

ABORTION WORLDWIDE REPORT: PART VII

The Greatest Genocide

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“The killing of the unborn is the holocaust of our day.” — Randy Alcorn¹

Abortion is the Greatest Genocide in history! The death toll from abortion in the past 95 years far exceeds the combined human deaths by wars, genocides, and democides² of the past 2,000 years. Since 1920, **more than 1 billion unborn children** have been murdered by abortion, and currently more than a million die each month.

This Report documents year-by-year, country-by-country, the systematic extermination of unborn children in 100 nations, territories, and other regions since 1921. This accounting does not include unreported or illegal abortions in listed and non-listed countries, with limited exceptions as specified previously. This closing Major Findings brief provides a historical and numerical account of the Greatest Genocide.

1. The Greatest Genocide began when the first nation authorized abortion in 1920, and steadily expanded with the approval of 142 nations.
2. Worldwide abortions remained comparatively low until the 1950s, increased exponentially from the 1950s to 1990s, and peaked in 1983 and 1990 at 27.5 million per year.
3. The majority of abortions were committed in Communist countries.
4. The second largest group of abortion nations are or were supposedly majority Christian.
5. The remaining countries that practice abortion represent a wide variety of religions.
6. Current worldwide reported abortions are 12.5 million per year.
7. Abortions far exceed the deaths from all wars and democides.
8. Abortion is the Greatest Genocide!

1. The Greatest Genocide Began When the First Nation Authorized Abortion in 1920, and Steadily Expanded with the Approval of 142 Nations. The first nation to authorize abortion on demand was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) in late 1920. That decision began the Greatest Genocide of mankind in history. Through 2016, a total of 142 nations have authorized abortion. Three countries subsequently prohibited abortion: Chile (authorized: 1967-1989), El Salvador (1973-1997), and Nicaragua (1989-2006). What follows is a decade-by-decade summary of government authorizations that led to exceedingly high numbers of abortions, far surpassing all wars and democides combined (see section 7). The decade-by-decade table at the end of this section correspondingly tracks the number of abortions. Most of these authorizations were for limited reasons initially, and so are not equivalent authorizations. Even today, abortion is authorized for limited reasons in 61 countries, permitted on demand or by abortifacients in 73 countries, and even forced against the mother's will in 2 countries.

During the 1920s, abortion was authorized in 14 nations, including the U.S.S.R. and 11 constituent republics. For the U.S.S.R., this report only contains abortion data during this decade for Kazakhstan, Russia, the Ukraine, and U.S.S.R., but no separated data for the other republics. For Russia and the Ukraine, abortions increased so rapidly that their combined total surpassed 1 million by 1930. The Bahamas and Germany also authorized abortion, but with restrictions.

1920: U.S.S.R. (Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan)	1921: (Georgia, Tajikistan <i>incorporated into U.S.S.R.</i>) 1924: Bahamas 1927: Germany
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During the 1930s, 8 more nations authorized abortion, all with restrictions: 6 in Europe, 2 in the Americas and Caribbean. Latvia authorized abortion from 1933 to 1937, prior to becoming a constituent republic of the U.S.S.R. in 1940.

1932: Poland	1934: Iceland	1937: Denmark
1933: Latvia (to 1937)	1936: Cuba	Switzerland
Uruguay		1938: Sweden

During the 1940s, 4 more nations authorized abortion: 3 in Asia and 1 in the Americas. Japan was the first non-U.S.S.R. nation to authorize abortion on demand. The other policies were restrictive. Global abortions dropped dramatically during World War II, but by 1950 exceeded 1 million annually once again. (Note: numbers are rounded in this brief.)

1940: Brazil	1943: Lebanon	1948: Japan	1949: Syria
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During the 1950s, 24 more nations authorized abortion: 19 in Europe, 3 in Asia, and the first 2 in Africa; (plus 1 state in the U.S.A). The U.S.S.R. restricted abortion in 1936, but reauthorized it on demand in 1955, which applied to all of its constituent republics, including the 4 below that were incorporated in 1940 (Latvia was a reauthorization). Yugoslavia authorized abortion on demand, affecting all of its constituent republics. Bulgaria, China, North Korea, Romania and Thailand authorized abortion on demand, but the other countries had restrictions. Worldwide annual abortions increased 8-fold during the 1950s, to 8.5 million by 1959.

