

Violence, Human Rights, and Justice  
Short Paper 2 – 6-7 pages  
Due Monday December 6, 2004  
Papers will be returned on December 8, 2004 with grades.

Re-writes for those who choose to do so are due **Friday December 10th by 3 pm** in the mailbox of my office door: 16-249.

Short Paper 2 Topic

In your short paper you will adopt the position of an anthropologist who has studied issues of violence, human rights and justice in cross-cultural perspectives. The United Nations Security Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights wants to assess what strategies are best to prevent the escalation of political violence and to promote peace and justice prior to intervening in Sudan to stop the genocide. You've been asked to present your views to the UN on how conflict can erupt into violence – ranging from interpersonal and collective violence to state-sponsored violence – and most crucially you are asked to comment on the phenomenon of genocide. While you have never studied the Sudanese conflict, you have some general expertise on the following ethnographic cases from which you must discuss **at least three** in your presentation: the eruption of collective violence in India and Sri Lanka; the rationale and practices of Nazi Germany; human rights violations and sexual violence in the former Yugoslavia and Haiti; and the cases of “dirty war” in Argentina, genocide in Rwanda, and apartheid in South Africa.

The UN is equally concerned, however, with the question of what is the best way to bring about justice and reconciliation to a region facing postconflict reconstruction and the rebuilding of communities that are mourning and still affected by anger and frustration? Among the questions you might address in your presentation are the following: Should the nation actively pursue the punishment of perpetrators? Should they create a truth commission to focus on learning the truth of the perpetration of human rights abuses? Should there be a tribunal to prosecute criminals responsible for the violence? Should there be an effort to offer amnesty to those perpetrators who will come forward and testify about their actions in order to learn the “truth” or is a trial and punishment a better solution to satisfying victims' desires for justice? Should the nation promote the model of human rights and a respect for the rule of law that is universal in its application, or should they consider local efforts to mete out justice and engender reconciliation?

Make sure that your paper has an argument and that your thesis statement clearly spells out your position on both the issue of violence and the issues of truth, justice and reconciliation. Be sure that your audience at the UN knows from the start of your presentation what cases you will discuss and why.

**There are no extensions for this paper.**  
**Late papers will lose one full letter grade for each day late.**  
**No papers submitted after December 6 will be considered for re-writes.**