

Historical Atrocity Comparison Matrix

Student Name:

	<i>Slavery in the American South - EXAMPLE</i>	<i>Eugenics</i>	<i>Institutionalization</i>	<i>Irish Potato Famine</i>	<i>Native American Assimilation, Removal, and Extermination</i>
1. The atrocity could be summarized as:	The institutionalized and socially accepted practice of enslaving others and using them as a tool producing material benefit for individuals and society.				
2. When did the atrocity occur? What years? How many?	1525-1866 Several hundred years				
3. Where did the atrocity occur?	Colonial America				

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4. Who are the invisible or marginalized group? Describe them briefly	Primarily persons with African ancestry but also American Indians and those of other non-European backgrounds.				
5. Important statistics (magnitude of effect):	https://www.theroot.com/slaveryby-the-numbers-1790874492 1860 there were about 3.9 million enslaved African Americans				

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6. How did institutions, values, and beliefs of people in power at the time influence the perpetration of the atrocity?	<p>Living day to day was a challenge at this time for everyone. A case could be made that exploiting others labor to get sufficient food and money to sustain your family (and also for the people you enslaved) was justified.</p> <p>Wealthy landowners in the agricultural South were especially reliant on the exploitation of slaves for financial stability and success.</p>				
7. What was the issue or problem addressed?	<p>How to become an economically successful country-- especially given the climate and geographical conditions of the American, agricultural South.</p>				

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8. What societal “good” was the dominant group pursuing?	National economic independence Survival on both a national and personal level.				
9. What ideologies or philosophies of this time period played a part?	Independence of white men (ironically) Enlightenment ideals				
10. What propaganda or promoting messages encouraged social acceptance of the atrocity?	Scientific views of the day was used to justify that Africans were not as evolved as people from other races. Africans were depicted as inferior to whites in cultural events and the literature of the era.				

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11. What were some of the unique factors or key events of the time period that allowed the atrocity to occur?	<p>Revolutionary War</p> <p>The US was a new nation struggling to be economically prosperous and free of British rule.</p> <p>Surviving (getting enough food, water, etc.) was difficult for everyone and any advantage a person could get was important to living and supporting their families.</p> <p>The lives of poor whites and unmarried women were also difficult. They couldn't vote and had little safety, security or social status.</p>				
12. How did the science or technology of this time period play a part?	<p>Science was progressing to look at evolution and species development. There were few technological advances on plantations to assist with agricultural operation.</p>				

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<p>13. What changes have occurred since this time period that make it evident to us today (in ways it might not have been to people living at the time) that this historical event was horrific and an atrocity?</p>	<p>Living day to day was a challenge at this time for everyone. A case could be made that exploiting others labor to get sufficient food and money to sustain your family (and also for the people you enslaved) was justified.</p> <p>Wealthy landowners in the agricultural South were especially reliant on the exploitation of slaves for financial stability and success.</p>				
<p>To be completed at the close of the unit:</p> <p>How did his atrocity affect families, communities, society and our collective history? What is the continuing legacy?</p>	<p>So many successive generations from enslaved people have struggled with social, economic, and other hardships.</p> <p>The US suffers because it did not develop in a more robust way lacking the contributions of the African Americans who were enslaved.</p>				

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Speculate about how individuals may have justified or “talked themselves into” accepting the atrocity.	<p>Africans aren’t smart enough to survive on their own.</p> <p>We have provided these slaves with civilized lives otherwise they would be savages.</p>				