

# death by government by r j rummel

Death by Government by R J Rummel: Understanding State-Sanctioned Violence

**death by government by r j rummel** is a seminal work that delves into one of the darkest and most complex aspects of political science and history: the phenomenon of state-led mass killings. R J Rummel, a political scientist renowned for his extensive research on political violence, coined the term "democide" to describe the murder of any person or people by their government, including genocide, politicide, and mass murder. His book, *Death by Government*, remains a crucial reference for anyone seeking to understand how, why, and under what conditions governments become perpetrators of large-scale violence against their own populations.

In this article, we will explore the key themes of Rummel's work, the methodology behind his research, and the broader implications of death by government in the modern world. Along the way, we'll also touch on related concepts such as democide, genocide, totalitarianism, and political repression, providing a comprehensive overview that highlights why this subject continues to demand our attention.

## R J Rummel and the Concept of Democide

R J Rummel is often credited with pioneering the quantitative study of government-induced killings. Unlike previous scholars who primarily focused on genocides in the narrow sense—targeted extermination of ethnic or religious groups—Rummel introduced the term democide to encompass all forms of government mass murder. This includes executions, forced labor, starvation, and death in concentration camps, among others.

### What is Democide?

Democide refers to any intentional killing by government agents, whether directly or indirectly, of unarmed or disarmed people who are not in combat with the government. It is a broader term than genocide and includes:

- **Genocide:** The deliberate destruction of a particular ethnic, religious, or national group.
- **Politicide:** The killing of groups based on political beliefs or affiliations.
- **Mass murder:** Large-scale killings often without specific targeting of group identity.

Rummel's extensive research estimated that over the course of the 20th century, tens of millions of people died due to democide—far surpassing deaths caused by wars themselves. His work challenges traditional narratives about state violence and calls attention to the vast scale of suffering inflicted by governments.

# The Scope and Impact of Death by Government

One of the most striking aspects of Death by Government is the sheer scale of violence documented. Rummel's meticulously compiled data reveals that authoritarian regimes, particularly totalitarian states, are disproportionately responsible for democide. However, democracies are not immune, especially when engaged in conflict or under extreme stress.

## Why Do Governments Kill Their Own People?

Understanding the motivations behind death by government is crucial for both scholars and policymakers. Several factors contribute to why governments resort to mass killings, including:

1. **Consolidation of Power:** Authoritarian regimes often see certain groups as threats to their authority and eliminate them to maintain control.
2. **Ideological Purity:** Totalitarian governments may target populations that do not conform to their ideological vision.
3. **War and Conflict:** During civil wars or revolutions, governments may kill perceived enemies to suppress opposition.
4. **Ethnic and Religious Hatred:** Some regimes engage in genocide to eradicate minority groups.

Rummel argues that mechanisms of absolute power, absence of checks and balances, and lack of individual freedoms create environments where democide becomes possible and even likely.

## Methodology Behind Rummel's Research

Rummel's approach was groundbreaking for its time due to its reliance on rigorous data collection and statistical analysis. By compiling historical records, government documents, eyewitness accounts, and secondary sources, he sought to quantify the extent of democide across different regimes and time periods.

## Data Challenges and Criticisms

While Rummel's work has been influential, it has also faced criticism. Some scholars argue that:

- Estimating death tolls from historical mass killings is inherently imprecise.
- Political bias might influence the classification of deaths as democide.

- The broad definition of democide could obscure differences between types of killings.

Nonetheless, Rummel's emphasis on data-driven analysis pushed the study of political violence into new territory and inspired further research into state violence.

## Death by Government in Historical Context

Death by Government by R J Rummel covers a wide array of historical examples, from the atrocities committed under Stalin's Soviet Union and Mao's China to the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda. By comparing these cases, Rummel identifies patterns and commonalities that help explain why some governments become killers on a massive scale.

