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The Limits of International Humanitarian Law

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The Limits of International Humanitarian Law

Abstract

The goal of international humanitarian law is to humanize war in an effort to minimize human suffering and the long-term negative consequences of war. However, despite the adoption by most countries of the Geneva Conventions and other relevant agreements, crimes of war occur in every conflict around the world on a regular basis. Additionally, as the form of warfare changes, so does the implementation and consequences of various war crimes. Genocide, systematic rape, and the use of child soldiers are three of the most significant war crimes facing sub-Saharan Africa today. Each has consequences so severe that specific international laws have been created in an effort to prevent their occurrence and punish the guilty perpetrators.

Keywords

Human rights, Sub-Saharan Africa, International humanitarian law, War, War crimes, Genocide, Child soldiers, Rape

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The Limits of International Humanitarian Law

By Melissa Eli

The goal of international humanitarian law is to humanize war in an effort to minimize human suffering and the long-term negative consequences of war. However, despite the adoption by most countries of the Geneva Conventions and other relevant agreements, crimes of war occur in every conflict around the world on a regular basis. Additionally, as the form of warfare changes, so does the implementation and consequences of various war crimes. Genocide, systematic rape, and the use of child soldiers are three of the most significant war crimes facing sub-Saharan Africa today. Each has consequences so severe that specific international laws have been created in an effort to prevent their occurrence and punish the guilty perpetrators. In spite of these laws and the powerful message prosecution sends, the damages caused by these three war crimes cannot be mitigated by means of legal sanctions alone. The root causes of genocide, systematic rape, and child soldiering must also be addressed, as must the provision of appropriate resources to victims. In the following paragraphs, I will provide a brief introduction to international humanitarian law, and will examine the causes, consequences, and potential mitigation strategies for genocide, systematic sexual violence, and child soldiering.

International Humanitarian Law

International law and customary norms are important elements for understanding the history and possible responses to genocide, systematic rape, and the recruitment or use of child soldiers. The best place to start is the Fourth Geneva Convention's additional protocols I and II. These were added to the original 1949 document to address the increase in violence against civilians in armed conflicts.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocol of 2000 confirm that the use of children under the age of eighteen in armed hostilities constitutes a war crime punishable under international law. Despite the fact that the majority of states have ratified these agreements, the use of child combatants has continued to increase over the past ten years.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), which defines the act and outlines international responses to genocidal behavior, failed to spur appropriate responses to the Rwandan genocide and significant shortcomings continue in relation to the current situation in Darfur, Sudan. Furthermore, the declaration of rape as a war crime within the 1998 Rome Statute has failed to prevent the incidence of weaponized rape in sub-Saharan Africa from increasing exponentially over the past decade. Consider the following:

- The genocide in Darfur continues with at least six thousand people dying monthly since early 2003 and an uncountable and unfathomable amount of women and girls raped daily (Reeves 2008: Part 1);
- Approximately 300,000 children under the age of eighteen served in armed conflicts during 2008 (Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers 2008);

- As of 2006, more than 250,000 women, men, and children in conflict regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been brutally raped with their bodies becoming veritable battlefields (Kirchner 2007).

International treaties such as those mentioned above, regardless of how strongly supported, are not enough to stop the atrocities they were designed to prevent. International agreements on criminal war behavior must be enforced through the trial proceedings allowed for within each agreement in order to curb such heinous acts. As it stands now, war criminals knowingly violate international law, regardless of ratification status, because they know the likelihood of being held accountable is low.

Changing this situation by means of the International Criminal Court or national justice systems will not completely halt the occurrence of genocide, systematic sexual violence, and child soldiering, but trials and convictions against known war criminals will bring a measure of justice and demonstrate to potential violators that immunity for such actions is unlikely. Root causes of war crimes, including abject poverty, the violation of women's rights, forced migration, and political corruption must be addressed. Additionally, victims and their communities must be given increased access to resources in order to limit the negative effects such crimes have on a society.

Genocide

A thorough examination of war crimes in sub-Saharan Africa is not possible without taking a close look at genocide, which comprises any act "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group" (United Nations 1951). Genocide transpires for ethnic, political, or economic reasons; however, research also shows that fear is consistently a significant factor. Fear and distrust between ethnic or economic groups as a root cause makes genocide a war crime particularly challenging to prevent.

The consequences of genocide extend not only throughout the affected country but an entire region, affecting all sectors, long into the future. Anger and distrust between groups prevents effective private and public sector development and reduces economic and social growth throughout at the national and regional level. A decreased labor force, necessary to propel a country forward after war, presents a long-term problem, as do the high levels of emotional instability caused by witnessing, experiencing, or committing brutal genocidal acts. The trauma inflicted on a people by genocide paralyzes a population so that even the best development projects are unable to take root. This is particularly important when considering sub-Saharan Africa, a region chronically in need of effective development strategies to combat extreme poverty and inequality.

Recent developments in the study of genocide acknowledge that rape and forced migration are used not only as tools of war, but also as a form of ethnic cleansing, which presents unique sets of consequences that threaten post-war peace. Rape performed on mass scales with the intent of destroying an ethnic identity achieves the same goal as the Nazis in Germany and the Hutus in Rwanda, just at a much slower pace. Victims of genocidal rape are often left unable to reproduce because of either injury or emotional instability, which threatens the future strength of the community. Without access to resources, victims are often unable to effectively rear the next

generation according to ethnic values and traditions, thus leading to the further destruction of an identity.

Genocide is rooted in long-standing frustrations, fears, and divisions. Perpetrators must be held accountable; however, criminal convictions will not prevent all future occurrences of genocide. The international community must develop early warning signs and establish appropriate responses to ethnic violence before genocide takes place. There is also a need for improved post-genocidal healing programs, which must take place on a case-by-case basis. All victims must be acknowledged and given the means to recover as best as possible from emotional, mental, and physical scars thereby preventing the genocidal past of a country to dictate its future development.

Cases In Brief

The Rwandan Genocide

In 1994, the Hutu-Tutsi ethnic division reached a boiling point and during the one hundred days following the assassination of Habyarimana, more than one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed, raped, and maimed. The genocide did not develop overnight, but rather was well planned and rooted in years of anger, fear, and division. The destruction from this violence still rages in the country due to the high number of orphans and refugees, the infection of thousands of rape victims with HIV/AIDS, and the deeply rooted anger nested in the hearts of survivors. Initial efforts towards justice failed to respond to the needs of the country as a whole and so the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda were criticized. After the initial shortcomings, national officials implemented the Gacaca system, a form of restorative, as opposed to retributive, justice. This traditional tribal system of justice has proven successful in moving the country forward by placing the emphasis on healing for all participants, complete and honest confessions, and the reintegration of victims as well as perpetrators back in to communal society. In the area of reconciliation, the country has made additional strides by focusing on increased equality, mutual economic development among all ethnic groups, and the upcoming generation's education.

Darfur's Genocide

The genocide, which has been raging in Darfur since 2003, involves the common denominator of all genocides—mass killings, committed mostly against the male population. However, systematic rape and forced migration are other key elements. The rape conducted within Darfur is done in an effort to destroy the Fur, Massaleit, and Zaghawa ethnic identities, traditions, and lifestyles and wide spread violence has driven many Sudanese into camps where death caused by violence, disease, or malnutrition often await them. It is impossible to quantify the death toll or damage incurred in Darfur since so much of the destruction comes after the immediate attacks. The mass killings, forced migration, and large-scale systematic rapes, coupled the international community's failure to provide appropriate intervention or resources, has produced a humanitarian emergency.

Although the genocide has been allowed to continue, talks began in 2008 regarding the issuance of an arrest warrant for President Omar Bashir for crimes against humanity. Anxiety regarding the

issuance of an arrest warrant for the president, visible throughout the war-weary country, demonstrates the common concern that interference by the International Criminal Court often delays peace. In addition to the arrest warrant for the Sudanese president, as of 2009, warrants have been issued for two rebel leaders, although trials have yet to commence due to jurisdiction and logistical problems.

