
New Incarnations of Old Demons in Eastern Europe: The Prague Declaration, the Double Genocide theory and the Holocaust Obfuscation movement



PRESENTATION

at the

University of South Carolina (Columbia)

FRIDAY 25 MARCH 2011

by

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What is
“Double
Genocide” ?

Red = Brown

In broader terms....

Holocaust Denial



Holocaust Obfuscation

A state-supported movement that seeks to delete “the Holocaust as such” from European history

Baltic Holocaust

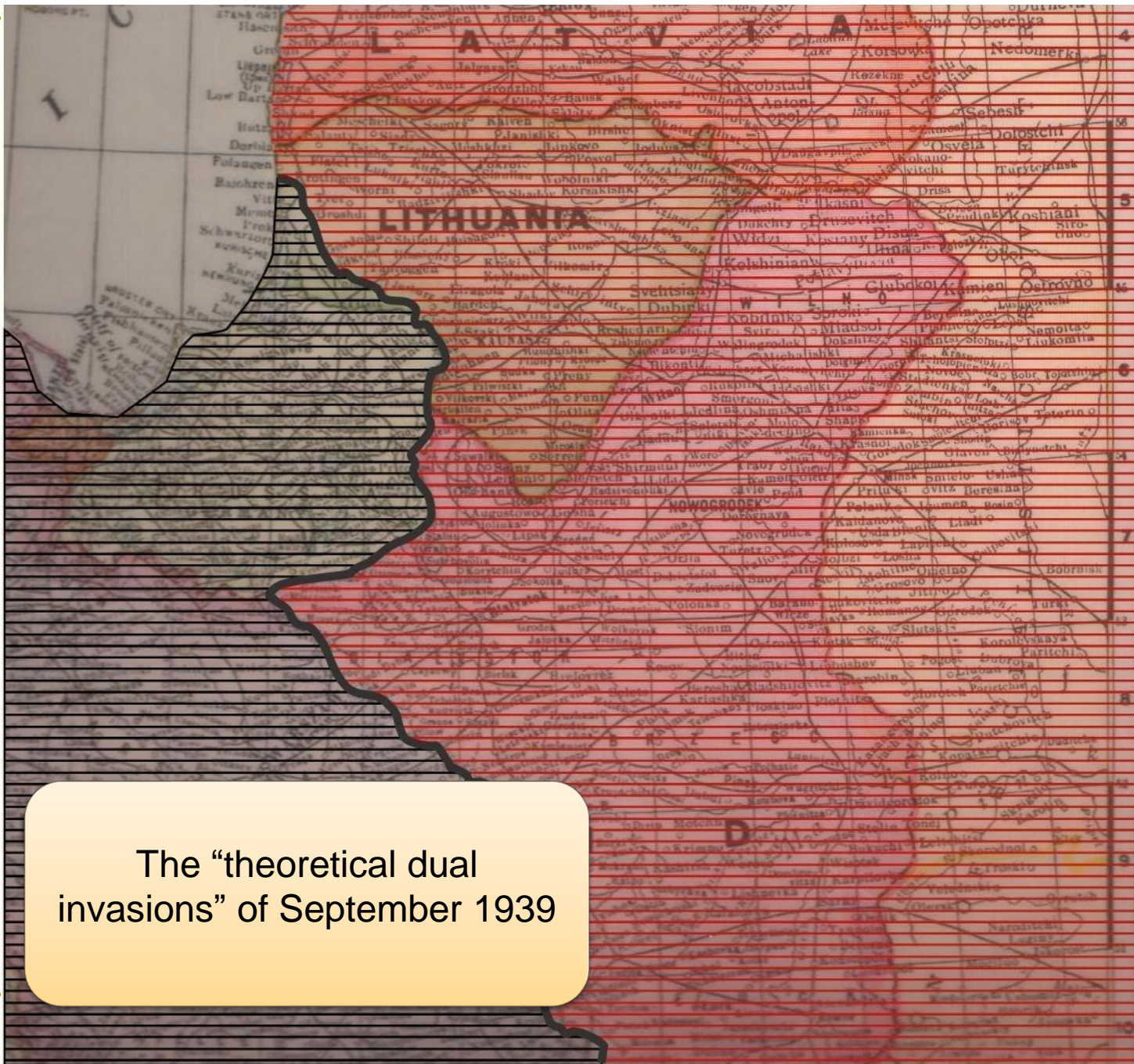
Percentages of Jewish citizens killed in the Baltic countries were the highest in Holocaust-era Europe



