

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, 1915 - 1923

During World War I, 1.5 million Armenians were deported and massacred in the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey).



Where?

The Ottoman Empire existed in the Balkan region of the Middle East from 1300-1923. During the time of the genocide, the Ottoman Empire bordered Bulgaria and Greece in the west, the Mediterranean Sea in the south and southwest, the Black Sea in the north, Iraq and Syria in the southwest, and the Russian empire in the east and northeast.

When?

Armenians had always been treated as second-class citizens in the Ottoman Empire. Armenians were allowed the freedom to practice their faith; however, mass persecution of Armenian citizens was a regular occurrence and Armenians were often blamed for misfortunes which befell the Ottoman Empire. Most of the killing took place during World War I, 1915 to 1918, but continued until 1923 when the newly-founded Republic of Turkey had become virtually free of all Armenians. Laws were enacted to prevent displaced Armenians from returning to their former homes.

Who?

Perpetrators: The “Young Turks” were a reformist and nationalist party, founded in the latter part of the 19th century, which became the dominant political party in Turkey from 1908 to 1918.

Victims: The Armenians are an ancient people who have lived on the Armenian Plateau for more than 4,000 years. During the genocide, the majority of the Armenian people were either killed outright or “ethnically cleansed” (removed by force) from their ancestral homeland; others escaped to neighboring countries or remained in the newly established Soviet Republic of Armenia.



How?

By 1914, Ottoman authorities had created an empire-wide propaganda campaign in which Armenians were presented as a threat to Ottoman nationalism and state security. Armenian leaders and intellectuals were arrested. The Armenian people were left without leadership, governmental representation, and with no defense against the Ottoman Turks. Armenians were discharged from military service, deported from their homes, and their property was confiscated. The Ottoman military forced them to march for hundreds of miles without food or water to the desert of modern-day Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people died on these forced marches. People were massacred indiscriminately: men and women, old and young. Mass shootings occurred at random. Pillaging, persecution, torture, rape and other sexual abuses were commonplace.

Despite international awareness of these atrocities, there was no intervention to stop the genocide.

The Aftermath

Contemporary scholars estimate that as many as 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the genocide along with approximately 500,000 Assyrians and 350,000 Anatolian Greeks. There were also thousands of displaced Armenians. The displaced survivors were largely unable to return to their former homes, as their land and property now belonged to the new Turkish government or to the Soviet state of Armenia.

To this day, the Republic of Turkey’s official stance is that the deaths of Armenians during their ‘relocation’ cannot accurately be deemed as ‘genocide,’ essentially denying the intentional nature of the atrocities. This denial has dramatically hindered Turkish foreign relations and is currently a factor in Turkey’s restriction from the European Union. Most scholars around the world acknowledge that the tragedy was, indeed, genocide, and many nations also have acknowledged the genocide.

Armenian Genocide



THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: 1915-1923

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 Massacre sites: The marker size represents the number of deaths.

→ → → →
 Death March Routes: Turkish troops forced Armenians into the desert, without food or water, to die of starvation and heat exhaustion.

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 Concentration Camps

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 Deportation Checkpoints

— — — — —
 Present day regional country borders

▬
 Historic Armenia borders

▬
 Current Armenia borders

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Armenian Genocide



Young Armenian women fight genocide. The Armenian genocide started on 24 April 1915. That day is remembered as Medz Yeghern (The Great Crime).

Տարազ- Armenian National Clothing

Armenian Genocide



People lay flowers at the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan



Armenian Genocide



From 1915 through 1920 an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were murdered under the auspices of the Young Turk government. Nearly 200 articles appeared in the New York Times about the genocide during the period.



The original caption of photograph reads: "The Above Photograph Shows Eight Armenian Professors Massacred by the Turks"

Armenian Genocide



A photo from the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, dated 1915, shows Turkish soldiers standing over the skulls of dead Armenian villagers.



BOSNIAN GENOCIDE, 1992 - 1995

In the 1990s during the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, systematic campaigns of ethnic cleansing affected all sides.



Where?

The former Yugoslavia's six republics were united for more than fifty years. As Josip Tito, Yugoslavia's President from 1953 to 1980, once said, "I am the leader of one country with two alphabets, three languages, four religions, five nationalities, six republics, surrounded by seven neighbors, with eight ethnic minorities." Under Tito's dictatorial control, the country was prosperous and peaceful.

When?

In 1980, Tito died. The economy began an economic slide that continued into the mid-1990s. Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia rose to power, based on campaigns of propaganda and nationalism. Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Macedonia declared independence from Yugoslavia. War broke out in the former Yugoslavia, lasting from 1990 to 1995.

Who?

