

The 8 Stages of Genocide

CLASSIFICATION

All cultures have categories to distinguish people into “us and them” by ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality (German and Jew, Hutu and Tutsi), and bipolar societies that lack mixed categories, such as Rwanda and Burundi, are the most likely to have genocide.

SYMBOLIZATION

We give names or other symbols to the classifications. We name people “Jews or Gypsies” or distinguish them by colors and dress, and apply those symbols to group members. Classification and Symbolization are universally human and do not necessarily result in genocide unless they lead to the next stage. When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon unwilling members of pariah groups; the yellow star for Jews under Nazi rule, or the blue scarf for people from the eastern zone in the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia.

DEHUMANIZATION

One group denies the humanity of the other group. Members of it are equated with animals, vermin, insects or diseases. Dehumanization overcomes the normal human revulsion against murder.

ORGANIZATION

Genocide is always organized, usually by the state, though sometimes informally, (Hindu mobs led by local RSS militants) or by terrorist groups. Special army units or militias are often trained and armed. Plans are made for genocidal killings.

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 centrists and moderates.

PREPARATION

Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up. Members of victim groups are forced to wear identifying symbols. They are often segregated into ghettos, forced into concentration camps, or confined to a famine-struck region and starved.

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. Sometimes the genocide results in revenge killings by groups against each other, creating the downward whirlpool-like cycle of bilateral genocide.

DENIAL

Denial is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn 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. There they remain with impunity, like Pol Pot or Idi Amin, unless they are captured and a tribunal is established to bring them to trial.

Name:

8 STAGES OF GENOCIDE: _____

1. Classification	
2.Symbolization	
3.Dehumanization	
4. Organization	
5. Polarization	
6. Preparation	
7. Extermination	
8. Denial	



Homework Document 1

Source: "Antisemitic Propaganda Poster." *UnitedStatesHolocaustMemorialMuseum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 9 Sept. 2016. Web. 15 Sept. 2016. <http://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn107280>

Homework Document 2

Heinrich Himmler: A Secret Speech on the Jewish Question (October 8, 1943)

...May I now, in this most intimate circle, touch upon a question which all of you, members of the Party, have accepted as self-evident, but which for me has become the hardest question of my life: The question of the Jews. You will accept it as self-evident and gratifying that in your districts there are no Jews and more. All German people-a few exceptions notwithstanding-have also understood that we could not have endured the Allied bombardment, nor the hardships of the fourth-and perhaps, the coming fifth and sixth-war year with this destructive pestilence still in the body of our people. The sentence, "The Jews must be exterminated," is a short one, gentlemen, and is easily said. For the person who has to execute what this sentence implies, however, it is the most difficult and hardest thing in the world. Look, of course they are Jews, it is quite clear, they are only Jews, but consider how many people-members of the Party as well-have sent their famous petitions to me or to the authorities, declaring that all Jews, naturally, were pigs, but that so-and-so was a decent Jew and should not be touched. I dare say that, according to the number of petitions and opinions expressed in private, there were more decent Jews in Germany than the number of Jews that actually were to be found in the entire country. In Germany we have so many millions of people who have their famous decent Jew... I am only saying this because, from your own experience within your districts, you will have learned that respectable and decent National Socialist people all know their decent Jew.

I must ask you only to listen and never to speak about what I am telling you in this intimate circle. We had to answer the question: What about the woman and children? Here, too, I had made up my mind, find a clear-cut solution. I did not feel that I had the right to exterminate the men-that is, to murder them, or have them murdered-and then allow their children to grow into avengers, threatening our sons and grandchildren. A fateful decision had to be made: This people had to vanish from the earth. For the organization in charge of the mission, it was the hardest decision we have had to make so far. It has been executed-as I believe I may say-without damage to the spirit and soul of our men and leaders. This danger was very real. The path between the two existing possibilities, either to become too brutal and to lose all respect for human life, or else become too soft and dizzy and suffer from nervous breakdowns...

Source:

Mendes-Flohr, Paul R, and Jehuda Reinharz. *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. Print.

Homework Document 3

A line from a speech given by former Iranian President Ahmadinejad to the United Nations' General Assembly in 2009

"They (the Western powers) launched the myth of the Holocaust. They lied, they put on a show and then they support the Jews."

Source: Rosenbaum, Sophia. "Ahmadinejad's Most Memorable Quotes." U.S. News. N.p., 15 June 2013. Web. 15 Sept. 2016. http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/06/15/18938670-ahmadinejads-most-memorable-quotes?lite

Name: _____ Date: _____

Identifying the 8 Stages of Genocide through Documents

Document 1	a. What stage of genocide does this document represent? b. Rationale to support your answer.
Document 2	a. What stage of genocide does this document represent? b. Rationale to support your answer.
Document 3	a. What stage of genocide does this document represent? b. Rationale to support your answer.