

CHINA CROSSROADS

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Ranking Global Harms: Genocide, Terrorism, and Climate Change

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Which is worse, genocide or terrorism? Many reject the question. They claim we cannot and should not treat any one harm as greater than any other harm. Yet, we constantly rank harms—especially in law and medicine. Further, ranking harms has taken on a new urgency. It may be too late before we get around to ranking climate change as the greatest harm ever faced by humans -- as an existential threat to our very existence. And as happened with the word 'genocide' during and after WW II, we don't even have a word for it.

[Thomas Simon](#) is Professor of Law and Philosophy at the Hopkin-Nanjing Center of Johns Hopkins SAIS. He previously taught at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and chaired the Department of Philosophy at Illinois State University. As a Fulbright Scholar, he taught law at the University of Malaya and conducted research at its Centre for Civilization Dialogue. He has also taught law at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and University of Prishtina, Kosovo. He was Distinguished Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Northern Colorado and helped establish Miyazaki International College in Japan. His awards include a Liberal Arts Fellowship from Harvard Law School. He has also won teaching awards from the University of Florida and the University of Illinois.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.