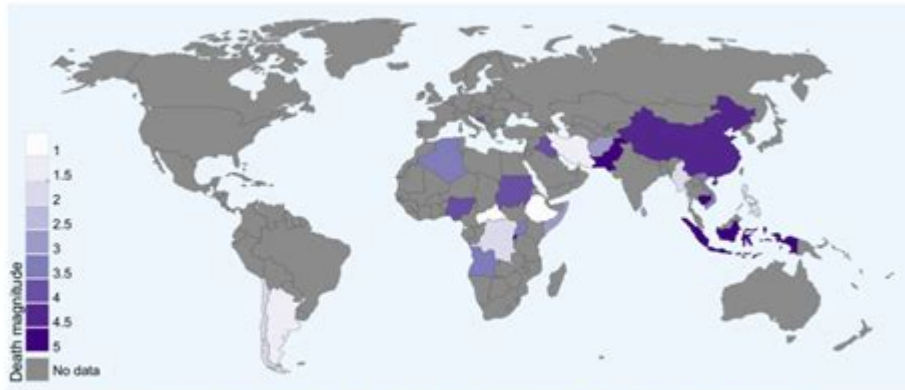# Worst Genocides Of All Time

Map of genocide and politicide deaths around the world, 1955-2014

Data source: Political Instability Task Force (PITF) State Failure Problem Set, 1955-2014 (Death Magnitude)

Note: The death magnitude scale used is non-linear, for more information please consult the OWID page or PITF codebook.

OurWorldInData.org/genocides/ • CC BY-SA

The Worst Genocides of All Time: A Historical Examination

The deliberate and systematic destruction of a group of people based on their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or other shared characteristic is a stain on humanity. Genocide, a word coined after the horrors of World War II, represents the ultimate failure of human compassion and empathy. This post delves into some of the worst genocides of all time, examining their causes, consequences, and lasting impact. We will explore the brutal realities of these events, not to glorify violence, but to understand the mechanisms that allow such atrocities to occur and to learn from the past to prevent future tragedies. This exploration will utilize historical data and analysis to provide a nuanced, yet impactful, understanding of these devastating events.

The Holocaust (1941-1945): The Industrialized Killing of a People

The Holocaust, perpetrated by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, remains the most widely known and studied genocide in history. Targeting primarily Jews, but also Roma, homosexuals, disabled individuals, and political opponents, the Nazi regime systematically murdered approximately six million Jews – roughly two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. The industrialized nature of the killing, using death camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau, is a chilling testament to the capacity for

organized evil. This systematic extermination involved meticulous planning, propaganda, and the dehumanization of the targeted groups.

The Mechanisms of the Holocaust:

Propaganda and Dehumanization: Nazi propaganda relentlessly demonized Jews, portraying them as a threat to the German nation. This created a climate of hatred and fear, making the genocide seem justifiable to many.
Legal and Administrative Structures: Laws were passed stripping Jews of their rights and citizenship, paving the way for their eventual extermination.
The "Final Solution": The systematic plan to exterminate European Jews involved the construction of death camps, mass shootings, and other brutal methods.

The Armenian Genocide (1915-1917): A Forgotten Tragedy

The Armenian Genocide, carried out by the Ottoman Empire, resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians. This systematic annihilation involved forced deportations, massacres, and starvation, aimed at eliminating the Armenian population within the Ottoman Empire. The brutality and scale of this genocide often go overlooked, overshadowed by later events.

The Context of the Armenian Genocide:

Nationalist Sentiments: Rising Turkish nationalism fueled a desire to create a homogenous Turkish state, leading to the targeting of minority groups.
World War I: The chaos of World War I provided a cover for the Ottoman government to carry out its genocidal plans with relative impunity.
Systematic Destruction: The Armenian genocide involved the planned destruction of Armenian culture, religion, and identity through massacres, deportations, and forced conversions.

The Rwandan Genocide (1994): A Hundred Days of Horror

The Rwandan Genocide, lasting only 100 days, saw the slaughter of an estimated 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu people. The speed and efficiency with which this genocide was carried out highlight

the devastating impact of ethnic tensions and the role of political manipulation. The international community's failure to intervene effectively remains a stark reminder of the limitations of humanitarian intervention.

Factors Contributing to the Rwandan Genocide:

Ethnic Tensions: Deep-seated ethnic divisions between the Hutu and Tutsi populations were exploited by extremist elements.
Radio Propaganda: Hate speech broadcast on radio stations fueled the violence and incited the killings.
Lack of International Intervention: The slow and inadequate response from the international community allowed the genocide to continue unchecked.

The Cambodian Genocide (1975-1979): The Killing Fields

Under the Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot, Cambodia experienced a horrific genocide resulting in the deaths of an estimated 2 million people – roughly one-quarter of the country's population. This regime aimed to create an agrarian utopia, forcing people into collective farms and brutally eliminating anyone perceived as an enemy of the state.

