

Burning Instead of Beauty: A Biblical View of the Holocaust

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Belzec

In our fallen condition our sin-damaged mind, left entirely to its own devices, is unable to cope with **"this present evil world"** (Galatians 1:4) and its unending stream of misleading information.

For those who finally come to realize that Satan has woven a fabulous tapestry of lies to deceive us, a completely new problem presents itself. If much of what we are being told, in the media and elsewhere, is designed to keep us in bondage, then where can we place our trust?

This is a great challenge for all who love God and who strive faithfully to serve Him during our brief time here in this world. Alas, for those who decide to question everything, without exception, the challenge is insurmountable. It will lead only to disaster.

Descartes tried to do this. He asked himself, 'How can I be sure of anything?' He came to believe there was only one proposition that was absolutely true – *Cogito ergo sum* – 'I think therefore I am.' This is the kind of vain philosophy that fallen men generate when they rely on their own wisdom. They forget the Word of God, the perfectly reliable voice of Scripture, and indulge instead in flights of fancy that cause real spiritual harm, both to themselves and others.



One of the thousands of children's shoes found at Auschwitz

The same scepticism is affecting the minds of many 'truthers' today. They have become so accustomed to questioning everything that many are losing their bearings. Instead of grounding themselves in the Word of God, they are relying instead on their own wisdom. Matters that can only be settled by a close examination of the facts and a careful study of the Word of God are being decided instead on the basis of speculation and conjecture. Rumors become facts, credible sources are dismissed, and vacuous theories are taking the place of rational explanations.

This is certainly the case in the strange world of 'Holocaust Denial.'

As Christians we need to look closely – and scripturally – at this phenomenon because it has a direct bearing on our understanding of Bible prophecy and End Time events.

The Key to Understanding the Holocaust

The key to understanding the Holocaust may be found in Matthew 23:39, which we have quoted several times in previous papers:

"For I [Christ Jesus] say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Christians really need to study this verse! Christ will return bodily to earth at some unspecified date in the future to rule his Kingdom – the entire earth – from his throne in Jerusalem. But he will not return until his people call on him and acknowledge him as their king! This is what Jesus is telling us. Until the Jews, as a nation, recognize and acknowledge that he and he alone is their Messiah and rightful heir to the throne of David in Jerusalem, he will continue to sit at the right hand of the Father.

When he said this Jesus was citing Psalm 118, verse 26: **"Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD"**.

The multitude proclaimed this wonderful truth during his triumphant entry – **"Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord "** (Matthew 21:9) – but the nation as a whole stepped back. The multitude understood and cried aloud those solemn words, but Israel herself absolutely refused to do so.



German soldiers murder Polish civilians at Palmiry.

The words were solemn indeed, the closing sentence of his last public discourse. As such they were the final words addressed by him to the nation of Israel, thereby marking the end of his public ministry.

The apostle Paul also referred to this momentous event, the repentant national appeal that would trigger the return of Christ:

"13. But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 14. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. 15. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." (2 Corinthians 3:14-16)

The "it" refers to the "heart (verse 15) of "the children of Israel" (verse 13).

The Word of God tells us that they will not issue this heartrending national appeal until the church – which consists almost entirely of Gentiles – is complete: **"that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." (Romans 11:25).**

Throughout her history Israel has rebelled against the LORD and, as a direct result, has fallen many times into the hands of her enemies. Whenever she returned again to the LORD in a spirit of true repentance, He sent a leader or savior to redeem her from destruction. Her final savior, whom the LORD will send at the brink of their End Time destruction, will be her ultimate Savior, the Messiah himself:

**"Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies."
(Nehemiah 9:26-27)**

These passages of Scripture explain why Satan wants to exterminate the Jews. If they ceased to exist, then the Word of God would be annulled. Christ said he will return only when they call upon him, but this condition cannot possibly be fulfilled if they are all annihilated.

Even before the Holocaust, Satan had made exceptional progress with his plan to destroy the Jews. He did this progressively over several centuries, luring them further and further from the Word of God until, finally, he succeeded in breaking Judaism itself into three separate parts.



Reform Judaism



Conservative Judaism

Two unbelieving forms of Judaism were developed during the 18th and 19th centuries, both in Germany. These were Reform Judaism and Conservative Judaism. Today most practising Jews are affiliated to one or other of these. They are mistakenly described as "branches" of Judaism but, as neither accepts that the Torah came from God – that it has a divine origin – neither fulfils the basic requirement of the covenant made at Sinai in 1446 B.C. Religious Jews, who continue to recognize the divine origin of the Torah, are categorized dismissively, even by Jews, as members of an antiquated, backward-looking "branch" known as Orthodox Judaism.

Thus Judaism itself was in the midst of a major crisis long before the Holocaust. There is not the slightest doubt that, without this preliminary fragmentation of Judaism, the Holocaust would not have taken place.

This fragmentation in turn required the cunning exploitation of an earlier breach within Judaism that can be traced all the way back to the days of Nehemiah. Charged with the task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and turning it into a defensible city, he was opposed throughout by the traditional enemies of Judah. These were led by Sanballat the Moabite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian.

Many commentators, when discussing this event, focus mainly on the enemies outside the walls. They were formidable, certainly, but Nehemiah had to address an equally grave problem inside the city, namely the influential clique of Jewish nobles who were secretly in communication with Tobiah and consorting with the enemy:

"Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them. For there were many in Judah sworn unto him... Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear." (Nehemiah 6:17-19)

"And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat [i.e. grain] offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests... And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber." (Nehemiah 13:4-8)

Incredibly, even their most senior religious leader was working for the enemy! After the walls were complete and Nehemiah returned to Babylon, the high priest revealed his true colors by giving a room in the Temple to Tobiah for his personal use.



Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem

These passages of Scripture are immensely important since they depict in stark terms a condition that has plagued Judaism from the time of Moses – who faced the Korah revolt – even to the present day. The enemy outside may be formidable, but treasonous cliques within one's own ranks can inflict terrible damage. There have always been Jews within Judaism who secretly despised the Torah and who were willing to assist the enemies of Judaism, often with such cunning that they were extremely hard to detect. Even Nehemiah, a remarkably discerning individual, a righteous man who continually sought the will of God, was almost caught out by Shemaiah, the respected Jewish elder to whom he had come for advice:

"And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him." (Nehemiah 6:12)

Just as in the time of Nehemiah, there is a clique today within Judaism, albeit professing to be Jewish and to have the best interests of the Jewish people at heart, who secretly despise Judaism and are working for the New World Order. Even though the Word of God has warned of this, there is little general awareness of the threat that it poses, either among the worldwide Jewish community or among born-again, Bible-believing Christians. [We will pursue this theme in more detail in a future paper, God willing.]



