The following estimates represent citizens killed or starved to death by their own Communist governments since 1918. These numbers do not include war dead. The governments are sorted by body count (highest to lowest).

All numbers are mid-estimates.

While this list is as complete as I have been able to determine, it is evolving. Some numbers are incomplete and there are still five Communist countries that have the potential to kill more of their citizens. Over the next year, each government will be profiled in detail on this website.

A detailed bibliography is listed at the end of this page. Feedback is more than welcome.

If you find this interesting, check out Nazi Body Count.

### Communist Body Count: 149,469,610

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Body Count:</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
<td>73,237,000</td>
<td>1949-Present (57+ years and counting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Union of Soviet Socialist Republic</td>
<td>58,627,000</td>
<td>1922-1991 (69 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic</td>
<td>3,284,000</td>
<td>1918-1922 (4 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</td>
<td>3,163,000</td>
<td>1948-Present (58+ years and counting)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. R.J. Rummel originally estimated China's body count between between the years of 1949-1987 to be 35,236,000 (Rummel 1994). This excluded 38,000,000 million that died of famine during the Great Leap Forward. After the release of Mao: The Unknown Story, Rummel became convinced that the Chinese government was directly responsible for the famine, thus increasing his original estimate by 38,000,000 (Rummel 2005). 1,000 was added for Tienanmen Square in 1989 (Courtois 1999).

2. The body count only covers the years 1923-1987 (Rummel 1996).

3. This body count does not include the 6,210,000 killed in the civil war (Rummel 1996).

4. 1,663,000 is attributed between 1948-1987 excluding the Korean War (Rummel...

**Cambodia**

**Body Count:** 2,627,000

1975-1987 (12 years)

The body count estimate is complete (Rummel 1994). The official country name was Democratic Kampuchea during Pol Pot's reign and then known as People's Republic of Kampuchea afterwards.

**Democratic Republic of Afghanistan**

**Body Count:** 1,750,000

1978-1992 (14 years)

The body count estimate is complete (Courtois 1999).

**Vietnam**

**Body Count:** 1,670,000

1975-Present (30+ years and counting)

The body count covers the years 1945-1987 for Vietnam/North Vietnam and excludes 1,062,000 from the Vietnam War (Rummel 1994).

**People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**Body Count:** 1,343,610

1974-1991 (17 years)

The body count includes 10,000 political assassinations during 1977-1978, 1,000 children killed in 1977, 110 massacred in an Orthodox church in 1975, 80,000 during the civil war between 1978-1980, 250,000 that died in 1982 through Transit Camps, and 2,500 killed in a bombing raid (Courtois 1999). Another 1,000,000 is added for the famine during 1984-1985 (BBC News 2000).

**Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**

**Body Count:** 1,072,000

1945-1992 (47 years)

The body count only covers the years 1945-1992 excluding 100,000 from the Tito Partisans between 1941-1944 (Rummel 1994).

**Chinese Soviet Republic**

**Body Count:** 700,000

1931-1934 (3 years)

The body count only includes the Jiangxi and Fujian provinces (Chang 2005). Although Mozambique has 700,000 to its name, the Chinese Soviet Republic produced more bodies in a shorter time period and the estimate is low.

**People's Republic of Mozambique**

**Body Count:** 700,000
11. Socialist Republic of Romania
   Body Count: 435,000
   1947-1989 (42 years)
   The body count only covers the years 1947-1987 (Rummel 1997).

12. People’s Republic of Bulgaria
   Body Count: 222,000
   1946-1990 (44 years)
   The body count only covers the years 1948-1987 (Rummel 1997).

13. People’s Republic of Angola
   Body Count: 125,000
   1975-1992 (17 years)
   The body count only covers the years 1975-1987 (Rummel 1997).

14. Mongolian People’s Republic
   Body Count: 100,000
   1924-1992 (68 years)
   The body count only covers the years 1924-1987 (Rummel 1997).

15. People’s Socialist Republic of Albania
   Body Count: 100,000
   1946-1991 (45 years)
   The body count only covers the years 1944-1987 (Rummel 1997).

16. Republic of Cuba
   Body Count: 73,000
   1961-Present (45+ years and counting)
   The body count only covers the years 1959-1987 (Rummel 1997).

17. German Democratic Republic
   Body Count: 70,000
   1949-1990 (41 years)
   The body count only covers the years 1948-1987 (Rummel 1997).

18. Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia
   Body Count: 65,000
   1948-1990 (42 years)
The body count only covers the years 1948-1968 (Rummel 1997).

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Body Count: 56,000

1975-Present (31+ years and counting)

The body count only covers the years 1975-1987 excluding 47,000 war dead (Rummel 1997).

Hungarian People's Republic
Body Count: 27,000

1949-1989 (40 years)

The body count only covers the years 1948-1987 (Rummel 1997).

People's Republic of Poland
Body Count: 22,000

1948-1989 (41 years)

The body count only covers the years 1948-1987 (Rummel 1997). Excludes 1,585,000 from ethnic cleansing between 1945-1950 (Rummel 1994).

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
Body Count: 1,000

1969-1990 (21 years)

The body count only covers the years 1969-1987 (Rummel 1997).

References


Rummel, R. J. (1994). Death by government


