

1. List of wars and 2. List of epidemics

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_by_death_toll

List of Wars

This **list of wars by death toll** includes some deaths directly or indirectly caused by the deadliest [wars](#) in history. These numbers encompass the deaths of [military personnel](#) resulting directly from battles or other wartime actions, as well as wartime or war-related civilian deaths, often caused by war-induced [epidemics](#), [famines](#), or [genocides](#). Due to incomplete records, the [destruction of evidence](#), differing counting methods, and various other factors, the death tolls of wars are often uncertain and highly debated. For this reason, the death tolls in this article typically provide a range of estimates.

Compiling such a list is further complicated by the challenge of defining a war. Not every violent conflict constitutes a war; for instance, [mass killings](#) and genocides occurring outside of wartime are excluded, as they are not necessarily wars in themselves. This list broadly defines war as an extended conflict between two or more armed political groups. Consequently, it excludes mass death events, such as [human sacrifices](#), [ethnic cleansing operations](#), and acts of [state terrorism](#) or [political repression](#) during [peacetime](#) or in contexts unrelated to war.^[a]

Averaging the death ranges, the total for the wars listed is about 570 million, of them 58 million for 500 BC - AD 500, 117 million for AD 500 - 1700, and 396 million for 1700 - 2023.^[1]

List

This is a [dynamic list](#) and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by [editing the page](#) to add missing items, with references to [reliable sources](#).

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
World War II	70–85 million ^{[2][3][4]}	1939–1945	Allied Powers vs. Axis Powers	Global	3.04–3.69% ^[2]
Taiping Rebellion	20–70 million ^{[5][6][7][8]}	1850–1864	Qing Dynasty vs. Taiping Heavenly Kingdom	China	1.42–2.65% ^[2]
Mongol invasions and conquests	20–60 million ^{[9][10][11][12]}	1206–1368	Mongol Empire vs. various states in Eurasia	Asia and Europe	5.55–13.54% ^{[2][13]}
Three Kingdoms	34 million ^[14]	184–280	Multiple sides but predominantly Cao Wei vs Shu Han vs Eastern Wu	China	13.28–17.89% ^[2]

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Manchu Conquest of China	25 million ^{[15][16]}	1618–1683	Manchu vs. Ming Dynasty	China	4.16–5.31% ^{[2][17]}
World War I	15–22 million ^{[18][19][4]}	1914–1918	Allied Powers vs. Central Powers	Global	0.85–1.25% ^[2]
Conquests of Timur	7–17 million ^[12]	1369–1405	Timurid Empire vs. various states in Asia	Central Asia, West Asia, and South Asia	1.94–5.55% ^[2]
An Lushan rebellion	13 million ^[20]	754–763	Tang Dynasty and Uyghur Khaganate vs. Yan Dynasty	China	6.04% ^[21]
Spanish conquest of Mexico	10.5 million ^{[22][b]}	1519–1530	Spanish Empire and allies vs. Aztec Empire and allies	Mexico	2.33% ^[21]
Russian Civil War	7–10 million ^{[24][4]}	1917–1922	Multiple sides: Bolsheviks , anti-Bolshevik left, White Movement , Allied and Central Intervention , as well as various separatists	Russia	0.37–0.53% ^[25]
Chinese Civil War	4–9 million ^{[26][4]}	1927–1949 ^[c]	Multiple sides, but predominantly Communists vs. Kuomintang	China	0.19–0.43% ^[29]
Thirty Years' War	4.5–8 million ^{[30][31]}	1618–1648	Anti-Imperial Alliance vs. Imperial Alliance	Europe	0.77–1.38% ^[32]
Crusades	1–9 million ^{[33][34]}	1095–1291	Originally Byzantine Empire vs. Seljuk Empire , but evolved into Christians vs. Muslims	Europe and the Middle East	0.31–2.8% ^[35]
Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire	7.7 million ^{[36][d]}	1533–1572	Spanish Empire vs. Inca Empire	South America	1.71% ^[21]
Reconquista	7 million ^{[38][39]}	718–1492	Christian peninsular kingdoms vs. Islamic peninsular kingdoms	Iberian Peninsula	1.94% ^[21]