The Khmer Rouge's Reign of Terror:

Forced Labor and Starvation: Millions were forced to work in brutal conditions, leading to widespread starvation and death.
Mass Executions: Anyone deemed a threat – intellectuals, religious leaders, ethnic minorities – were systematically executed.
Cultural Destruction: Cambodian culture and traditions were suppressed, reflecting the regime's attempt to create a completely new society.

Conclusion

The genocides discussed above represent only a fraction of the atrocities committed throughout history. Studying these events is crucial not only to understand the past but also to prevent future horrors. Recognizing the warning signs, strengthening international cooperation, and promoting

education about the dangers of hatred and intolerance are essential steps towards building a more peaceful and just world. Remembering the victims and learning from their suffering is our responsibility.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between genocide and mass murder? While both involve the killing of large numbers of people, genocide is specifically defined by the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. Mass murder is a broader term encompassing large-scale killings without this specific intent.

2. Why do genocides happen? Genocides are complex events driven by various factors, including ethnic tensions, political instability, economic hardship, and the manipulation of propaganda and hate speech.

3. What role does the international community play in preventing genocide? The international community has a responsibility to prevent and respond to genocide through early warning systems, diplomatic pressure, and, in extreme cases, military intervention. However, the effectiveness of these interventions has been inconsistent.

4. How can we learn from past genocides to prevent future ones? By studying the causes, mechanisms, and consequences of past genocides, we can identify early warning signs, develop strategies for prevention, and improve international responses to atrocities.

5. What is the lasting impact of genocides on surviving populations and affected nations? Genocides leave deep scars on individuals, communities, and nations. The psychological trauma, social disruption, and economic devastation can last for generations, requiring long-term efforts for healing, reconciliation, and rebuilding.

worst genocides of all time: Stalin's Genocides Norman M. Naimark, 2010-07-19 The chilling story of Stalin's crimes against humanity Between the early 1930s and his death in 1953, Joseph Stalin had more than a million of his own citizens executed. Millions more fell victim to forced labor, deportation, famine, bloody massacres, and detention and interrogation by Stalin's henchmen. Stalin's Genocides is the chilling story of these crimes. The book puts forward the important argument that brutal mass killings under Stalin in the 1930s were indeed acts of genocide and that the Soviet dictator himself was behind them. Norman Naimark, one of our most respected authorities on the Soviet era, challenges the widely held notion that Stalin's crimes do not constitute genocide, which the United Nations defines as the premeditated killing of a group of people because of their race, religion, or inherent national qualities. In this gripping book, Naimark explains how Stalin became a pitiless mass killer. He looks at the most consequential and harrowing episodes of Stalin's systematic destruction of his own populace—the liquidation and repression of the so-called kulaks, the Ukrainian famine, the purge of nationalities, and the Great Terror—and examines them

in light of other genocides in history. In addition, Naimark compares Stalin's crimes with those of the most notorious genocidal killer of them all, Adolf Hitler.

worst genocides of all time: *The Great Big Book of Horrible Things* Matthew White, 2011-10-25 A compulsively readable and utterly original account of world history—from an atrocitologist's point of view. Evangelists of human progress meet their opposite in Matthew White's epic examination of history's one hundred most violent events, or, in White's piquant phrasing, the numbers that people want to argue about. Reaching back to 480 BCE's second Persian War, White moves chronologically through history to this century's war in the Congo and devotes chapters to each event, where he surrounds hard facts (time and place) and succinct takeaways (who usually gets the blame?) with lively military, social, and political histories. With the eye of a seasoned statistician, White assigns each entry a ranking based on body count, and in doing so he gives voice to the suffering of ordinary people that, inexorably, has defined every historical epoch. By turns droll, insightful, matter-of-fact, and ultimately sympathetic to those who died, The Great Big Book of Horrible Things gives readers a chance to reach their own conclusions while offering a stark reminder of the darkness of the human heart.

worst genocides of all time: Worse Than War Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, 2009-10-06 Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's books are events. They stir passionate public debate among political and civic leaders, scholars, and the general public because they compel people to rethink the most powerful conventional wisdoms and stubborn moral problems of the day. Worse Than War gets to the heart of the phenomenon, genocide, that has caused more deaths in the modern world than military conflict. In doing so, it challenges fundamental things we thought we knew about human beings, society, and politics. Drawing on extensive field work and research from around the world, Goldhagen explores the anatomy of genocide -- explaining why genocides begin, are sustained, and end; why societies support them, why they happen so frequently and how the international community should and can successfully stop them. As a great book should, Worse than War seeks to change the way we think and to offer new possibilities for a better world. It tells us how we might at last begin to eradicate this greatest scourge of humankind.