1920 – August 1939



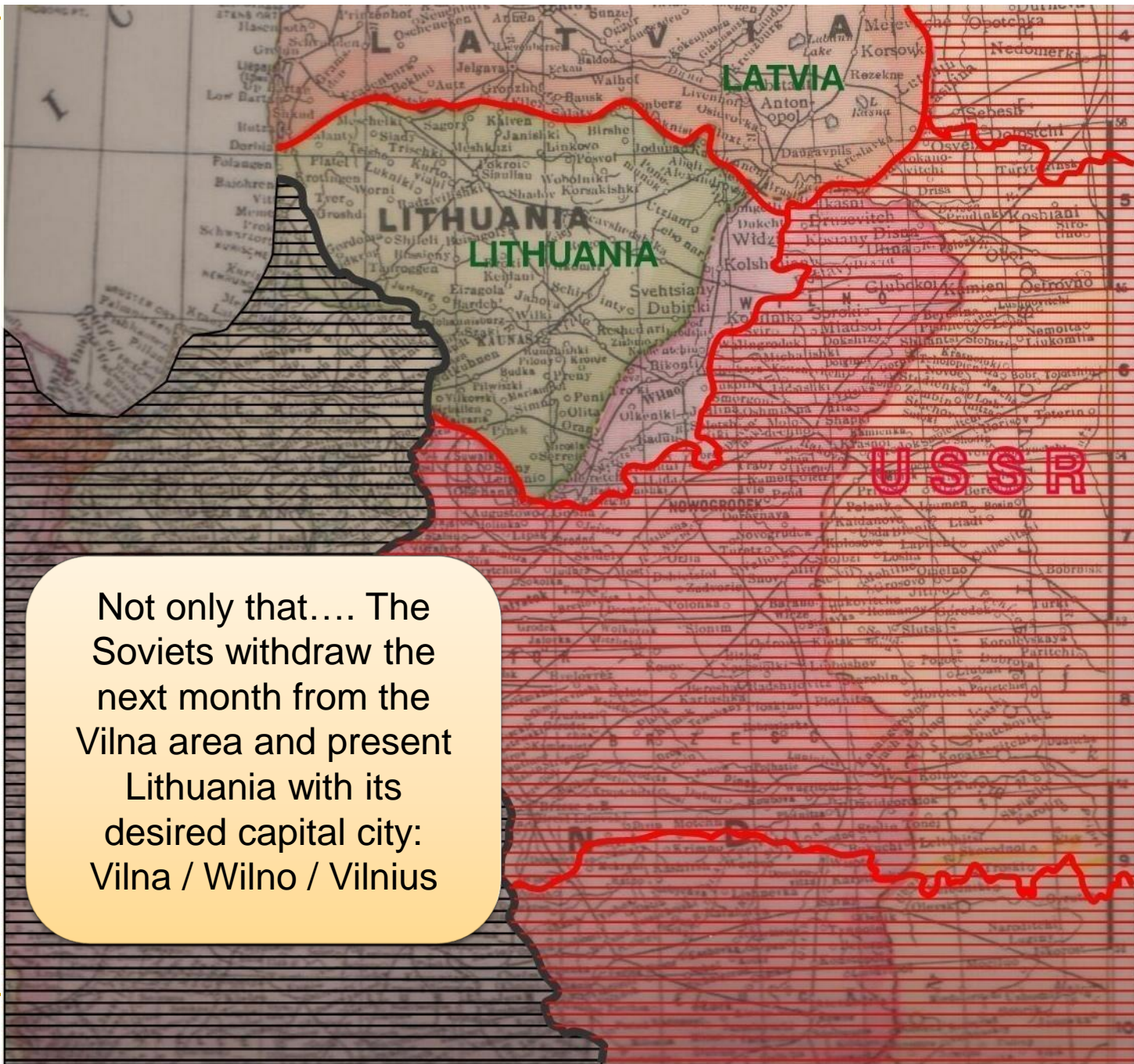
Northern section of the
Molotov-Ribbentrop Line
23 August 1939



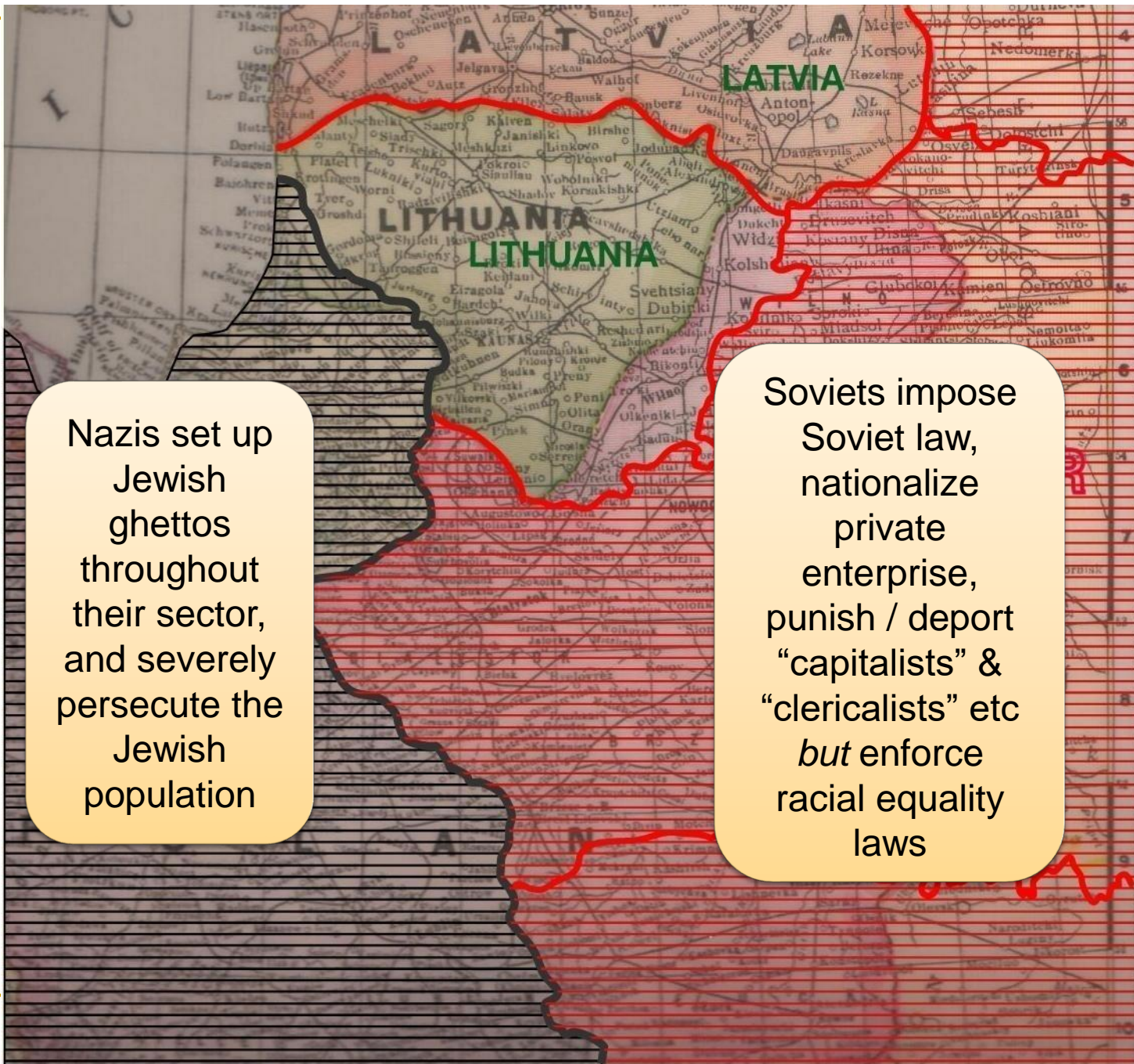
The “theoretical dual invasions” of September 1939