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars	4–7 million ^{[40][41]}	1792–1815	French Republic , later French Empire , vs. Coalition forces	Europe	0.49–0.86% ^[2]
Conquests of Menelik II	5–6 million ^{[42][43]}	1878–1904	Ethiopian Empire vs. Emirate of Harar , Kingdom of Kaffa , Kingdom of Wolaita , and allies	Horn of Africa	0.39% ^[44]
Mahdist War	4-6 million ^{[45][46][47][48]}	1881-1899	Mahdist Sudan vs. United Kingdom and allies	Sudan	
Second Congo War	3–5.4 million ^{[49][50][51]}	1998–2003	Multiple sides	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.05–0.09% ^[21]
Spanish conquest of New Granada	5.25 million ^{[52][53][e]}	1525–1540	Spanish Empire vs. Muisca Confederation and other civilizations	South America	1.17% ^[21]
Deccan wars	4.6–5 million ^[55]	1680–1707	Mughal Empire vs. Maratha Confederacy	South Asia	0.75–0.82% ^[21]
Northern Wars	3.57–4.57 million ^{[56][57][58][59]}	1554–1721	Multiple sides	Eastern and Northern Europe	0.46–1.02%
Vietnam War	1.3–4.2 million ^{[60][61][62]}	1955–1975	North Vietnam and allies vs. South Vietnam and allies	Indochina	0.027–0.153% ^[63]
Nigerian Civil War	3.04–4.1 million ^{[64][65]}	1967–1970	Nigeria vs. Biafra	Nigeria	
French Wars of Religion	2–4 million ^[66]	1562–1598	French catholics vs Huguenots	France	0.40–0.89%
Korean War	2.5–3.5 million ^{[67][26]}	1950–1953	North Korea and allies vs. South Korea and allies	Korean Peninsula	
Hundred Years' War	2.3–3.5 million ^{[68][69][40]}	1337–1453	House of Valois vs. House of Plantagenet	Western Europe	0.51–1.00%
Soviet–Afghan War	1–3 million ^{[70][4]}	1979–1989	Soviet Union and Democratic Republic	Afghanistan	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Delhi Conquest of North India	0.5–3 million ^[71]	1300–1310	of Afghanistan vs. Afghan mujahideen Delhi Sultanate vs. North Indian States	South Asia	0.14–0.86%
Bangladesh Liberation War	0.3-3 million ^{[72][73]}	1971	India and Provisional Government of Bangladesh vs. Pakistan	South Asia	
Mexican Revolution	1–2.7 million ^{[40][74]}	1910–1920	Anti-government forces vs. Pro-government forces	Mexico	
Fang La Rebellion	2 million ^{[40][75]}	1120–1122	Song Dynasty vs. Fang La rebels	China	0.56–0.63%
Ethiopian Civil War and Eritrean War of Independence	1.75–2 million ^{[76][77][78]}	1961–1991 ^[f]	EPRDF , later EPLF , vs. Derg and People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Horn of Africa	
Russo-Circassian War and Caucasian War	1.5–2 million ^[79]	1763–1864	Circassian Confederation , Principality of Abkhazia , and Caucasian Imamate vs. Russian Empire	Caucasus	
Second Sudanese Civil War	1–2 million ^{[80][81]}	1983–2005	Sudan vs. SSPDF	Sudan	
Tây Sơn wars	1–2 million ^{[82][83]}	1771–1802	Tây Sơn dynasty vs. Nguyễn lords , Kingdom of Cambodia , Rattanakosin Kingdom , and Kingdom of France	Indochina	
Akbar's Conquest of North India	1–2 million ^[84]	1556–1605	Mughal Empire vs. North Indian States	South Asia	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Indian Rebellion of 1857	0.8–2 million ^[85]	1857–1858	United Kingdom and allies vs. Indian rebels and allies	South Asia	
Balkan Wars	0.75–1.77 million ^{[86][87]}	1912–1913	Ottoman Empire vs. Bulgaria , Serbia , Greece , and Montenegro ; later Bulgaria vs. Serbia, Greece, Montenegro, and Romania	Balkans	
Algerian War	0.4–1.6 million ^{[88][89]}	1954–1962	France vs. Separatists National Liberation Front , Algerian National Movement , and Algerian Communist Party	North Africa	
Seven Years' War	1–1.5 million ^{[90][40]}	1756–1763	Great Britain , Hanover , Prussia , Portugal , and allies vs. France , Habsburg empire , Saxony , Spain , and allies	Global	
