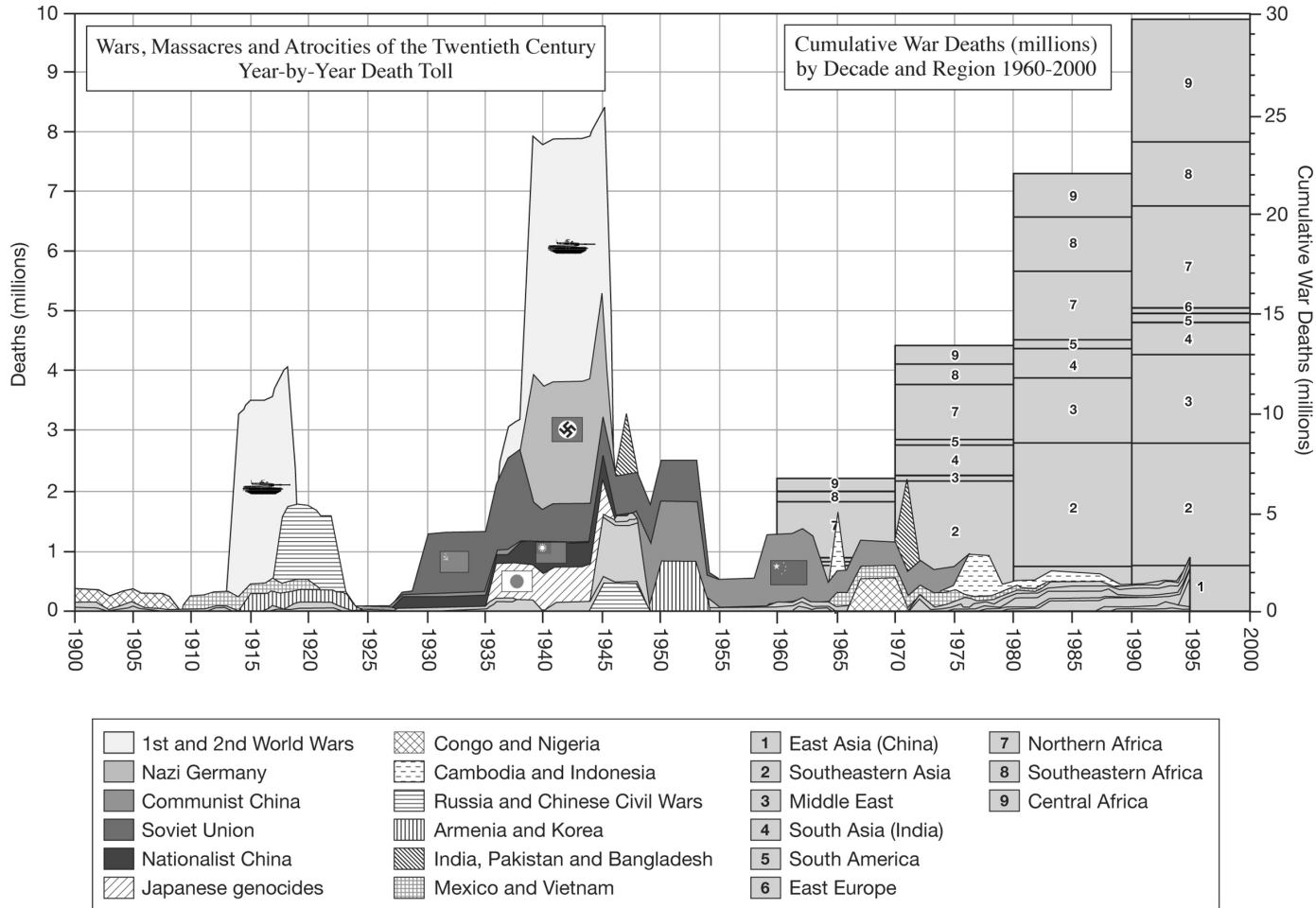


## Featured graphic: wars, massacres, and atrocities of the 20th century



Scale shown to the left, the heights of the twelve stacked histograms show how many millions of people were killed each year in selected wars, massacres, and atrocities worldwide 1900–1995. From the 1930s to the 1980s a year in which less than a million people were slaughtered was uncommon. To the right, the stacked shaded bars show a cumulative estimate of the deaths attributable to war, decade by decade, since 1960. They counter any illusion of a tapering off that the histograms might suggest. By the end of the century atrocities were taking place in far more countries, involving far more wars, than the twelve groups individually identified here. The 20th century began with orchestrated massacres in Africa, where Europeans first practised the genocide they later carried out at home (Goldberg, 2009). The mid-century was dominated by wartime killing, and the Soviet and Chinese atrocities that also took place both under the fog of world war, and later under the threat of nuclear war. The century ended with half the worldwide war-deaths since 1960 having been suffered in Africa.

**Table 1.** Highest proportion of people killed by war.

Rank	Country	Value <sup>a</sup>
1	Cambodia	16.1
2	Timor–Leste	14.4
3	Angola	12.9
4	Rwanda	10.3
5	DPR Korea	10.0
6	Afghanistan	8.7
7	Sudan	8.4
8	Burundi	7.6
9	Democratic Republic of Congo	5.9
10	Mozambique	5.0
11	Republic of Korea	4.7
12	Vietnam	4.7
13	Iraq	4.6
14	Western Sahara	4.4
15	Lebanon	3.7
16	Algeria	3.5
17	Liberia	3.1
18	Uganda	2.8
19	Congo	2.8
20	Somalia	2.7

<sup>a</sup> War deaths 1945–2000 as percentage of population 2000.

Sources of data: Redrawn from Mathew White's Historical Atlas of the 20th Century web pages (<http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/>) with cumulative war death estimates made from many sources documented at <http://www.worldmapper.org> (see map 287 technical notes).

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#### Reference

Goldberg D T, 2009 *The Threat of Race: Reflections on Racial Neoliberalism* (Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford)