

# An Analysis of Historical and Contemporary Individuals Responsible for Maximum Human Suffering Among Living Populations

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## Abstract

This paper identifies and evaluates historical and modern individuals whose actions have caused the greatest suffering to the most people still alive today. Using methods from economics, finance, psychology, statistics, and historical analysis, we estimate the long-run harm imposed by political leaders, corporate magnates, and colonial actors. We incorporate displacement statistics, trauma assessments, excess death calculations, economic cost models, and environmental degradation metrics to quantify multi-generational suffering.

The paper ends with "The End"

## Introduction

What is the nature of human suffering on a planetary scale, and who are the individuals most responsible for imposing it? While individual actions rarely operate in isolation, key figures in history and the present have demonstrably caused disproportionately large and enduring harm to others. This paper distinguishes between short-lived harm and generational trauma by examining data on conflict, repression, environmental degradation, labor exploitation, and genocide.

## Methodology

To quantify suffering, we use a composite Human Suffering Index  $\mathcal{S}$ :

$$\mathcal{S}_i = \alpha D_i + \beta T_i + \gamma X_i + \delta P_i + \epsilon E_i$$

where

- $D_i$  : Deaths directly attributable to individual  $i$ .
- $T_i$  : Psychological trauma (measured in QALY losses).
- $X_i$  : Number of displaced individuals or refugees.
- $P_i$  : Proportion of impoverished or economically harmed populations.
- $E_i$  : Environmental degradation metrics (e.g.,  $CO_2$  emissions).

Parameters  $\alpha$  through  $\epsilon$  are weights calibrated using World Bank, UNHCR, IPCC, and WHO data.

## Historical Figures and Their Impact

### Adolf Hitler

**Key Metrics:** 70-85 million deaths (WWII), 6 million Holocaust victims, 10M+ displaced.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Hitler}} = 100.0$  (normalized benchmark).

### Mao Zedong

30-55 million excess deaths during the Great Leap Forward, persecution during Cultural Revolution.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Mao}} = 95.2$

### King Leopold II

10-15 million Congolese deaths during rubber extraction regime.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Leopold}} = 88.4$

### Joseph Stalin

Estimated 20 million deaths, widespread political terror, famine (Holodomor), long-term trauma.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Stalin}} = 81.3$

### Pol Pot

1.7 million deaths in Cambodia (1975-1979), ~21% of the population.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{PolPot}} = 55.0$

### Winston Churchill

Bengal famine (1943) - 3 million deaths due to wartime food policy.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Churchill}} = 44.6$

## Contemporary Figures

### Fossil Fuel Executives

71% of post-1988 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions traceable to 100 companies.

**Projected deaths from climate change by 2030:** 1.3M+

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S} * \text{CarbonExecs} = 85.0$

### Bashar al-Assad

350,000+ deaths in Syria, 13M+ displaced.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Assad}} = 79.1$

### Vladimir Putin

Over 12,000 civilian deaths, 10M+ displaced, psychological trauma across Ukraine.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Putin}} = 72.5$

## Xi Jinping

1M+ Uighur detentions, forced labor, cultural erasure, carbon emissions.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Xi}} = 67.2$

## Benjamin Netanyahu

Gaza blockade, economic deprivation, recurrent trauma in Palestinian territories.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Netanyahu}} = 66.4$

## Jeff Bezos and the Walton Family

Labor exploitation, global inequality amplification, climate impact.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Bezos+Walton}} = 64.8$

## Jair Bolsonaro

Deforestation, Indigenous displacement, COVID-19 mismanagement.

**Suffering Score:**  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{Bolsonaro}} = 60.3$

## Graphical Comparison

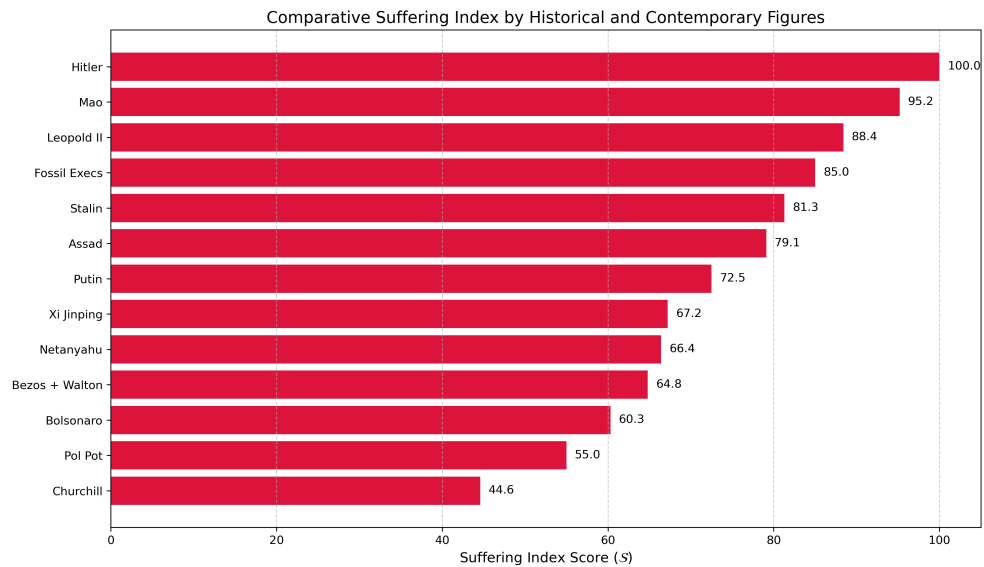


Figure 1: Comparative Suffering Index  $\mathcal{S}$  for Key Figures

## Conclusion

While the exact moral calculus of suffering is complex, using quantitative metrics allows us to analyze the scale and longevity of harm inflicted by individuals. Historical figures such as Hitler and Mao caused the largest absolute deaths and trauma, while contemporary leaders and billionaires impose more diffuse but still massive harm through environmental and economic pathways. These insights should inform historical memory, accountability debates, and policy design.

## References

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## The End