Warring States period and Qin's wars of unification	0.65–1.5 million ^{[91][40]}	475 BCE–221 BCE	Multiple sides	China	0.35–1.30% ^[92]
French conquest of Algeria	0.98–1.48 million ^{[93][94][95]}	1830–1903	France vs. Regency of Algiers , Emirate of Abdelkader , Kingdom of Beni Abbas , and allies	North Africa	
Gallic Wars	0.7–1.47 million ^{[40][96][97][98]}	58 BCE–50 BCE	Roman Republic vs. Gauls and allies	Gaul	0.37–1.28%
Jewish–Roman wars	0.35–1.4 million ^{[99][100]}	66–135	Roman Empire vs. Judean provisional government	Fertile Crescent	0.17–0.74%
War of the Spanish Succession	0.4–1.25 million ^{[101][102]}	1701–1714	Habsburg Spain , Great Britain , Holy Roman Empire , and allies vs. Bourboun	Global	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Wars of Alexander the Great	1 million ^{[103][104][105]}	336–323 BC	Spain , Kingdom of France , and allies vs. Macedonian Empire vs. Achaemenid Empire and allies	West Asia and Central Asia	
Japanese invasions of Korea	1 million ^[106]	1592–1598	Joseon and Ming dynasty vs. Japan	Korean Peninsula	
Panthay Rebellion	1 million ^[107]	1856–1873	Qing Dynasty vs. Pingnan Guo	China	
American Civil War	0.6–1 million ^{[108][109]}	1861–1865	United States vs. Confederate States	North America	
Mozambican Civil War	0.5–1 million ^{[110][111]}	1977–1992	People's Republic of Mozambique , later Republic of Mozambique , and allies vs. RENAMO and allies	Mozambique	
First Sudanese Civil War	0.5–1 million ^{[112][113]}	1955–1972	Anglo-Egyptian Sudan , later Democratic Republic of the Sudan , vs. Sudan Defence Force	Sudan	
Somali Civil War	0.35–1 million ^{[114][115]}	1981/1988/1991 ^[g] –present	Multiple sides	Horn of Africa	
Burmese–Siamese wars	0.26–0.9 million ^{[40][123][124]}	1547–1855	Thailand vs. Myanmar	Southeast Asia	
First Indochina War	0.4–0.84 million ^{[125][126]}	1946–1954	Viet Minh , Pathet Lao , and Khmer Issarak vs. French Union	Indochina	
Angolan Civil War	0.8 million ^{[127][111]}	1975–2002	People's Republic of Angola , later Republic of Angola , and allies vs. Democratic People's Republic of Angola and allies	Angola	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Burundian Civil War	0.55–0.8 million ^{[128][129][111]}	1993–2005	Burundi vs. Ethnic Hutu vs. Tutsi Militants	Rwanda and Burundi	
Second Punic War	0.77 million ^[130]	218–201 BCE	Roman Republic vs. Ancient Carthage	Southern Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, and North Africa	
War of Austrian Succession	0.75 million ^[131]	1740–1748	France , Prussia , Spain , and allies vs. Habsburg monarchy , Great Britain , Dutch Republic , and allies	Europe, the Americas, and South Asia	
Third Punic War	0.75 million ^{[132][133]}	149–146 BCE	Roman Republic vs. Ancient Carthage	North Africa	
Iran–Iraq War	0.45–0.7 million ^{[99][134][135]}	1980–1988	Islamic Republic of Iran vs. Iraqi Republic	Iran and Iraq	
Nine Years' War	0.68 million ^[136]	1688–1697	Kingdom of France vs. Grand Alliance	Europe	
Crimean War	0.61–0.67 million ^{[137][138][139]}	1853–1856	Russian Empire vs. Ottoman Empire , France , and United Kingdom	Crimea, Black Sea, Caucasus, and the Balkans	
Syrian civil war	0.58–0.61 million ^{[140][141]}	2011–2024	Multiple sides	Levant	
Mexican War of Independence	0.6 million ^[142]	1810–1821	Mexican patriots vs. Spanish Empire	North and Central America	
Bahmani–Vijayanagar Wars	0.6 million ^[143]	1362–1443	Vijayanagara Empire and Musunuri Nayakas vs. Bahmani Sultanate	South Asia	
Turkish War of Independence	0.4–0.6 million ^{[144][145][146]}	1919–1923	Turkey vs. Greece , France , United Kingdom , and Armenia	Anatolia	
