

20 most evil woman in history

20 most evil woman in history have left dark marks on humanity through acts of cruelty, manipulation, and violence. Throughout history, numerous women have gained notoriety for their ruthless deeds, ranging from political treachery to horrific crimes. This article explores some of the most infamous female figures whose actions earned them a place among history's villains. From queens who orchestrated deadly plots to murderesses driven by greed, the stories of these women reveal the depths of human malevolence. Understanding their backgrounds and deeds provides insight into how power and evil intersect. Below is a detailed list and examination of these notorious women, highlighting the darkest chapters of history attributed to them.

- Historical Queens and Nobles
- Notorious Female Serial Killers
- Women Involved in Political Atrocities
- Infamous Women in Witchcraft and Occult
- Other Remarkable Cases of Evil Women

Historical Queens and Nobles

Many women in positions of power throughout history have been accused of evil acts, often motivated by ambition or a desire to maintain control. Their legacies include political manipulation, orchestrated murders, and brutal reigns that caused suffering for many.

Elizabeth Báthory

Known as the "Blood Countess," Elizabeth Báthory was a Hungarian noblewoman from the 16th century accused of torturing and killing hundreds of young women. She is often cited as the most prolific female serial killer in history. Her crimes involved sadistic cruelty, and legends suggest she bathed in the blood of her victims to retain youth, though this remains debated by historians.

Catherine de' Medici

As the queen consort of France during the 16th century, Catherine de' Medici was notorious for her ruthless political strategies and involvement in religious conflicts. She is often linked to the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, where thousands of Huguenots were killed, marking one of the bloodiest periods of the French Wars of Religion.

Mary I of England (Bloody Mary)

Mary I earned the epithet “Bloody Mary” for her persecution of Protestants during her reign in the 16th century. Her attempts to restore Catholicism led to the execution of nearly 300 religious dissenters, creating a legacy of fear and repression that stained her name throughout history.

Lucrezia Borgia

Part of the infamous Borgia family, Lucrezia was often accused of involvement in poisonings and political intrigue in Renaissance Italy. While some historians argue that her reputation was exaggerated by her family’s enemies, she remains associated with one of the most notorious dynasties known for corruption and murder.

Notorious Female Serial Killers

Throughout history, several women have gained infamy as serial killers, committing multiple murders over extended periods. Their motivations ranged from financial gain to psychological compulsion, often shocking societies with their brutality.

Jane Toppan

Jane Toppan was an American nurse in the late 19th and early 20th centuries who confessed to killing at least 31 people. She used her medical knowledge to poison victims, sometimes experimenting with different toxic substances to observe their effects. Her case remains one of the most chilling examples of female serial murder.

Aileen Wuornos

Aileen Wuornos was a notorious American serial killer who murdered seven men between 1989 and 1990. She claimed her killings were in self-defense against attempted assaults. Her life story, marked by abuse and hardship, culminated in her execution in 2002, making her one of the most infamous female killers in modern times.

Juana Barraza

Juana Barraza, known as “La Mataviejitas” (The Little Old Lady Killer), was a Mexican serial killer targeting elderly women. A former professional wrestler, she was convicted of at least 16 murders. Her crimes involved strangulation, and her case drew attention to the vulnerabilities of elderly populations.

Women Involved in Political Atrocities

Some women have played active roles in political regimes responsible for atrocities and human rights abuses. Their participation in oppressive governments or movements has led to widespread suffering and death.

Irma Grese

Irma Grese was a Nazi concentration camp guard known for her cruelty at Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen during World War II. She was notorious for brutal treatment of prisoners, including beatings and torture. After the war, she was tried and executed for war crimes, becoming one of the few female Nazis held accountable.

Mengele's Female Assistants

While Josef Mengele was the principal figure in horrific experiments at Auschwitz, some female collaborators assisted in his medical atrocities. These women helped select victims for death or experimentation, contributing to the horrors of the Holocaust.

Imelda Marcos

Though not directly linked to mass murder, Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is often cited for her role in a regime marked by corruption, human rights abuses, and oppression. Her extravagant lifestyle amid national poverty symbolizes the excesses of authoritarian rule.

Infamous Women in Witchcraft and Occult

In various historical periods, accusations of witchcraft and involvement in occult practices often led to women being labeled as evil. Some of these women were genuinely involved in dark arts, while others were victims of superstition and persecution.

Mother Shipton

Mother Shipton, an English soothsayer and prophetess from the 16th century, was surrounded by legends of dark magic and prophecy. While her actual deeds remain unclear, folklore paints her as a mysterious and ominous figure whose predictions often foretold disaster.

La Voisin

Catherine Monvoisin, known as La Voisin, was a French fortune teller and poisoner involved in the infamous "Affair of the Poisons" during Louis XIV's reign. She supplied poisons and performed black masses, implicating many nobles in scandalous plots, which led to executions and widespread fear.

Other Remarkable Cases of Evil Women

Beyond royalty, serial killers, and political figures, history records other women whose evil actions shocked their contemporaries and left lasting legacies.

Griselda Blanco

Known as the “Black Widow,” Griselda Blanco was a Colombian drug lord who played a key role in the Miami cocaine trade during the 1970s and 1980s. Her ruthless tactics included ordering numerous murders and maintaining control through violence and intimidation.