But the Soviet invasion stops at the borders of the three Baltic States

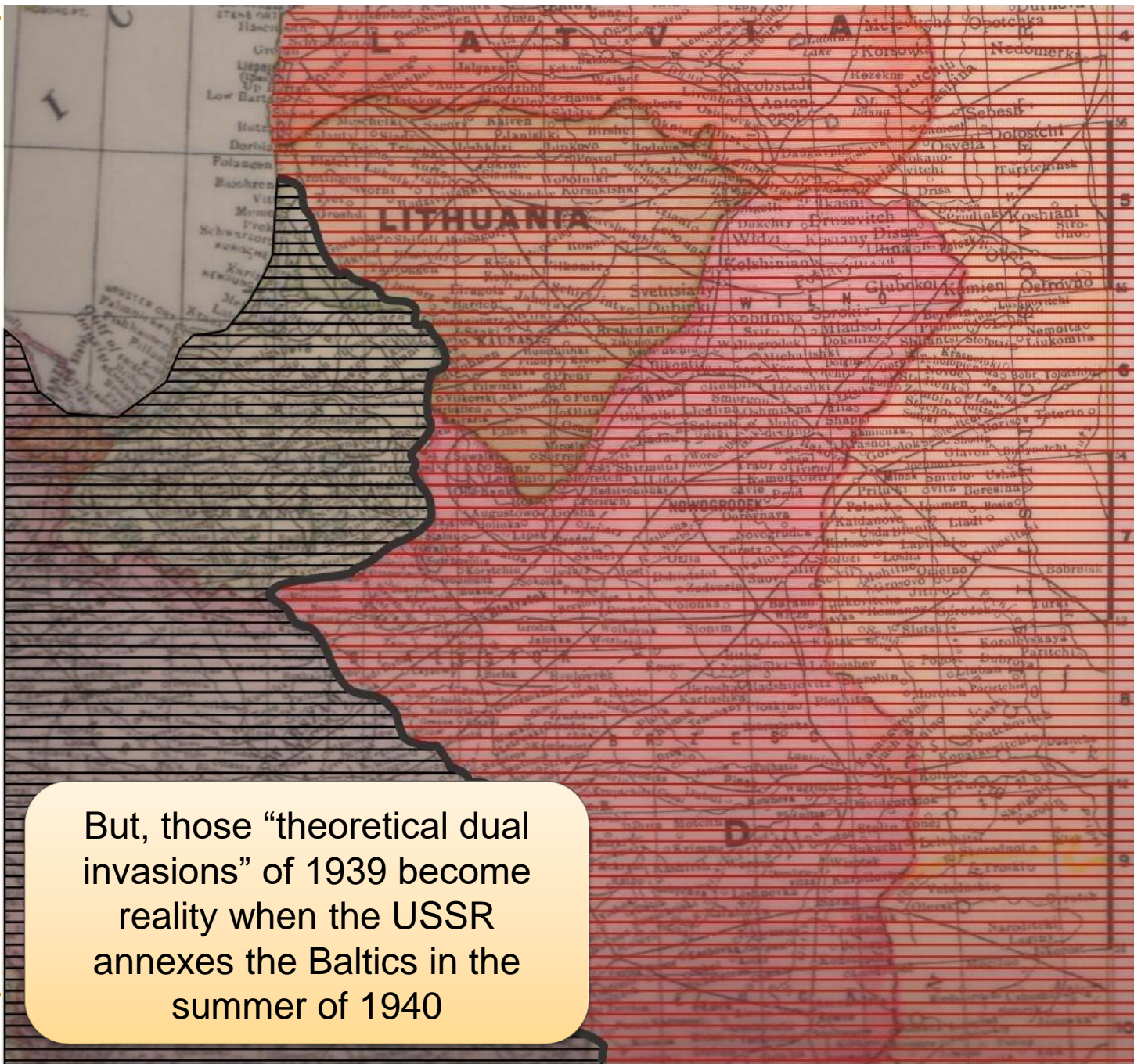


Not only that.... The Soviets withdraw the next month from the Vilna area and present Lithuania with its desired capital city: Vilna / Wilno / Vilnius



Nazis set up
Jewish
ghettos
throughout
their sector,
and severely
persecute the
Jewish
population

Soviets impose
Soviet law,
nationalize
private
enterprise,
punish / deport
“capitalists” &
“clericalists” etc
but enforce
racial equality
laws



But, those “theoretical dual invasions” of 1939 become reality when the USSR annexes the Baltics in the summer of 1940



The Nazis invade the Soviet sector on
22 June 1941 (“Barbarossa”)

Widespread murder of Jewish civilians
starts in Lithuania and Latvia even before
Nazi control is firmly established.

Current
Campaign in the
European Parliament
to “neutralize” the Holocaust
via the
Red=Brown Equation

From the founding principles of the “Common Europe – Common History” group in the European Parliament (23 Jan. 2008)

What is needed above all is an equal evaluation of the two large criminal regimes of the 20th century -- nazism and communism, he said.

Because of the lack of such an evaluation, millions of victims of totalitarian communism have been relegated to the category of second-rate victims, the Estonian MEP said. Even in the European Union the famous words “never again” are not ensured for victims of communism in the same fashion as they apply to those who suffered under nazism.

