“The History of Yugoslavia”

Student Organizer (Answer Key)

1. The region which became Yugoslavia was once contested by which two great empires in the 19th century? *(The Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.)* What was the name of this region? *(The Balkans.)* What does this name mean? *(“Mountain” in Turkish.)*

2. What provoked the wave of Balkan wars of independence that began in 1912? *(Balkan perception of Ottoman weakness.)* Did the Balkan states remain allied in their cause? *(No—Serbia turned against their former ally Bulgaria.)* What was Austria-Hungary’s reaction to these wars? *(It sent Archduke Franz Ferdinand to promote a greater role for southern Slavs in the empire as a bulwark against Serbian expansionism.)* What was the result? *(He was assassinated, which triggered a series of events which culminated in World War I.)*

3. What redrew the borders of the Balkans after World War I? *(The Versailles Peace Treaties.)* Who wrote and imposed these treaties? *(The victorious Allies—mainly France and Great Britain—who had defeated the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires along with their ally Germany.)* Which ethnicity dominated the newly created state of Yugoslavia? *(Serbia.)*

4. What happened to Yugoslavia in 1941? *(It was invaded by German troops.)* Was Yugoslavia united in its resistance to the Germans? *(No. Germany made Croatia a nominally independent puppet state, while rival partisan factions fought the German and Italian occupiers as well as each other.)*

5. How did Yugoslavia emerge from the war, and how did it differ from the Yugoslavia of 1920? *(The new socialist state of Yugoslavia declared by partisan leader Marshall Josip Broz Tito was a federation of six nominally equal republics rather than a Serbian-
dominated monarchy.) Was it dominated by either side during the Cold War? (No. Although it was a communist state, it was not a Soviet satellite in the Warsaw Pact, and its good relations with the West provided loans to maintain its economic independence.)

6. What factors contributed to the dissolution of Tito’s Yugoslavia? (The death of Tito himself in 1990 was a major blow to Yugoslavian unity. Unequal economic development, growing debt burden, and political scapegoating all contributed to a rise in ethnic nationalism.) What was the term “ethnic cleansing” coined to describe? (The campaign by Bosnian Serbs to drive Bosnian Muslims from their homes and imprison many in concentration camps.)

7. What finally brought an end to the war in Bosnia, and how? (The U.S.-brokered Dayton Agreement ended the war by creating two self-governing entities within Bosnia—one for Bosnian Serbs and one for the Muslim-Croat Federation.)

8. What prompted NATO to launch the first airstrikes on European soil since World War II? (Serbian military resistance to Kosovar claims of independence.)

9. What was the ultimate fate of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic? (He lost the election, was forced out of office by massive street protests, and ultimately put on trial in The Hague for crimes against humanity and genocide.) Does Yugoslavia exist anymore? (No.)