Milosevic and Tudjman used public media to turn television and radio into effective propaganda tools that intensified tensions between Serbs and Croats while demonizing the Muslims. Serb paramilitary units began a campaign of terror using force, intimidation, and provocation against Bosnians and non-Serbs. They murdered defenseless civilians and drove the rest from their homes and businesses, which were then looted and destroyed. All sides of the conflict committed ethnic cleansing, but the scale and intensity of Serb actions against Muslims became genocidal. Serbs specifically targeted intellectuals, professionals, and political leaders in an attempt to eradicate the Bosnian Muslim culture.



How?

Bosnia suffered the highest death tolls, displacement, and gender-based violence among the republics. After Bosnia declared independence, Serb militants opened fire on thousands of peaceful demonstrators in Sarajevo. All roads into Sarajevo were blocked and the airport was shut down, cutting off over 400,000 residents from basic necessities like food, medicine, water, and electricity. In the longest siege in modern history, nearly 10,000 people died in four years, including 1,500 children.

In 1995 in Srebrenica, Bosnia, over 20,000 women, children, and elderly were forcibly transferred into Muslim-controlled territory while 8,000 men and boys were separated from their families, systematically slaughtered, and buried in mass graves.

During the war, there was a network of over 200 concentration camps in Bosnia where tens of thousands were incarcerated in inhumane conditions. Violence against women occurred in massive proportions: Serb authorities were told to impregnate the women as a means of destroying the Bosnian Muslim people. Women and young girls were subject to rape in front of their own parents and family members, and women were held captive for use as sex slaves.

The Aftermath

NATO dropped 1,026 bombs to bring all parties to the peace table. In 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, a peace agreement was signed. Today, most places in the countryside are littered and in ruins. Hundreds of thousands who fled have not yet returned. Economic hardship and corruption continue to affect Bosnia, and unemployment remains at a shocking 43 percent. Many educated people have left for better opportunities abroad; this 'brain drain' further weakens prospects for economic and social recovery in the region. The annual Srebrenica Remembrance Day is July 11, when the Mothers of Srebrenica preserve the memory of the Srebrenica Genocide and honor those killed.

Bosnian War



Bosnian
Genocide
Memorial

Bosnian War



5 August 1992: the enduring image of the Bosnian war, taken when Ed Vulliamy and Independent Television News uncovered the existence of concentration camps in Trnopolje, above, Omarska and Keraterm. Photograph: Reuters



Bosnian War



Bodies of people killed (1993)



CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE, 1975 - 1978



In order to create a Communist agricultural peasant society, the Khmer Rouge government killed over 25% of the country's population in only three years.

Where?

Cambodia, a country in Southeast Asia, is less than half the size of California. Following independence from France in 1953, Cambodia elected a prime minister who was subsequently overthrown by General Lon Nol in a coup. The population was 7 million.

When?

The genocide began in 1975 when the Khmer Rouge overthrew Lon Nol and lasted until the Vietnamese invaded in 1978.

Who?

Perpetrators: The Khmer Rouge began as a guerilla movement in the 1960s, led by Pol Pot. Pol Pot sought to deconstruct Cambodia back to a primitive and classless "Year Zero," where all citizens would participate in rural work projects and all Western innovations would be removed.

Victims: In order to achieve the "ideal" communist model, the Khmer Rouge believed that all Cambodians must be made to work as laborers in a huge federation of collective farms and all opposition was to be eliminated. Potential 'opposition' included intellectuals, doctors, teachers, professionals, monks, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, ethnic Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, and Cambodians with Chinese, Vietnamese, or Thai ancestry. The Khmer Rouge vigorously interrogated its members and frequently executed members on suspicions of treachery or sabotage. Survival in Khmer Rouge Cambodia was determined by one's ability to work.



How?

During the Vietnam War, the United States backed South Vietnamese forces and Cambodia became a battlefield, despite its neutrality. High Cambodian civilian casualties resulted in opposition to western democracy, driving new recruits to the Khmer Rouge guerilla movement. Pol Pot's communism brought images of new hope, promise, and national tranquility. Within days of the Khmer Rouge takeover in 1975, Pol Pot implemented his extremist policies of collectivization and communal labor.

Cambodians nationwide were forced from their hometowns and villages. The ill, disabled, old, and young who were incapable of making the journey to collective farms and labor camps perished. Entire cities were forcibly evacuated to the countryside; all political and civil rights were abolished. Children were taken from their parents and placed in separate forced labor camps. Factories, schools, universities, hospitals, and all other private institutions were shut down and their former owners and employees were murdered, along with their extended families. Religion was banned: leading Buddhist monks and Christian missionaries were killed, and temples and churches were burned. It was common for people to be shot for speaking a foreign language, wearing glasses, smiling, or crying.

Cambodians who survived the purges and marches became unpaid laborers, working on minimum rations for endless hours. They were forced to live in public communes, similar to military barracks, with constant food shortages and rampant disease. These conditions of genocide continued for three years until Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 and overthrew the Khmer Rouge government.