Rose West

Rose West, along with her husband Fred West, committed a series of brutal murders in England spanning over two decades. Their crimes involved torture and killing of young women, including some of their own family members. Rose West was convicted and is serving a life sentence.

Delphine LaLaurie

A New Orleans socialite in the 19th century, Delphine LaLaurie was infamous for torturing enslaved people in her household. The discovery of her abuses caused public outrage, and she fled the city to avoid prosecution, becoming a symbol of cruelty and sadism.

1. Elizabeth Báthory – The Blood Countess
2. Catherine de’ Medici – Queen of Poison
3. Mary I of England – Bloody Mary
4. Lucrezia Borgia – Renaissance Intriguer
5. Jane Toppan – Nurse and Poisoner
6. Aileen Wuornos – Modern Serial Killer
7. Juana Barraza – La Mataviejitas
8. Irma Grese – Nazi Guard
9. Mengele’s Female Assistants – Holocaust Collaborators
10. Imelda Marcos – Symbol of Excess
11. Mother Shipton – Prophetess and Witch
12. La Voisin – Poisoner of Versailles

13. Griselda Blanco – Drug Lord
14. Rose West – Serial Killer
15. Delphine LaLaurie – Torturer

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are considered some of the most evil women in history?

Some of the most evil women in history include Elizabeth Báthory, known as the 'Blood Countess'; Irma Grese, a Nazi concentration camp guard; and Myra Hindley, involved in the Moors murders.

Why is Elizabeth Báthory often labeled as one of the most evil women in history?

Elizabeth Báthory is often called the 'Blood Countess' because she was accused of torturing and killing hundreds of young girls in the 16th and 17th centuries, allegedly bathing in their blood to retain her youth.

What crimes did Irma Grese commit to be considered one of the most evil women in history?

Irma Grese was a notorious Nazi SS guard at concentration camps where she was known for her cruelty, torture, and brutal treatment of prisoners during World War II.

How did Myra Hindley gain infamy as one of the most evil women in history?

Myra Hindley gained infamy for her role in the Moors murders in 1960s England, where she and her partner Ian Brady abducted, tortured, and murdered children.

Are there any women in history known for political evil or tyranny?

Yes, women such as Catherine de' Medici, who was involved in political intrigue and the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, and Queen Ranavalona I of Madagascar, known for her brutal reign, are often cited.

What common traits do the most evil women in history share?

Many of the most evil women in history share traits such as cruelty, manipulation, abuse of power, and a lack of empathy, often causing great suffering to others.

How do historians verify the accounts of evil women in history?

Historians verify accounts through primary sources like documents, trial records, eyewitness testimonies, and cross-referencing multiple historical records to separate fact from legend.

Additional Resources

1. *Queens of Darkness: The 20 Most Evil Women in History*

This book delves into the lives of twenty notorious women who left a dark mark on history. From ruthless queens to cunning criminals, it explores their motives, actions, and the impact they had on their societies. Richly detailed, it paints a vivid picture of power, cruelty, and ambition.

2. *Women of Wickedness: A Historical Account of Evil Female Figures*

An in-depth exploration of women who defied societal norms through acts of cruelty and manipulation. The book balances historical facts with psychological insights, offering readers an understanding of what drove these women to infamy. It covers a diverse range of cultures and time periods.

3. *Her Dark Majesty: Infamous Women Who Changed History*

Focusing on twenty women whose evil deeds altered the course of history, this book provides compelling narratives and historical context. It examines their rise to power and the darkness that accompanied it. Readers gain insight into both their personal lives and broader historical consequences.

4. *Femme Fatales: The 20 Most Evil Women and Their Stories*

This gripping collection profiles twenty women known for their dangerous charm and deadly deeds. Each chapter offers a blend of biography and analysis, revealing how these women wielded influence and instigated chaos. The book highlights the complexity behind their villainy.

5. *Dark Queens: The Ruthless Women Who Ruled with Fear*

Highlighting twenty women who ruled with an iron fist, this book uncovers stories of tyranny and terror. It explores how these women used fear and power to maintain control, often leaving destruction in their wake. The narrative is both engaging and thought-provoking.

6. *Sinister Sisters: The Most Evil Women in History*

This book presents a chilling portrayal of twenty women whose actions were marked by cruelty and malevolence. Through historical records and personal letters, it reveals the darker side of femininity and power. It challenges readers to reconsider traditional views of evil.

7. *Villainesses: 20 Women Who Shaped History Through Darkness*

Examining the lives of twenty women infamous for their malevolent deeds, this book uncovers the motivations and circumstances behind their actions. It provides nuanced portraits that go beyond simple villainy, highlighting the complexities of morality and power.

8. *Blood Queens: The Deadliest Women in History*

This volume chronicles the blood-soaked legacies of twenty women known for their deadly actions and ruthless ambitions. From poisoners to warlords, it details their most notorious crimes and the historical fallout. The book is a captivating read for those interested in the darker chapters of history.

9. *Shadowed Legacies: The 20 Most Evil Women and Their Crimes*

Focusing on the criminal exploits of twenty women, this book offers a detailed look at their sinister deeds and the societal reactions they provoked. It combines true crime storytelling with historical analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of their evil legacies.

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