Holocaust Denial and the New World Order

Under the guise of free speech, which some take to be a licence to make outrageous claims while disregarding all evidence to the contrary, a number of self-appointed experts and academics have argued that the Holocaust was a Jewish hoax and that, if some Jews were murdered by the Nazis, the numbers were commensurate with the death toll generally among ethnic groups under wartime conditions.

Denial of the Holocaust is part of the New World Order agenda – and it will only get worse. It implies that the Holocaust was concocted (or grossly exaggerated) to win worldwide sympathy for the creation of the nation of Israel. If it was, then Israel too was founded on a lie. Her enemies at the UN and elsewhere now argue that she ought to be restrained and Jerusalem placed under international control.

Holocaust denial is not simply a point of view! Rather it is a powerful political weapon aimed directly at the Jewish people. While its adherents try to present it as a legitimate scholarly exercise, it departs in unpredictable and capricious ways from accepted standards of historical analysis. When one looks at the individuals and organizations behind it we find also that most of them are openly anti-Semitic. They villify the Jewish people and condemn them indiscriminately with the same moral loathing that has characterized anti-Semitism down the centuries.

One of their most provocative assertions is that the official death toll is a fabrication. They will not accept that six million Jews perished in an extermination program conceived and managed by the Nazis. Some will accept a much smaller figure, while most deny that any such program ever existed.

The Holocaust itself should be seen in a wider perspective. It was one of several manifestations of state-sponsored barbarism in the 20th century. Deniers like to insinuate that the German government would never have carried out such an appalling crime and that it is preposterous to suggest that they would. Their leaders, they claim, were just as civilized as those of other nations. They were not mass murderers who could brutally butcher millions of innocent civilians.



Roma gypsies in a Nazi concentration camp.

If that were so then how do they explain the following horrific figures? These are estimates of the numbers of (mainly) non-Jewish civilians and prisoners-of-war murdered by the Nazis in the course of the war. None could be classified as 'collateral damage', namely deaths caused unintentionally by military action. The victims were innocent non-combatants. In each case the Nazis found it convenient to exterminate the group in question, largely for ideological reasons:

70,000 children and adults in institutions for the disabled – virtually all of whom were German. Some historians believe the actual figure could be much higher.

More than 2,000,000 non-Jewish Soviet citizens in Operation Barbarossa. Again this figure is highly conservative.

Around 3,000,000 Soviet prisoners of war.

Around 1,800,000 non-Jewish Polish civilians, primarily the most educated and members of professions. Some historians believe this figure greatly understates the actual number killed.

Around 200,000 Roma gypsies.

More than 300,000 Serbian civilians (in co-operation with the Ustaše, the Croatian militia). The actual figure may be much higher.

More than 70,000 communists, homosexuals, repeat offenders, religious minorities, and similar 'undesirables'.

They also murdered thousands of civilians across Europe in reprisals, random beatings, tortures intended to extract information, and as an adjunct to actions undertaken against partisans and various resistance groups.

This comes to well over 7 million. The actual total may be closer to 10 million, as some historians believe. In the horror of war records are lost. Perpetrators also have no desire to leave evidence of their crimes. Bodies are burnt or buried in mass graves, documentation is destroyed, and witnesses silenced. Who, for example, is left to speak for the 200,000 Roma gypsies murdered by the Nazis, to assemble the relevant evidence and 'prove' that they were murdered by the German death machine? If cold-hearted sceptics were to come along and scoff at their claim, how should the survivors respond?

Historians have to pick through the evidence and gradually assemble a 'before' and 'after' picture. Of necessity they must make assumptions, but eventually they arrive at a figure, or an estimate range, on which most are agreed.

If the Nazis murdered at least 7 million non-Jewish civilians, then why should anyone think them incapable of murdering 6 million *Jewish* civilians? They too were seen as enemies of the Reich, unwanted parasites who exploited the German people. If a disabled German child was on the SS kill list, we can be absolutely certain that the devious scheming Jew was there also.



The Nazi T4 Aktion murdered many thousands of German children just like these.

Twentieth Century Genocide

As an act of genocide, the Holocaust was not unique. Sceptics forget that several similar atrocities have been committed in modern times. Chief among these is the Holodomor, where Stalin ordered his henchmen to travel through the Ukraine and commandeer the entire grain harvest, along with all supplies of stored food. He was bent on destroying the Kulaks, farmers whose standard of living was above that of the average peasant. He was concerned that they might at some stage oppose his plans, so he simply starved them all to death, along with millions of peasants who posed no threat to him whatever.

The word Holodomor means death by starvation, and that is exactly how Stalin achieved his purpose. With nowhere to go and no possibility of outside assistance, a huge swathe of the population suffered a slow, horrifying death from a manmade catastrophe. In the period 1932-33, it is estimated that Stalin's program of 'death by starvation' killed between 7 and 10 million innocent civilians.



Victims of the Holodomor.

Mao did something similar in China, imposing radical economic reforms which were bound to have devastating consequences for millions of impoverished peasants. Known as 'The Great Leap Forward' these reforms caused severe food shortages and widespread famine across large parts of China between 1959 and 1961. While estimates vary, historians believe more than 20 million died of starvation.

For some reason murder by starvation is not considered as heinous a crime as murder by execution. The Armenian genocide of 1915 had elements of both, where about two million displaced Armenians were forced by the Turkish authorities to undertake an exhausting march of several hundred miles under gruelling conditions. Lacking food and water, and harassed continually by violent mobs, the hapless stream of refugees succumbed one by one. Before the journey ended, over a million Armenians had died.

Mass murders have also been effected through violence alone. When Lenin came to power in Russia in 1917, he set about eliminating his political opponents, not just the leaders but the entire party. During a five-year period he oversaw a terror campaign which involved the cold-blooded murder of several hundred thousand Soviet citizens.

