Mao Zedong

Mao Zedong was the leader of the People’s Republic of China from its founding in 1949 until his death in 1976. Revered by millions in China for his defeat of the Nationalistic KMT party in 1949 during the Chinese civil war, Mao made many reforms in his country that helped China to be where it is today. His communist reforms removed foreign influence from China and ushered in sweeping economic, political, and social changes that are summed up as Maoism. Despite all the changes that have allowed China to become the world’s second-largest economy, Mao Zedong must answer for his crimes against humanity.

Part of Zedong’s reforms included agricultural reforms in the form of collectivized farming. This is where land was collected by the government and distributed amongst the people, evenly splitting up the land between everyone. People were expected to grow all the food for the commune, or neighborhoods that they were reorganized into. There are several problems with this practice. Firstly, it takes away the land that people worked hard to purchase and cultivate, leaving little incentive for those who had their land to work on land that is not theirs. Secondly, it forced everyone to become a farmer. Farming is not as easy as simply planting a seed in the ground and waiting for something to spring out. Chinese farming, in particular, is complicated as most areas in China could manage two rice crops a year, but only with special planting and harvesting procedures. Lastly, the incentive to work was very low because you did not keep any of the literal fruits of your labor.

The failed agricultural policies that Zedong enacted led to mass starvation and famine throughout the country. An estimated 65 million people starved to death during this period. This is five times the amount of people who died in the Holocaust and 15 million more people who died in all the fighting in WW2. This alone implicates Zedong in crimes against humanity.

However, Zedong also committed other atrocities that necessitate charges being brought against him. Following the end of collectivized agriculture in China, Zedong sensed that his grip on the country was slipping. In response, he published reports and propaganda posters blaming the suffering of the country on outside influences who sought to destroy the idyllic communist paradise that China had struggled to build. With the stroke of a pen he launched the Cultural

Sources:
https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide
https://www.state.gov/j/gcj/wcrp/206033.htm
Revolution in which intellectuals, mostly college students were forced from their universities to work in the fields alongside honest, hardworking peasants. Those who spoke out against the communist party disappeared and were never seen again. The forced political disappearances and other actions contributed to the deaths of over two million persons throughout China.

For his actions of forced political disappearances, murdering intellectuals, and his forced agricultural policies that directly led to the starvation of millions, **Mao Zedong** is charged under Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, specifically subsections

- a. **Murder**, 
- d. **Deportation or forcible transfer of population**, 
- f. **Torture**, 
- i. **Enforced disappearance of persons** and 
- k. **Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.**

Sources:

- [https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide](https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide)
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Felicien Kabuga

Felicien Kabuga is a Rwandan businessman who is accused of furnishing the weapons and providing logistical support that led to the Rwandan genocide. He is currently wanted by INTERPOL and the US Department of State.

The genocide in Rwanda can be traced back to colonial era-Rwanda where the nation fell under the control of German East Africa, and later Belgium following Germany’s territorial losses after World War One. During this colonial period, the ruling Belgians favored the minority Tutsis, who composed around 10% of the population to the majority Hutus who comprised 85% of the population with the remaining percentage broken up amongst smaller ethnic tribes. A Hutu revolution in 1959 overthrew the Belgians and pushed 300,000 Tutsis out of the country and removed the Tutsi monarch from the throne by 1961. Rwanda was officially recognized as a sovereign nation in July of 1962. Various internal conflicts broke out over the next three decades which culminated in the invasion of Rwanda from the Rwandese Patriotic Front (PRF) which consisted of mostly Tutsi refugees. They invaded from Uganda and the ceasefire in hostilities led to a transition government that would include the RPF, angering many Hutus.

On April 6th, 1994, a plane containing the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi was shot down over the Rwandan capital, leaving no survivors. Despite there being no evidence that it was Tutsis who shot it down, the country sprang into action, and the Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) and Hutu militias, notable the Interahamwe (Those Who Attack Together) and the Impuzamugambi (Those who have the Same Goal) began slaughtering Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

In only three months, over 800,000 people were killed, mostly by machetes. These machetes were provided by Felicien Kabuga. According to the State Department Kabuga is “alleged to be the main financier and back of the political and militia groups that committed the Rwandan

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genocide… was the co-founder and chairman of the Fonds de Defense Nationale (FDN)... alleged to have provided funds… and given logistical support to the Interahamwe militia by issuing them weapons and uniforms and by providing them transport in his company’s vehicles. **Felicien Kabuga** is charged under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court under *Article 6: Genocide, specifically subsection A.*

*Killing members of the group, C. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction whole or in part and under Article 7: Crimes Against Humanity specifically subsection A. Murder, B. Extermination, H. Persecution against any identifiable group of collectively on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender as defined in paragraph 3, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the court.*

Sources:
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**Saif al-Islam Gaddafi**

Saif Gaddafi is the second son of the former leader of Libya, Muammar Gaddafi, who was overthrown and killed in 2011. He is wanted in connection to charges against humanity pursuant to the Rome Statute of the ICC for the torture and killing of civilians, a charge that he denies.

Saif is a well educated and respected figure, possessing degrees in architecture, design, and even a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. Although holding no official government or military position within his father’s cabinet, he was a part of his inner circle and often took on public relations and diplomatic missions for Libya. He was offered the second-highest position in the government but turned it down, however people in Libya often considered him the “de facto” Prime Minister.

Following the events of the Arab Spring and the Civil war in which his father was killed by rebel forces, Saif was the only member of the family left alive. He attempted to escape Libya but was captured by the Zintan militia and brought to the city of Zintan. A court in Tripoli sentenced him to death on July 28th, 2015, convicting him *in absentia*, a move that was widely criticized within and outside the country.

When the new government took power in Libya, the ICC inquired as to Saif’s location and if he could be extradited to stand trial. However, the government was either unable or unwilling to comply with the ICC.

In June of 2017, Saif was released from prison in Zintan with all charges, including his death penalty dropped against him. The government has still refused to hand him over to the ICC and he is now considered a fugitive. In 2018 it was announced that he would be running for President of Libya.

The ICC has charged *Saif al-Islam Gaddafi* with two counts of crimes against humanity.

Sources:
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