



The Forgiveness Project

Forgiving the Unforgivable – Lesson Plan 1

Lesson 1 of 3 – A personal experience of the Bosnian War

Kemal Pervanic's story – Part 1

55 mins (film duration 9 mins)



A personal experience of the Bosnian War

Please ensure the staff member facilitating this lesson has an understanding of the Bosnian War. A timeline is at the end of this lesson plan. This short clip (7 mins) from the 1995 BBC documentary, *Death of Yugoslavia*, sets out the process and scale of ethnic cleansing during the Bosnian War: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbNocQORWQ8>. ***Please note this contains very graphic scenes and is not suitable to be shown to the students.***

Lesson objective: 1. To be able to explain the personal experience of someone who has lived through the Bosnian War.

Key vocabulary: Yugoslavia, nationalism, persecuted, concentration camp, Omarska camp, Prijedor massacre, demonise.

Teacher activity	Learner activity	Time
Who is Kemal Pervanic / Profile of Kemal Invite students to read the passage in their student booklet in pairs and to complete the profile of Kemal as a teenager.	Read the passage in the student booklet and complete the profile.	5 mins
Kemal Pervanic's story / Film notes Introduce the story and the ground rules. Watch the film and ask students to make notes or questions throughout the film of any words they don't fully understand or parts of the story they would like to discuss afterwards. Invite students to volunteer questions or comments.	Watch the film and make notes or write questions throughout the film of any words you don't fully understand or areas you would like to discuss further.	20 mins
Timeline In pairs ask students to re-order the events and action statements in chronological order from 1-When people in Yugoslavia started to face economic hardship, to 8-When Kemal and his brother were detained indefinitely in Omarska camp. Correct the order on slide 8 of the PowerPoint.	Re-order the events in your student booklet to show what happened to Kemal.	10 mins
Class discussion As a class ask the students to discuss why they think the Bosnian War was started. What triggers were there? Why do they think Kemal and his family were targeted? Can the class see any parallels between the treatment of some ethnic / racial groups across the world today?	Take part in the class discussion as outlined on the PowerPoint presentation.	18 mins
Next Lesson We will explore Kemal's time in Omarska Concentration camp and how he came to cope with his ordeal. Question to think about before next lesson: How would a person feel if their friends and teachers turned against them and became part of a large group that persecuted them and their family?	For the next lesson, think about how would a person feel if their friends and teachers turned against them and became part of a large group that persecuted them and their family?	2 mins

Definitions

Yugoslavia: former country in Southern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula consisting of Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, & Macedonia.

Nationalism: can be seen on a spectrum from advocacy of political independence for a particular country (ie. Scottish National Party) to a more extreme form marked by a feeling of superiority over other countries.

Persecuted: to torment, abuse or treat people cruelly over a long period of time, especially because of their race, religion, or political beliefs, or to harass someone persistently.

Concentration camp: a state-run camp where large numbers of people are kept as prisoners in extremely bad conditions, often for political reasons.

Omarska camp: labeled a "death camp" by the Hague Tribunal. It was run by Bosnian Serb forces in the mining town of Omarska, near Prijedor in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina, and set up for Bosniak and Croat men and women during the Prijedor massacre.

Prijedor massacre: also known as the Prijedor ethnic cleansing, and part of the wider "Bosnian Genocide" of 1992. It refers to numerous war crimes committed during the Bosnian War by the Serb political and military leadership, mostly against Bosniak civilians in the Prijedor region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the Srebrenica genocide, it was the second largest massacre committed during the Bosnian War.

Demonise: to try to make someone or a group of people seem as if they are evil.

Bosnia-Herzegovina profile - Timeline

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17212376>

1908 - Bosnia-Herzegovina annexed to Austria-Hungary.

1914 - A Bosnian Serb student, Gavrilo Princip, assassinates the Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. This precipitates World War I.

1918 - Austria-Hungary collapses at the end of the war. Bosnia-Herzegovina becomes part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

1941 - Bosnia-Herzegovina annexed by pro-Hitler Croatian puppet state. Thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies are sent to the death camps.

1945 - Bosnia-Herzegovina liberated following campaign by partisans under Tito.

1945-1991- Bosnia is part of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

1991 - Following the collapse of communism, nationalists win first multi-party elections and form coalition government despite having conflicting goals: Muslim nationalists want centralised independent Bosnia, Serb nationalists want to stay in Belgrade-dominated rump Yugoslavia, Croats want to join independent Croatian state.

1992 - Croat and Muslim nationalists form tactical alliance and outvote Serbs at independence referendum. Serb nationalists are incensed as constitution stipulates that all major decisions must be reached through consensus.

War breaks out and Serbs quickly assume control of over half the republic. Ethnic cleansing is rampant in the newly proclaimed Serb Republic but also widespread in Muslim and Croat-controlled areas.

The Bosnian Serbs, under Radovan Karadzic, lay siege to Sarajevo. The city is controlled by Muslims but they are unable to break out through lines set up to defend surrounding Serb villages. There is bitter fighting as well as many atrocities.

1993 - As tensions rise, conflict breaks out between Muslims and Croats, culminating in the destruction of much of Mostar, including its Old Bridge. The bridge had graced the city since it was built by the Ottomans in the 16th century and was a symbol of Bosnia's cultural diversity.

The conflict is extremely complex. Muslims and Serbs form an alliance against Croats in Herzegovina, rival Muslim forces fight each other in north-west Bosnia, Croats and Serbs fight against Muslims in central Bosnia.

UN safe havens for Bosnian Muslim civilians are created, to include Sarajevo, Gorazde and Srebrenica.

1995 - Safe haven of Srebrenica is overrun by Bosnian Serb forces under General Ratko Mladic. Thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys are separated from their families and massacred, despite the presence of Dutch UN troops. Nato air strikes against Serb positions help Muslim and Croat forces make big territorial gains, expelling thousands of Serb civilians on the way.

Dayton peace accord signed in Paris. It creates two entities of roughly equal size, one for Bosnian Muslims and Croats, the other for Serbs. An international peacekeeping force is deployed.

Notes