### Case Studies of Democide

- **Soviet Union:** Under Stalin, millions died due to purges, forced famines, and labor camps.
- **China:** Mao's Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution led to tens of millions of deaths.
- **Khmer Rouge Cambodia:** Pol Pot's regime caused the deaths of nearly a quarter of the population.
- **Nazi Germany:** The Holocaust represents one of the most systematic genocides in history.

Each example illustrates the devastating consequences of unchecked political power and ideological extremism.

## Why Death by Government Matters Today

The patterns identified by Rummel remain relevant in understanding contemporary political violence. Countries with authoritarian governments, weak institutions, and limited political freedoms continue to pose risks of democide and mass atrocities.

### Implications for Policy and Human Rights

Recognizing the dangers of death by government informs international efforts to prevent genocide and protect human rights. It underscores the importance of:

- Promoting democracy and accountable governance.
- Supporting international laws against crimes against humanity.
- Early intervention and monitoring in countries showing signs of escalating political violence.

Rummel's work also serves as a sobering reminder that mass violence is not only a relic of the past but an ongoing threat that requires vigilance and commitment from the global community.

## **Exploring Death by Government Through a Modern Lens**

In today's digital age, the documentation and analysis of state violence have become more sophisticated. Tools like satellite imagery, social media, and big data analytics allow researchers and human rights organizations to monitor potential democides in real time.

### **How Technology Enhances Understanding**

Modern technology enables:

- Real-time tracking of human rights abuses.
- Verification of government claims and denials.
- Mobilization of global awareness and advocacy.

These advancements build upon the foundational research of R J Rummel and others, providing new avenues to prevent death by government.

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Death by Government by R J Rummel remains a powerful, eye-opening exploration of the tragic consequences when governments wield unchecked power against their own citizens. Its lessons continue to resonate, compelling us to study history carefully, understand the mechanisms of political violence, and strive toward a world where such atrocities become a thing of the past.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main thesis of 'Death by Government' by R.J. Rummel?**

'Death by Government' argues that governments are responsible for the deaths

of millions of people through acts of democide, which includes genocide, politicide, and mass murder by state authorities.

## **Who is R.J. Rummel, the author of 'Death by Government'?**

R.J. Rummel was a political scientist known for his research on political violence, particularly focusing on the concept of democide, or death caused by government actions.

## **What does Rummel mean by the term 'democide' in 'Death by Government'?**

Democide refers to the intentional killing of unarmed or disarmed people by government agents, including genocide, politicide, and mass murder.

## **How does 'Death by Government' categorize different types of government-caused deaths?**

Rummel categorizes government-caused deaths into genocide, politicide (murder of political groups), and mass murder, all under the umbrella term 'democide.'

## **What time periods and governments does 'Death by Government' focus on?**

The book covers a wide historical range, analyzing government-caused deaths from the 20th century and earlier, including regimes like Nazi Germany, Stalinist Soviet Union, and Khmer Rouge Cambodia.

## **What are some key statistics presented in 'Death by Government'?**

Rummel estimates that over 160 million people have died as a result of democide in the 20th century alone, highlighting the scale of government-induced violence.

## **How has 'Death by Government' influenced the study of political violence and genocide?**

'Death by Government' has been influential in expanding the understanding of state-sponsored violence beyond genocide to include a broader range of government killings, shaping academic and policy discussions.

## **What solutions or warnings does R.J. Rummel offer in 'Death by Government' to prevent democide?**

Rummel advocates for democratic governance and the protection of human rights as key measures to reduce the risk of democide and limit government power over individuals.

## **Additional Resources**

Death by Government by R J Rummel: A Critical Exploration of State-Sanctioned Violence

**death by government by r j rummel** stands as a seminal work in the study of political violence, genocide, and the dark capacities of state power. Authored by political scientist R.J. Rummel, this comprehensive analysis delves into the phenomenon he terms "democide" – the murder of people by their government, covering a spectrum of mass atrocities such as genocide, politicide, and mass murder. In this article, we explore the core arguments, empirical data, and enduring relevance of Rummel's research, situating it within broader discussions of state violence and human rights abuses.

