

□ Summary Part 1

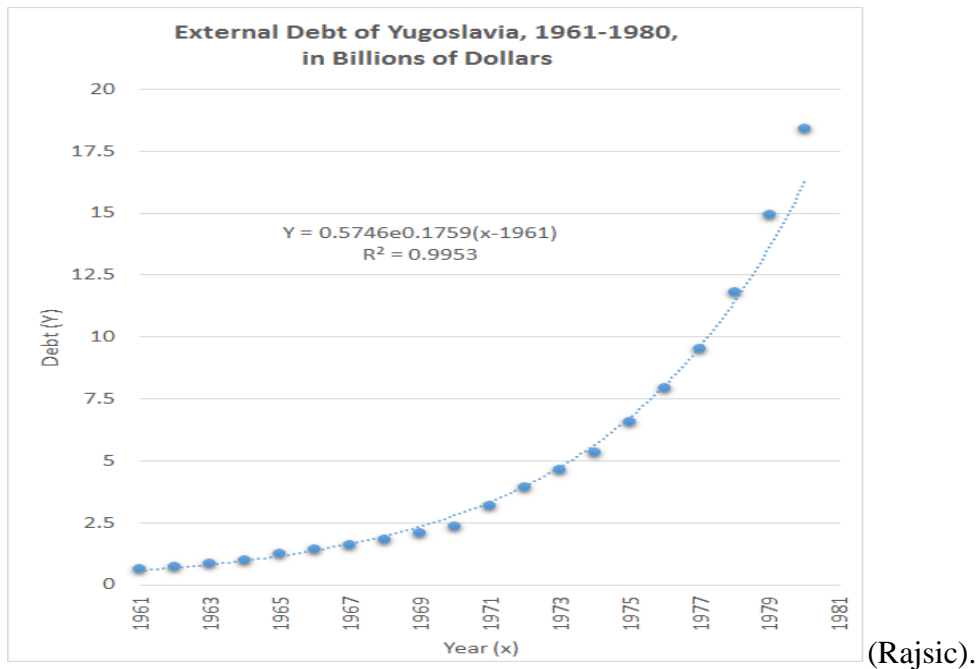
Now, a major argument by Robert D. Kaplan in his book *Balkan Ghosts* suggested that the cause of genocide and mass killings in Bosnia were due to ancient hatreds in the Balkans. Although it is a possibility that war may have re-risen due to years of historical conflict, it is far-fetched to believe one civilization would choose to eradicate another based on ancient hatreds; especially since all the waging factions prior to the Bosnian War worked together in a single society for dozens of years. Therefore, the research team for this study rejects Kaplan's argument and in its place, believes that the Bosnian elite (politicians/leaders/generals) strategized the use of mass killings and genocide as a tool to solidify power and masked it as a push for a purer society.

The study also researched Josip Broz Tito regarding his rule as President of Yugoslavia. Almost everyone who has studied European history covering post WWII should know about Josip Tito. Since, he is most known for his defiance of the Soviet Union and Joseph Stalin, despite ruling a communist state post-WWII. Additionally, his dictatorship notwithstanding its cruelty to political freedom, was proclaimed as the knot that tied all the Yugoslavian states together. Then during the 1970s, Yugoslavia's economy plummeted and tensions broke loose between the Republic of Yugoslavia. Tito's death followed in 1980. This is one reason why most people believed Josip was the only one holding things together, and without him those ancient hatreds would arise.

However, there is much evidence that says otherwise. Near the end of Josip Tito's life and presidency Josip changed the constitution in 1973 to appeal to the Croatian Spring in the 1970s. The constitutional change created autonomous Serbian provinces were created in Kosovo and Vojvodina. The provinces could keep their voting rights, but were not allowed to split from

Yugoslavia if greater Serbia voted to remove itself from the collective of Yugoslavia (Curtis). This action appealed to the Croats who criticized the amount of Serbian power in the Yugoslavian government, but it enraged the Serbian factions a part of the government.

Additionally, there was the 1970s oil crises that caused the world economy to destabilize, especially in the west. With the West unable to afford trading with smaller countries like Yugoslavia, Yugoslavia's economy plummeted. To put in perspective, view graphic 1:



The debt in 1973 was five-billion dollars and eight years later in 1981 it was eighteen-billion dollars.

Thus, by Josip Tito's death the Republic of Yugoslavia burdened over seventeen-point-five billion dollars in debt and a constitutional change remapped the layout of their provinces. Backtracking to the constitutional change, the power loss from the Serbian elite solidifies why they considered and used mass-killings to eradicate Croats and Bosniaks from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since, with a massive decrease in Croat and Bosniak population the Serbian government would have easily toppled any opposing votes to increase their power within

Bosnia-Herzegovina. Lastly, at the start of the war, the Serbs controlled the military, so that made it easier for elite to convince citizens to join the fight against Croats and Bosniaks because there was no reason to fear retaliation. Therefore, Josip Tito's death may have been the tip of the iceberg, but it wasn't the reason why a country full of diverse cultures turned to genocide.