The Aftermath

Over two million were killed – more than 25 percent of the total population. Cambodia lay in ruin under the newly-established Vietnamese regime. The economy failed under Pol Pot, as all professionals, engineers, technicians, and planners who could potentially reorganize Cambodia had been killed or fled during the genocide. Guerilla forces continued fighting between 1978 and 1989, and a peace agreement was reached in 1991. The nation's first democratic election was held in 1993.

Khmer Rouge - Cambodia



map of skulls of Khmer Rouge victims
at Cambodia's genocide museum in
the capital Phnom Penh

Khmer Rouge - Cambodia



Sokly Tum, age 16, speaks of his fear of **Khmer Rouge** and Pol Pot, with a pile of human bones behind him in a "killing field." When Pol Pot officially took power in 1976, the **Khmer Rouge** regime began executions of party leaders who had ties to Vietnamese Communists. They also completed a purge of their own cadre in northern Cambodia. The purges eventually extend to pre-1975 leaders and suspects among its own regime and then moved to the northwest and eastern portions of the country. The series of purges were the cause of such killing fields as the one seen here.

Khmer Rouge - Cambodia



A Cambodian boy stands in front of a platform covered with human skulls at the Killing Field in Trapeang Sva Village, Kandal province



Khmer Rouge - Cambodia



A torture room at the Tuol Sleng Prison (the infamous S21), now a museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In the late 1970s the interrogation, torture, and murder of dissident Cambodian Communist Party members were carried out under the direct supervision of **Khmer Rouge** leaders.

[WOLFGANG KAEHLER/CORBIS]



DARFUR GENOCIDE, 2003 - PRESENT

The Sudanese government trains and arms Arab militias to kill, terrorize, and destroy the predominantly non-Arab Darfur region of Sudan.

Where?

Darfur is a region in Western Sudan that encompasses an area roughly the size of Spain. The population of Darfur is estimated at 6 million people. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled into neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic.

When?

Following independence from Britain in 1956, Sudan became embroiled in two prolonged civil wars for most of the remainder of the 20th century. Competition for scarce resources played a large role in these conflicts. Oil was discovered in western Sudan and the Sudanese government and international contributors became increasingly interested in the land in Darfur. The genocide in Darfur began in 2003 and continues today, driven by conflict between largely Arab grazers and non-Arab farmers.



Who?

Government-supported Arab tribesman (Janjaweed) systematically raid non-Arab villages in Darfur, killing and terrorizing the people and burning the villages. The goal is to remove the non-Arab farmers from the land to create a Pan-Arab state.

How?

Attacks on Darfuri villages commonly begin with Sudanese Air Force bombings followed by Janjaweed militia raids. All remaining village men, women, and children are murdered or forced to flee. Looting, burning of food stocks, enslaving and raping women and children, and stealing livestock are common. Dead bodies are tossed in

wells to contaminate water supplies and entire villages are burned to the ground.

In 2004, the United States declared the on-going conflict in Darfur to be 'genocide.' In 2006, President Bush called for the number of international troops in Darfur to be doubled. British Prime Minister Tony Blair called upon the members of the European Union for a unified response to the crisis.

In 2008, the UN issued a hybrid United Nations-African Union mission (UNAMID) to maintain peace in Darfur. A UNAMID force of 26,000 troops was authorized to use force to protect civilians, but despite this mandate, too few were sent and they lacked the necessary equipment to carry out their mission.

In 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir for crimes against humanity and, in 2010, a warrant for arrest on charges of genocide. The government of Sudan has yet to turn him over to the Court and, since the issuance of the warrants, the country has seen increased violence. The government forcefully expelled aid agencies, further jeopardizing the conditions for thousands of displaced and marginalized civilians.

In attempts to appease the Sudanese government, China and Russia, both permanent members of the Security Council, have blocked many United Nations resolutions. China is Sudan's chief diplomatic ally and invests heavily in Sudanese oil. Sudan's military is supplied by Chinese-made tanks, fighter planes, bombers, rocket launch propelled grenades, and machine guns. For decades, Russia and China have maintained a strong economic and politically strategic partnership. Russia is Sudan's strongest investment partner and political ally in Europe.

According to the United Nations, more than 2.7 million people are internally displaced and more than 350,000 are refugees in neighboring Chad. More than 400,000 have been killed; approximately 5,000 people die each month. The Sudanese government denies any culpability for the violence, displacement, and deaths.

Darfur



Woman and her infant in refugee camp Janub, **Darfur**, Sudan in 2011.



