

Assignment

After reading "Ten Stages of Genocide" by Gregory Stanton and "A Brief History of the Armenian Genocide" by Sara Cohan, complete the following activities. "A Brief History of the Armenian Genocide" can be found at www.teachgenocide.com/documents/index.htm

Match the information from **Section B** into the appropriate box in **Section A**, which contains the descriptions of the stages from "Ten Stages of Genocide."

Section A:

1. CLASSIFICATION:

All cultures have categories to distinguish people into "us and them" by ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality: German and Jew, Hutu and Tutsi. If societies are too segregated (divided) they are most likely to have genocide.

Classification

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

2. SYMBOLIZATION:

We give names or other symbols to the classifications of ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality. We name people "Jews" or "Gypsies", or distinguish them by colors or dress; and apply them to members of groups. Classification and symbolization are universally human and do not necessarily result in genocide unless they lead to the stage of dehumanization. When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon unwilling members of minority groups: the yellow star for Jews under Nazi rule, the blue scarf for people from the Eastern Zone in Khmer Rouge Cambodia.

Symbolism

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

3. DISCRIMINATION:

A dominant group uses law, custom, and political power to deny the rights of other groups. The powerless group may not be given full civil rights or even citizenship.

Discrimination

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

4. DEHUMANIZATION:

Dehumanization is when one group treats another group as second-class citizens. Members of a persecuted group may be compared with animals, parasites, insects or diseases. When a group of people is thought of as “less than human” it is easier for the group in control to murder them.

Dehumanization

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

5. ORGANIZATION:

Genocide is always organized, usually by the state, though sometimes informally or by terrorist groups. Special army units or militias are often trained and armed. Plans are made for genocidal killings.

Organization

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

6. POLARIZATION:

Extremists drive the groups apart. Hate groups broadcast polarizing propaganda. Laws may forbid intermarriage or social interaction. Extremist terrorism targets moderates, intimidating and silencing the center.

Polarization

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

7. PREPARATION:

National or perpetrator group leaders plan the “Final Solution” to the Jewish, Armenian, Tutsi or other targeted group “question.” They often use euphemisms to cloak their intentions, such as referring to their goals as “ethnic cleansing,” “purification,” or “counter-terrorism.” They build armies, buy weapons and train their troops and militias. They indoctrinate the populace with fear of the victim group. Leaders often claim, “If we don’t kill them, they will kill us.”

Preparation

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

8. PERSECUTION:

Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up. In state sponsored genocide, members of victim groups may be forced to wear identifying symbols. Their property is often confiscated. Sometimes they are even segregated into ghettos, deported into concentration camps, or confined to a famine-struck region and starved. Genocidal massacres begin.

Persecution

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

9. EXTERMINATION:

Extermination begins, and quickly becomes the mass killing legally called "genocide." It is "extermination" to the killers because they do not believe their victims to be fully human. When it is sponsored by the state, the armed forces often work with militias to do the killing.

Extermination

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

10. DENIAL:

Denial is the tenth stage that always follows genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims. They block investigations of the crimes, and continue to govern until driven from power by force, when they flee into exile.

Denial

Example from the Armenian Genocide:

Section B:

1. "Within months, the Euphrates and Tigris rivers became clogged with the bodies of Armenian women and children, polluting the water supply for those who had not yet perished. Dysentery and other diseases were rampant and those who managed to survive the march found themselves in concentration camps."
2. "Among a series of actions enacted to counter Armenian Genocide recognition and education, the Turkish government even passed a law in 2004 known as Article 305, which makes it a criminal offense, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, to discuss the Armenian Genocide."
3. "... CUP leaders sent orders to province leaders to gather women and children and either load them onto trains headed for the Syrian Desert or lead them on forced marches into the desert. Embarking with little food and few supplies, women and children had little hope of survival."
4. "[An] early Christian identity has greatly influenced Armenian culture, setting it apart from most of its neighboring peoples."
5. "The Armenians were second-class citizens of the Ottoman Empire and while they were granted some freedoms, including the ability to practice Christianity, they were faced with extra taxes and discriminatory laws extending to their participation in the justice system, government, and their civil and property rights."
6. "The culprits of the Adana Massacre were never punished and after 1909, an extreme nationalist political movement promoting a policy of Pan-Turkism ("Turkey for the Turks") gained backing from Turkish populations throughout the Ottoman Empire."
7. "Armenians were easily identified because they did not wear traditional Turkish clothes, lived in separate 'neighborhoods,' and attended church. Their rituals and traditions were obviously different from the Muslim Turks of the Ottoman Empire."
8. "By the spring of 1915, leaders of the ruling party, the CUP, seized the opportunity of a world preoccupied by war to erase the Armenian presence from almost all Ottoman lands. The CUP was a triumvirate led by Mehmet Talaat, Ismail Enver, and Ahmed Jemal."
9. "Beginning on April 24, 1915 (now commemorated as the beginning of the Armenian genocide), Armenian civil leaders, intellectuals, doctors, businessmen, and artists were rounded up and killed. Once these leaders of the Armenian communities were killed, the genocide plan was put into motion throughout the empire."
10. "Russians had advocated for Armenian reforms in the past and because the Russian army did have Armenians serving as soldiers, the Ottoman government was concerned that Ottoman Armenians might commit traitorous acts. This fear helped to fuel Turkish public sentiment against Armenians."