

How The Ideology Of Atheism Impacted The Second World War In Europe And The Former Soviet Union.

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0. Abstract

World War II, the most devastating war in human history. The greatest losses were not great cities reduced to rubble, great naval ships sunk at the bottom of the sea, or the loss of morality. But rather the great loss of human lives along with great suffering. An estimated 75 million people lost their lives during the 6 year war. Much lesser deaths could have been if only there was no atheistic ideology behind the deaths. In this paper, I show you how and why atheistic ideologies contributed greatly to the 75 million dead overall, mostly in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

1. The True Nature of Atheism

Atheism is the belief that there is no God. No ultimate meaning in our lives, no real destiny, no absolute morality, when you die you're done, there is no afterlife. You decide what's right and wrong because there is no God giving laws to follow. It will not be wrong to kill, steal and destroy. We are all animals. We are the God of our own universe.

2. The Rise and Science Behind Atheism

The rise of atheism began when Charles Darwin wrote his book 'The Origin of Species' in 1859. It allowed scientists to provide an alternative explanation to the obvious design we see in life and nature. It claims natural selection and later on mutations as the source for all design and diversity on this planet, which doesn't require a creator God. The theory of evolution was born.

This was published by Cambridge in *Ontogeny and Phylogeny*, by Stephen Jay Gould: *"Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1850, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory. (Stephen Jay Gould, 1977).*

3. Evolutionary Theory is more Atheistic than Theistic

Although religions found ways to reconcile evolutionary theory with a belief in God, or that God designed the evolutionary process to create all of us, it was reconciled by abandoning traditional beliefs. Great sacrifice was made in order to fit or force fit evolution with God. For example: Plain reading of the creation account in the book of Genesis clearly contradicts with what evolution is saying. That's why theistic evolutionists are forced to say that the Genesis creation account is only symbolic, not literal, allegory. So to conclude, evolutionary theory fits much better with atheism because evolution is defined as unguided natural processes. If it's unguided, then it operates on its own, without God.

4. Adolf Hitler

Although Adolf Hitler's beliefs about the existence of God remain uncertain, there is no question about his strong belief in evolutionary theory. He talked about it openly, wrote about it in his book, applied it on Nazi policies in Germany and went crazy implementing war strategies and war crimes with evolutionary thinking whether direct or indirect. If Hitler was ever a theist he may have believed that a god created everything by the natural process of evolution. This would have made Hitler a naturalist, exactly what atheists today are. But everything Hitler ever did during the war showed no sign that he was a theist who fears God, as he relentlessly directed the war with a reign of terror. So I conclude that Hitler was an indirect atheist rather than a direct one because of his die hard belief in evolutionary theory.

Hitler hated Christianity, he used the church to further his means that is all. He wrote in his personal diary; *"The heaviest blow that ever struck humanity was the coming of Christianity."... "Our epoch will certainly see the end of the disease of Christianity."* - Adolf Hitler

To see evolutionary measures and tribal morality being applied vigorously to the affairs of a great modern nation, we must turn again to Germany of 1942. We see Hitler devoutly convinced that evolution produces the only real basis for a national policy. . . . The means he adopted to secure the destiny of his race and people were organized slaughter, which has drenched Europe in blood. - Sir Arthur Keith, Evolution and Ethics (New York: G. P. Putman's Sons, 1947), 28.

Robert Edward David Clark in his book *Darwin: Before and After*, specifically **page 115**: *“Adolf Hitler’s mind was captivated by evolutionary teaching—probably since the time he was a boy. Evolutionary ideas—quite undisguised—lie at the basis of all that is worst in Mein Kampf—and in his public speeches. . . . Hitler reasoned . . . that a higher race would always conquer a lower.” The original edition was published in London by **The Paternoster Press in 1948** under the fuller title *Darwin: Before and After: The Story of Evolution*.*

5. Joseph Stalin

Here is a figure whom historians agree was an atheist. Following the teachings and footsteps of the founder of Communism Karl Marx and the first Soviet leader Lenin, like Hitler, committed great atrocities in his own country, the former Soviet Union. During the Second World War, his heartless war policies and war strategies caused more Soviet deaths than it could have been.

