Tolerance and Inhumanity
Jeff McDonald

LP 14 – BEARING WITNESS

Who never quite believed they could exist,
Not where we were. They take us by surprise
Like ugly long-forgotten memories,
And like a conscience all the guns resist.

And maps can really point to places
Where life is evil now:
Nanking; Dachau.

“In Time of War”
W.H. Auden

Bearing Witness to Genocide

- Genocide did not begin with the Holocaust,
nor did it end with the Holocaust.
- 20th century genocides, other than the
  Holocaust and the Armenian genocide have
  claimed the lives of an estimated 20 million
  people in places like:
  - Nanking
  - Cambodia
  - Rwanda
  - Darfur

http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/POSTWWII.HTM
The Rape of Nanking

- There were many events leading up to the invasion of Nanking.
  - During the Japanese conquests of World War II, they invaded China in 1931.
  - First, Japan invaded Manchuria. As Japanese soldiers advanced west through China, they used germ warfare, spreading typhoid fever and the bubonic plague.

http://www.gotrain.com/dan/nanking1.htm

The Rape of Nanking

- In December of 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army marched into China's capital city of Nanking and proceeded to murder 300,000 out of 600,000 civilians and soldiers in the city.

http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/genocide/nanking.htm

The Rape of Nanking

- The six weeks of carnage would become known as the Rape of Nanking and represented the single worst atrocity during the World War II era in either the European or Pacific theaters of war.
Pol Pot and the Genocide in Cambodia

- In 1954, Cambodia achieved full independence from France and was then ruled by a royal monarchy under Prince Sihanouk.
- Pol Pot was born in 1925 into a farming family in central Cambodia, and in 1953 joined the Communist Party.
- By 1962, Pol Pot had become leader of the Cambodian Communist Party and was forced to flee into the jungle to escape the wrath of Prince Sihanouk.
- In the jungle, Pol Pot formed an armed resistance movement that became known as the Khmer Rouge (Red Cambodians) and waged a guerrilla war against Sihanouk's government.

Pol Pot and the Genocide in Cambodia

- In 1970, Prince Sihanouk was ousted, not by Pol Pot, but due to a U.S.-backed right-wing military coup.
- An angry Sihanouk retaliated by joining with Pol Pot, his former enemy, in opposing Cambodia's new military government.
- In 1970, the U.S. invaded Cambodia to expel the Communists from the borders, but instead drove them deeper into Cambodia where they allied themselves with Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge.

Pol Pot and the Genocide in Cambodia

- From 1969 until 1973, the U.S. bombed North Vietnamese communist camps in Cambodia, killing up to 150,000 Cambodian peasants.
- As a result, peasants fled the countryside by the hundreds of thousands and settled in Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh.
- All of these events resulted in economic and military destabilization in Cambodia and a surge of popular support for Pol Pot.
Pol Pot and the Genocide in Cambodia

- By 1975, the U.S. had withdrawn its troops from Vietnam and Cambodia's government also lost its American military support.
- Taking advantage of the instability, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army marched into Phnom Penh and seized control of Cambodia.
- Once in power, Pol Pot began a radical experiment to create an agrarian utopia which resulted in the deaths of 2 million people from starvation, overwork and executions.

http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/genocide/pol-pot.htm

Question to consider

Does the United States government bear responsibility for the genocide in Cambodia? Why or why not?

Genocide in Rwanda

- Rwanda is one of the smallest countries in Central Africa, with just 7 million people, and is comprised of two main ethnic groups, the Hutu and the Tutsi.
- Although the Hutus account for 90 percent of the population, in the past, the Tutsi minority was considered the aristocracy of Rwanda and dominated Hutu peasants for decades, especially while Rwanda was under Belgian colonial rule.
Genocide in Rwanda

- Following independence from Belgium in 1962, the Hutu majority seized power and reversed the roles, oppressing the Tutsis through systematic discrimination and acts of violence.
  - As a result, over 200,000 Tutsis fled to neighboring Burundi and formed a rebel guerrilla army, the Rwandan Patriotic Front.
- In April 1994, amid increasing prospects of violence, Rwandan President Habyalimana and Burundi's new President, Cyprien Ntaryamira, held several peace meetings with Tutsi rebels.

Genocide in Rwanda

- On April 6, while returning from a meeting in Tanzania, a small jet carrying the two presidents was shot down by ground-fired missiles as it approached Rwanda's airport at Kigali.
- Immediately after their deaths, Rwanda plunged into political violence as Hutu extremists began targeting prominent opposition figures who were on their death-lists, including moderate Hutu politicians and Tutsi leaders.
- The killings then spread throughout the countryside as Hutu militia, armed with machetes, clubs, guns and grenades, began indiscriminately killing Tutsi civilians.

Genocide in Rwanda

- Amid the onslaught, the small U.N. peacekeeping force was overwhelmed.
- The U.N. Security Council responded to the worsening crisis by voting unanimously to abandon Rwanda. The remainder of U.N. peacekeeping troops were pulled out.
Genocide in Rwanda

- The Hutu, now without opposition from the world community, clubbed and hacked to death defenseless Tutsi families with machetes.
- The Rwandan state radio, controlled by Hutu extremists, further encouraged the killings by broadcasting non-stop hate propaganda and even pinpointed the locations of Tutsis in hiding.
- Many Tutsis took refuge in churches and mission compounds. These places became the scenes of some of the worst massacres.

Confronted with international TV news reports depicting genocide, the U.N. Security Council voted to send up to 5,000 soldiers to Rwanda.
- However, the Security Council failed to send the troops in time to stop the massacre.
- The killings only ended after armed Tutsi rebels, invading from neighboring countries, managed to defeat the Hutus and halt the genocide in July 1994.

http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/genocide/rwanda.htm

Genocide in Rwanda

- Between April and July 1994, over one-tenth of the population, an estimated 800,000 persons, had been killed.
Darfur
- Since early 2003, Sudanese government soldiers and their proxy ethnic militia, known as the Janjaweed, have fought rebel groups in the western region of Darfur.
- In a campaign of ethnic cleansing targeting Darfur’s blacks, the armed militiamen raped women, burned houses, and tortured and killed men of fighting age.


Darfur
- Darfur is home to over 30 ethnic groups, all African and all Muslim.
  - The Janjaweed militias – recruited, armed, trained, and supported by the Sudanese government – are drawn from several small nomadic groups who claim an Arab identity.
  - They have used racial slurs while attacking and raping the targeted groups, who are considered non-Arab.
- The government and Janjaweed strategy has been to carry out systematic assaults against civilians from the same ethnic groups as the rebels: the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit.

http://hrw.org/reports/2004/sudan0404/

Darfur
- Rebel forces are responsible for some attacks against civilians, but overwhelmingly the Sudanese government and Janjaweed have perpetrated the violence.
- Government-sponsored actions include:
  - Inflaming ethnic conflict
  - Impeding international humanitarian access, resulting in deadly conditions of life for displaced civilians
  - Bombing civilian targets with aircraft
  - Murdering and raping civilians

Darfur

- There has been little progress towards the creation of a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.
- The UN estimates that 2.5 million people have been displaced from their homes and have fled into neighboring countries.
- The US State Department has estimated that between 98–181,000 people have died since March 2003.

http://www.state.gov/s/inr/fs/2005/45105.htm

What can we do?

www.savedarfur.org

No more turning away
From the weak and the weary
No more turning away
From the coldness inside
Just a world that we all must share
Its not enough just to stand and stare
Is it only a dream that there’ll be
No more turning away?