Darfur



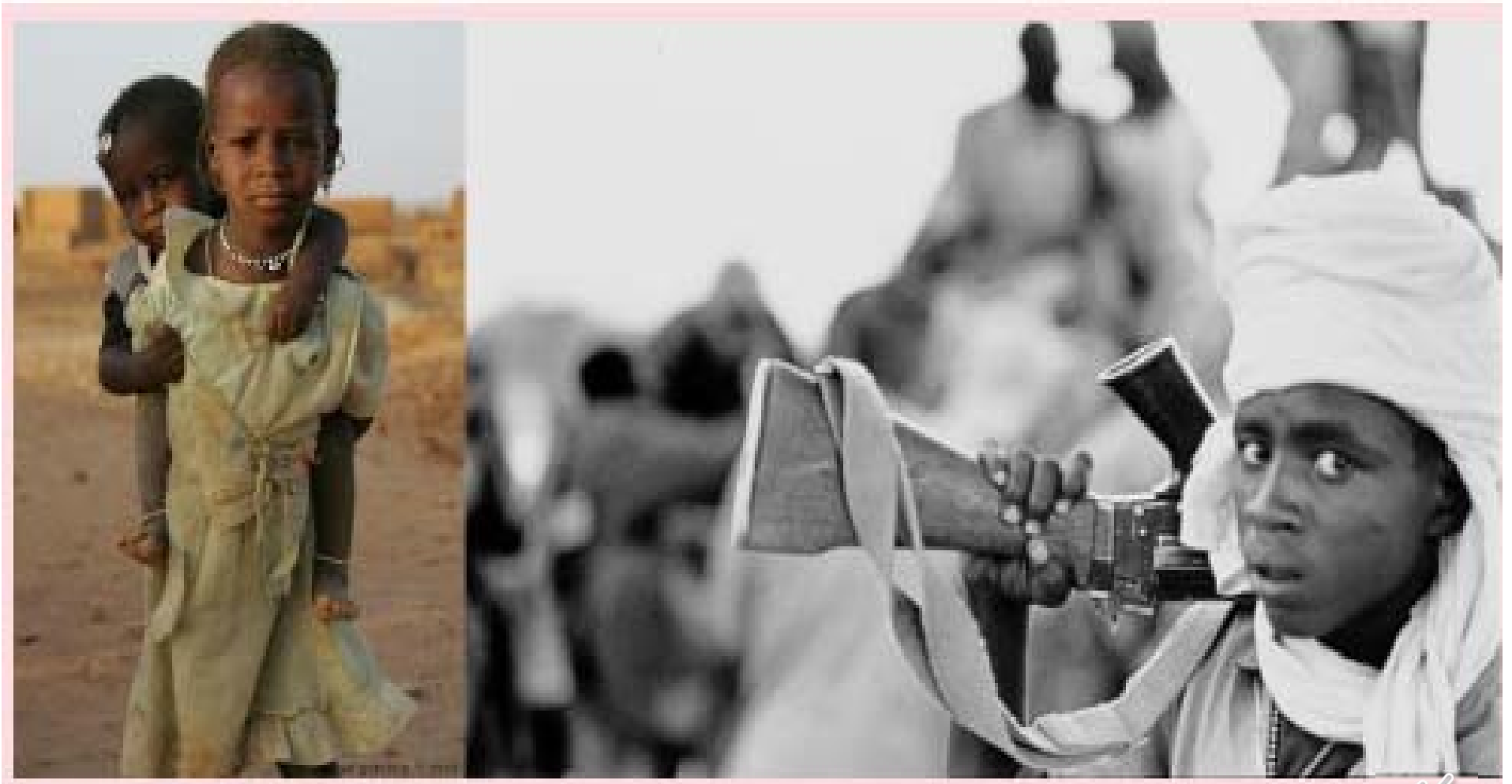
African Union peacekeepers help an injured family who survived an attack by Janjaweed soldiers in Darfur, Sudan.

The origin of the word **Janjaweed** is unclear. It has been translated into English as "devils on horseback" from the Arabic words *جن* *jinn* "demon" and *أجاويد* *ajāwīd* "horses".



Victims in Darfur 

Darfur



Children of Darfur



RWANDAN GENOCIDE, 1994

In only 100 days, 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered as part of the "Hutu Power" movement.



Where?

Rwanda is about the size of Maryland, located near the center of Africa. According to the 1991 national census, the population of Rwanda was 7.7 million, with 90 percent of the population ethnic Hutus, 9 percent Tutsi, and 1 percent Twa, or pygmy.

When?

Rwanda gained independence from Belgium in 1961. The Belgians set up a Hutu-run government under which Tutsis were treated as lesser citizens. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) formed in 1985 to demand an end to social discrimination against the Tutsis. RPF rebels invaded Rwanda from Uganda in 1990, reigniting hatred against the Tutsi and starting a low-level civil war.

The Rwandan genocide took place over a time span of only 100 days, between April and July 1994.



Who?

Perpetrators: Most of the killing was carried out by two Hutu radical militant groups: the Interahamwe and the Impuzamugambi. Armed, backed, and led by the government of Rwanda (MRND), the Interahamwe was comprised largely of young Hutu men brainwashed by the "Hutu Power" ideology. The most unsettling co-perpetrators of the genocide, however, were those Rwandan civilians who collaborated with and supported the genocide. Neighbors killed neighbors, students killed teachers, and teachers killed students.

Victims: Killed alongside the Tutsi people were Hutus who sympathized with their Tutsi neighbors and resisted by defending, hiding, or providing aid to their Tutsi neighbors.

How?

Decades of discrimination and fear for a loss of power paved the way to genocide. The Hutu-led government provided arms, planning, and leadership for the militias. It also funded the RTLM "Hutu Power" radio broadcast, the primary source of "brainwashing" for the Rwandan civilians who also took part in the genocide. The machete was the primary weapon used to hack people to death, as it required no training to use.

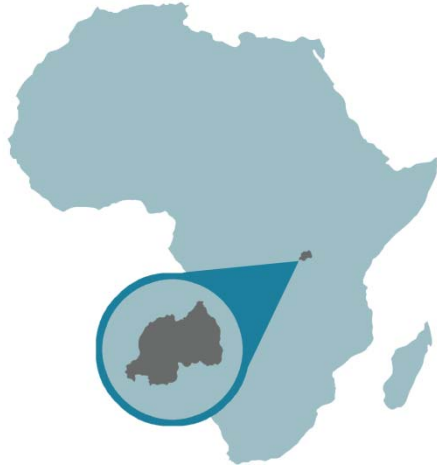
The genocide unfolded before the eyes of the national media, which covered the events live from Rwanda until violence escalated and all foreigners were evacuated. UNAMIR, the UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda, was present on the ground throughout the genocide. France, Belgium, and the United States declined to send additional support, despite UNAMIR's specific warnings to the UN in early 1994 describing the Hutu militia's plan for extermination. The Security Council denied UNAMIR's request to intervene, and in early April the Belgian UNAMIR forces pulled out in response to the murder of ten Belgian soldiers. Almost overnight, 4,500 UNAMIR peacekeepers were reduced to a mere 260. In mid-May, the UN recognized that "acts of genocide may have been committed."

The RPF overthrew the Hutu regime in July, ending the genocide. UN intervention never occurred.

The Aftermath

Immediately following RPF takeover, 2 million Hutus (perpetrators, bystanders, and resisters to the genocide) fled into neighboring countries to avoid potential Tutsi retribution. Thousands died of epidemics that spread like wildfire through overcrowded refugee camps. The refugee presence in Zaire, among other factors, led to the first Congo War in 1996 and the formation of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Rwanda (1994)



Pictures of killed people donated by survivors are installed on a wall inside the Gisozi memorial in Kigali, which depicts the Rwanda's genocide.

Rwanda (1994)- survivors reconcile



Godefroid Mudaheranwa *Perpetrator (left)* Evasta Mukanyandwi *Survivor*

MUDAHERANWA: "I burned her house. I attacked her in order to kill her and her children, but God protected them, and they escaped. When I was released from jail, if I saw her, I would run and hide. Then AMI started to provide us with trainings. I decided to ask her for forgiveness. To have good relationships with the person to whom you did evil deeds — we thank God."

MUKANYANDWI: "I used to hate him. When he came to my house and knelt down before me and asked for forgiveness, I was moved by his sincerity. Now, if I cry for help, he comes to rescue me. When I face any issue, I call him."

Rwanda (1994)



Rwandan Tutsis massacred in the 1994 genocide.



Mass Grave of Rwandans, 1994. The bodies of **Rwandan genocide** victims are buried in a mass grave near Goma, Zaire. Over a period of only 100 days, roughly 800,000 people lost their lives in the genocide and war. AP IMAGES.



China's Cultural Revolution (1966)

In 1912 the dynastic cycle in China came to a close. No longer was China ruled by a series of imperial families. Between 1927 and 1949 The Nationalist Party and The Communist Party in China struggled for control of the region. This conflict became known as the Chinese Civil War. The Communist Party led by Mao Zedong ended up in control of China and they put in place a new form of government known as The People's Republic of China on October 1st, 1949. Mao became the leader of this new nation because he was the leader of the Chinese Communist Party.

Every five years the Chinese Communist Party and the government would outline its economic goals. They practiced a version of communism so their overall goal was to become completely self sufficient and industrialized. They were behind the rest of the world, especially on industrializing. Mao was not happy with this situation so he decided to put in place his own plan to industrialize China much quicker. In 1958, The Second Five Year Plan was put in place, it is better known as **The Great Leap Forward**. Mao moved families on to communal farms where they would live and work. He established local factories to produce steel, but the people were not trained to operate the machines and the goods they produced were low quality.

Agricultural production was on the decline as the fertile land was often used for the factories and industry. Many farmers were taken off the farms and sent to work in the factories. The result of these changes led to The Great Chinese Famine. Between 1958 and 1961 as many as 20 million people died of starvation in China. The Chinese economy shrank. The Great Leap Forward was a failure.

