

Subject: “Genocide” – problems with definition

Objectives:

After the lesson participants should be able to:

- name main elements of the genocide definition according to Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948)
- name pre-war and post-war instances of genocide
- explain main problems with defining “genocide”

Timing:

45 min.

Lesson plan:

1. T introduces subject and objective of the lesson referring to previous lessons and explains that the lesson will be mainly conducted in the form of a “lecture”.

Timing – 5 min.

2. T, based on a presentation, discusses key issues related to the lesson subject:

- a) genocide – attempts to introduce the concept
- b) genocide definition according to Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948)
- c) problems with defining genocide
- d) definition suggested by Helen Fein
- e) “genocide” versus “ethnic cleansing” and related problems
- f) instances of genocide according to Lech Nijakowski
- g) instances of genocide according to “sociological definitions”

Discussion on proposed definitions.

Timing- 20 min.

3. When introducing examples of genocide T remarks that during this lesson the example of the Balkan war will be discussed in detail. The final part of the presentation relates to events in the Balkans, in particular the events of July 1995 in Srebrenica. T presents pictures of anniversary celebrations of the events in Srebrenica (pictures come from a private collection belonging to a person engaged in commemorating the victims of the Srebrenica massacre).

Timing – 15 min.

4. Lesson overview and conclusion.

Timing – 5 min.