

## **Argentina (Selk'nam) [c. 1880-1910, Tierra del Fuego, Chile, & Argentina]**

\*Reigns of Terror by Patricia Marchak

*Reigns of Terror is a study of states that have committed gross human rights crimes against their own citizens. The following genocides have background information and short survivor testimonies: Argentina, Armenia, and Holodomor.*

## **Armenia [1915-1924, Ottoman Empire]**

\*Armenian Golgotha: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1918 by Grigoris Balakian

*As an Armenian clergyman who escaped the initial arrests in Constantinople, Balakian chronicles his harrowing experience, including the death marches to the Syrian Desert and the destruction of his community.*

\*Caravans to Oblivion: The Armenian Genocide 1915 by G.S. Graber

*A detailed narrative history of "The Forgotten Genocide," the 1915 systematic attempt to purge the region of people of Armenian descent by the Ottoman Empire. Draws on newly available documents from the British Foreign Office and other respected sources to refute the official Turkish government account and denial of the campaign.*

\*Four Years in the Mountains of Kurdistan 1915-1919: An Armenian Boy's Memoir of Survival by Aram Haigaz

*Armenian Aram Haigaz was only 15 when he lost his father, brothers, many relatives and neighbors, all killed or dead of starvation when enemy soldiers surrounded their village. He and his mother were put into a forced march and deportation of Armenians into the Turkish desert.*

\*My Grandmother: A Memoir by Fethiye Çetin

*Growing up in the small town of Maden in Turkey, Fethiye Çetin knew her grandmother as a happy and respected Muslim housewife called Seher. Only decades later did she discover the truth. Her grandmother's name was not Seher but Heranus. She was born a Christian Armenian. Most of the men in her village had been slaughtered in 1915.*

\*Neither to Laugh Nor to Weep: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide by Abraham H. Hartunian

*This document is the memoir of an Armenian Protestant pastor and community leader Reverend Abraham Hartunian, who miraculously survived the official campaign by the Ottoman Turkish government to exterminate its Armenian minority.*

\*Portrait of a Survivor by Florence M. Soghoian

*Portrait of a Survivor is the personal journey of mother and daughter as they miraculously live through the horrendous decade of 1915 through 1924, known as the Armenian Genocide.*

\*Reigns of Terror by Patricia Marchak

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\*Survivors: An Oral History of the Armenian Genocide by Donald E. & Lorna Touryan Miller

*Thousands of other Armenians suffered torture, brutality, deportation. Yet their story has received scant attention. Through interviews with a hundred elderly Armenians, Donald and Lorna Miller give the "forgotten genocide" the hearing it deserves.*

## **Bangladesh [1971, East Pakistan - now Bangladesh]**

Six Months and Six Days: My Struggles During the Bangladesh War of Liberation by Dr.

Amalendu Chatterjee

*A chronological account of discriminatory events in the author's life while growing up in a dictatorial country, including his participation and experience for a successful revolution of Bangladesh is articulated.*

Soliloquy of 1971: A Memoir of the Liberation War of Bangladesh by Rezaul Islam

*The book provides a mosaic-like collection of memories from the viewpoint of a 15-year-old, focusing on daily life, community roles, and family rather than just battlefield violence.*

## **Bosnia [1992-1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina]**

\*Blood and Vengeance by Chuck Sudetic

*The events surrounding the genocide of seven thousand Bosnian Muslims in 1995 by Bosnian Serbs is told through the odyssey of one Muslim family, recounting the long and brutal history of the rival factions that claim the region.*

\*The Graves: Srebrenica and Vukovar by Eric Stover & Gilles Peress

*This book is the harrowing account by Eric Stover, with photographs by Gilles Peress, of how Haglund began to piece together the victims' identities and the terrible ways they died.*

\*When History is a Nightmare: Lives and Memories of Ethnic Cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina

by Stevan M. Weine

*Weine investigates the survivors' attempts to reconcile the contrasting, collective memories of having lived in a smoothly functioning, multiethnic society with the later memories of the ethnic atrocities.*

\*Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipović

*Begins as the day-to-day record of the life of a typical eleven-year-old girl, preoccupied by piano lessons and birthday parties. But as war engulfs Sarajevo, Zlata Filipović becomes a witness to food shortages and the deaths of friends and learns to wait out bombardments in a neighbor's cellar.*

