GENOCIDE INVESTIGATION

Confrontation between humans existed from the beginning of mankind. Throughout the history it has acquired different forms. Very often these forms were terrible. They were transformed into forms that no longer could be called “confrontation” but extermination. Guided by sense of superiority one groups intentionally exterminated others. The biggest exterminations – genocides – occurred in the XX century. Holocaust (aimed to exterminate European Jews), Holodomor (famine in Soviet Ukraine), and Srebrenica massacre (genocide of Muslim Boaniaks) will be discussed in this paper.

Holocaust took part in the middle of twentieth century in Europe. Lead by Germans it was aimed to exterminate all the Jews in Germany and territories later occupied by Germany. In order to clean Europe from Jews “special treatment” was implemented. It started with limiting access to public spheres, abuse, and harassment of Jewish people. They were barred from schools, hospitals, newspapers, movies, stages etc. Many of their books and synagogues were burned. By the end of 1930th several concentration camps were opened and several ghettos were created. The strongest Jews were forced to work; others were killed in death camps.

The idea that Jews are guilty of German troubles was framed in Hitler’s book “Mein Campf”. When he became a dictator the policy against the Jews was one of the foundations of the Nazi party. To solve “Jewish Question” there were created special military killing groups – Einsatzgruppen. A person that was mainly responsible for Final Solution of the Jewish question was Adolf Eichmann.

Hitler considered Jews to be the greatest enemies of the Germans. Not only because they belonged to a lower race, but because Hitler thought that the Jews had invented all the ideas – all philosophies, all laws, all political systems – that harmed the Germans. In the Hitler ideological system, Jews were guilty of everything that was bad for the Germans. That fact that political order was destructed enabled the Holocaust. This is a situation when it is proclaimed that the former states do not exist now when they deliberately create a situation of lawlessness, in which people begin to behave in a completely different way than they did yesterday. It is estimated that around 6 millions of Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

Almost at the same time in Soviet Ukraine genocide, called Holodomor, was organized. It was not aimed at Ukrainian nation as such, but mostly on the peasantry. Ukraine became a part of Soviet Union in 1922. When the communist regime was established, such changes as social, political, and socio-economic occurred in Ukraine. That affected, first and foremost, the traditional Ukrainian village. Policy of collectivization was announced by Soviet leadership in 1928. It was supposed to combine individual private peasant holdings and collective farms converting everything into state property. The policy of the Soviet regime made the Ukrainian people resist.

Stalin, who saw the basis of the national movement in peasantry, struck this social group. In 1932, an unrealistic plan for grain procurement was set up for Ukraine. Lazar Kaganovich and Viacheslav Molotov – Stalin`s closest associates – had the information about the situation in the first half of 1932 in Ukraine and the scale of the famine. In 1932 there was passed a repressive resolution, which was called the “law on the five spikelets”. By this law the state forbade to hungry peasants to collect crop residues in the fields. Otherwise, they would be imprisoned for ten years and their property would be confiscated. In fact, by this law people did no longer own their food. This resolution organized special groups of people who were responsible of checking all households for the purpose of forcible collection of grain.

In the spring of 1933, mortality in Ukraine acquired catastrophic proportions. This was all carried out in the presence of large grain reserves in centralized state reserve funds and large-scale food exports. This fact confirms that the intention of the Soviet leadership was destruction and extermination part of the Ukrainian nation. The estimated number of victims of Holodomor is 7 millions.

Genocide in Bosnia took place in July 1995, just a few months before the end of the war in Bosnia. Bosnia became a part of just-formed and ruled by Serbs Yugoslavia after the First World War. In 1991 Yugoslavia collapsed and such former Yugoslavian countries as Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia declared an independence. Bosnia, populated with Bosnian Serbs (which were the biggest ethnical group there), Bosnian Croats, and Muslim Bosniaks, called for independence as well. This was the cause for Serb forces to enter Bosnia. With the beginning of war in Bosnia the civilian population succumbed to the attacks of militaries. By the end of 1993, major part of Bosnia was controlled by Serbs led by Radovan Karadzic and Ratlo Mladic.

To mediate situation and to protect Muslims safe areas were created; though, they did not function well. One of them, the town of Srebrenica, was Muslim enclave surrounded by Serbian troops. In July 1995 troops commanded by Mladic entered Srebrenica. Some people managed to escape, but the majority of the population of the town was deported. Men were separated from women and kids. First ones were killed by Serbian military groups. Those ones who were trying to escape were killed as well. Bosnian-Serbian formations kidnapped and killed about 8,000 Muslim Bosniaks.

All these events are united by terrible supremacy of some people over others. All these genocides occurred in conditions of dictatorship and absence of statehood of one of the parties. The ideologies of the governing parties were very similar to each other. Later, it took years for some groups and countries to recognize these events as genocide. According to Timothy Snyder, these events can give us a lesson – a lesson in the existence of human rights. If someone can ruin the state, humanity needs concepts that will enable the person, who lost his state, to be saved from the destruction.