worst genocides of all time: Tested to the Limit Consolee Nishimwe, 2012-06-27 "If there is one book you should read on the Rwandan Genocide, this is it. Tested to the Limit—A Genocide Survivor's Story of Pain, Resilience, and Hope is a riveting and courageous account from the perspective of a fourteen year- old girl. It's a powerful story you will never forget." —Francine LeFrak, founder of Same Sky and award-winning producer "That someone who survived such a horrific, life-altering experience as the Rwandan genocide could find the courage to share her story truly amazes me. But even more incredible is that Consolee Nishimwe refused to let the inhumane acts she suffered strip away her humanity, zest for life and positive outlook for a better future. After reading Tested to the Limit, I am in awe of the unyielding strength and resilience of the human spirit to overcome against all odds." —Kate Ferguson, senior editor, POZ magazine "Consolee Nishimwe's story of resilience, perseverance, and grace after surviving genocide, rape, and torture is a testament to the transformative power of unyielding faith and a commitment to love. Her inspiring narrative about compassionate courage and honest revelations about her spiritual path in the face of unthinkable adversity remind us that hope is eternal, and miracles happen every day." —Jamia Wilson, vice president of programs, Women's Media Center, New York

worst genocides of all time: Power Kills R. J. Rummel, 2002-11-01 This volume, newly published in paperback, is part of a comprehensive effort by R. J. Rummel to understand and place in historical perspective the entire subject of genocide and mass murder, or what he calls democide. It is the fifth in a series of volumes in which he offers a detailed analysis of the 120,000,000 people killed as a result of government action or direct intervention. In Power Kills, Rummel offers a realistic and practical solution to war, democide, and other collective violence. As he states it, The solution...is to foster democratic freedom and to democratize coercive power and force. That is, mass killing and mass murder carried out by government is a result of indiscriminate, irresponsible Power at the center. Rummel observes that well-established democracies do not make war on and

rarely commit lesser violence against each other. The more democratic two nations are, the less likely is war or smaller-scale violence between them. The more democratic a nation is, the less severe its overall foreign violence, the less likely it will have domestic collective violence, and the less its democide. Rummel argues that the evidence supports overwhelmingly the most important fact of our time: democracy is a method of nonviolence.

worst genocides of all time: Democide Rudolph J. Rummel, This volume is part of a comprehensive effort by Professor Rummel to understand and place in historical perspective the entire subject of genocide and mass murder-what is herein called Democide. It is the third in a series of volumes published by Transaction, in which Rummel offers a comprehensive analysis of the 120,000,000 people killed as a result of government action or direct intervention. Curiously, while we have a considerable body of literature on the Nazi Holocaust, we do not have a total accounting-at least not until now with the issuance of Democide. In addition to the quantitative lacunae, there remains a paucity of theoretical information distinguishing the historical descriptive and the anecdotal accounts. This study of Nazi killings in cold blood is a path-finding effort in political psychology. While Rummel does not claim to give a definitive accounting, his explanation for the numbers reached-and they are high-is compelling. In addition, we now have a correlation of information on the murder of diverse groups: Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Ukranians, and even Germans themselves. It is now possible to fathom the Nazi genocidal poiicies-which were collective and which were selective. Rummel's volume is a clear guide to a murky past. It offers the first systematic effort to ascertain the nature and the extent of the Nazi genocide from the point of view of the perpetrator's aims rather than the victims' consequences. This is not a pretty picture, but it is not a partisan one either. The materials are presented in a clinical as well as a systemic fashion. Rummel has a deep sense of the life-saving instincts of individuals and the life-taking propensities of impersonal state machinery. It is thus, a humanistic effort, one that plumbs the effects of the Nazi war-machine on innocents in order to better understand present conditions. Professionals ranging from social scientists to demographers will find this a quintessential effort at political reconstruction.

worst genocides of all time: Death by Government R. J. Rummel, 2011-12-31 This is R. J. Rummel's fourth book in a series devoted to genocide and government mass murder, or what he calls democide. He presents the primary results, in tables and figures, as well as a historical sketch of the major cases of democide, those in which one million or more people were killed by a regime. In Death by Government, Rummel does not aim to describe democide itself, but to determine its nature and scope in order to test the theory that democracies are inherently nonviolent. Rummel discusses genocide in China, Nazi Germany, Japan, Cambodia, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. He also writes about areas of suspected genocide: North Korea, Mexico, and feudal Russia. His results clearly and decisively show that democracies commit less democide than other regimes. The underlying principle is that the less freedom people have, the greater the violence; the more freedom, the less the violence. Thus, as Rummel says, "The problem is power. The solution is democracy. The course of action is to foster freedom." Death by Government is a compelling look at the horrors that occur in modern societies. It depicts how democide has been very much a part of human history. Among other examples, the book includes the massacre of Europeans during the Thirty Years' War, the relatively unknown genocide of the French Revolution, and the slaughtering of American Indians by colonists in the New World. This riveting account is an essential tool for historians, political scientists, and scholars interested in the study of genocide.

worst genocides of all time: Blood and Soil Ben Kiernan, 2008-10-01 A book of surpassing importance that should be required reading for leaders and policymakers throughout the world For thirty years Ben Kiernan has been deeply involved in the study of genocide and crimes against humanity. He has played a key role in unearthing confidential documentation of the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge. His writings have transformed our understanding not only of twentieth-century Cambodia but also of the historical phenomenon of genocide. This new book—the first global history of genocide and extermination from ancient times—is among his most important

achievements. Kiernan examines outbreaks of mass violence from the classical era to the present, focusing on worldwide colonial exterminations and twentieth-century case studies including the Armenian genocide, the Nazi Holocaust, Stalin's mass murders, and the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides. He identifies connections, patterns, and features that in nearly every case gave early warning of the catastrophe to come: racism or religious prejudice, territorial expansionism, and cults of antiquity and agrarianism. The ideologies that have motivated perpetrators of mass killings in the past persist in our new century, says Kiernan. He urges that we heed the rich historical evidence with its telltale signs for predicting and preventing future genocides.

