Paths to Genocide

Trace causes, targeted groups, and lasting effects in Rwanda and Bosnia.

SS24.HOS.22a "Analyze the causes and effects of modern-day genocides, and identify the groups involved."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a cause of each genocide, circle the names of groups that carried out or faced violence, and number two effects on survivors or families. Use your marks to trace what happened in each case.

Two Genocides, Different Paths

1. In 1994, a plane carrying Rwanda's president was shot down. Extremist leaders used the crash to intensify a campaign against the Tutsi minority. For years, officials and radio broadcasts had spread messages portraying Tutsi neighbors as enemies. Government soldiers and Hutu militias set up roadblocks, checked identity cards, and killed Tutsi civilians. They also murdered Hutu people who opposed the violence. Over about 100 days, roughly 800,000 people were killed, most of them Tutsi. Many survivors fled their homes, and families lost relatives and support networks. The killings ended when the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front took control of the country.

2. In the 1990s, Yugoslavia broke apart, and war spread through Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnian Serb leaders sought control of territory and drove many Bosniaks, who are mostly Muslim, from their homes. Leaders used nationalist messages to cast neighbors as threats. In July 1995, Bosnian Serb forces captured Srebrenica, a town that the United Nations had declared a safe area. They separated thousands of Bosniak men and boys from other residents, then murdered more than 8,000 men and boys. The killings at Srebrenica were genocide. Families were displaced, and many spent years seeking the remains of missing relatives.

3. These cases show how political and military leaders can turn prejudice into organized killing, but the paths were not identical. In Rwanda, officials used an existing identity system and the president's death to mobilize attacks across the country. In Bosnia, war over territory enabled Bosnian Serb forces to target Bosniaks at Srebrenica. Neither conflict harmed only the people who died: displacement separated communities, and survivors faced lasting grief. International courts later prosecuted people responsible for crimes in both countries. At the same time, trials could not restore lives or erase the damage done to families and communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did extremist leaders in Rwanda turn existing prejudice and the president's death into attacks? Name the targeted group.

2. How did the war over territory in Bosnia help lead to the genocide at Srebrenica? Identify the forces and the targeted group.

3. Compare one effect on families in Rwanda with one effect on families after Srebrenica.

4. What role did messages about neighbors play in both cases, and how did the violence described in the passage differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum will display accounts of both genocides. Write one paragraph tracing a cause, the groups involved, and a lasting effect in each case, then explain one important difference between the two paths.

ANSWER KEY

Paths to Genocide

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HOS.22a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a cause of each genocide, circle the names of groups that carried out or faced violence, and number two effects on survivors or families. Use your marks to trace what happened in each case. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did extremist leaders in Rwanda turn existing prejudice and the president's death into attacks? Name the targeted group.	**After years of messages portraying Tutsi people as enemies, extremist leaders used the president's death to intensify attacks on Tutsi civilians.**
2	How did the war over territory in Bosnia help lead to the genocide at Srebrenica? Identify the forces and the targeted group.	**Bosnian Serb leaders sought territory and drove out Bosniaks. Bosnian Serb forces then captured Srebrenica and murdered more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys.**
3	Compare one effect on families in Rwanda with one effect on families after Srebrenica.	**In Rwanda, families lost relatives and support networks. After Srebrenica, displaced families spent years seeking the remains of missing relatives.**
4	What role did messages about neighbors play in both cases, and how did the violence described in the passage differ?	**Leaders in both places portrayed neighbors as threats. Attacks spread across Rwanda, while the passage describes Bosnian Serb forces killing Bosniak men and boys after capturing Srebrenica.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Rwanda, years of messages portraying Tutsi neighbors as enemies helped extremist leaders mobilize attacks after the president's plane was shot down. Government soldiers and Hutu militias killed Tutsi civilians, and many survivors fled their homes. In Bosnia, war over territory and nationalist messages preceded the capture of Srebrenica by Bosnian Serb forces. Those forces murdered more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys, leaving families searching for their remains. Both cases involved leaders treating a group of neighbors as a threat, but the passage describes attacks across Rwanda and a genocide following the capture of one town in Bosnia.

Accept other passage-supported links among causes, groups, and effects. Distinguish the Tutsi people targeted in the Rwandan genocide from Hutu opponents who were also murdered.