



# Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org)

*Ethics in action creates character.*

Use this blog to:

1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)



## ***Remembering the Holocaust***

Monday, January 27 was the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The Nazi Holocaust carries many associations along with the Jewish motto of “never forget”. We should never forget that evil exists, that Jews have experienced great persecution in western democracies and that genocide’s evil should not be narrowly defined to Germany during World War II.



A brief but not exhaustive summary of genocides in the 20<sup>th</sup> century include 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey from 1915-23, 6 million Jews in Germany from 1939-43, 20 million civilians during Stalin’s leadership in the USSR from 1921-53, 45 million in China from 1958-62, 2 million in Cambodia in the mid-1970s and 800,000 in 100 days of 1994 in Rwanda.

Genocides continue to this day and the one lesson that should be gleaned from these events is that mankind is capable of great evil, particularly in the advancement of political, ethnic or religious purity. In light of this observation, it is startling to learn that 2020 campaign organizers have been captured on video to say things like re-education camps or Soviet-era gulags might be necessary after the election and, joking or not, referencing “guillotine the rich.”

In light of history and the modern reference to gulags and guillotines, students are asked do they think it is possible that the US could become engaged in a modern genocide? How thick or thin is the veneer of civilization in the US to absolutely resist any chance of a genocide? What core values would protect society from genocide and how would those core values need to be demonstrated? Never forget.

Regarding this archived case, SEE welcomes students to use the following relevant links, and video for more information.

CBS News Story— <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/75-years-after-auschwitz-survivor-returns-to-death-camp-for-first-time/>

Armenian Genocide attributed in Turkey (1915-23)- 1.5 million. -- [http://www.genocide-museum.am/eng/armenian\\_genocide.php](http://www.genocide-museum.am/eng/armenian_genocide.php)

Victims of Nazi Holocaust estimated at 6 million from 1939 to 1943.--

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/documenting-numbers-of-victims-of-the-holocaust-and-nazi-persecution>

Deaths attributed to Stalin in USSR from 1921-1953 is estimated to be 20 million.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Excess\\_mortality\\_in\\_the\\_Soviet\\_Union\\_under\\_Joseph\\_Stalin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Excess_mortality_in_the_Soviet_Union_under_Joseph_Stalin)

Chinese Great Leap Forward with 45 million killed (1958-1962) --

<https://www.scmp.com/article/723956/revisiting-calamitous-time>

Khmer Rouge oversaw more than 2 million deaths in the Cambodian Genocide in the mid-1970s- <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/the-khmer-rouge>

Rwanda Genocide where Hutus murder of 800,000 Tutsis in 100 days in 1994. –

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26875506>

Sanders' campaign organizer suggests need for gulags to re-educate--

[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/01/14/sanders\\_campaign\\_organizer\\_free\\_education\\_gulags\\_needed\\_to\\_re-educate\\_you\\_not\\_to\\_be\\_a\\_fcking\\_nazi.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/01/14/sanders_campaign_organizer_free_education_gulags_needed_to_re-educate_you_not_to_be_a_fcking_nazi.html)

Second Sander's organizer notes the possibility to "guillotine the rich"--

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/21/guillotine-rich-project-veritas-exposes-another-ra/>