## **Understanding the Concept of Democide**

At the heart of Rummel's "Death by Government" is the concept of democide, a term he coined to encapsulate all forms of government-induced killings that do not arise from battle casualties but from deliberate policies or actions. Unlike conventional war deaths, democide encompasses extrajudicial killings, forced labor deaths, genocides, and politically motivated purges. Rummel's definition extends beyond the narrow confines of genocide, which legally applies to the attempt to exterminate ethnic groups, to include any mass killing perpetrated by a government against its own or others' populations.

Rummel's extensive empirical research, which draws on diverse historical episodes from the Armenian Genocide to Stalin's purges and Mao's Great Leap Forward, quantifies democide with unprecedented scope. He estimates that over 170 million people died due to government actions in the 20th century alone, a figure that starkly contrasts with deaths caused by warfare in the same period. This staggering statistic underscores the often overlooked lethality of government power wielded without accountability.

## **The Methodology Behind Rummel's Research**

One of the distinguishing features of "Death by Government" is Rummel's meticulous data collection and statistical analysis. He aggregates data from a wide range of secondary sources, including historical records, eyewitness accounts, and previous scholarly estimates. Rummel categorizes governments by regime type, emphasizing the correlation between authoritarianism and the propensity for democide. His findings suggest that totalitarian and communist regimes are disproportionately responsible for the highest death tolls, a conclusion that has sparked both support and criticism in academic circles.

Rummel's quantitative approach allows for comparative studies across countries and time periods, offering a methodological framework for understanding how political structures influence the likelihood of mass killings. For instance, democracies, according to Rummel, exhibit significantly lower rates of democide due to institutional checks and pluralism.

## **Key Themes and Implications**

"Death by Government" is not merely an inventory of atrocities; it also offers a profound critique of political power and its potential for abuse. Rummel contends that the concentration of power in the hands of a few, without legal or moral constraints, creates an environment ripe for mass murder. His work serves as a warning about the dangers of authoritarianism and the importance of political freedoms.

## **The Relationship Between Power and Death**

Rummel's thesis revolves around the idea that power corrupts absolutely and that absolute power corrupts absolutely more lethally. The book systematically demonstrates how regimes that centralize control and suppress dissent resort to lethal means to maintain their authority. This insight aligns with broader political science theories on authoritarianism but is distinguished by Rummel's focus on the human cost measured in millions of lives.

## **Democracy as a Deterrent to Democide**

One of the more hopeful aspects of "Death by Government" is the identification of democracy as a political system that significantly reduces the likelihood of democide. Rummel argues that democratic institutions, by dispersing power and enabling accountability, create checks against the government's capacity to perpetrate mass killings. This finding has influenced policy debates on the promotion of democracy and human rights as mechanisms for reducing political violence.

## **Critiques and Scholarly Debates**

While Rummel's work is widely respected, it has not been without critique. Some scholars question the accuracy of his death toll estimates, arguing that the data sources may be inconsistent or politically biased. Others challenge the deterministic link Rummel draws between regime type and democide, pointing to instances where non-democratic regimes have avoided mass killings or where democracies have engaged in violent repression.

Additionally, Rummel's framing has been critiqued for its emphasis on state actors, potentially underplaying the role of non-governmental forces or complex social dynamics in mass violence. Nevertheless, the book remains a foundational text in genocide studies and political violence scholarship, largely because it sparked important conversations about the scope and nature of state-sponsored killing.

## **Comparative Impact: Death by Government vs. Other Works on Political Violence**

"Death by Government" is often compared with seminal works such as Hannah

Arendt's "The Origins of Totalitarianism" and Samantha Power's "A Problem from Hell." What sets Rummel's book apart is its quantitative rigor combined with political theory, offering both empirical data and theoretical insights. While Arendt's work is more philosophical and Power's more journalistic, Rummel's approach appeals to scholars seeking measurable evidence of state violence.

