

GENOCIDES AND POLITICIDES SINCE WORLD WAR II

We have identified some 50 episodes of genocides and politicides since WWII that fit the first author's working definition. Table 1 identifies 46 unambiguous cases, many of which had multiple victim groups, and five possible cases. The listing identifies the country in which each episode occurred, its beginning and ending dates, the identity of victims, their estimated numbers, and the circumstances in which they were victimized. For example, Bosnian Muslims were targeted in 1992-96 primarily because they were Muslims and the episode is classified as a genocide. In contrast the Kurdish victims of the Al Anfal campaign in Iraq in the late 1980s were targeted not because the Iraqi government sought to eliminate all Kurds—many of whom serve in the Iraqi government and army—but rather because they supported a nationalist rebellion. In other words the Kurdish victims were targeted because of their political activities rather than their communal identity per se and the episode is classified as a politicide with communal victims. Other episodes in table 1 had both communal and political victims.