Karl Marx documented this concept that *“Communism begins where atheism begins”* in his 1844 work *Private Property and Communism*, noting that the political ideology builds upon the rejection of religious frameworks. Some translations render the line as “Communism begins where atheism begins,” while others say “Communism begins from the outset ... with atheism.” The meaning is substantially the same, but the second wording more clearly preserves Marx’s qualification. Marx viewed atheism as a philosophical starting point for communism.

6. The War in Europe, From 1939-1941

The War in Europe or the Second World War itself began in September of 1939 when the Nazis invaded Poland. Right after that, England and France declared war on Germany. France and the low countries fell first during the Nazi Blitzkrieg leaving England to fight alone. Realizing that an invasion was imminent, Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, declared that the Battle of Britain was about to begin, and upon this battle depends the survival of Christian Civilization. When he said that, it seemed clear to the world that the Nazis were trying to get rid of democracy by invading free countries. Democratic form of government, inspired by Christian beliefs during the 1700s, was threatened by an external force, a force that doesn't stand for Christian values. Although Nazi Germany wasn't an atheist country as a whole, their leaders, especially Hitler, was an evolutionist. The Allied Powers, Britain and France, may not be fighting against an atheistic country, but what the Nazis did was close to atheistic ideology. In the end during 1941, Britain survived the air war against Germany forcing the Nazis to abandon their plans to invade Britain.

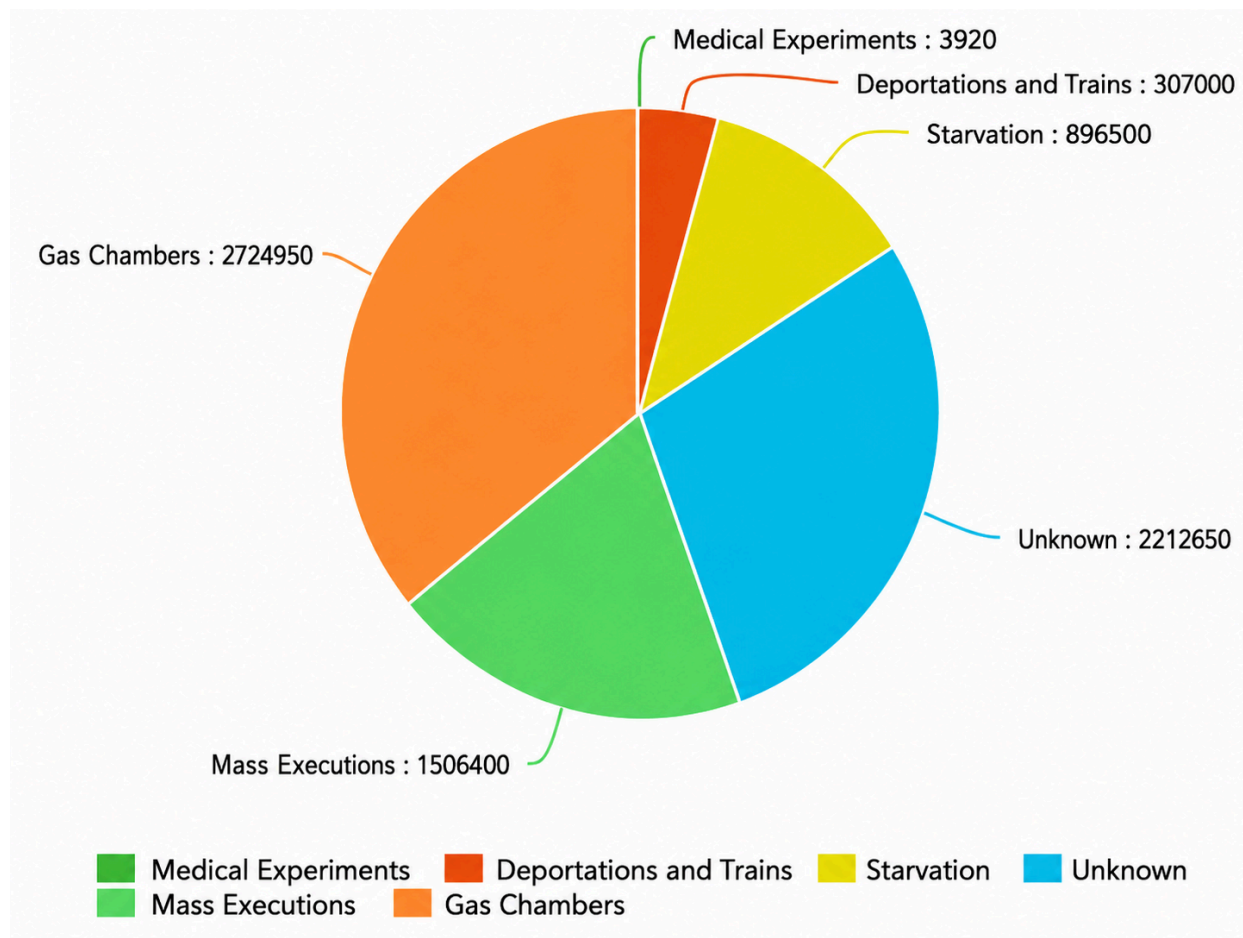
7. The Eastern Russian Front, From 1941-1942