All of these atrocities occurred in the 20th century and all show just how dangerous a tyrannical regime can be. The deaths of millions mean nothing to them. They have no qualms about using mass murder to achieve a larger objective, whether economic or political. They are more than willing to pervert the apparatus of the state to eliminate their own citizens and then point to some 'greater good' to justify their actions.

Given that Hitler had for years denounced the Jews as degenerate parasites and had construed their continued existence as an intolerable threat to the well-being of the German people, it is not in the least surprising that he too should pervert the apparatus of state and eliminate them.

The Two Phases of the Holocaust

Holocaust deniers have succeeded in narrowing the parameters of the debate to the point where evidence that would be acceptable in any court of law is dismissed as irrelevant, superfluous or phony. It is a sad fact that many who stand and defend the historicity of the Holocaust have allowed the facts to be sullied by pseudo-science, absurd accusations and scurrilous theorizing. In doing so they have lent a legitimacy to the deniers which their case does not warrant.

It is impossible to reason with a crank. Alas, the cranks have cunningly portrayed themselves as impartial, pedantic historians who are only interested in establishing the truth. They profess to ask "the hard questions" and discover what "really" happened. They profess to offer an "alternative" point of view, when in reality their principal aim is to discredit the work of genuine historians, trivialize anything that conflicts with their "alternative" viewpoint, and beguile the public with a mass of "facts" which they are neither inclined to evaluate nor equipped to refute. As a result Holocaust denial has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years, with many otherwise sensible people now wondering if Hitler and the Nazis really did murder six million Jews.



An *Einsatzgrup* shooting victims in a mass grave.

One of the most startling facts which the Deniers have managed suppress is that the Holocaust was implemented in two phases. Everyone has heard of the gas chambers but how many know about the *Einsatzgruppen* or what they did?

Immediately after the start of Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of Russia on 22 June 1941, the Nazis began the systematic extermination of Jews behind the front lines. This exercise in mass slaughter was carried out by roving groups of armed militia known as *Einsatzgruppen*. These generally comprised (i) members of the SS, (ii) German policemen, firemen and other municipal employees who were too old to serve in the Wehrmacht, and (iii) local antisemites who were more than willing to round up Jews for execution by the Nazis. The word *Einsatzgrup* normally means a task force but in this context it should be understood to mean 'mobile killing unit.'

The *Einsatzgruppen* worked just behind the advancing German army, moving through devastated towns and villages, hunting down bewildered Jews of all ages and executing them in cold blood. While the Wehrmacht did not participate in these killings it gave necessary logistical support. It has been estimated that these mobile killing units murdered around 1.3 million unarmed Jews in the course of the war. One of their most spectacular operations took place at Babi Yar, just outside Kiev. In just a few days they rounded up and slaughtered more than 33,000 Jews. Another hideous operation was carried out in the forest of Rumbula near Riga in Latvia, where 25,000 Jews were massacred.



A mother tries to flee with her child.

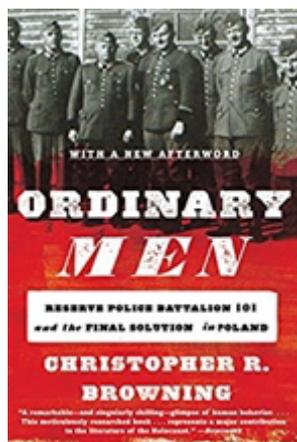
Among the many disturbing accounts of the Holocaust that have appeared in recent years, perhaps the most unsettling is that by Christopher Browning in his book, *Ordinary Men* (1992). It relates in chilling detail the activities of Reserve Police Battalion 101, a group of 'ordinary men' who were members an *Einsatzgrup* in Poland. Operating out of Hamburg, it comprised about 500 officers and men living in the Hamburg area. The majority held typical Hamburg working-class jobs, such as docker, trucker, warehouse worker, machine operator, and the like. With an average age of 39, most were too old for the army but were conscripted instead for reserve police duty.

When a shortage of rolling stock in mid-1942 caused an interruption in the supply of Jewish victims to the extermination camps at Belzec and Sobibor, a number of *Einsatzgruppen* were called in to conduct executions by firing squad in Poland. *Einsatzgrup* 101 was assigned to the village of Jozefow near Lublin.

This group had never undertaken an action like this before. They were told on the morning of the operation that anyone who wished to drop out could do so. Twelve withdrew. As the day wore on and the Jewish death toll mounted, more men asked to be excused from the killing. Browning estimates that about 20 percent, at most, dropped out in the course of the day. This meant that 80 percent of a group of 'ordinary men', who had never killed anyone in cold blood in their lives, had willingly participated in a day-long killing spree that liquidated 1,500 Jewish men, women and children.

We are told of the SS, the carefully selected army of psychopaths who oversaw the mass murder of Jews across Europe. We are told also of their occult indoctrination, their sinister initiations, and their vile blood oaths. But the men of *Einsatzgrup* 101 were not SS-trained. They were municipal workers recruited for part-time 'police' work in German-occupied territory. There was little in their personal history to indicate that they were capable of killing an unarmed civilian in cold blood, not to talk of little children screaming in their mothers arms.

Their action in Jozefow was extensively documented after the war. Many participants in the massacre gave an account of what happened and how the massacre was organized. There was little in their statements to indicate that the men were driven by a hatred of Jews. Rather, the Jews in the village of Jozefow were portrayed as 'the enemy' and these ordinary men were simply doing their duty. Even though they could have dropped out, at least 80 percent did not.



The massacre at Jozefow shows just how ruthless the German war machine actually was, how it could roll across eastern Europe and exterminate millions of innocent civilians, whether Jews or non-Jews. No moral obstacles could impede its progress. When the rule of law broke down, as it does in wartime, centuries of racial tensions were unleashed. The resulting horror exploded on a scale we can hardly comprehend, even decades after the event.

Einsatzgrup 101 went on to murder thousands of Jews across Poland over the following year or so. They also rounded up many thousands more and sent them to the extermination camp at Treblinka. As an official police unit it sent back monthly reports to its SS handlers, giving the numbers killed or deported since the last report. Many of these documents are still extant, startling evidence of the cold-blooded, bureaucratic way in which millions of Jews were sent to the slaughter.