Systematic Rape as a Tool of War

Historically, rape and war have gone hand in hand because the latter continually proves to be an effective tool of war. This problem has been exacerbated in numerous sub-Saharan conflicts because soldiers are encouraged to rape and pillage to demonstrate their power, victory, or dominance. Additionally, systematic war rape is used to cause intimidation or humiliation, as citizens are likely to comply with demands for food, money, or recruits when exposed to the valid threat of rape. Soldiers and commanders will often choose to engage in rape as a tool of war not only because it is effective, but also because rape leaves minimal evidence behind for future accountability. The nominal pay given to sub-Saharan African fighting forces has been shown to be supplemented with access to females by means of either condoned rape or abducted sexual servants.

The consequences of systematic rape are multifaceted. When men or women are raped in order to incite fear or shame, the act is done in a public manner, which may lead to alienation due to either traditional beliefs or pain of memory. The act also leaves behind women and men who are suffering with emotional and psychological problems but lack adequate resources for help. This leads to unproductive community members, poor parenting, and the increased possibility of suicide. Finally, brutal acts of rape that occur during a time of conflict leave physical scars in the form of internal damage, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and infertility. Much of the physical suffering goes untreated due to shame or lack of access to health care and often results in more severe damage or death.

It is unlikely that rape will ever be eliminated from war due to the nature of conflict environments and the strategic gains made from using rape as a tool of war. However, with increased prosecution of violators, the prevalence of this devastating war crime can be reduced by increasing the possibility for punishment. Furthermore, by increasing access to mental and physical health recovery clinics and encouraging greater understanding within the communities, the consequences of the crime will be less severe to the victims and not so detrimental to the long-term development of the country and the region as a whole.

Sexual Violence in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In recent years, the international community and the national government of the DRC have responded to the high prevalence of systematic rape within the war-torn regions of the eastern part of the country with sanctions, new laws, and aid programs. However, despite these efforts, the level of sexual violence has remained unabated. Accurate statistics are not available because many of the acts go unreported, and subsequently, untreated physically and emotionally. These victims, many of whom are children and men as well as women, are abducted while performing daily tasks, brutally

violated, and given instructions to warn their village of impending attacks or demands. Oftentimes, due to the stigma and lack of understanding regarding rape, the victims keep the violation a secret. This silence has led to an increase not only in pro-longed suffering, but also of public rapes whereby the family or entire village is forced to watch the attack in order to incite fear and deep shame within the entire community. Rape as it occurs within the DRC cannot be considered a side effect of war. Rather, it must be categorized as it truly is—an effective weapon of war.

Among hundreds of thousands of victims, only a dozen or so perpetrators had been held accountable as of 2005, which clearly demonstrates the lack of judicial accountability taking place within the country. Without clear consequences, the battlefield benefits of using systematic rape in the DRC will prolong the use of such a tool. In addition to criminal prosecution, access to treatment centers and programs aimed at addressing the traditional taboos that surround rape and its victims are needed.

The Use of Children in Armed Conflict

As complicated as the issues of genocide and war rape are, the issue of child soldiers is even more complex because traumatized, victimized, and often criminalized children are the subject of concern. It is the nature of their victimization (especially when concerning girl soldiers), the forms of the violence that the children are forced to participate in, and the fact that many former child soldiers are adults by the time the war is over, that makes finding sustainable and appropriate solutions so challenging.

The problem of child soldiers is pervasive in sub-Saharan Africa because, to the recruiters and abductors, children are seen as unlikely to request pay or fair treatment, they are considered to present numerous battlefield advantages, and are deemed highly malleable, as they have not yet created absolute definitions of right and wrong. Due to physical and economic hardships in many southern African countries that face internal conflicts, teenagers and older children may feel compelled to join armed forces as a means of survival or productivity. Additionally, joining a militant group is often the only option for immediate survival—children are frequently abducted or violently recruited. The use of children as combatants has increasingly been considered a wise strategic move by many armed leaders for the numerous reasons listed above and for the fact that the crime often goes unpunished.

Long-term repercussions of recruiting children for combat are inevitable. Boys or girls who are abducted and forced to participate (either as the victim or perpetrator) in such acts as mutilation, rape, murder, and pillaging at a young age suffer in more complicated and damaging ways than adult counterparts. The psychological repercussions are very challenging to address, but failing to do so produces long-term consequences. Oftentimes these children have lost not only their innocence, but also the chance to develop a skill, earn an education, and the capacity to effectively reinsert themselves in their societies. When these young adults rejoin the general community, they find it difficult to be productive members of society and instead resort to banditry, violence, and idleness. The situation is even more complicated for former girl soldiers who account for approximately thirty-five percent of all child soldiers. These young women are forced to be sexual servants or

“wives” to soldiers, in conjunction with the bearing of arms, and many times leave war with children, STDs, and vivid memories of sexual abuse.

To prevent the abduction and recruitment of children, consistent and swift prosecution of criminals is needed. International sanctions against states proven to have recruited children within armed groups (national or rebel) must be implemented until appropriate efforts are made within the country to correct the situation. To alleviate societal strains, improved and comprehensive reintegration programs are needed. These programs must provide appropriate education and respond to emotional suffering in order to provide practical solutions for individual and society-wide growth.

The Case of Sierra Leone

The recent civil war in Sierra Leone, which ravaged the country for more than ten years, saw the violent recruitment and use of more than ten thousand children, of which 30 percent were girls. Under the Lome Peace Agreement, from 2002-2005 the United Nations administered the successful disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of thousands of child combatants. Yet, these programs have recently been found to be severely lacking. An important element of Sierra Leone’s post war process with respect to child soldiers has been the trials of numerous war criminals accused of abducting or recruiting children as soldiers. These cases mark a significant milestone in the effort to bring justice to a nation struggling to effectively deal with a multitude of former child combatants. The convictions of several war criminals on the account of child recruitment or abduction demonstrate that the use of children in armed conflicts will no longer go unpunished. Regardless of the significant measure of justice that these trials brought to the people of Sierra Leone, the future still looks remarkably bleak for the former child combatants due to the shortcomings in the DDR processes. The failure to appropriately allocate resources for the physical, mental and societal reinsertion of child soldiers, has caused a large number of former combatants to cross borders to join fighting ranks of other sub-Saharan conflicts. It has also allowed for the stagnation of an entire generation, which will have severe consequences long into the future.

Conclusion

Genocide, systematic sexual violence, and the use of children as combatants have negatively affected the fabric of sub-Saharan Africa’s societies. There is a need for appropriate response by international actors and local officials if development is to take place within the region. It is hard to argue against increased prosecution of war criminals, especially since such actions are integral parts of the numerous treaties and agreements that make up the core of international humanitarian law. Holding the perpetrators of such heinous crimes accountable will bring a measure of justice to the region; however, without other efforts, only minimal long-term and sustainable improvements will take place.

Victims of genocide and war rape must be able to have access to appropriate treatment in order to effectively curtail the negative effects these acts have on a society. Former child combatants need

a comprehensive reintegration strategy, which must include improved access to education, training, counseling, and micro-finance. Additionally, human rights advocates concerned with the damages and suffering caused by genocide, sexual violence, and child soldiering in sub-Saharan Africa must begin to fully understand the root causes of such crimes and work towards durable solutions to these problems as well. This, conducted with increased prosecution of war criminals, will bring about a radical reduction in the occurrence of such heinous war crimes and the consequences such acts are able to have on society.

Annotations

War Crimes and International Humanitarian Law

Amnesty International. 2009. "Sierra Leone: Despite Guilty Verdicts Today, Impunity is Still the Rule." (February 25) Website:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/sierra-leone-despite-guilty-verdicts-today-impunity-still-rule-20090225-0>

Annotation: This press release was retrieved from Amnesty International's library. This short piece discusses the convictions in the Special Court for Sierra Leone of three senior members of the Revolutionary United Front, which were convicted of numerous crimes against humanity including rape and the use of child soldiers. Although the men were convicted, the article points out the limited impact of the court and the difficulty in prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes. This article illustrates a significant event in the development of international humanitarian law. Also of use is the "Notes to Editors," which provides up-to-date information on the situation in Sierra Leone.

Gutman, Roy and David Rieff (eds.). 2007. Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know. New York: W.W. Norton Company.

Annotation: In encyclopedic format, this collection of essays and summaries illustrates issues pertaining to the legality of war and violations of international humanitarian law. Essays address genocide, systematic rape, and child soldiers, in addition to other uncommonly discussed elements of war, which makes this source useful for students of human rights broadly, and journalists in particular.

Helsing, Jeffrey & Julie Mertus (eds.). 2006. Human Rights in Conflict. Washington, DC: US Institute for Peace Press.

