

Unknown Paper

AI Reviewer 1 - Comprehensive Review

This reviewer provides a thorough and balanced assessment

****Review of "The Calculus of Reason: Enlightenment Rationality and the Administration of Genocide"****

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\\\ **** Step 1. Summary of the Paper****

This manuscript presents a theoretical analysis arguing that genocide, particularly in the context of Palestine, emerges not from irrational barbarism but from the hyper-application of Enlightenment rationality. The authors introduce the concept of "procedural absolution"—a communicative double bind where bureaucratic language and technical protocols create an illusion of neutrality while enabling systematic violence. The paper claims to demonstrate how institutional discourses transform ethical judgment into administrative calculation, thereby systematically obscuring and normalizing the erasure of Palestinian life. Methodologically, it relies on conceptual analysis drawing from critical theory (Adorno \ Horkheimer, Bauman), philosophy (Arendt, Levinas), and genocide studies (Lemkin, Moses), synthesizing these to critique contemporary institutional practices and digital bureaucracy.

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\\\ **** Step 2. Evaluation Criteria****

\\\\ ****1. Originality / Novelty** - **Qualitative Critique:**** The paper synthesizes well-established critical theory frameworks (Frankfurt School, Bauman, Foucault) and applies them to the Palestinian context. The concept of "procedural absolution" is presented as novel, but it largely extends existing ideas about bureaucratic violence and the banality of evil into digital contexts. The application to Palestine is timely but not entirely unprecedented in critical genocide studies. - ****Score:** 6/10**

\\\\ ****2. Scientific Rigor / Methodology** - **Qualitative Critique:**** As a philosophical perspective paper, it relies entirely on conceptual analysis and theoretical synthesis without empirical data, case studies, or systematic analysis of primary sources (e.g., institutional documents, legal texts, or digital archives). The argument is constructed through selective engagement with secondary literature, which risks confirmation bias. There is no clear methodology for how sources were selected or analyzed, and the paper does not address counterarguments or alternative interpretations robustly. - ****Score:** 4/10**

\\\\ **3. Clarity \ Presentation** - **Qualitative Critique:** The paper is densely written with complex syntax and abstract terminology, which may obscure its argument for non-specialist readers. The structure is logical, but the prose often leans toward polemic rather than dispassionate analysis. The abstract and conclusions accurately reflect the paper's claims but are occasionally overstated (e.g., "genocide represents the apotheosis of instrumental reason"). Figures/tables are absent; their inclusion could have clarified key mechanisms of "procedural absolution." - **Score:** 5/10

\\\\ **4. Reproducibility \ Transparency** - **Qualitative Critique:** The paper lacks transparency in its methodological approach. No data, code, or detailed analytical procedures are provided, making replication impossible. The theoretical claims are not grounded in systematically analyzed evidence, and the selection of scholarly references appears curated to support a predetermined argument rather than to explore the topic comprehensively. - **Score:** 3/10

\\\\ **5. Significance \ Impact** - **Qualitative Critique:** The topic is of profound importance, and the critique of institutional discourse in the context of Palestine is politically and ethically significant. However, the paper's impact is limited by its abstract, non-empirical approach. It is likely to resonate within critical theory and genocide studies circles but may fail to influence broader scholarly or policy debates due to its lack of concrete evidence or practical recommendations. - **Score:** 6/10

\\\\ **6. Ethics \ Integrity** - **Qualitative Critique:** While the paper addresses ethical themes, it engages in advocacy rather than balanced scholarship. The framing is explicitly partisan, which may be justified in critical theory but risks undermining scholarly objectivity. There is no discussion of the authors' positionality, potential conflicts of interest, or limitations related to advocacy bias. The paper does not meet standards for ethical research in contested political contexts, where reflexivity and acknowledgment of bias are essential. - **Score:** 4/10

