

FACT SHEET

WAR IS IMMORAL

War is nothing other than murder on a large scale. Over the centuries and decades, death counts in wars have grown dramatically, shifted heavily onto civilians rather than combatants, and been overtaken by injury counts as even greater numbers have been injured but medicine has allowed them to survive. Deaths are now due primarily to violence rather than to disease, formerly the biggest killer in wars. Civilian fatalities in wartime have climbed from 5% at the turn of the 20th century to more than 90% in modern wars. Suicide is now the leading killer of U.S. troops.¹

“War is organized murder and nothing else.

- Harry Patch, the last surviving soldier of World War I.²

DEATHS: WAR KILLS PEOPLE

Over 17 million civilians were killed due to wars from 1945-2000.³

- 2.6+ million people have died in the U.S. "War on Terror"; in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.⁴
- In the 1990s alone, 2 million children were killed in armed conflict; 6 million were injured or permanently disabled, and 12 million were left homeless.⁵
- The CIA drone program death count is estimated at 1500 as of 2017,⁶ of which the CIA admits only 10% of those killed were the targets of assassination; the other 90% being "collateral damage."⁷

LOSSES OF WAR*

CASUALTIES

- Total: 50+ million
- Russia ("victor"): 20 million
- U.S. ("victor"): 400,000+



WORLD
WAR II



KOREAN
WAR

CASUALTIES

- South Korea Military: 113,000
- South Korea Civilian: 547,000
- North Korea Military: 317,000
- North Korea Civilian: 1,000,000
- China: 460,000
- U.S. Military: 33,000+

CASUALTIES

- South Vietnam Military: 224,000
- North Vietnamese Military and Viet Cong: 1,000,000
- South Vietnamese Civilians: 1,500,000
- North Vietnamese Civilians: 65,000;
- U.S. Military 58,000+



VIETNAM
WAR



IRAQ
(2003 - 2008)

CASUALTIES

- Iraqi Civilians: 181,731 – 203,903
- Iraqi Civilians + Combatants: 288,000
- U.S. Military: 4542+
- U.S. + Coalition Forces: 4865+

SANCTIONS: ECONOMIC WARFARE

War not only kills people with bombs and missiles. Economic sanctions are another insidious kind of warfare. These measures do not merely have adverse economic impacts on the countries under sanction. They kill people by denying them food and medicine and other essential commodities. One of the most draconian examples of economic sanctions was imposed by the United Nations upon Iraq after the first Gulf War in 1991. The United Nations subsequently estimated that the sanctions killed over 1 million Iraqis who died of disease and starvation, including half a million children;⁸ a fact now linked to the infamous comment by then-U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who said that the deaths were “worth it.”⁹

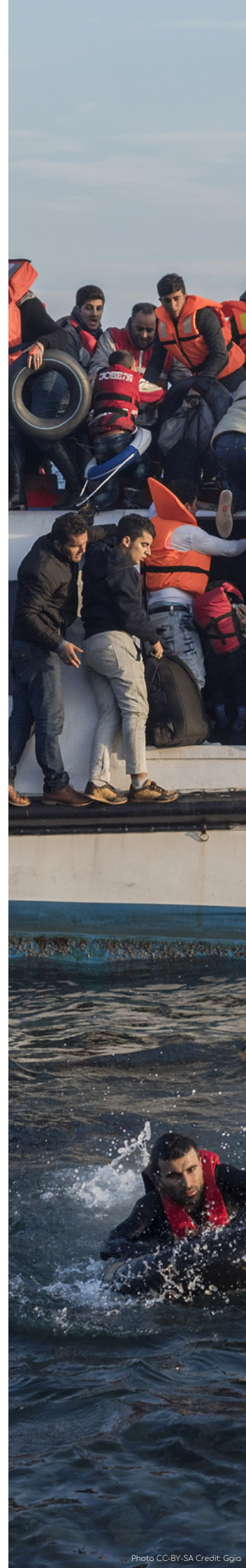
REFUGEES: DISPLACED BY WAR


The global number of refugees and displaced persons is growing dramatically as a result of war. As of 2014, there were 59 million refugees worldwide who had fled violent conflict and persecution. Over 50% of current refugees are children.¹⁰

LANDMINES: REMNANTS OF WAR

Since 1960, 110 million landmines have been laid in 70 different countries, killing an estimated 1 million people and injuring many millions more. Approximately half of these landmines remain unexploded decades after the conflicts have ended, until stumbled upon by civilians with devastating consequences. Currently, 70 people a day are killed or injured by landmines.¹¹

Among the top ten countries impacted by landmines are Iran, Angola, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Cambodia, each with around 10 million unexploded landmines.¹²





In 1999, the majority of the countries of the world signed a treaty banning landmines and other victim-activated explosive devices placed on or under the ground. The United States, Russia and China are among the countries that have refused to sign the treaty.¹³

Militarism is a major public health threat, a completely preventable epidemic that consists of the large-scale killing, wounding, orphaning, and traumatizing of people.

LEARN MORE AT:

worldbeyondwar.org/immoral

World BEYOND War is a global grassroots network of volunteers, activists, and allied organizations advocating for the abolition of war and its replacement with an alternative global security system based on peace and demilitarization. Visit WorldBEYONDWar.org to join the global movement to end all wars.

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