

ABSTRACT:

As part of “ethnic cleansing,” a goal of the Bosnian Serb Army was not only to exterminate and drive the Muslim (Bosniak) people out of Bosnia, but to use systematic mass rape as a method to eradicate the existence of the Muslim identity and culture in Bosnia–Herzegovina. Through purposeful impregnation and kidnapping, the Bosnian Serb Army targeted the culture and self-identification of Bosnian Muslims as Muslims.



Taken from *We Remember the Bosnian Genocide* on WordPress, here are some of the infants that were taken from their mothers, victims of systematic mass rape, by the Bosnian Serb Army to be raised as Serbs, ignoring their hereditary identity and focusing on their self-identification. (*We Remember the Bosnian Genocide, 1992–95*, WordPress)

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY: The International Law Commission’s Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind (1996), Article 18:

“...any of the following acts, when committed in a *systematic* manner or on a large scale and instigated or directed by a Government or by any organization or group:

- Murder;
- Extermination*;
- Torture;
- Enslavement;
- Persecution on political, racial, religious or ethnic grounds*;
- Institutionalized *discrimination on racial, ethnic or religious grounds* involving the violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms and resulting in seriously *disadvantaging a part of the population*;
- Arbitrary deportation or *forcible transfer* of population;
- Arbitrary imprisonment;
- Forced disappearance of persons;
- Rape, enforced prostitution and other forms of sexual abuse*;
- Other inhumane acts which *severely damage physical or mental integrity, health or human dignity, such as mutilation and severe bodily harm*.”

Systematic Mass Rape as Cultural Eradication in Bosnia–Herzegovina

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Bosnia CIA Documents

According to the map provided, approximately forty–six towns were “ethnically cleansed” and four detention camps were set up. The United States Department of State discussed that the techniques used by the Bosnia Serb Army included “...employing rape as a tool of war to terrorize and uproot populations...” (CIA, 2013 1994–12–01)



Map of Bosnia–Herzegovina including placement of detention camps and labeling of towns that had been considered “ethnically cleansed” (CIA, 2013 1994–12–01)

DSM–V PTSD

The DSM–V diagnostic criteria identify the trigger to PTSD as exposure to actual or threatened death, serious injury, or sexual violation. The exposure must result from one or more of the following scenarios, in which the individual:

- Directly experiences* the traumatic experience
- Witnesses* the traumatic event in person
- Learns that the traumatic event occurred to a *close family member or close friend*
- Experiences *firsthand repeated or extreme exposure* to aversive details of the traumatic experience
- >Sexual assault is specifically included as a *recurring exposure to trauma*

While victims are likely to suffer directly from PTSD, witnesses of the traumatic experiences will also suffer from future effects. Actual or threatened experiences of humiliation may cause individuals to seek safety through behavior modification to avoid being humiliated.

–The most current version of the DSM (the DSM–V) has been rewritten in terms of the criteria that discuss PTSD to include the effects such violence has on witnesses as well as victims of sexual assault

HUMILIATION

Humiliation can be used as a tool to undermine an individual’s sense of identity. Humiliation places more “emphasis on an interaction...” in which an attack is conducted on a person’s self-identity, which is a trait that is not readily changeable, versus, for example, the way an individual talks or how they write. Thus the systematic use of mass rape in humiliating the prisoners of the Bosnian Serb Army creates a feeling associated with “one’s identity [being] demeaned or devalued.”

–*Humiliation: Assessing the Impact of Derision, Degradation, and Debasement*

METHODS:

◆Psychology of Trauma (Stewart, 2010)

◆Ritual Studies (Rappaport, 1999)

Rituals *enact* meaning, including new social organizations and identity. (Rappaport 1999)

◆Hypothesis Testing

If organized groups and/or governments use systematic mass rape as a method of cultural eradication, then the culture is likely to suffer dramatic losses and face possible eradication.

–*Victims* of Systematic Mass Rape in Bosnia: Bosnian–Serb forces took the babies of violated Muslim women to raise them as Serb, erasing the ethnic marker of Bosnian Muslims.

–*Witnesses* of Systematic Mass Rape in Bosnia: behavior modification to avoid future risks of being humiliated for the ethnic markers they identify with, resulting in lesser numbers of people who identify as Muslim

–*Ritual Enactment of Meaning* demonstrates how simply an action, according to society’s standards, is given meaning based on the social constructs surrounding it (ie, marriage)



A woman cries in front of a broken minaret as a result of the conflict in Bosnia–Herzegovina; it serves as a point from which the call to prayer can be made from. (*General Guilty of Bosnia War Crimes*, bbc.co.uk)

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS:

The psychological implications of systematic mass rape as a method of cultural eradication effects not only the victims but also the witnesses, resulting in behavior modification in direct response to a fear of humiliation directed at a person’s self identity. Such use of systematic mass rape, which then results in post-traumatic stress syndrome and thus humiliates both the victim and the witness, results in the eradication of a culture due to the behavior modification that victims and witnesses undergo. Because of being targeted as Muslim, victims and witnesses would then avoid the self-identification as Muslim, therefore the Bosnian–Serb army would be able to accomplish their goal of eradicating the culture.

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