

The historical background about Child Soldiers was children were set to be fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or sexual purposes from the beginning of time. The main reason that children were child soldiers from the beginning of time was for survival. A famous time when being a child soldier was popular was in the 5th century B.C. in ancient Greece. King Lycurgus created a society that was very militarialistic, even after he died his people followed the laws he created and enforced. Spartans did not want their citizens to be thinking of fun, comfort or any happiness because they believed that this would lead to corruption and downfall of the country.(Spartan Warrior, Karen Rutherford)

Officials would put baby girls and boys through fitness test at birth and if it was decided that the baby was too weak the baby would be sent to the mountains to die. Its people thought that these babies' would be useless to Sparta. At age seven the boys would be taken away from their family and were being put in military camps in the mountains and began a thirteen years of training. They would sometimes kill each other in practice battles. They were also sent to kill helots, and/or slaves. The leaders wouldn't give them food so they could purposely steal, they would then be punished for being caught not for stealing. At the age of 20 the boys officially become warriors, when they weren't in battles they were suppose to teach the younger boys.

This historical event was influential to my topic since child soldiers started from ancient history. We now have governments and violent groups that recruit children in a similar way.