

Humanitarian Intervention

POL 3: Intro to IR

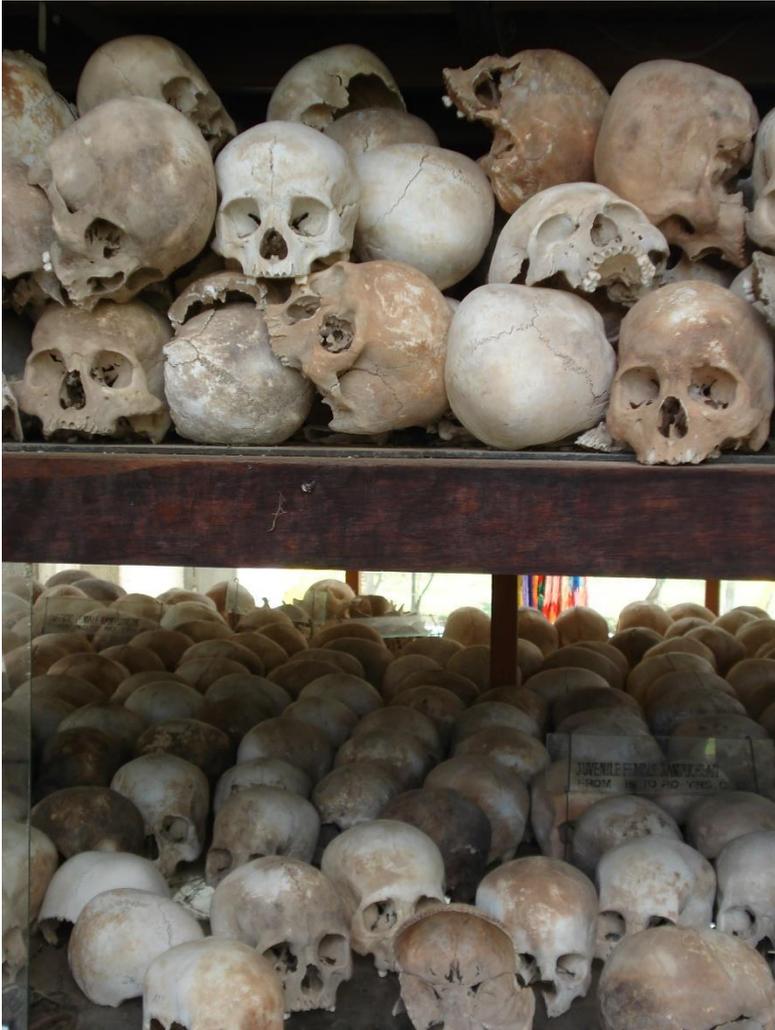
I. Crimes against humanity

- Crimes against humanity: inhumane acts and persecutions against civilians on vast scale
 - e.g. massacres, human experimentation, kidnappings, unjust imprisonment, military use of children
- Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials
 - Raised salience of issue

II. Genocide

- Genocide: the systematic destruction of all or a significant part of a racial, ethnic, religious or national group
- Examples:
 - Armenian genocide; Holocaust; Rwandan genocide; Bosnian genocide
- UN response
 - Genocide Convention mandates response → Strategic phrasing of states

Cambodia's "killing fields"



Skulls in the Choeung Ek (photo from 2010)



Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge's chief ideologist, before the Cambodian Genocide Tribunal on 5 December 2011.

III. Humanitarian intervention

- The use (or threat) of force across state borders by a state(s) to prevent or end human rights violations, without permission of the state where violations occur
 - States do not intervene to protect their own citizens
- Rules are based upon missions' mandate
 - e.g. NATO in Kosovo (1999); united forces against ISIS (2014); UNIMAR in Rwanda (1993-96)
- Explicit violation of sovereignty
 - Human rights v. sovereignty is large debate in UNSC
 - Only cases of genocide see intervention
- State interest vs. human rights
 - States may not intervene for right reasons (e.g. Vietnam in Cambodia, 1978)
 - Who decides when to intervene?

Some Examples

- Somalia
 - United Task Force
 - Failure
- Rwanda
 - UNAMIR
 - Failure
- Kosovo
 - NATO bombings not authorized by UN
 - Success
- Libya
 - NATO Operation Unified Protector enforcing UNSC resolutions
 - Success?

Frontline: On Our Watch

A case of humanitarian crisis

- Overview:
 - Darfur (Sudan) was issue of international attention
 - African farmers vs. Arab herders (supported by gov't)
 - States could not agree on intervention
 - e.g. China would block UNSC resolutions
 - Complicated domestic and international motivations
- Watch Frontline documentary on the humanitarian crisis
 - Be thinking about...
 - Explanations for crisis and international response from different perspectives
 - e.g. neorealism, neoliberalism, constructivism
 - Role of...
 - State interests, international community (IOs), mass publics, etc.
 - Challenge of sovereignty (real, perceived, or excuse)

