A Long Time Ago in Masterâ€™s Program Far Away â€“ Genocide and People

Description

While on the sweetest shore duty known to a sea going sailor, short of being a Naval Attache in the Down Under (so Iâ€™m told, never got to make it there, but had a friend who did), I had to pen a paper on a topic for a Philosphy course. I thought: Hmmmâ€¦how can I do something that looks serious, but canâ€™t have that much to read to get my arms around it????

A quandry, but, I went on to think: What about the Turkish and Armenian thing? Ok, Iâ€™ll do genocide as a topic, so Iâ€™ll learn something, but not have to do a lot of readingâ€¦

Foolish meâ€¦.I will say, once â€œengaged,â€• I found there was much to read and many ways we have determined it can happen, and itâ€™s not always about killing. For instance, I found out that The Muslim Turks would take children from the Christian Aremnians and give them to Turkish families to be raised as Muslims. That, my readers, fits the definition of genocide, as determined in the United Nations definition of the crime of genocide (Resolution 260 (III)A) in 1948. Many other things, brutal and not (at first) come under the umbrella of this word we so fear, and hate, all at once. Itâ€™s not a long read, and Iâ€™d suggest you take a few minutes and gather some understanding for use in the ongoing discussions, not only about Iraq, but for the future of those in the Darfur region of Sudan.

default watermark

A guest, and it may have been LCol Ralph Peters on Bill Bennettâ€™s morning show (disclaimer: I was driving and I renouce the need to be 100% accurate on the source), but maybe it was elsewhere, talked about how the time of history we have come to call the â€œCold Warâ€• had the entire World, in itâ€™s bi-polar superpower state, keeping that conflict between the â€œfreeâ€• and â€œCommunistâ€• factions at the forefront of our issues. He made this point to support his other point that the current religious fratricide we are witnessing today in Iraq (and elsewhere, such as Darfur, but the MSM reports on Iraq almost exclusively), is not something new. It is a bloody legacy of the Middle East and the history of the Sunnis and Shiâ€™ites, begun shortly after the death of Mohammed. Now, tie the two together: Our conflict with the Soviet/Communist â€œsphere of influenceâ€• casued both ourselves and the Communists to maneuver pretty much everybody else as a huge political and sometime geographic, buffer between us, thus surpressing the ancient blood feud of the Muslims from our sight, and, while Iâ€™m sure some of it was going on, the tensions between the two groups have been simmering in that â€œpressure cookerâ€• for the 1945-1989 time frame.

Both â€œspheresâ€• put strong men in power, which aided in keeping the direct confrontations beneath the surface.

Now, flash back to fall 1987: As I dug further into the history and analysis of this horrible human capability of genocide, we saw many cases of genocide on the African continent, as the European colonists departed. The analysis: The same as the source above: The colonial governments never solved existing conflict of the indigenous populations, then did as it turns out the Cold War did for our era: The â€œlidâ€• was kept on and when the pressure was released, boy was it ugly.

My $.02: The core local issues need to be dealt with in these circumstances. The issue of by lineage or by selection is now about a is almost 2000 years in the making at this time, so it will sure keep great minds thinking about what to do to end the bloodshed, our troops and thier civilians, too. In this case, how do we convince two major â€œbranchesâ€• of Islam to park at a conference center and talk out their differences? The analysis of the Iraq Study Group certainly doesnâ€™t focus on this on this issue, but blames our presence in the region, with a dash of the real estate know as Israel being the salt in the same perceived wound for the violence that originally erupted in the later part of the 7th Century AD.

I think Mr. Baker and the others certainly could have afforded to be much more knowledgable of the conditions we are facing, and forgetting â€œconcensus.â€•

Genocide: Its history taught me so much about the human condition.

Category

1. Geo-Political
2. History
3. Military
4. Military History
5. Political

default watermark

Date Created
December 20, 2006
Author
admin