We include in **Appendix A** a summary of the numbers killed by this particular *Einsatzgrup* during the year or so of its existence. As you consider these figures, please bear in mind that this was just one of a great many similar death squads operating at any time across the length and breadth of German-occupied territory.

We also include in **Appendix B** a number of extracts from an essay by historian Timothy Snyder in *The New York Review of Books*, March, 2011. While the essay was devoted mainly to a comparison between Hitler and Stalin, it includes numerous insightful references to the Nazi killing machine and how it operated. Snyder, along with several other modern historians, estimates the total number of Jewish deaths in the Holocaust at close to 6 million.

The Death Camps

The Jews of Europe were killed in several ways, including firing squad, street beatings, starvation, death marches, and death-by-overwork. Several concentration camps were set up specifically to exploit the Jews as a source of slave labor. The Nazis reaped two advantages from this, one obvious and one not so obvious. Not only did slave labor allow the Nazis to redeploy scarce German manpower to the Wehrmacht, but it allowed them to convince the Jews that, if they obeyed the SS and did what they were told, they would be "resettled" in remote work camps and allowed to survive.



When local Jewish committees were told by the SS that the Jews in their community were being "resettled in the east," they wanted to believe it was true. They had heard rumors of SS death camps but had almost no hard evidence to confirm their existence. On the other hand, the Nazis needed plenty of slave labor, so the Jewish leaders concluded, not unreasonably, that they were probably being "resettled" for that purpose. This awful charade was helped along by the use of postcards supposedly sent back from "the east" by Jews who had already been "resettled". These seemed to confirm that they had arrived safely and were being treated properly. Using tricks of this kind the Nazis were able to conceal their real intentions, often until the very hour their disbelieving victims entered the gas chambers.

Contrary to popular belief, Auschwitz was built originally as a labour camp, not an extermination camp. It was supplemented by a network of smaller camps and used for that purpose throughout the war. The 'extermination' wing, known as Birkenau, was only added after Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of Russia, had commenced, when the overall number who were marked for extermination greatly expanded.

The first gas chamber at Birkenau became operational in March 1942. However, several other dedicated extermination camps became operational in or around the same time – at Majdanek [October 1941], Chelmno [December 1941], Belzec [March 1942], Sobibor [April 1942], and Treblinka [July 1942]. All were designed specifically to kill Jews and other 'degenerates' in a systematic way – quickly, efficiently, and in secret. All six extermination camps were located in Poland, far from western scrutiny under wartime conditions.

The German high command had no intention of being implicated in these killings. For example, Treblinka operated for only 15 months and was then completely dismantled. Nevertheless, during that short time it killed over 700,000 Jews. When the rail transport arrived the sealed wagons were opened and emptied with horrifying brutality. Within two hours or so everyone had been stripped, gassed and buried in mass graves. A small number of Jews, who had been taken from earlier convoys, were assigned the gruesome task of clearing the tangled mass of bodies from the gas chambers and dragging them outside for burial. The camp was then ready to receive and 'process' the next transport.

The captive Jews who carried out this loathsome task were known as the *Sonderkommando* or 'special squad'. The size of these units varied. At Treblinka the *Sonderkommando* in charge of removing the corpses from the gas chambers comprised about 200 men. Since these unfortunate Jews were generally worked to death rather than executed, several survived to tell what had happened in the camps. Others were able to write a short account of their experiences and hide it in a secure place before being killed by the SS. The image below is an extract of a list maintained by a member of the *Sonderkommando* at Birkenau. It gives the number of Jews killed each day during October 1944, indicating the number of men, women and children in each case, their place of origin, and the gas chamber used (Birkenau had four):

The image shows a handwritten list on aged paper, detailing daily killings at Birkenau in October 1944. The list is organized into columns: date, number of victims, gender, place of origin, and gas chamber used. A vertical note on the right side reads 'Postulaten werden'.

Date	Number	Gender	Origin	Gas Chamber
13/10	2,000	Sam.	Tessen	" 1
14/10	3,000	Tessen	Sam.	" 2
15/10	3,000	keb.	Ce Lager	" 1
16/10	100	m.	Lager niem	" 2
17/10	600	m.	Kramken Lager	" 2
18/10	2,000	m.	Biman	" 1
19/10	3,000	Sam.	Stawak	" 1
20/10	2,000	Sam.	Tessen	" 2
21/10	300	Sam.	Roornest	" 2

After the extermination camps were shut down, other 'special squads' were established to return to the burial grounds at Treblinka and elsewhere and exhume the bodies. These were then piled onto huge funeral pyres and incinerated. The Nazis intended to leave no trace of their ghastly handiwork.

Since the ash produced was rich in minerals, the Germans used it as fertilizer. The SS let nothing go to waste. Moreover, their victims were literally fed to the Reich in a strange form of cannibalism – they probably intended the occult dimension of their crime to be intensified thereby.

Judgment Foretold

None of this happened in a vacuum. The LORD God of all creation had made a covenant with the Jews in 1446 B.C. By entering into this covenant they had agreed to receive the bounty and blessings that accrued from their special relationship with Him – **"He hath not dealt so with any nation" (Psalm 147:20)**. In return they had only to honor His commandments, none of which were onerous. The commandment that mattered most, the one which the LORD God emphasized more than any other, was the first. It required simply that they worship and look to no other 'god' but God.

Incredibly, they refused to do so. The Bible records their many historical violations of this solemn agreement. It also records the penalties or punishments they would endure on foot of each violation. These became more severe with each transgression. The stiffnecked and stubborn nation suffered one painful invasion after another. After a time they repented and the LORD sent them a savior. Following a period of peace and prosperity they lapsed once more into their old ways and looked again to other 'gods'. The LORD in His mercy sent many prophets during these periods of idol worship, urging the wayward nation to repent. However on each occasion His patience, of necessity, came to an end and catastrophe struck.

Christians who want to understand the Holocaust really need to review chapter 28 of Deuteronomy where the LORD describes in stunning detail the punishments His chosen people would endure if they violated His commandments, particularly the first: **"And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them." (Deuteronomy 28:14)**

We will cite just a few of the verses in Chapter 28. The entire chapter should be studied in its totality to appreciate the uncompromising severity of the judgment that would befall the Jews if they were to persist in their disobedience and rebellion:

[20] The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me...