## **Cambodia [1975-1979]**

\*Beyond the Killing Fields: Voices of Nine Cambodian Survivors in America by Usha Welaratna

*This book documents the Cambodian refugee experience through nine powerful first-person narratives of men, women, and children who survived and began new lives in America.*

\*Children of Cambodia's Killing Fields: Memoirs of Survivors compiled by Dith Pran

*This book contains eyewitness accounts of life in Cambodia during Pol Pot's genocidal Khmer Rouge regime from 1975 to 1979, accounts written by survivors who were children at the time.*

\*Facing Death in Cambodia by Peter Maguire

*Maguire documents the atrocities and the aftermath through personal interviews with victims and perpetrators, discussions with international and NGO officials, journalistic accounts, and government sources gathered during a ten-year odyssey in search of answers. The book includes a selection of haunting pictures from among the thousands taken at the now infamous Tuol Sleng prison.*

\*Stay Alive, My Son by Pin Yathay

*Documenting the 27 months from the arrival of the Khmer Rouge in Phnom Penh to his escape into Thailand, Pin Yathay's story is a powerful and haunting memoir of Cambodia's killing fields.*

\*under the naga tail by Mae Bunseng Taing

*Forced from his home by the Khmer Rouge, teenager Mae Taing struggles to endure years of backbreaking work, constant starvation, and ruthless cruelty from his captors--supposed freedom fighters who turned against their own people. Mae risks torture and death to escape into the dark tropical jungles, trekking across a relentless wilderness crawling with soldiers.*

\*When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge by Chanrithy Him

*Chanrithy Him vividly recounts her trek through the hell of the "killing fields." She gives us a child's-eye view of a Cambodia where rudimentary labor camps for both adults and children are the norm and modern technology no longer exists.*

## **Darfur [2003-2005, Sudan]**

*\*Tears of the Desert: A Memoir of Survival in Darfur* by Halima Bashir

*Born into the Zaghawa tribe in the Sudanese desert, Halima Bashir received a good education away from her rural surroundings and at twenty-four became her village's first formal doctor. Yet not even Bashir's degree could protect her from the encroaching conflict that would consume her homeland.*

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

*Former United States Marine Brian Steidle served for six months in Darfur as an unarmed military observer for the African Union. There he witnessed first-hand the ongoing genocide, and documented every day of his experience using email, audio journals, notebook after notebook and nearly 1,000 photographs.*

*\*The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur* by Daoud Hari

*Daoud Hari is a Zaghawa tribesman and grew up in a village in the Darfur region of Sudan. His life shattered in 2003 when helicopter gunships appeared over Darfur's villages. Hari was among the hundreds of thousands of villagers attacked and driven from their homes by Sudanese-government-backed militia groups.*

## **East Timor [1975-1999, Indonesia]**

*To Resist is to Win: The Autobiography of Xanana Gusmão* by Xanana Gusmão

Available online:

[https://www.academia.edu/1475439/2000\\_To\\_Resist\\_is\\_to\\_Win\\_the\\_Autobiography\\_of\\_Xanana\\_Gusm%C3%A3o\\_with\\_selected\\_letters\\_and\\_speeches](https://www.academia.edu/1475439/2000_To_Resist_is_to_Win_the_Autobiography_of_Xanana_Gusm%C3%A3o_with_selected_letters_and_speeches)

*This book is written by the current Prime Minister of Timor-Leste. During this genocide, he helped lead the resistance. The memoir was written in secret while he was imprisoned for his resistance efforts.*

## **Genocides of the Indigenous Peoples in North, Central, and South America and Australia and New Zealand and Settler Colonialism**

*\*Blackhawk: An Autobiography* edited by Donald Jackson

*The autobiography of the Sauk warrior Black Hawk (Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiak in the Sauk language) offers an eyewitness account of the conflict between Indigenous peoples and white colonists on the Illinois frontier.*

\*From Bear Rock Mountain: The Life and Times of a Dene Residential School Survivor by Antoine Mountain

*At the age of seven, he was stolen away from his home and sent to a residential school (run by the Roman Catholic Church in collusion with the Government of Canada) three hundred kilometers away. Over the next twelve years, the three residential schools Mountain was forced to attend systematically worked to erase his language and culture, the very roots of his identity.*