Mao needed to change the direction of his country, but he was faced with opposition from many who blamed him for the colossal failure of The Great Leap Forward. He became concerned the China was going to move away from these socialist ideals that he had promoted and that they would turn back towards Capitalism of Free Market System ideas. Mao believed that the movement would take time and so he persisted.

In May of 1966 a meeting was put in place among the members of the Chinese Communist Party. In this meeting they launched a new campaign known as China's **Cultural Revolution**. On August 6, 1966, the Chinese Communist Party launched a 16 point plan. They first had to deal with the growing opposition. Schools were shut down as a way to harness growing student discontent and apply it in a way less critical of Mao. High-school and college students formed revolutionary groups called the Red Guard. Around eleven million Red Guards came together in Beijing for a series of rallies, starting on August 18, at which Mao urged them to implement the aims of the Cultural Revolution: to find and neutralize anyone who was against the revolution. Colleges and schools were viewed as useless and were shut down. There was growing discontent by the Chinese people. The Red Guard was sent to deal with anyone who opposed. Professors, government officials, factory managers, professionals, people of privilege or whoever resisted the regime were forced to do hard labor in remote villages, executed or died in jail. By 1976, society began to be restored to order.

China- Cultural Revolution (1966)



Individuals accused by the Red Guards of being anti-revolutionists and anti-Mao were



People burning old and traditional objects during the Cultural Revolution's 'Break the Four Olds' Movement, 1966.



The main role of the Red Guards in the Cultural Revolution was attacking and destroying the 'Four Olds' of Chinese society (old customs, old culture, old habits and old ideas).



Confession and Humiliation
in Mao's Cultural Revolution

China- Cultural Revolution (1966)

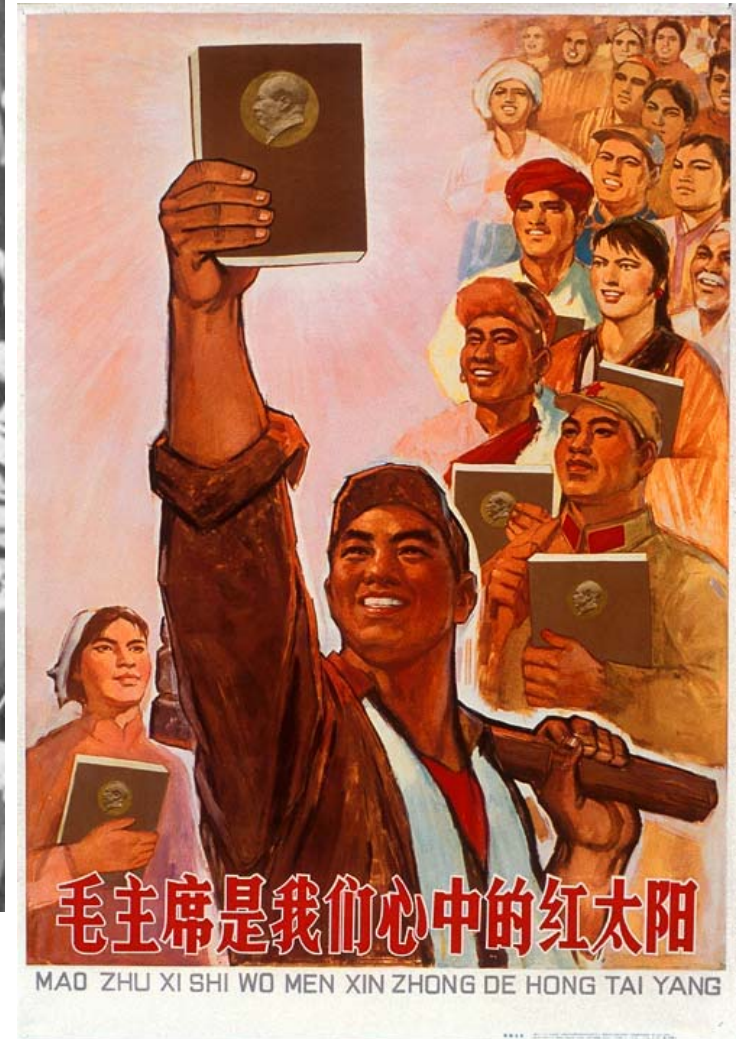


Red Guards on the cover of an elementary school textbook.

China- Cultural Revolution (1966)



Red Guards greet the morning with a mass reading of Mao's Little Red Book, 1968.