Tigray War	0.16–0.6 million ^{[147][148]}	2020–2022	Ethiopia and Eritrea vs. Tigray People's	Horn of Africa	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Roman–Germanic wars	0.54 million ^{[149][150]}	113 BCE – 774	Liberation Front and allies Roman Republic , later Roman Empire and Byzantine Empire , vs. Germanic tribes	Germania	
First Punic War	0.4–0.54 million ^{[151][152]}	264–241 BCE	Roman Republic vs. Ancient Carthage	Southern Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, and North Africa	
Paraguayan War	0.15–0.5 million ^[153]	1864–1870	Empire of Brazil , Argentina , and Uruguay vs. Paraguay	South America	
Uganda–Tanzania War and Ugandan Bush War	0.1–0.5 million ^{[154][155][156][157]}	1978–1986	Uganda vs. Tanzania , National Liberation Front, and National Resistance Movement	Uganda and Tanzania	
Papua conflict	0.1–0.5 million ^{[158][159]}	1962–present	Indonesia vs. Free Papua Movement	New Guinea	
Eighty Years' War	0.1–0.5 million ^[160]	1566–1648	Spanish Empire vs. Separatist Dutch Republic	Low Countries	
Russo-Ukrainian War	0.35–0.48 million ^[h]	2014–present	Union of People's Republics , later Russia and North Korea vs. Ukraine	Eastern Europe and the Black Sea	
Spanish Civil War	0.35–0.47 million ^{[168][169][170]}	1936–1939 ^[i]	Nationalists vs. Republicans	Iberian Peninsula	
Colombian conflict	0.45 million ^[174]	1964–present	Colombia vs. Colombian and Mexican drug cartels, FARC , ELN , and other paramilitary groups	South America	
Franco-Prussian War	0.43 million ^{[175][176]}	1870–1871	Second French Empire , later Third	Central Europe	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Polish–Ottoman Wars	0.43 million ^{[177][178]}	1485–1699	French Republic vs. North German Confederation Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth , Holy League , and allies vs. Ottoman Empire and allies	Central Europe and Balkans	
Roman–Greek wars	0.42 million ^[179]	280 BCE–30 BCE	Roman Republic vs. Greek states, later Greek rebels, and Ptolemaic Kingdom	Peloponnese Peninsula, Balkans, Anatolia, Egypt, and Italian Peninsula	
Maratha invasions of Bengal	0.4 million ^{[180][181]}	1741–1751	Maratha Confederacy vs. Bengal Nawab	South Asia	
Colombian War of Independence	0.4 million ^[182]	1810–1825	Colombian patriots vs. Spanish Empire	South America	
Third Indochina War	0.4 million ^[183]	1975–1991	Democratic Kampuchea , China , and Thailand vs. Vietnam , Laos , and People's Republic of Kampuchea vs. Communist Party of Thailand	Indochina	
War in Darfur	0.4 million ^[184]	2003–2020	Sudan vs. SRF and SLM/A	Sudan	
Mexican drug war	0.35–0.4 million ^{[185][186]}	2006–present	Mexico vs drug cartels	Mexico	
Song–Đại Việt war	0.25–0.4 million ^{[187][188]}	1075–1077	Song Dynasty vs. Đại Việt	Indochina	
Cuban Wars of Independence and Spanish–American War	0.39 million ^{[189][190]}	1868–1898	United States , Cuban Revolutionaries , and Philippine Revolutionaries vs. Spanish Empire	Caribbean and the Philippines	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
South Sudanese Civil War	0.38 million ^[191]	2013–2020	South Sudan vs. SPLM-IO , Nuer White Army , and SSDM	South Sudan	
Yemeni civil war	0.37 million ^{[192][193]}	2014–present	Multiple sides	Yemen	
War in Afghanistan (2001–2021)	0.36 million ^{[194][195]}	2001–2021	Taliban and allies vs. United States-led coalition and the Afghan Government ^[i]	Afghanistan	
Boko Haram insurgency	0.35 million ^[196]	2009–present	Multinational Joint Task Force vs. Boko Haram	Nigeria	
Franco-Dutch War	0.34 million ^[197]	1672–1678	Kingdom of France vs. Dutch Republic	Western Europe	
Ottoman–Venetian wars	0.34 million ^{[198][199]}	1415–1718	Ottoman Empire vs. Holy League	Mediterranean Sea, Greece, and Cyprus	