1950: Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic, Slovakia)	1955: U.S.S.R. reauthorization (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova)
1950: Finland	1956: Bulgaria
Greece	Thailand
North Korea	1957: People's Republic of China
1952: Yugoslavia (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia)	Ethiopia Eritrea (<i>part of Ethiopia at time</i>) Romania
1953: Hungary	

During the 1960s, 12 more nations authorized abortion: 5 in Africa, 2 in Asia, 2 in the Americas, 2 in Europe, and 1 in Oceania; (plus 11 of the 50 states in the United States). As mentioned above, Chile authorized (1967), but subsequently prohibited abortion (1989). Tunisia was the first African nation, and first non-communist Muslim nation, to authorize abortion on demand; abortion was restricted in the other African nations until many years later. The United Kingdom authorized abortion for almost any reason, effectively on demand. Canada enacted a policy similar to the U.K. The U.K. policy affected Australia until full independence in 1986, after which the states and territories have regulated abortion. Iraq, Norway, and Turkey authorized abortion with restrictions, though the latter two later granted abortion on demand. Total annual global abortions reached 13.2 million by 1969, with highest numbers in China, Romania, and the U.S.S.R.

1960: Ghana	1967: Chad	1969: Australia (UK)
Norway	Chile (-1989)	Canada
1965: Guinea	Morocco	Iraq
Tunisia	United Kingdom	
Turkey		

During the 1970s, 30 more nations authorized abortion: 10 in Asia, 7 in Africa, 6 in Europe, 5 in the Americas, and 2 in Oceania. As mentioned, El Salvador (1973-1997) and Nicaragua (year unclear-2006) authorized, but subsequently prohibited abortion. The United States is counted in this decade because abortion on demand was arbitrarily made national policy for all the states by an unconstitutional U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1973. By 1979, annual worldwide abortions reached 21 million.

1970: Costa Rica	1974: Austria	1976: Liberia
Jordan	Cyprus	Nepal
Singapore	1975: France	1977: Albania
1971: Ecuador	Italy	Israel
Viet Nam	Namibia	New Zealand
1972: India	South Africa	Rwanda
Zambia	1976: Algeria	Zimbabwe
1973: El Salvador (-1997)	Bahrain	1978: Luxembourg
Republic of Korea	Fiji	1979: Bangladesh
United States	Iran	year? Nicaragua (-2006)

During the 1980s, 24 more nations authorized abortion: 7 in the Americas and Caribbean, 6 in Africa, 6 in Asia, 4 in Europe, and 1 in Oceania. Worldwide abortions reached their highest peak in 1983, at 27.5 million, and then fluctuated largely due to reporting discrepancies for China.

1980: Belize	1982: Comoros	1985: Spain
Cameroon	Panama	1986: Cabo Verde
Colombia	1983: Barbados	1987: Grenada
1981: Burundi	Qatar	Liechtenstein
Kuwait	1984: Argentina	1988: St. Vincent & Grenadines
Seychelles	Netherlands	1989: Malaysia
Togo	Rep. of China	Mongolia
Vanuatu	(Taiwan)	Saudi Arabia
	Portugal	

During the 1990s, 10 more nations authorized abortion: 4 in Africa, 3 in the Americas, 2 in Asia, and 1 in Europe. Global annual abortions peaked again in 1990 and 1991 at 27.5 million, but then began a steady decline after the collapse of the U.S.S.R. in 1991. By 1999, global reported abortions dropped almost half to just under 16 million that year.

1990: Belgium	1991: Peru	1997: Bolivia
Pakistan	Sudan	Cambodia
1991: Botswana	1995: Guyana	
Equatorial Guinea	1996: Burkina Faso	

During the 2000s, 10 more nations authorized abortion: 5 in Africa, 2 in the Americas, 2 in Asia, and 1 in Europe. By 2009, total worldwide reported annual abortions declined to 12.4 million.

2002: Mali	2005: Saint Lucia	2009: Indonesia
2003: Benin	Swaziland	Monaco
Egypt	2006: Niger	
2004: Bhutan	2007: Mexico	

Between 2010 and 2015, 6 more nations authorized abortion: 3 in Africa, 2 in Europe, and 1 in Oceania. Global abortions remained stable at 12.3 – 12.5 million annually during this period.