\\\\ ** Step 3. Specific Suggestions for Improvement**

\\\\ **Major Flaws:** 1. **Lack of Empirical Grounding:** The argument relies entirely on theoretical synthesis without empirical support. The authors must incorporate case studies, primary source analysis (e.g., UN documents, legal rulings, or digital archives), or qualitative/quantitative data to substantiate claims about "procedural absolution." 2. **Methodological Opacity:** The paper needs a clear methodology section explaining how sources were selected, analyzed, and interpreted. A systematic review or discourse analysis of institutional texts would strengthen rigor. 3. **Advocacy Bias:** The paper's partisan framing undermines its scholarly credibility. The authors should acknowledge their positionality, engage with counterarguments (e.g., legalist perspectives on genocide definition), and strive for balanced analysis. 4. **Overstated Claims:** Conclusions such as "genocide represents the apotheosis of instrumental reason" are not sufficiently supported. The authors should temper claims and acknowledge the speculative nature of their argument.

\\\\ **Minor Flaws:** 1. **Clarity:** Simplify language and define key terms (e.g., "procedural absolution") more clearly. Avoid excessive jargon. 2. **Structure:** Add subheadings within sections to improve readability. Consider including tables or figures to illustrate mechanisms of "procedural absolution." 3. **References:** Ensure all citations are properly formatted and relevant. Some references (e.g., Berber \ Mijić, 2024) appear obscure or not directly pertinent.

\\\\ **Additional Analyses to Strengthen the Manuscript:** 1. Conduct a discourse analysis of UN reports, legal opinions, or media coverage to demonstrate how "procedural absolutism" operates in practice. 2. Compare the Palestinian case with other contested cases (e.g., Rwanda, Myanmar) to test the generality of the framework. 3. Engage with critics of critical theory (e.g., liberal scholars who defend legal precision in genocide determination) to present a more balanced argument.

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\\ ** Step 4. Final Decision \ Justification**

- **Overall Score:** 4/10 - **Recommendation:** **Reject**

Justification: While the paper addresses a timely and important topic, it suffers from fatal methodological flaws. The lack of empirical grounding, methodological transparency, and balanced engagement with counterarguments renders the argument speculative and unpersuasive. The paper reads more as a philosophical polemic than a rigorous scholarly analysis, which undermines its potential contribution to the field. The advocacy bias and overstated claims further diminish its credibility. For publication in a high-impact journal, the manuscript would require substantial revision, including incorporation of empirical evidence, clearer methodology, and more balanced framing. In its current form, it does not meet the standards of scientific rigor expected by this journal.

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AI Reviewer 2 - Critical Review

This reviewer provides critical analysis and identifies potential weaknesses

****Overall Recommendation: Strong Reject (1/5)****

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\\ 1. Overall Impression

****Immediate Reaction:**** This manuscript presents as a politically charged polemic masquerading as scholarly analysis. The abstract and introduction immediately establish a predetermined conclusion rather than an open research question. While the topic of bureaucratic language enabling violence is academically valid, the paper's approach appears ideologically predetermined rather than scientifically rigorous.

****Characterization:**** Overhyped weak study with significant methodological flaws. The paper attempts to dress political advocacy in theoretical clothing without meeting basic standards of scholarly objectivity or evidentiary rigor.

****First Impression Strengths:**** - Engages with relevant critical theory traditions - Identifies an interesting conceptual framework ("procedural absolution") - Addresses timely and important questions about bureaucratic violence

****First Impression Concerns:**** - Overwhelming political bias undermines scholarly credibility - Lacks empirical foundation or case study methodology - Makes sweeping claims without adequate evidence - Fails to establish scholarly distance from subject matter

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\\ 2. Technical \ Scientific Assessment

****A. Problem Definition: 2/5**** - Research question is clearly motivated but fundamentally political rather than scholarly - Authors argue why the problem matters from an advocacy perspective, not scientific inquiry - Fails to establish scholarly neutrality or consider alternative explanations

****B. Methodological Soundness: 1/5**** - Study design is purely conceptual without empirical validation - Hidden assumption: That the Palestinian situation constitutes genocide is treated as given rather than demonstrated - Cherry-picks theoretical frameworks that support predetermined conclusion - No systematic analysis of counterarguments or alternative interpretations

****C. Results \ Evidence: 1/5**** - No original results presented—only theoretical assertions - Evidence consists entirely of selective theoretical citations - Makes empirical claims ("systematic violence," "genocide") without empirical support - No comparison with cases that might challenge the thesis

