



Swept off your Feet

Beyond Worship-as-Usual

Connecting with God for a Strong Finish

CHAPTER 34

Warfare, Democide, and Abortion

The cost of combat staggers the imagination, especially when compared with worship. Historians estimate price tags for war with casualty counts and financial ledgers. Their take away message underscores how long God has watched behavior that He did not want to see. While inventors devise terrifying weapons of mass destruction, anger, hatred, and revenge eclipse worship and praise.

The following estimates include combat deaths, civilian atrocities, mortality from war-related famine and disease, as well as famine used as a weapon during sieges (e.g., by Stalin in the USSR).¹ Precise casualty counts are difficult to quantify and they vary widely depending on the source. The wounded, missing in action (MIA), and captured (POW) all experienced poor outcomes since clean water, food, shelter, sanitation, and medical care are typically insufficient at the battlefield.

In this overview, exact figures are less important than grasping the immense scale of death, destruction, loss, and grief. Each battlefield designates a place where our Heavenly Father sought to find worshipers. Perhaps someone will yet show Him the reverence that He deserves at these sights.

¹ <http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/atrox.htm> (Accessed 1-10-06)

Warfare by the Numbers

According to various sources, about 55 million people died in the Second World War (1937-1945). Over 40 million died in China under Mao Tse-Tung's oppressive reign (1949-1976). Over 20 million died in the USSR under Joseph Stalin's tyranny (1924-1953 including WW2 atrocities). An estimated 15 million died in the First World War (1914-1918). About 8.8 million died in the Russian Civil War (1918-1921). Four million died during the Chinese Warlord and Nationalist Era (1917-1937). Three million died in the Congo Free State conflict (1900-1908), and 2.8 million died in the Korean War (1950-1953).

The following data tables offer a concise overview of modern warfare. These figures would probably be much higher without the prayers, intercession, and devoted service offered by worshipers.

MODERN MILITARY ACTIVITY WITH HIGH CASUALTIES

WAR	Casualties (millions)	Dates	Years
World War II	55	1937-1945	8
Mao in China	40	1949-1976	27
Taiping Rebellion in China	20-30	1850-1864	14
Stalin in USSR	20	1924-1953	29
World War I	15	1914-1918	4
Russian Civil War	8.8	1918-1921	3
Chinese Warlord/Nationalist	4	1917-1937	20
Congo Free State	3	1900-1908	8
Korean War	2.8	1950-1953	3
US Civil War	0.97	1861-1865	4

In 4 years, the American Civil War (1861-1865) generated about 970 thousand deaths. Three percent of the USA population perished including about 620 thousand soldiers—two-thirds by disease.²

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War; (accessed 12-16-06)

The Taiping Rebellion

China experienced a much bloodier civil war that lasted 14 years. Christianity played a curious role in this tragic conflict. The Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864) produced 20-30 million fatalities, which include numerous civilian massacres following military victories.³ R.J. Rummel, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Hawaii estimates 40 million casualties.⁴

Other historians estimate that “the combination of natural disasters combined with political insurrections [including the First and Second Opium wars] may have cost as many as 200 million Chinese lives between 1850 and 1865.”⁵ Concurrent rebellions compounded this death toll as Taiping revolts reinforced the Nian Rebellion (1853-1868) as well as insurrections by Chinese Muslims in the southwest, the Hui Rebellion (1862-1877) in the northwest, and the Panthay Rebellion (1855-1873). Some authorities concede that 200 million casualties may be an exaggeration since this figure represents about half the estimated population of China in 1851.⁶ Notwithstanding, it foreshadows massive death scenarios described in the Revelation to John.

The Taiping Rebellion involved a concentrated revolt by racial minorities against the prevailing Qing Empire. About one million Taiping forces fought the imperial Chinese army numbering between two and five million. American Commander Fredrick Ward and Britain’s Charles “Chinese Gordon” of Khartoum fame helped lead the Qing military using European weapons, tactics, and strategies.

Two self-proclaimed Hakka mystics renamed Hong Xiuquan (also spelled Xiuquon, which means complete fire) and Yang Xiuqing led this

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiping_Rebellion (accessed 6-8-13)

⁴ <http://www.Hawaii.edu/powerkills/genocide.ency.htm> (accessed 1-16-07)

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiping_Rebellion (accessed 6-8-13).

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Chinese_Rebellions (accessed 6-8-13)

rebellion.⁷ Hong, a schoolteacher, formed an unorthodox cult. He declared himself the new Messiah and younger brother of Jesus Christ.