## Relevance in Contemporary Discourse

In today's geopolitical landscape, where authoritarianism appears resurgent in several regions and human rights abuses remain rampant, "Death by Government by R J Rummel" continues to hold significant relevance. Its emphasis on the lethal risks posed by unchecked political power resonates with ongoing debates about governance, accountability, and international intervention.

Human rights organizations and policymakers often draw on Rummel's findings to advocate for stronger international norms against political repression and mass atrocities. Furthermore, the book's data-driven approach supports efforts to quantify human rights abuses and to develop early warning systems for potential mass killings.

## Lessons for Modern Governance and Human Rights Advocacy

Rummel's work encourages vigilance against the concentration of power and underscores the importance of institutional checks. For human rights advocates, "Death by Government" provides empirical ammunition to argue for the protection of political freedoms as a means to safeguard human life. It also highlights the necessity of global cooperation to prevent or halt democide, a challenge that remains pressing in conflicts involving authoritarian regimes.

## Final Reflections

"Death by Government by R J Rummel" is more than an academic treatise; it is a sobering reminder of the potential for governments to become perpetrators of mass murder. Through rigorous research and a clear conceptual framework, Rummel invites readers to critically examine the structures of power and the human consequences of political violence. His work continues to inform scholarship, policy, and activism aimed at preventing the tragic phenomenon of democide in the 21st century and beyond.

## [Death By Government By R J Rummel](#)

**death by government by r j rummel:** Death by Government R. J. Rummel, 2018-02-06 This is R. J. Rummel's fourth book in a series devoted to genocide and government mass murder, or what he calls democide. He presents the primary results, in tables and figures, as well as a historical sketch



of the major cases of democide, those in which one million or more people were killed by a regime. In *Death by Government*, Rummel does not aim to describe democide itself, but to determine its nature and scope in order to test the theory that democracies are inherently nonviolent. Rummel discusses genocide in China, Nazi Germany, Japan, Cambodia, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. He also writes about areas of suspected genocide: North Korea, Mexico, and feudal Russia. His results clearly and decisively show that democracies commit less democide than other regimes. The underlying principle is that the less freedom people have, the greater the violence; the more freedom, the less the violence. Thus, as Rummel says, 'The problem is power. The solution is democracy. The course of action is to foster freedom.' *Death by Government* is a compelling look at the horrors that occur in modern societies. It depicts how democide has been very much a part of human history. Among other examples, the book includes the massacre of Europeans during the Thirty Years' War, the relatively unknown genocide of the French Revolution, and the slaughtering of American Indians by colonists in the New World. This riveting account is an essential tool for historians, political scientists, and scholars interested in the study of genocide.

**death by government by r j rummel: Statistics of Democide** Rudolph J. Rummel, 1998 And conclusions -- Pre-twentieth century democide -- 1. The megamurderers. Japan's savage military ; The Khmer Rouge Hell State ; Turkey's ethnic purges ; The Vietnamese War state ; Poland's ethnic cleansing ; The Pakistani cutthroat state ; Tito's slaughterhouse ; Orwellian North Korea ; Barbarous Mexico ; Feudal Russia -- 2. The centi-kilo and lesser murderers. Death by American bombing ; The horde of centi-kilo murderers ; The crown of lesser murderers -- 3. Statistics of democide, power, and social field. The social field of democide ; Democracy, power, and democide ; Social diversity, power, and democide ; Culture and democide ; The socio-economic and geographic context of democide ; War, rebellion, and democide ; The social field and democide ; Democide through the years.