worst genocides of all time: Forgotten Genocides Rene Lemarchand, René Lemarchand, 2011-06-01 Unlike the Holocaust, Rwanda, Cambodia, or Armenia, scant attention has been paid to the human tragedies analyzed in this book. From German Southwest Africa (now Namibia), Burundi, and eastern Congo to Tasmania, Tibet, and Kurdistan, from the mass killings of the Roms by the Nazis to the extermination of the Assyrians in Ottoman Turkey, the mind reels when confronted with the inhuman acts that have been consigned to oblivion. Forgotten Genocides: Oblivion, Denial, and Memory gathers eight essays about genocidal conflicts that are unremembered and, as a consequence, understudied. The contributors, scholars in political science, anthropology, history, and other fields, seek to restore these mass killings to the place they deserve in the public consciousness. Remembrance of long forgotten crimes is not the volume's only purpose—equally significant are the rich quarry of empirical data offered in each chapter, the theoretical insights provided, and the comparative perspectives suggested for the analysis of genocidal phenomena. While each genocide is unique in its circumstances and motives, the essays in this volume explain that deliberate concealment and manipulation of the facts by the perpetrators are more often the rule than the exception, and that memory often tends to distort the past and blame the victims while exonerating the killers. Although the cases discussed here are but a sample of a litany going back to biblical times, Forgotten Genocides offers an important examination of the diversity of contexts out of which repeatedly emerge the same hideous realities.

worst genocides of all time: Lasting Wounds , 2003

worst genocides of all time: The Massacre in History Mark Levene, Penny Roberts, 1999 Six papers from a March 1995 conference in Warwick, England, and seven additional commissioned essays span from the 11th century to the early 1990s and from western Europe to China. The historian authors explore such issues as what a massacre is, when and why it happens, cultural and political frameworks, how human societies respond, social and economic repercussions, and whether they are catalysts for change. They suggest that the massacre is often central to the course of human development and societal change. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

worst genocides of all time: *Atrocities: The 100 Deadliest Episodes in Human History* Matthew White, 2011-11-07 "An amusing (really) account of the murderous ways of despots, slave traders, blundering royals, gladiators and assorted hordes."—New York Times Evangelists of human progress meet their opposite in Matthew White's epic examination of history's one hundred most violent events, or, in White's piquant phrasing, "the numbers that people want to argue about." Reaching back to the Second Persian War in 480 BCE and moving chronologically through history, White surrounds hard facts (time and place) and succinct takeaways (who usually gets the blame?) with lively military, social, and political histories.

worst genocides of all time: The Problems of Genocide A. Dirk Moses, 2021-02-04 Historically delineates the problems of genocide as a concept in relation to rival categories of mass violence.

worst genocides of all time: *The Great Famine & Genocide in Iran* Mohammad Gholi Majd, 2013-07-19 At least 8–10 million Iranians out of a population of 18–20 million died of starvation and disease during the famine of 1917–1919. The Iranian holocaust was the biggest calamity of World War I and one of the worst genocides of the 20th century, yet it remained concealed for nearly a century. The 2003 edition of this book relied primarily on US diplomatic records and memoirs of British officers who served in Iran in World War I, but in this edition these documents have been

supplemented with US military records, British official sources, memoirs, diaries of notable Iranians, and a wide array of Iranian newspaper reports. In addition, the demographic data has been expanded to include newly discovered US State Department documents on Iran's pre-1914 population. This book also includes a new chapter with a detailed military and political history of Iran in World War I. A work of enduring value, Majd provides a comprehensive account of Iran's greatest calamity.

worst genocides of all time: *The Thirty-Year Genocide* Benny Morris, Dror Ze'evi, 2019-04-24 A Financial Times Book of the Year A Foreign Affairs Book of the Year A Spectator Book of the Year "A landmark contribution to the study of these epochal events." —Times Literary Supplement "Brilliantly researched and written...casts a careful eye upon the ghastly events that took place in the final decades of the Ottoman empire, when its rulers decided to annihilate their Christian subjects...Hitler and the Nazis gleaned lessons from this genocide that they then applied to their own efforts to extirpate Jews." —Jacob Heilbrun, The Spectator Between 1894 and 1924, three waves of violence swept across Anatolia, targeting the region's Christian minorities. By 1924, the Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks, once nearly a quarter of the population, had been reduced to 2 percent. Most historians have treated these waves as distinct, isolated events, and successive Turkish governments presented them as an unfortunate sequence of accidents. The Thirty-Year Genocide is the first account to show that all three were actually part of a single, continuing, and intentional effort to wipe out Anatolia's Christian population. Despite the dramatic swing from the Islamizing autocracy of the sultan to the secularizing republicanism of the post–World War I period, the nation's annihilationist policies were remarkably constant, with continual recourse to premeditated mass killing, homicidal deportation, forced conversion, and mass rape. And one thing more was a constant: the rallying cry of jihad. While not justified under the teachings of Islam, the killing of two million Christians was effected through the calculated exhortation of the Turks to create a pure Muslim nation. "A subtle diagnosis of why, at particular moments over a span of three decades, Ottoman rulers and their successors unleashed torrents of suffering." —Bruce Clark, New York Times Book Review

