

Innovative ways of promoting IHL to children and youth:

The American Civil War: A humanitarian perspective

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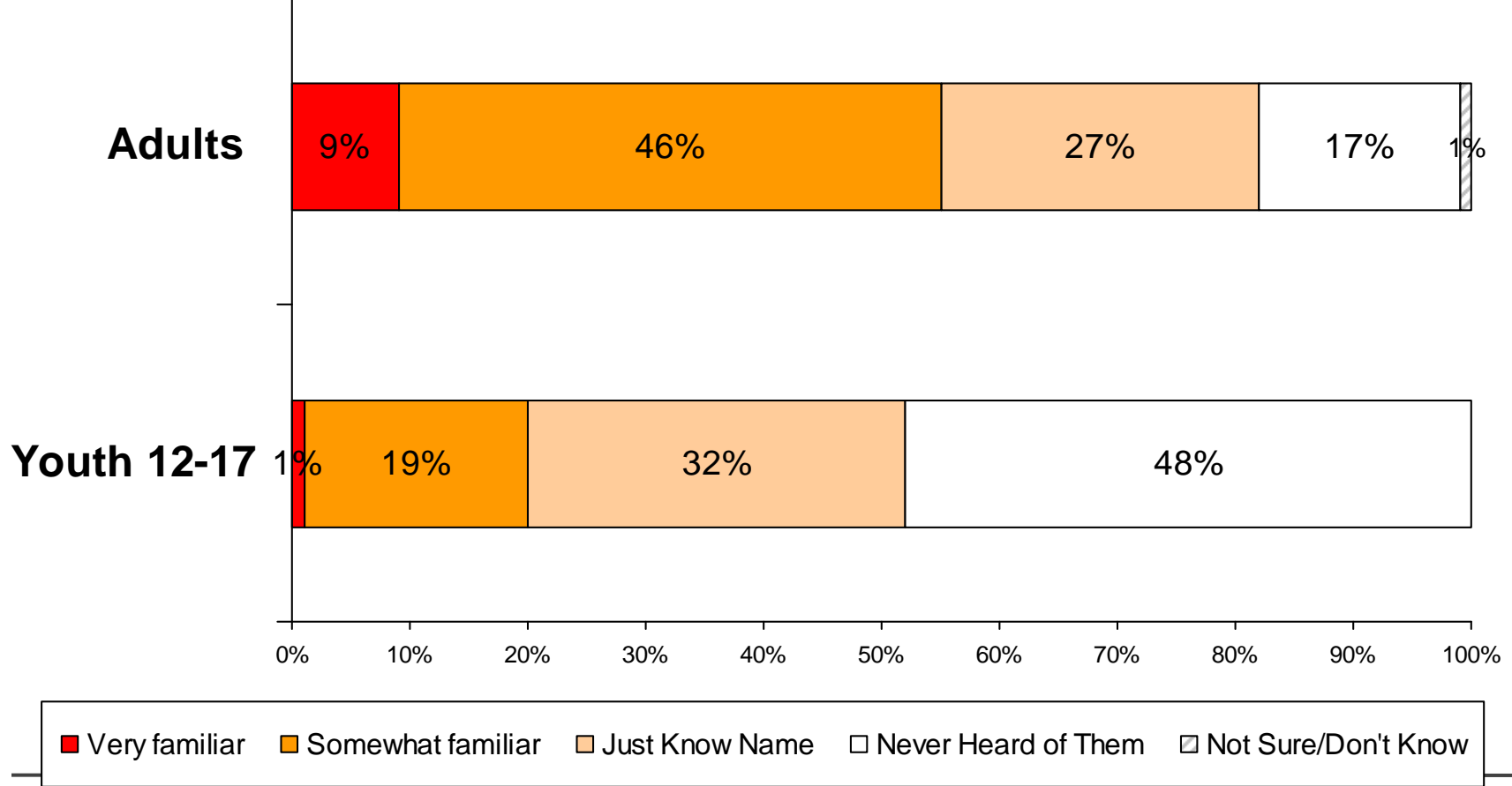
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Familiarity with Geneva Conventions and IHL

More than half of adults (55 percent) feel they are familiar with the Geneva Conventions and IHL. For youth 12-17 years old, one in five feel familiar with these rules and laws.