Annotation: This edited volume seeks to provide an intersection in understanding human rights and conflict management, which is a complicated goal due to the complex nature of both fields. The book accomplishes this goal by positioning itself as a resource for human rights issues related to armed conflict situations. Many portions of the book relate directly to the topics

addressed within this essay, in particular John Cerone's case study on rape as a war crime, which provides background information as well as relevant statistics. Also of key importance to this piece is the essay by Richard Ashby Wilson in which he provides a detailed discussion of the tribunals and courts that have developed in response to heinous war crimes.

Human Rights Watch. 2004. Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity: Topical Digests of the Case Law of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. New York: Human Rights Watch.

Annotation: This book can serve as a compressive reference for the verdicts from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) as it compiles them, along with the convictions reached in the former Yugoslavia's Tribunal (ICTFY). Instead of seeking to provide an opinion on the judgments or to persuade the reader to feel positively or negatively about the outcomes, the authors and editors intended to inform students and scholars about the "case law" and international humanitarian law, which was drawn upon in each court's trials. The book may not be an easy read for non-legal scholars, although it is very useful. This publication is especially valuable to those seeking to recommend additional tribunals as potential solutions to other war crimes. It would serve students and scholars well to read the statutes contained within this document as well as to refer to the individual websites of the courts for detailed accountings of the charges and convictions.

_____. 2005. Uprooted and Forgotten: Impunity and Human Rights Abuses in Northern Uganda. Website: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2005/09/19/uprooted-and-forgotten>.

Annotation: This report covers the situation still raging in Uganda and is particularly helpful to students, seeking to understand how violent war crimes can persist for so long without affective prosecution. This information is found in the sections entitled "The Lack of Accountability" and "The Lack of Protection for Civilians" in which the actions of both the LRA and the UPDF are outlined. The detail provided in this report may be disturbing to some readers. As in every Human Rights Watch report, there are recommendations made to all relevant actors.

_____. 2006. "Lack of Conviction: The Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur: An HRW Briefing Paper." Website: <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/Sudan%20court%20paper%200606.pdf>.

Annotation: This report gives a detailed accounting of the Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur (SCCED). This includes the events leading up to the court's creation, the role of the court and the International Criminal Court (ICC) in achieving justice for victims, and the failures of the Sudanese government to bring war criminals to justice. Much of the useful information is found in "Events Leading to the Establishment of Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur." This section contains an accounting of the legal difficulties the government and the court face in prosecuting the criminals. This discussion will provide a new perspective which

may become increasingly relevant as more states create their own substitutes to the ICC. The presence systematic rape and sexual violence within conflict makes the prosecution of war criminals even more challenging due to cultural norms. This report is easy to read and full of useful information.

International Committee of the Red Cross. 1977. "Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts." Website: <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/FULL/470?OpenDocument>.

Annotation: Of particular concern in this first protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 is article 51, "Protection of the Civilian Population," which outlines the manner in which civilians must be treated and what armed combatants must do to protect them from unnecessary suffering. This document is of importance for those seeking to understand the legal values and international norms countries ascribe to concerning the treatment of civilians in armed conflict settings.

_____. 1977. "Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts." Website: <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/FULL/475?OpenDocument>.

Annotation: This second protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions was created to address the fact that warfare is now often conducted within national borders as opposed to between sovereign states. Because of this, violence committed against civilians has risen, as has the suffering of increasing amounts of internally displaced persons who do not qualify for the protection awarded refugees. This protocol must be examined if intense study of war crimes is desired. Article four is highly relevant to the study of genocide, war rape, and child soldiers as it clearly outlines the fact that these acts are forbidden and considered a crime of war.

International Criminal Court (ICC). 2009. "About the Court: ICC-CPI." Website <http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC/About+the+Court/>.

Annotation: The International Criminal Court's (ICC) website is useful for gaining a complete picture on the work currently being conducted by the court on the situations of sub-Saharan Africa. The "About the Court" section provides a basic outline of the Court's creation, structure, funding, and role. The brief summary will be useful to those seeking to understand the situations in which the court has become involved or are interested in researching potential responses to war crimes. Easy access to the Rome Statute, which governs the ICC, is provided on this webpage and the site is easy to navigate making it an ideal source.

Melvorn, Linda. 2006. Conspiracy to Murder: The Rwandan Genocide. London: Verso.

Annotation: This book was written after the author read Rwandan government documents regarding the planning of the genocide (including other letters, memos, and documents, which were abandoned in refugee camps by the genocidaires). Because of this, the book is rich with history, facts, and shocking details. The author also examined the evidence from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and conducted personal interviews, allowing for a well-rounded perspective. The first chapter entitled “Genocides” provides details of Kambanda’s arrest and prosecution and insights into the intentions of the masterminds behind the genocide as well as the root causes of the country’s troubles. The understanding and theories provided within this chapter can be applied to other cases in sub-Saharan Africa. The following chapters outline in vivid detail the events that unfolded ending with chapters ten, eleven, and twelve, which are focused on the international response and the appropriate steps moving forward. The book also provides a detailed and useful chronology and is easy to navigate through.

Midlarksy, Manus I. 2005. The Killing Trap: Genocide in the Twentieth Century. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Annotation: In this book, the author establishes the common denominators of all genocidal occurrences to be vulnerability and threat on the part of both the victim population and the perpetrator group. The author also seeks to answer two key questions concerning the topic: 1) Why does genocide continue to exist, and 2) How does the violence occurring within war environments become genocidal policy adopted on a state-level? These lofty goals are accomplished through in-depth examinations of numerous case studies. The book is theoretical in nature despite the heavy use of facts. Much of the information presented does not directly pertain to sub-Saharan Africa; however, key understandings, definitions, and facts are found throughout the book. Particular attention should be paid to Chapter 18 in which the author’s findings are neatly summed up.

Niemann, Grant. 2005. “War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and Genocide in International Criminal Law.” In Philip Reichel (Ed.), Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice. London: Sage Publications.

Annotation: This chapter taken from a law textbook provides clear definitions and key background on important elements of international humanitarian law common for a book of this purpose. It is laid out in a logical fashion making it easy for readers to quickly locate relevant sections. Numerous examples are also included within the chapter making difficult concepts easier to understand in light of commonly known situations. Although the language of this resource is dry and uninviting, it will serve students well as they seek to understand the complexities of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Public Radio International. 2009. “Judging the International Criminal Court” on America Abroad aired May 10, 2009.

Annotation: This radio broadcast focused on the recent discussion of whether the war crimes charges brought against Bashir, and other war criminals, may do more harm for the citizens of Sudan than good. One-side argues that justice cannot wait for peace and that those guilty of committing crimes against humanity cannot go unpunished. The other side looks at the more micro-level considering the safety and livelihoods of those who may suffer from the retaliation of the criminals after the indictment is issued. The court's role in Uganda, Yugoslavia, and Sudan are discussed in light of successes, failures, and concerns and the hour long report also explores whether ICC processes promote the healing of ethnic divisions. Do trials allow victims to move forward or does the process trap society in the past? Sovereignty issues were also discussed and numerous experts shared their insights on different aspects of the topic.

Ross, Fiona C. 2003. Bearing Witness: Women and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. London: Pluto Press.

Annotation: This book examines the complicated issues faced by women as they participate in national justice systems such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. In an attempt to shed light on the social, psychological, and often physical struggles of the women who choose to participate in such proceedings by testifying, the author explains the process and the intended outcomes. These intended outcomes are compared to the reality of the post-commission situation in South Africa. All this is done through an anthropological lens. Students not able to read the entire book will be able to gather a comprehensive understanding of Ross's findings by reading the epilogue.

Schabas, William A. 2007. An Introduction to the International Criminal Court. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Annotation: The aim of this book is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the International Criminal Court (ICC). In fact, the author goes beyond this goal, clarifying complex developments and providing important historical insights regarding the Rome Statute. Schabas is a prominent scholar of international humanitarian law who has also written on genocide and other forms of war crimes. By examining this book, students will gain an appropriate level of understanding regarding the procedures of the Court, its purposes, and its limitations. The book may appear daunting, but the actual writing of Schabas is brief and rather straightforward. For easy references, the entire treaty and an expansive outline of court proceedings is included in the appendix. Also, a detailed examination of the elements of war crimes addressed by the ICC is available in the appendix.

