

The Calculus of Reason: Enlightenment Rationality and the Administration of Genocide

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Presentation Agenda

- Introduction to genocide definition challenges
- Analysis of institutional discourse patterns
- Examination of procedural absolution mechanisms
- Application of instrumental reason framework
- Discussion of contemporary digital contexts
- Conclusions and future directions

Research Context & Background

Current State of the Field

- Scholarly debate between strict legal interpretations (Schabas, 2009) vs. expansive moral frameworks
- Genocide Convention's restrictive criteria often exclude contemporary cases
- Institutional discourse oscillates between hyper-visibility and systematic denial
- Palestinian case exemplifies definitional ambiguity serving power structures

Research Gap Addressed

- Lack of analysis connecting Enlightenment rationality to genocide administration
- Insufficient examination of bureaucratic language as violence mechanism
- Need to extend Bauman's Holocaust insights to digital-era violence
- Requirement for frameworks resisting procedural obfuscation

Motivation & Objectives

1

Research Questions

How does bureaucratic language transform ethical judgment into administrative calculation? What mechanisms enable systematic violence while maintaining institutional credibility?

2

Primary Objective

Analyze how procedural absolutism creates communicative double binds that obscure Palestinian suffering through technical protocols

3

Expected Impact

Develop critical framework for recognizing how modern reason enables genocide through hyper-functional application rather than irrationality

Methodology Overview



Key Contributions

1

Procedural Absolution

Identifies communicative mechanism that obscures suffering through bureaucratic language and technical protocols

2

Ethical Transformation

Demonstrates how modern reason transforms ethical judgment into administrative calculation through efficiency and classification

3

Historical Extension

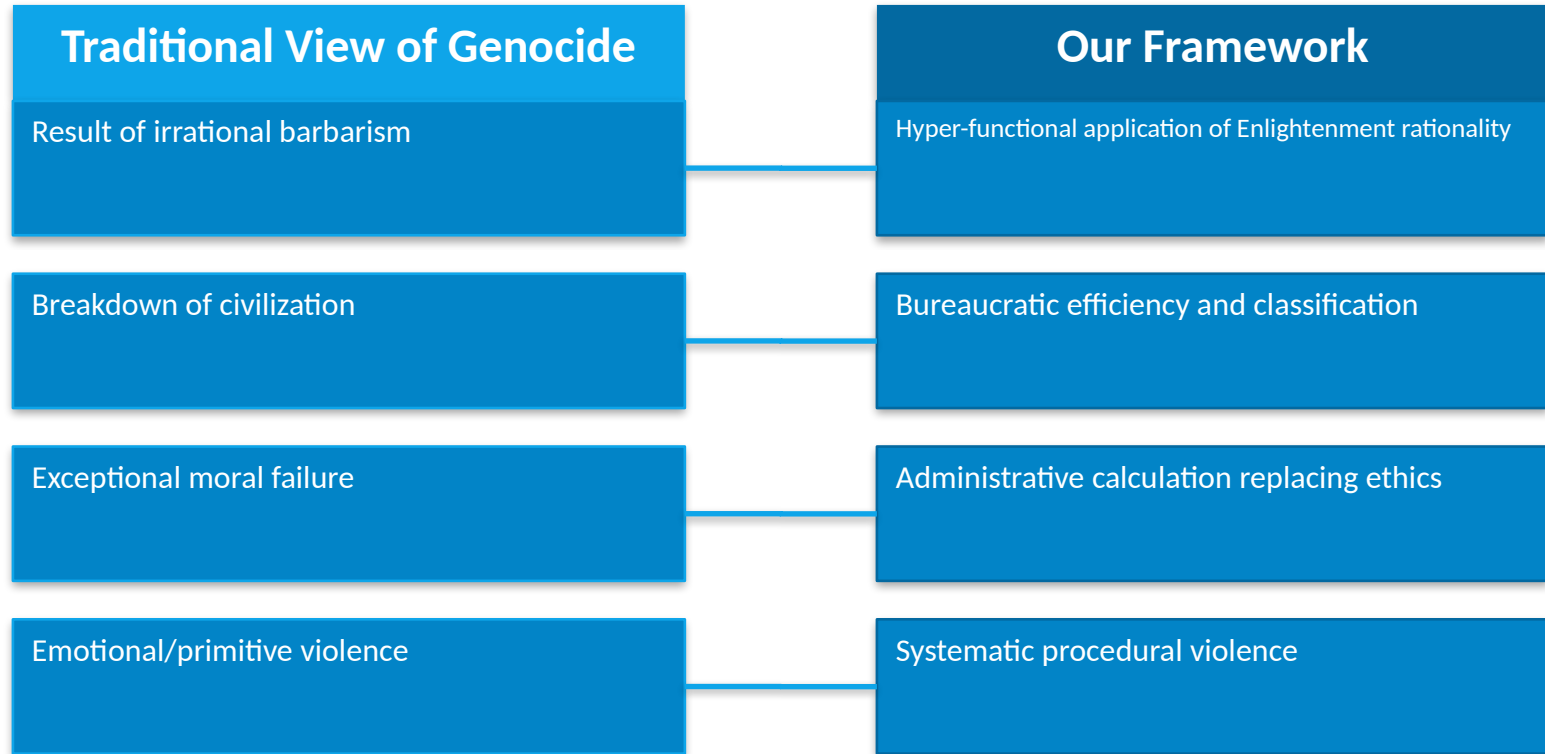
Extends Bauman's insights about bureaucracy's role in the Holocaust to contemporary digital contexts

4

Verification Loops

Analyzes how institutional reliance on verification loops defers ethical judgment while creating illusion of objectivity

Theoretical Framework: Instrumental Reason



Contemporary Digital Contexts

- Algorithmic verification creates illusion of moral neutrality while obscuring suffering
- Satellite imagery and digital documentation become tools of procedural absolution
- Cross-agency corroboration establishes credibility while deferring judgment
- Transparent methodology functions as endless verification loop
- Digital archives render suffering perpetually debatable yet institutionally inadmissible

Conclusions & Implications

- Genocide emerges from hyper-functional Enlightenment rationality, not irrational barbarism
- Procedural absolutism creates double binds where bureaucratic language enables violence while maintaining neutrality
- Institutional discourse systematically obscures Palestinian suffering through technical protocols
- Modern reason transforms ethical judgment into administrative calculation
- Digital technologies extend Bauman's insights about bureaucracy to contemporary contexts

Thank You!

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Project Archive: research.aztlan.edu/genocide-calculus