Summary

This thesis deals with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals and their interpretation of the crime of genocide. There are two United Nations courts: The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. These ad hoc Tribunals were the first international Tribunals since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. They were established by Security Council Resolutions in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter as subsidiary organs of the Security Council.

The Tribunals were the first international bodies which, after almost 50 years of existence, interpreted and applied the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide which was adopted by United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Their practice has shown the whole world that individuals can be charged with the crime of genocide and consecutively sentenced.

The purpose of this thesis is to briefly describe the historical development of the international criminal justice until the establishment of these two United Nations International Criminal Tribunals, characterize both Tribunals and find out how they interpret the crime of genocide and the contribution of their case law to the international criminal law.

The thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the description of the historical development of the international prosecution of individuals and international criminal justice until the establishment of United Nations Tribunals. The emphasis is put on the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg and the International Military Tribunal for the Far East because they represent significant moment in the development of international criminal law and they are considered to be the first instruments of international justice.

The second and the third chapter contain exposition about the events which led to the establishment of International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, their establishment, jurisdiction and Statutes.
The centre of the thesis lies in its fourth chapter that focuses on the crime of the genocide in the practice of these Tribunals. This chapter analyses the mental and the physical element of the crime of genocide and its punishable forms.

In the last fifth chapter, there is a conclusion with the summary of the case law of both Tribunals and their most important contributions for the international criminal law.