2010: Kenya	2013: Ireland	2014: Mozambique
2012: Mauritius	Maldives	2016: San Marino

The historical record above, summarized in Table 1, shows that government authorization of abortion began with the U.S.S.R., and primarily in Europe and Asia. By 1957, about two-thirds of the governments in Europe had authorized abortion, and about a third in Asia (including China). But no country in Africa approved abortion until 1957, and only 4 in the Americas and Caribbean approved it prior to 1969. In Oceania, Australia was the first when it was affected by the United Kingdom approval of abortion in 1967, but abortion remains illegal in most Oceania countries. The highest decades of authorizations were the 1970s and 1980s, almost equally in

Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. From the 1990s to 2010s, more African nations authorized abortion for the first time than any other region.

There are 60 nations that still hold their ground and legally protect pregnant mothers and the children in their wombs. In Africa, 22 of 54 nations still prohibit abortion; in the Americas & Caribbean, 15 of 35; in Asia, 10 of 47; in Europe, 3 of 46; and in Oceania, 10 of 14.

Table 1. Summary of Countries Authorizing Abortion by Decade and Total Prohibiting

	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	Prohibited
Africa	0	0	0	2	5	7	6	4	5	3	22
Americas & Caribbean	1	2	1	0	1	3	7	3	2	0	15
Asia	8	0	3	3	2	10	6	2	2	1	10
Europe	5	6	3	16	2	6	4	1	1	2	3
Oceania	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	10
Totals:	14	8	7	21	11	28	24	10	10	6	
Cumulative:	14	22	29	50	61	89	113	123	133	139	60

Note: The 139 includes 3 countries that no longer exist: Czechoslovakia, U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia. Also, Chile, El Salvador and Nicaragua were not included in the authorization decades because they subsequently prohibited abortion; but they are included in the 60 prohibiting abortion. Total current nations authorizing abortion is 136.

Fig. 1.1 tracks the progression of countries authorizing abortion from 1920 to 2016. At any specified year, this graph shows the total number of countries with authorized abortion. For countries that authorized abortion and subsequently banned it, they are included from the year of authorization up until it was banned.

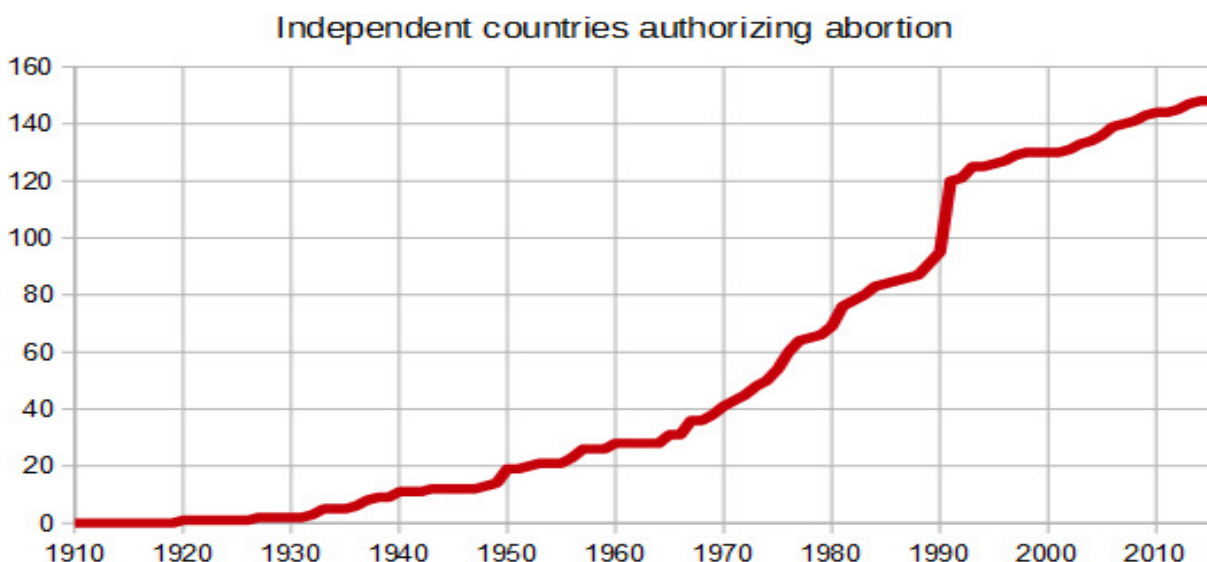


Fig. 1.1. Number of independent countries with authorized abortion for individual years, 1910-2016.