[25] The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth...

[37] And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee...

[45] Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee...

[48] Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee...

[65] And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind.

[66] And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life.

[67] In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

It is essential to understand the solemn implications that these verses would have for the Jewish people. Their entire history is a graphic encapsulation of divine judgment. We can only stand in awe at the chastening they have had to endure. Truly the righteous judgment of God can be terrifying.

It is said that, when the rail transports arrived at some of the Nazi concentration camps, the Jewish women were so oblivious to what lay ahead that they put on lipstick and makeup before they disembarked. This deeply poignant image is echoed in the following verses by Isaiah, where the horror of what was about to unfold can be glimpsed in a number of stark and arresting details:

"Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the LORD will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, the chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, the bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, the rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, the glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty." (Isaiah 3:16-24)

*Smiting with a scab the crown of their heads...*the humiliating infestation of lice among those who worked in the labor camps. *The exposure of their "secret parts"...*where all Jewish women were stripped before being paraded en masse into the gas chambers. *The round tires [tokens and talismans] like the moon on chains and bracelets...*the cabalistic and occult jewellery worn by many of the women. *Instead of a sweet smell a stink...*the horrendously unhygienic conditions in the camps. *Instead of well set hair baldness...*the enforced shaving of the women after they entered the camp. *Instead of a nice blouse or dress a vulgar garment...*where inmates in the labor camps were made to wear coarse pyjama-like tunics. *Burning instead of beauty...*the final outcome, disease, dysentery, starvation, rotting flesh, followed by the burning of the gas chamber and the incineration of corpses.



A pile of bodies at Dachau, awaiting disposal in the crematorium.

Consider also these prophetic verses from Ezekiel:

"They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads. They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity." (Ezekiel 7:18-19)

Sackcloth. Baldness. Horror. And "their gold shall be removed." The Nazis inspected the mouths of all their murdered victims, both male and female, and extracted any gold fillings they could find. Just as the Word of God had foretold, their gold was removed.

QUESTIONS

We will now look at three questions that are commonly asked about the Holocaust.

1. Given the high proportion of Jewish historians among the scholars and academics who have written about the Holocaust, how can we be sure that their statistics are reliable?

There is no evidence that professional historians, Jewish or non-Jewish, are colluding in order to make the official death toll appear higher than it actually was. Since sources must be documented and assumptions used when deriving estimates from fragmentary data made explicit, there is little room for deception. A great many scholars have examined the evidence and come up with a total death toll of 5-6 million. They have also examined the various categories of evidence in the same way as a court of law. Very similar standards are used to analyze and verify the atrocities as apply in a murder trial when assessing the motives of the accused, evidence retrieved from the scene of the crime, eyewitness reports, forensic evidence, testimonial consistency, and confessions.

In addition to direct evidence, the huge weight of circumstantial evidence must be considered. The Nazis amassed an enormous archive of records relating to the Jewish population of the occupied territories, they corralled their victims into ghettos to ensure they could not escape until arrangements could be made for their execution, they organized intricate railroad schedules to facilitate the efficient transport of thousands of victims a day across international boundaries, they conducted an intensive program of civil indoctrination in order to convince the German people that Jews were vermin that had to be eliminated, they experimented with different methods of mass killing, and so on and so on. The circumstantial evidence alone is very compelling.

They also exterminated huge numbers of other 'undesirables' and 'degenerates'. This aspect of the Nazi program is usually ignored or pushed aside by Holocaust deniers because it shows that the genocidal mania that inflamed the Nazi soul had devastating consequences for many other groups, not just Jews. [We have already cited figures on the numbers of non-Jewish people killed by the Nazis.]

The high proportion of ethnic Serbs among the civilian death toll is also truly horrifying. The Nazis despised non-Aryans (as they defined them) and saw great merit in culling them in vast numbers. By their definition, Poles, Serbians, Ukrainians and Russians were all racially inferior and, wherever they were perceived to pose a threat to the future expansion of the Reich, they were simply exterminated. It is significant that the Nazis murdered nearly twice as many non-Jewish civilians as Jewish.



The shoes of prisoners killed at the Gradina execution site near the Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia.

Estimates of the number of Jews murdered in the Holocaust

This is a comparative table based on estimates made by several different historians specializing in this field of research.

Country	Raul Hilberg (i)	Wolfgang Benz (ii)	Gerald Reitlinger (iii)	Yisrael Gutman & Robert Rozett (iv)
Poland	3,000,000	2,700,000	2,350,000	2,900,000
Soviet Union	900,000	2,100,000	700,000	1,211,000
Hungary	up to 180,000	550,000	180,000	550,000
Rumania	270,000	211,000	200,000	271,000
Germany	up to 120,000	160,000	160,000	134,000
Czechoslovakia	260,000	143,000	233,000	146,000
Netherlands	up to 100,000	102,000	104,000	100,000
France	75,000	76,000	60,000	77,000
Austria	over 50,000	65,000	60,000	50,000
Yugoslavia	60,000	60,000	58,000	56,000
Greece	60,000	60,000	57,000	60,000
Belgium	24,000	28,000	25,000	29,000
Italy	9,000	6,000	8,000	8,000
Luxembourg	up to 1,000	1,000	3,000	2,000
Norway	up to 1,000	up to 1,000	up to 1,000	up to 1,000
TOTAL	5,110,000	6,263,000	4,199,000	5,595,000

- (i) *The Destruction of the European Jews*, Raul Hilberg, 1961
(ii) Wolfgang Benz, Munich, 1991
(iii) *The Final Solution*, Gerald Reitlinger, 1953 and 1978 [lower range figures]
(iv) *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, vol.4, 1990 [lower range figures]

Comments:

Both Hilberg and Reitlinger gave a markedly lower estimate for the Soviet Union than did Benz and Gutman/Rozett. The opening of archives during Glasnost gave historians access to documents that support a higher estimate. Disparities in the figures for Hungary and Czechoslovakia would appear to be due, at least in part, to difficulties in determining the region from which the victims originated. When the figures for both regions are combined, the disparity is smaller – (i) 440,000, (ii) 693,000, (iii) 413,000, and (iv) 696,000. Again the later historians arrived at a higher estimate on foot of newly discovered evidence.