After failing two civil service exams for prospective government officials, Hong suffered a nervous breakdown and an illness induced coma. This state led to a mystical revelation during an out-of-body experience. In his dreams, a bearded man with golden hair gave Hong a sword, and with a younger man dubbed “Elder Brother,” taught him how to slay evil spirits. The book, “Good Words for Exhorting the Age”, by the first Protestant evangelist to China, Liang Afa, emphasized how worshiping God could bring “heavenly peace” (translated *Taiping* in Chinese) to earth. Based on readings from this book, Hong Xiuquan came to believe that the figures in his dreams were God the Father and Jesus Christ, and that they were revealing his destiny as a slayer of demons and the leader of a new Heavenly Kingdom on Earth.⁸

One of the first converts to Hong’s corrupt version of Christianity, Feng Yunshan organized the God Worshipers’ Society (Bai Shangdi Hui). Three years after Hong joined Feng and the God Worshipers he led them in rebellion.⁹

Initially, Hong sought to replace the oppressive, corrupt, violent, and sadistic climate dominating China with heavenly peace (i.e., Taiping). He preached his message from village to village making many converts. The prevailing Qing authorities arrested and executed many of his followers. In response, Hong organized his church like an army to fight back against their persecutors.

Hong eventually changed his name to Tien Wang, which means Heavenly King. Due to serious heretical teachings, Protestant missionaries turned against this movement. Hong added another book to the Bi-

⁷ William Weir, *50 Battles that Changed the World*, Career Press, Franklin Lakes, NJ, 2001, p. 235.

⁸ Jonathan D. Spence, *God’s Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan*, 1997, W. W. Norton and Company, New York, NY, p. 17
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiping_Rebellion (accessed 12-4-06)

⁹ BaiShangdi Hui. (2011). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. accessed 7-29-11 from
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/438400/BaiShangdi-Hui>

ble based on his readings and personal revelations. He rejected the doctrine of the Trinity and ascribed exclusive divinity to God the Father. A former firewood salesman, Yang Xiuqing served ostensibly as God's mouthpiece for this movement. Hong bestowed the title "Holy Wind the Comforter" to him. Yang served as a prominent Taiping political leader until his murder in 1856 during a coup d'état.

Hong's Taiping forces attempted to establish what they ironically called the *Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace*. They replaced the Confucian classics with the Bible for a civil service degree. Peasant mannerisms prevailed in a classless theocratic society. Sexes were equal but strictly separated even after marriage. According to William Weir, "Until the Heavenly Kingdom was achieved, the Taipings were forbidden to drink alcohol, smoke opium, or have sex. Even married couples who slept together were beheaded."¹⁰ Hong also banned tobacco, gambling, prostitution, slavery, foot binding, owning private property, polygamy, and concubines. Ironically, these rules did not apply in Hong's palace as he indulged in drugs, alcohol, and maintained 88 mistresses. Because of Hong's distractions, a number of generals including Chung Wang, which means Faithful King, assumed the functional leadership over military affairs.

Under Hong, the Taiping military initially served as a police force protecting its citizens from lawlessness and government abuse. It grew stronger in response to intensifying persecution. The Taiping Rebellion progressively escalated from intermittent insurrections to civil war. Taiping forces gained control of significant parts of southern China using brutal combat force. Along with women, longhaired men served in the military after shaving their long braided hair queues in cultural defiance to imperial authority.

The third battle for their capital at Nanjing (1864) cost the Taiping army more than 100,000 soldiers in three days. As Imperial Qing forces

¹⁰ William Weir, *50 Battles that Changed the World*, Career Press, Franklin Lakes, NJ, 2001, p. 235.

prevailed, they slaughtered much of the civilian population. Hong's sanity eroded while indulging in drugs, alcohol, and his private harem. He eventually committed suicide with poison; his dead body ended up in a sewer.

Deadliest Battles

At least six major battles, including sieges, involved the loss of over one million lives.¹¹ Five of these battles occurred in Soviet Russia. During World War 2, the Battle of Stalingrad, Russia (1942-1943) “was arguably the bloodiest battle in human history, with combined casualties reaching close to two million”.¹² Germany reported an estimated 750,000 killed, missing, or wounded with 91,000 captured. Russia reported 480,000 killed or missing, 650,000 wounded or sick, and 40,000 civilians dead.

In the Soviet Belorussian Offensive (1944), 1.4 to 1.9 million died; in the Siege of Leningrad, Russia (1941-1944), 1.5 million died; and in the Battle of Moscow, Russia (1942), nearly one million died. The decisive Battle of Normandy (1944) produced about 425 thousand casualties.¹³

In 1916 during World War I, the Ukrainian Brusilov Offensive generated about 1.9 million casualties and the Battle of the Somme, France produced about one million.