British MP John Mann reacted in the House of Commons (31 Jan 2008)

“On 22 January, in Tallinn, Estonia, five MEPs from five different countries met to launch a group called Common Europe—Common History. It has the same theme—the need for an equal evaluation of history. It is just a traditional form of prejudice, rewritten in a modern context. In essence, it is trying to equate communism and Judaism as one conspiracy and rewrite history from a nationalist point of view. Those are elected MEPs.”

From the “Prague Declaration”

(3 June 2008)

17. “Adjustment and overhaul of European history textbooks so that children could learn and be warned about Communism and its crimes in the same way as they have been taught to assess the Nazi crimes”

More from the “Prague Declaration”

- “believing that millions of victims of Communism and their families are entitled to enjoy justice, sympathy, understanding and recognition for their sufferings in the same way as the victims of Nazism have been morally and politically recognized”
- “recognition that many crimes committed in the name of Communism should be assessed [...] in the same way Nazi crimes were assessed by the Nuremberg Tribunal”

Proposed (de facto) replacement of Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January) with August 23rd (2 April 2009)

Parliament backs Totalitarian Remembrance Day

Published: Friday 3 April 2009

The European Parliament yesterday (2 April) formally called for 23 August to become a Europe-wide day of remembrance for victims of 20th-century Nazi and communist crimes.

Background:

Yesterday's adoption of the resolution marks the culmination of a process which began last June at an international conference on 'European Conscience and Communism' in Prague. Last November, 18 EU member states took part in a workshop setting out a framework for international cooperation on the "elucidation of the crimes of the totalitarian regimes that reigned in Europe".

2 Points inserted into the OSCE's “Vilnius Declaration” of 3 July 2009 (with the vote of the US!)

- Double Genocide language
 - Proposal for an *international* single Red-Brown memorial day (August 23rd)
-

Who is driving it, and why?

- Baltic state groups (with support from the nationalist right of *other* “new accession” EU members)

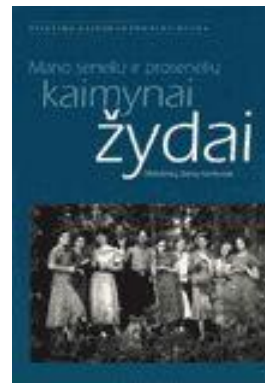
Groups from the states with...

- the worst Holocaust record (percentage of Jewish population killed; where “collaboration” meant killing (and rounding up) by locals; dismal post-Soviet war crimes prosecution record.
-

Popular local conceptions about the Holocaust from the war years onward

- “They were all NKVD [KGB]”
- “They were all disloyal”
- “1940 came before 1941”
- “Jewish Communists were the real mass murderers”

After independence & democracy: Sincere Lithuanian Attempts to commemorate the Holocaust including Linas Vildziunas and the “House of Memory”



The Auspicious Start...



But the state's establishment later turned against these efforts, and embraced populist prejudice...

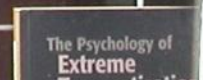
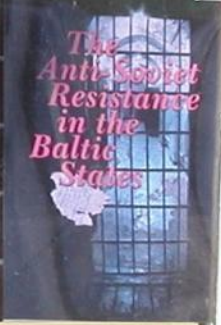
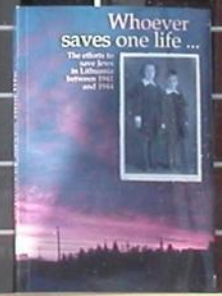
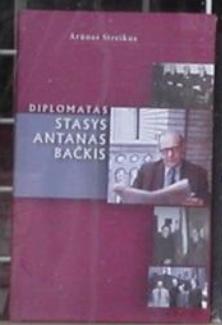
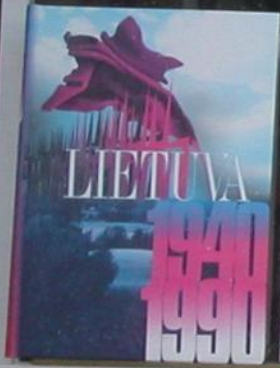
“They were indeed communists!”
(a “Blame the Victims” strategy)



The Double Genocide Theory *or*
“Equal Evaluation of Totalitarian Regimes”

The State Financed “Genocide Industry” in Lithuania

- Genocide and Resistance Research Centre
 - The Museum of Genocide Victims (former KGB building)
 - “Lenin Park” (Gruto Parkas, privatized)
 - “International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania”
-



The Museum of Genocide Victims

In this building, in 1940–1991, were housed the repressive institutions of the NKVD and KGB. Thousands of innocent people were martyred, and plans for mass deportations and arrests were drawn up here. Today, the names of KGB victims carved on the granite foundation stones record those terrors. It is now the Museum

of Genocide Victims. The late 19th century building was intended to be a court. The front and the interior are built in the Neoclassical style and contain many eclectic details. The plan is typical of the plans of state institutions in Saint Petersburg at that time. Now the building functions as the Lithuanian Court of Appeal.

FAMINE IS MORE HORRIBLE THAN WAR

When the Holodomor eyewitnesses, even those who survived the Nazi death camps, were asked what was more frightful – the famine or the war, they unanimously answered:

"Famine, famine. When there's a war, not all the people die, but famine kills everyone."

Maria Mamay
Eyewitness to the Holodomor
Luhansk region

"[In Auschwitz] we were given some spinach and a little bread... War is terrible, but famine is even worse."

Maria Khutorianska
Eyewitness to the Holodomor
Zhytomyr region

"It was a horrible time for all Ukraine. The Holodomor was more horrifying than the war."

Maria Marchenko
Eyewitness to the Holodomor
Cherkasy region

"... In 1933 general starvation began in Kovatykha village. Many private farmers starved to death; those who were still alive could barely walk... Entire families were dying, first of all men and children... Funeral carts gathered the dead and threw them into a wide pit. Sometimes survivors were too weak to bury the dead, so they covered them with earth in pits and ditches... Because of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 more than 400 persons died in Kovatykha village. By comparison, it should be said that 164 men did not return to their native village after World War II..."

H. Butkevych
Eyewitness to the Holodomor
Cherkasy region

© International Charities Fund, Ukraine 2020.

