**Theme: Human Rights Violations**

The human rights of many groups have been violated at different times in various nations and regions. Efforts by governments, groups, and individuals to resolve these human rights violations have met with mixed results.

Task:

Select two groups who have experienced human rights violations in a specific nation or region and for each

* Describe one historical circumstance that led to a human rights violation in the nation or region
* Describe one example of a human rights violation in that nation or region
* Discuss the extent to which a government, a group, or an individual made an attempt to resolve this human rights violation

You may use any group whose rights have been violated from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Christians under the Roman Empire, indigenous peoples in Latin America, Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, Ukrainians after the Russian Revolution, Jews in Europe, Cambodians under Pol Pot, blacks under apartheid in South Africa, and Kurds in the Middle East.

*In your intro you should define Human Rights*

The United Nations addresses Human Rights in the Declaration of Human Rights. It was written after the Holocaust to help nations protect their citizens.

**Cambodia**

Describe one historical circumstance that led to a human rights violation in the nation or region

* Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot took over after Lon Nol’s government Cambodia in 1975
  + Pol Pot studied in France and began to believe in Communism
  + Goal to create a perfect Communist Society
  + Pol Pot wanted to start from “year zero”
    - This would signify the end of Western influence and a new period of Cambodian history

Describe one example of a human rights violation in that nation or region

* Everyone was to work on collective farms.
  + Persecuted any individual with any connection to the west - education, religious standing or not originally from Cambodia
    - Didn’t stop at one person, seek entire families
    - Used labor camps and worked people to death.
* 2 million killed in 3 years

Discuss the extent to which a government, a group, or an individual made an attempt to resolve this human rights violation

* Vietnam invaded removed Pol pot from power
* He was forced into exile, died while awaiting trial for his crimes
* Vietnam remained in control of Cambodia until 1989

**Jews in Europe**

Describe one historical circumstance that led to a human rights violation in the nation or region

* Germany defeated in WWI
  + Had to sign the treaty of Versailles
    - Harshly treated the Germans
    - Germany was forced to:
      * Pay war reparations
      * Give up colonies
      * Demilitarize
      * Accept total blame for the war
  + Weimar Republic government that signed the treat was hated
  + German economy suffered greatly, experienced depression and hyperinflation
* Adolf Hitler rose to power promising to break the harsh provisions of the treaty and restore German glory
  + Passed the Nuremberg laws which made discrimination legal
  + Use Jews as scapegoats for Germany’s problems

Describe one example of a human rights violation in that nation or region

* Hitler forced Jews to move into ghettos
* Made them wear the Star of David on their clothing to identify themselves as Jews
* 1940s began mass deportation of Jews to Concentration Camps
  + People were given little food, tormented by guards, exceptionally horrific living conditions
  + Two types of camps
    - Labor Camps – Jews were forced to work in the camps and were worked to death
    - Death Camps – people were sent there and mass executed in gas chambers
  + Six million were killed in the Holocaust

Discuss the extent to which a government, a group, or an individual made an attempt to resolve this human rights violation

* Post WWII – Nuremberg Trials – Nazi war criminals were put on trial for their horrendous crimes
  + Many were sentenced to death or life in prison
* Led to the passing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  + Rights guaranteed to all people
    - Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Article 3
    - No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 5