\*Geronimo: His Own Story edited by S.M. Barrett

*During 1905 and 1906, Geronimo, the legendary Apache warrior and honorary war chief, dictated his story through a native interpreter to S.M. Barrett, then superintendent of schools in Lawton, Oklahoma. As Geronimo was by then a prisoner of war, Barrett had made appeals all the way up the chain of command to President Teddy Roosevelt for permission to record the words.*

## **German Southwest Africa (Herero & Nama) [1904-1908, German SW Africa - now Namibia]**

\*Let Us Die Fighting: The Struggle of the Herero and Nama Against German Imperialism (1884-1915) by Horst Drechsler

*This book covers the entire period of German colonial rule in what is today Namibia.*

## **Guatemala (Maya) [1960-1996]**

\*I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala edited by Elisabeth Burgos-Debray  
*Rigoberta suffered gross injustice and hardship in her early life: her brother, father, and mother were murdered by the Guatemalan military. She learned Spanish and turned to catechist work as an expression of political revolt as well as religious commitment.*

\*Silenced Voices: Reclaiming Memories from the Guatemalan Genocide (graphic novel) by Pablo Leon

*When a teacher asks José if his mother was following coverage of the criminal trials relating to the Guatemalan genocide, José realizes that he knows nothing about his mom's past. Though initial attempts to broach the subject end with emotional outbursts from Clara, she soon shares stories about her youth in a Q'eqchi' Mayan village.*

\*Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village by Victor Montejo

*This is an eyewitness account by a Guatemalan primary school teacher detailing one instance of violent conflict between the indigenous Maya people and the army. An accidental clash between the village's "civil patrol" and a Guatemalan army troop leads to the execution or imprisonment of many villagers.*

\*Unfinished Conquest: The Guatemalan Tragedy by Victor Perera

*Spanning the years of civil war in Guatemala, Unfinished Conquest portrays an embattled country facing the third cycle of a conquest that began when the conquistadors arrived in the sixteenth century. As personal narrative weaves with reportage and oral testimony, we meet the victims, champions, and villains of a society torn apart by violence and injustice.*

## **Holocaust [1933-1945, Nazi Germany & German-occupied Europe]**

\*A Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy by Thomas Buergenthal

*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.*

\*Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader of Holocaust Literature edited by Albert H. Friedlander

*An anthology of prose and poetry reveals the horrors of the Nazi inferno and its profound implications about the nature of man.*

\*Night by Elie Wiesel

*Night offers much more than a litany of the daily terrors, everyday perversions, and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald; it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.*

Ragdolls by Henry Golde

*Ragdolls is a 2002 autobiography detailing his experiences as a child survivor of the Holocaust, recounting his life from age 11 through the horrors of ghettos, labor camps, and concentration camps in German-occupied Europe.*

\*Shanghai Diary: A Young Girl's Journey from Hitler's Hate to War-Torn China by Ursula Bacon

*By the late 1930s, Europe sat on the brink of a world war. As the Holocaust approached, many Jewish families in Germany fled to one of the only open ports available to them: Shanghai. Shanghai ultimately served as the last resort for tens of thousands of Jews desperate to escape Hitler's "Final Solution."*

\*Smoke Over Birkenau by Liana Millu

*An Italian-Jewish journalist and schoolteacher who joined the partisans in 1943, Liana Millu was arrested in 1944 and deported to Birkenau. The astonishing stories in this book tell of the women who lived and suffered alongside Liana during her months there.*

\*The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

*In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building.*

\*The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival (graphic novel) by Estelle Nadel and Sammy Savos

*Born to a Jewish family in a small Polish village, Estelle Nadel was just seven years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Once a vibrant child with a song for every occasion, Estelle would eventually lose her voice as, over the next five years, she would survive the deaths of their mother, father, their eldest brother and sister, and countless others.*

\*Tunnel. Smuggle. Connect: A Holocaust Boy by Jeffrey N. Gingold

*Based on the hidden and illuminating video and audio recordings of interviews with the author's father and grandmother, Tunnel, Smuggle, Collect: A Holocaust Boy tells the true and tormenting story of a 7-year-old boy during the Holocaust.*

