

**THE TEN STAGES OF GENOCIDE**

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[www.genocidewatch.org](http://www.genocidewatch.org)

Instructions: Study the description of each stage of genocide. Then explain how that stage played out in the years leading up to and during the Rwandan genocide.

STAGE (as listed on the genocidewatch website)	DESCRIPTION (quoted or paraphrased from the website)	CONTEXT: RWANDAN GENOCIDE (Explain how the particular stage unfolded during the Rwandan genocide of 1994.)
1. CLASSIFICATION	Categories are created to divide people into “us and them” groups distinguished by factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, language or nationality.	
2. SYMBOLIZATION	Names or other symbols are given to the classifications; when combined with hatred symbols may be attached as targets to specific groups of people.	
3. DISCRIMINATION	A dominant group makes use of specific laws, traditions or political power to infringe upon the rights of the other, less powerful group(s).	
4. DEHUMANIZATION	One group begins to deny the humanity of the other group. Members of the victim-group are equated with animals, rodents, insects or diseases. Dehumanization helps some killers silence the inner voice that tells them not to kill.	
5. ORGANIZATION	Genocide is always organized. Usually it is planned out by members of the government who take careful action to organize themselves. The official leaders often make plans to use <i>unofficial</i> militias in the killing so they can deny its own official involvement.	

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## STAGES OF GENOCIDE

STAGE	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT: RWANDAN GENOCIDE
6. POLARIZATION	Extremists invent and broadcast propaganda that drives groups further apart. Laws limiting intermarriage and social interaction may be instituted or championed. Additionally, extremists use terrorism to intimidate and silence moderates (those in the dominant group who might be influential in stopping the genocide).	
7. PREPARATION	Genocide leaders prepare the genocide against the targeted group. They often use euphemisms to hide their intentions, such as referring to their goals as “ethnic cleansing,” “purification,” or “counter-terrorism.” They build armies, buy weapons and train their troops and militias. They indoctrinate the populace with fear of the victim group. Leaders often claim that “if we don’t kill them, they will kill us.”	
8. PERSECUTION	Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up. In state sponsored genocide, members of victim groups may be forced to wear identifying symbols. Their property is often seized. Sometimes they are even segregated into ghettos, imprisoned, deported into concentration camps, or confined to a famine-struck region and starved.	
9. EXTERMINATION	Genocidal killings begin. When the extermination is sponsored by the state, the armed forces often work with militias to do the killing.	
10. DENIAL	Both during and after the genocide, perpetrators deny any responsibility, and they often blame the victims for the acts of violence.	