worst genocides of all time: "Leave None to Tell the Story" Alison Liebhafsky Des Forges, Human Rights Watch (Organization), 1999 *** Law and Order

worst genocides of all time: The Great Famine and Genocide in Persia, 1917-1919 Mohammad Gholi Majd, 2003 In this book, Mohammad Gholi Majd argues that Persia was the greatest victim of World War One and also the victim of possibly the worst genocide of the twentieth century. Using U.S. State Department records, as well as Persian and British sources, Majd describes and documents a veritable holocaust about which practically nothing has been written.

worst genocides of all time: The Killing Season Geoffrey B. Robinson, 2019-10 The definitive account of one of the twentieth century's most brutal, yet least examined, episodes of genocide and detention The Killing Season explores one of the largest and swiftest, yet least examined, instances of mass killing and incarceration in the twentieth century—the shocking antileftist purge that gripped Indonesia in 1965–66, leaving some five hundred thousand people dead and more than a million others in detention. An expert in modern Indonesian history, genocide, and human rights, Geoffrey Robinson sets out to account for this violence and to end the troubling silence surrounding it. In doing so, he sheds new light on broad, enduring historical questions. How do we account for instances of systematic mass killing and detention? Why are some of these crimes remembered and punished, while others are forgotten? Based on a rich body of primary and secondary sources, The Killing Season is the definitive account of a pivotal period in Indonesian history.

worst genocides of all time: Axis Rule in Occupied Europe Raphael Lemkin, 2014 In this study Polish emigre Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959) coined the term 'genocide' and defined it as a subject of international law--Provided by publisher.

worst genocides of all time: The Circassian Genocide Walter Richmond, 2013-04-09 Circassia was a small independent nation on the northeastern shore of the Black Sea. For no reason

other than ethnic hatred, over the course of hundreds of raids the Russians drove the Circassians from their homeland and deported them to the Ottoman Empire. At least 600,000 people lost their lives to massacre, starvation, and the elements while hundreds of thousands more were forced to leave their homeland. By 1864, three-fourths of the population was annihilated, and the Circassians had become one of the first stateless peoples in modern history. Using rare archival materials, Walter Richmond chronicles the history of the war, describes in detail the final genocidal campaign, and follows the Circassians in diaspora through five generations as they struggle to survive and return home. He places the periods of acute genocide, 1821–1822 and 1863–1864, in the larger context of centuries of tension between the two nations and updates the story to the present day as the Circassian community works to gain international recognition of the genocide as the region prepares for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, the site of the Russians' final victory.

    worst genocides of all time: The Armenian Massacres in Ottoman Turkey Guenter Lewy, 2005-11-30 Avoiding the sterile was-it-genocide-or-not debate, this book will open a new chapter in this contentious controversy and may help achieve a long-overdue reconciliation of Armenians and Turks.

    worst genocides of all time: Statistics of Democide Rudolph J. Rummel, 1998 And conclusions -- Pre-twentieth century democide -- 1. The megamurderers. Japan's savage military ; The Khmer Rouge Hell State ; Turkey's ethnic purges ; The Vietnamese War state ; Poland's ethnic cleansing ; The Pakistani cutthroat state ; Tito's slaughterhouse ; Orwellian North Korea ; Barbarous Mexico ; Feudal Russia -- 2. The centi-kilo and lesser murderers. Death by American bombing ; The horde of centi-kilo murderers ; The crown of lesser murderers -- 3. Statistics of democide, power, and social field. The social field of democide ; Democracy, power, and democide ; Social diversity, power, and democide ; Culture and democide ; The socio-economic and geographic context of democide ; War, rebellion, and democide ; The social field and democide ; Democide through the years.

    worst genocides of all time: *Hitler, the Germans, and the Final Solution* Ian Kershaw, 2008-05-28 This volume presents a comprehensive, multifaceted picture both of the destructive dynamic of the Nazi leadership and of the attitudes and behavior of ordinary Germans as the persecution of the Jews spiraled into total genocide.