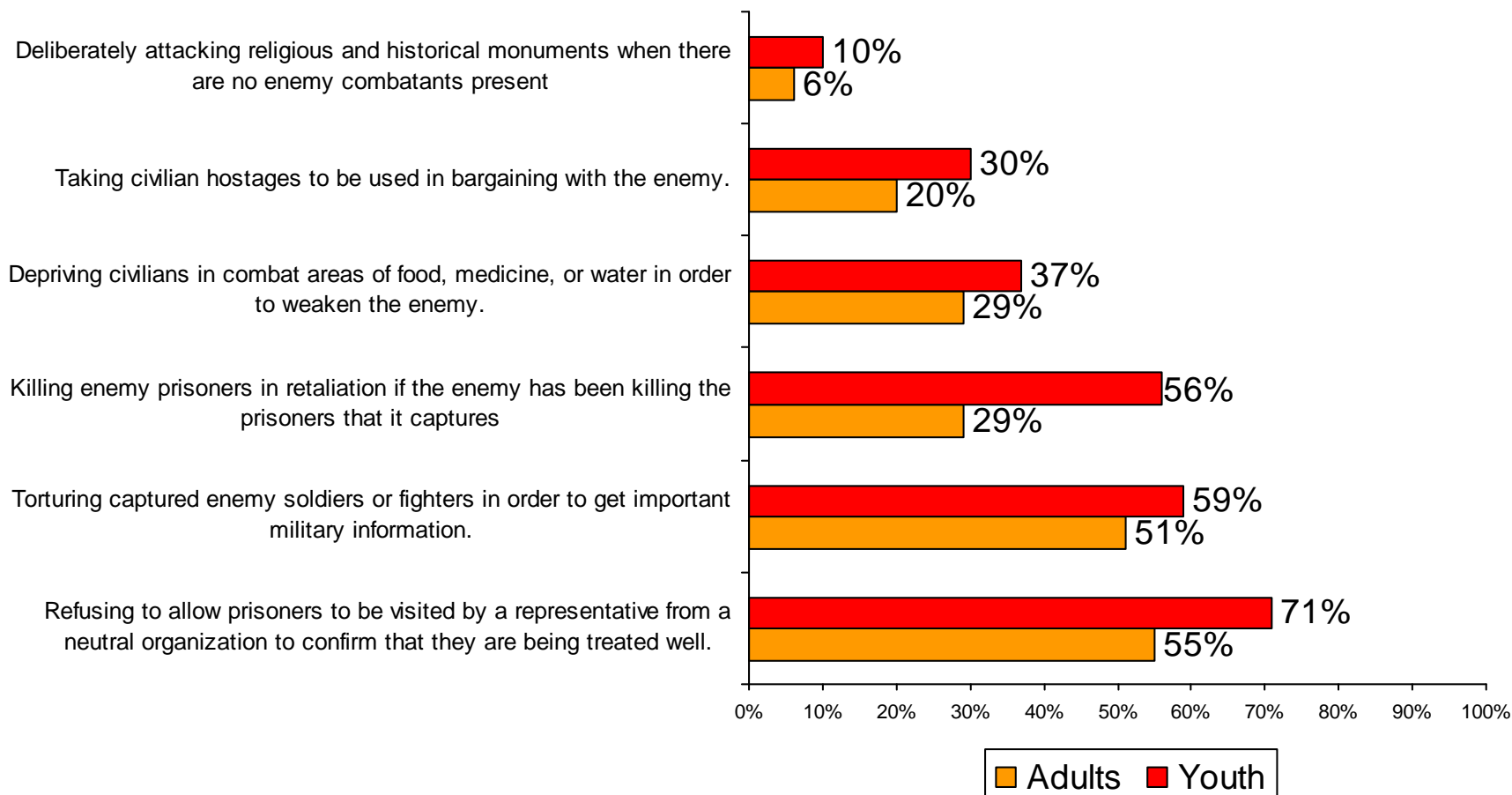


There is a body of law about how wars should be conducted, including the Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law. These laws have been adopted by every country in the world. How familiar are you with these rules and laws? Would you say you are. . .



Acceptability of actions during war

Youth are more likely than adults to believe that these actions are always or sometimes acceptable.