Given that many more countries have become independent in the last century, the next graph, Fig. 1.2, shows the percent each of independent developed and developing nations that authorized abortion between 1920 and 2016. For limited reasons or on demand, over 90% of the developed countries have authorized abortion, and 69% of developing countries.

One of the primary purposes of creating this Report has been to assemble a century of evidence from nations that authorized abortion, providing an abundance of evidence for pro-life nations – those that stand for the sanctity of human life, especially of children in the womb and pregnant mothers – to persuade them of the wisdom of their laws and to stand their ground.

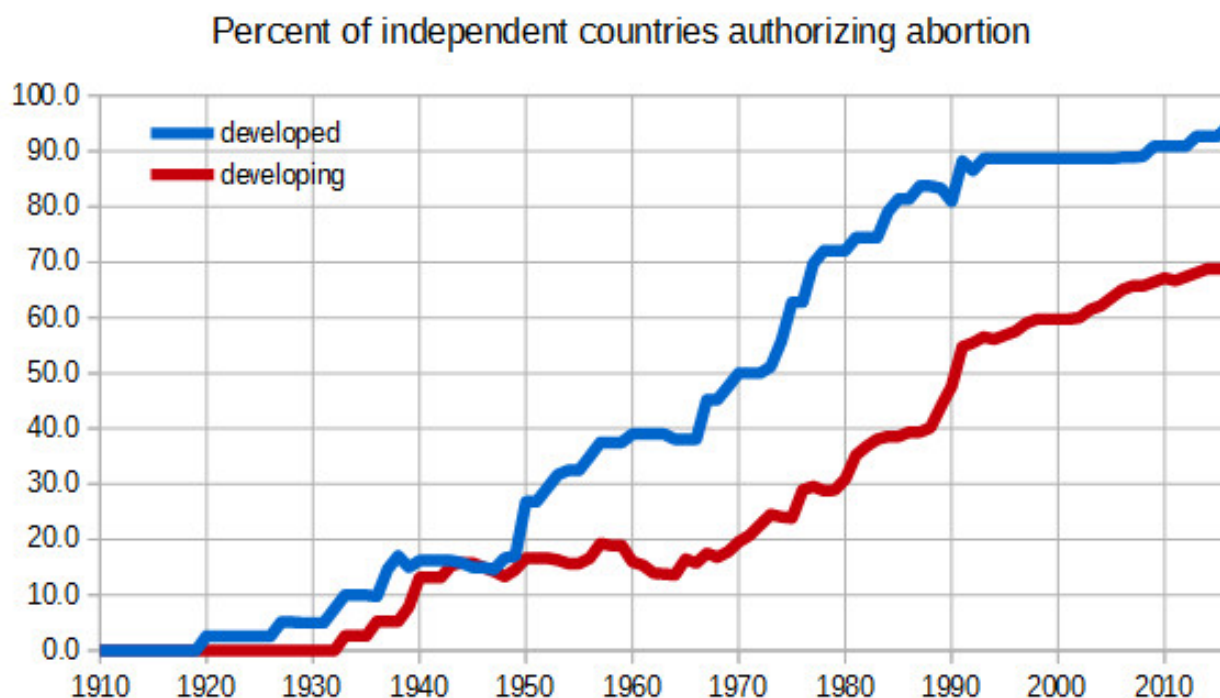


Fig. 1.2. Percent of independent developed and developing countries authorizing abortion

2. Worldwide Abortions Remained Comparatively Low Until the 1950s, Increased Exponentially from the 1950s to 1990s, and Peaked in 1983 and 1990 at 27.5 Million Per Year. From the 1920s to the 1940s, abortion was authorized in the U.S.S.R. and 11 other nations. For 9 of the 11 other nations, abortions remained low for decades (e.g., Bahamas, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Lebanon, Poland, Sweden, Syria, Uruguay). Abortions increased more rapidly for Switzerland (1937), and explosively for Japan (1948). Russia, Ukraine, and U.S.S.R. are the only countries with high levels of abortions during the 1920s and 1930s. (There is very little data on the other former Soviet republics for this period.) In 1932, for the first time in history, total abortions worldwide exceeded 1 million. Then abortions declined substantially after the U.S.S.R. restricted it in 1936, and was low for all countries during World War II. After the war, abortions began to increase rapidly again and exceeded 1 million in 1950.