**"(In Auschwitz) we were given
some spinach and a little
bread... War is terrible, but
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Eyewitness to the Holodomor
Zhytomyr region



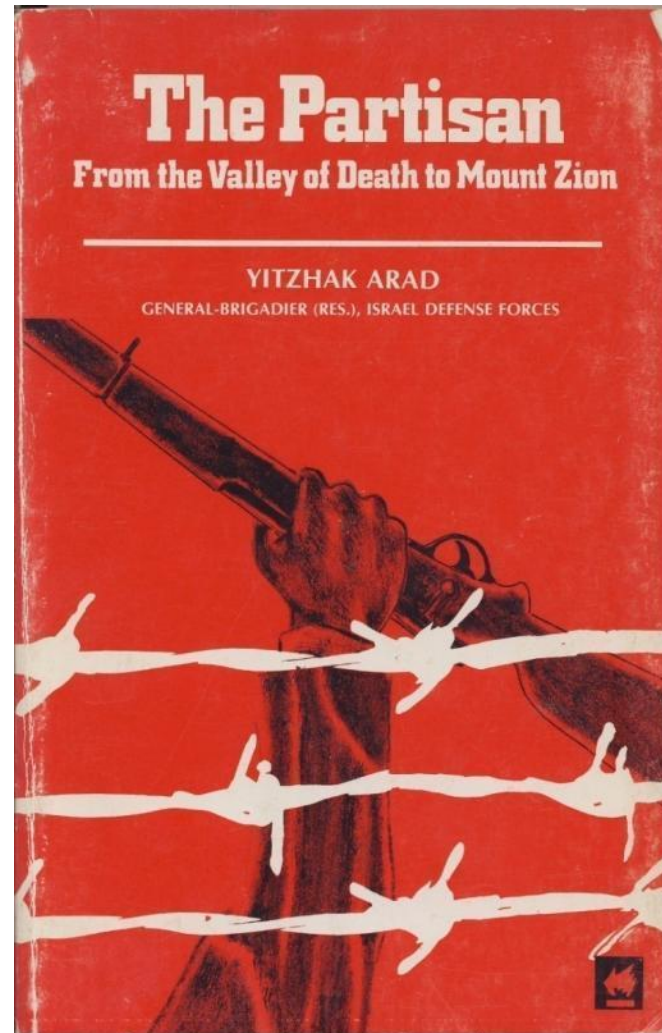


The State's "Red-Brown Commission"

- Sidelined the various Lithuanian initiatives (NGOs, individuals, educators) and "retooled" Holocaust Studies into a component of "(Equal) Genocide Studies"
- Attracted western and Jewish support, and membership of leading scholars, including:
Yitzhak Arad (Rudnitzky), founding chairman of Yad Vashem



-
- 22 April 2006: article in *Respublika*: “Expert with Blood on his Hands” in which the prosecutor is quoted....
 - June 2006: The prosecutor then announces his “war crimes” investigation based on the same misquoted passages from the 1979 English edition of Dr. Arad’s memoir...
-



Continuing their
“Arad Investigation”
Media & Prosecutors start
additional “investigations” of
anti-Nazi Jewish partisans (after this
is “recommended” in the press)

From *LIETUVOS AIDAS*, 29 Jan. 2008

O kodėl niekas neteisia Fanos Brancovskajos?
Panaršę po internetą, sužinosime, jog ji yra Buvusių
geto ir konclagerių kalinių sąjungos pirmininko pava-
duotoja, užsieniečiams veda ekskursijas po Vilnių ir
Panerius, dalyvavo tarptautiniame seminare "Švietimas
apie holokaustą Rytų Europos šalių mokyklose" ir kt.
Ponia R. Margolis taip pat galėtų būti apklausta kaip
svarbi liudininkė.

“And why does nobody put Fania Brantsovsky on trial? From the internet we learn that she is the vice-chairman of the Union of Former Ghetto and Concentration Camp Prisoners, she leads excursions around Vilnius and to Paneriai for foreigners, she participated in the international seminar ‘Education about the Holocaust for Schools in Eastern Europe’ etc. Ms. R. Margolis should be questioned as a material witness as well.”

Meet Fania Brantsovsky

- now librarian at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute and active in the Association of Holocaust Survivors
 - Born 1922, attended Yiddish schools; incarcerated in the Vilna Ghetto, 6 Sept. 1941 to 23 Sept. 1943
 - Escaped a few hours before liquidation, made it to an underground forest fort, Sept. 1943 to July 1944
-









