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Name: _____

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Adopted by Resolution 260 (III) A of the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948.

Preamble:

The Contracting Parties,

Having considered the declaration made by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 96 (I) dated 11 December 1946 that genocide is a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations and condemned by the civilized world,

Recognizing that at all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity, and

Being convinced that, in order to liberate mankind from such odious scourge, international cooperation is required,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article I

The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and punish.

Article II

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article III

The following acts shall be punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
- (e) Complicity in genocide.

Article IV

Persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article III shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals.

Historical Events: King Leopold and the Congo Free State

Instructions: Read the event(s) assigned to your group and answer the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

Note on Disturbing Content

This reading contains content that may be upsetting for readers. It describes physical and psychological violence, and might be particularly intense for students with a personal connection to the topic. It is important to be sensitive to your classmates and the ways in which this might be a difficult topic to study.

inhabitants. Because they were forced to collect rubber, Congolese could not hunt or tend to their own crops, which resulted in widespread starvation. As many as ten million Congolese died in the first two decades of colonialism, largely as a result of abuses by Leopold's colonial officials.

Colonial administrators also destroyed parts of Congolese culture. Officials took orphaned children away from their communities to work

The region that is today the Democratic Republic of the Congo became the personal colony of King Leopold II of Belgium in 1885. The Congo Free State measured more than seventy-six times the size of Belgium. Its population of more than twenty million was diverse, with approximately 250 different ethnic groups.

Leopold's top priority was to make money from his venture, the Congo Free State. Colonial officials constructed an economy based on the export of rubber and ivory to Europe. These goods were produced by the forced labor of Africans. In 1901 alone, six thousand tons of rubber left the colony. Colonial officials required Africans to meet daily quotas, and when people did not collect enough rubber, officials inflicted brutal punishments. Officials used rape, mutilation, and murder as punishment and as a way to control native Congolese. When communities rebelled, officials often killed all the



Historical Events: The Conquest of the Desert

Instructions: Read the event(s) assigned to your group and answer the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

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The country of Argentina gained its independence from Spain in 1816. Argentina's newly unified central government wanted to expand its control of land from the coastal areas into more inland areas inhabited by Native groups. This was a way of increasing agricultural and commercial production and providing land to new immigrants of European origin, whom government officials saw as superior to Native people. Many Argentinian officials believed in eugenics, a racist and false theory claiming that there are racial differences in humans. Officials wanted to eliminate the possibility of mixing with Native groups because they believed the groups were inferior and prevented the country from developing economically. In addition, Argentines hoped that by taking land further west they would prevent the neighboring country of Chile from expanding its borders.

Continuing the long history of colonizing Native land to expand its borders, between 1878 and 1885 the Argentine government began a military campaign in the regions of Pampas and Patagonia. General Julio Argentino Roca, the national minister of defense who became the president

of Argentina from 1880-1886 and again from 1898-1904, started the campaign.

During this campaign, the army was authorized to execute prisoners, including women and children. Families of Native groups were separated. Children were often kidnapped or forcibly removed