    worst genocides of all time: *Fundamentals of Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention* , 2016

    worst genocides of all time: *Atrocitology* Matthew White, 2011-10-31 Which wars killed the most people? Was the twentieth century the most violent in history? Are religions, tyrants or ideologies responsible for the greatest bloodshed? In this remarkable and original book, 'atrocitologist' Matthew White assesses man's inhumanity to man over several thousand years. From the Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage to the cataclysmic events of World War II, Atrocitology spans centuries and civilisations as it measures the hundred most violent episodes in history. Relying on statistical analysis rather than grand theories, White offers three big lessons: chaos is more deadly than tyranny, the world is much more disorganised than we realise, and more civilians than soldiers are killed in wars—in fact, the army is usually the safest place to be during wartime. Our understanding of history's worst atrocities is patchy and skewed. This book sets the record straight, charting those events with the largest man-made death tolls without fear or favour.

    worst genocides of all time: Death by Government R. J. Rummel, 1997-01-01 This is R. J. Rummel's fourth book in a series devoted to genocide and government mass murder, or what he calls democide. He presents the primary results, in tables and figures, as well as a historical sketch of the major cases of democide, those in which one million or more people were killed by a regime. In Death by Government, Rummel does not aim to describe democide itself, but to determine its nature and scope in order to test the theory that democracies are inherently nonviolent. Rummel discusses genocide in China, Nazi Germany, Japan, Cambodia, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. He also writes about areas of suspected genocide: North Korea, Mexico, and feudal Russia. His results clearly and decisively show that democracies commit less democide than other regimes. The underlying principle is that the less freedom people have, the greater the

violence; the more freedom, the less the violence. Thus, as Rummel says, â□□The problem is power. The solution is democracy. The course of action is to foster freedom.â□□ Death by Government is a compelling look at the horrors that occur in modern societies. It depicts how democide has been very much a part of human history. Among other examples, the book includes the massacre of Europeans during the Thirty Years' War, the relatively unknown genocide of the French Revolution, and the slaughtering of American Indians by colonists in the New World. This riveting account is an essential tool for historians, political scientists, and scholars interested in the study of genocide.

worst genocides of all time: Guinness World Records 2022 , 2022

worst genocides of all time: Confronting Humanity at Its Worst Leonard S. Newman, 2020 How do otherwise ordinary people become perpetrators of genocide? Why are groups targeted for mass killing? How do groups justify these terrible acts? While there are no easy answers to these questions, social psychologists are especially well positioned to contribute to our understanding of genocide and mass killing. With research targeting key questions -such as how negative impressions of outgroups develop and how social influence can lead people to violate their moral principles and other norms - social psychologists have much to teach us about why groups of people attempt to exterminate other groups, why people participate in such atrocious projects, and how they live with themselves afterwards. By bringing together research previously available only to readers of academic journals, this volume sheds crucial light on human behavior at the extremes and in doing so, helps us take one more step towards preventing future tragedies.

worst genocides of all time: *The Dark Side of Democracy* Michael Mann, 2005 Publisher Description

worst genocides of all time: <u>Becoming Evil</u> James Waller, 2002-06-27 Political or social groups wanting to commit mass murder on the basis of racial, ethnic or religious differences are never hindered by a lack of willing executioners. In Becoming Evil, social psychologist James Waller uncovers the internal and external factors that can lead ordinary people to commit extraordinary acts of evil. Waller debunks the common explanations for genocide- group think, psychopathology, unique cultures- and offers a more sophisticated and comprehensive psychological view of how anyone can potentially participate in heinous crimes against humanity. He outlines the evolutionary forces that shape human nature, the individual dispositions that are more likely to engage in acts of evil, and the context of cruelty in which these extraordinary acts can emerge. Illustrative eyewitness accounts are presented at the end of each chapter. An important new look at how evil develops, Becoming Evil will help us understand such tragedies as the Holocaust and recent terrorist events. Waller argues that by becoming more aware of the things that lead to extraordinary evil, we will be less likely to be surprised by it and less likely to be unwitting accomplices through our passivity.

worst genocides of all time: *Empire, Colony, Genocide* A. Dirk Moses, 2008-06-01 In 1944, Raphael Lemkin coined the term "genocide" to describe a foreign occupation that destroyed or permanently crippled a subject population. In this tradition, Empire, Colony, Genocide embeds genocide in the epochal geopolitical transformations of the past 500 years: the European colonization of the globe, the rise and fall of the continental land empires, violent decolonization, and the formation of nation states. It thereby challenges the customary focus on twentieth-century mass crimes and shows that genocide and "ethnic cleansing" have been intrinsic to imperial expansion. The complexity of the colonial encounter is reflected in the contrast between the insurgent identities and genocidal strategies that subaltern peoples sometimes developed to expel the occupiers, and those local elites and creole groups that the occupiers sought to co-opt. Presenting case studies on the Americas, Australia, Africa, Asia, the Ottoman Empire, Imperial Russia, and the Nazi "Third Reich," leading authorities examine the colonial dimension of the genocide concept as well as the imperial systems and discourses that enabled conquest. Empire, Colony, Genocide is a world history of genocide that highlights what Lemkin called "the role of the human group and its tribulations."

worst genocides of all time: In the Midst of Civilized Europe Jeffrey Veidlinger, 2021-10-26 FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD * SHORTLISTED FOR THE LIONEL