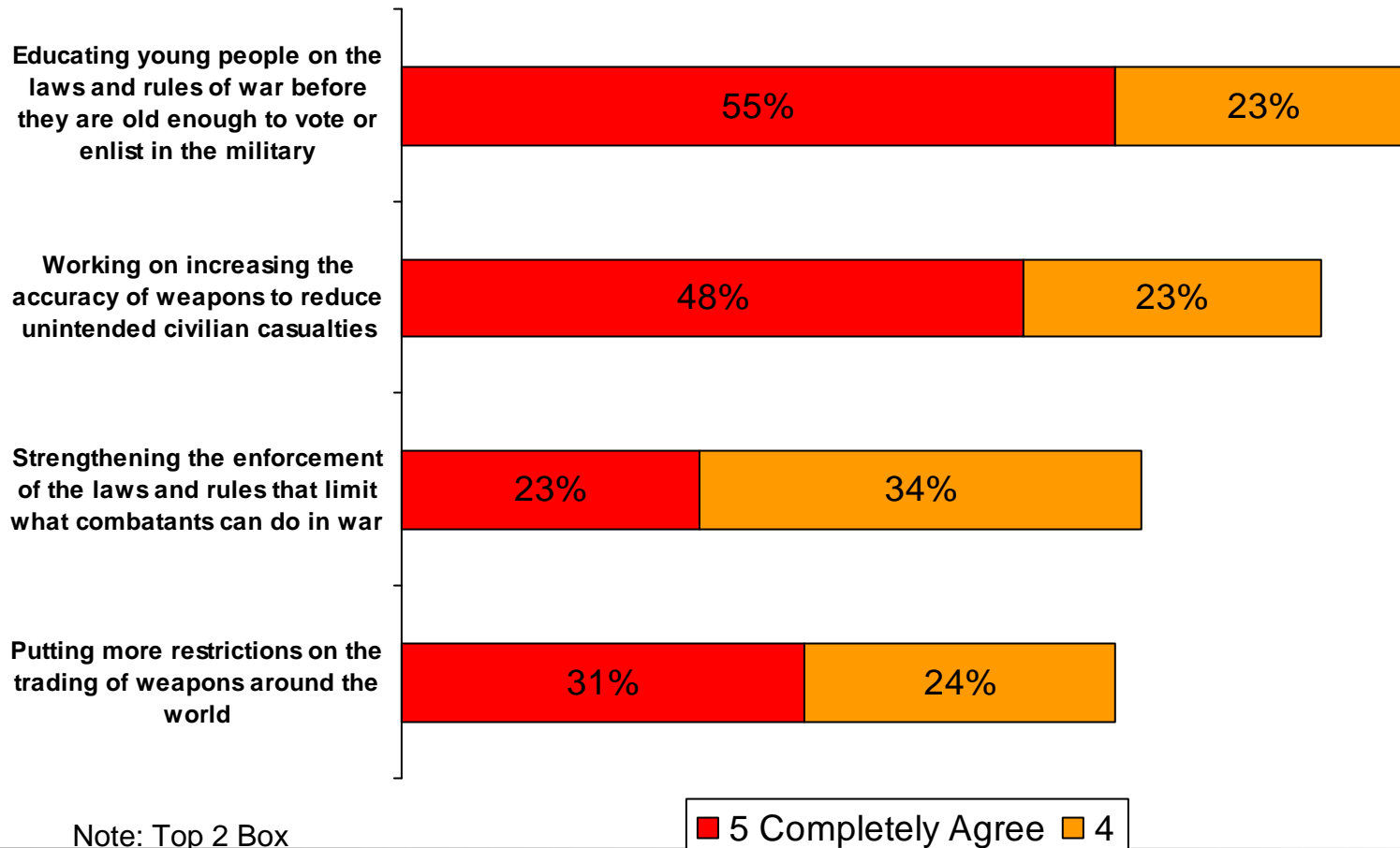


To what extent is it acceptable for soldiers and fighters to take the following actions in war? For each action, please tell me if it is always acceptable, is acceptable in some circumstances, or if it is never acceptable.



Attitudes on role of U.S. government in reducing war casualties

Youth: Nearly 8 in 10 believe that the U.S. should educate youth on the laws and rules of war.



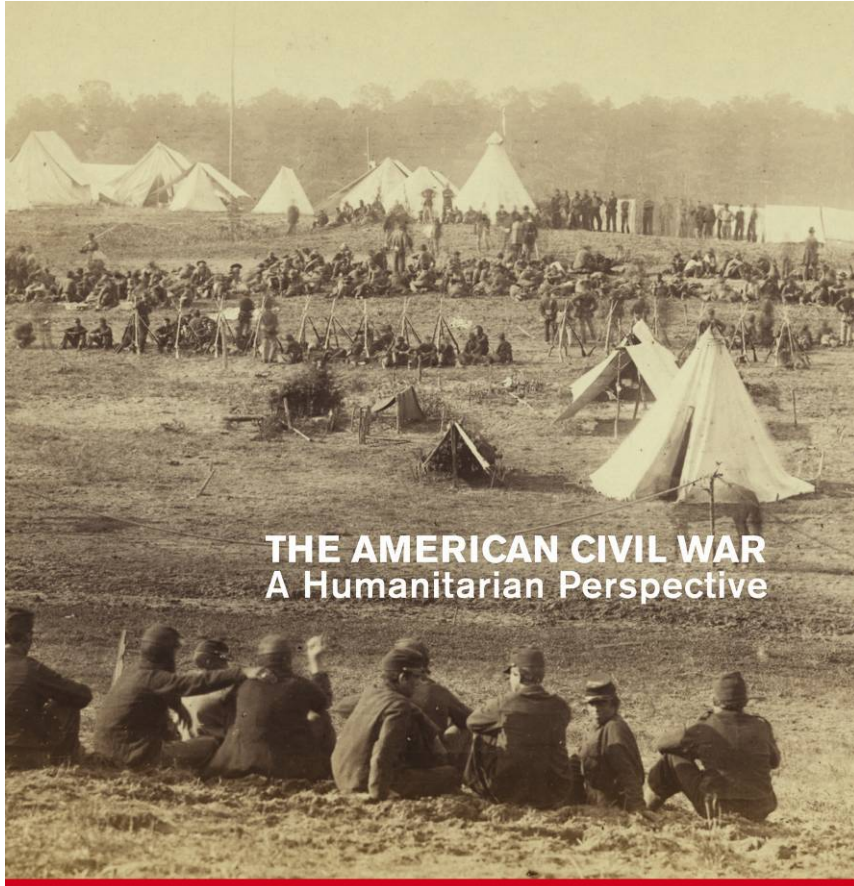
Using a 5 point scale with 5 being completely agree and 1 being completely disagree, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the U.S. government should take the following actions to reduce the number of civilians who are hurt in war?



Lessons learned

- Need to reconnect IHL with “American values”
- Show relevance of IHL in American history
- Help students connect lessons of the past with issues of the present
- Led to development of module on the American Civil War inspired by EHL curriculum

The “EHL-inspired” American Civil War Lessons



Explore

Humanitarian acts on both sides of the battlefield

Discover

How today’s basic rules of humanitarian law emerged

Engage

Students in exciting hands-on activities to meet humanitarian needs



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LESSONS AND RESOURCES
FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



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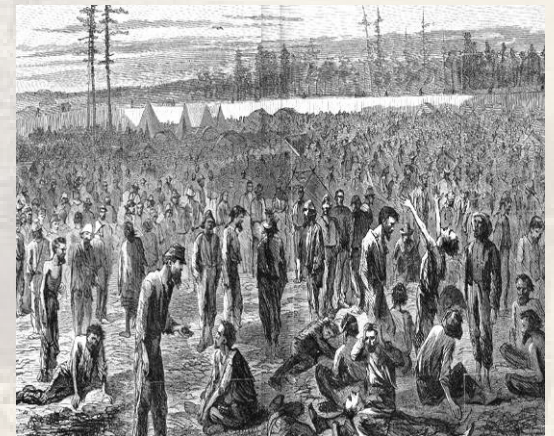
What's in the American Civil War Lessons?