**death by government by r j rummel: Death by Government** R. J. Rummel, 1997-01-01 This is R. J. Rummel's fourth book in a series devoted to genocide and government mass murder, or what he calls democide. He presents the primary results, in tables and figures, as well as a historical sketch of the major cases of democide, those in which one million or more people were killed by a regime. In *Death by Government*, Rummel does not aim to describe democide itself, but to determine its nature and scope in order to test the theory that democracies are inherently nonviolent. Rummel discusses genocide in China, Nazi Germany, Japan, Cambodia, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. He also writes about areas of suspected genocide: North Korea, Mexico, and feudal Russia. His results clearly and decisively show that democracies commit less democide than other regimes. The underlying principle is that the less freedom people have, the greater the violence; the more freedom, the less the violence. Thus, as Rummel says, 'The problem is power. The solution is democracy. The course of action is to foster freedom.' *Death by Government* is a compelling look at the horrors that occur in modern societies. It depicts how democide has been very much a part of human history. Among other examples, the book includes the massacre of Europeans during the Thirty Years' War, the relatively unknown genocide of the French Revolution, and the slaughtering of American Indians by colonists in the New World. This riveting account is an essential tool for historians, political scientists, and scholars interested in the study of genocide.

**death by government by r j rummel: Power Kills** R. J. Rummel, 2002-11-01 This volume, newly published in paperback, is part of a comprehensive effort by R. J. Rummel to understand and place in historical perspective the entire subject of genocide and mass murder, or what he calls democide. It is the fifth in a series of volumes in which he offers a detailed analysis of the 120,000,000 people killed as a result of government action or direct intervention. In *Power Kills*, Rummel offers a realistic and practical solution to war, democide, and other collective violence. As he states it, 'The solution...is to foster democratic freedom and to democratize coercive power and force. That is, mass killing and mass murder carried out by government is a result of indiscriminate, irresponsible Power at the center. Rummel observes that well-established democracies do not make war on and rarely commit lesser violence against each other. The more democratic two nations are,

the less likely is war or smaller-scale violence between them. The more democratic a nation is, the less severe its overall foreign violence, the less likely it will have domestic collective violence, and the less its democide. Rummel argues that the evidence supports overwhelmingly the most important fact of our time: democracy is a method of nonviolence.

**death by government by r j rummel:** *Ending Big Government* Michael Dahlen, 2016-02 Statism denotes any system of big government, a government that gains power at the expense of individual freedom, a government that uses its power to redistribute wealth and regulate the economy. Laissez-faire capitalism, by contrast, is the system of limited government, the system of economic and political freedom. It is a system that has created more wealth and lifted more people out of poverty than any other system. Yet it is relentlessly demonized. We are told that the free market is impractical--prone to crises, depressions, and coercive monopolies. Michael Dahlen dispels these and many other myths. He shows that a laissez-faire capitalist system is not only practical; he shows that it is moral, as it is the only system that recognizes each individual's inalienable right to his own life. A provocative weave of history, philosophy, and political economy, *Ending Big Government: The Essential Case for Capitalism and Freedom*, shows that capitalism is incontestably superior to statism.

**death by government by r j rummel: Power Kills** R. J. Rummel, 2002-11-01 This volume, newly published in paperback, is part of a comprehensive effort by R. J. Rummel to understand and place in historical perspective the entire subject of genocide and mass murder, or what he calls democide. It is the fifth in a series of volumes in which he offers a detailed analysis of the 120,000,000 people killed as a result of government action or direct intervention. In *Power Kills*, Rummel offers a realistic and practical solution to war, democide, and other collective violence. As he states it, The solution...is to foster democratic freedom and to democratize coercive power and force. That is, mass killing and mass murder carried out by government is a result of indiscriminate, irresponsible Power at the center. Rummel observes that well-established democracies do not make war on and rarely commit lesser violence against each other. The more democratic two nations are, the less likely is war or smaller-scale violence between them. The more democratic a nation is, the less severe its overall foreign violence, the less likely it will have domestic collective violence, and the less its democide. Rummel argues that the evidence supports overwhelmingly the most important fact of our time: democracy is a method of nonviolence.

