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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Lemkin, Raphael, 1900-1959
Title:	Raphael Lemkin papers
ID:	10250472
ID:	MS#1653
Date [inclusive]:	1931-1947
Physical Description:	2.5 linear feet 5 document boxes
Language of the Material:	Material is primarily in English and German with some Polish.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Raphael Lemkin Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Raphael Lemkin was born in June 1900 near Bezwodene, now part of Belarus. After studying law Lemkin became public prosecutor for the District Court of Poland in 1929. Lemkin had been developing an interest in crimes of racial mass murder, particularly after learning about the Armenian genocide when he was a teenager. By 1933 Lemkin was already arguing for the punishment and prevention of mass murder and he appeared before Legal Council of the League of Nations in Madrid with a legal proposal to this end, but could not find support for his ideas. After the Nazi invasion of Poland Lemkin fought for a time with Polish guerilla fighters until being wounded. Lemkin lived in the forest for months until he had a chance to leave the country. Lemkin would eventually lose 48 family members to the war and Nazi occupation.

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Biographical / Historical

When Lemkin did flee Poland in 1940, he went to Sweden where he became a visiting lecturer of law at the University of Sweden, Stockholm and began collecting documents on Nazi regulations and law in the territories it was occupying. Lemkin then went to the United States in 1941 joining the law faculty at Duke University. In 1944 he published his most notable book, *Axis Rule In Occupied Europe* wherein he took a legal analysis of German rule in occupied countries and defined the term genocide. Due to his research in this subject Lemkin acted as an advisor to chief United States prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials, Robert H. Jackson.

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Biographical / Historical

Lemkin remained in the United States after the war and lectured on criminal law at Yale University from 1948 and became a Professor of Law at Rutgers School of Law in 1955. Lemkin also continued his campaign to have genocide recognized as an international crime. Lemkin turned to the United Nations and began spending time there trying to persuade the delegates of various countries to take up a resolution making genocide a crime under international law. The General Assembly adopted a resolution approving his convention in December of 1948 and in October of 1950, 90 days after ratification by a twentieth country, it became international law. 140 states have ratified or acceded to the international agreement, the United States ratified the treaty on November 11, 1988. Lemkin died in August of 1959.

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Summary

The Raphael Lemkin Collection holds some of the documents related to lawyer and scholar Raphael Lemkin's research and writing on the topics of war crimes and genocide. Some of the documents Lemkin collected include the official regulations published by the Nazi government concerning its governance over occupied territories. Other documents in the Lemkin collection concern the International Military Tribunals, the war crimes trials at Dachau, and some documents concerning the discussion of war crimes produced by United Nations committees. There are also a set of articles dealing with Japanese militarization, propaganda, and war crimes. A small portion of Lemkin's writing is also present. Materials are primarily in English and German with some Polish.

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Arrangement

Material is arranged into two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2013-06-18 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2012.2013.M127: Source of acquisition--Law Library Special Collections. Method of acquisition--Transfer; Date of acquisition--04/10/2013.

Processing Information

Papers processed Craig Savino 2010.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- War criminals -- Germany
- Nuremberg War Crime Trials, Nuremberg, Germany, 1946-1949
- Genocide -- Germany
- Germany -- Politics and government -- 1933-1945
- Lemkin, Raphael, 1900-1959
- Dachau (Concentration camp)
- United Nations

Collection Inventory

Series I: German Government Regulations, 1938-1944

Scope and Contents

Series I: German Government Regulations contains gazettes and copies of official documentation created by the Nazi government concerning its regulations generally and specifically in the occupied territories identified as the Sudetenland and Poland. These documents were likely obtained by Lemkin while teaching and researching law in Sweden and became part of his research into writing *Axis Rule In Occupied Europe*.

Title/Description	Instances
Dziennik rozporzadzen dia Generalnego Gubernatorstwa [Polish] (Official Regulations of the General Government), 1944	box 1

Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 1 [German/Polish] (Gazette of the General Government), 1941	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 2 [German/Polish] (Gazette of General Government), 1941	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 3 [German/Polish] (Gazette of the General Government), 1941	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 1 [German/Polish] (Gazette of the General Government), 1942	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 2 [German/Polish] (Gazette of the General Government), 1942	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 1 [German/Polish] (Gazette of the General Government), 1943	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer das Generalgovernment-Part 2 [German/Polish] (Gazette of the General Government), 1943	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer des General Gouverneurs fuer die besetzen polnischen Gebicte [German/Polish](Gazette of the Governer General for the occupied Polish territories), 1940	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer die Sudetendeutschen Gebiete [German](Gazette for the Sudatenland), 1938	box 1
Verordnungsblatt fuer die Sudetendeutschen Gebiete - Part 1 [German] (Gazette for the Sudatenland), 1939	box 2
Verordnungsblatt fuer die Sudetendeutschen Gebiete - Part 2 [German] (Gazette for the Sudatenland), 1939	box 2
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland - Part 1 [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1939	box 2
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland-Part 2 [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1939	box 2
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland - Part 3 [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1939	box 2
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1940	box 3
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1941	box 3
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1942	box 3

Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1943	box 3
Verordnungsblatt fuer den Reichsgau Sudatenland [German] (Gazette for the Reichsgau Sudatenland), 1944	box 3
Verordnungsblatt des Militaerbefehlshabers in Belgien und Nordfrankreich fuer die besetzten Gebiete [German/ French] (Gazette of the military commander of Belgium and northern France in the occupied territories), 1942	box 3

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Series II: Other Research and Writings, 1931-1947

Scope and Contents

Series II: Other Research and Writings contains some of the other research Lemkin collected in his studies of genocide and war crimes. In addition to some material from the International and Nuremberg Military Tribunals, this series has documents from the Dachau Trials and United Nations committees dealing with classifying war crimes. The series also contains a set of articles on Japanese militarization and war crimes and a small set of Lemkin's writing. The documents come in the form of official memoranda and reports, copies from microfilm, correspondence, and printed drafts.

Title/Description	Instances
Dachau Trials: United States v. Altfuldisch, Hans, et. al.: Sworn Statements of the Accused, 1946	box 4
Dachau Trials: United States v. Altfuldisch, Hans, et. al.: Memorandum (List of the accused, charges, and summary report), 1946	box 4
International Military Tribunals (IMT): Affidavit: Hoess, Rudolf Franz Ferdinand (May 20, 1946), 1946	box 4
IMT: Office, Chief of Counsel for War Crimes (OCCWC) - Public Relations Office - Special Release No. 1: Introduction "Genocide" Concept (July 27, 1946), 1946	box 4
IMT: Office of the Military Governor - United States (OMGUS): Instructions to Public Safety Special Branches for Denazification and the "Law for Liberation from National Socialism and Militarism", 1946	box 4
IMT: OMGUS: Organization Manual, 1946	box 4
IMT: Official Gazette of the Control Council for Germany (Berlin Allied Secretariat), No. 3, 1946	box 4
IMT: Plaedoyer Fuer Alfred Rosenberg vor dem Internationalen Militaergerichtshof Nurenberg (Plea for Alfred Rosenberg), 1946	box 4
IMT: Report: "The Case of Professor Karl Haushofer and German Geopolitics," by Dr. Edmund A. Walsh, 1946	box 4

IMT: War Crimes Office, Judge Advocate General: Bibliography on War Crimes, 1946	box 4
Japan Research - Index of Subjects, Undated	box 4
Japan Research - The Structure of the Japanese Government (articles), 1944	box 4
Japan Research - The Criminality of Zaibatsu (articles), 1942-1946	box 4
Japan Research - Japanese Militarism (articles), 1941-1945	box 4
Japan Research - Japanese Aggression (articles), 1931-1945	box 4
Japan Research - Spiritual Mobilization for Aggressive Warfare (articles), 1942-1945	box 5
Japan Research - The Criminality of Shintoism (articles), 1943-1945	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Propaganda (articles), 1942-1945	box 5
Japan Research - Japanization in Southeast Asia (articles), 1944-1945	box 5
Japan Research - The Co-Prosperity Sphere (articles), 1940-1945	box 5
Japan Research - The Role of the Puppet Governments and Asiatic Quislings in the Occupied Areas (articles), 1943-1944	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Occupied China and Shanghai (articles), 1940-1945	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in the Philippines (articles), 1943-1945	box 5
Japan Research-Japanese Rule in Burma (articles), Undated	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Manchuria (articles), 1945	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Thailand, Undated; 1942	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Malaya (articles), Undated	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Indo-China (articles), 1945	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Formosa (articles), 1942-1945	box 5
Japan Research - Japanese Rule in Korea (articles), 1940	box 5
Nurmberg Military Tribunals (NMT): Case No. 1, "Medical Case"-Trial Transcript (Dec., 1946), 1946	box 5

NMT: Case No.4, "Pohl Case"-Indictment (Jan. 13, 1947), 1947	box 5
Other Research - Berger, Jacob, "The Legal Nature of War Crimes and the Problem of Superior Command," American Political Science Review, vol. 38, no.6 : 1203-1208., Dec 1944	box 5
Other Research - "The Punishment of War Criminals," (Report adopted by the National Executive Board of the National Lawyers Guild, Washington, D.C.): 18-23., 1944	box 5
United Nations - Sixth Committee: Sub-Committee 3, Draft Report on the Crime of Genocide Rapporteur: Mr. Charles Fahm (United States)(Dec. 5, 1946), 1946	box 5
United Nations War Crimes Commission: Misc. No. 35: International Film for Discovery and Identification of War Criminals, 1946	box 5
Writings: Axis Rule in Occupied Europe (1944)-Chapter 9: "Genocide" [Draft], Undated	box 5
Writings: "Genocide: Suggestions pour le Conference sur le Paix Faites par Docteur Raphael Lemkin (Duke University, North Carolina, U.S.A.), Mar. 1946	box 5
Writings: Notes, handwritten, Undated	box 5

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