Total worldwide abortions increased from 1 million in 1950 to 27.5 million in 1990. This dramatic and nearly continuous increase started in the 1950s, when abortions tripled by 1955 to 3.1 million, and then tripled again to 9.6 million by 1960. By 1970, total abortions increased to 13.9 million, and then increased more rapidly again to 22.7 million in 1980. Total reported abortions worldwide peaked in the 1980s and early 1990s (see year-by-year totals in World Summary of Table 1-D in Part V, and world graph in Part VI).

In 1983, worldwide reported abortions reached their highest peak at 27,517,378. The fluctuations between 1984 and 1989 are primarily due to reporting differences for China. In 1990 and 1991, worldwide abortions peaked again at 27,512,564 and 27,452,199 respectively, likely with full reporting for China for these two years. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, abortions dropped dramatically.

Table 2 tracks worldwide abortions by decade, both by individual decades and cumulative. Globally, known abortions increased from the 1920s, peaked in 1980s and early 1990s, and then began to decline.

Table 2. Decade-by-Decade Summary of Total Worldwide Abortions, 1920s-2015

Decade	Total Abortions for Decade	Cumulative Abortions
1920s	2,177,000	2,177,000
1930s	8,547,000	10,724,000
1940s	3,644,000	14,368,000
1950s	39,242,000	53,609,000
1960s	121,511,000	175,121,000
1970s	169,542,000	344,663,000
1980s	244,349,000	589,011,000
1990s	207,926,000	796,938,000
2000s	146,954,000	943,892,000
2010-15	74,528,000	1,018,419,000

At the end of this brief is a world graph giving a visual depiction of total abortions from 1921 to 2015. Also, see regional and other global graphs in Part VI, Global Summaries and Maps.

3. The Majority of Abortions Were Committed in Communist Nations. Since 1921, 72.6% of all known abortions worldwide have been performed in Communist nations. For former Communist nations, this includes only abortions for the years they were under Communist rule. A total of 739.2 million abortions were done in the 14 nations listed in Table 3. (Abortion data for 24 former constituent republics are included in the data for Czechoslovakia, U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia, for the years they were under their rule.)

Table 3. Total Abortions for Communist Nations

Nation	Years of Communist Rule	Years of Abortion Data	Total Abortions
1. China, People's Republic of	1949 - present	1956 - 2015	382,752,000
2. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.)	1917 - 1991	1921 - 1991	278,527,000
3. Vietnam	1945 - present	1971 - 2016	26,826,000
4. Romania	1944 - 1989	1957 - 1989	14,965,000
5. Yugoslavia	1946 - 1992	1948 - 1992	9,486,000
6. Poland	1945 - 1989	1955 - 1989	6,177,000
7. Cuba	1959 - present	1965 - 2016	5,754,000
8. Bulgaria	1944 - 1991	1953 - 1991	4,483,000
9. Hungary	1944 - 1989	1949 - 1989	4,483,000
10. Czechoslovakia	1945 - 1989	1950 - 1989	3,206,000
11. East Germany	1945 - 1990	1945 - 1990	1,820,000
12. Albania	1946 - 1991	1975 - 1991	317,000
13. Hong Kong	1997 - present	1997 - 2016	291,000
14. Mongolia	1921 - 1990	1984 - 1990	101,000
Total:			739,188,000

4. The Second Largest Group of Abortion Nations are or were Supposedly Majority Christian.

Nearly all of the nations that prohibited abortion between 1803 and 1918 A.D., were Christian nations, or influenced by Christianity. In doing so, they acted consistent with the Law of God, the Bible, and their faith.

However, the majority (66) of nations in this Report are nominally majority Christian, and their people have aborted 131.2 million of their own children. Therefore, the governments of these nations who authorized abortion, and the people who have aborted their own children or encouraged others to do so, acted directly contrary to the Christian faith. (So did Israel act against the Torah and their faith when its government authorized abortion in 1977.) Table 4 lists the 62 nations and territories that authorized abortion (policies for most territories are set by the sovereign nation ruling over them). Abortion is illegal in the other 4: Chile, Dominican Republic, Malta, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Table 4. Present or Former Majority Christian Nations who Authorized Abortion

Region/Group	62 Nations & Territories (included in this Report)
Africa (4)	Burundi, Réunion, Seychelles, South Africa
Americas & the Caribbean (15)	Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Canada, Costa Rica, French Guiana, Greenland, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Turks & Caicos Islands, United States
Asia (0)	
Europe (31)	Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guernsey, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jersey, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom
Oceania (4)	Australia, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand
Former Soviet Republics (8)	Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria, Ukraine

Note: For the former Soviet Republics who have majority Christian populations, abortion data is only accounted after U.S.S.R. dissolution.