United Nations. 1998. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*. U.N. Doc A/Conf.183/9
Website: <http://untreaty.un.org/cod/icc/statute/romefra.htm>.

Annotation: The Rome Statute is a necessary document to understanding the International Criminal Court and the international norms surrounding the trying and sentencing of war criminals. However, many students are likely to find the document long and cumbersome in its entirety. The complete document may be daunting to students seeking only to understand

particular aspects of either the Statute or the Court. For such individuals, the three-page table of contents will be useful because it lists the sections by page number with clear and easily understood headings making navigating the document much easier.

Genocide

“A Policy for Preventing Genocide.” 2008. *The New York Times* (December 16).

Annotation: Drawing on the experiences from Darfur, Congo, Rwanda and Bosnia this editorial addresses the need for better policy and international responses to situations officially labeled or containing characteristics of genocide. The author goes briefly into Madeline Albright and Collin Powell’s call for a genocide prevention plan within the Obama administration and provides the reader with numerous issues for further study. This brief piece touches on the complicated nature of genocide prevention as it relates to funding and the committing of troops to situations not yet considered by the media and constituencies to be “atrocious enough.” The goal of this article, to spur thought and further research on the role of the media and international institutions in preventing ethnic conflicts from escalating to genocide, was well accomplished.

Besancon, Marie. 2005. “Relative Resources: Inequality in Ethnic Wars, Revolutions, and Genocides.” *Journal of Peace Research* 42 (4).

Annotation: An expansion on an often-neglected theory regarding the occurrence of genocide is presented in detail within this article. The goal is to inform the reader on the linkages between economic inequality and violent conflicts such as ethnic wars, revolution, and genocide. The author claims that genocide is caused by a combination of complex factors far beyond mere economic inequality. Throughout the article, and within many of the hypotheses, the connection between greed, inequality, and genocide is examined and can be applied to the situations in the Congo, Sudan, and Rwanda. To come to conclusions reached within the piece, various scientific research methods and mathematical calculations are used including examining Gini-coefficients within areas that have experienced genocide. The body of the piece is divided into descriptively titled and brief sections allowing readers to navigate through the information relatively easily in order to find relevant and novel data.

Caplan, Gerald. 2007. “Rwanda (and Other Genocides) in Perspective.” *Genocide Studies and Prevention* 2 (3).

Annotation: This brief examination of long-past and recent genocides provides important facts and insights in a few pages. Although short, the article will not be a light read for those with limited knowledge regarding the circumstances surrounding the particular examples discussed within. Caplan attempts to place the tragedy of Rwanda and other states into perspective, but merely explains the situations in light of the definition of genocide. He does address the history of genocide; however, he fails to provide an examination of causes and the restrictions placed on

the international community. This piece is helpful when used in conjunction with other scholarly and organizational studies on the subject.

Clark, Janine. 2009. "Learning from the Past: Three Lessons from the Rwandan Genocide." *African Studies*. 68 (1):1-28.

Annotation: In this journal article, the author's goal is to examine the lessons that can be learned from Rwanda's genocide. The lessons presented by the author are controversial by nature, especially the notion that *genocidaires* should not be marginalized or dehumanized, but instead given a voice and respected. One lesson the author sets out to explain his case is that perpetrators of genocide are not sociopaths or evil monsters, but are often average citizens driven by desperation and manipulative propaganda. The final lesson involves an in-depth examination of the legal process in post genocide Rwanda. The author outlines the limits of criminal proceedings on national reconciliation and subsequently provides suggestions for a more productive healing process. This article is easy to read and full of useful and revolutionary insights helpful to the study of genocide.

Collins, Robert O. 2006. "Disaster in Darfur: Historical Overview". In Samuel Totten and Eric Markusen (Eds.), Genocide in Darfur: Investigating the Atrocities in the Sudan. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Annotation: This chapter sets out to provide the reader with all the information needed to understand the conflict in Darfur fully. Some of the history presented is not useful for the study of the recent genocides of SSA; however, much of the information presented by the author will enhance the reader's understanding of the situation making it a helpful piece. In addition to a historical overview, this chapter sets up the beginning of the current conflict in Darfur starting in 2003. This leads into an accounting of the atrocities with minimal data provided and very little new information presented. The author does a nice job of explaining the key actors and groups and so provides readers with a useful resource.

International Crisis Group. 2008. "The ICC Indictment of Bashir: A Turning Point for Sudan?"
Website: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5959&l=1>.

Annotation: This publication by the International Crisis Group, known for its in-depth and unbiased coverage of emergencies around the world, provides background on the situation leading up to the indictment. The report also explains the concern within the national population regarding the indictment. The fear is that the arrest warrant issued against the Sudanese president will incite more violence. This brings up controversial issues relevant to the study of Sudan and war crime prosecution in general. The author validates the concerns and attempts to address them in the second section by means of recommendations for future proceedings, which do not include retracting the indictment.

Jones, Adam. 2006. Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction. Routledge: Taylor and Francis Publishers.

Annotation: This textbook, designed for students of genocide affairs, addresses every aspect of genocide and all past accounts of genocide in detail. Part Four, “The Future of Genocide,” contains a great deal of helpful information and theory, which can be applied to current and future situations. Particularly useful sections of the text are be found in Chapter One where the author provides a detailed examination of the development of the genocide classification, the case studies of Rwanda, the DRC, and Darfur in Chapter Nine, and the three chapters contained in section four. This book is clearly organized, easy to read, and contains an expansive bibliography for further research, which makes it an excellent resource for students or scholars researching occurrences of or theories pertaining to genocide.

Natsios, Andrew. 2006. “Moving Beyond a Sense of Alarm”. In Samuel Totten and Eric Markusen (Eds.), Genocide in Darfur: Investigating the Atrocities in Darfur. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Annotation: This chapter provides insights into why particular methods of violence are being relied upon and outlines the devastating effects this is having on the country and entire region surrounding Sudan. The examination of why individuals have sought out membership in the Janjaweed is particularly interesting and helpful to understanding the situation. The chapter points to other, more deeply entrenched problems, as well as additional human rights violations that may be at the core of the genocide. Descriptions, accompanied by data, of the violence and the way in which access issues compounded these early warning signs are also included in the text. This chapter will make a useful resource in researching genocide, war rape, or Sudan.

Prunier, Gerard. 2005. Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Annotation: This book provides extensive background information on the history of Darfur’s conflict, allowing the reader to understand how the situation escalated to the current levels. In the final chapter, “The World and the Darfur Crisis,” the question of whether or not genocide has occurred in Sudan is raised and an answer is attempted. An examination of the international community’s reasoning for the lack of responsiveness is also included in the chapter. For those seeking a detailed account of the violence, this book will serve the purpose well; especially Chapter Four and the sections entitled “Counter-insurgency on the Cheap” and “Improvising a ‘Final Solution.’” The author aimed to educate a wide audience on the situation in Sudan and so sought to make the book easy to read and interesting. Although very little new information is presented, the book is easy to read and provides a useful overview to be used in conjunction with other more specific research.

Reeves, Eric. 2006. “Quantifying Genocide in Darfur – Part One.” (April 26). Website: <http://www.sudanreeves.org/Article102.html>

Annotation: Eric Reeves has long studied and reported on the war in Darfur and has become intimately familiar with the level of criminal behavior and violence within the region. In this report, Reeves attempts to silence the debate regarding whether genocide is or is not taking place in Darfur. This emotional piece explains the varieties of violence and uses the rationale behind the forms of violence as a way to confirm the existence of genocide. The author seeks to spur international attention as well as action and so the information provided is emotionally charged and graphically presented. This comprehensive report will make an excellent source.

Reid-Cunningham, Allison Ruby. 2008. "Rape as a Weapon of Genocide." *Genocide Studies and Prevention* 3 (3):279-296.

Annotation: This informative and short article explains the reasons rape is often used during war and the elements that must exist to appropriately classify the act as constituting genocide. The author cites renowned scholars and legal experts in her effort to explain how systematic rape has come to be classified as a war crime and specifically, an act of genocide. An easy to access and understand outline of the consequences of war rape will be particularly helpful for understanding the long-term consequences faced by communities and for addressing services required by victims. An aspect rarely discussed, but given adequate attention in this article is the issue of accidental pregnancy due to rape. This piece is thought provoking and guaranteed to highlight new topics for the reader who has not extensively studied the issue previously.