After the failure to invade Britain, Hitler set his eye upon the Soviet Union. To eliminate Britain's hope that the Russians join the allies, for economic reasons and Hitler hated communism after all, the Nazis launched Operation Barbarossa, a massive invasion of the Soviet Union. Great atrocities were committed. Millions of Russian prisoners starved to death, cities surrounded and its citizens died by the millions as well. These were war strategies and policies designed to beat the enemy by degrading their will to fight. But the deaths and atrocities inflicted were on a scale never before seen in history. Something else is indirectly contributing for Nazi leaders to implement such strategies and policies. This is another hint that the Nazis indirectly make strategies and policies based on evolutionary thinking. Survival of the fittest, an evolutionary concept, was without question a Nazi belief. They think they were the most evolved race on earth so to eliminate the lower races will be acceptable. Close to atheistic ideology but not directly linked. And certainly not Christian or any form of theism where you would have the fear of the Lord and not commit crimes as a result of that fear.

On the Russian side, they too committed atrocities as horrible as the Nazis did including shooting their own soldiers retreating from battle by the direct orders from Stalin. Stalin also, during the early months of the war, made war strategies with disregard for the value of human life for the sake of pushing the Nazi onslaught back. He ordered counter attacks along the fronts against the advice of his generals. Resulting in more and more casualties. The Russians could barely defend, much less for attack. Stalin's orders may look like an ordinary general's war strategy to win, but with countless casualties as a result of his severe lack of value on human life, It can be concluded that it's atheism driving him.

8. The Holocaust, From 1942 to the End of the War

During 1942, as The United States entered the war, and the Nazis bogged down in Russia, Nazi leaders began realizing they needed to increase now more than ever their war making capabilities because they were now fighting on two fronts. One problem that overwhelmed the Nazis was the more than 10 million Jews under their regime from occupied Europe mostly because at the Russian Eastern Front, a systematic murder by bullets of Russian Jews was already happening. The Nazis claimed that they could no longer hold and feed the Jews of Europe. So they implemented the final solution to the Jewish question by systematically, with full government support and funding, mass murder of all the Jews of Europe using gas chambers located in concentration camps all over the European continent. Those who can work for the war effort they keep alive to the point they couldn't work anymore, then thrown to the gas chambers. Meaning nearly all Jewish children and old Jews were killed immediately because they can't work. Survival of the fittest, the evolutionary concept, applied on a continental scale. It was easier for the Nazis to accept killing the Jews because since Hitler came to power, he indoctrinated the Nazi population into believing that the Jews were an inferior race, and blamed them for Germany's loss in World War I. The concept of higher or lower race, came from the direct teaching of evolutionary theory, with some humans more evolved than the rest. It is clear that the Nazis were indoctrinated into believing in evolution. Although they may not be atheistic, what they did, and the science that made them commit the genocide, was closer to atheistic ideology. In the end over 6 million Jews perished. One of the main perpetrators of the holocaust named Reinhard Heydrich said that Charles Darwin would be proud of the Holocaust.