Latin America – El Salvador in the 1970's and 1980's

Between 1980 and 1992, the tiny Central American republic of El Salvador was engulfed in a brutal civil war. The Salvadoran armed forces, internal security forces such as the National Guard and National Police, and death squads allied with them killed tens of thousands of Salvadoran civilians in an effort to wipe out the guerrilla insurgency of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). Throughout the conflict, but most particularly in its early years, state forces committed grave and systematic abuses of human rights, including massacres, murders, disappearance, and torture. The FMLN carried out a smaller but nonetheless serious number of violations of international humanitarian law, including targeted assassinations of prominent public figures, kidnappings for ransom, and harming civilians in violation of the rule of proportionality of the laws of war. A United Nations-sponsored Commission on the Truth for El Salvador, created in 1992 as part of a UN-brokered peace accord, concluded that 85 percent of the human rights cases brought to its attention involved state agents, paramilitary groups, or death squads allied with official forces. Five percent of cases brought to the Truth Commission were attributed to the FMLN.

Political factors that led to the outbreak of war included decades of military rule, blatant fraud when civilians won the 1972 and 1977 presidential elections, and increasingly violent suppression of the regime's opponents. These political factors were coupled with the domination of the economic life of the country by a small landed elite that was opposed to reforms, especially agrarian reform, and who derived their control from the economic transformation of the country in the late nineteenth century. That period saw the rapid expansion of coffee cultivation, the abolition of indigenous tribal lands, and the creation of rural police forces for the explicit purpose of evicting peasants from communally held properties.

Political violence dramatically increased in 1979, following a reformist military coup aimed at staving off a violent revolution like the one that had begun in 1978 in neighboring Nicaragua. Efforts by military officers and progressive civilians to promote reforms, including an end to human rights abuses, were blocked by a wave of violence unleashed by the army and security forces. Through mass demonstrations and sit-ins, grassroots organizations, some with direct or indirect links to guerrilla groups that had emerged in the early 1970s, challenged the junta to rapidly fulfill its promises. Targeted killings by state forces and increasing confrontations between government troops and demonstrators brought the civilian death toll to a record 9,000 to 10,000 in 1980. High-profile victims included El Salvador's Archbishop, Oscar Romero, who was shot by a death squad as he celebrated mass. Six leaders of the leftist political opposition were kidnapped by security forces from a press conference and then tortured and murdered, and four U.S. churchwomen were abducted, raped, and killed by troops of the National Guard. Amid the escalating repression, guerrilla groups coalesced to form the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). Their failed "final offensive" in January 1981 effectively launched the country into full-scale civil war.

The years 1980 to 1983 witnessed the heaviest repression. Massacres in rural areas, gruesome murders by death squads, and the killing or disappearance of teachers, trade unionists, students, religious and humanitarian workers, journalists, and members of opposition political parties were the products of a military mindset that equated opposition with subversion and that viewed civilians in combat zones as legitimate targets of attack. The scale of the killings in rural as well as urban areas subsided in the second half of the decade, largely as the result of pressure from the United States, which provided approximately \$6 billion in military and economic assistance to the Salvadoran government over the course of the war.

The December 1981 massacre in El Mozote and surrounding villages epitomized both Salvadoran army practices and the pattern of U.S. denial. According to the Truth Commission, the army's elite Atlacatl Battalion "deliberately and systematically" executed more than 500 men, women, and children over a period of several days, torturing some victims and setting fire to buildings. Exhumations in and around El Mozote after the war revealed that, in one parish house alone, 131 of the 143 victims were children whose average age was six. The Truth Commission found "no evidence" to support arguments made publicly by the U.S. government at the time of the massacre that the victims had participated in combat or had been trapped in crossfire between combatant forces.

Other large-scale massacres of civilians in rural areas took place. While the death toll in massacres subsided as the decade wore on, hundreds of civilians were killed and many more thousands were displaced or forced to flee the country by aerial bombing campaigns conducted by the Salvadoran Air Force. The goal was to drive civilians out of zones where the guerrillas were active. Bombing attacks subsided after 1986, a result of international pressure and a change in FMLN tactic, which emphasized small unit operations over the massing of large numbers of fighters.

Guerrilla abuses against the civilian population took place mainly but not exclusively in the context of the conflict. Before the outbreak of war, the guerrillas kidnapped prominent individuals for ransom, including the Salvadoran foreign minister in 1978 (he was subsequently executed). Beginning in the 1970s and continuing throughout the conflict, the FMLN summarily executed civilians suspected of being government informants.

Targeted killings and disappearances of civilians by the FMLN were smaller in number than those of state forces, but constituted serious violations of international humanitarian law, nonetheless. Victims included more than eleven mayors, who were executed between 1985 and 1988 in areas the guerrillas considered their zones of control. Also killed were four off-duty U.S. Marines, who were machine-gunned at an outdoor café in 1985; and conservative public figures such as Attorney General José Roberto García Alvarado and intellectual Francisco Peccorini, both assassinated in 1989. Other episodes of FMLN abuse included the mass execution of a group of captured civilians in Morazán (1984), the kidnapping of the daughter of President José Napoleón Duarte (1985), and the killing of civilians who refused to stop at guerrilla roadblocks. Scores of civilians were killed and hundreds were wounded by the guerrillas' indiscriminate use of land mines. On numerous occasions, the use of crude and inaccurate homemade weapons and explosives resulted in civilian deaths.