\*We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust by Jacob Boas

*The five diarists in this book did not survive the war. But their words did. Each diary reveals one voice, one teenager coping with the impossible.*

## **Holodomor [1932-1933, Soviet Ukraine]**

\*Red Harvest (graphic novel) by Michael Cherkas

*Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin waged a brutal war against the Soviet peasantry, leading to the Holodomor, the terror-famine that killed at least 4 million Ukrainians during the fall and winter of 1932-33. Red Harvest is based on the tragic events that took place in Soviet Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union from 1929 to 1933.*

\*Reigns of Terror by Patricia Marchak

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## **Nazi Genocide Against Homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Peoples with Disabilities, Political Opponents, and Slavic People [1933-1945, Nazi Germany & German-occupied Europe]**

\*I, Pierre Seel, Deported Homosexual: A Memoir of Nazi Terror by Pierre Seel

*On a fateful day in May 1941, in Nazi-occupied Strasbourg, seventeen-year-old Pierre Seel was summoned by the Gestapo. This was the beginning of his journey through the horrors of a concentration camp. For nearly forty years, Seel kept this secret in order to hide his homosexuality. Eventually he decided to speak out, bearing witness to an aspect of the Holocaust rarely seen.*

## **Nazi Genocide Against the Roma and Sinti [1933-1945, Nazi Germany & German-occupied Europe]**

\*Pharrajimos: The Fate of the Roma During the Holocaust edited by János Bársony & Ágnes Daróczi

*Their text relates and analyzes policies of the Third Reich and the treatment of the Hungarian Roma during WWII, with essays describing the process, the events, and the local historical background of the Pharrajimos--fragmentation, destruction--of the Hungarian Roma. The text includes transcriptions of interviews with survivors, and a series of texts from the debate over the interpretation of the Pharrajimos that focus on the recognition of the Roma Holocaust.*

## **Rohingya [2016-present, Myanmar]**

\*First, They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks by Habiburrahman

*Habiburrahman was born in 1979 and raised in a small village in western Burma. When he was three years old, the country's military leader declared that his people, the Rohingya, were not one of the 135 recognized ethnic groups that formed the eight "national races". He was left stateless in his own country.*

## **Rwanda [1994]**

\*The Antelope's Strategy: Living in Rwanda After the Genocide by Jean Hatzfeld

*In The Antelope's Strategy, Jean Hatzfeld returns to Rwanda to talk with both Hutus and Tutsis struggling to live side by side.*

\*Rwanda Means the Universe: A Native's Memoir of Blood and Bloodlines by Louise Mushikiwabo & Jack Kramer

*Mushikiwabo is a Rwandan working as a translator in Washington when she learns that most of her family back home has been killed in a conspiracy meticulously planned by the state. First comes shock, then aftershock, three months of it, during which her worst fears are confirmed: The same state apparatus has duped millions of Rwandans into butchering nearly a million of their neighbors.*

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

*Through intimate portraits of Rwandans in all walks of life, he focuses on the psychological and political challenges of survival and on how the new leaders of postcolonial Africa went to war in the Congo when resurgent genocidal forces threatened to overrun central Africa.*

## **Transatlantic Slavery and the Genocide of Enslaved/Black Peoples in the Americas**

\*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Jacobs

*A haunting, evocative recounting of her life as a slave in North Carolina, and her final escape and emancipation, Jacobs' narrative, written between 1853 and 1858 and published in 1861, is one of the most important books ever written documenting the traumas and horrors of slavery in the antebellum South.*

\*Narrative of Sojourner Truth edited by Margaret Washington

*With an eloquence that resonates more than a century after its original publication in 1850, the narrative bears witness to Sojourner Truth's thirty years of bondage in upstate New York and to the mystical revelations that turned her into a passionate and indefatigable abolitionist.*

\*Recollections of a Former Slave by James L. Smith

*Floggings, undernourishment, overwork, substandard housing, humiliation, physical and psychological abuse of every sort — these were standard features of a slave's life in the American South for centuries until the end of the Civil War. In 1881 Mr. Smith created a detailed narrative of his long, eventful life, a testament to his very survival under conditions of extreme hardship.*

\*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano by Olaudah Equiano

*This is the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano, an African from what is now Nigeria who was enslaved in childhood and eventually bought his freedom and became an abolitionist in the United Kingdom.*

