

## Data Retrieval Chart: Historical Photographs\*

*educated guesses are encouraged!*

### Question the Source

<p>What is the photograph's date, title, &amp; creator?</p>	<p>1919. Packing up for home... Unknown Photographer. The title reads like a caption and provides a great deal of information: it identifies "Prizren," "Serbian," the "Red Cross," etc. There must have been a great need for a humanitarian organization to provide relief (flour and medicine) to victims of war. There seem to be a lot of bundles and packages of aid to distribute.</p>
<p>What type of person might have created this photograph, and for what purpose?</p>	<p>The photograph could have been taken to be later used for promotional use by the Red Cross (i.e., brochures for recruitment or fund-raising purposes). Or it could be personal photograph taken by a Red Cross worker, taken to document the amount of aid provided to this one man. The mule is at the center of the photograph, a common convention of photographers to convey importance.</p>
<p>Was it random or posed, amateur or professional, private or published?</p>	<p>Likely random, only the person in the American-style suit and the person next to the door seem to be looking at the camera. No one seems to be posed.</p>

### Observe the Context

<p>Describe what you see in the photograph. <i>(be specific and attentive to detail)</i></p>	<p>If the term "Serbian" in the photograph's title's describes this man's citizenship it is likely wrong; if it describes his ethnicity that, too, is likely wrong. Historical facts and his clothes suggest he is likely an Albanian from Kosovo. The man appears to be wearing a traditional Albanian belt (Brez), sleeved vest (Xhamada), and hat (Qylafë).</p>
<p>Explain what is happening in the photograph. <i>(use your specific details as clues)</i></p>	<p>Who gets to have their own nation... and why? The answer is surprisingly complicated and controversial because there are two competing definitions and sets of criteria the "international community" accepts for a location to be considered sovereign nation. The Declarative Theory, from the 1933 International Montevideo Conference, has four elements: 1 ) a permanent population; 2 ) a defined territory; 3 ) a government; and 4) a capacity to enter into diplomatic relations with other sovereign nations. The Constitutive Theory adds another criterion: 5) formal recognition from other already-established sovereign nations.</p>
<p>In about one sentence, state the photograph's overall message.</p>	<p>The Red Cross was needed in Kosovo because of the frequent conflict between Serbs and Albanians around the time of this photograph: the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and The Great War (1914-1918).</p>

### Corroborate the Evidence

<p>How does this photograph compare with other evidence?</p>	<p>Much of the information gathered from this photograph coheres with texts about the 1864 Geneva Convention decisions and the Red Cross. This photograph explores international law as it concerns national sovereignty, other photographs may explore outer space, conduct of war, or the environment.</p>
<p>Why might other evidence (messages &amp; data) agree or disagree with this photograph?</p>	<p>Other photographs or texts may explore international law from different perspectives that answer the overarching question differently. Other sources may have different reasons for presenting data, such as to make their perspective seem more reasonable, or to present the "other side" in a worse way.</p>
<p>What else do you need or want to know about this photograph?</p>	<p>What subsequent conventions have met and what requirements have they added to international law related to national sovereignty? What should policy-makers do when international law conflicts with their state's national interests?</p>

\* adapted from a synthesis of the Persistent Issues in History's "Document Analysis Worksheet" and the Library of Congress's "Teacher's Guides and Analysis Tools" and Wineburg, S (1991) Historical problem solving: A study of cognitive processes used in the evaluation of documentary and pictorial evidence. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 83(1) 73-87.