

Body Counts World War II

Nazi Body Count: 20,946,000 Non-Battle Deaths

April 1, 2009 Scott Manning

The Nazi Body Count represents non-battle deaths caused by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. This includes genocide, execution of civilians and POWs, forced labor that resulted in deaths, bombing of civilian populations, imposed famine and resulting diseases, and "euthanasia." These numbers do not include civilians who got caught in the cross-fire of battle.

The numbers are mid-estimates. The source for the numbers, R. J. Rummel's *Democide: Nazi Genocide and Mass Murder*, uses of a method of accumulating all available estimates typically from government sources or scholarly examinations. The estimates are sorted by lows, mids, and highs. Averages are determined from the estimates to arrive at a low-estimate (the minimum), a mid-estimate (the more probable), and a high-estimate (the least likely).1

The Nazi body counts are grouped by country and sorted from highest to lowest. Also, an occupation death rate is provided for the countries that Nazi Germany actually occupied. This number was determined by dividing the 1939 population estimate by the body count to give the percentage that a citizen of that country was likely to be killed during that time period. An appendix at the end lists the sources for the population estimates.

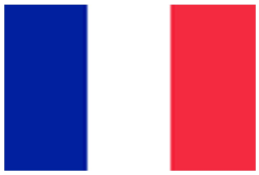
Subsequent articles will examine each country in detail: Their relationship with Nazi Germany and more information on the numbers.

Rank	Country
1	 **USSR** **Body Count:** 12,250,0002 **Occupation Death Rate:** 18.85% Deaths caused between 1941-1945 • 6,500,000 died through imposed famine and resulting diseases • 3,000,000 killed POWs • 1,224,000 killed through executions, massacres, or bombing of civilian populations3

Rank	Country
	• 876,000 killed Jews • 650,000 died through forced labor
2	 **Poland** **Body Count:** 5,400,0004 **Occupation Death Rate:** 15.39% Deaths caused between 1939-1945 • 3,000,000 killed Jews • 2,300,000 killed or died through forced labor.
3	 **Nazi Germany** **Body Count:** 762,0005 Deaths caused between 1933-1945 • 288,000 killed through executions and purges, or died through forced labor • 173,000 killed through "euthanasia"6 • 160,000 killed Jews • 88,000 Germans died in February, 1945 during forced evacuation from Eastern territories • 55,000 killed homosexuals.
4	 **Yugoslavia** **Body Count:** 625,0007 **Occupation Death Rate:** 3.98% Deaths caused between 1941-1945 • 588,000 killed through massacres and bombing of civilian populations, died through forced labor, or killed Serbians • 37,000 killed Jews
5	 **Hungary** **Body Count:** 406,0008 **Occupation Death Rate:** 3.01% Deaths caused between 1941-1945 • 378,000 killed Jews • 28,000 killed Gypsies

Rank **Country**

6



France
Body Count: 256,0009
Occupation Death Rate: 0.61%
Deaths caused between 1940-1945

- 158,000 killed or died through forced labor
- 98,000 killed Jews

7



Czechoslovakia
Body Count: 214,00010
Occupation Death Rate: 1.41%
Deaths caused between 1939-1945

- 150,000 killed Jews
- 56,000 killed or executed
- 8,000 killed Gypsies

8



Lithuania
Body Count: 176,18211
Occupation Death Rate: 7.21%
Deaths caused between 1941-1945176,182 killed Jews and Gypsies, executed, or died during deportation.

9



Netherlands
Body Count: 175,70612
Occupation Death Rate: 1.99%
Deaths caused between 1940-1945

- 108,000 killed Jews
- 35,000 died through forced labor
- 17,000 killings and massacres of hostages
- 15,000 died through imposed famine and resulting diseases
- 706 killed through bombing of civilian populations

10



Greece
Body Count: 140,00013
Occupation Death Rate: 1.94%
Deaths caused between 1941-1945

- 73,000 killings and massacres of hostages, or died through imposed famine and resulting diseases
- 67,000 killed Jews

Rank	Country
11	 **Austria** **Body Count:** 133,00014 **Occupation Death Rate:** 1.97% Deaths caused between 1938-1945 • 65,000 killed Gypsies • 58,000 killed Jews • 10,000 killed or executed
12	 **United Kingdom** **Body Count:** 87,60015 Deaths caused between 1940-194587,600 were killed through bombing of civilian populations or were killed POWs.
13	 **Latvia** **Body Count:** 69,54516 **Occupation Death Rate:** 3.56% Deaths caused between 1941-194569,545 killed Jews and Gypsies, executed or died during deportation.
14	 **Romania** **Body Count:** 70,00017 Deaths caused between 1941-194570,000 Jews were killed.
15	 **Italy** **Body Count:** 64,00018 Occuaption Death Rate: 0.15% Deaths caused between 1943-1945 • 56,000 killed POWs and reprisal murders • 8,000 killed Jews
16	 **Belgium** **Body Count:** 50,50019 **Occupation Death Rate:** 0.60% Deaths caused between 1941-1945 • 40,000 killed Jews • 10,000 died through forced labor or were executed • 500 killed Gypsies
17	 **Spain** **Body Count:** 21,60020 Deaths caused between 1937-1945