**death by government by r j rummel:** Genocide, Ethnonationalism, and the United Nations Hannibal Travis, 2013-01-17 *Genocide, Ethnonationalism, and the United Nations* examines a series of related crises in human civilization growing out of conflicts between powerful states or empires and indigenous or stateless peoples. This is the first book to attempt to explore the causes of genocide and other mass killing by a detailed exploration of UN archives covering the period spanning from 1945 through 2011. Hannibal Travis argues that large states and empires disproportionately committed or facilitated genocide and other mass killings between 1945 and 2011. His research incorporates data concerning factors linked to the scale of mass killing, and recent findings in human rights, political science, and legal theory. Turning to potential solutions, he argues that the concept of genocide imagines a future system of global governance under which the nation-state itself is made subject to law. The United Nations, however, has deflected the possibility of such a cosmopolitical law. It selectively condemns genocide and has established an institutional structure that denies most peoples subjected to genocide of a realistic possibility of global justice, lacks a robust international criminal tribunal or UN army, and even encourages security cooperation among states that have proven to be destructive of peoples in the past. Questions raised include: What have been the causes of mass killing during the period since the United Nations Charter entered into force in 1945? How does mass killing spread across international borders, and what is the role of resource wealth, the arms trade, and external interference in this process? Have the United Nations or the International Criminal Court faced up to the problem of genocide and other forms of mass killing, as is their mandate?

**death by government by r j rummel: Genocide, Mass Atrocity, and War Crimes in**

**Modern History** James Larry Taulbee, 2017-02-06 Defining genocide as an international crime, this two-volume set provides a comparative study of historical cases of genocide and mass atrocity—clearly identifying the factors that produced the attitudes and behaviors that led to them—discusses the reasons for rules in war, and examines how the five principles laid out in the Geneva Conventions and other international agreements have functioned in modern warfare. Written by an expert on international politics and law, *Genocide, Mass Atrocity, and War Crimes in Modern History: Blood and Conscience* is an easy-to-understand resource that explains why genocides and other atrocities occur, why humanity saw the need to create rules that apply during war, and how culture, rules about war, and the nature of war intersect. The first volume addresses the history and development of the normative regime(s) that define genocide and mass atrocity. Through a comparative study of historical cases that pay particular attention to the factors involved in producing the attitudes and behaviors that led to the incidents of mass slaughter and mistreatment, the author identifies the reasons that genocides and mass atrocities in the 20th century were largely ignored until the early 1990s and why even starting then, responses were inconsistent. The second book discusses why rules in war exist, which factors may lead to the adoption of rules, what defines a war crime, and how the five fundamental principles laid out in the Geneva Conventions and other international agreements have actually functioned in modern warfare. It also poses—and answers—the interesting question of why we should obey rules when our opponents do not. The final chapter examines what actions could serve to identify future situations in which mass atrocities may occur and identifies the problems of timely humanitarian intervention in international affairs.

**death by government by r j rummel:** *Centennial Ruminations on Max Weber's the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* Isaacs Mark, 2006-03-13 In 1904-1905 Max Weber published the sociological classic *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. In this book Weber argues that religion, specifically ascetic Protestantism provided the essential social and cultural infrastructure that led to modern capitalism. Weber's suggests that Protestantism has an affinity for capitalism. Indeed, something within Protestantism-by accident or design-creates the necessary preconditions that lead to the flowering of a just, free, and prosperous society. At the same time, Weber wonders if the economic backwardness of certain societies and regions of the world are somehow related to their religious affiliation. Weber's century old thesis challenges the erroneous core assumptions of many secular humanists, postmoderns, Roman Catholic traditionalists, and Islamists. In view of the threat of the War on Terror, and in the face of the inadequate response of secularist and post-modern intellectuals, it is vital that we understand and appreciate the profound paradigm shift that occurred during the sixteenth and seventeenth century that led to the unfolding of modern capitalism. Despite a plethora of critics Max Weber's one-hundred year old thesis still stands.

**death by government by r j rummel: International Perspectives on Democratization and Peace** Narayanan Ganesan, 2020-10-26 This book examines the concept of peace and the relevance of historical and contextual factors that contribute to peaceful coexistence of people, and dives into a deep examination of how democracy furthers peace especially in conflict prone countries. Seven case studies illustrate the impact of democratization on transformation and prevention.

