Power and Principle

Rudolph, Christopher

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Civilians have composed half of all war-related deaths over the past three centuries. In the twentieth century, more than 170 million people—men, women, and children—“have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed, or worked to death; buried alive, hung, bombed, or killed in any of the myriad ways governments have inflicted death on unarmed helpless citizens and foreigners.” When civilian war casualties are combined with those targeted by their own governments, the number rises to nearly 360 million people. For those who experience or witness atrocities, shock and grief are often followed by an urgent cry for justice, a primal anguish born of human tragedy. During what some have called “the century of genocide,” the global hue and cry for justice continued to grow . . .