GENOCIDE

8 Stages as Defined by Gregory H. Stanton
Genocide Defined

Following WWII, in 1948, the Genocide Convention was passed by the U.N.

"In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(a) Killing members of the group;
(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."
8 Stages of Genocide

Adapted from the briefing of the President of Genocide Watch, Gregory H. Stanton.

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

Classification: is when items are placed into defined categories based on particular qualities. In a genocidal situation, classification is most dangerous when mixed groups are non-existent and a clear line of separation between groups exists. Two examples are listed below.
Examples

Rwanda

http://youtu.be/6TOSq9a8Hc8

Cambodia

- From 1975-1979, 25% of Cambodia's population were destroyed by Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot in an effort to create a "Communist peasant farming community." Pol Pot classified people in two categories: "base-people" and "new-people." In 1976, people were reclassified to: full rights (base people), candidates, and depositees (new people). All depositees (the educated, the wealthy, Buddhist monks, police, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and former government officials) were marked for death.
Stage 2: Symbolization

Symbolization is when symbols or names are given to the classes defined by Stage 1: Classification.

Cambodia

"At Phnom Penh, the Khmer Rouge issued every man, woman and child from the Eastern zone a new blue and white checked scarf, a kroma. The Khmer Rouge then required them to wear the scarf at all times.

'Other people wore red and white or yellow and white scarves, but weren't allowed to wear blue and white scarves,' Huy Rady, an eye witness explained. 'People from the Eastern zone would be known by their scarf. If you were wearing a blue scarf they would kill you.'"
Stage 3: Dehumanization

Dehumanization is defined as when one group begins to deny the humanity of another group, thus, setting the stage for vilifying the victims and eliminating any objections to murder. Hate propaganda begins.

- Nazis used speeches, posters, children’s books, movies, etc., to dehumanize Jews.
Stage 4: Organization

Organization is a key part of genocide. Militias, special army units, or informal groups are often specially trained for the eventual extermination.

Darfur

In Darfur, a militia group, the Janjaweed, are unofficially supported by the government. This organization of military factions is evidence of step 4, organization. The JEM (a rebel group) is the other side of the organizational structure.

Stage 5: Polarization

Polarization is an extreme separation of groups into opposing factions. Propaganda is increased. Laws may be put into place to not allow marriages between groups identified in the classification stage.

Stalin

While Hitler was busy in Germany, Stalin began working hard towards a Communist country in the U.S.S.R. Stalin encouraged the workers, "kulaks," to work for their country and to grow grain. However, he failed to mention that he would take all of their food and leave them to starve. Through starvation, Stalin murdered millions of Russian citizens.
Stage 6: Preparation

Preparation is the stage when victims are identified and separated physically from the rest of the population. Property is also taken. Stanton claims that "at this stage, a Genocide Emergency must be declared."

Bosnia

In the early 90's, thousands of people were slaughtered by the government after Bosnia declared independence. Serbs, and Muslims among other religious groups, were sighted for genocide.
Stage 7: Extermination

By this stage, mass killings are rampant and refugees are seeking safety. Extermination is the mass killing of genocide. It is called "extermination" because the perpetrators do not feel they are killing humans but are eliminating creatures.

Nanking

Also called The Rape of Nanjing, this atrocity occurred when the Japanese Imperial Army marched into the town of Nanjing to brutally annihilate everyone. On December 13, 1937, Japanese troops ensured one of the single greatest atrocities during World War II.
Stage 8: Denial

Denial is the final stage when perpetrators attempt to hide that anything has been done to "cleanse" their country. Stanton reports that "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."

Tibet

Tibet claims that China has been engaging in a cultural genocide for several decades. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's religious leader, was forced to flee Tibet in order to bring attention to China's crimes. Currently, the Dalai Lama is touring countries in order to gain support for his country's freedom. However, the Dalai Lama's wishes have mostly been ignored.
Holocaust Research

- Go to http://www.ushmm.org/propaganda/
- List examples from the site that qualify as stages 1-3.
- For each example explain how it qualifies as the specific stage and what was the intended use of the specific tool/idea/etc.
- Place your research on a google presentation. One per group.