GELBER PRIZE "The mass killings of Jews from 1918 to 1921 are a bridge between local pogroms and the extermination of the Holocaust. No history of that Jewish catastrophe comes close to the virtuosity of research, clarity of prose, and power of analysis of this extraordinary book. As the horror of events yields to empathetic understanding, the reader is grateful to Veidlinger for reminding us what history can do." —Timothy Snyder, author of Bloodlands Between 1918 and 1921, over a hundred thousand Jews were murdered in Ukraine by peasants, townsmen, and soldiers who blamed the Jews for the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. In hundreds of separate incidents, ordinary people robbed their Jewish neighbors with impunity, burned down their houses, ripped apart their Torah scrolls, sexually assaulted them, and killed them. Largely forgotten today, these pogroms—ethnic riots—dominated headlines and international affairs in their time. Aid workers warned that six million Jews were in danger of complete extermination. Twenty years later, these dire predictions would come true. Drawing upon long-neglected archival materials, including thousands of newly discovered witness testimonies, trial records, and official orders, acclaimed historian Jeffrey Veidlinger shows for the first time how this wave of genocidal violence created the conditions for the Holocaust. Through stories of survivors, perpetrators, aid workers, and governmental officials, he explains how so many different groups of people came to the same conclusion: that killing Jews was an acceptable response to their various problems. In riveting prose, In the Midst of Civilized Europe repositions the pogroms as a defining moment of the twentieth century.

worst genocides of all time: Hell on Earth Ludwik Kowalski, 2008 The author's father, a civil engineer, left Poland for the Soviet Union in 1931. An idealistic communist, he believed it was his duty to emigrate, and to contribute to the building of a new society. His wife and his infant son followed soon after. In 1938 he was arrested and sent to a GULAG camp in Kolyma, where he became a slave in Stalin's state of proletarian dictatorship. Two years later he died, most likely from exhaustion, working in a gold mine. In this book The author, who is a retired physics professor (Professor Emeritus at Montclair State University, New Jersey), shares what he knows and thinks about Stalinism. Educated in the Soviet Union (elementary school), in Poland (high school and master's degree) and in France (Ph.D. in nuclear physics), he came to the United States in 1964. He deliberately avoided talking about Stalinism and concentrated on professional activities--teaching and research. Approaching retirement, however, he wrote an essay on Stalinism entitled Alaska Notes. It describes the gruesome Soviet reality, focusing on Kolyma, and on Stalin's inner circle. The essay contained comments on what has been published by some survivors of Stalinism, and by authors of several scholarly books, such as Leszek Kolakowski. Alaska Notes was posted on the Internet discussion list at Montclair State University. This public forum revealed a wide range of opinions about communism. The animated discussion, mostly among professors, convinced the author to transform the essay into this book. It is dedicated to all victims of Stalinism, and in particular to the author's father, a naive idealist deceived by propaganda. Royalties will be donated to a Montclair State Universityscholarship fund.

worst genocides of all time: Genocide Norman M. Naimark, 2017 Genocide occurs in every time period and on every continent. Using the 1948 U.N. definition of genocide as its departure point, this book examines the main episodes in the history of genocide from the beginning of human history to the present. Norman M. Naimark lucidly shows that genocide both changes over time, depending on the character of major historical periods, and remains the same in many of its murderous dynamics. He examines cases of genocide as distinct episodes of mass violence, but also in historical connection with earlier episodes. Unlike much of the literature in genocide studies, Naimark argues that genocide can also involve the elimination of targeted social and political groups, providing an insightful analysis of communist and anti-communist genocide. He pays special attention to settler (sometimes colonial) genocide as a subject of major concern, illuminating how deeply the elimination of indigenous peoples, especially in Africa, South America, and North America, influenced recent historical developments. At the same time, the classic cases of genocide in the twentieth Century - the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, Rwanda, and Bosnia -- are

discussed, together with recent episodes in Darfur and Congo.

worst genocides of all time: Ambassador Morgenthau's Story Henry Morgenthau, 1919

worst genocides of all time: Reflections on the Holocaust Julia Zarankin, 2011

worst genocides of all time: Denying the Holocaust Deborah E. Lipstadt, 2012-12-18 The denial of the Holocaust has no more credibility than the assertion that the earth is flat. Yet there are those who insist that the death of six million Jews in Nazi concentration camps is nothing but a hoax perpetrated by a powerful Zionist conspiracy. Sixty years ago, such notions were the province of pseudohistorians who argued that Hitler never meant to kill the Jews, and that only a few hundred thousand died in the camps from disease; they also argued that the Allied bombings of Dresden and other cities were worse than any Nazi offense, and that the Germans were the "true victims" of World War II. For years, those who made such claims were dismissed as harmless cranks operating on the lunatic fringe. But as time goes on, they have begun to gain a hearing in respectable arenas, and now, in the first full-scale history of Holocaust denial, Deborah Lipstadt shows how—despite tens of thousands of living witnesses and vast amounts of documentary evidence—this irrational idea not only has continued to gain adherents but has become an international movement, with organized chapters, "independent" research centers, and official publications that promote a "revisionist" view of recent history. Lipstadt shows how Holocaust denial thrives in the current atmosphere of value-relativism, and argues that this chilling attack on the factual record not only threatens Jews but undermines the very tenets of objective scholarship that support our faith in historical knowledge. Thus the movement has an unsuspected power to dramatically alter the way that truth and meaning are transmitted from one generation to another.

