

# Chapter 7: Ethnicity

Key Issue Four: What is ethnic  
cleansing?

# Ethnic Cleansing

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- Ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia
  - *Creation of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia*
  - *Destruction of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia*
- Ethnic cleansing in central Africa

# Ethnic Cleansing

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- ◉ Ethnic cleansing- the process in which a more powerful ethnic group forcibly removes a less powerful one in order to create an ethnically homogeneous region.
  - Probably the best example is WWII in which millions of Jews, gypsies, and other ethnicities were forcibly moved to concentration camps, where most were exterminated.
  - For example, “Schindler’s List”

# Forced Migrations after World War Two

## WORLD WAR II MAJOR FORCED MIGRATIONS (POPULATION MOVEMENT IN MILLIONS)

- Germans
- Baltic peoples
- Russians
- Poles
- Czechs
- Settled by International Refugee Organization
- Land added to USSR
- Land added to Poland



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Territorial changes after World War II resulted in many migrations, especially by Poles, Germans, and Russians.

# The Balkans

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- ◉ Balkanized- used to describe a small geographic area that **could not** successfully be organized onto one or more stable states because it was inhabited by many ethnicities with complex, long-standing antagonisms toward each other.
- ◉ Balkanization- the process by which a state breaks down due to conflicts among its ethnicities.
  - Led directly to WW I
  - Belief that only peace can come from ethnic cleansing

# The Balkans in 1914



The northern part of the Balkans was part of Austria-Hungary in 1914, while much of the south was part of the Ottoman Empire. The country of Yugoslavia was created after World War I.

# Languages in Southeastern Europe



## INDO-EUROPEAN FAMILY

Balto-Slavic Branch		Romance Branch		Other branches	
	Bulgarian		Russian		Friulian
	Croatian		Serbian		Albanian
	Czech		Slovak		Italian
	Macedonian		Romansh		Germanic
	Polish		Romanian		Greek
	Ukrainian				
OTHER FAMILIES					
	Altaic Turkish		Uralic (Magyar)		

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Several new states were created, and boundaries were shifted after World Wars I and II. New state boundaries often coincided with language areas.

# Ethnic Regions in Yugoslavia



Yugoslavia's six republics until 1992 included much ethnic diversity. Brutal ethnic cleansing occurred in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo during the civil wars of the 1990s.



# Ethnic Regions in Yugoslavia

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- The fall of Communism in Eastern Europe opened up ways for ethnic clashes (Serbs, Czechs, Slovenes...)
- People no longer wanted to stay with the dominant population but instead wanted to form their own independent nation-states.
  - For example, Slovenia formed out of former Yugoslavia which had been controlled by the Serbs.
  - 90% of Slovenia people are Slovenes, so they have few problems . . . But other areas with more ethnic mixes have BIG problems.

# Ethnic Regions in Yugoslavia

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- Once Yugoslavia divided into six republics, the boundaries did not align with the boundaries of the five largest nationalities, and ethnicities fought to redefine the boundaries.
- In some cases in Bosnia and Kosovo, ethnic cleansing was used to strengthen certain nationalities' cases for autonomy. As a result, millions of ethnicities were forcibly removed from their homes and marched elsewhere, or simply killed.

# Bridge in Mostar, Yugoslavia



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The Stari Most (old bridge) was built in 1566. This was the bridge before the civil war in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

# Bridge Destroyed in Bosnian War 1993



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# Rebuilt Bridge, 2004



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# Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo



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Aerial photography helped document the stages of ethnic cleansing in western Kosovo in 1999.

# Ethnicities in Africa



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The boundaries of African states do not (and cannot) coincide with the thousands of ethnic groups on the continent.

# Ethnicities in Africa

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- Case Study: Rwanda
- The main fight in Rwanda has been between the Hutus (“servant”) and the Tutsis (“rich in cattle”)
- This area was once colonized – the Germans, then the Belgians once controlled Rwanda and Burundi
- Prior to the colonial rule, the Hutus and the Tutsis did not get along
- Under colonization, the Tutsis were given special treatment (more European-like features)
- When in 1994, the president’s plane was shot down, the Hutus believed the Tutsis plan was to enslave the Hutu people; a violent reaction took place...
- This spread to the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as others... in short, there is still much strife in Africa today.