SIX DEADLIEST BATTLES (including sieges)¹⁴

LOCATION	Combatants (millions)	Casualties (millions)	Dates
Stalingrad (Russia)	Initial Force 0.5 Counter Force 1.8	Over 2 with civilians	1942-1943
Brusilov Offensive (Ukraine)	Over 1	1.8	1916

¹¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Most_lethal_battles_in_world_history (accessed 1-26-07)

¹² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Stalingrad (accessed 1-26-07)

¹³ http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_many_people_died_in_the_Battle_of_Normandy (accessed 5-9-13)

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_battles_by_casualties (5-6-2012)

LOCATION	Combatants (millions)	Casualties (millions)	Dates
Soviet Belorussian Offensive	3	1.4 – 1.9	1944
Siege of Leningrad (Russia)	Uncertain	1.5	1941-1944
Battle of the Somme (France)	Over 2	1.5	1916
Battle of Moscow	Over 3	1.25 – 1.8	1942

The Napoleonic Wars (~1802-1815)

In terms of armed combatants, the Taiping Rebellion remains the largest civil war of the nineteenth century. Nonetheless, historians debate whether it was the largest war of the nineteenth century.

In Napoleon Bonaparte's final battle, 180,000-190,000 combatants left 47,000 casualties at Waterloo. Previous battles were somewhat larger. Combatants at Bautzen, Germany numbered about 200,000 (with 40,000 casualties), at Wagram, Austria 300,000 (with 74,000 casualties), at Dresden, Germany 350,000 (with 48,000 casualties), and at Leipzig, Germany 500,000 (with 90,000 casualties).

At Borodino, Russia, there were 250,000 forces (with 79,000 casualties). The first day of this horrific battle may represent the bloodiest single day in modern warfare. The French fired 2,300 rounds of musketry per minute. Combined casualties averaged 8,500 per hour. The equivalent of a full-strength company died every 60 seconds.¹⁵

Battle statistics are difficult to tally since the wounded often die and the missing in action complicates the count.

¹⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Borodino (accessed 12-1-06).

NAPOLEONIC BATTLES (~1802-1815)

LOCATION	Combatants	Casualties	Date
Leipzig, Germany	500,000	90,000	1813
Dresden, Germany	350,000	48,000	1813
Wagram, Austria	300,000	74,000	1809
Borodino, Russia	250,000	79,000	1812
Bautzen, Germany	250,000	40,000	1813
Lützen, Germany	200,00	40,000	1813
Waterloo, Belgium	180,000-190,000	47,000	1815

Battles Involving Multitudes during the 19th Century

In 1866, 490,000 troops fought the decisive battle of the Austro-Prussian War. The Kingdom of Prussia defeated the Austrian Empire at Sadowa (Königgrätz), Bohemia in the Czech Republic.¹⁶ During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, 320,000 combatants fought in Sedan, France and 300,000 fought in Gravelotte, France.¹⁷ After a 2-month siege in 1683, the Ottoman Empire attacked Vienna, Austria with between 90,000 and 300,000 troops. The Holy Roman Empire and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth marshaled a combined force of 110,700 troops to rout this Muslim attack.¹⁸ In 1859, nearly 300,000 soldiers fought the decisive battle of the Second Italian War of Independence. A Franco-Sardinian Alliance repelled the Austrian advance near Solferino, between Milan and Verona, Italy.¹⁹ The battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania resulted in the largest casualty count (50,000) in the American Civil War. This turning point battle in 1863 engaged 160,000 soldiers.²⁰

After each battle, insufficient sanitation and medical treatment elevated the death toll due to widespread infection and disease.

¹⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_K%C3%B6niggr%C3%A4tz (accessed 6-11-13)

¹⁷ http://web2.airmail.net/napoleon/waterloo_most_important_battle.htm (accessed 1-26-06).

¹⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Vienna (accessed 6-11-13)

¹⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Solferino (accessed 6-11-13)

²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Gettysburg (accessed 6-11-13)

NOTABLE BATTLES in the 19th Century

LOCATION	Combatants	Casualties	Date
Sadowa, Czech Republic	490,000	40,000	1866
Sedan, France	320,000	129,000	1870
Gravelotte, France	300,000	32,000	1870
Vienna, Austria	270,000	55,000	1683
Solferino, Italy	267,000	40,000	1859
Gettysburg, PA, US Civil War	165,000	50,000	1863

Nuclear Warfare

In city of Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945 a single bomb, code-named “Little Boy”, killed about 140,000 people (from a population of about 350,000). Three days later another atomic bomb code-named “Fat Man” killed about 74,000 in Nagasaki, Japan. These two nuclear blasts destroyed the health, property, and emotional stability of countless victims throughout the region. Citywide exposure to radioactive fallout generated ongoing birth defects as radiation damage produced an incalculable loss for those who did not die immediately. Nonetheless, military experts maintain that this option may have prevented the loss of an even greater number of lives compared to conventional warfare.

