WEST POINT CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

West Point READY

READY TO **SERVE**. READY TO **LEAD**.

An Austrian Jewish survivor describes to General Dwight Eisenhower the use of the gallows in the camp.

"The more I try to come to terms with this hideous history, the more fortified my morals and resolution become. With each memory my resolve to combat hatred, racism, and injustice strengthens. Furthermore, I have a deeper grasp on the meaning of my responsibility as a future officer."

—Cadet Regina Woronowicz '11

Genocide, described by scholars as one of the defining historical developments of the 20th century, reveals a darker side of humanity—a side that requires better understanding. If we cannot grasp the circumstances that drive mass atrocity and if we do not make sense of genocide, how can we hope to prevent its recurrence?

Grappling with this difficult question is imperative for the young men and women preparing to become future military leaders. They will be our nation's, and perhaps the world's, first responders. Before all others, they will be asked to detect, prevent, and stop mass atrocities—those which decades of scholarship reveal are most likely to occur in the course of war. Without a doubt, our future officers must possess nuanced understandings of the contexts in which mass atrocities occur, the role militaries have played, and the responsibility they—as our country's rising leaders—have in preventing future occurrences.

Through multidisciplinary programming, courses, research, travel, events, media exchanges, and work with the Department of Defense, West Point's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) integrates diverse teaching methods to educate, train, and inspire cadets, faculty, the Army, and our sister services. Through these efforts, the center produces ethically sophisticated and intellectually nimble officers who are more aware of the dynamics of genocide and better equipped to prevent mass atrocity. By delving into the causes, contexts, and consequences of genocide, the CHGS imparts a deep sense of history, ethics, and responsibility. It produces practical, actionable knowledge useful to cadets, the Army, and the nation, bolstering Holocaust and genocide studies for generations to come.

WISDOM THROUGH HISTORY

When General Dwight Eisenhower learned of Ohrdruf, a satellite camp of Buchenwald, one of the largest concentration camps on German soil, he was quick to recognize the need to document, study, and remember the atrocities of World War II. He immediately brought Generals George Patton and Omar Bradley to examine the camp, then littered with over 1,000 dead bodies. All who witnessed the camp were profoundly affected by the experience.

Later, once American forces had liberated Buchenwald, Eisenhower ordered every soldier not actively engaged in frontline fighting to visit the camps. "We are told that the American GI does not always know what he is fighting for," noted Eisenhower. "Now, at least, he will know what he is fighting against." The Supreme Allied Commander and West Point graduate recognized that without firsthand evidence and testimony, many people—soldiers and civilians alike—would fail to comprehend the scale of the Holocaust. Others might deny that it happened at all.

Eisenhower realized that we can learn from the past and make a better future. Through study of past atrocities on every continent we can develop not just better soldiers, but better global citizens. By grounding the study of genocide and mass atrocity in the discipline of History, while incorporating a range of other scholarly fields, West Point's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies promotes a global and comprehensive program of study. Further, it creates a forum for learning about the extremes of the human experience, not only about the worst of human behavior, but also the best of humanity's character, through the study of survivors and those who resisted genocide and aided victims.

UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING GENOCIDE

Through a range of innovative offerings, travel, and collaborative research, CHGS has broadened the cadet curriculum, significantly influenced the other U.S. service academies, and partnered with multiple government agencies to advance the comprehension of atrocity. Primary initiatives include two interdisciplinary centerpiece courses, XH 415 "Genocide and Mass Killing" and XH 405 "The Holocaust and Its Legacy," as well as:

Cadet travel and research programs to:

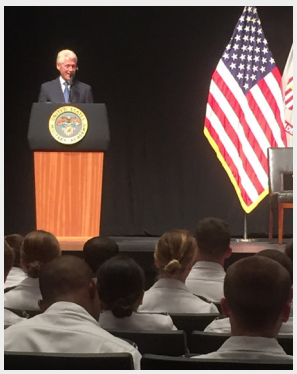
- Poland to study the Holocaust and military ethics;
- Ghana to study genocide and peacekeeping at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Center;
- The Hague, Cambodia and Nuremburg to observe War Crimes and Genocide trials;
- The Czech Republic to study the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich;
- Rwanda to study reconstruction and modernization after genocide; and many more.
- Workshops for service academy students and faculty:
- The Joint Service Academies Mass Atrocity Prevention Symposium, a two-day workshop for students, genocide experts, and government practitioners
- The Mass Atrocity Education Workshop, a similar three-day program for faculty genocide experts
- Special military programming at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for over 150 cadets annually
- The hosting of plays, exhibitions, and films on atrocity
- A distinguished lecture series which counts former President Bill Clinton, Nuremberg prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, and other scholars, policy makers, and genocide survivors among its numbers.

EXPANDING WEST POINT'S REACH

In addition to deeply impacting cadets, the center seeks to extend its reach to the entire West Point community, the Army, and the larger scholarly community. It now has an advisory role with Combatant Commands, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and the Reserve Officer Training Corps' (ROTC) Cadet Command. Together with these departments and agencies, the center works to bolster atrocity and human rights education and training, while enhancing regional strategic knowledge and preparation. The center has created several groundbreaking research projects that already are having an international impact:

- The center's first published work, "Ordinary Soldiers," examines the chain of events that led to mass killings of Jewish civilians in Belorussia in 1941. Available electronically, it is regularly used by the service academies and ROTC, and has been used by the Marine Corps University, the Army War College, the Australian Defence College, and the State of Virginia Bar Association .
- The Marginal Soldiers/Camp Ritchie Project, a cooperative research project with multiple museums, tells the story of Jewish refugees from Hitler, Japanese Americans, Native Americans, and African Americans who contributed to WWII victory through military intelligence.
- The Least Worst Decisions, a digital case study of the character and decision-making of LTG (R) Roméo Dallaire, the Force Commander of the UN Mission in Rwanda during the genocide, created in collaboration with Dallaire himself.

The center receives no government funding of any kind, and is therefore completely reliant on the generosity of donors for its operations. Thanks to private support received to date, the center has garnered national recognition as a DoD asset on issues of atrocity prevention and human rights. It has instilled within cadets and current officers a broad-reaching sense of empathy for victims and an understanding of reasons for resistance, and it is helping to develop better soldiers and global citizens. Yet much remains to be done. Please join us by supporting this unique center, and help create unprecedented opportunities to educate and inspire our country's leaders.



Left: Former President Bill Clinton addresses the entire corps of cadets regarding the genocides in Rwanda and Kosovo that occurred during his term.

Right: Cadets and faculty visit the Potocari Memorial outside Srebrenica, Bosnia, a hybrid museum, archive, cemetery, and memorial to the victims of genocide.

Photo: Lee Ross '73

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

YOU CAN HELP MAKE WEST POINT'S CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES ONE OF THE FOREMOST PROGRAMS OF ITS TYPE IN THE NATION.

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies	**$3.4 million**
Conferences, Exercises & Workshops	$1 million
Center Director Naming	$1.75 million
Research & Travel	$650,000
International travel & research (per cadet)	$200,000 endowment/$8,000 annual
Domestic travel & research (per cadet)	$125,000 endowment/$5,000 annual

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE

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as of October 26, 2023