Liberian Civil Wars and Sierra Leone Civil War	0.3–0.32 million ^{[200][201][202]}	1989–2003	Liberian government , Revolutionary United Front vs. National Patriotic Front of Liberia , Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy , Movement for Democracy in Liberia, Sierra Leone	West Africa	
Cambodian Civil War	0.27–0.31 million ^{[203][204][205][111]}	1967–1975	Khmer Rouge and allies vs. Kingdom of Cambodia , later the Khmer Republic , and allies	Indochina	
Goguryeo–Sui War	0.3 million ^{[206][207]}	598–614	Sui Dynasty vs. Goguryeo	Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula	
Carlist Wars	0.3 million ^[208]	1833–1876	Carlists vs. Liberals and Republicans	Iberian Peninsula	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Iraqi conflict	0.27–0.3 million ^[209]	2003–2017	Multiple sides	Levant	
Gulf War	0.17–0.3 million ^{[210][211]}	1990–1991 ^[k]	Kuwait and the United States-led coalition vs. Iraq	Kuwait and Iraq	
Social War (91–87 BC)	0.1–0.3 million ^{[212][99]}	91–87 BCE	Roman Republic and allies vs. Marsic and Samnite rebels, and allies	Italian Peninsula	
Roman conquest of Britain	0.13–0.29 million ^{[213][214][215]}	43–84	Roman Empire vs. Celtic Britons	Great Britain	
Philippine–American War	0.21–0.28 million ^{[216][217]}	1899–1913	United States vs. Philippine Republic , later Tagalog Republic, Sultanate of Sulu, and Sultanate of Maguindanao	Philippines	
Kalinga War	0.25 million ^[218]	262–261 BCE	Maurya Empire vs. Kalinga	South Asia	
First Congo War	0.25 million ^[219]	1996–1997	Zaire vs. AFDL	Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Cristero War	0.25 million ^[220]	1926–1929	Mexico vs. Cristeros	Mexico	
Greek War of Independence	0.24 million ^{[221][222]}	1821–1829	Ottoman Empire vs. Separatist First Hellenic Republic	Balkans and Peloponnese Peninsula	
Myanmar conflict	0.23 million ^{[223][224]}	1948–present	National Unity Government of Myanmar vs. State Administration Council	Myanmar	
American Revolution	0.18–0.23 million ^{[225][226]}	1775–1783	American Patriots vs. Great Britain	North America	
Chechen conflict	0.08–0.23 million ^[l]	1994–2009	Russia vs. Separatist Chechen Republic of Ichkeria	Caucasus	
Indian Annexation of Hyderabad	0.2 million ^{[233][234]}	1947–1948	India vs. Hyderabad	South Asia	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
La Violencia	0.2 million ^[235]	1948–1958	Colombian Conservative Party vs. Colombian Liberal Party	South America	
Greco-Persian Wars	0.2 million ^[236]	499–449 BCE	Greek city-states vs. Achaemenid Empire	Southeast Europe, West Asia, and Northeast Africa	
Arab–Israeli conflict	0.2 million ^[m]	1948 ^[n] –present	Israel vs. Arab League , Iran , Hezbollah , Hamas , and the Houthi movement	Levant	
Guatemalan Civil War	0.14–0.2 million ^{[242][243]}	1960–1996	Government of Guatemala vs. Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity	Central America	
North Yemen Civil War	0.1–0.2 million ^{[244][245]}	1962–1970	Kingdom of Yemen vs. Yemen Arab Republic	Yemen	
Italo-Senussi Wars	0.07–0.2 million ^{[246][247][248]}	1911–1934	Kingdom of Italy vs. Senussiyya , Ottoman Empire	North Africa	
Portuguese Colonial War	0.14–0.18 million ^{[249][250][251]}	1961–1974	Estado Novo vs. MPLA , PAIGC , FNLA , among others	Angola, Guinea, and Mozambique	
Thousand Days' War	0.1–0.18 million ^[252]	1899–1902	Colombian Conservative Party vs. Colombian Liberal Party	South America	
Sri Lankan Civil War	0.08–0.17 million ^{[253][254]}	1983 ^[ol] –2009	Sri Lankan government vs. Separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam	Sri Lanka	
Civil conflict in the Philippines	0.16 million ^{[256][257]}	1968–present	Filipino government vs. Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters , Communist Party of the	Philippines	

