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Historians studying genocides have found a common pattern among all genocides that have occurred in human history- even dating back to the first genocide of Carthage in 146 BC.<sup>1</sup> All genocides, including the Holocaust, follow eight stages: classification, symbolization, dehumanization, organization, polarization, preparation, extermination, and, possibly the worst of all, denial.<sup>2</sup> The fact that scholars are able to determine such specific similarities makes it essential that we remember and study the Holocaust. It also enables future generations to prevent violence motivated by prejudice.

The first stage of genocide, classification, is the easiest to prevent. During the Holocaust, the Nazis hoped to attain the perfect Aryan race by eliminating all people whom they considered to be inferior -- Jews, gays, gypsies, Jehovah witnesses, and other groups of people. Adolph Hitler and the Nazi party created a massive propaganda program that was intended to gain public support for the horrendous extermination plan. The propaganda emphasized the distinction between the Germans and sparking intense hatred. Unfortunately, it motivated ordinary German citizens to were not part of the perfect Aryan race. With this in mind, it is especially important that young people realize the harm it causes to individuals when they are categorized into distinct groups. Young people; should treat others with equal respect regardless of their ethnicity, or religion, or any other distinguishing factor. Despite the little differences humans may have, we are all still people and the similarities we share outweigh the differences among us. The best way to prevent classification is to create an organization that emphasizes the commonalities among groups of people and unites them rather than causing them to diverge by accentuating the

<sup>1</sup> Kiernan, Ben. "The First Genocide: Carthage, 146 BC." *Diogenes* 51.3 (2004): 27-39. Sage Journals Online. 2004.

Web. 3 Mar. 2010. <<http://dio.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/51/3/27>>.

<sup>2</sup> Stanton, Gregory H. "Genocide Watch." Genocide Watch Home Page. 1996. Web. 03 Mar. 2010. <<http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8stagesofgenocide.html>>.

differences. Even though it is part of human nature to classify people into distinct groups, excessive classification can lead to a myriad problems in the future. Even moving into the twenty-first century there is; a genocidal conflict in Darfur which has led to over two hundred thousand deaths.<sup>3</sup> This genocide is a prime example of how classification has led to violence because of discrimination. It highlights the fact that civilizations have been unable to learn from the events of the Holocaust also, so it is critical that younger generations work together to

Symbolization is similar to classification, but taken a step further by giving the diverse groups symbols so that they can be easily identified. During the Holocaust, the groups brought to concentration camps had to wear unique triangles on their clothes so they could be easily recognized. The most recognized is the yellow triangle of the Jews, but there were many more symbols including the pink homosexual triangle, the black mentally handicapped triangle, and other triangles for the remaining groups.<sup>4</sup> These symbols isolated thousands of people and made them feel as if they were subhuman and not adequate enough to be functional members of society. The classification of "minorities" made it easier for the "majority" to identify the inferior non-Aryan people, which led to the systematic isolation of them. Symbolization typically leads to the next stage of genocide, dehumanization in which made people feel inferior even though they were not. In order to prevent these two stages from transpiring, government organization needs to ban the use of hateful symbols. This will only work if there is full public support or else code words will be established, such as in Burundi<sup>5</sup> Young generations ought to work together to stop people from using hate symbols. Also, the youth of the world should work with Genocide Intervention, which strives to prevent genocide.

organizations such as:

3 "Darfur." Genocide Intervention Network. Web 29 Mar. 2010

[http://www.genocideintervention.net/areas\\_of\\_concern/darfur](http://www.genocideintervention.net/areas_of_concern/darfur).

4 "Holocaust Revealed." *Holocaust Is Not Finally Revealed*. Web 04 March. 2010.

<[http://www.holocaustrevealed.org/\\_domain/holocaustrevealed.org/Badges.htm](http://www.holocaustrevealed.org/_domain/holocaustrevealed.org/Badges.htm)>.

5 "Genocide Watch." *Genocide Watch Home Page*. Web. 29 Mar. 2010.

[http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8stagesof\\_genocide.html](http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8stagesof_genocide.html).

The next three stages, organization, polarization, and preparation, occur almost simultaneously. Genocides are typically organized by the government of the particular country. As with the Holocaust, the Nazi party ordered the mass murder of millions of people. This can be seen in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, which outlined his goals for the execution of all non-Aryan people.

Organization is followed by polarization of the entire country, usually by prohibiting interaction with the undesirables. Once all the groups are driven apart, all the "undesirables" are prepared for extermination by being separated from the rest of society." Here are estimates that during the Holocausts the Nazis established over fifteen thousand concentration camps which contained millions of undesirable people.<sup>6</sup> Students studying the Holocaust should realize that these aspects of genocide are just as important as the actual murder. The logistical aspect of genocide allows for the government to implement the plan for murder effectively and efficiently without leaving many traces behind. It is necessary that young people recognize these three stages of genocide and work with organizations such as the United Nations and other multinational groups; to put a stop to these phases before the extermination of countless individuals happens.

Most likely the worst stage of genocide is extermination in which millions of people are murdered without a reason. During the Holocaust, an innumerable amount of people were killed by being gassed, shot, starved, or worked to death. The guards at the concentration camps took no mercy on anyone and would quickly kill them. Young generations must realize how heartless these guards were, and that they had no concern about anyone's wellbeing other than their own. When genocide has only one effective measure is for rapid armed intervention by outside countries. Young generations, however, should attempt to prevent a situation from getting out of control and appreciate the value of every human life.

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<sup>6</sup>"Concentration Camp Listing." Jewish Virtual Library - Homepage. Web. 29 Mar. 2010. <<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/cclist.html>>.

of genocide is denial, which is the one that future generations can do the most happening. Since the Holocaust ended, Nazi supporters have attempted to deny that the Holocaust ever happened by sponsoring a propaganda campaign attempting to refute any evidence that the Holocaust transpired.<sup>7</sup> Despite their efforts, they have been unsuccessful because there are so many people that experienced the atrocities of the Holocaust firsthand. It is crucial that students study the Holocaust in school because then they will be able to learn about all of the horrific events that surrounded the Holocaust in order to appreciate the ruthless murder of so many innocent people. Since the generation that was forced to face the Holocaust is slowly fading away it is necessary that the younger generations understand it and are able to pass on the lessons of the Holocaust in attempts to prevent something similar from happening again. Unfortunately, it seems as if society has had difficulty learning from the events because there are still genocides happening across the globe. Darfur is one of the biggest areas of concern because there is so little public awareness of the crisis. Young generations: should apply the lessons from the Holocaust to situations, like Darfur, in hopes of finding a solution to a global problem.

Everyone says that it is important to study history to prevent it from repeating itself. Clearly this is true, but how much have we really learned? There are currently eight areas of concern and we have not been able to subdue these conflicts that could lead to genocide. It seems that society needs to focus more on global issues to save the lives of innocent people.

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<sup>7</sup> "Holocaust Denial." JeW/s/j <<http://www.jewishvirjuallibrary.org/jsourc/Holocaust/denial.html>>. Virtual Library - Homepage. Web. 30 Mar. 2010.

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