

Genocide Booklist

For High School Students

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Balakian, Peter. *Black Dog of Fate : A Memoir.*

Black Dog of Fate is set in the affluent New Jersey suburbs where Balakian—the firstborn son of his generation—grew up in a close, extended family. At the center of what was a quintessential American baby boom childhood lay the dark specter of a trauma his forebears had experienced—the Ottoman Turkish government's extermination of more than a million Armenians in 1915, the century's first genocide. In a story that climaxes to powerful personal and moral revelations, Balakian traces the complex process of discovering the facts of his people's history and the horrifying aftermath of the Turkish government's campaign to cover up one of the worst crimes ever committed against humanity. [nonfiction]

Bobelian, Michael. *Children of Armenia : A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-long Struggle for Justice.*

From 1915 to 1923, the ruling Ottoman Empire drove 2 million Armenians from their ancestral homeland; 1.5 million of them were viciously slaughtered. While there was an initial global outcry and a movement led by Woodrow Wilson to aid the "starving Armenians," the promise to hold the perpetrators accountable was never fulfilled and a curtain of silence soon descended on one of the worst crimes of modern history. Now, almost a century later, the Armenians are still fighting for justice. [nonfiction]

Kherdian, David. *The Road from Home : The Story of an Armenian Girl.*

A biography of the author's mother concentrating on her childhood in Turkey before the Turkish government deported its Armenian population. [nonfiction]

BOSNIAN GENOCIDE

Cohen, Roger. *Hearts Grown Brutal : Sagas of Sarajevo.*

The war that brought about the destruction of the multiethnic Yugoslavia was a brutal and complex one that mixed centuries-old hatred with thoroughly modern violence and politics. Through the stories of four families, *New York Times* reporter Roger Cohen unwraps the history of the Balkans and explains the still intractable violence of the region. [nonfiction]

Honig, Jan Willem. *Srebrenica : Record of a War Crime.*

In July 1995, despite clear warnings and the presence of UN troops, Bosnian Serbs at Srebrenica perpetrated the single worst war crime since the end of the Second World War. While the world stood by and watched, Serb forces advanced into the 'safe area' in eastern Bosnia and rounded up tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims. Some twenty thousand Muslim women and children were deported; thousands of unarmed Muslim men--soldiers and civilians alike--were summarily murdered. [nonfiction]

Sacco, Joe. *Safe Area Gorazde.*

The author recounts in comic book form his visits to the U.N. safe area of Gorazde during the Bosnian War and the suffering of the Muslim people of the region. [graphic novel]

Sudetic, Chuck. *Blood and Vengeance : One Family's Story of the War in Bosnia.*

In July 1995 approximately 7,000 Muslim men, women, and children died under Serbian hands in and around the old Bosnian mining town of Srebrenica. *Blood and Vengeance* puts a human face on the grim statistics and tangled politics of this event. Through the odyssey of one Muslim family, the Celiks of the remote mountain village of Kupusovici, journalist Chuck Sudetic tells the epic and tragic story of a people and a nation. His narrative reaches beyond the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, where the turks conquered the serbs, and unfolds with sweeping and inexorable power towards the Celiks' rendezvous with history in the so-called 'safe area' of Srebrenica. [nonfiction]

CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE

Criddle, Joan D. *To Destroy You is No Loss : The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family.*

The story of a family's years of forced labor and the escape that carried them out of the Cambodian holocaust to a refugee camp in Thailand and finally to America. [nonfiction]

Dunlop, Nic. *The Lost Executioner : A Journey to the Heart of the Killing Fields.*

In Cambodia, between 1975 and 1979, some two million people died at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. Twenty years later, not one member had been held accountable for the genocide. Haunted by an image of one of them, Comrade Duch, photographer Nic Dunlop set out to bring him to life, and thereby to account. [nonfiction]