NUCLEAR CONFLICTS

LOCATION	Code Name	Date	Casualties
Hiroshima	<i>Little Boy</i>	1945	140,000 (population of 350,000)
Nagasaki	<i>Fat Man</i>	1945	74,000 (population of 240,000)

Democide

Besides death from military aggression, governments are responsible for killing millions of their own citizens and/or subjects. The word

democide comes from demos (Greek for people) and cide (from Latin 'occidere', to massacre). According to Political scientist R. J. Rummel who coined the term, democide is "The murder of any person or people by a government, including genocide, politicide, and mass murder."²¹

Rummel excludes battle deaths in this definition.²² Democide deaths are not combatants from wars or civil wars. They are civilians and innocent victims killed with the approval or planning of their own government. Marked by a deliberate disregard for life, mass starvation and denied medical treatment fall in this category. Rummel also excludes the following from his definition of democide: "Capital punishment, actions taken against armed civilians during mob action or riot, and the deaths of noncombatants killed during attacks on military targets so long as the primary target is military".²³

Rummel "estimates that over 133 million people were murdered by governments prior to the 20th century, notably by Chinese and Mongol rulers, with most of the remaining deaths being slaves and Native Americans at the hands of Europeans, civilians slaughtered during Europe's Thirty Years War (1618-1648), and numerous conflicts in India (13th to 19th centuries)."²⁴ According to Rummel, during the 20th century, government-sponsored neglect and abuse for political reasons accounts for more than 262 million murders. Increased population centers and the industrialization of mass killing, especially by Chinese and Russian communists and German Nazis, contributed to this high death toll.

DEMOCIDE (Governments killing their citizens or subjects)

Date	Casualties
Prior to the 20 th Century	Over 133 million

²¹ <http://www.democide.info/facts.html> (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1994 accessed 1-22-07)

²² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democide> (accessed 1-22-07).

²³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democide> (accessed 1-22-07).

²⁴ <http://www.democide.info/facts.html> (accessed 1-22-07)

Unintended Consequences

Twenty years of military conflict in Southeast Asia ignited far-reaching and long-lasting revolutions. The sexual revolution in the United States during the 1960s set the tone for an unprecedented season of mass destruction. As social rebellion warped the morality of a generation, controversy and outrage fueled the use of illegal drugs and illicit sex. Negative repercussions undermined the sanctity of human life and respect for the unborn. As human dignity faded in the United States, abortion laws became more lenient throughout the world.

The ensuing carnage that followed the conflict in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, from 1955 through 1975, overshadows two world wars and numerous civil wars. It exceeds all the mass murders perpetrated by brutal dictators ruling during the first half of the 20th Century.

Military fatalities in Southeast Asia range from less than two to over four million, depending on the source. However, since 1970 legalized abortions and elective infanticide exceeds 1.5 billion babies. These elective killings constitute one of the cruelest atrocities against the most vulnerable group of human beings. While impossible to tally accurately, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Guttmacher Institute (Planned Parenthood's research affiliate) reports that induced abortions worldwide vary from 42 to 46 million each year from 1995 through 2008.²⁵ This estimate means that 1 in 5 reported pregnancies ended in an abortion.

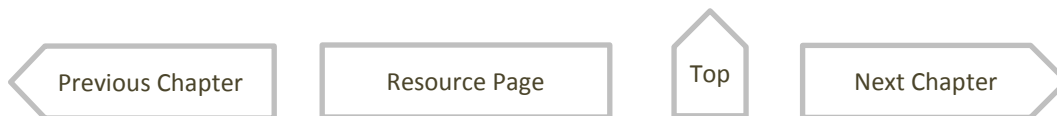
At certain times, some of the more populous nations such as China and India rarely enforce their laws prohibiting gendercide. This barbaric and inhumane practice involves selectively killing infants or allowing them to die before or after birth, based on their gender. It usually targets females, i.e., femicide.

²⁵ <http://www.guttmacher.org> and <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health> (accessed 6/1/2013)

Data in the following table come from the World Health Organization and the Guttmacher Institute from 1995 through 2003.²⁶ Before 1973, New York, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii offered legal abortions upon request. Sixteen other states offered legal abortions for specified causes. For figures that are more recent, see the morbidity and mortality weekly report surveillance summary published by the Center for Disease Control.²⁷

INDUCED ABORTIONS AND INFANTICIDE

LOCATION	Casualties
USA	More than 50 million “legal abortions” since 1973
Worldwide	From 42 to 46 million induced abortions per year accounting for well over one billion lives



²⁶ <http://www.guttmacher.org> and <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health> (accessed 6/1/2013)

²⁷ <http://CDC.gov/mmwr>