

Concealment of International Crimes

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International crime is a collective term coined to organize serious violations of international law including genocide, torture, enforced disappearances, and crimes against humanity. In times of diversity, governments maintain their religiously and racially tolerant facade by concealing the practice of such heinous acts. In this research essay, I will argue three factors namely the internet and digital media, globalization, and the indifference to consequence, which notably affect the concealment of international crime.

These three factors have been chosen due to their interconnected effect on the censorship of such acts via mass media exposure. The concept of radicalism has been given a negative connotation since the awareness of its partake in history's most brutal war crimes. Crimes intended to inflict harm on a particular race, religion, or ethnic group wholly or in part are almost immediately exposed to an international audience through digital media. In addition, any sort of government's ignorance of such acts is heavily scrutinized regardless of the state's power and indifference to consequences. By thoroughly examining all three, I attain a more comprehensive understanding of how technological advancements and other factors have affected the concealment of international crimes.

Internet and Digital Media

The invention of the internet has derived data transfer to its simplest form, with digital media being the largest medium supporting such technological advancements. Statistics on seventy-year-old atrocious war crimes that were secretly practiced by dictators are now easily available to internet users on platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and Wikipedia. Recent data shows that 62% of the world's population has access to such platforms with roughly 500,000 users joining the internet community every day (Flynn, 2023). The brutalities committed in China during WWII were hidden by the Japanese but are now out in the open for the world to see with data pointing to an estimate of 3000,000 to 30,000,000 deaths from war crimes alone (Wikipedia Contributors, 2023).

Apart from the internet exposing war crimes, it also spreads information on where, how, and why these crimes were committed. Racially or religiously motivated crimes or crimes against humanity are almost immediately exposed via digital media. This is because internet users do not comprise one racial, ethnic, or religious group, it consists of a variety of users spread around the globe each representing their own race, religion, and ethnic background. Such diversity leads to the unification of minorities which in turn disclose any illegal activity which violates the rights of those whom they represent.

The racially motivated murder of George Floyd, an African American male living in the U.S., can be highlighted. The New York Times reconstructed the event in detail by combining videos from bystanders, and security cameras to show Mr. Floyd's last moments to the world (Hill et al., 2022). This event particularly aggravated the disclosure of racial crimes that took place in the U.S. and encouraged countless protests and movements such as BLM (Black Lives Matter).

In addition, via digital media and the internet, users have access to every sort of information. The Internet has undoubtedly saved literacy rates around the world. Those educated transmit and discuss information leading to satisfying conclusions. Previously, concepts of radicalism and racial intolerance used to motivate illegalities, and now, those aware of these terms due to the mentioned data transmission mediums, meticulously criticize any attempt being made to conceal or eradicate unfair practices. Overall, the internet has helped to reveal countless crimes, becoming a virtual prosecutor to bring justice to those who were previously silent.

Globalization.

Globalization has affected crime in various ways. Its impact, both positive and negative, has changed the definition of crime. The blend of several cultures, traditions, and races leads to a complexity in the state's law as well. The European Convention of Human Rights was ratified to build a hierarchy of courts protecting private and public businesses to make sure the atrocities committed in the second world war aren't repeated.

Moreover, the ICC (International criminal court) is another initiative taken in the hopes of deterring potential criminals from breaking the law. Internationalization has helped the law to adapt to its most effective form, with ideas of restricting and reducing crime being taken from all over the world. However, the concept of territorial sovereignty has allowed criminals to find loopholes in the constitution of their state. Each state has its own laws that refuse to globalize, making it easier for criminals to escape to another country that does not serve the same sort of justice, making the definition of the word 'just' subjective. Japan, Denmark, and Norway have imposed some of the most restrictive gun laws whereas the severe punishments given by the U.A.E. the government has helped reduce crime rates to a mere 15.23% (World Population Review, n.d.).

As for the concealment of such crimes, globalization has created new opportunities that encourage many to change their ways of pursuing crime. Global cybercrime and global terrorism have opened an entirely new perspective on crime, making it impossible for authorities to locate criminals in cyberspace used by billions. Apart from cybercrime, Economic globalization and the evolution of communication networks have made it relatively easy to transfer huge funds in a mere moment.