5. The Remaining Countries that Practice Abortion Represent a Wide Variety of Religions.

The final group of 28 countries included in this Report is mixed religious or the majority of the population follows a different major religion. Total abortions for this group is 148 million through 2015, the majority coming from India, Japan, and Russia. The mixed category includes various combinations of Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Folk, Indigenous, other, or unaffiliated.

Table 5. Other Religion Nations who Authorized Abortion

Region/Group	Jewish (1)	Islamic (14)	Hindu (1)	Buddhist (2)	Mixed (10)
Africa (3)		Comoros, Mayotte, Tunisia			
Americas & Caribbean (0)					
Asia (11)	Israel	Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey	India	Japan, Mongolia	ROC Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore
Europe (8)		Albania, Kosovo			Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Netherlands, Russia
Oceania (0)					
Former Soviet Republics (6)		Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan			
Total Abortions:	692,000	13,948,000	24,328,000	39,457,000	69,613,000

Note: For Russia and former Soviet Republics, abortion data is only accounted after U.S.S.R. dissolution.

6. Current Worldwide Reported Abortions are about 12.5 Million Per Year. For the 100 nations and territories in this Report, total worldwide abortions for 2015 were 12,549,198. This does not include under-reporting, illegal abortions not reported, or nations not in this Report. Of this current annual total, 3.5 million per year are in Western developed countries or former communist countries in which reported numbers are assessed to be relatively complete. Another 8 million per year are in countries of Asia where underreporting is generally understood to be an issue (e.g., PR China, Republic of China [Taiwan], Japan, Vietnam). The remaining 1 million per year are in developing countries (other than PR China and Vietnam), likely to also have high levels of underreporting. Together, the 100 countries and territories represented in this report include 63% of the world's population, with almost all of the remaining 37% of the population being in developing countries (most of which have laws prohibiting or significantly restricting abortion).

As discussed in the prior brief (section 13), organizations advocating unrestricted abortion policies have published estimates claiming far higher levels of abortion than what can be shown based on reported data, and these estimates are highly implausible. The authors of this report acknowledge that significant additional numbers of illegal or unreported abortions occur, but do not speculate on their levels given the lack of data.

7. Abortions Far Exceed the Deaths from All Wars and Democides. The late Rudolph J. Rummel invested his life and career studying causes of death, war casualties, and democide. He defined “democide” as “the murder of any person or people by a government, including genocide, politicide, and mass murder.”³ From decades of research, he tabulated that 262 million people were murdered by democide during the 20th century. Table 6 lists countries identified by Rummel as having killed at least one million in democides⁴ (with some estimates for updates through 2000), comparing these government democides to voluntary or forced abortions reported from the same nations (as available in this Report).

Table 6. 20th Century Democides and Abortions

Country	Years	Democides	Years	Abortions
China	1917 – 1987	91,155,000	1957 – 2015	382,752,000
U.S.S.R./Russia	1900 – 1987	62,976,000	1921 – 1991	324,080,000
Germany	1933 – 1945	20,946,000	1927 – 2015	6,128,000
Japan	1936 – 1945	5,964,000	1948 – 2015	39,081,000
Turkey	1909 – 1923	2,761,000	1965 – 2015	5,407,000
Cambodia	1975 – 1979	2,035,000		
North Korea	1948 – 2000	1,993,000		
Vietnam	1945 – 1987	1,670,000	1971 – 2015	26,826,000
Poland	1945 – 1948	1,585,000	1955 – 2015	6,293,000
Pakistan	1958 – 1987	1,503,000		
Mexico	1900 – 1920	1,417,000	1995 – 2015	181,000
Yugoslavia	1944 – 1987	1,072,000	1948 – 1991	9,486,000
Rwanda ⁵	1994	1,000,000		
Other World	1900 – 2000	67,923,000	1923 – 2015	218,185,000
TOTAL	1900 – 2000	264,000,000	1921 – 2015	1,018,419,000

Regarding his compilation, Rummel said, “democide murdered 6 times more people than died in combat in all the foreign and internal wars of the century.”⁶ This massive level of murder is astonishing and grievous, yet 4 times that many babies have been murdered by abortion.