Humanitarian Acts: *What Can Bystanders Do?*

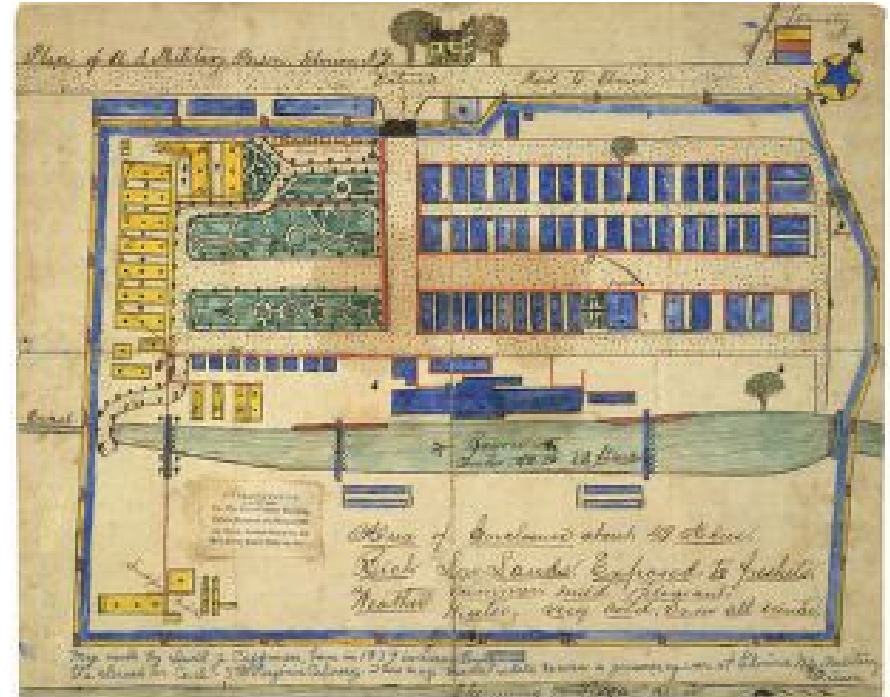
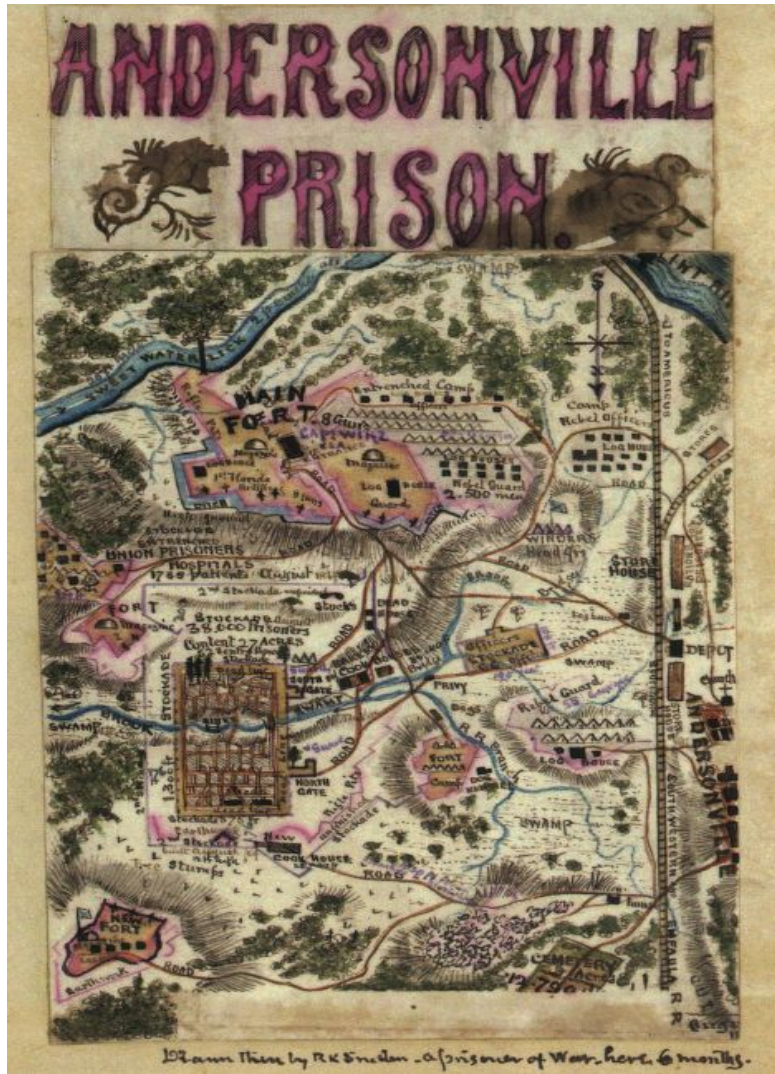


The Lieber Code: *Limiting the Devastation of War*

Responding to the Consequences of Armed Conflict: *Planning a Camp for Civil War Prisoners*



Planning a Civil War Prison Camp



Elmira Prison, New York

Andersonville Prison, Georgia

Where are we headed?

- Scale-up strategy
- Increase use of social media
- Role of RC/campus clubs
- Empowering youth with EHL
 - Peer-to-peer education
 - Service learning
- Expansion to community colleges/higher education

For more information on the American Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Dissemination Program, please visit us at:

www.redcross.org/ihl

and

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