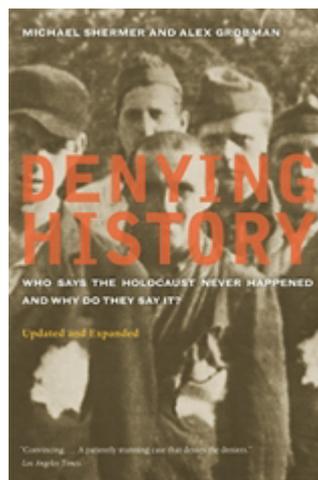
In light of all this it is not difficult to see how the Nazi killing machine could have eliminated 5-6 million Jews. They were perceived as degenerates, undesirables, and parasites, an ever-present threat to the well-being of the German people and their glorious 'Third Reich'. If they could murder 70,000 (minimum) of their own people, purely on the grounds of disability, then it is easy to see why the extermination of the Jews was a necessary part of their plan.

Historians themselves are mindful of the need to calculate the death toll in a responsible and verifiable manner, with reference to all available information and sources. Thus the figures themselves are subject to revision as further evidence emerges and historians from different disciplines address the issues. Noted historian, Martin Gilbert, made the following observation in relation to this:

"A substantial literature about the Final Solution exists, much of it published in the 1980s and in large part the testimony of survivors. Several ghetto diaries and chronicles have been found and published, including the mass of material assembled in the Warsaw Ghetto by the historian Emanuel Ringelblum and his circle, all of whom perished during the war. Further volumes of the recollections of survivors are published every few days; each one adds something to our existing knowledge of the fate of an estimated ten thousand Jewish communities throughout Europe, whose lives, and also whose life and culture, was destroyed between 1939 and 1945."

[From *The Oxford Companion to World War II*, Oxford University Press, 1995.]

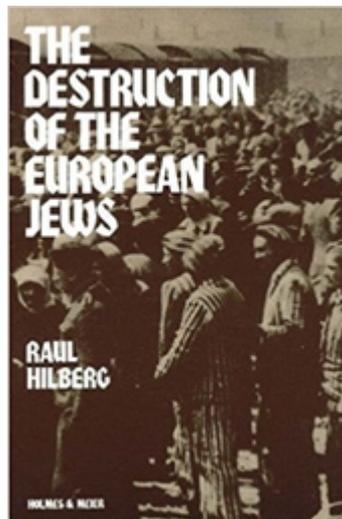
In their book, *Denying History*, Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman took an in-depth look at the case for 'Holocaust denial' and the motivation behind it.



Regarding the testimony of Nazi physician, Dr Wilhelm Hoettel, at the first Nuremberg trial in November, 1945, where he admitted that the Nazis murdered about six million Jews, they say:

As historical scientists, however, we realize that even such powerful statements by the perpetrators must be corroborated. The German historian Wolfgang Benz, for example, comments on the problem of depending only on confessions of Nazis: "But historic research is not dependent on confessions of the perpetrators. Original and undeniable sources are available for the research and calculation of the dimension of the genocide, but there are massive difficulties still. A major part of the murder actions was secret, covered through euphemistic expressions like the Final Solution, and proofs for the crimes had been destroyed during a last effort of the NS [Nazi] regime. Thus it will never be possible to quote an absolute figure that counts every single human, but it is possible to position the measure beyond every speculation."...

Benz describes two methods of calculation: "the direct estimating method which sums up the number of victims in concentration camps, extermination camps, through killing squads plus all additional material about killed people; [and] the indirect method of statistical comparison [although] there is a lack of useful statistics (mainly in the east European countries) and the often changed borders make some of them incomparable." By combining the two methods and looking for a convergence of evidence on one range of figures versus another, we can estimate figures with a high degree of confidence.



Reitlinger, Hilberg, and Gutman and Rozett derive their figures by various methods, including population demographics before the war, the number reported transferred to camps, the number reported killed, the number estimated killed, the number liberated from the camps, the number killed in "special actions" by the *Einsatzgruppen*, and the number remaining after the war. Hilberg cautions that "margins of error may be wider than they seem" and that "exactness is impossible." But these margins are not so wide that, for example, six million would become six hundred thousand. Indeed, the range of estimates is typical for scientific data, necessary when figures have been estimated and cannot be stated with certainty. In the physical and biological sciences, for example, estimates often include error bars to show the range of possible error variance, not unlike those social scientists use for polling data. In our example, the error variance is about 8.5 percent, or about half a million. Moreover, a convergence of evidence provides us with a high degree of certainty that the figure lies near six million.

One method used in compiling these estimates is the "addition" method, which arrives at the number of victims by counting the number killed through (1) general privation (starvation and disease), especially in the ghettos; (2) shooting, especially by the *Einsatzgruppen*; and (3) imprisonment in the camps, especially the extermination camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Majdanek, Belzec, and Treblinka. We have voluminous data on privation, as Jewish councils as well as the Germans themselves kept statistics for the purpose of rationing food and space. The RSHA kept detailed records of *Einsatzgruppen* actions, including the number of victims, and much of this material still exists. We also have many deportation lists for the camps, with rosters of names – lists that were sometimes compiled so the security police could be properly billed. Working from the other end, the "subtraction" method uses prewar demographics and subtracts emigrations, numbers remaining in the camps at liberation, and numbers remaining in areas after the war to estimate the number killed. The "recapitulation" method employs both the addition and the subtraction methods, cross-checking numbers and comparing figures.

They went on to refer to important Nazi documentation which helped considerably to corroborate their estimates and overall methodology, notably a 16-page report prepared by SS statistician Dr Richard Korherr for Heinrich Himmler, dated 23 March 1943. It was in effect a progress report on the Final Solution, and it showed that 2,790,000 Jews had been killed by that time. Given that the Final Solution ran for a further two years and was pursued with great vigor throughout the occupied territories, one would expect at least a similar, if not greater, death toll to accrue in the time remaining.



