

“...genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- Killing members of group;**
- Causing serious bodily harm to members of the group**
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;**
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;**
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group;”**

(Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948)

## Genocide, a Recurring Phenomenon in Modern Africa

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## Genocide as A Modern African Phenomenon

The impact of Colonialism

1. Brutal violent and Genocidal colonial regimes (German South West Africa, Belgian Congo)
2. Development of ethnic hierarchies (Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda).
3. Establishment of artificial political modern territorial entities encompassing multiethnic divisions.
4. Rapid decolonisation and failure to set up dominant sovereign structures



### Problematic Convention

Never been implemented

Based on restrictive definition and not on descriptive data

Dependent on politically based decisions made at the security council

No intervention in areas of particular interest to the superpowers.

Alternatives:

ICC

Universal jurisdiction



Victims:

**Genocide:** Defined by perpetrators according to communal characteristics

**Politicide:** Defined by perpetrators by their political stand to the regime, which in Africa tends to be associated with ethnic identities and affiliations.

Post – Colonial Africa

1. Inability to develop national identities.
2. Superiority of the social sphere on the informal political sphere
3. States run by patrimonial and particular structures
4. International rigid sovereign-centered regime
5. The “weakness of the modern African state, which prevents the state from delivering political services to its citizens
6. Chronic forced migration problems



חיילים קטינים ברפובליקה  
הדמוקרטית של קונגו



“Emperor”  
Bokassa

In most cases solutions and peacekeeping operations do not attempt to bring about holistic solutions, but tend to put their emphasis on the solving the humanitarian crisis, concentrating on refugees and IDPs.



### **Assessing Risks of Genocide and Politicide**

**Prior genocides and politicides**

**Political upheaval**

**Ethnically based political dominance and political division**

**Strong ideological character of the ruling elite**

**Autocratic regime**

**Under developed international trade**

**Bi-polar divisions (Ethnic, religious, lingual, racial)**

**Exclusionary policies**

Countries at high risk 2008 (Genocide Watch) : Sudan, DRC, Somalia  
Chad, Ethiopia and Uganda.

### **Prevention**

**Improved Governance**

**Economic investment**

**Holistic solutions to post-genocide societies**

**Increased involvement of regional security organs**

**Economic pressure**