**death by government by r j rummel: Genocide** Adam Jones, 2023-12-12 *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction* is the most wide-ranging textbook on genocide yet published. Designed as a text for undergraduate and graduate students from a range of disciplines, it will also appeal to non-specialists and general readers. Fully updated to reflect the latest thinking in this rapidly developing field, this unique book: Provides an introduction to genocide as both a historical phenomenon and an analytical-legal concept, including the concept of genocidal intent and the dynamism and contingency of genocidal processes. Discusses the role of state-building, imperialism, war, and social revolution in fueling genocide. Supplies a wide range of full-length case studies of genocides worldwide, each with a supplementary study. Explores perspectives on genocide from the social sciences, including psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science/international relations, and gender studies. Considers the future of genocide, with attention to historical memory

and genocide denial; initiatives for truth, justice, and redress; and strategies of intervention and prevention. Highlights of the new edition include: New case studies of the Uyghur genocide in the People's Republic of China, the Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar, and Muslims in India. The historical and archaeological legacy of genocide. New and vivid testimonies of survivors and witnesses to genocide. This significantly revised fourth edition will remain an indispensable text for new generations of genocide study and scholarship. An accompanying website ([www.genocidetext.net](http://www.genocidetext.net)) features a selection of supplementary materials, teaching aids, and Internet resources.

**death by government by r j rummel:** *The Musharraf Factor* Abid Ullah Jan, 2005

**death by government by r j rummel: The Genocide Paradox** Anne O'Byrne, 2023-04-25 We regard genocidal violence as worse than other sorts of violence—perhaps the worst there is. But what does this say about what we value about the *genos* on which nations are said to be founded? This is an urgent question for democracies. We value the mode of being in time that anchors us in the past and in the future, that is, among those who have been and those who might yet be. If the *genos* is a group constituted by this generational time, the *demos* was invented as the anti-*genos*, with no criterion of inheritance and instead only occurring according to the interruption of revolutionary time. Insofar as the *demos* persists, we experience it as a sort of *genos*, for example, the democratic nation state. As a result, democracies are caught in a bind, disavowing *genos*-thinking while cherishing the temporal forms of *genos*-life; they abhor genocidal violence but perpetuate and disguise it. This is the genocide paradox. O'Byrne traces the problem through our commitment to existential categories from Aristotle to the life taxonomies of Linnaeus and Darwin, through anthropologies of kinship that tether us to the social world, the shortfalls of ethical theory, into the history of democratic theory and the defensive tactics used by real existing democracies when it came to defining genocide for the U.N. Genocide Convention. She argues that, although models of democracy all make room for contestation, they fail to grasp its generational structure or acknowledge the generational content of our lives. They cultivate ignorance of the contingency and precarity of the relations that create and sustain us. The danger of doing so is immense. It leaves us unprepared for confronting democracy's deficits and its struggle to entertain multiple temporalities. In addition, it leaves us unprepared for understanding the relation between *demos* and violence, and the ability of good enough citizens to tolerate the slow-burning destruction of marginalized peoples. What will it take to envision an anti-genocidal democracy?

**death by government by r j rummel: Tributes** Irving Horowitz, 2017-10-19 In one of his final works, Stephen Jay Gould spoke of the human race as a wildly improbable evolutionary event well within the realm of contingency. Drawing on his personal knowledge of fifty figures from the world of twentieth-century social science, Irving Louis Horowitz offers commentaries drawn from a variety of public occasions to explain one segment of this improbable event. In the process he reveals how the past century was defined in substantial measure by the rise of social research. Commenting on *Tributes*, Daniel Mahoney observes, some pieces are completely authoritative and detailed, others more conversational and informal. That diversity of approaches tied to the special character of these people increases the readability and interest in the book as a whole. In addition to illuminating the life and thought of these major figures, these essays and addresses reveal the impressive catholicity of Horowitz's concerns and his ability to remain open to the widest range of theoretical and practical approaches. In a certain sense, this book is also an intellectual autobiography in the form of an expression of Horowitz's debt to intellectual interlocutors and influences over the years. As a consequence, *Tributes* will be of the greatest interest to anyone who wishes to come to terms with the intellectual formation of the people who gave substance to new ways of experiencing as well as explaining society. The book is thus a thoughtful guide to the intellectual life of our times. From Arendt and Aron to Veblen and Wildavsky, these essays take shape as a systematic mosaic of the past century. Written by a central participant in social theory, *Tributes* is both an informal guide and a formal text for readers coming upon social science innovators for the first time. The book breaks the boundaries of conventional discourse and in so doing gives voice to the outstanding figures that helped make the twentieth century the century of social research.