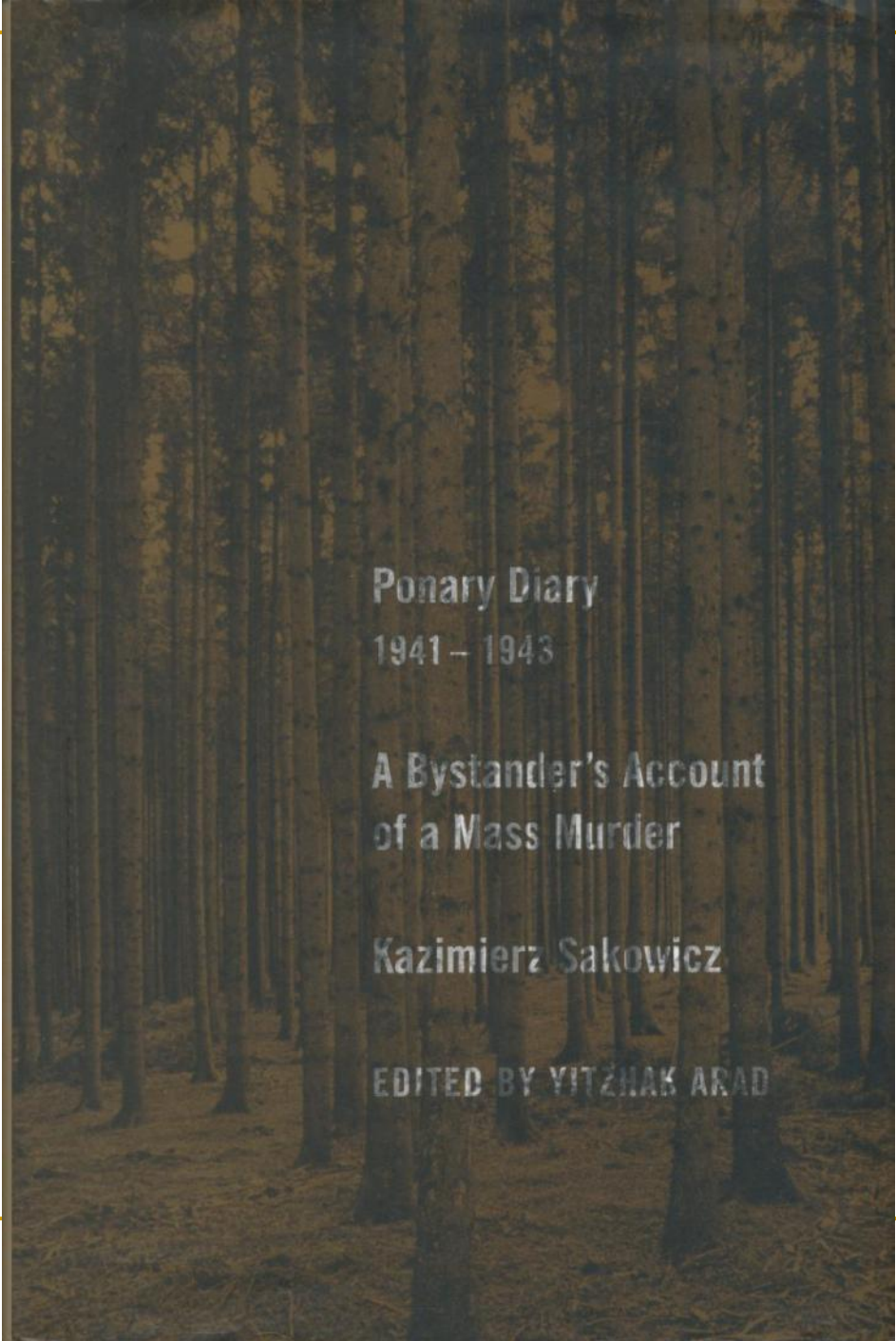
Meet Rokhl Margolis

- Now a resident of Rechovot; until 2007 she spent the summer months as Holocaust educator in Vilnius
 - Born in Vilna in 1921, incarcerated in the Vilna Ghetto, 1941 to 1943, escaped to join the partisans
 - Worked as biology professor at Vilnius University for 43 years; in late 1980s co-founded The Green House
-



Rokhl Margolis
rediscovered & transcribed
the lost diary of Ponar
kept by the Christian Polish
journalist
Kazimierz Sakowicz





Ponary Diary

1941 - 1943

A Bystander's Account
of a Mass Murder

Kazimierz Sakowicz

EDITED BY YITZHAK ARAD

At the same time...

- A major new outbreak of antisemitism. Largely unchallenged by the state, or intellectuals, or local specialists in Jewish projects.
-

On 11 March 2008,
200 Neo-Nazis marched the length
of Vilnius's main boulevard,
escorted by police who did
nothing. Chants included 'Juden
raus' and 'Take a stick
and kill that little Jew'





Western embassies react...

On 30 April 2008, the
American Embassy in Vilnius
awarded Fania Brantsovsky a
Certificate of Merit

The first occasion since Soviet times that. . .



On 5 May 2008, two armed plainclothes police from the prosecutor's office came looking for Rokhl Margolis and Fania Brantsovsky

28 May 2008

Prosecutor general's office issues a statement explaining that prosecutors are “searching for” Fania Brantsovsky and Rokhl Margolis but “cannot find them.” The media calls them “fugitives”...

3 June 2008:
Irish
ambassador's
reception
in honor of Fania
Brantsovsky



June 2008: Prof. Sara Ginaite added to the list of suspects



RESISTANCE AND SURVIVAL


THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN KAUNAS
1941-1944



SARA GINAITE-RUBINSON

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.