Szymusiak, Molyda. *The Stones Cry Out : A Cambodian Childhood, 1975-1980.*

In 1975, Molyda Szymusiak (her adoptive name), the daughter of a high Cambodian official, was twelve years old and leading a relatively peaceful life in Phnom Penh. Suddenly, on April 17, Khmer Rouge radicals seized the capital and drove all its inhabitants into the countryside. The chaos that followed has been widely publicized, most notably in the movie *The Killing Fields*. Murderous brutality coupled with raging famine caused the death of more than two million people, nearly a third of the population. This powerful memoir documents the horror Cambodians experienced in daily life. [nonfiction]

Ung, Loung. *First They Killed My Father : A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers.*

From a childhood survivor of Cambodia's brutal Pol Pot regime comes an unforgettable narrative of war crimes and desperate actions, the unnerving strength of a small girl and her family, and their triumph of spirit. [nonfiction]

JEWISH HOLOCAUST

Buergenthal, Thomas. *A Lucky Child : A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy.*

Thomas Buergenthal, now a Judge in the International Court of Justice in The Hague, tells his astonishing experiences as a young boy in his memoir. He arrived at Auschwitz at age 10 after surviving two ghettos and a labor camp. Separated first from his mother and then his father, Buergenthal managed by his wits and some remarkable strokes of luck to survive on his own. Almost two years after his liberation, Buergenthal was miraculously reunited with his mother and in 1951 arrived in the U.S. to start a new life. [nonfiction]

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus : A Survivor's Tale : My Father Bleeds History.*

A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself. [graphic novel]

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus II : A Survivor's Tale : And Here My Troubles Began.*

This long-awaited sequel, moves us from the barracks of Auschwitz to the bungalows of the Catskills. Genuinely tragic and comic by turns, it attains a complexity of theme and a precision of thought new to comics and rare in any medium. Maus ties together two powerful stories: Vladek's harrowing tale of survival against all odds, delineating the paradox of daily life in the death camps, and the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father. [graphic novel]

Wiesel, Elie. *Night.*

Night offers a personal and unforgettable account of the appalling horrors of Hitler's reign of terror. Through the eyes of 14-year-old Eliezer, we behold the tragic fate of the Jews from the little town of Sighet. Even as they are stuffed into cattle cars bound for Auschwitz, the townspeople refuse to believe rumors of anti-Semitic atrocities. Not until they are marched toward the blazing crematory at the camp's "reception center" does the terrible truth sink in. [nonfiction]

RWANDAN GENOCIDE

Gourevitch, Philip. *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families : Stories from Rwanda.*

In 1994, when the Rwanda government called on everyone in the Hutu majority to kill everyone in the Tutsi minority, 800,000 Tutsis were murdered. This haunting work is an

anatomy of the killings and a vivid history of the genocide's background and aftermath. [nonfiction]

Hatzfeld, Jean. *Machete Season : The Killers in Rwanda Speak : A Report.*

In April-May 1994, 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis were massacred by their Hutu fellow citizens—about 10,000 a day, mostly being hacked to death by machete. In *Machete Season*, the veteran foreign correspondent Jean Hatzfeld reports on the results of his interviews with nine of the Hutu killers. They were all friends who came from a single region where they helped to kill 50,000 out of their 59,000 Tutsi neighbors, and all of them are now in prison, some awaiting execution. It is usually presumed that killers will not tell the truth about their brutal actions, but Hatzfeld elicited extraordinary testimony from these men about the genocide they had perpetrated. He rightly sees that their account raises as many questions as it answers. [nonfiction]

Ilibagiza, Immaculée. *Led By Faith : Rising from the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide.*

For three months in the spring of 1994, the African nation of Rwanda descended into one of the most vicious and bloody genocides the world has ever seen. Immaculée Ilibagiza, a young university student, miraculously survived the savage killing spree that left most of her family, friends, and a million of her fellow citizens dead. [nonfiction]

Jansen, Hanna. *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You.*

Before one fateful April day, Jeanne lived the life of a typical Rwandan girl. She fought with her little sister, went to school, and teased her brother. Then, in one horrifying night, everything changed. Political troubles unleashed a torrent of violence upon the Tutsi ethnic group. Jeanne's family, all Tutsis, fled their home and tried desperately to reach safety. They--along with nearly 1 million others--did not survive. The only survivor of her family's massacre, Jeanne witnessed unspeakable acts. But through courage, wits, and sheer force of will, she survived. Based on a true story, this haunting novel by Jeanne's adoptive mother makes unforgettably real the events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide as one family experienced it. Jeanne's story is a tribute to the human spirit and its capacity to heal. [fiction]

