

PART ONE: Introduction

The English language has many words to describe different types of killing.

ACTIVITY

Draw a line for the term on the left to its correct meaning on the right:

Fratricide	killing another person
Homicide	killing yourself
Infanticide	killing an insect or pest
Matricide	killing your brother
Pesticide	killing a baby
Suicide	killing your father
Patricide	killing your mother
Regicide	killing a king

GENOCIDE

- What is the meaning of the suffix, “-cide”?

- What is the meaning of the prefix, “geno”?

Hint: think of words like gene, genetics, and genome

PART TWO: The Armenian Genocide



IMAGE 2: An Armenian shepherd poses near Mt. Ararat

Look at the Armenian man pictured here.

- How do you think his life is different from yours?

- How might his life be similar to yours?

Armenians are part of an ancient civilization, tracing their roots back over 4,000 years. Armenia adopted Christianity as the official state religion in the 4th century, making it one of the first Christian nations in the world. The current Republic of Armenia was established in 1991, when Armenians who had lived under Soviet rule declared their independence. However, at different points in history, Armenia covered a much larger territory.



IMAGE 3: The Church of Tekor (4th-5th Century) in 1915

MAP ACTIVITY



IMAGE 4: This map shows the current borders of the Republic of Armenia, as well as historic Armenia

1. Use your pen to color in the Republic of Armenia on the map above.
2. Use your pen to trace the border of historic Armenia on the map above.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



IMAGE 5: Public execution of an Armenian in the Ottoman capital of Constantinople

The Armenian genocide took place during World War I, in the lands of the Ottoman Empire. In addition to modern-day Turkey, that large empire included what are now Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. At one time, the Empire also extended into the Balkan region of Southeastern Europe. The Armenian man shown in the picture was executed in the Ottoman capital city of Constantinople (now Istanbul).

The death penalty is legal in 38 states in the U.S., including California.

- Have you ever seen an execution?

You probably answered “no,” since public executions are not performed in the United States.

- Why do you think some governments in the world still perform them?

Although the great majority of the Ottoman Empire's **inhabitants** were Muslims, there were also large Armenian, Jewish, and Kurdish communities. When World War I broke out, the Armenian population was spread across both the Ottoman

(2,100,000) and Russian (1,700,000) empires. Since these two empires were fighting against each other, Armenians were left with a terrible **dilemma**. If they joined the army, they would have to fight against their fellow Armenians. If they

refused to join the army, they could be imprisoned or even killed as traitors to their empire. What would YOU do?

- Do you have any close friends or family members who live in another country?
- If so, which country?
- If your nation's government forced you to join the army in a war against this other country, what would you do? Why? Would it be a hard decision, or any easy one? Why?

Glossary

inhabitants: people who live in a particular place.

dilemma: a problem that does not have a clear solution.



IMAGE 6: Families of Armenian deportees on the road

During World War I, Turkish authorities forcibly deported Armenian families from their homeland. The deportees were taken to concentration camps hundreds of miles away, to the desert regions of what are now Syria and Iraq.

Armenians were often given the choice of either converting to Islam or being deported. The wives of Armenian soldiers were often forced to marry Muslims. In the photo above, we see Armenian deportees fleeing their homeland to

live in camps in the desert. Without proper food and shelter, many of them died along the way.

- In which ways might the deportation have been harder for men?
- In which ways might the deportation have been harder for women?

Many of the Armenian prisoners in the camps—including women and children—were eventually

killed, even though they were unarmed.

In April 1916 a German witness at the Ras-ul-Ain

camp reported that “every day for almost a month 300 to 500 victims were taken from the camp and slain.”



IMAGE 7: Armenian deportees in a camp in the Syrian desert

When those who carried out the killings were questioned, they replied that they had been acting on orders.

- Do you think that this is a reasonable defense? Why? Why not?

PART SIX: The Bosnian Genocide**IMAGE 26:** Muslim mother and child in a refugee camp

During the Cold War, the various ethnic groups of Yugoslavia lived in relative peace with one another despite their cultural and religious differences. After the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, however, the various ethnic regions of Yugoslavia began to **secede** and declare their independence, including Macedonia (1991), Slovenia (1991), and Croatia (1991).

The region of Bosnia also attempted to declare its independence, but its three major ethnic groups (Muslims, Croats, and Serbs) could not agree on the matter. Bosnia soon erupted into ethnic violence and warfare. The world began to receive horrible reports coming out of Bosnia.

