

Title of the course: African Views on the Holocaust

Fall, 2017

Tel Aviv University

Dr. Irit Back

Course Level: Graduate

Type of course: Lecture

Department: Middle East and African History

Office: Gilman 423

Course Description: The proposed course will discuss the development of various African views on the Holocaust, and the use of its representations and lessons in different national settings. It aims to analyze the various discourses, reflections and images about Holocaust-related issues through analyzing four different case studies- Nigeria-Biafra, South Africa, Rwanda, Sudan (and South-Sudan).

Week1-2: Introduction

Required reading:

Yair Auron, *Reflections on the Inconceivable: Theoretical Aspects in Genocide Studies* Raanana: The Open University, 2006, Ch. 3 Holocaust and Genocide: 88-115 (in Hebrew).

Saul Friedlander, "An Integrated History of the Holocaust: Challenges and Reassessments, in *Holocaust and Antisemitism: Research and Public Discourse* (Roni Stauber, Aviva Halamish, Esther Webman, Eds.), Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, 2015: 101-112.

Weeks 3-4: The case of Nigeria-Biafra

As one of the first large-scale civil/national war in post-colonial Africa, the Nigeria-Biafra war (1967-1970) was bearing many references to the fate of the Jewish people during the Holocaust. We will discuss the various representations of the Holocaust used both by Nigerian and Biafran during the different phases of the war. We will also review the debates in

the Israeli public regarding Israel moral commitment in this war following the Holocaust lessons.

Required reading:

Zach Levey, Israel, Nigeria and the Biafra civil war, 1967–70, *Journal of Genocide Research*, 16:2-3, 263-280.

Michal Givoni, Who Cares [What's to be Done?]? Israel Responds to Biafra, *Theory and Criticism*, Vol.23, Autumn 2003: 57-81 (in Hebrew).

Weeks 5-7: The Case of South Africa

Views on the Holocaust will be analyzed as they were reflected both in the white minority and the black majority discourses during the after the era of Apartheid. We shall discuss, for example, the ways that the diary of Anne Frank was interpreted and used by different audiences during the Apartheid era and following the transition to black-majority rule in 1991.

Required reading:

Shirley Gilbert, Anne Frank in South Africa: Remembering the Holocaust During and After Apartheid, *Holocaust & Genocide Studies*. Dec2012, Vol. 26 Issue 3, p366-393.

Tracey Petersen, Moving beyond the toolbox: teaching human rights through teaching the Holocaust in post-apartheid South Africa, *Intercultural Education*, 21: 1, 27-31.

Weeks 8-9: The Case of Rwanda

Rwandan views on the Holocaust. Rwanda is unique due to the efforts undertaken to implement a comprehensive national reconciliation following its own genocide; as for instance, the lessons of the Holocaust were assimilated into the different national programs. In the course, we will review the different ethnic, social and political views and usages of Holocaust memorial.

Required reading:

Benyamin Neuberger, Rwanda 1994 Genocide in the "Land of a Thousand Hills", Raanana: The Open University, 5-83 (in Hebrew).

Weeks 10-12: The Case of Sudan and South Sudan

The case of Sudanese discourses will be reviewed. It will review both Sudanese official attitudes regarding different aspects of the Holocaust and its heritage, as well as the attitudes of different opposition groups in Sudan. The case of South Sudan will be specifically highlighted, as, feelings of identification with the fate of the Jewish people in general, and the Holocaust in particular, prevailed amongst many South Sudanese during almost four-decade war with the Sudanese state. Thus, South Sudanese discourses regarding Holocaust lessons will be reviewed both before and after independence.

:Required reading

Irit Back, "From Resource-Driven Conflicts to Crimes against Humanity: The Case of Darfur" in *Between Racism and Genocide in the Modern Era* (Yair Auron and Isaac Lubelsky, eds.). Raanana: The .(Open University, 201, 103-121 (in Hebrew

Samuel Totten, Paying Lip Service to R2P and Genocide Prevention: The Muted Response of the US Atrocities Prevention Board and the USHMM's Committee on Conscience to the Crisis in the Nuba Mountains, *Genocide Studies International*, 8, 1 (Spring 2014): 23-57.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to Project Wall-Size Images from South Sudan Onto Museum Exterior in 'Our Walls Bear Witness: Sudan at the Crossroads, *Targeted News Service* [Washington, D.C] 28 Oct 2010

Assessment: 80% final exam, 20% participation.