Rusesabagina, Paul. *An Ordinary Man : An Autobiography.*

The life story of Paul Rusesabagina, the man whose heroism inspired the film *Hotel Rwanda*. As his country was torn apart by violence during the Rwandan genocide of 1994, hotel manager Rusesabagina--the "Oskar Schindler of Africa"--refused to bow to the madness that surrounded him. Confronting killers with a combination of diplomacy, flattery, and deception, he offered shelter to more than 12,000 members of the Tutsi clan and Hutu moderates, while homicidal mobs raged outside. This book explores what the film could not: the inner life of the man who became the most prominent public face of that terrible conflict. Rusesabagina tells his full story--the son of a rural farmer, the child of a mixed marriage, the career path which led him to become the first Rwandan manager of the Belgian-owned hotel--all of which contributed to his heroic actions in the face of horror. [nonfiction]

Skloot, Robert (editor). *The Theatre of Genocide : Four Plays About Mass Murder in Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, and Armenia.*

In this pioneering volume, Robert Skloot brings together four plays—three of which are published here for the first time—that fearlessly explore the face of modern genocide. The scripts deal with the destruction of four targeted populations: Armenians in Lorne Shirinian's *Exile in the Cradle*, Cambodians in Catherine Filloux's *Silence of God*, Bosnian Muslims in Kitty Felde's *A Patch of Earth*, and Rwandan Tutsis in Erik Ehn's *Maria Kizito*. [drama]

Stassen, Jean-Philippe. *Deogratias, A Tale of Rwanda.*

The 2000 winner of the Goscinny Prize for outstanding graphic novel script, this is the harrowing tale of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda, as seen through the eyes of a boy named Deogratias. He is an ordinary teenager, in love with a girl named Bénigne, but Deogratias is a Hutu and Bénigne is a Tutsi who dies in the genocide, and Deogratias himself plays a part in her death. As the story circles around but never depicts the terror and brutality of an entire country descending into violence, we watch Deogratias in his pursuit of Bénigne, and we see his grief and descent into madness following her death, as he comes to believe he is a dog. [graphic novel]

SUDANESE GENOCIDE (DARFUR)

Cheadle, Don. *Not on Our Watch : The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond.*

While Don Cheadle was filming *Hotel Rwanda*, a new crisis had already erupted in Darfur, in nearby Sudan. In September 2004, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell termed the atrocities being committed there "genocide"—and yet two years later things have only gotten worse. 3.5 million Sudanese are going hungry, 2.5 million have been displaced by violence, and 400,000 have died in Darfur to date. Both shocked and energized by this ongoing tragedy, Cheadle teamed up with leading activist John Prendergast to focus the world's attention. [nonfiction]

Flint, Julie. *Darfur : A Short History of a Long War.*

This book details the history of Darfur, its conflicts, and the designs on the region by the governments in Khartoum and Tripoli. It investigates the identity of the infamous "Janjawid" militia and the nature of the insurrection, charts the unfolding crisis and the international response, and concludes by asking what the future holds in store. [nonfiction]

Prunier, Gérard. *Darfur : The Ambiguous Genocide.*

Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide explains what lies behind the conflict in Western Sudan, how it came about, why it should not be oversimplified, and why it is so relevant to the future of Africa. As the world watches, governments decide if, when, and how to intervene, and international organizations struggle to distribute aid, Gérard Prunier's book provides crucial assistance. The third edition features a new chapter covering events through mid-2008. [nonfiction]

Steidle, Brian. *The Devil Came on Horseback : Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Darfur.*

This intense, vivid report and call to action from the heart of violent Darfur, by a former Marine working as an unarmed military observer for the African Union, is a powerful memoir of a young man's awakening to conscience and the first extensive on-the-ground account of the genocide in Sudan. [nonfiction]