Nothing so epitomized the terror of the Salvadoran war as the activities of the death squads. According to the Truth Commission, the squads' share of abuses was relatively small (just over 10% of documented cases), but they "gained such control that they ceased to be an isolated or marginal phenomenon and became an instrument of terror used systematically for the physical elimination of political opponents." The Truth Commission reported that civilian as well as military authorities during the 1980s participated in, encouraged, and tolerated death squad activities, offering "complete impunity" for those who worked in them.

Official U.S. documents that were declassified after the end of the war contain a wealth of information on death squad operations, structure, and personnel. For instance, Roberto D'Aubuisson, a cashiered National Guard officer, was a key figure in death squad violence. According to the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, one of his most notorious crimes was overseeing the drawing of lots for the "privilege" of assassinating Archbishop Romero. According to a 1981 CIA memo, D'Aubuisson was funded by members of the "extreme right-wing Salvadoran elite" who "have reportedly spent millions of dollars" in an effort to return the country to right-wing military rule. Another 1981 CIA report said that D'Aubuisson favored the "physical elimination" of leftists, whom he defined as "anyone not supportive of the traditional status quo." According to the Truth Commission, D'Aubuisson maintained close contact with the intelligence sections of the security forces, combining "two elements in a strategic relationship": money (and weapons, vehicles, and safehouses) provided by the extreme right, and ideology, providing "the definition of a political line," for the intelligence units of the security forces.

To give a political front to the death squads, D'Aubuisson organized the *Frente Amplio Nacional* (Broad National Front), which later became the Nationalist Republican Alliance (*Alianza Republicana Nacionalista*, or ARENA) party. As ARENA's candidate, D'Aubuisson was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1982, later becoming its president. From that post, according to the CIA in 1984, he directed a team that engaged in "political intimidation, including abduction, torture, and murder." In 1985, the CIA identified the notorious Secret Anticommunist Army (*Ejército Secreto Anticomunista*, or ESA) as the public face of the ARENA death squad.

Other death squads operated out of the military and security forces, occasionally conducting joint operations. These included death squads organized out of the intelligence sections of the National Guard and National Police. The army's First Brigade, Signal Corps, Second Brigade, and cavalry, artillery, engineer, and infantry detachments throughout the country also participated in death-squad killings. A death squad operating out of an intelligence unit of the Air Force in the early 1990s threw bound but living prisoners out of aircraft over the Pacific Ocean, a practice referred to as "night free-fall training."

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El Salvador (1970's-1980's)



Youths gather around the spot where a fellow student protester was killed.

El Salvador (1970's-1980's)



El Salvador (1970's-1980's)



Soviet Union – The Great Purge 1934



The Great Purge was a campaign led by Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union between 1934 and 1939. Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, became increasingly concerned that there was a movement taking place to get rid of him and the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. He launched a campaign to remove anyone who was no longer in agreement with his policies and beliefs. It was a large scale purge of the Communist Party and government officials, repression of the peasants and the leaders of the Red Army. During this time the government also participated in police surveillance, imprisonment, and executions of believed dissenters.

The Communist Party in the Soviet Union was concerned about possible “social unrest” after a policy that they put in place in 1932 where they forced peasants to relocate on to communal farms. The term “purge” was first used when the Communist Party removed thousands of members, but eventually simply removing them wasn’t enough. The term “purge” eventually coincided with the arrest, imprisonment, and often execution of those who were seen as against the party’s goals. Stalin wanted to eliminate any chance of those who opposed him or opposition groups from making any headway in starting a revolution against his government. Following the civil war a lot of the members of the Communist Party saw no reason to leave a “war time” dictator in place, Stalin knew that if more people caught on to this that he would soon be without a job.

In 1934, a popular member of the Communist Party was shot and killed. Some people believe that Stalin organized this killing himself because he viewed the man as a threat. Nevertheless, Stalin would use this event to officially launch “The Great Purge.” Stalin would seek out anyone who was a threat to his power and have them arrested and jailed or even worse, murdered. What originally started as just a purge of the Communist Party eventually led to a purge of the whole society.

Stalin went on to purge the Red Army as well. Stalin removed marshals, commanders, admirals, and army corps members. Some people believe that anywhere from 25% to 50% of the Red Army was removed. Eventually Stalin even went after those who had participated in the originally Russian Revolution and had supported Lenin during his time in power, he had them executed. According to the declassified Soviet archives, during 1937 and 1938, the secret police detained 1.5 million people, of whom 681,692 were shot - an average of 1,000 executions a day.

When the Soviet Union came to an end in 1991 there were mass graves discovered with the bodies of the executed victims of Stalin’s Great Purge. Some of these mass graves contained up to 200,000 bodies.