In July 1991, a Bosnian Muslim leader told a reporter from New York's *Newsday*:

Please try to come here . . . They are shipping Muslim people through here in cattle cars. Last night there were 25 train wagons . . . crowded with women, old people and children. It's like Jews being sent to Auschwitz. In the name of humanity, please come.

Glossary

secede: to end membership in an organization, association, or political entity.

In January 1993 the United Nations and the European Community published a joint peace plan. They proposed dividing Bosnia's 10 provinces between the Muslims, Serbs, and Croats.



IMAGE 27: The Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia

MAP ACTIVITY

1. Sections 1, 5, and 9 were to be given to Bosnian Muslims. Color them in green.
2. Sections 2, 4, and 6 were to be given to Bosnian Serbs. Color them in red.
3. Sections 3 and 8 were to be given to Bosnian Croats. Color them in blue.

The Vance-Owen plan was never implemented.

Discuss the following questions with your classmates.

- Do you think it would have worked? Could the plan have prevented mass killings of Bosnian Muslims? Why/Why not? What might have been some potential problems with the Vance-Owen plan?

Below is a passage from the diary of a young girl named Zlata, written on October 1, 1992:

I spend my days in the house and in the cellar. That's my wartime childhood. And it's summer . . . God, what did I do to deserve being in a war, spending my days in a way that no child should. I feel caged.

- Was there a time in your life when you felt caged or trapped? Why?



IMAGE 28: A house in Bosnia with its roof burned off

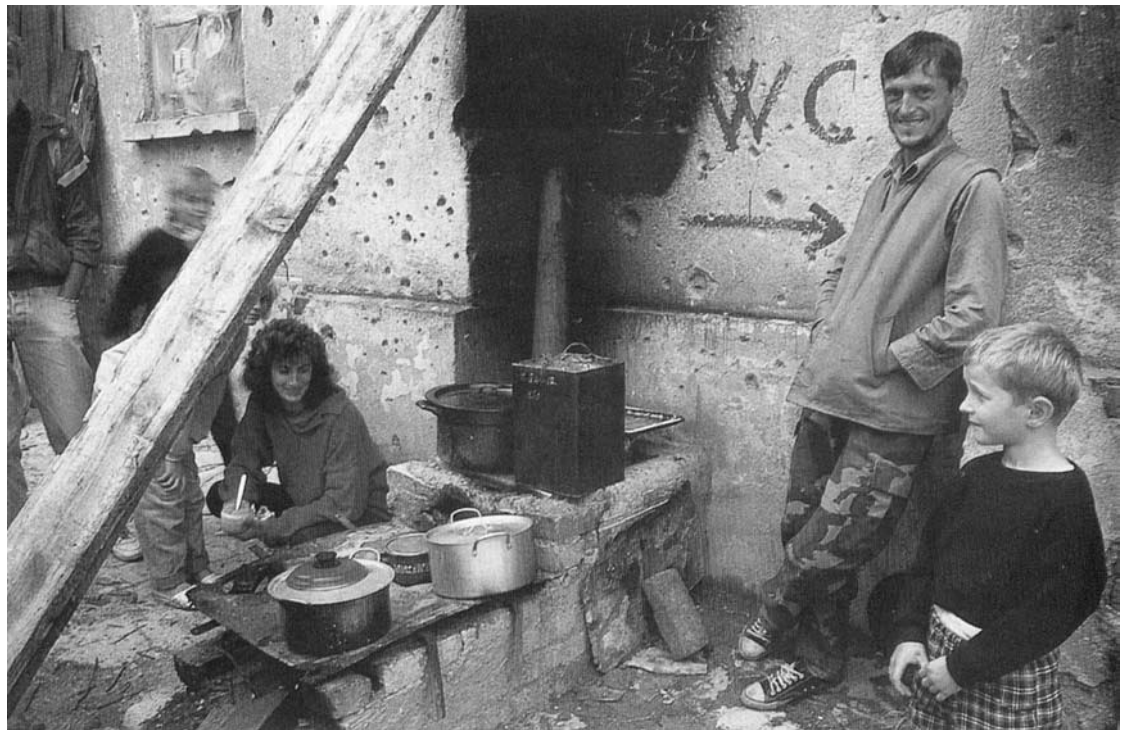
Serb militiamen forcibly removed Bosnian Muslims' homes as part of program they called "ethnic cleansing." The homes of many Muslims had their roofs burned off by Serb militiamen.

