and why European governments have been reluctant to use the term genocide to describe atrocities ever since.

KAREN E. SMITH is Reader in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has written extensively about the European Union's foreign relations, including the role that human rights may play in those relations, and is the winner of the 2007 Anna Lindh Award for excellence in research on European foreign and security policy. Her most recent books include European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World (2nd edition, 2008) and The European Union at the United Nations: Intersecting Multilateralisms (with Katie Verlin Laatikainen, 2006).



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Abbreviations

AU	African Union
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CDU	Christian Democratic Union (Germany)
CHR	Commission on Human Rights (of the United
	Nations)
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in
	Europe
CSU	Christian Social Union (Germany)
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations (United
	Nations)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCC	Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of
	Cambodia
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (of the United
	Nations)
EU	European Union
FAC	Foreign Affairs Council (of the European Union)
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FDP	Free Democrats Party (Germany)
FMG	Federal Military Government (of Nigeria)
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
GDR	German Democratic Republic
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former
	Yugoslavia
IFOR	Implementation Force
INA	Irish National Archives
JEM	Justice and Equality Movement

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List of abbreviations

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KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army
MP	Member of Parliament
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization NGO non-governmental organisation

NIOD Netherlands Institute for War Documentation

OAU Organisation of African Unity

OSCE Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe P5 five permanent members of the UN Security Council

PDS Party of Democratic Socialism (Germany)

RPF Rwandan Patriotic Front

RPR Rassemblement pour la République (French

political party)

SAA Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SPD Social Democratic Party (Germany)
SHZ Safe Humanitarian Zone (in Rwanda)
SLM/A Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army

SPLA Sudan People's Liberation Army

UDF Union des Démocrates pour la République (French

political party)

UK United Kingdom

UKNA United Kingdom National Archives

UMP Union pour un Mouvement Populaire (French

political party)

UN United Nations

UNAMID United Nations African Mission in Darfur UNAMIR United Nations Assistance Mission for

Rwanda

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees

UNPROFOR United Nations Protection Force

US United States

USA United States of America

USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WEOG Western Europe and Other Group (at the

United Nations)

WEU Western European Union