

Ending Impunity for International Crimes in Russia

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The research deals with overcoming impunity for international crimes (crimes of aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) in Russia in the context of its aggressive war against Ukraine.

The systemic impunity of crimes committed on behalf of the Soviet Union and Russia against other countries and peoples and their own populations is a crucial factor contributing to the war's criminal nature. Despite the significant contribution of pre-revolutionary Russia to the formation of the norms of international humanitarian law and the notable role of the Soviet Union in post-war international justice, Russia has failed to implement international criminal law in its legislation and practice. Not a single person has been brought to justice in Russia for the commission of an international crime. Moreover, the concepts of international criminal law are distorted and used by Russia's state officials in their propaganda to justify their crimes and impunity.

The retrieval of international criminal law to Russia, a comprehensive accountability process over the crimes committed during the war, and the leadership crime of aggression are necessary elements of any lasting peaceful settlement. However, this process cannot be limited solely to the war against Ukraine, unleashed in 2014.

Based on the analysis of the historical evolution and genesis of historical deformations, as well as the best national practices, the study is aimed at developing a mechanism for the transformation of the Russian legal system in the course of the implementation of international criminal law, as well as finding a model for combining international and national criminal justice (both in Russia and other countries), the proper relationship between the responsibility of the state and individual criminal responsibility, the establishment of effective legal remedies for the victims.