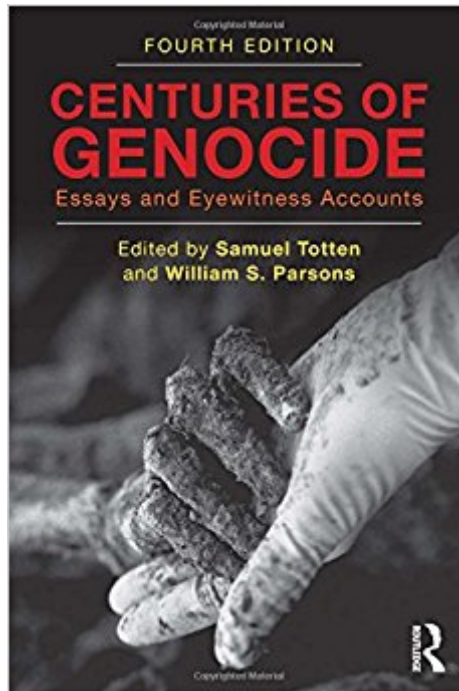




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# Centuries Of Genocide: Essays And Eyewitness Accounts



## Synopsis

The fourth edition of *Centuries of Genocide: Essays and Eyewitness Accounts* addresses examples of genocides perpetrated in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. Each chapter of the book is written by a recognized expert in the field, collectively demonstrating a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. The book is framed by an introductory essay that spells out definitional issues, as well as the promises, complexities, and barriers to the prevention and intervention of genocide. To help the reader learn about the similarities and differences among the various cases, each case is structured around specific leading questions. In every chapter authors address: Who committed the genocide? How was the genocide committed? Why was the genocide committed? Who were the victims? What were the outstanding historical forces? What was the long-range impact? What were the responses? How do scholars interpret this genocide? How does learning about this genocide contribute to the field of study? While the material in each chapter is based on sterling scholarship and wide-ranging expertise of the authors, eyewitness accounts give voice to the victims. This book is an attempt to provoke the reader into understanding that learning about genocide is important and that we all have a responsibility not to become immune to acts of genocide, especially in the interdependent world in which we live today. Revision highlights include:

New chapters on genocide of Native Americans in the nineteenth century, genocide in Australia, and genocide in the Nuba Mountains New chapter authors on Herero genocide and Rwanda genocide Consolidation of the 3 chapters on the Holocaust into one focused case Several chapters from past editions that were omitted are now available on a companion website (Indonesia, Burundi, indigenous peoples)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Samuel Totten is a Professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and co-founding editor of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*. He has also been a Fulbright Fellow at the Centre for Conflict Management, National University of Rwanda. William S. Parsons is Chief of Staff for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Book is an eye opener, by the accounts of those whom were there. Conditions and what was felt is explained in great detail. The authors did an outstanding job putting it all together.

Great Book about the world's Genocides. Breaks down every genocide into easy to use topics and subtopics for research.

"It has been estimated genocide has occurred on average every five years since the WWII Holocaust. One would never know this from attending school and college, or from the media. Yet, Professor Samuel Totten has made it his professional career to not only correct this blatant silence, but has actively pushed for establishing early warning systems to prevent genocides from erupting. Dr. Totten is among the most prolific and prodigious genocide scholars in the world. Singling out one from among scores of his books published over the past several decades does not begin to capture or cover the breadth and depth of scholarly knowledge on the "slaughter bench of history" and emotionally moving oral interviews with genocide survivors from countries on every continent, that he has written and documented. [See, for example, *Genocide by Attrition: The Nuba Mountains of Sudan* (2012); *We Cannot Forget: Interviews with Survivors of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda* (2011); *An Oral and Documentary History of the Darfur Genocide 2 Volume Set* (2010); *Genocide of Indigenous Peoples: Genocide: A Critical Bibliographic Review, Volume 8* (2010); *Plight and Fate of Women During and Following Genocide* (2008); *Genocide in Darfur: Investigating the Atrocities in the Sudan* (2006)]. *Centuries of Genocide* published in late 2012, is Sam Totten's most recent book, co-edited with William Parsons, Chief of Staff, U.S. Holocaust Museum. *Centuries* is the 4th version, with the 3 earlier versions, beginning in 1997, differently titled *Century of Genocide* - i.e., 20th century. The 2012 version has new chapters that encompass 3 centuries - 19th to 21st, including up-to-the-moment genocide occurring in Darfur and in the Nuba

mountains. From the opening page of the Centuries of Genocide the reader is challenged with provocative questions most of us never consider, or do not care enough, let alone engage in ongoing reflection: "Will the killing ever stop? Will the scourge of genocide ever be eradicated? Will humanity ever be wise enough to prevent the deaths of potential genocidal victims before they become yet another set of statistics in the welter of statistics?" These were the opening words of the 1997 first edition. In the intervening years the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed (Arab militia) slaughtered 400,000 black Africans of Darfur. For Totten, Parsons, and their colleagues, the lack of political will to prevent genocide, and the political casuistry of excuses, compromises and realpolitik speak, is really moral turpitude. It is incumbent upon citizens to inform themselves so that a persuasive, persistent pressure can push timid officials to cast off their addiction to realpolitik. Totten continues publishing the facts and stories of humanity's evil inhumanity in the hopes that, "...individuals can become knowledgeable about these matters and then find a collective voice strong enough to convince leaders in society, along with the public at large, to prevent and/or stanch such crimes early on." Disclaimer: Samuel Totten is my brother.

I read this book as a teenager to help become more educated about this topic.

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