The first of the following graphs (7.1) compares World Wars I and II, and total democides for the 1900s, to total abortions since shortly after World War I. Fig. 7.2 shows the daily death casualties, averaged over the span of the World Wars I and II, compared to the average daily number of abortions. In all cases, reported abortions are much higher.

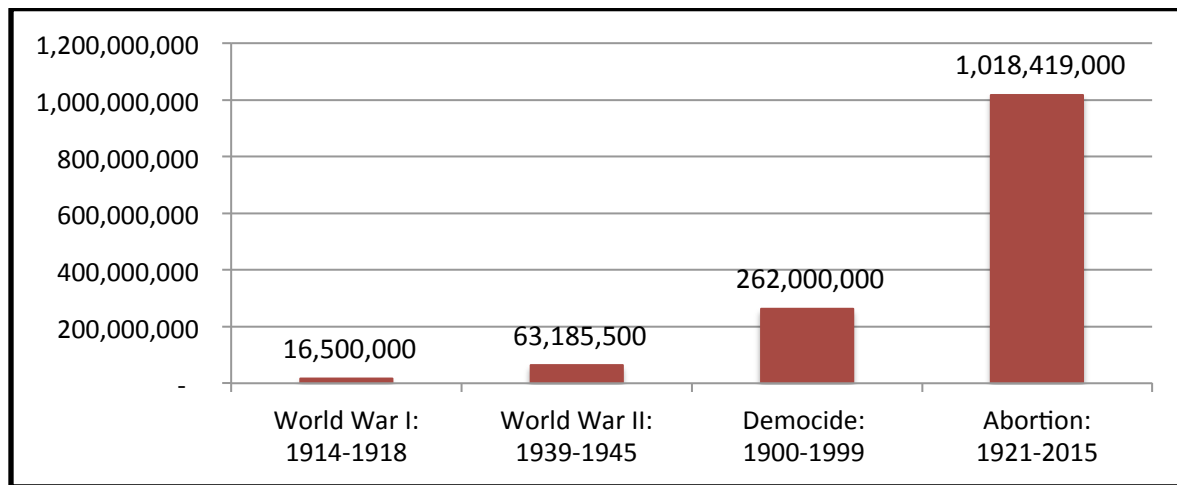


Fig. 7.1. Total deaths of world wars and democides compared to total reported abortions.

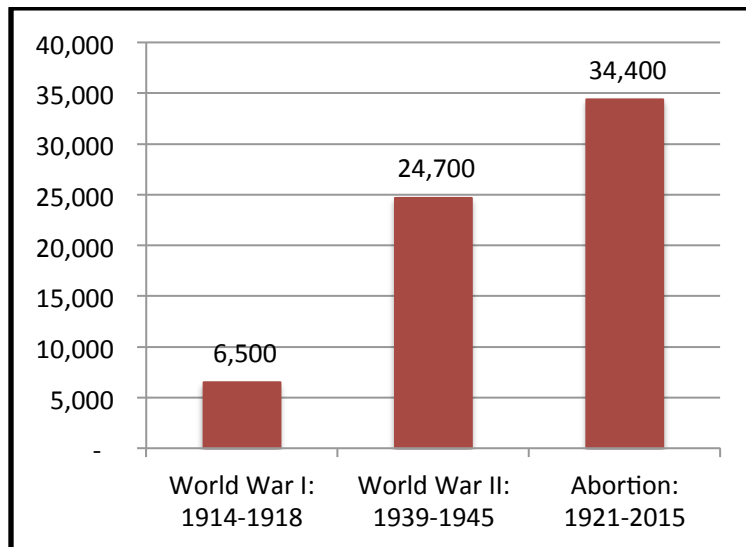


Fig. 7.2. Average daily deaths during World Wars I & II, compared to daily deaths by abortion.

