Part Two: Colonial Foundations and Legacies: Conquest, Exploitation, Eradication, Assimilation, Racism

GENOCIDE AND ETHNOCIDE: Colonialism, Assimilation, Extinction

Required Readings:

- [MAAKA] Ch. 8, *Confronting Australian Genocide* (Colin Tatz), pp. 125-140.
- [MAAKA] Ch. 9, “Killing the Indian in the Child”: Four Centuries of Church-Run Schools (Suzanne Fournier and Ernie Crey), pp. 141-149.
“I want to get rid of the Indian problem….Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department.”~ Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs from 1913 to 1932

→ “enfranchisement”
What genocide is not:

(a) Genocide is not just lots of violence or mass atrocities;
(b) Genocide is not simply particularly gory and extreme violence on a mass scale;
(c) Genocide is not the same thing as extinction;
(d) “Ethnic cleansing” is not genocide;
(e) Genocide is not just a crime committed by states;
(f) Genocide is not defined solely by the Holocaust example

→ So what is genocide then, if it’s not extinction?
→ Rafael Lemkin, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, 1944: “genos” (race), genocide
→ Lemkin defined genocide as “the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group.”
→ Lemkin: genocide “is effected through a synchronized attack on different aspects of life of the captive people.”

→ Lemkin: the elimination of the “essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves. The objectives of such a plan are the disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of the personal security, liberty, health, dignity and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups.”

→ Lemkin: **genocide in relation to colonialism**

“Genocide has two phases: one, destruction of the national pattern of the oppressed group: the other, the imposition of the national pattern of the oppressor. This imposition, in turn, may be made upon the oppressed population which is allowed to remain, or upon the territory alone, after removal of the population and the *colonization* of the area by the oppressor’s own nationals.”
→ Bartolome de las Casas as his hero
→ influence of James Frazer and Bronislaw Malinowski

→ forced assimilation = cultural genocide (ethnocide)

→ Lemkin reinforced “the dominant discourse on indigenous extinction common in the cultural evolutionism of anthropology since the nineteenth century” (Moses, 2008, p. 16)

→ passive victims, outright annihilation, little/mo resistance

→ Lemkin supported “legal assimilation”

→ Lemkin doubts of cultural survival.

Example:

“The only real Carib is a pure Carib. The only pure Carib is a dead Carib.”
UNITED NATIONS General Assembly, Resolution 260,  
*Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*  
December 9, 1948:

**Article 2**
In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(a) Killing members of the group;
(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.


Do we need a concept of ethnocide?

ETHNOCIDE

→ destruction of a culture

→ forced assimilation
Genocide and Resurgence

18 million north of Mexico circa 1492-1600

Present: approx. 4 million

Population decline

Current population

900,000 to 1.5 million, north of Mexico, circa 1600

Present: approx. 4 million

Dobyns

Mooney, Kroeber

Nadir (low point), typically 375,000 (Thornton)
References/ Additional Sources:

*Empire, Colony, Genocide: Conquest, Occupation, and Subaltern Resistance in World History.*
A. Dirk Moses, editor.
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*Colonialism and Genocide.*
A. Dirk Moses & Dan Stone, editors.
London: Routledge, 2008
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New York: Berghahn Books, 2004
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