

## BULLET PAGE

- The UN created the Safe Areas to forestall ethnic cleansing and other human rights violations against the six towns' civilian populations.
- Whereas the international community was eager to appear to “do something”, France, Great Britain and the USA were more interested in avoiding the financial, military, and political sacrifices necessary to render the Safe Areas effective.
- The Bosnian-Serb military (VRS) had a legitimate right to besiege all six towns, a task that was complicated by the imposition of UN resolutions and counterattacks by Bosnian government forces (ARBiH).
- Nonetheless, the evidence suggests that the VRS was not guided in its choice of tactics by concern for international law.
- The VRS resorted to massive, indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Sarajevo and other Safe Areas that violated international law.
- Whereas the VRS was most *likely* responsible for the three disputed mortar attacks against a Sarajevo breadline and the city's Markhale market, the aggregate record of indiscriminate VRS shelling renders moot the debate over of any one incident.
- Following the fall of Srebrenica, VRS units massacred up to 7,800 men and boys in a well-coordinated operation directed by General Ratko Mladić.
- Further research is needed to ascertain the extent of (1) crimes committed against Serb civilians within and around Safe Areas such as Sarajevo, Srebrenica and Žepa, and (2) the extent to which the Yugoslav political and military leadership knew about and assisted in the Srebrenica massacre.