**death by government by r j rummel: The Widening Circle of Genocide** Israel W. Charney, 1994-01-01 The Widening Circle of Genocide, the third volume of an award-winning series, combines an encyclopedic summary of knowledge of the subject with annotated citations of literature in each field of study. It includes contributions by R.J. Rummel, Leonard Glick, Vahakn Dadrian, Rosanne Klass, Martin Van Bruinessen, James Dunn, Gabrielle Tyrnauer, Robert Krell, George Kent, Samuel Totten, and a foreword by Irving Louis Horowitz. This volume presents scholarship on a variety of topics, including: Germany's records of the Armenian genocide; little-known cases of contemporary genocide in Afghanistan, East Timor, and of the Kurds; a provocative new interpretation of the psychic scarring of Holocaust survivors; and nongovernmental organizations that have undertaken the beginnings of scholarship on the worldwide problems of genocide. The Widening Circle of Genocide embodies reverence for human life; its goal is the search for new means to prevent genocide. This work is distinguished by its excellence, originality, and depth of its scholarship. The first volume was selected by the American Library Association for its list of Outstanding Academic Books of 1988-89. It is both compelling reading and an invaluable tool for scholars and students who wish to pursue specific fields of study of genocide. It will also be of interest to political scientists, historians, psychologists, and religion scholars.

**death by government by r j rummel: Key Connections** M. A. Erickson, 2023-12-06 Exploring the changes between the Old and New Testament provides an open window to the wide-ranging vision of God's work in the human race. It is actually a remarkable vision, which stretches from the beginning of the universe to the end of time as we know it. But many aspects of the Old Testament are difficult to understand today. The ancient origins of the Old Testament (OT) explains part of the difficulty. The OT was written thousands of years ago, in cultures and time periods very different from our own. These vast differences in culture make many practices in the OT seem unusual today. Understanding and making sense of the changes between the OT and NT is one of the key purposes of this book. Many changes become more understandable when you compare God's instructions for a nation (OT), with God's instructions for freely gathered communities of faith who follow Jesus as Messiah (NT). These changes will be highlighted in the chapters of this volume, along with other key principles for understanding differences between the Old and New Testament. God's greater purposes will be in view, along with current insights and concepts.

**death by government by r j rummel: International Law and the Cold War** Matthew Craven, Sundhya Pahuja, Gerry Simpson, Anna Saunders, 2020 This is the first book to examine in detail the relationship between the Cold War and International Law.

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Although these catastrophes do not pronounce the death of ethics, they show that ethics is vulnerable, subject to misuse and perversion, and that no simple reaffirmation of ethics, as if nothing disastrous had happened, will do. Moral and religious authority has been fragmented and weakened by the accumulated ruins of history and the depersonalized advances of civilization that have taken us from a bloody twentieth century into an immensely problematic twenty-first. What nevertheless remain essential are spirited commitment and political will that embody the courage not to let go of the ethical but to persist for it in spite of humankind's self-inflicted destructiveness. Salvaging the fragmented condition of ethics, this book shows how respect and honor for those who save lives and resist atrocity, deepened attention to the dead and to death itself, and appeals for human rights and renewed spiritual sensitivity confirm that ethics contains and remains an irreplaceable safeguard against its own failures.

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