\*The Slaves' War: The Civil War in the Words of Former Slaves by Andrew Ward

*Woven together from hundreds of interviews, diaries, letters, and memoirs, here is the Civil War as seen from not only battlefields, capitals, and camps, but also slave quarters, kitchens, roadsides, farms, towns, and swamps.*

\*Weevils in the Wheat: Interviews with Virginia Ex-Slaves edited by Charles L. Perdue, Jr., Thomas E. Barden, and Robert K. Phillips

*Taken from the records of the Federal Writers' Project of the 1930s, these interviews with one-time Virginia slaves provide a clear window into what it was like to be enslaved in the antebellum American South.*

## **Uyghur [2014-present, China]**

\*Place of No Return: How I Survived China's Uyghur Camps by Mihrigul Tursun & Andrea C. Hoffmann

*Her crime: she is Uyghur. Mihrigul Tursun's story is a powerful testimony of bravery in the face of unimaginable crimes. Her three children were forcibly taken from her before she was taken to a so-called re-education camp. Months later, she could only take two of her children back into her care alive. During her detention, Mihrigul Tursun was physically and mentally tortured and forcibly sterilized.*

\*Waiting to Be Arrested at Night: A Uyghur Poet's Memoir of China's Genocide by Tahir Hamut Izgil

*One by one, Tahir Hamut Izgil watched his friends vanish. For years, the Chinese government's persecution of the Uyghur people had steadily intensified, but in 2017 it escalated into something far more terrifying. What unfolded was magnified by the reach of a vast, high-tech surveillance state that left no one unseen and no one safe.*

## **Yazidi [2014-2017, Iraq & Syria]**

\*Sinjar: 14 Days That Saved the Yazidis from Islamic State by Susan Shand

*This is the extraordinary tale of how a few American-Yazidis in Washington, DC, mobilized a small, forgotten office in the American government to intervene militarily in Iraq to avert a devastating humanitarian crisis. While Islamic State massacred many thousands of Yazidi men and sold thousands more Yazidi women into slavery, the U.S. intervention saved the lives of 50,000 Yazidis.*

\*The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State by Nadia Murad  
*On August 15th, 2014, when Nadia was just twenty-one years old, her normal life ended. Islamic State militants massacred the people of her village, executing men who refused to convert to Islam and women too old to be trafficked. Six of Nadia's brothers were killed, and her mother soon after, their bodies swept into mass graves.*

**All books with an asterisk (\*) are available for check out from the Milwaukee Public Library.**

[mpl.org](http://mpl.org)

## Additional Resources

10 Stages of Genocide: Complete Graphic Novel Collection from the Exhibit

[https://www.dhhrm.org/educators/upstander-education-database/graphic\\_novels/](https://www.dhhrm.org/educators/upstander-education-database/graphic_novels/)

*The Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum created short graphic novels about the following genocides: Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Holodomor, Indigenous Peoples (Texas), and Rwanda. They are available for free on their website. They also have short films based on each book available.*

Chutz-Pow: Superheroes of the Holocaust (comic books)

<https://hcofpgh.org/chutzpow/>

*The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh has a set of comic books featuring heroes of the Holocaust (for purchase, not free).*

## Websites

Document Center of Cambodia

<https://www.dccam.org/>

- Textbook  
<https://www.dccam.org/homepage/education/a-history-of-democratic-kampuchea-1975-1979/>
- Teacher's Guidebook  
<https://www.dccam.org/homepage/education/teachers-guidebook/>

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center Voices of Genocide Exhibit

<https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/exhibitions/voices-of-genocide/>

Armenian Genocide Museum

<http://www.armeniangenocidemuseum.org/>

Armenian National Institute

<https://www.armenian-genocide.org/index.html>

HERC Speakers Bureau

<https://holocaustcentermilwaukee.org/education/speakers-bureau/>

*Book a child or grandchild of a Holocaust survivor to come to your class and share their family's story of Holocaust survival. There is no charge for schools.*

*This book list was compiled by Jennifer Koss, Education Coordinator at the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center in Milwaukee. Please email [JenniferK@MilwaukeeJewish.org](mailto:JenniferK@MilwaukeeJewish.org) with any questions.*