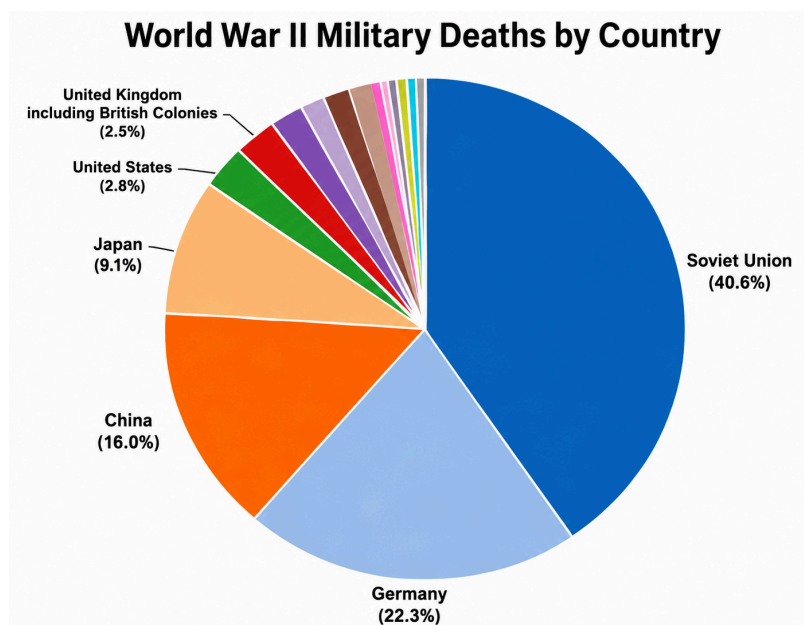
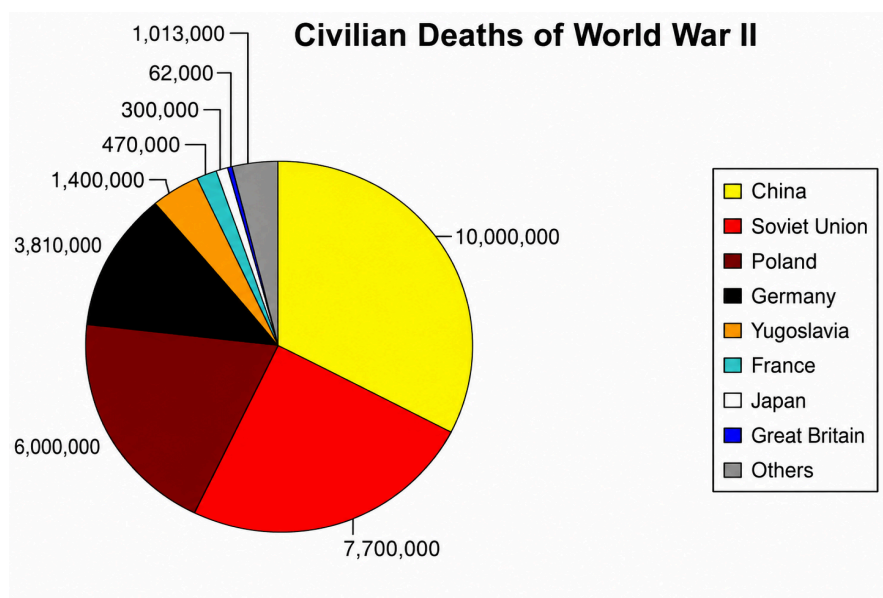