8. Abortion is the Greatest Genocide! 1,018,419,000 abortions in 95 years! It is time to end the Greatest Genocide and become peoples and nations again who highly cherish and protect innocent human life, preborn and born, girls and boys, pregnant mothers, and each person until natural death. It is time to change course from death loving cultures to life giving cultures.

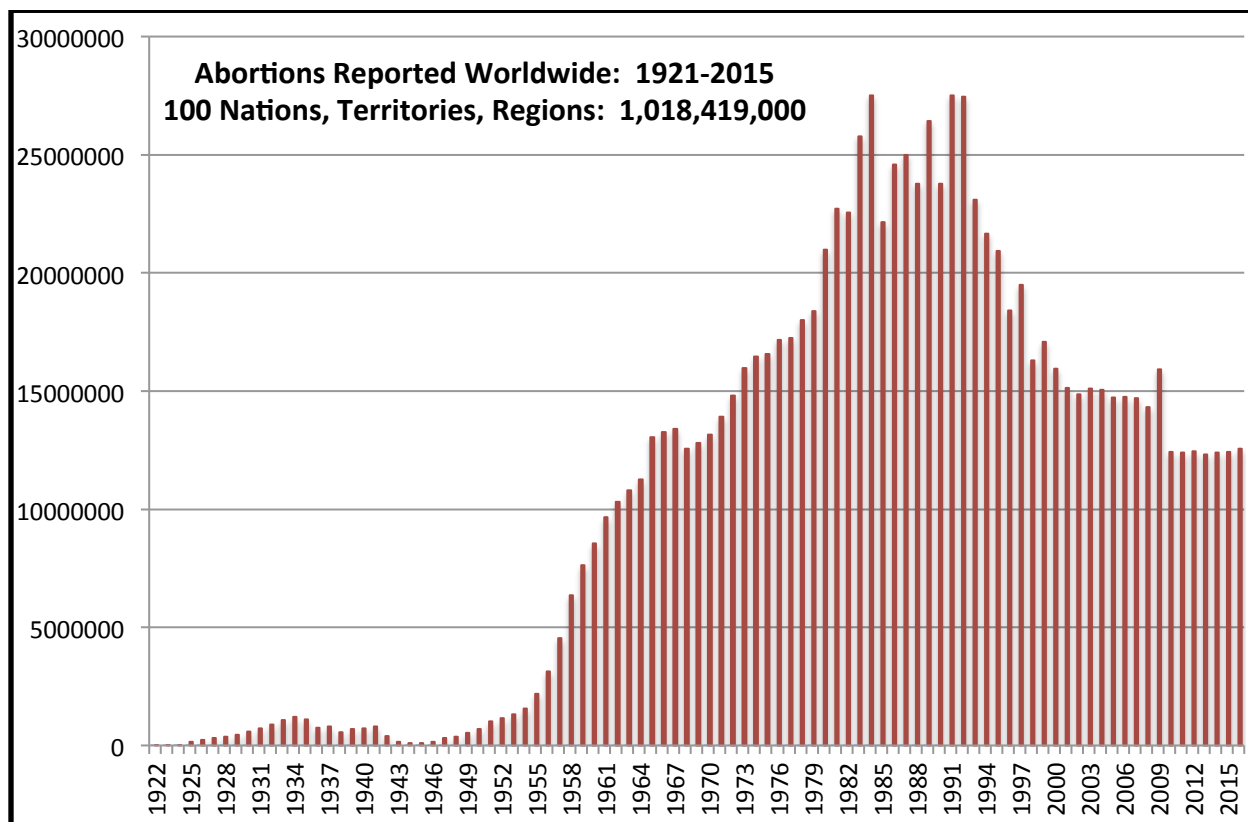


Fig. 8.1. Worldwide annual abortions for 100 nations, territories and regions, 1921-2015.

Endnotes

¹ Randy Alcorn made this statement in an interview with *Citizenlink*, 27 October 2008. He is the author of *ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments* (Colorado Springs, CO, USA: Multnomah Books, 2000).

² Rummel, Rudolph J. (1932-2014), "Democide: Murder by Government," University of Hawaii. <https://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/MURDER.HTM>

³ Rummel, "Death By Government." <http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/DBG.CHAP2.HTM>

⁴ Rummel, "20th Century Mortacracies" table. <http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/20TH.HTM>

⁵ "Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations." <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/education/rwandagenocide.shtml>

⁶ Op. cit., Rummel, "20th Century Mortacracies."