Scheffer, David. 2008. "Rape as Genocide in Darfur: Sudan's President May Face Additional Charges." *Los Angeles Times* (November 13). Website: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-scheffer13-2008nov13,0,4968269.story>.

Annotation: David Scheffer was the US ambassador for war crimes from 1997 to 2001 and is a renowned law professor and scholar on the topic of international human rights. The goal in writing this article was to educate readers on the current situation related to the charges against Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir and the possibility of adding to this list the use of rape as genocide in Darfur. This piece does a nice job of illuminating the reasons why systematic sexual violence in Darfur can accurately be considered genocide. The author also provides details regarding the role of the International Criminal Court and the complications it faces when handling "rape-as-genocide cases."

Shaw, Martin. 2007. What is Genocide? Stafford, BC: Polity Press.

Annotation: This book serves well as an introduction into the concept and definition of genocide, acting as a guidepost for more in-depth study on the topic. The book, in Chapter Two, provides clear understanding of the laws of war related to genocide. In Chapter Four, the author addresses the term "ethnic cleansing," and provides distinctions rarely seen elsewhere. In Chapter Nine, a particularly useful section, Shaw attempts to address every possible explanation for genocides occurrence. The author intends to expand upon Raphael Lemkin's 1947 definition

of genocide in the hopes of bringing new attention to the issue and in so doing, provides a detailed explanation of what genocide is, how it is punishable, and what situations can be classified as genocide. This makes this book a great resource and will be very helpful to students desiring a foundational understanding of genocide's history, definition, and consequences.

Shelton, Dinah (ed.). 2005. Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity. Vol. 1-3. Detroit: Macmillan Reference.

Annotation: This comprehensive three-volume set provides detailed explanations of all events classified as genocide with the intention of being a one-stop reference for genocidal concerns. The editor has sought to provide readers with a complete understanding of how genocide occurs, the characteristics of the actors and their behavior, and an understanding of key terms used by scholars dealing with war crimes. This is done by means of approximately four hundred entries ranging from event coverage to topic discussion and includes something rarely seen in other discussions of the topic: a thorough examination of propaganda, literature, and movies used in the beginning stages of genocide. Although this collection may appear daunting, it is full of key facts regarding Africa's genocidal history and interesting sociological explanations for each situation useful for a complete understanding of the impact and occurrence of genocide in sub-Saharan Africa.

Staub, Ervin. 2000. "Genocide and Mass Killing: Origins, Prevention, Healing and Reconciliation." *Political Psychology*, 21 (2).

Annotation: Although this piece examines events of almost a decade ago, many contemporary scholars draw on the information and insights it provides as the events of today are examined. Staub outlines the origins and causes of genocide and the numerous ways in which these acts of violence are carried out. This study is rounded out by examining the success of various reconciliation methods by paying particular attention to Rwanda. This piece is useful for an in-depth examination of genocide because it provides details regarding the origins of genocide, its evolution, and the repeated failings of the international community to address the problem.

Staub, Ervin and Laurie Pearlman, Alexandra Gubin, Athanase Hagengimana. 2005. "Healing, Reconciliation, Forgiving, and the Prevention of Violence after Genocide or Mass Killing: An Intervention and Its Experimental Evaluation in Rwanda." *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology* 24 (3):297-334.

Annotation: After genocide or mass violence, countries may find progress and development hindered. Reconciliation and healing, along with the claiming of responsibility and forgiveness, often times must be prompted by an outside force in order for resolution and sustainable development to occur. Without true healing, a country may find itself once again engaged in violence or facing severe stagnation. This article examines an attempt to promote healing and reconciliation in Rwanda, and, although the account is lengthy and full of jargon, it provides important insights for students studying post war or genocide reconciliation. The examination of the elements used provides understanding for those seeking to find recommendations or

theories regarding reconciliation programs. Despite the writing style, the article's message is easily understood.

Stewart, Michael. 2007. "How Does Genocide Happen?" In J. P. R. Astuti, and C. Stafford_(Eds.) Questions of Anthropology. Oxford: Berg Publishers.

Annotation: The aim of the editors was to provide a better understanding of culture, human nature, and collective action problems by focusing on powerful and key aspects of human existence. The article written by Stewart explores the occurrence of genocide through an anthropological lens. The author argues that across time and culture genocide is able to occur because the world considers the acts improbable even as the events unfold and refuses to recognize uncomfortable facts. This is written with the belief that genocide is occurring in Darfur and examines why, regardless of political promises of "never again" and the formation of agencies designed to prevent mass murder, genocide continues to happen. The author concludes that genocide will continue to take place as the world continues to ignore the signs or act appropriately.

Straus, Scott. 2005. "Darfur and the Genocide Debate." *Foreign Affairs* 84 (1).

Annotation: This article addresses the varying international responses to the situation in Darfur and discusses the resistance to classifying the state of affairs as genocide. It also touches on the varying acts of genocide apart from murder, such as rape, and thoroughly defines what the term "genocide" means. Throughout the article, Straus discusses the Genocide Convention and the perceived shortcomings of the institution. In addressing the controversy over how to label the situation, the elements that must exist in order to use the title of genocide are laid out. In an effort to provide balanced information, Straus also discusses the rationale for not labeling the Darfur violence genocide. The author does a nice job of addressing the facts of Sudan's violence while laying out the actors and the potential root causes. This article provides theoretical insights useful to in-depth study on either Sudan or the conceptualization of genocide.

_____. 2006. *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Annotation: Scott Straus has published numerous articles on the topic of genocide and so his writings are backed up with substantial research and understanding. In this book, the important aspects of Rwanda's genocide are discussed by providing a thorough background in Chapter One, clear insight and descriptions of the *genocidaires* in Chapter Four, and logical explanations of the occurrence in Chapters Six and Seven. The goal of the author was to provide a complete picture and expanded understanding of how and why the genocide took place in 1994. This goal is well accomplished through the rich details and inclusion of firsthand accounts including those from convicted perpetrators. Straus pays tribute to the prevailing theories regarding the genocide, but places new and strong emphasis on the existence of fear and insecurity in the country. The author concludes by attempting to synthesize the understandings of past and future genocides.

Tiemessen, Alana Erin. 2004. "After Arusha: Gacaca Justice in Post-Genocidal Rwanda." *African Studies Quarterly* 8 (1).

Annotation: This article outlines the failures of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and compares this international effort with those of the local officials by means of the Gacaca system. This goal is accomplished by examining the goals and processes of the tribunal and the issues surrounding impunity. In addition, the Gacaca system's purposes and methods are explained in appropriate context. The basic difference between the international tribunal and the local Gacaca form of justice is expressed as retributive versus restorative justice. The opinion of the author is clearly that the restorative justice made possible through the Gacaca courts is the better route; however, this opinion is backed up with relevant examples, research, interviews, and statistics. The author demonstrates a substantial knowledge of international humanitarian law and clearly presents all relevant facts. Through the thorough explanation of the Gacaca form of justice and the situation in Rwanda one decade after the genocide, the article makes an excellent resource for in-depth post-genocide studies.

Totten, Samuel and Eric Markusen. 2006. "Moving into the Field and Conducting the Interviews: Commentary and Observations by the Investigators." In Samuel Totten and Eric Markusen (Eds.), Genocide in Darfur: Investigating the Atrocities in the Sudan. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Annotation: Findings from the editors' extensive research project with the Darfur Atrocities Team is presented within this chapter. The interviews with refugees regarding the events and the discussion on the consequences of the violence are important elements to this chapter as they allow the reader to gain a comprehensive understanding of the genocidal acts that have taken place in Sudan. Also noteworthy is the chronology in the beginning of the book regarding the situation in Darfur. This will prove very useful to students not deeply familiar with the events leading up to the crisis in Sudan and the surrounding region. This edited book also contains numerous appendices and is thus likely to be a useful resource.

Totten, Samuel, Paul Robert Bartrop, and Steven L. Jacobs. 2008. Dictionary of Genocide. Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group.

Annotation: This two-volume set provides a wealth of knowledge regarding genocide, genocidal acts, and key actors in the perpetration or prevention of genocide. It would be helpful to have these volumes available for easy reference as in-depth study occurs, as an entry exists for all terms one may come across in the study of genocide. Some entries are as brief as a sentence or two while others fill several pages. Contained within the set is more information than anyone person would be reasonably able to find on his or her own; however no one topic is explored in intense detail. Of interest to many will be the bibliography, which can easily be used as an extensive road map to further research. The books are easy to use for anyone familiar with encyclopedias.

