



THE BOSNIAN WAR

A project carried out by the students of Loreto Abbey, Dalkey, co. Dublin, under the supervision of Niall Oman.

Video available [here](#).

Transcript:

Our school worked very closely with the Bosnian school Prva Gimnazija, Sarajevo, during this project, and we learned a lot about their history and culture. So we decided to make this video about the history of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After WWII, Yugoslavia was subdivided into six Republics (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro) and under Communist rule Tito held these Republics together.

After Tito died in 1980, the Communist government fell apart and the Republics started to pull away from each other. Centuries-old cultural and religious disagreements and conflicts arose again between different ethnic groups which led to the countries' breakup. This was because each of the Republics had different histories, identities, religious beliefs, and ethnicities. The conflicts were especially brutal in Bosnia. After Bosnia's referendum for independence, Serb forces besieged the city of Sarajevo, which started the war in Bosnia. Civilian parts of the city were targeted, using shelling and sniping. Over 250,000 people were trapped in the city for the duration of the siege of Sarajevo, which lasted almost four years. It was the longest siege in modern history. Over 11,000 people were killed in the siege of Sarajevo, 1,600 of whom were children. The people of Sarajevo survived off the food sent for them from the United Nations as humanitarian aid for those four years.

Srebrenica was made a UN safe area by the UN Security Council. Thousands of Bosnian Muslim people fled to Srebrenica for safety. On the 11th of July 1995, General Mladić, the leader of the Serb forces, captured the town of Srebrenica, claiming it for the Bosnian Serbs. Men who were aged between 12 and 77 were separated from the women, children, and the elderly. Over 23,000 women, children and elderly people

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were then deported by force from the enclave. Many of these people were raped and tortured. The men were taken away and their personal possessions were burnt. A brutal and organised massacre followed, resulting in the murder of 8,372 men in Srebrenica by Bosnian Serb soldiers. This was done to eradicate the area of Bosnian Muslims, a policy known as ethnic cleansing.

In total 40,000 people were declared as missing after the war. In the area around Srebrenica over 3,000 mass graves have been discovered since 1995, with the remains of victims inside. In 1995 the Bosnian Serb forces dug up bodies from the mass graves and reburied them in remote areas in an organised effort to hide the murder and genocide of the Bosnian Muslim people of Srebrenica. Even today, there are still unidentified bodies. Of the 8,372 people killed at Srebrenica, many bodies still haven't been found. The Srebrenica massacre is the worst mass killing on European soil since WWII.

A ceasefire and post-war arrangements were agreed in Dayton, OH, ending the war in November 1995. This was known as the Dayton Accords. The Bosnian War and genocide left more than 100,000 people dead and 2 million people displaced and also resulted in the systematic rape of between 20,000 and 50,000 women. All of this violence was enacted upon them because of their religious, ethnic and cultural identity. Serbia has apologised for the crimes committed during the Bosnian War, but it has not admitted to the mass killings as being a part of a campaign of genocide.

We, as the students of Loreto Abbey in Dalkey, dedicate this video to all the innocent victims of this brutal war. May they rest in peace.

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