LITHUANIA

THE BALTIC TIMES
JUNE 19 - JULY 2, 2008

Adamkus forgives Germany for Nazi occupation

✦ By Adam Mullett, VILNIUS

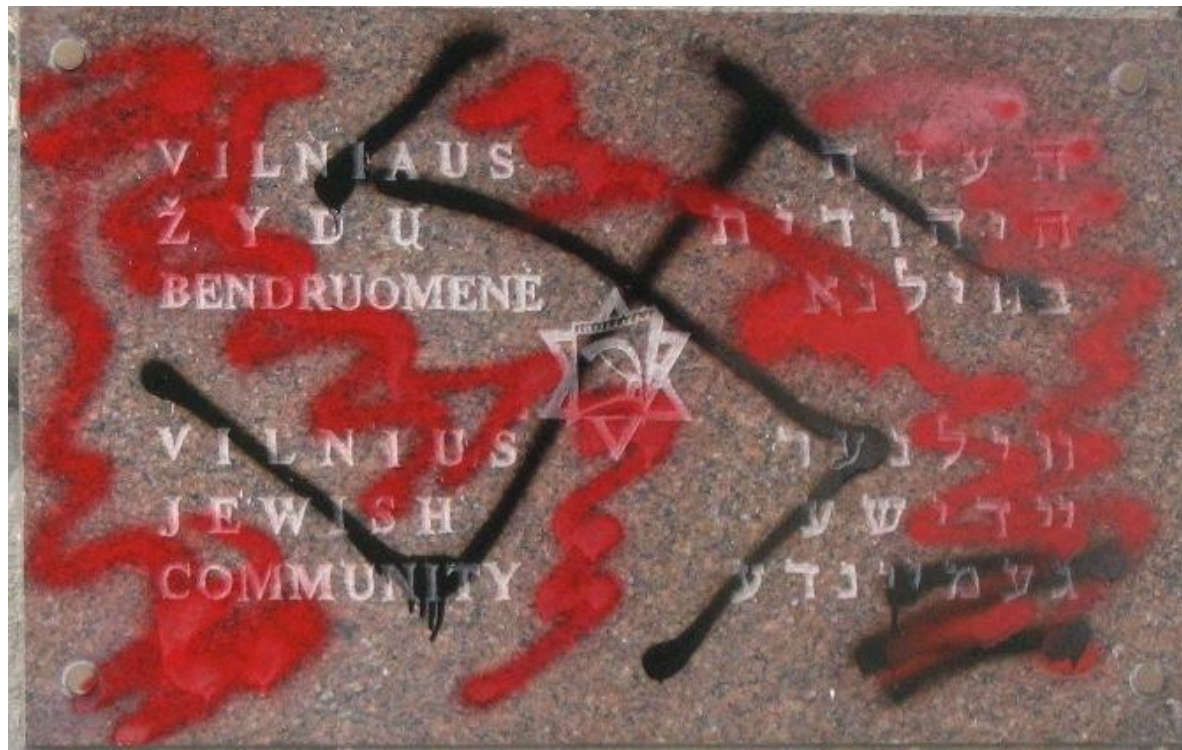
Russia Not Forgiven

Lithuania is, however, still seeking compensation from Russia

tion. It seems that new generations [of Russians] will have to grow up who are able to evaluate this

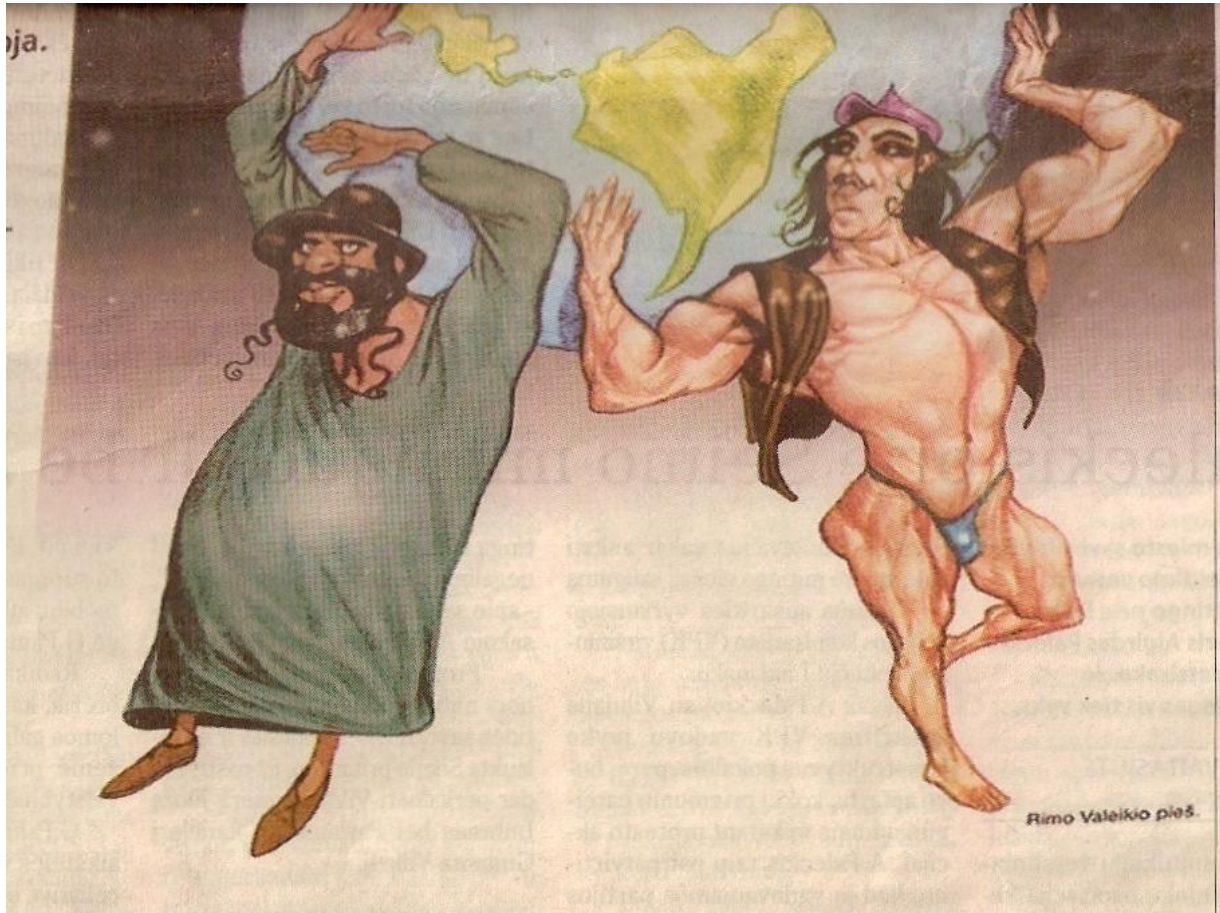
shattered lives and families lost, is not that important - it is crucial that occupation crimes be con-