War	Death range	Date	Combatants	Location	% of global population (rough estimates)
Russo-Japanese War	0.12–0.16 million ^[258]	1904–1905	Philippines , and Abu Sayyaf Empire of Japan vs. Russian Empire	East Asia	
Sudanese civil war (2023–present)	0.15 million ^{[259][260]}	2023–present	Sudan and allies vs. Rapid Support Forces and allies	Sudan	
Algerian Civil War	0.15 million ^[261]	1992–2002	Multiple sides	North Africa	
Lebanese Civil War	0.12–0.15 million ^{[262][263][264]}	1975–1990	Multiple sides	Levant	
Greek Civil War	0.08–0.15 million ^{[265][266][111]}	1946–1949	Kingdom of Greece vs. Provisional Democratic Government	Balkans and Peloponnese Peninsula	
Yugoslav Wars	0.13–0.14 million ^{[267][268]}	1991–2001	Separatist forces and NATO vs. Yugoslavia , later Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Balkans	
Irish Nine Years' War	0.13 million ^[269]	1593–1603	Kingdom of England vs. Irish rebels	Ireland	
Chaco War	0.08–0.13 million ^{[270][271][272]}	1932–1935	Paraguay vs. Bolivia	South America	
Kurdish–Turkish conflict	0.12 million ^{[273][274]}	1921–present	Turkey vs. Kurdish Republic of Ararat , later Kurdistan Worker's Party	Middle East	
Federal War	0.1 million ^[275]	1859–1863	Federal Venezuelan rebels vs. Conservative Venezuelan government	South America	