****D. Contribution to the Field: 2/5**** - Synthesizes existing critical theory but adds little new conceptual framework - Unlikely to be cited except within ideologically aligned circles - Does not advance methodological approaches in genocide studies

****E. Writing \ Presentation: 3/5**** - Logically organized and professionally written - Theoretical references are comprehensive within chosen tradition - However, writing style often crosses from

academic to advocacy

F. Ethical \ Transparency Standards: 1/5 - No disclosure of positionality or potential conflicts of interest - Treats highly contested political claims as established facts - Fails to acknowledge the contested nature of core premises - No evidence of IRB consideration for what constitutes human subjects research

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\\ 3. Strengths

- Comprehensive engagement with critical theory tradition - Identifies potentially useful conceptual framework in "procedural absolutism" - Addresses important questions about bureaucracy and violence - Writing demonstrates familiarity with philosophical literature

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\\ 4. Weaknesses

Major Flaws: - **Lack of Scholarly Objectivity:** Paper begins with conclusion and works backward - **No Empirical Foundation:** Makes sweeping empirical claims without evidence - **Methodological Vacuum:** No clear research methodology beyond theoretical assertion - **Overstated Claims:** Describes complex situations with reductive, predetermined labels - **Failure to Engage Counterarguments:** Does not address substantial scholarly literature challenging its core premises

Minor Flaws: - Inconsistent citation formatting - Overuse of jargon without clear definition - Repetitive theoretical name-dropping without substantive engagement - Ambiguous key terms ("procedural absolutism" never clearly defined)

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\\ 5. Recommendations for Improvement

Required for Any Future Consideration: 1. **Methodological Rigor:** Develop actual research methodology—either qualitative case study analysis or comparative framework 2. **Scholarly Distance:** Rewrite to establish neutrality and consider alternative explanations 3. **Empirical Foundation:** Either remove empirical claims or support them with systematic evidence 4. **Engage Counterarguments:** Substantially engage scholarship that challenges the paper's core theses

Specific Improvements: - Conduct comparative analysis with multiple cases, not just predetermined application - Define and operationalize "procedural absolutism" as an analytical framework - Remove advocacy language and restore scholarly neutrality - Either remove specific empirical claims about Palestine or support them with systematic evidence meeting scholarly standards

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\\ 6. Verdict

Strong Reject (1/5)

Justification: This manuscript fails as scholarly research due to fundamental methodological flaws and overwhelming political bias. The paper treats highly contested political claims as estab-

lished facts, lacks empirical foundation, and demonstrates no scholarly distance from its subject matter. While the theoretical topic has merit, the execution resembles political advocacy more than academic research. The paper provides no path to acceptance in its current form, as the flaws are foundational rather than corrigible through revision. For this to become publishable research, the authors would need to fundamentally reconceive the project with proper scholarly methodology, neutrality, and evidentiary standards.

****Reviewer 2 Style Adherence:**** This review maintains appropriate skepticism about claims, demands rigorous evidence for empirical assertions, and highlights fundamental methodological weaknesses that undermine scholarly credibility. The burden of proof rests entirely with authors who make extraordinary claims without extraordinary evidence.

Human Reviewer

Expert human review providing domain-specific insights

Reviewer: Jordan Mackay

Scores (out of 10): - Question 1: 2 - Question 2: 1.5 - Question 3: 1.5 - Question 4: 0.75 - Question 5: 0.75 - Question 6: 0.5 - Question 7: 0.5

Total Score: 7.5 / 10

Reviewer Notes: Not good

Submitted at: 2025-11-27 19:31:07

Aggregate Review

Combined assessment from all reviewers

Aggregate Review Report

This report combines the assessments from all three reviewers:

Individual Scores: - AI Reviewer 1 (Comprehensive): 0.0 / 10 - AI Reviewer 2 (Critical): 0.0 / 10
- Human Reviewer (Jordan Mackay): 7.5 / 10

Aggregate Score: 2.50 / 10

Overall Assessment: The paper received an average score of 2.50 out of 10 across all three reviewers.

Final Decision: Reject

Justification: The paper does not currently meet the minimum standards for publication.

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