

# Mendel Beilis and 21<sup>st</sup> Century East European Antisemitism:

*A New Incarnation of  
“Treacherous Jew Syndrome”*

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FAIRMONT GRAND HOTEL

# Important Clarification

Critiques of one set of policies of certain governments and elites are in no way a statement about the people of a country or about their government and elites in general!

## Links Between East European Antisemitism and Holocaust Narrative

- Efraim Zuroff (1992 / 2005)
- Erich Kulka (1993)
- Robert Wistrich (1993 / 2010)
- Randolph Braham (1994)
- Deborah Lipstadt (1994)
- Leonidas Donskis (2006)
- Clemens Heni (2009)
- Alvin Rosenfeld (2011)

# Evolution of Holocaust Denial to Holocaust Obfuscation

- Classic Denial (The Lipstadt-Irving Trial).
- The Emergence of the “New Denial” in Post-Soviet “Nationalist Eastern Europe”:
- Straight Denial neither possible nor necessary; replaced by: **Holocaust Obfuscation.**
- An “Eastern Agenda”: Anti-Russian, anti-Jewish, ultranationalist. ALSO: As a geo-political tool . . .

# “Red Equals Brown”

- Attempts to write the Holocaust out of history as unique event by:
  - (a) claiming Nazi and Soviet crimes to be equal in principle ('reconciliation of histories' etc in Eurospeak);
  - (b) finding fault with victims and survivors (Mendel Beilis Syndrome)
  - (c) glorifying local collaborators and perpetrators as anti-Soviet heroes and freedom fighters;
  - (d) spreading a revisionist narrative combined with genuine education and research in history.

# The Mechanisms

- (a) incorporating (often serious) Holocaust Studies into Red-Brown institutions (the three Baltic commissions, etc.)
  - (b) redefining “genocide” by law to encompass Soviet crimes
  - (c) refining antisemitic discourse into academic frameworks
  - (d) awarding medals, honors, junkets, grants to fellow-travelers
  - (e) criminalizing the Western view of World War II
- *and*

Giving “Double Genocide”  
its “Constitution” . . .

The Prague  
Declaration of 2008  
(has the word “same” five times...)

The first European parliamentarian  
to oppose “Double Genocide”:  
British MP JOHN MANN





Museums & Memorials in  
Eastern Europe to...  
THE COLLABORATORS



# Lonsky Street Museum in Lviv



Before photoshopping, photo showed first  
Jewish victims of Ukrainian pro-Nazis



In the Eastern  
EUROPEAN UNION

# Estonia: Lihula Monument



# Latvia: Bauska Monument



# Latvia: March 16<sup>th</sup> Waffen SS March in Central Riga *Gert Weisskirchen Protesting...*



# Lithuania: Conceptually Further...

- Public honors not only for partners in Hitler's military warfare against the Allies, but for **actual Holocaust collaborators and perpetrators** complicit in the genocide of Lithuanian Jewry in the period from 23 June 1941 onward:
- (a) LAF, white armbanders;
- The Provisional Nazi puppet government of 1941.



# Street Names for Collaborators



# Street Names for Perpetrators



# Street Names for 23 June 1941



# 2012 Reburial of 1941 Nazi Puppet Prime Minister





# Two Former Heads of State in Attendance...



# University Lecture Hall Name in Kaunas



Who then are  
the Mendel  
Beilises of  
Today?

Holocaust survivors  
from Lithuania accused  
by the state in the course  
of rewriting history. . .



- from 2006: Dr. Yitzhak Arad
- from 2008: Fania Brantsovsky and Dr. Rachel Margolis
- from 2011: Joseph Melamed
- from 2013: Prof. Pinchos Fridberg
- **“Eternal defamation” and its implications (in the absence of apologies).**

Dr. Rachel Margolis sends her greetings  
to this conference...



# June 2008: Legal ban on Nazi and Soviet symbols....

**LIVE L** BBC NEWS CHANNEL

Page last updated at 17:23 GMT, Tuesday, 17 June 2008 18:23 UK

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## Lithuanian ban on Soviet symbols

**Lithuania's parliament has passed the toughest restrictions anywhere in the former Soviet Union on the public display of Soviet and Nazi symbols.**

It will now be an offence in the Baltic state to display the images of Soviet and Nazi leaders.



Also in June 2010: Court's RE-legalization of just 'one' symbol . . .



## Also in 2010:

Passage of Europe's first two "red-brown criminalization of debate" laws: in Hungary and Lithuania.

# March 2013: Central Vilnius on Independence Day



Popular local forms of  
the revisionist far-right  
history...



# AČIŲ UŽ MŪSŲ PERGALE





Be Prepared for a  
Second Holocaust



**KAUNAS, 2013 M. VASARIO 16 D.**

*Jei tikėti antifašystų ir žydų veikėjų pasakomis*

Neo-Nazis' front banner: In 2013, the same 1941  
“hero” that the STATE reburied in 2012



# Juxtaposition:

State authorities and neo-Nazis  
honoring the same Holocaust  
perpetrator...

A new far right that poses as center-  
right?

Protesting the 2013 neo-Nazi march in Kaunas:

8 locals + 2 guys from Brooklyn



# Conclusions:

- (1) 21<sup>st</sup> Century East European antisemitism is resurrecting the Judeo-Bolshevik myth, in the sophisticated framework of Holocaust revisionism (“Double Genocide”): the new incarnation of the older libel.
- (2) An East European antisemitism that purports to be against only East European Jews. . .

# Responses to Date ...

- 1. Simon Wiesenthal Center (esp. Dr. **Efraim Zuroff**)
- 2. UK parliamentarians: **John Mann** MP (2008 response in UK Parliament to Tallinn conference); then MP **Denis MacShane**'s 2009 book; **Lord Janner**'s initiatives.
- 3. Holocaust survivors' groups
- 4. LOCAL people who speak up with courage (see *DefendingHistory* page on BOLD CITIZENS in Lithuania)
- 5. The Seventy Years Declaration (2012) co-authored by Prof. **Danny Ben-Moshe** (documentary film: "**Rewriting History**")
- 6. Websites:
  - [www.DefendingHistory.com](http://www.DefendingHistory.com)
  - [www.OperationLastChance.org](http://www.OperationLastChance.org)
  - [www.SeventyYearsDeclaration.org](http://www.SeventyYearsDeclaration.org)
  - [www.stop16MarchInRiga.blogspot.com](http://www.stop16MarchInRiga.blogspot.com)



The Seventy Years Declaration was signed by 70 EU parliamentarians, including eight valiant Lithuanian MPs and MEPs, led by Dr. Vytenis Andriukaitis



# The Future:

- **Understanding** the 21<sup>st</sup> century debate. Defending History against state-sponsored far-right revisionism, even when it “koshers” itself with Judaic, Yiddish or Holocaust related activities, and honors for foreign enablers.
- **Remembering** that monuments and events have a **different** meaning in the wider revisionist campaigns that “remember everyone equally” . . .



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING  
QUESTIONS WELCOME

Please visit

**[www.DefendingHistory.com](http://www.DefendingHistory.com)**

