



MacArthur Memorial Education Programs

Identifying Different Types of War Crimes



CRIMES AGAINST PEACE:

The “planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a declared or undeclared war of aggression, or a war in violation of international law, treaties...or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the foregoing.”

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY:

“Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population, before or during the war, or persecutions on political or racial grounds.”

CONVENTIONAL WAR CRIMES:

Violations of the law or customs of war.

Questions:

1. Which of the three classes of war crimes listed above do you think is the most severe? Why?

2. Which of the above categories do you think the following would fit into? Why?

- Pearl Harbor

- The Holocaust

- Medical experiments on prisoners

- Execution of prisoners of war

- Military, political, and economic domination of China

- Rape and murder of civilians in the Philippines