

History Of International Violence

'The earth was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence' (Genesis 6:11).

'The trouble he (the violent man) causes will return to his own head. His violence will (one day) come down on the crown of his own head' (Psalm 7:16).

'The soul of God hates the wicked and men who love violence' (Psalm 11:5).

'Strangers have risen up against me. Violent men have sought after my soul. They have not set God before themselves' (Psalm 54:3).

'Lord, deliver me from the workers of iniquity. Save me from the bloodthirsty men' (Psalm 59:2).

'Do not envy men of violence. Choose none of his ways' (Proverbs 3:31).

The Lord is talking to violent men, "In your heart you plot injustice. You measure out the violence of your hands in the earth ... Their poison is like the venom of a snake" (Psalm 58:2 & 4).

The Lord God hates violence in all forms. There are about 60 verses throughout the Bible telling us just how much God hates violence and the harsh eternal judgement He has in store for violent men. The German fuehrer was one of history's most evil and violent of men. He was so vile we do not want to mention his name but everyone knows who he was. Millions of people died all over the world during the Second World War directly because of him. Those who died in the concentration camps numbered about six million. That was six million too many victims but only a small portion of the more than fifty million worldwide who died or were maimed. Of those six million, most were Jewish people. Also murdered in the camps were the aged, young children, anyone who was disabled in any way either physically or mentally, all people who disagreed with the fuehrer or his despotic Nazi regime, all known homosexuals be they men or women, Gypsies, non-catholic religious people like Anglican priests or Buddhists, the homeless, intellectuals like doctors or lawyers, anyone caught hiding or helping any of the above. There was a vile poison like snake venom within the German psyche which predisposed the whole nation to arrogance, brutality, cruelty and criminality, ready to follow the most evil leadership. Thankfully, Germany has opened its eyes to what they did and have become a united country with democratic governance. We hope they never repeat the terrible mistakes of the First and Second World Wars. It was a most terrible time in modern history – the latest and the most widespread but it was not the worst.

There were other violent wars in past history that have been conveniently erased from human memories but we should never forget the victims of violence, past or recent. Some happened so long ago, maybe thousands of years ago, they are recorded only in ancient books, hieroglyphs, scrolls, painted or carved onto rocks, some inside caves. Some relics of ancient wars were discovered by archaeology but there are more modern massacres people do not want to remember. Here are some examples ... During the Roman Empire, millions were killed in the most terrible, cruel and inhumane ways imaginable. Around 1,000AD Saladin murdered millions of people during his evil reign. The scripture, 'The winepress was trodden outside of the city and blood came out from the winepress up to the bridles of the horses, as far as one thousand six hundred stadia (about 360 kilometres or 200 miles)' (Revelation 14:20) was written in blood on a wall in Jerusalem at the level of the blood stains. The blood of the victims of Saladin mixed with filthy water flowed down the streets of Jerusalem so some people believed this prophecy was being fulfilled in their time.

After Saladin, Genghis Khan had millions of people systematically slaughtered as Khan advanced his empire through Asia and Europe. Through rape and force, Genghis Khan produced so many hundreds of offspring, thousands of people all over the world can trace their ancestry back to Khan. The fifty million deaths attributed to the Second World War pales in significance when we consider the brutality of Khan's murderous forces who killed many more than that in both Asia and Europe. Early believers in Islam slaughtered millions around the Middle East and beyond. Then came the Crusaders who murdered millions of people during their attempts to secure Israel for the church. Millions more were murdered during the Roman and Spanish Inquisitions and invasions. Ancient civilisations sacrificed young children by the thousand. The Vikings travelled the world slaughtering and plundering whole villages as they went. During the Ottoman Empire many millions of people were slaughtered. The French guillotined many of their own countrymen and women during their revolution. During various reformations at different times in history, thousands were killed.

Turkey is one country that does not want anyone reminding them of the terrible massacre of many thousands of Armenians during 1915. This writer's own French grandmother Mabelle Aviet was in Armenia with her parents and two brothers during that time and because Mabelle's father was a doctor, the Aviet

family were smuggled out of Armenia just minutes before they were to be killed. Just over twenty years later during the Second World War Mabelle's brother Eugene Aviet, also a doctor, refused to torture Jewish children and whatever he refused to do to the children was done to him by the Nazi's in a concentration camp. After months of torture, Eugene Aviet died. He was truly a righteous Gentile who was cremated in the camp and thus forgotten by all but his immediate family.

Stalin murdered millions of his own people. Before Stalin, the Soviet Union made up of many different nationalities and cultures was bound together by the insane and extreme suppression by merciless Marxist rulers and Lenin. The Chinese murdered millions of their own people. America segregated Jews, Hispanic, Asian and coloured people, and they killed whole tribes of native American Indians. The French and Belgians have an appalling record of insane cruelty to the native populations in their African colonies. Spanish Conquistadors murdered and enslaved people everywhere they went. Britain had a 'class' system that oppressed the 'lower classes' of society resulting in the deaths of thousands by malnutrition, beatings and the lack of medical help. The British government transported many thousands of people to their colonies from 1788 until the 1960's, tearing families apart, taking innocent children from their parents only for the children to be mistreated by the people who were supposed to care for them. The British were responsible for killing many thousands of native Australian Aborigines when they first colonised Australia. During the recent war in former Yugoslavia thousands of people were killed and dumped in mass graves. There were many other periods of history when people were murdered by the thousand but they are too numerous to mention. No country or race is innocent of mass killings.

These victims, ancient or modern, should never be forgotten. Do people ever think of all these millions of ancient victims of insanity, greed and war? Many were killed senselessly and without reason. Are we so caught up with the modern atrocity of the Second World War we cannot remember those who died violently long before our time? Are these people who have been silenced by time now crying out, "What about us? What about our suffering? Our children were murdered too! Do not forget our stories." Let us remember the First and Second World Wars and all the deaths that occurred then, without forgetting those who were killed before photography, newspapers and journalists came to report these atrocities. The Lord knows every victim and every one of them is important to Him. Just like righteous Abel, so also their blood is crying out for justice. 'The Lord God said, "What have you done? The voice of Abel's blood cries out to Me from the ground"' (Genesis 4:10).

More recently, extremists are going about killing, maiming, terrorising and destroying the lives of many thousands around the world but mainly in Africa and the Middle East. Every person they kill and maim has a name. They are not mere numbers on television, they are real people who are loved by family and by God. Many are innocent, helpless little children. Some women and children are taken as slaves for unspeakably evil men. The Bible speaks of this atrocity. 'The violent man lies in wait near the villages. From ambushes he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly set against the helpless. He lurks in secret like a lion in his ambush. He lies in wait to catch the helpless. He catches the helpless when he draws them in his net. The helpless are crushed. They collapse. They fall under his strength' (Psalm 10:8 to 10). We must stand up and do something to help the innocent. Governments around the world need to stand up for what is right and fight against the perpetrators. Remember these two quotes, "All evil needs to triumph is for righteous men to do nothing," and, "What we choose to forget will be repeated," or as the Bible says, "Like a dog that returns to his vomit, so is a fool who repeats his foolishness" (Proverbs 26:11). Let us remember every one of these innocent victims, ancient or modern. May we work together to stop evil people thriving in their wickedness. One day all victims of violent crime will be avenged. 'God said, "Vengeance is Mine," says the Lord, "I will repay."' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God' (Hebrews 10:30 & 31).

Amen and God bless you.

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