Wax, Emily. 2004. "We Want to Make a Light Baby - Arab Militiamen in Sudan Said to Use Rape as Weapon of Ethnic Cleansing." *The Washington Post*, A10.

Annotation: This newspaper article does a nice job of outlining the perception of men, women, government officials, and aid workers in Sudan that the systematic rape, which is taking place, is an act of ethnic cleansing. Many reliable sources are cited throughout the article as well as personal accounts. The author presents the idea that rape is being conducted to demoralize entire populations and to impregnate women with lighter skinned babies.

Systematic Rape as a Tool of War

"War's Other Victims: Sexual Violence and Conflict." 2007. *The Economist*. (December 8).

Annotation: This article sets out to provide, in a concise manner, the role and the consequences of sexual violence in current war zones. This goal is neatly accomplished, and readers with a limited understanding of international politics, policies, or current events will benefit from this short, yet comprehensive, read. Not only are facts and examples provided along with their relevance, but the author also broaches the topic of prevention and punishment for war criminals. Although not enough to provide full understanding, this piece touches on the main elements of rape being used as a tool of warfare and provides a rough guide of topics for readers as they continue to study the issue.

Amnesty International USA 2005. "Rape as a Tool of War: A Fact Sheet." New York: Amnesty International. Website: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/rapeinwartime.html>.

Annotation: Amnesty International often produces short and easy to read fact sheets about particular human rights concerns in an effort to meet one of the organization's goals—to educate the public about human rights concerns. This report was created for just such a goal: raising awareness and understanding levels regarding the use of rape as a tool of war. The topics briefly discussed include international law and norms, consequences, impunity and cultural shame, and rape's connection to genocide or ethnic cleansing. Due to the limited length, each issue is only briefly touched upon making this an introductory source useful for outlining the main issues to aid further investigation.

Cahill, Ann. 2001. Rethinking Rape. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Annotation: Ann Cahill is a popular and intriguing feminist writer. This book, although slightly older than the other sources referenced, is a key book in understanding the changing view of the use of rape in war environments. Although rape has occurred in and around the battlefield as long as war has existed, it was not until recent that scholars began to understand that it was not merely a consequence of the crumbling law system or a result of extreme male aggression brought about by violence. The author approaches the topic of rape philosophically and seeks to provide an

understanding as to why rape is so damaging even when no physical evidence of the attack remains. This book is repeatedly cited by those seeking to understand the use of rape as a tool of war and the consequences this vicious tool leaves behind.

Card, Claudia. 2005. The Atrocity Paradigm: A Theory of Evil. London: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: This publication explains the invisible and shameful characteristics of rape. These characteristics, according to Card, are what delayed this terrible and unfortunately common wartime practice from being categorized as a war crime until recent years. In establishing her arguments, forced prostitution of women for the benefit of soldiers and the mass rape committed to terrorize populations during a time of conflict is examined. Card also outlines the limitations in prosecuting the violators and steps that can be taken to limit the use of sexual violence during conflict. The goal of the book as a whole is to distinguish between evil and mere wrongdoing, and so, the tendency to veer off onto paths unconcerned with facts or solutions is very real throughout the chapters. Chapter Six does an effective job of discussing the motives behind the use of rape in a time of war as is seen in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Copelon, Rhonda. 2004. "Surfacing Gender: Reconceptualizing Crimes against Women in Time of War." In Lois Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin (Eds.), The Women and War Reader. New York: New York University Press.

Annotation: Through an examination of war rape's legal evolution, the author seeks to answer the complex and emotional question: Is rape a war crime? The concept of genocidal rape and the various reasons rape is used as a weapon are deeply addressed. Although this chapter does not in detail address the conflicts of sub-Saharan Africa known to have contained mass and systematic rape, the information and ideas presented within the chapter will prove useful to students seeking to understand rape's role in armed conflict and the international humanitarian laws related to sexual violence. The author's thorough explanations of genocidal rape, as opposed to other forms to weaponized rape, are useful for the examination of the conflict in Sudan. Copelon not only provides valuable insights and definitional clarification, but also potential forms of justice and healing making this a well-rounded resource on wartime sexual violence.

Goldstein, Joshua. 2005. War and Gender. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Annotation: This book is rich with theories, facts, and research on the interaction of gender and war. Of note within Chapter Six is the examination of homosexual rape, a topic rarely broached by scholars. This examination will allow readers to explore the occurrence and reasoning behind dominance rape within the conflicts of sub-Saharan Africa. Also within the same chapter is the notion that the use of rape as a weapon of war is not a new concept. In proving this statement, the author provides detailed empirical evidence of rape's use within conflict throughout history. The author, in so doing, discusses the various psychological and cultural aspects of systematic and weaponized rape. Additionally, light is shed on the complex difficulties, which are found in prosecuting and/or curtailing the use of rape within war. Students will want to pay particular

attention to the information regarding international humanitarian law's classification of rape as a war crime.

Gross, Terry. 2008. "Nicholas Kristof and John Prendergast Discuss the Genocide Crisis in Darfur." *Fresh Air*, edited by National Public Radio.

Annotation: Kristof is a popular journalist for the *New York Times* who has made a name for himself by accounting stories of violence, cruelty, and injustice suffered by those not able to tell their own stories. Prendergast has worked in politics regarding Africa and currently advises for the International Crisis Group. Both men have visited Darfur several times in recent years and are well equipped to give valuable insight. In this interview the peace agreement, African Union and United Nations responses, the future involvement of the International Criminal Court, and designation of genocide are discussed. The method the war has been waged and attitudes of the villagers in and surrounding Darfur are other important topics. This interview is easy to read and provides insights from two individuals who have seen firsthand the situation in Darfur and have done intensive research on the situation.

Liebling-Kalifani, Helen, Ruth Ojiambo-Ochieng, Angela Marshall, Juliet Were-Oguttu, Seggane Musisi, and Eugene Kinyanda. 2008. "Violence against Women in Northern Uganda: The Neglected Health Consequences of War." *Journal of International Women's Studies* 9 (3):174-192.

Annotation: This paper examines the findings of a study conducted in Northern Uganda regarding the consequences of sexual violence on women. The study was conducted by Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange with the goal being to prove that additional funds were needed due to the severe levels and unique aspects of women's suffering and the ability women hold to bring about sustainable peace. The authors and researchers attempted to portray this need through detailed and descriptive accounts of the consequences that come from the sexual violence in Uganda including inhibiting women from acting as peacemakers. The authors take the view that rape is often used as a weapon of war and provide detailed and graphic explanations as to why this is so. The article discusses in detail the consequences coming from a lack of medical treatment after rape due to social stigma or lack of access. Although much of the information provided within this report is hard to read due to the content, the information and documentation provided is an excellent resource for a student seeking to understand the short and long-term physical and social damages and the military advantages incurred by participating in systematic rape as a tool of war.

Human Rights Watch. 2005. "Sexual Violence and its Consequences among Displaced Persons in Darfur and Chad." (April 12). Website: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2005/04/12/sexual-violence-and-its-consequences-among-displaced-persons-darfur-and-chad>.

Annotation: Human Rights Watch, in this briefing paper, attempts to present detailed information of the use of sexual violence towards those affected by the war in Darfur by exploring the background of the rape and the manner in which the violence is carried out (the

who, when and where questions). In addition to this, the report looks at the consequences of the violence and the responses in a clear and concise manner. The examination here of Chad and Sudan's struggle with sexual violence provides an appropriate example upon which to base an understanding of the overarching situation for displaced and similarly affected persons in Africa as the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as a tool of war continues to rise. This report is helpful in understanding the way in which sexual violence affects a particular group within sub-Saharan Africa.

Kirchner, Stefan. 2007. "DR Congo: Hell on Earth – Systematic Rape in Eastern Congo." (August 6). *The Journal of Humanitarian Assistance*.

Annotation: This article discusses the use of systematic rape in Eastern DRC while also outlining the severe physical, social, and emotional consequences of the crime. This graphic article does the best job possible of providing the reader with figures, explaining in detail the difficulty surrounding the collection of reliable data. The intended audience is humanitarian workers or those interested in humanitarian interventions and so Kirchner provides ample suggestions for relief and aid programs. This article will make an excellent source for scholars working on the issue systematic rape who wish to understand the challenges in combating the crime or formulate viable solutions to the problem.