On the other hand, the globalization of language has especially assisted in disclosing such crimes. English having the status of a global language has 750 million speakers outside of the norm-providing states and is spoken on all seven continents making up 13% of the world's population (Lingoda, 2021). With the top 5 newspapers being published in this language, for example, The New York Times (Dutta, 2023), such spread makes it easier for a global audience to be aware of any crime taking place around the world.

Due to public pressure via mass media, those exposed are immediately located and brought to conviction. The recent manslaughter of a teenager of North African descent by a police officer in the suburbs of Nanterre, France depicts how globalization affects the concealment of crime. The pandemonium caused in France is getting media coverage from all over the world in several languages exposing the police officer that shot the victim. The incident sparked violent protests in the country with supporters virtually grieving the loss of the 17-year-old under the ongoing viral Twitter hashtag 'Justice for Nahel'. Because of the immense public pressure, the President of France, Emmanuel Macron addressed citizens criticizing the killing as 'inexplicable' and 'inexcusable' (Syed & Cohen, 2023).

Indifference to Consequence.

Although the internet and globalization have disclosed various international crimes, there are remaining states that practice crimes against humanity without facing any consequences. These countries are mostly supported by states of power such as the US, justifying illegality.

The persecution taking place of Palestinians by Israelites is a prominent example of international crimes which are justified by power and control. Although this crime isn't unknown, states like the U.S. silently support such acts. This support is depicted in how none of the U.S.-based newspapers published a news report or even a brief article on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine. Apart from this, a report from Amnesty International calling the persecutions an 'apartheid' was called 'absurd' by Thomas Nides, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, and in addition, the US State Department spokesman, Ned Price, objected to its findings (Jazeera, 2022).

Countries like US, Russia, and China even refused to be part of the International Criminal Court to exclude liability completely. The prison in Guantanamo Bay located in Cuba is an example of how the US detained suspected 'terrorists' involved in the conspiracy of 9/11 without any legal justification. At present, the prison illegally contains 39 men who face unbearable tortures and persecutions, with those aware labeling it as a facility working outside of normal laws or any sort of judicial oversight (Jazeera, 2022a).

Another example is the state of Rwanda, where racially motivated killings became common, constituting genocide. In 1994, an estimated 800,000 Tutsis were killed within a span

of one hundred days, in an attempt to wipe out the Tutsi population in the country (Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid, 2023). The International Criminal Court was somewhat successful in the conviction of the perpetrator namely Yvonne B. However, the woman was only sentenced to six years and 8 months in comparison with the thousands of lives she had taken using her social and political influence in the state to increase her following (ICD - Basebya - Asser Institute, n.d.).

These aforementioned states are only some examples of countries indifferent to whether their crimes are exposed. The US invasion of Iraq which caused millions of deaths was only recently criticized and even then, the US faced zero consequences. These events show how power justifies illegality and that the law itself is a corrupt fundamental, judging only those who are able to make it to the courtroom.

Discussion.

As the author, my opinion combines the implementation of strict laws and restrictions, especially on states exporting arms to those engulfed in war such as Russia and the US. Moreover, having an international court representing a variety of races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds involving every registered country on the planet could reduce international tensions.

The United Nations is indefinitely biased, with no action being taken to stop the persecution of Muslims in Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and China, it is powerless in the face of those who built it. The Corfu incident of 1923 was a similar historical event that showed how the League of Nations was eventually useless in arbitrating when a power state like Italy was in question. In such cases at present, the only way out is through the power of mass media. Technological advancements have done a huge favor for those persecuted by disclosing the crimes being committed by several states.

The media also struggles with biases, as most of the news channels and newspapers are amended to suit the government's wishes. However, the internet remains undefeated as it gives access to various perspectives on the same event allowing its users to build their own conclusion on the subject matter regardless of their standing in the political or social world. The internet has also awakened humanity in its users with the community distinguishing what is right from wrong itself without having to rely on the government's corrupt morality.

Conclusion

To conclude, the concealment of international crime is an act becoming almost impossible by the advancing day. Globalization, the world wide web, and the power states make it easier for information to be transmitted around the globe with facts and figures determining the truth and a global audience criticizing the acts of those involved in such crimes.

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