Chapter 7: Ethnicity

Key Issue Four: What is ethnic cleansing?

Ethnic Cleansing

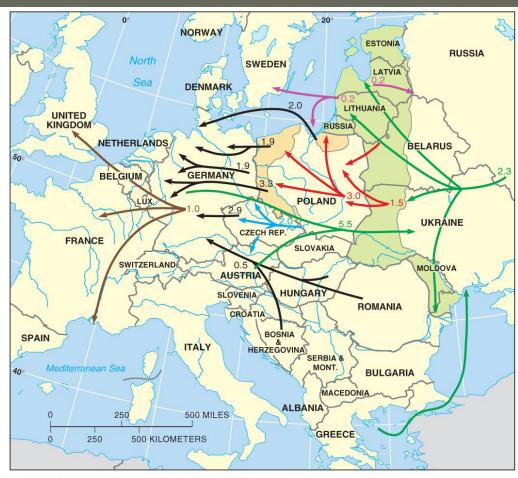
- Ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia
 - Creation of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia
 - Destruction of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia
- Ethnic cleansing in central Africa

Ethnic Cleansing

- Ethnic cleansing- the process in which a more powerful ethnic group forcible 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





Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

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

The Balkans

- 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



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.

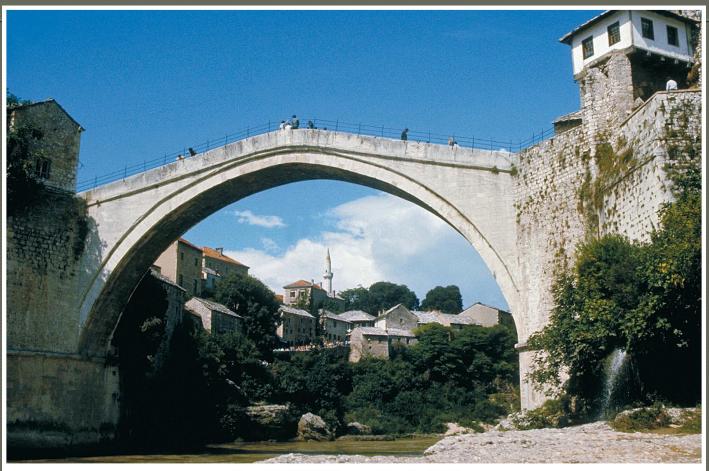
Ethnic Regions in Yugoslavia

- 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

- 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



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

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



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Rebuilt Bridge, 2004



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

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

Ethnicities in Africa



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

Ethnicities in Africa

- 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.