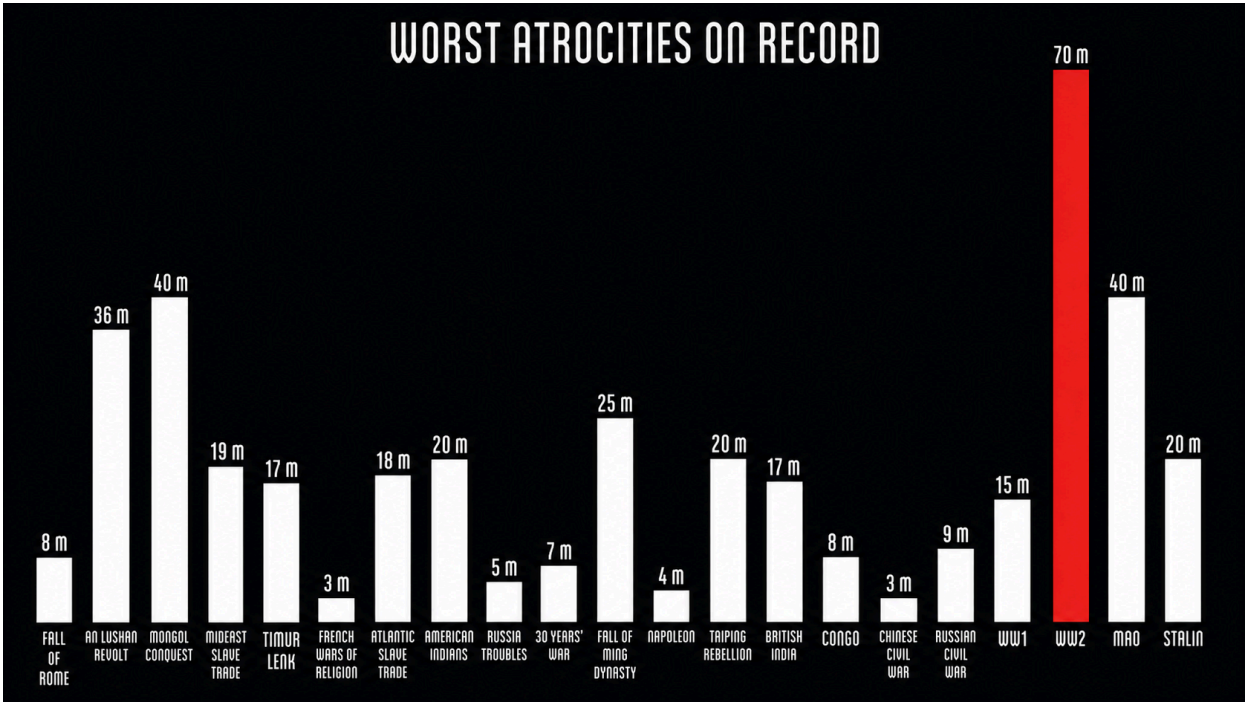
How The Jews died during the Holocaust

9. Towards The End of the War, from 1943-1945

For nearly 20 years of Soviet communist and atheistic indoctrination on much of their population before the war, churches and religious freedom were suspended as a result. So many of their citizens tend to lean on atheism including their top generals who led their war effort against the Nazis. Although there was no direct link that their war strategies were tied to their atheistic beliefs, in an indirect way it played a role. The devaluing of human life caused by atheistic beliefs tend to make generals sacrifice their men more than they should have and prioritizing victory over individual human lives. That's why at the conclusion of the war, the Soviet Union suffered the most deaths than any other country, over 20 million soldiers and civilians dead.

Hitler also, with his deep evolutionary beliefs, implemented war policies which do not at all value human life. Rather than surrender, he ordered the complete destruction of Germany as he wanted the allies to conquer nothing but ash. And he also blamed the German people for their defeat, so he wanted the German people to pay with their lives while dragging the world down with him. During Hitler's last days inside his Berlin bunker, he ranted and raved and sometimes mentioned about his evolutionary beliefs like the survival of the fittest concept, the weak should perish. Even saying that compassion is an eternal sin. Clearly not a theistic concept. In the end he killed himself which brought about the end of the war in Europe and Russia.





10. Conclusion

A deep understanding of evolutionary theory's core beliefs and atheistic ideology clearly points to the severe degradation of humanity's uniqueness and value in this universe. I am not claiming that evolution and atheism are pure evil, but the tendency to do evil is enhanced by a strict belief on both.

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