

RAPHAEL LEMKIN
 POLISH JURIST, ORIGINATOR OF THE CONCEPT
 OF “GENOCIDE” AND INITIATOR AND CHIEF ARCHITECT
 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON GENOCIDE
 OF 9 DECEMBER 1948

INTELLECTUAL BIOGRAPHY

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1 The title of this chapter comes from Lemkin himself in his unfinished autobiography.

to UN Secretary General Trygve Lie, dated May 20, 1946. **5.** Second delegation to Europe (1946); the position of advisor on foreign affairs in the War Department; inspection tour of American Military Tribunals in Germany; June 1946 in Nuremberg; health problems; speech at the conference International Law Association w Cambridge in August 1946; lack of success in connection with peace treaties being prepared in Paris and the Nuremberg judgment (omission of *genocide*); return to the United States in October 1946. **6.** *Excursus* from the Polish scene – “genocide” used in the judgements of the Supreme National Tribunal in the cases of three important Nazi criminals in the summer of 1946 – the cases of Greiser and Goeth (1946) and Hoess (1947).

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V.V. Pella, who had always been exceptionally helpful. **3.** The successful “crusade” to gain twenty ratifications of the Convention on Genocide (the years 1949–1950), and its entry into force in January 1951; unsuccessful efforts to gain ratification of the Convention by the United States; the case of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice concerning reservations on the Genocide Convention, 1950–1951. **4.** Leaving Yale University in 1951 and the two periods of unemployment that followed that followed (the years 1951–1955, 1956–1959); refusals from publishing houses. **5.** Lemkin’s fight for as big a number of ratifications (the years 1951–1959), illustrated by the case of ratification by Belgium and the impressive lobbying with relation to the Federal Republic of Germany; words of appreciation and gratitude expressed to Lemkin at a plenary assembly of the Bundestag on July 8, 1954, and the order awarded him (the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*). **6.** Lemkin’s critical stand against manifestations of genocide in the Soviet Union and his accusations of genocide with relation to criminal events in Asia (Korea) and Africa (Algeria). **7.** Lemkin’s wide-ranging studies in the sphere of the history of genocide, not completed because of lack of funds and premature death; appreciating of the value of his legacy in manuscript only several decades later, and the beginning of its partial publication.

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FINAL

Raphael Lemkin after his death – from fairly deep oblivion for many years to a wide re-awakening of international reknown and deepening high esteem in the early 21st century of his work. Lemkin emerging as the most recognizable, “most popular” international lawyer of the last century and the beginning of the present one on a global scale

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