- What do you think is meant by the term "ethnic cleansing"?



IMAGE 29
(left): A refugee cooks dinner in Serbian-occupied Turanj, 1994

IMAGE 30
(below): A refugee family in the former Yugoslavia



- What does it mean to be a refugee?
- What are the most common reasons people become refugees?
- Do you think that the refugees shown here ever returned home? Why/Why not?

PART SEVEN: The Rwandan Genocide

Rwanda and Burundi are two tiny countries just east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire). The two countries have a combined popula-

tion of 14 million people, and each is about the size of the state of Maryland.

Most of the inhabitants of Rwanda and Burundi belong to one of two ethnic

groups: the Hutus (about 80-85 percent of each country's population), and the Tutsis (about 14-15 percent) of each country's population.



IMAGE 31: Political map of the continent of Africa

MAP ACTIVITY

Find Rwanda and Burundi on the map of Africa and circle them.

In 1994, a ground-based missile hit the plane carrying Rwandan President (and Hutu) General Juvenal Habyarimana as it was about to land in the city of

Kigali. A group of Hutu extremists used the killing as an excuse to launch a campaign of genocide against the minority Tutsis. In a three-month period, over

800,000 ethnic Tutsis lost their lives, leaving 300,000 orphaned Tutsi children.

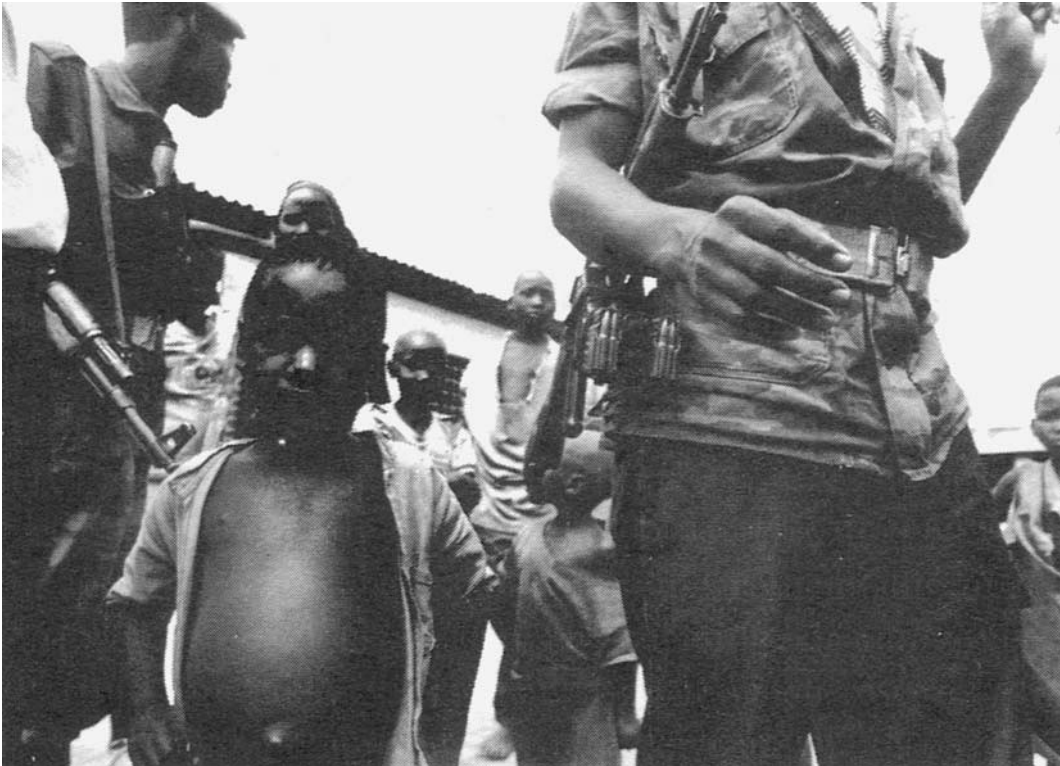


IMAGE 32: Semi-automatic machine guns are a familiar sight for this boy

- Have you ever held a gun? Does your family have a gun in your home? If so, why? What does your family use it for?

- How do you think your life would be different if all of the people around you used guns?



IMAGE 33: Roofs were often burned off of houses

- The houses above have had their roofs burned off by enemy soldiers.
- Do you think that this is a war crime, or just a standard part of war? Why?