

GENOCIDE & MASS ATROCITY: KEY TERMS

- **bystander:** a person who is present but does not take part in an event. In the context of genocide and mass atrocity, a bystander is someone who understands what is happening but does nothing to help victims.
- **crimes against humanity:** According to the International Criminal Court, crimes against humanity are acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.
- **discrimination:** unfair treatment of different categories of people, often based on “race,” religion, ethnicity, age, or gender.
- **ethnic cleansing:** the forced removal, by mass expulsion or killing, of a group from a given territory (with the purpose of making it ethnically homogenous).
- **genocide:** According to the United Nations, genocide is 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.
- **International Criminal Court (ICC):** the first ever permanent, treaty-based, international court established to try crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The ICC tries individuals, not states, for these crimes.
- **mass atrocity:** large-scale and deliberate attacks on civilians.
- **perpetrator:** a person who does an illegal or harmful act. In the context of genocide, a perpetrator is someone who orders, assists, or engages in the act of killing.
- **repression:** subduing, restraining, or limiting someone, often by force.
- **Responsibility to Protect (R2P):** an international commitment to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- **stereotype:** a widely held but unchanging and oversimplified image or idea of a certain group of people. Stereotypes are sometimes based on a kernel of truth, but are often false.
- **victim:** a person hurt or killed as a result of a crime or other event. In the context of genocide, a victim is a person who belongs to a targeted group.
- **war crimes:** violations of the Geneva Conventions or other legal rules of war.