

A FRAMEWORK FOR PERPETRATOR BEHAVIOR: ROLE THEORY, FOREIGN POLICY AND THE CASE OF THE KHMER ROUGE

Joann DIGEORGIO-LUTZ*

Received: September 2, 2018

Accepted for publication: November 30, 2018

Abstract: The research proposes a conceptual framework for understanding perpetrator behavior utilizing role theory through the lens of a foreign policy approach. Frameworks that examine elite genocidal perpetrator behavior rarely give enough consideration to the influence of foreign policy as a source of state-sponsored genocidal policies. This research proposes a model for examining elite perpetrator behavior marrying role theory and foreign policy as a source of genocidal perpetrator behavior. Using Cambodia as a case study, this research proposes a model for further examination both in the Cambodian context and across a number of other cases.

Keywords: Cambodian genocide, constructivism, foreign policy, genocide, role theory



Rezumat: Cercetarea propune un cadru conceptual de înțelegere a comportamentelor agresive în cadrul unei abordări de politică externă care face apel la teoria rolurilor. Cadrul de cercetare care analizează comportamentul criminal al elitelor agresoare acordă foarte rar atenție influenței politicii externe ca sursă a politicilor de stat care promovează genocidul. Cercetarea de față avansează un model de examinare a acestui comportament care îmbină teoria rolurilor cu politica externă văzută ca sursă a acestui comportament criminal. Având ca studiu de caz exemplul cambogian, cercetarea propune un model de examinare atât a genocidului cambogian, cât și a altor cazuri.

Cuvinte cheie: genocidul cambogian, constructivism, politică externă, genocid, teoria rolurilor

* JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz is a Professor of Political Science and Department Head of Liberal Studies at Texas A&M University at Galveston. E-mail: digeorgi@tamug.edu.