Rank	Country
	• 20,000 died through forced labor or were executed • 1,600 bombing of civilian population in Guernica in 1938
18 	**Independent State of Croatia** **Body Count:** 21,00021 Deaths caused between 1941-1945 • 20,000 rounded up and shot after the Battle of Kozara in July, 1942 • 1,000 killed Gypsies
19 	**Estonia** **Body Count:** 9,27222 **Occupation Death Rate:** 0.83% Deaths caused between 1941-19459,272 killed Jews and Gypsies, were executed, or died during deportation.
20 	**Bulgaria** **Body Count:** 7,00023 Deaths caused between 1941-19457,000 Jews were killed.
21 	**United States of America** **Body Count:** 2,03824 Deaths caused between 1942-19452,038 POWs were killed.
22 	**Luxembourg** **Body Count:** 2,20025 Deaths caused between 1940-1945 • 2,000 killed Jews • 200 killed Gypsies
23 	**Norway** **Body Count:** 1,50026 **Occupation Death Rate:** 0.05% Deaths caused between 1940-19451,500 Jews were killed.
24 	**Denmark** **Body Count:** 70027 Deaths caused between 1939-1945 • 500 killed Jews • 200 killed

Rank	Country
25	 **Italian Libya** **Body Count:** 56228 Deaths caused between 1939-1945562 Jews were killed.
26	 **Albanian Kingdom** **Body Count:** 20029 Deaths caused between 1943-1945200 Jews were killed.
27	 **Finland** **Body Count:** 630 Deaths caused between 1941-19456 Jews were killed.

Appendix: Populations of Countries Occupied by Nazi Germany

The following population estimates were used to determine the occupation death rates for the countries. Unless otherwise noted, the estimates come from *International Statistical Year-Book 1940/1941* published by the League of Nations in 1941.31

Country	Year	Population
Austria	1937	6,760,00032
Belgium	1939	8,396,000
Czechoslovakia	1937	15,213,00033
Denmark	1939	3,825,000
Estonia	1939	1,122,000
France	1939	41,950,000
Greece	1939	7,201,000
Hungary	1939	13,500,000
Italy	1939	13,300,000
Latvia	1939	1,951,000
Lithuania	1939	2,442,000
Luxembourg	1939	301,000
Netherlands	1939	8,834,000
Norway	1939	2,937,000
Poland	1938	35,090,000
USSR	1942	65,000,00034

Country	Year	Population
Yugosolavia	1939	15,703,000

Notes

1. Rummel provides a more detailed explanation for his methods and procedures on his website. This same explanation is provided in each of his books related to death estimates. R. J. Rummel, "Estimating Democide: Methods and Procedures," University of Hawaii, http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/METHOD.HTM. [↩]
2. R. J. Rummel, *Democide: Nazi Genocide and Mass Murder* (New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 1992), 127-131. [↩]
3. This number is determined by Rummel's estimate that of the 3,600,000 that died in this category, about 2,376,000 were the responsibility of the Soviet government. Rummel 1992, 131. [↩]
4. After Rummel breaks down the causes of death, he comes up with a mid-estimate of 5,300,000. This is very close to the official Polish Report of 5,400,000, which Rummel chooses to rely on for the final mid-estimate. Rummel 1992, 124-125. [↩]
5. Rummel 1992, 116-118. [↩]
6. Those killed through the euthanasia program included the "malformed, old, diseased, senile, or mentally backward in the judgment of the doctors in charge." These were not people electing to die. Rummel 1992, 47. [↩]
7. This excludes those killed in the Independent State of Croatia. Rummel 1992, 132-133. [↩]
8. Rummel 1992, 119-120. [↩]
9. Rummel 1992, 114-116. [↩]
10. Rummel 1992, 112-113. [↩]
11. Rummel had estimates for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Rummel took this sum and averaged it with a separate overall estimate for the Baltic States. In order to determine an estimate for a country, the country's ratio of the first summed estimate was applied to the overall Baltic average. Lithuania's portion of the new estimate would be about 176,182. Rummel 1992, 108-110. [↩]
12. Rummel 1992, 122-123. [↩]
13. Rummel 1992, 118-119. [↩]
14. Rummel 1992, 108. [↩]
15. Rummel 1992, 127. [↩]
16. Rummel had estimates for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Rummel took this sum and averaged it with a separate overall estimate for the Baltic States. In order to determine an estimate for a country, the country's ratio of the first summed estimate was applied to the overall Baltic average. Latvia's portion of the new estimate would be about 69,545. Rummel 1992, 108-110. [↩]
17. Rummel 1992, 125-127. [↩]
18. Rummel 1992, 120-121. [↩]
19. Rummel rounds up to 51,000. Rummel 1992, 110. [↩]
20. Rummel 1992, 127. [↩]
21. Rummel 1992, 111-112. [↩]

22. Rummel had estimates for Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Rummel took this sum and averaged it with a separate overall estimate for the Baltic States. In order to determine an estimate for a country, the country's ratio of the first summed estimate was applied to the overall Baltic average. Estonia's portion of the new estimate would be about 9,272. Rummel 1992, 108-110. [↩]
23. Rummel 1992, 111. [↩]
24. Rummel 1992, 107. [↩]
25. Rummel rounds down to 2,000 in his final estimate. Rummel 1992, 121-122. [↩]
26. Rummel 1992,123- 124. [↩]
27. Rummel 1992, 114. [↩]
28. Rummel 1992, 121. [↩]
29. Rummel 1992, 108. [↩]
30. Rummel 1992, 114. [↩]
31. Economic Intelligence Service, *Economic Intelligence Service, International Statistical Year-Book 1940/1941* (Geneva: Series of League of Nations Publications, 1941), 14, 16, 17. [↩]
32. League of Nations Economic Intelligence Service, *International Statistical Year-Book 1937/1938* (Geneva: Series of League of Nations Publications, 1938), 20. [↩]
33. League of Nations Economic Intelligence Service 1938, 20. [↩]
34. This is the estimated population of USSR territory occupied by Nazi Germany. Leonid D. Grenkevich and Josef Washington Hall, *The Soviet Partisan Movement 1941-1945: A Critical Historiographical Analysis* (Portland: Frank Class, 1999), 98. [↩]