

TEACHER HANDOUT:
Four Scenarios (for Introductory Activity)

Scenario #1:

Just twenty years after the end of a massive international war, the world was ravaged by war once again. Millions of lives, both civilian and military, were lost. The war was in response to the nationalist and expansionist tendencies of a leader who led brutal invasions of a number of nations. To build national unity, the leader and his regime promoted pride in their race by targeting and scapegoating all minorities, particularly those of a certain religious group. In fact, this regime implemented a program of extermination that targeted members of this particular religious group, those of other ethnic minority groups, physically and mentally challenged people, homosexuals, and people who held political views that countered the norm.

Scenario #2:

The U.S. involved itself in a civil war in this region to defend the South from the Communist North and to prevent the spread of Communism in the region. A controversial war among Americans and abroad, this war was the longest and second most costly in U.S. history. More than two million Americans were sent to fight. More than 58,000 were killed, more than 300,000 wounded, and almost 14,000 completely disabled. In Country X today over two million dead are mourned. Four million were wounded and ten million displaced from their homes. More than five million acres of forest and croplands were laid to waste by 18 million gallons of poisonous chemical herbicides. Public opinion polls over the years consistently show that two of three Americans judge this war to have been a "mistake."

Scenario #3:

NATO launched a six-week bombing campaign against a nation in response to atrocities that this nation's government had begun to commit in a neighboring province. The government, led by a man who was eventually held accountable for crimes against humanity, forcibly removed hundreds of thousands of civilians from their homes, led rampant massacres and executions, and committed endless atrocities against the ethnic minority in the neighboring province. NATO's military campaign was designed to prevent a humanitarian disaster. This war, the first so-called 'humanitarian war,' was controversial because it was not sanctioned by a UN Security Council resolution, as the UN Charter mandates. The aggressor ultimately surrendered and the province became independent. By taking military action to protect one community, however, another suffered. The 23,000 bombs NATO dropped killed an estimated 500 civilians.

Scenario #4:

At least half a million people perished in a campaign of genocide in this country -- an estimated three quarters of the minority group's population and thousands of others who opposed the killing and the forces directing it. Some allege that policymakers in France, Belgium, the United States, and at the United Nations knew of the preparations for massive slaughter and failed to take steps to prevent it. Aware that the minority ethnic group was being targeted for elimination, the leading foreign actors refused to acknowledge the genocide. Stopping the leaders and the extremists would have required a relatively small military force. Not only did international leaders reject this course; they also declined for weeks to use their political and moral authority to challenge the legitimacy of the genocidal government.

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