

NUMBERS

CHECHNYA

- In the most recent Russian caucus (2002) the population of Chechnya was 1 103 686 and that of the whole Russia 145 166 731.
- In the last two Chechen wars (1994–1996 & 1999–)¹ 150 000 – 200 000 Chechen civilians and 20 000 – 40 000 Chechen rebels have been killed. That's 15 – 22 % of the population of Chechnya.
- 20 000 – 40 000 Russian soldiers have died in these wars. That's 0,0137 – 0,028 % of the population of Russia.
- Other consequences: In 2004 Russia designated one-third of Chechnya "a zone of ecological disaster" and another 40% "a zone of extreme environmental distress". Chechnya's water resources are polluted and undrinkable to a depth of 250 m.

IRAQ

- In 2003 the population of Iraq was approximately 28 000 000².
- In the most recent attack (2003) USA killed 13 500 – 45 000 Iraqi soldiers³.
- The ensuing occupation of Iraq by USA has led to the death of over one million Iraqi civilians. That's 3,53 % of Iraq's population⁴.
- In the war and during the occupation USA has lost 4 287 soldiers so far. That's 0,00141 % of USA's population⁵.

In comparison it's good to remember:

FINLAND

- In 1917 the population of Finland was 3 134 300.
- In the Finnish Civil War (27.1.–15.5.1918) 36 640 Finns were killed. That was 1,17 % of the population. Two thirds died in executions, murders and prison camps⁶.
- In 31.12.1938 the population of Finland was 3 672 100.
- In the Winter war, Continuation war and Lapland war (1939–1945) 86 413 Finnish soldiers and 2 500 civilians were killed. That was 2,42 % of the population⁷.
- 400 000 Russian soldiers and 7 000 civilians were killed in these Finnish wars. That was 0,21 % of the population.

¹ Exact figures not known. The numbers are based on various estimates for example by Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), Jane's Information Group (<http://www.janes.com/>), Prague Watchdog (<http://www.watchdog.cz>) and Russian-Chechen Friendship Society (RCFS, <http://www.uic.nnov.ru/hrnnov/rus/friend/2003e/indexe.htm>).

² CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov>.

³ Steele, 2003

⁴ ORB's research, published in January 2008 (Opinion Research Business, London, <http://www.opinion.co.uk>). Up till then, counting from the beginning of the war (20.3.2003), 1 033 000 Iraqis had died because of the war. In April 2008 the population of Iraq was 28 221 181.

A completely different estimate has been published by Iraqi Body Count (<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>). According to them by 31.3.2008 there had been only 84 389 – 92 067 certified Iraqi deaths.

However, both ORB's and IBC's numbers can be correct, even though the former ends up with an estimate that is ten times bigger than the latter's estimate. The difference results from the differences in measuring criteria. IBC lists only violent deaths that have occurred in military action or terror strikes – and of those only the deaths that have been confirmed and identified by multiple sources. ORB in turn observes the raise in general mortality rate of Iraq and claims that all of the increase must be assumed to be caused by the war and occupation – meaning that for example the death rate increase caused by the collapse of the Iraqi health care system is included in the ORB's war casualties statistics.

⁵ According to the US military it had by 31.12.2009 lost 4 287 soldiers in the war & occupation (<http://icasualties.org> / http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq_casualties.htm) and the population of USA was 304 289 000 in 2008.

⁶ According to the Finnish National Archive (<http://vesta.narc.fi/cgi-bin/db2www/sotasurmaetusivu/stat2>) 9 403 died in battle, 9 720 were executed/murdered, 13 446 died on prison camps, 613 soon after been released from prison camps, 2 193 disappeared and 1 265 were killed by other means.

⁷ Statistics Finland, a government agency: <http://www.stat.fi/org/index.html>