worst genocides of all time: *The History of the Mongol Conquests* J. J. Saunders, 2001-03-29 By far the best modern narrative account of the most extensive land empire in the history of the world.—David Morgan, author of The Mongols

worst genocides of all time: *The Media and the Rwanda Genocide* Allan Thompson, 2007-01-20 Explores the role of the media in the Rwandan genocide -- within the country and beyond.

worst genocides of all time: The Tamil Genocide by Sri Lanka Francis Boyle, 2010-04-20 Sri Lanka's government declared victory in May, 2009, in one of the world's most intractable wars after a series of battles in which it killed the leader of the Tamil Tigers, who had been fighting to create a separate homeland for the country's ethnic Tamil minority. The United Nations said the conflict had killed between 80,000 and 100,000 people in Sri Lanka since full-scale civil war broke out in 1983. A US State Department report offered a grisly catalogue of alleged abuses, including the killing of captives or combatants seeking surrender, the abduction and in some cases murder of Tamil civilians, and dismal humanitarian conditions in camps for displaced persons. Human Rights Watch said the U.S. report should dispel any doubts that serious abuses were committed during the final months of the 26-year civil war. The report gains added significance since, during these five months, the Sri Lankan Government denied independent observers, including the media and human rights organizations, access to the war zone, and conducted a "war without witnesses." This book traces the ongoing engagement of international lawyer Francis A. Boyle during the last years of the conflict. Boyle was among the very few addressing the international legal implications of the Sri Lankan Government's grave and systematic violations of Tamil human rights while the conflict was taking place. This is the first book to develop an authoritative case for genocide against the Government of Sri Lanka under international law.

WORST Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster
Jul 9, 2012 · The meaning of WORST is most corrupt, bad, evil, or ill. How to use worst in a sentence.

"Worse" vs. "Worst" – What's The Difference? | Thesaurus.com
Jun 9, 2022 · Worse is what's called the comparative form, basically meaning "more bad." Worst is the superlative form, basically meaning "most bad." Worse is used when making a …

WORST | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary

WORST definition: 1. superlative of bad: of the lowest quality, or the most unpleasant, difficult, or severe: 2. the.... Learn more.

worst adjective - Definition, pictures, pronunciation and usage ...

Definition of worst adjective in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Meaning, pronunciation, picture, example sentences, grammar, usage notes, synonyms and more.

worst - Wiktionary, the free dictionary

Aug 12, 2025 · Most harmful or severe. The worst storm we had last winter knocked down our power lines. Used with the definite article and an implied noun: something that is worst. None ...

Worst - definition of worst by The Free Dictionary

Under the most negative circumstances, estimation, or interpretation: At worst, the storm will make us postpone the trip.

WORST Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com

Worst definition: bad or ill in the highest, greatest, or most extreme degree.. See examples of WORST used in a sentence.

What does Worst mean? - Definitions.net

The term "worst" is an adjective used to describe something that is of the lowest quality, degree, or standard among others in a particular category. It refers to the most unfavorable or ...

WORST definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary

Worst is used to form the superlative of compound adjectives beginning with 'bad' and 'badly'. For example, the superlative of 'badly-affected' is 'worst-affected'.

WORST - Definition & Meaning - Reverso English Dictionary

Worst definition: most inferior in quality or condition. Check meanings, examples, usage tips, pronunciation, domains, and related words. Discover expressions like "get the worst of it", ...

WORST Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster

Jul 9, 2012 · The meaning of WORST is most corrupt, bad, evil, or ill. How to use worst in a sentence.

"Worse" vs. "Worst" – What's The Difference? | Thesaurus.com

Jun 9, 2022 · Worse is what's called the comparative form, basically meaning "more bad." Worst is the superlative form, basically meaning "most bad." Worse is used when making a comparison to ...

Worst - definition of worst by The Free Dictionary
Under the most negative circumstances, estimation, or interpretation: At worst, the storm will make us postpone the trip.

WORST Definition & Meaning | Dictionary.com
Worst definition: bad or ill in the highest, greatest, or most extreme degree.. See examples of WORST used in a sentence.

What does Worst mean? - Definitions.net
The term "worst" is an adjective used to describe something that is of the lowest quality, degree, or standard among others in a particular category. It refers to the most unfavorable or undesirable …

WORST definition and meaning | Collins English Dictionary
Worst is used to form the superlative of compound adjectives beginning with 'bad' and 'badly'. For example, the superlative of 'badly-affected' is 'worst-affected'.

WORST - Definition & Meaning - Reverso English Dictionary
Worst definition: most inferior in quality or condition. Check meanings, examples, usage tips, pronunciation, domains, and related words. Discover expressions like "get the worst of it", "worse …

[Back to Home](#)