Summary Part 2

The Social Roots of Genocide study aimed at finding reasons for genocide and mass killings at the individual level. The study focused on the case of the Bosnian Genocide during the Bosnian war between 1991 and 1995. During this time, was the siege of Sarajevo and the genocide at Srebrenica, where Muslim Bosnians or Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats were targeted by Serbian Bosnians. Through the siege of Sarajevo April 1992, thousands died over the course of four years (United to End Genocide). Then, at Srebrenica in July 1995, 450 UN Peacekeepers were overwhelmed by a Serbian force. The Serbian forces took over the town in less than a day, expelled 25,000 women and children, then searched and hunted 15,000 male Bosniaks. Another 3,000 people were killed by either gunshot or decapitation while trying to escape (United to End Genocide). Separate from Srebrenica and Sarajevo, other cities in Bosnia allowed Serbian militias to conduct similar actions such as rape, killing, torcher, and forced-labor. One of the reasons, and the one this study focused on, people decided to allow militias to conduct these acts were due to incentives.

In order to gain economic benefits, many people during the Bosnian War supported militias, despite their grievous actions against similar kin. The author Fotini Christia, wrote a scholarly article addressing the reasons why people would join militias or support militias who committed heinous crimes against their peers. Her research discovered that people who had a

friendship with someone in a militia and support of the militias gave way to economic benefits then the citizen would more likely support the militia and ignore the crimes committed by the militants (Christia). Due to the amount of people affected, limited amount of available testimonies, and facts, I resorted to looking at other cases where incentives were used. I found my second case from victims of the Holocaust, specifically with Mirjam Geismar. Mirjam was a stowaway during WWII, her family paid for her protection with multiple friends who kept her safe (Werman). Unlike Fotini's article, the story of Mirjam showed how people were incentivized to keep others safe from harm. Unfortunately, a more prominent scenario during WWII occurred when families would give up valuable belongings in a worsening attempt to bribe Nazi soldiers to look the other way or save them from harm. Somewhat similarly, during the Rwandan Genocide elite used incentives with Rwandan citizens. Often, the political elite from the Hutu regime or officers would use bribery to incentivize TV stations to broadcast and coordinate their cause, or to put up bounties for killing or giving up Tutsis (Martin). These examples show how people responded and used money as tools of destruction or for a lesser extent, to find safety.

Citations

1. Christia, Fotini. *Following the Money: Muslim Versus Muslim in Bosnia's Civil War*. City University of New York, 2008.
2. United to End Genocide. "The Bosnian War and Srebrenica Genocide." 2016
<http://endgenocide.org/learn/past-genocides/the-bosnian-war-and-srebrenica-genocide/> .
3. Rajsic, Predrag. "The Economy of Tito's Yugoslavia: Delaying the Inevitable Collapse." March 13, 2014, <https://www.mises.ca/the-economy-of-titos-yugoslavia-delaying-the-inevitable-collapse/> .

4. Curtis E., Glenn. *Yugoslavia: A Country Study*. Washington DC: Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1992.
5. Werman, Marco. “This Jewish couple survived the Holocaust hidden behind a church organ. Their daughter — also in hiding — had no idea.” November 27, 2015, <https://www.pri.org/stories/2015-11-27/jewish-couple-survived-holocaust-hidden-behind-church-organ-their-daughter-also> .
6. Martin, Brian. *Managing outrage over genocide: case study Rwanda*. Routledge, 2009.

Reflection and discussion

I think that the original goals for this project were somewhat met. I think that the scope of this project however, was too large. The purpose of the research needed to be more exact. I found that it was easier to find more paths than to stay on the same one. In order to combat this I, hope to develop my own research and when I have found a specific enough goal I may apply for a research grant again. Additionally, I think it would've been much better to work with a teammate or two. Not to say that this project wasn't worth it, I believe it certainly was. However, I feel that I asked more questions that I eventually answered. Regarding my academic experience, this project definitely educated me on how to use my time wisely. Additionally, it taught me how much I should not be committing myself to while being a part of a SEF study. More importantly, I learned a ton, through reading tens of hours of research and listening to testimonials, it was a great experience. I would have to say that future students should attempt at getting out of their comfort while researching. I spent a lot of time on the computer and reading books. The most fun I had was finding Manny Rangel, the Seal Soldier whom I interviewed. So, if I could go back and do it again, I would consider finding more people I could interview because the information felt more alive and intriguing.