Dr Richard Korherr in 1978 (age 75)

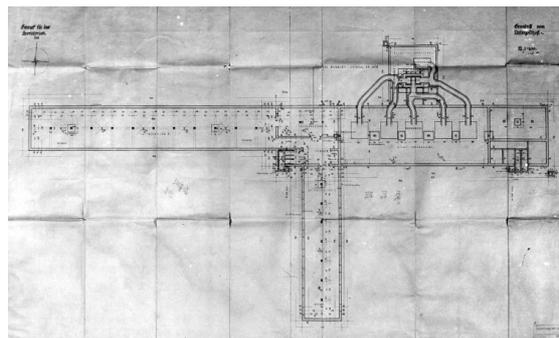
2. If the extermination camps were completely destroyed, what reason do we have for believing they ever existed?

Holocaust deniers make great capital of the fact that much of the infrastructure used by the SS to murder the Jews has been obliterated. They cynically pretend that the Nazis would have left such critical evidence intact. We know that even the most inept murderers will try to remove evidence that would connect them to the scene of the crime. The German high command did not want any traces of the camps at Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec, Chelmno or Majdanek to be found (though Birkenau survived). As we noted above, they even had the mass graves exhumed a year later and their human remains incinerated. SS soldiers blew up camp buildings and dismantled any incriminating apparatus. And before they left the camps the SS murdered all surviving members of the *Sonderkommando*.

Nevertheless, despite the thoroughness with which they tried to cover their tracks, a wealth of evidence still survived. This included architectural plans of some of the camps, reports by the small number who were fortunate to escape, extensive forensic data in and around the grounds of each camp, architectural remains, rail schedules, reports by local witnesses, confessions by some of the perpetrators, photographic evidence, and documents concealed by some of the *Sonderkommando*. Further evidence emerged at the Nurembourg trials, the trial of Eichmann in 1962, and later trials of death camp personnel. To this one can add the horrifying stock of human hair, which was shaved from the women just before they entered the gas chambers, and the enormous quantities of old shoes, spectacles, suitcases, articles of clothing and other artefacts plundered by the SS, evidence of which could still be found in some of the camps at the time they were liberated.

The most compelling evidence of all, however, is the staggering number of innocent people who were transported to a death camp and never returned. Most of the Jews who survived the war had lost their entire family and countless relatives and friends, in some cases the entire community.

The cynics sneer, 'But show us the gas chambers!' Their ignorance is matched only by their callous disregard for the evidence. A gas chamber is simply a room from which the victim is detained, unable to escape, and into which poisonous fumes are then pumped. Any room can serve that purpose. The SS did not even need Zyklon B cannisters. In some death camps they used old Russian tank engines. These could produce prodigious quantities of carbon monoxide, enough to fill a large room in less than half an hour and kill everyone inside. The Zyklon cannisters of prussic acid (which releases hydrogen cyanide) were used simply to cut the suffocation cycle to fifteen minutes or less. They also worked every time, while engines sometimes broke down, causing lengthy delays and disrupting the tight schedule that the camps were required to follow.



Original blueprint of the gas chamber and crematorium II at Birkenau

"Through the spyhole in the door one could see how those persons standing nearest the shafts fell dead immediately. Nearly a third of the victims died instantaneously. The others began to huddle together, scream and gasp for air. Soon however, the screams turned into a death rattle, and a few minutes later all were lying down. By the time twenty minutes at the most had passed, no one was moving". – death camp commandant Rudolph Höss.

3. Why did the Jewish leadership in the US do so little to help the European Jews?

The groundwork for the destruction of the European Jews had been laid years in advance. Public opinion was poisoned in two different ways, one aimed primarily at Protestants and the other at Catholics. During the 1920s, Henry Ford, one of the best known figures in the United States, published an antisemitic diatribe, *The International Jew*. It was distributed widely across America in the form of four booklets and pamphlets, all designed to denigrate Jews and portray them as a sinister threat to society.



33rd Degree Freemason Henry Ford (center).

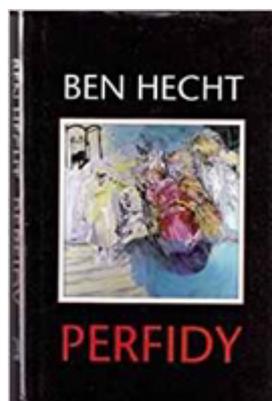
The second major propaganda program was organized by the Jesuits and broadcast over national radio. Charles Coughlan was born to Irish Catholic emigrants and ordained a Catholic priest in Toronto in 1916. He had a talent for rabble-rousing rhetoric and eventually found himself at the helm of a radio show that praised the alleged merits of fascism and denounced the scheming wiles of Jewry. His show ran through most of the 1930s and was probably as influential as Ford's *International Jew* in convincing the American public that Jews were tricksters who couldn't be trusted. His nasty antisemitic rants helped to drown out reports of Jewish persecution in Eastern Europe. When rumors of Nazi death camps began to filter across the Atlantic, the American public was not inclined to believe it. Ford and Coughlan had done a good job.



Roman Catholic priest Charles Coughlan

Coughlan, a Catholic priest, could have been taken off the air at any time by the Jesuits. Several senior Catholic figures in America pretended to be outraged by his vile rhetoric, but it was allowed to continue.

The Jews of America were also in a state of disarray. Many were first or second generation immigrants from Eastern Europe, struggling to eke out a living in a foreign land where they were not universally welcome. Only a small proportion were loyal to the Torah. The rest were members of Reform or Conservative congregations who tended on the whole to believe whatever they were told by their superiors. There was no national forum at that time in the US to give cohesion to Jewish opinion and concerns. Instead they were reliant on a small number of influential rabbis for leadership and direction, many of whom were disinclined to believe reports that would oblige them to take urgent action. In fact there is reason to believe that some highly influential Jewish leaders in America actively opposed any attempt to inform the Jewish community, or the American public in general, of the catastrophe (or *Shoah*) that was unfolding in Europe. In his excellent work, *Perfidy* [1961], Ben Hecht says that he and fellow Jews tried to place a full page ad in the *New York Times* and other papers in February 1943, describing a seemingly legitimate Nazi offer to allow 70,000 Jews to leave Rumania on payment of a \$50 ransom for each of them. Having obtained the advertising copy, the American Jewish Congress, under the leadership of rabbi Stephen Wise, refused to endorse it. The Jewish Agency in London supported this stance. As a result, the American public was denied an opportunity to consider either the existence and magnitude of the slaughter in Eastern Europe or the feasibility of intervening.