- **Hiroshima (Aug 6):** Approximately 80,000–140,000 people died by the end of 1945.
- **Nagasaki (Aug 9):** Approximately 40,000–74,000 people died by the end of 1945.
- **Long-term Effects:** Thousands more succumbed to radiation sickness, burns, and cancer in the weeks, months, and decades following the blasts

Estimate for 20-Megaton Thermonuclear Bomb (Large-Scale Weapon) on New York City: Could cause **5 to 6 million dead** within the first few days, with casualties in the 17-county metro area potentially reaching 9 million, notes an older, often-cited study, with modern estimations for similar mega-weapons reaching higher.

List of Epidemics and Pandemics with at least 1 million deaths

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_epidemics_and_pandemics

Rank	Epidemics/pandemics	Disease	Death toll	Percentage of population lost	Years	Location
1	Plague of Justinian	Bubonic plague	15–100 million	25–60% of European population ^[4]	541–549	North Africa, Europe, and Western Asia
2	HIV/AIDS pandemic	HIV/AIDS	45 million (as of 2026)	–	1981–present ^[5]	Worldwide
3	Black Death	Bubonic plague	25–50 million	30–60% of European population ^[6]	1346–1353	Europe, Asia, and North Africa
4	1918 "Spanish" influenza pandemic	Influenza A/H1N1	25–50 million	1–5.4% of global population ^[7]	1918–1920	Worldwide
5	COVID-19 pandemic	COVID-19	7.13–38 million ^{[8][9]} (as of 2026)	–	2019 ^[a] – present ^{[10][11][b]}	Worldwide
6	Third plague pandemic	Bubonic plague	12–15 million	–	1855–1960	Worldwide
7	Cocoliztli epidemic of 1545–1548	Cocoliztli, caused by an unidentified pathogen	5–15 million	27–80% of Mexican population ^[12]	1545–1548	Mexico
8	Antonine Plague	Smallpox or measles	5–10 million	25–33% of Roman population ^[13]	165–180 (possibly up to 190)	Roman Empire
9	1520 Mexico smallpox epidemic	Smallpox	5–8 million	23–37% of Mexican population ^[12]	1519–1520	Mexico
10	1957–1958 influenza pandemic	Influenza A/H2N2	1–4 million	–	1957–1958	Worldwide
11	Hong Kong flu	Influenza A/H3N2	1–4 million	–	1968–1969	Worldwide

Rank	Epidemics/pandemics	Disease	Death toll	Percentage of population lost	Years	Location
12	1918–1922 Russia typhus epidemic	Typhus	2–3 million	1–1.6% of Russian population ^[14]	1918–1922	Russia
13	Cocoliztli epidemic of 1576	Cocoliztli	2–2.5 million	50% of Mexican population ^[12]	1576–1580	Mexico
14	1772–1773 Persian Plague	Bubonic plague	2 million	–	1772–1773	Persia
15	735–737 Japanese smallpox epidemic	Smallpox	2 million	33% of Japanese population ^[15]	735–737	Japan
16	Naples Plague	Bubonic plague	1.25 million	–	1656–1658	Southern Italy
17	1889–1890 pandemic	Influenza or human coronavirus OC43 ^{[16][17]}	1 million	–	1889–1890	Worldwide
18	1629–1631 Italian plague	Bubonic plague	1 million	–	1629–1631	Italy
19	1846–1860 cholera pandemic	Cholera	1 million	–	1846–1860	Worldwide

Tuberculosis (TB) is considered the deadliest infectious disease in human history, having caused an estimated 1 billion deaths over thousands of years. It remains a top killer today, despite being preventable and curable, spreading through the air. Other top historical killers include malaria, smallpox, and plague.

- **Long-Term Impact:** While specific plague pandemics were incredibly fast and brutal, tuberculosis has caused the highest cumulative death toll due to its persistence over millennia.
- **Persistent Threat:** Even with modern medicine, TB kills roughly 1.3 to 1.5 million people annually, making it more lethal than many other infections,