

Abstract:
Population Transfer: The Untold Story of Self-determination
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This paper argues that population transfer is the untold story of the international law of self-determination. Part one sketches the standard international law account of the twentieth-century history of the right of self-determination, and recasts its central themes as a series of narratives relating to the changing content and status of the principle of self-determination. Part two revisits that 'standard account' and demonstrates that the international law snapshot of key historical periods edits out the darker side of the self-determination picture: the policies and practices of population transfer. By telling (part of) the untold story of the twentieth-century relationship between self-determination and population transfer the paper aims to provoke critical reflection on both the historiography and the humanitarian claims of the international law of self-determination.