August 2008



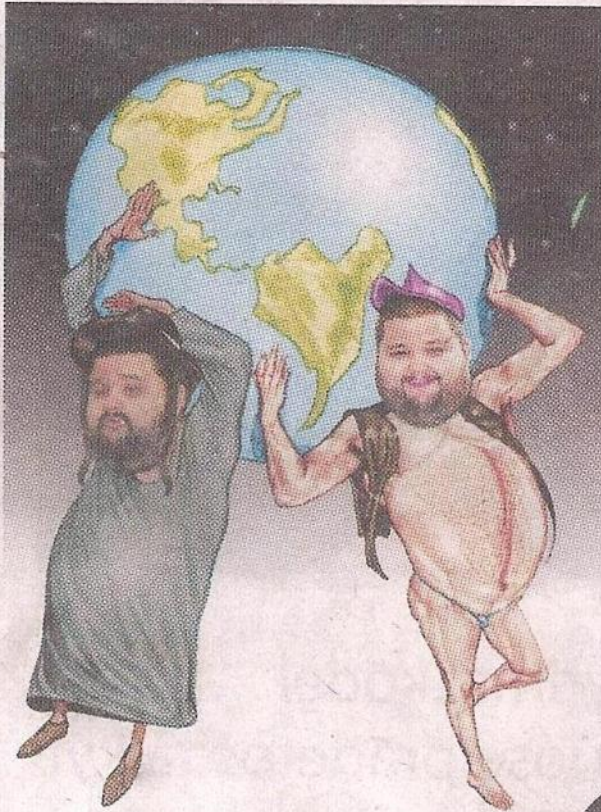


Respublika, 30 January 2009



Žinios, 21 March 2009

Ką reiškia "gėjų manifestas"?!



arba Retoriniai Vito Tomkaus klausimai Andriui Navickui, kuris garsiajame savo skunde Lietuvos žurnalistų ir leidėjų etikos komisijai raštiškai prisipažino, kad jam "garbė šiandien būti žydu ir gėju"

6-7 p.

Respublika, 28 March 2009



New law proposed by ruling party in parliament

(9 June 2009)

Suggested imprisonment up to 3 years for denying Communist and Nazi crimes

By Eglė Digrytė, www.DELFI.lt
9 June 2009

People, who are in public propagating, denying, belittling or justifying the crimes that were carried out by the Communist and Nazi regimes, libelling the Lithuanian partisans, in the future may be imprisoned up to 3 years. According to the initiators of a certain amendment to the Penal Code, this would allow avoiding distortion of historical facts and guaranteeing an appropriate evaluation of the damages afflicted by the crimes of totalitarian regimes.

Žinios

(10 June 2009)



Leivick House, Tel Aviv, (19 June 2009)



Žinios

(14 July 2009)



Lithuanian Court Permits Swastikas

(19 May 2010)



A new law is passed in Hungary.

(9 June 2010)

Law against denial of Communist and Nazi genocide enacted on a basis equal to previously enacted law concerning denial of the Holocaust.

The news spread like wildfire in Lithuania, and....

A new law is passed in Lithuania.

(15 June, in force by 29 June 2010)

Up to 2 Years in Prison for:

“trivialisation of international crimes, crimes committed by the USSR and Nazi Germany to the detriment of the Republic of Lithuania and its inhabitants.”

68 MPs voted for the amendments, 5 were against, and 32 abstained.

Letter from 7 European Ambassadors on 25 November 2010

- “Spurious attempts are made to equate the uniquely evil genocide of the Jews with Soviet crimes against Lithuania, which, though great in magnitude, cannot be regarded as equivalent in either their intention or result.”

(Excerpt from a letter to the president of Lithuania from the ambassadors of Britain, Estonia, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden)

6 March 2011 (Uzgavenes Festival):



11 March 2011: 1000 neo-Nazi marchers on
Vilnius's main boulevard (+ MP, etc...)





Also, last prewar synagogue defaced
on Independence Day (11 March)



16 March 2011: Waffen SS March in Riga (c. 3000 participants)



Meet some of my dear
friends in Vilnius today







In Rechovot: Rachel Margolis is still unable to return to Lithuania. She asked this week that warmest regards be sent to each of you here in Columbia, South Carolina!

AND:

that people please visit her when in Israel!

THE INDEPENDENT

Women of courage series:

Rachel Margolis

- Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown continues his series on women of courage with the story of Jewish resistance hero Rachel Margolis

(in the *Independent*, 9 March 2011)

Greetings from Rechovot!



But what is the larger
trend in the region?

Holocaust

Obfuscation

Elements of the plan by a
powerful group to
delete the Holocaust (and East
European complicity) from
European History

1

Don't deny a single
death

2

Redefine “genocide”
legally...

3

Raise most or all Soviet
wrongs to the level of
“genocide” as now
redefined...

4

Explain *locally* that the
“Soviet genocide” was
the real one, and...

5

Stress the alleged
Jewish participants in
Soviet wrongs.

6

Characterize local
Holocaust murderers as
“anti-Soviet heroes”

7

Delegitimize efforts to bring Nazi war criminals to justice as “a Jewish conspiracy”

(keyword: *Zurofas*; the campaign of defamation against the Wiesenthal Center and Dr Efraim Zuroff; see his website: www.OperationLastChance.org)

8

Stress and “criminalize” the
Jewish component in the
Soviet anti-Nazi partisan
movement

9

Invest handsomely in Jewish and
“Yiddish” projects to establish a
“good Jewish record” . . .

10

Show compliance foreign
Jewish personalities with
honor, junkets, grants...

11

Compensate with “the
base” by letting *local*
antisemitism run
rampant

12

Continually relate Holocaust
issues to the “New Cold War”
and issues with today’s
Russia

13

Disseminate locally a
particular variety of post-
Holocaust antisemitism....

14

Marginalize the bold
Lithuanian intellectuals
who disagree with the
state version

15

Persuade the European Parliament (citing “Jewish consent”) to replace the Holocaust with a history of “two equal evils”

16

Manipulate Jewish
Restitution issues (via
‘fake communities’) to
keep intra-Jewish conflict
going. . .

17

Rubbish the anti-Nazi war
effort of the Allies . . .

Recommendations

- Honor the victims of Communism and expose the evils of Communism as *unique* issues
 - Ask elected representative to speak up against the Double Genocide Resolutions in Europe & against the defamation of Holocaust Survivors
 - Warn Western foundations that unwittingly support Holocaust Obfuscation; support *sincere* non-governmental efforts
 - create an online Holocaust Studies *library* covering a maximal geographic grid
-

Jewish Lithuania Program in Vilnius

Summer 2011

31 July – 13 August



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION
WELCOME