CONCLUSION

For those who genuinely want to learn about the Holocaust and its gruesome reality a vast quantity of information is available, both online and in the bookstores. For those who don't want to know and prefer instead to give credence to the allegations made by a small number of sceptics, well, that's their decision.

Born-again Christians need to give due consideration to all that the Word of God says about the Jews and their future roll in His plan. Alas, very few do. As a result they, too, are being increasingly seduced by the siren call of those who hate the Jews and want them restrained in some way by the international community.

We know from the book of Revelation, as well as countless other passages throughout the Word of God, that the Jews, as a nation, will be persecuted and vilified right to the end. The Enemy will use every trick and deception in his arsenal of lies to turn the nations of the world against them, to gather their armies together on the plane of Armageddon and destroy them completely. Be assured – the righteous remnant will survive and all their foes will be annihilated. Their Messiah, Christ Jesus, will perform this wonderful work:

**"For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant,
and they that escape out of mount Zion:
the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this."
– Isaiah 37:32**

**Jeremy James
Ireland
August 18, 2017**

For further information visit www.zephaniah.eu

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APPENDIX A

Number of Jews shot or rounded up for extermination by *Einsatzgrup 101*

Taken from the Appendix of Christopher Browning's 'Ordinary Men'
and presented below in summary form.

Killings		
Date	Locations	Estimated minimum number of Jews
July 1942	Jozefow	1,500
August 1942	Lomazy and Miedzyrzec	2,660
September 1942	Serokomla and Kock	400
October 1942	Parczew, Konskowola, and Miedzyrzec	1,350
November 1942	Lukow	290
Various times in 1942	Lublin district	1,300
November 1943	Majdanek	16,500
November 1943	Poniatowa	14,000
(a) TOTAL		38,000
Deported to Treblinka for Extermination		
Date	Locations	Estimated minimum number of Jews
August 1942	Parczew and Miedzyrzec	15,000
October 1942	Radzyn and Lukow	9,000
Oct-Nov 1942	Various locations in Miedzyrzec	15,200
November 1942	Lukow	3,000
May 1943	Miedzyrzec	3,000
(b) TOTAL		42,500
TOTAL (a) + (b)		80,500

Hitler vs. Stalin: Who Killed More?

Timothy Snyder

The New York Review of Books, March 10, 2011

- EXTRACTS -

Today, after two decades of access to Eastern European archives, and thanks to the work of German, Russian, Israeli, and other scholars, we can resolve the question of numbers. The total number of noncombatants killed by the Germans – about 11 million – is roughly what we had thought...

Until World War II, Stalin's regime was by far the more murderous of the two. Nazi Germany began to kill on the Soviet scale only after the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in the summer of 1939 and the joint German-Soviet invasion of Poland that September. About 200,000 Polish civilians were killed between 1939 and 1941, with each regime responsible for about half of those deaths. This figure includes about 50,000 Polish citizens shot by German security police and soldiers in the fall of 1939, the 21,892 Polish citizens shot by the Soviet NKVD in the Katyn massacres of spring 1940, and the 9,817 Polish citizens shot in June 1941 in a hasty NKVD operation after Hitler betrayed Stalin and Germany attacked the USSR. Under cover of the war and the occupation of Poland, the Nazi regime also killed the handicapped and others deemed unfit in a large-scale "euthanasia" program that accounts for 200,000 deaths. It was this policy that brought asphyxiation by carbon monoxide to the fore as a killing technique...

Hitler came to power with the intention of eliminating the Jews from Europe; the war in the east showed that this could be achieved by mass killing. Within weeks of the attack by Germany (and its Finnish, Romanian, Hungarian, Italian, and other allies) on the USSR, Germans, with local help, were exterminating entire Jewish communities. By December 1941, when it appears that Hitler communicated his wish that all Jews be murdered, perhaps a million Jews were already dead in the occupied Soviet Union. Most had been shot over pits, but thousands were asphyxiated in gas vans. From 1942, carbon monoxide was used at the death factories Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibór, and Treblinka to kill Polish and some other European Jews. As the Holocaust spread to the rest of occupied Europe, other Jews were gassed by hydrogen cyanide at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Overall, the Germans, with much local assistance, deliberately murdered about 5.4 million Jews, roughly 2.6 million by shooting and 2.8 million by gassing (about a million at Auschwitz, 780,863 at Treblinka, 434,508 at Belzec, about 180,000 at Sobibór, 150,000 at Chelmno, 59,000 at Majdanek, and many of the rest in gas vans in occupied Serbia and the occupied Soviet Union). A few hundred thousand more Jews died during deportations to ghettos or of hunger or disease in ghettos. Another 300,000 Jews were murdered by Germany's ally Romania. Most Holocaust victims had been Polish or Soviet citizens before the war (3.2 million and one million respectively). The Germans also killed more than a hundred thousand Roma.

All in all, the Germans deliberately killed about 11 million noncombatants, a figure that rises to more than 12 million if foreseeable deaths from deportation, hunger, and sentences in concentration camps are included. For the Soviets during the Stalin period, the analogous figures are approximately six million and nine million. These figures are of course subject to revision, but it is very unlikely that the consensus will change again as radically as it has since the opening of Eastern European archives in the 1990s. Since the Germans killed chiefly in lands that later fell behind the Iron Curtain, access to Eastern European sources has been almost as important to our new understanding of Nazi Germany as it has been to research on the Soviet Union itself. (The Nazi regime killed approximately 165,000 German Jews.)...

The Holocaust began when the Germans provoked pogroms in June and July 1941, in which some 24,000 Jews were killed, on territories in Poland annexed by the Soviets less than two years before. The Nazis planned to eliminate the Jews in any case, but the prior killings by the NKVD certainly made it easier for local gentiles to justify their own participation in such campaigns. As I have written in *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (2010), where all of the major Nazi and Soviet atrocities are discussed, we see, even during the German-Soviet war, episodes of belligerent complicity in which one side killed more because provoked or in some sense aided by the other. Germans took so many Soviet prisoners of war in part because Stalin ordered his generals not to retreat. The Germans shot so many civilians in part because Soviet partisans deliberately provoked reprisals. The Germans shot more than a hundred thousand civilians in Warsaw in 1944 after the Soviets urged the locals to rise up and then declined to help them.

source: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2011/03/10/hitler-vs-stalin-who-killed-more/>

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