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HANNANER—SABA

**Grisly discovery: victims of Partisan revenge**

YUGOSLAVIA

## Skeletons in Tito's Closet

Marshal Tito liked to portray his Communist Partisans as the humane liberators of Yugoslavia from the jaws of fascism. Shocking new discoveries of piles of human bones in hitherto secret caves in Croatia and Slovenia suggest, however, that official Yugoslav history is due for radical rewriting. In the wake of the grisly finds, several witnesses have come forward to tell of mass killings by the Partisans.

The atrocities are the latest evidence of the murderous ethnic reprisals and counter-reprisals that engulfed Yugoslavia after Germany and its allies invaded in 1941. Historians believe that most of the country's 1.7 million war dead were killed not by Nazi troops but in brutal clashes between Croatian fascists, Serbian royalists and Partisan nationalists. The fear is that the grim evocation of the past—particularly in Croatia and Slovenia, which recently elected non-communist governments—could increase the ethnic tensions that are again tearing the nation apart. ■

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## When Stalin's Butchers Took Over

**German authorities find Soviet-era mass graves at Sachsenhausen**

FROM THE MID-'30S UNTIL 1945, SACHSENHAUSEN, 10 km north of Berlin in eastern Germany, was a Nazi concentration camp where half of an estimated 200,000 prisoners from Germany and other parts of Europe perished. Sachsenhausen's infamy continued into the post-Nazi era when the occupying Soviets took over the installation and ran it as a prison camp for Hitler sympathizers and suspected opponents of communism. In the two years since the collapse of East Germany, increasing grisly details about the Stalinists' camp have been emerging. Now the Brandenburg state government reports the discovery of 50 mass graves containing some 12,500 bodies buried between 1945 and 1950. The corpses were stacked 5 m high; most victims died of hunger and disease, although some appear to have met a violent end. A surprisingly large number of the remains were those of older people or teenagers—a gruesome indication of how wide a net the Soviets cast against those they suspected. ■