Macklin, Audrey. 2004. "Like Oil and Water, with a Match: Militarized Commerce, Armed Conflict, and Human Security in Sudan". In Wenona Giles and Jennifer Hyndman (Eds.), Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Annotation: This chapter is drawn from a book, which seeks to fully explain the ways in which women are affected by and are able to affect war. The editors place a strong feminist spin on the information presented, but present a diverse collection of issues. In chapter four, the author does not go into detail regarding the incidences of rape in Sudan, but instead uses the region as a case study for deeper understanding. The immediate and long-term consequences of weaponized and systematic rape are discussed in detail. A novel insight found within this chapter is the notion that the act of rape (or the fear of such an event) within a situation of conflict causes drastic migration and changes in normal patterns of traditional cultures and demographics. Although the information presented is complex and of a sensitive nature, the author does an excellent job of presenting the theories and data in an easy to follow and concise manner.

Loncar, Mladen, Vesna Medved, Nikolina Jovanovic, and Ljubomir Hotujac. 2006. "Psychological Consequences of Rape on Women in 1991-1995 War in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina." *Croatian Medical Journal* 47:67-75.

Annotation: This article discusses the emotional problems after rape and outlines the way in which these problems, which differ from men, women, and children and depend upon the form of sexual violence and other circumstances, manifest as social, economic, and health problems for the community and country at large. The countries under consideration in this piece are

Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and so the figures and details are not directly transferable. However, humans will likely have similar responses to sexual violence if other key elements are similar. This means the findings presented by the authors can be applied to an understanding of the situations of sexual abuse in war-torn areas of other regions of the world. This article is brief and it is easy to gather the needed information from within the writing making it a helpful supplementary resource regarding the use of rape as a tool of war.

Preston, Valerie and Madeline Wong. 2004. "Geographies of Violence: Women and Conflict in Ghana". In Wenona Giles and Jennifer Hyndman (Eds.), Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Annotation: In this chapter, the authors explain the reasoning behind sexual violence against women during times of conflict. Explanations rely on power relationships, identities, and established social institutions, but the authors also blame armed violence, and the chaos it brings, for the increased levels of sexual violence. The chapter draws on the experience of women in Ghana and pays heavy attention to the phenomenon of forced prostitution, outlining the way in which local and international governments have failed to address or correct the situation. Of particular interest is the analysis conducted on why women, girls, or their families often chose to remain silent about their victimization. This analysis will be useful in examining the pervasive problems in prosecuting perpetrators of systematic rape and in understanding why this tool of war is an attractive military option.

Scholz, Sally. 2007. "War Rape's Challenge to Just War Theory". In S. P. Lee (Ed.), Intervention, Terrorism, and Torture: Contemporary Challenges to Just War Theory. The Netherlands: Springer.

Annotation: The goal of the author in this chapter is to explore whether the Just War Theory of warfare can be applied effectively and adequately to the issue of war rape. A helpful aspect of the article is the outline of the difference between mass rape as a form of genocide and individual rape used as a tool of warfare. Additionally, in exploring the topic of Just War Theory's relevance to war rape, the author explores the various reasons rape is utilized and the different perpetrators and victims often involved. The author argues that the theory can provide potential perpetrators a method of refusal when asked to perform sexual violence within wartime. However, this idea falls short on numerous levels, many of which are acknowledged by the author. The language of the piece is rather scholarly; but, because of the novel topic explored, the piece presents itself as a relevant and useful resource.

United Nations. 2008. UN Security Council Resolution 1820. (June 19). Website: http://www.corriere.it/Media/Foto/2008/06/20/onu_test.pdf.

Annotation: This resolution demonstrates the importance the international community has placed on ending violence against women and girls during and after armed conflicts. This document should be read in conjunction with the accounts of violence perpetrated against

women and the manner in which the UN and other international institutions have responded to the information coming out of countries such as Chad, Sudan, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. The document recognizes the use of rape as a tool of war and acknowledges the reasons it is used including the desire to cause panic and devastation within civilian populations. Although this piece puts forth worthy demands, it fails to outline the way in which violence against women during war will be prevented or should be handled.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2007. The Shame of War: Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict. Kenya: United Nations OCHA/IRIN.

Annotation: All six chapters of this book will provide important facts, details, and accounts of the varying aspects of sexual violence in war. Each topic is coupled with a personal story making the issues easier to understand and more difficult to digest. These stories, along with the large and often graphic photos, make this a book capable of ingraining the trauma of sexual abuse on the readers mind throughout additional study. A topic not often seen within the literature is found in Chapter Four's examination on the occurrence of sexual exploitation by aid workers and UN peacekeepers. The book presents the frustrating aspects of perpetrator impunity and the common societal backlash towards victims as well as appropriately addressing all aspects of sexual violence including root causes and consequences, in conflict zones.

Ward, Jeanne, and Mendy Marsh. 2006. "Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in War and Its Aftermath: Realities, Responses, and Required Resources". Brussels: Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond. Website:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/finalbrusselsbriefingpaper.pdf>.

Annotation: A briefing paper presented in 2006, this piece provides data and examples regarding the use of violence (sexual or otherwise) against women in combat zones. In examining the statistics, the way in which the nature of war has changed in respect to sexual violence against women over the previous ten years is considered. This examination outlines the motivation behind the surge in systematic rape including strategic rationale because such an act will likely foster fear, destabilize populations, and repress resistance movements. The paper links the issue of rape and the use of child soldiers by adequately addressing the situation surrounding female soldier recruits, which may account for as much as 40% of the child soldier population. The authors in subsequent sections address the attempts made to reduce the level of sexual violence in war zones and the additional developments or actions needed to curtail this trend.

Child Soldiers

Bowles, Newton. 2004. "Children: The Future is Now." In Newton Bowles, The Diplomacy of Hope: the United Nations since the Cold War. London: I. B. Tauris.

Annotation: This chapter, in a single-authored book, examines the role the United Nations has played in holding up to its 1945 commitment to "save future generations from the scourge of

war.” The author takes a comprehensive look at the damages war has inflicted on children including death and disease, poverty, social decline, and, of course, enlistment in armed forces. The author believes strongly in the need to invest in children as our future and so considers recent efforts to protect children from the harm of war to be inadequate. In outlining the importance of children, the chapter traces the evolution of the UN’s stance from one where children must be protected to one where children must be afforded rights unique to their station in life. This chapter does an excellent job of explaining the role of UNICEF and in outlining the provisions of all relevant chapters, treaties, and agreements regarding the role of child in wartime.

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. 2008. Child Soldiers Global Report. London. Website: <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/>.

Annotation: This third edition of a report on the state of child soldiers worldwide covers the period between April of 2004 and October of 2007 and is published by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, experts in the field. The report addresses all instances where children are used in combat zones or where their recruitment looms. The report also outlines international laws and discusses attempts made to deter the recruitment of children. An examination of the report’s introduction provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of major cases, global trends, and international policy approaches.

Honwana, Alcinda M. 2006. Child Soldiers in Africa. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Annotation: Honwana has extensively studied sub-Saharan conflicts and in writing this book, former child combatants, community and family members were interviewed providing several unique perspectives; one being that children are not used in warfare merely because the adult population is disappearing, but for particular strategic reasons. The author also claims that all child soldiers cannot be classified, and thus, treated the same way and although the children under question are in fact victims, they often committed heinous crimes against humanity. The difficulties in reconciling this disturbing fact often results in ineffective solutions. Honwana addresses the current methods in use for handling former child combatant populations and the reforms needed throughout the reintegration process. This scholar is often cited for his belief that cultural norms and practices, including traditional healers and forgiveness, should be relied upon to foster sustainable healing. This book is an excellent resource for those wanting a better understanding of the issue and potential solutions.

Human Rights Watch. 2005. “Youth, Poverty, and Blood: The Lethal Legacy of West Africa’s Regional Warriors.” (April 13). Website: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2005/04/12/youth-poverty-and-blood>.

