**WHAT IT MEANS**

**Genocide** -- Race Murder

**By BRUNOLO MATEKI**

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The word "race murder" is often used to describe acts of violence against a particular group based on their race or ethnicity. The term was popularized in the context of World War II, particularly during the Holocaust, when the Nazis used it to describe the intentional mass murder of Jews and other so-called "inferior" races.

**How It Works**

Genocide differs from other forms of atrocity in that it is not just the killing of individuals, but the systematic destruction of a group. The goal is not just to kill, but to eradicate the group as a whole, often through the murder of the group's leaders and the forced displacement or removal of the surviving members. This can be achieved through direct violence, such as the shooting or gassing of civilians, as well as through more indirect means, such as the starvation of entire communities or the withholding of medical care.

**Why The Name**

The term "genocide" was coined by the lawyer and human rights advocate Raphael Lemkin in 1944, inspired by his experiences of the Nazi atrocities during World War II. Lemkin was one of the first to recognize the role of race in these acts of violence and sought to create a new legal framework to address such crimes. The term "genocide" means "the deliberate destruction of a national, racial, ethnic, and religious group.

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