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Raphael Lemkin

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Raphael Lemkin : Axis Rule In Occupied Europe: Laws Of Occupation, Analysis Of Government, Proposals For Redress before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Axis Rule In Occupied Europe: Laws Of Occupation, Analysis Of Government, Proposals For Redress:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Seminal WorkBy Alvin M. Fountain IIThe second edition of this

work, put together while he was at Duke as a guest lecturer at the law school with his pre-war colleague, Malcolm McDermott. Seminal work. Lemkin was a highly objective observer with a universal point of view. Dr. Alvin M. Fountain II, Honorary Consul, Republic of Poland, Raleigh, North Carolina

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By EdGood33 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Genocide Coined and Elaborated, and Poles are Included as Victims
By Jan Peczkis Raphael (Rafal, Rafael) Lemkin, a Polish Jew, is well known for coining the term genocide. This reprint of his 1944 classic book describes genocide in a manner that departs considerably from contemporary thinking. Instead of Jewish suffering selectively repeated and elevated above that of everyone else's, and only Jews (and possibly also Gypsies) recognized as WWII victims of genocide, one almost enters a different world. In it, Lemkin's analysis of German-inflicted death and destruction juxtaposes many European nationalities, and recognizes both Jews and Poles as victims of genocide. Most contemporary Holocaust materials, apart from being excessively Judeocentric, are also German-whitewashing. Unidentified Nazis (they may as well be aliens from another planet) arrive out of nowhere to kill the Jews (and only the Jews). Lemkin, in stark contrast, puts the blame squarely where it belongs (p. xiii): "Hitler's Mein Kampf has essentially formulated the prolegomenon of destruction and subjugation of other nations. The mere fact that the vast majority of the German people put Hitler into power through free elections is evidence that they freely accepted his program which was secret to nobody." Hitler is quoted (p. 81) as saying: "It will be one of the chief tasks of German statesmanship for all time to prevent, by every means in our power, the further increase of the Slav races. Natural instincts bid all living beings not merely conquer their enemies, but also destroy them." Lemkin (p. 79) elaborates: "By "genocide" we mean the destruction of a nation or of an ethnic group... Generally speaking, genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all members of a nation. It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves... The confiscation of property of nationals... may be considered simply as a deprivation of their individual property rights. However, if the confiscations are ordered against individuals solely because they are Poles, Jews, or Czechs, then the same confiscations tend in effect to weaken the national entities of which those persons are members." To show how Lemkin recognizes Poles as victims of German-sponsored genocide, I quote his comments in reference to Poles (All caps are as in the original); (pp. 82--90) "TECHNIQUES OF GENOCIDE IN VARIOUS FIELDS... POLITICAL... In western Poland, especially, this has been done on a large scale. The Polish population has been removed from their homes in order to make place for German settlers... SOCIAL... This is especially true in Poland and Slovenia (Slovene part of Yugoslavia), where the intelligentsia and clergy were in great part removed from the rest of the population and deported for forced labor in Germany... CULTURAL... Moreover, in the Polish areas Polish youths were excluded from the benefit of liberal arts studies and were channeled predominantly into the trade schools... The occupant apparently believes that the study of the liberal arts may develop independent national Polish thinking... the population has also been deprived of inspiration from the existing cultural and artistic values. Thus, especially in Poland, were national monuments destroyed and libraries, archives, museums, and galleries of art carried away... ECONOMIC... As to the Poles in incorporated Poland, the purpose of the occupant was to shift the economic resources from the Polish national group to the German national group... the Poles were expelled from trade, and the Germans entered that field... BIOLOGICAL... the occupant is endeavoring to encourage the birthrate of the Germans. Different methods are adopted to that end. Special subsidies are provided in Poland for German families having at least three minor children... PHYSICAL... Rationing of food is organized according to racial principles throughout the occupied countries... prewar diet... Germans..93%... Poles..66%... Jews..20%... The result of racial feeding is a decline in health of the nations involved and an increase in the deathrate... Endangering of health... The transfer, in unheated cattle cars and freight trucks, of hundreds of thousands of Poles from Incorporated Poland to the Government General, which took place in the midst of a severe winter, resulting in a decimation of the expelled Poles... Mass killings. The technique of mass killings is employed mainly against Poles, Russians, and Jews... In Poland, Bohemia-Moravia, and Slovenia, the intellectuals are being "liquidated"... RELIGIOUS... Likewise in Poland, through the systematic pillage and destruction of church property and persecution of the clergy, the German occupying authorities have sought to destroy the religious leadership of the Polish nation... MORAL... According to this plan, the mental energy of the group should be concentrated upon base instincts and should be diverted from moral and national thinking... Therefore, the occupant made an effort in Poland to impose upon the Poles pornographic publications and movies. The consumption of alcohol was encouraged, for while food prices have soared, the Germans have kept down the price of alcohol, and the peasants are compelled by the authorities to take spirits in payment for agricultural produce. The curfew law, enforced very strictly against Poles, is relaxed if they can show the authorities a ticket to one of the gambling houses which the Germans have allowed to come into existence." Other events in the CULTURAL component of genocide against Poles occurred soon after Lemkin wrote this book. These included the Germans' systematic burning of all libraries and archives (with the loss of millions of priceless, irreplaceable items) in Warsaw AFTER the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, along with dynamiting of culturally-significant Polish buildings (notably the Royal Castle). Comparable German barbarities outside of Warsaw included preparations for the blowing up of the architectural treasures of the

medieval city of Krakow as well as the famous Jasna Gora monastery. Only Polish sabotage, combined with the unexpectedly-rapid advance of the Red Army, prevented the implanted explosives from being set off by the retreating Germans. Finally, Lemkin could not have realized the lasting effects of German genocide against Poles. For example, out of the thousands of artworks confiscated by the Germans, many have not been located to this day.

With a new introduction by Samantha Power, lecturer in public policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of "A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide, winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize. A title in The Lawbook Exchange series, Foundations of the Laws of War, General Editor Joseph Perkovich. In this pathbreaking study Polish emigre Raphael Lemkin [1900-1959] coined the term "genocide" and defined it as a subject of international law. While the term has come to mean the extermination of a people, Lemkin used it to describe all programs that sought to increase "Aryan" birthrate while working to exterminate the social, cultural and economic independence of non-Germanic peoples. This study was an elaboration of ideas he first proposed in 1933 in his address to the Fifth International Conference for the Unification of Penal Law (1933), which argued that attacks on racial, religious and ethnic groups should be considered international crimes. Important for the prosecution of the Nazis, it helped to establish the framework for all subsequent efforts to punish crimes against humanity.

In 1933 a government arose in Germany whose policy was directed not towards the murder of individuals only but of a whole civilization. The decrees of this government together with those of Fascist Italy and those of the puppet regimes of the Axis Powers, in relation to the various countries which they occupied, have been collected with great care by Dr. Lemkin and are on record for all time. The work has been splendidly done. () This book is one which will be of enduring value to jurists, historians, students of politics, and practical men. --British Yearbook of International Law 22 (1945) 313-314
About the Author Samantha Power, Carr Center at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of "A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide, winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize. William A. Schabas, OC, MRIA, Professor of Human Rights Law, National University of Ireland, Galway and Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights; Global Legal Scholar, University of Warwick; Professor, Queen's University Belfast; Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, University Of Oxford (2008).