Annotation: This report outlines the manner in which children are abducted or recruited into the armed forces of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Cote d’Ivoire. Although not all nations examined fall within sub-Saharan Africa, the report provides excellent context and

understanding, which can be applied to numerous cases. Some examples of this understanding are found in regards to why child join (i.e. monetary gains or abduction) and why children are recruited as opposed to adults. The report also pays special attention to a notable concern: how to treat former child soldiers either during the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration processes or during war tribunals and war crime cases. The report's conclusion summarizes the research nicely and serves many scholars and students well as it includes concise, yet detailed information on the situations in five different countries.

_____. 2007. "Early to War: Child Soldiers in the Chad Conflict." (July 15). Website: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2007/07/15/early-war-0>.

Annotation: This report covers a current and often neglected situation: the civil war in Chad. The report was written after extensive field study and interviews. For those not familiar with the conflict, the report includes a detailed history of the conflict. For the study of child soldiers, the section entitled "Use and Recruitment of Child Soldiers" gives figures, methods, personal accounts, and an outline of the actors involved. Of special note is the portion of this section regarding the role of female child soldiers in Chad, which according to accounts and studies by HRW, does not include sexual exploitation. The report is also useful in its outline of international laws and norms regarding the use of child soldiers and the manner in which these laws have been violated.

Maclure, Richard and Myriam Denov. 2006. "I Didn't Want to Die So I Joined Them": Structuration and the Process of Becoming Boy Soldiers in Sierra Leone." *Terrorism and Political Violence*. 18 (1):119-135.

Annotation: Child soldiers are either considered victims of a failed society or opportunists seeking revolutionary change or monetary gain by means of disorder. This article attempts to provide the world with an alternative view and to do so the authors examine how young boys in Sierra Leone undergo the transformation from civilian child to combatant. This is done through personal interviews and in-depth examination of the culture and economy of Sierra Leone as well as an exploration of popular theories presented in conjunction with the actual experiences of the boys interviewed regarding their recruitment/abduction, indoctrination, and desensitization. With these issues in mind, the demobilization and reintegration processes for former boy soldiers are also examined. The language of the piece is very scholarly; however, the information provided makes it an excellent source for any student interested on child soldiers or Sierra Leone.

Magnusdottir, Loa. 2008. "Voice of Children' Becomes a National Fixture in Sierra Leonean Radio." UNICEF. (August 20). Website: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/sierraleone_44761.html.

Annotation: This short article from UNICEF's website may have intended to promote the work of the organization concerning former child soldiers, but it serves another purpose as well. The

information and personal stories regarding the radio broadcast in Sierra Leone presents readers with a new perspective for former child combatant reintegration. The piece also explains what elements of “Voice of the Children” make it a success, providing readers with a framework to form additional programs and new ideas. Although the information is deployed to support the work of UNICEF, this article makes an excellent source for those seeking to make recommendations or propose new ideas regarding the future of child soldiers’ reintegration and societal healing.

Nordstrom, Carolyn. 2004. “Girls behind the (Front) Lines,” in Lois Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin. (Eds.), The Women and War Reader. New York: New York University Press.

Annotation: This chapter neatly links two key elements of war crimes rampant in SSA: the use of child soldiers and the sexual exploitation of females. Nordstrom approaches this examination of girl soldiers and the suffering they incur with firsthand experience and knowledge after having spent significant time in the field. The information presented in the chapter is done in response to the author’s perceived need for more information regarding female child soldiers who are forced to fight or sexually serve soldiers. The findings presented here are very relevant for those seeking to understand sexual violence against girls in combat areas and the use of boy and girl soldiers. This chapter is rich with data and raises numerous discussion points for further examination. It is easy to understand and full of emotional and frustrating illustrations useful to scholars working on sexual wartime violence or child combatant usage.

The Republic of Sierra Leone. 1999. Peace Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone. Website: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/lomeaccord.html>.

Annotation: This document outlines the details of the peace agreement signed in 1999 between the Sierra Leonean government and the rebels. Because of its significance for the country, it is an important source for any students of Sierra Leone history, war, or politics. However, it is also an important resource for anyone studying the issue of child soldiers because in Article 30, the presence of child soldiers is acknowledged and plans are made for appropriate treatment of the demobilized child combatants. This document should be used as a supportive resource for further study of Sierra Leone or child soldiers at peace time.

Rosen, David. 2005. “Fighting for Diamonds: The Child Soldiers of Sierra Leone.” In David Rosen (Ed.), Armies of the Young. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

Annotation: This chapter is an excellent resource for gaining an understanding on the issue of child soldiers in Sierra Leone. Rosen sets out to provide a detailed accounting of the reasons and manners in which children join the armed forces, how they are treated, the acts they are forced to endure and participate in, and how challenges are being resolved. A unique aspect is that the author addresses the fact that at times Sierra Leonean child soldiers claimed to have been fond of the lifestyle or felt extreme loyalty to their violent captures, which further complicates the

situation. In examining the situation in Sierra Leone, the author provides an excellent historical background of the country for better understanding the role of children in society before, during, and after being recruited as a soldier. The chapter will prove useful and interesting to students of Sierra Leone or the issue of child combatants.

Shepler, Susan. 2005. "The Rites of the Child: Global Discourses of Youth and Reintegrating Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone." *Journal of Human Rights*. 4 (2):197-211.

Annotation: In this article, the international institutions pertaining to child soldiers are examined in light of the recent conflict in Sierra Leone. This is done by providing a relevant history of the nation and a thorough discussion on pertinent international law. The main body of the piece examines the social and emotional aspects of reintegration by utilizing anthropological and psychological theories and understanding to understand the process. There is also an intense look at the programs administered in the country by examining the elements and success rates. Key subjects found in this article are the importance of education for both the children and the community and the issue of responsibility for former child combatants. This article will make an excellent supporting resource as it is easy to understand, full of key facts, and contains thought-provoking topics.

Singer, P.W. 2006. Children at War. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Annotation: Singer is intimately familiar with the subject at hand, and in this book he seeks to educate the general population on the phenomenon of child soldiers as seen today in SSA. This resource does a nice job of laying out the root causes of the use of children in war and the process in which recruitment takes place. In the first section of the book, Singer provides ample data and examples relevant to the study of human rights and in-depth studies of child soldiers. This includes a thorough examination of respected literature and direct interviews with former child combatants and other experts. The book concludes by providing suggestions, which includes both prevention strategies and reintegration programs for former child combatants. Singer does an excellent job of portraying the information in an easy to read and easy to comprehend book divided into orderly sections.

Tattersall, Nick. 2007 "War Was Classroom for Sierra Leone Child Soldiers." *Reuters* (June 2) <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL0212173520070602>.

Annotation: This brief article follows the recruitment in to Revolutionary Armed Forces, participation, injury, subsequent joining of the Sierra Leonean armed forces of a thirteen year old boy. It is interesting and worth noting since thirteen quickly became the average age of recruitment in the country's armed forces according to some accounts. The young man being interviewed sheds light on the benefits to being a young soldier: women, money, and freedom. This story was released right before the sentencing of Charles Taylor and highlights how important his trial was to former child combatants and their communities, as well as the devastating chain of events the use of children as combatants left behind in the country.

UNICEF. 2005. "The State of the World's Children: Childhood under Threat." UNICEF. Website: <http://www.unicef.org/sowc05/english/fullreport.html>.

Annotation: The goal of this comprehensive report is to illuminate the many issues facing children around the world. Although much of the focus of the report centers on nutrition, health, and education, numerous elements can be applied directly to a study of child soldiers. Chapter three, "Children caught Up in Conflict," is especially useful for this purpose as this chapter not only addresses the way in which conflict affects children's general livelihood standards, but also deeply explores the issue of child recruitment and abduction into armed groups. The section is full of data, including decipherable graphs, and examples to aid in understanding the challenges and significance of the issue. The chapter adequately explores all relevant issues related to child combatants making it an excellent source.

Zack-Williams, Tunde B. 2006. "Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone and the Problems of Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration into Society: Some Lessons for Social Workers in War-torn Societies." *Social Work Education*. 25(2): 119-128

Annotation: This article was intended for the education of social workers working with severely traumatized populations in war-torn areas. The goal was to outline the struggles faced by social workers attempting to demobilize, rehabilitate, and reintegrate former child soldiers in Sierra Leone in an effort to provide guidelines, best practices, and common mistakes and misinterpretations. In doing so, the author brings to light the multifaceted struggles faced by the former child soldiers, their communities, and the aid workers in Sierra Leone and illuminates the dire consequences failure in this important task may cause.