

WRITING THE HOLOCAUST OUT OF HISTORY?

Webinar by
Dovid Katz

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at the
JEWISH HOLOCAUST CENTER

Melbourne, Australia

Wednesday 9 Dec. 2020

Two Concepts of The Holocaust:

1. Sum total of people indeed killed for having been born Jewish by Hitler's forces and collaborators during World War II
2. The historic concept of a unique genocide during World War II that is conceptually and empirically distinct from other momentous (and numerically larger) mass murders, and morally and ethically not of the same category

**20TH CENTURY
HOLOCAUST DENIAL
WAS ABOUT
DEFINITION 1.**

SYMBOLIC CLOSE OF THE CLASSICAL HOLOCAUST DENIAL PERIOD

**Mr Justice Charles Gray's 349 page verdict in
April 2000 in the libel suit brought by David
Irving against historian Deborah Lipstadt**

Tracing the Origins of the 21st Century Incarnations that are Concerned with Definition 2:

(1) Collapse of the USSR

(2) Rise of new EU/NATO states

(3) Russia's moves toward dictatorship, revanchism, regional mischief ("need" to retell WWII history for weaponization against today's autocratic RF)

(4) (Ultra-)nationalism: Efforts to "fix the history" by governments and elites of countries where. . .

(1) where there was massive “directly lethal” collaboration including locally carried out mass violence (also) before German forces’ arrival in 1941

(2) where Nazi forces were overwhelmingly welcomed as generous liberators in 1941, and continue to some extent to be so regarded to this day in elites’ historiography

(3) where current elites (in gov, academia, media, etc) are building the formal national narrative to glorify Holocaust collaborators and perpetrators (“who were also anti-Soviet heroes”) as part of constructing a heroic narrative of anti-Soviet glory. The facts (abject surrender in 1939/1940, mass murder of Jewish neighbours in 1941) are a big problem for the new narratives...

21ST CENTURY INCARNATION:

NEGATIONISM
DOWNGRADE
DISTORTION
OBFUSCATION



SYMMETRY



“DOUBLE GENOCIDE”

IN EUROSPEAK:

“EQUAL EVALUATION OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMES”

MAJOR PROPONENTS OF THE STANDARD NEW
HOLOCAUST REVISIONISM COMING FROM
EASTERN EUROPE:

The Baltics (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia)

Ukraine (/western Ukraine)

Romania

Croatia

With variations: Hungary

LITHUANIA AND THE HOLOCAUST

1. 96% of Lithuanian Jewry annihilated in the Holocaust
2. After: arguably the best record of tolerance in Eastern Europe for 600 years (+ huge Jewish cultural achievements), including a *relatively* fine interwar record
3. Humiliation, plunder, injury and murder by local nationalists before first German arrivals; extraordinary voluntary carrying out of most killings under German authority.
4. After collapse of the USSR: In the vanguard of “fixing the history” . . .

30 YEARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE

1. Project to “fix” the Holocaust while glorifying prewar Litvak culture and embedding revisionism in Jewish remembrance per se. Cf. “named years” 2018, 2020 and 2021.
2. In the vanguard of a strategy to promote and fine-tune “Double Genocide”
3. Right-wing party has long-term Jewish member of parliament who deeply loves Litvak culture.
4. Taking the lead in “export” of revisionism

**CAMPAIGN IN THE
EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT
TO “EQUALIZE”
NAZISM AND
COMMUNISM**

**FROM THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE
“COMMON EUROPE – COMMON HISTORY” GROUP
IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
(23 JANUARY 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.

**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".

**WHAT DOES A
“DOUBLE GENOCIDE
MUSEUM” LOOK LIKE?**





Lietuvos gyventojų **netektys** okupacijų metais

Losses
during the occupation

Sovietų okupacijos metais

During the Soviet occupation

1940 06 15–1941 06 22; 1944–1990

Suimta, įkalinta, tardyta Arrested, interrogated, imprisoned	~ 200 000
Ištremta Deported	~ 132 000
Lageriuose ir kalėjimuose žuvo Prisoners who died	~ 20 000–25 000
Tremtyje žuvo Died in deportation	~ 28 000
Žuvo partizanų ir jų rėmėjų Partisans and their supporters killed	~ 21 500

Nacių Vokietijos okupacijos metais

During the Nazi German occupation

1941 06 22–1944 07

Įkalinta, išvežta į koncentracijos stovyklas Imprisoned and deported to concentration camps	~ 29 500
Nužudyta (iš jų – apie 200 tūkst. žydų) Killed (including about 200,000 Jews)	~ 240 000
Išvežta priverstiniam darbams į Vokietiją Deported to Germany for forced labour	~ 60 000

**"(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**

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

© International Christian Fund - Ukraine 2005



"... In 1933 general starvation began in Kovalykh 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 Kovalykh 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

COROLLARY I OF THE DOUBLE GENOCIDE MOVEMENT

Legal Redefinition of Genocide

Lithuania 1992

Estonia 1994

Latvia 1998

COROLLARY II OF THE DOUBLE GENOCIDE MOVEMENT

The Sanitization and/or Glorification of
Local Holocaust Collaborators as
“Anti-Soviet Heroes”

LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT'S 2012 REBURIAL WITH FULL HONOURS



16 FEBRUARY 2016 INDEPENDENCE DAY “NATIONALIST” MARCH IN KAUNAS



MULTIFARIOUS MOTIVATIONS

- (1) Nationalism and the desire for an unblemished history...
- (2) Nationalism and the desire for homogeneous ethnic nationhood...
- (3) Racism and antisemitism...
- (4) The New Cold War

POPULAR EAST EUROPEAN STEREOTYPES ABOUT HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

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

RELEVANCE TO THE NEW COLD WAR

- Russian mischief among its neighbours
- Fear of a resurgent, aggressive “re-Sovietizing” Putinist Russia
- *History* as a “weapon to counter Russia” . . .
 - to expose the extent of Stalinist/Communist crimes
 - to demand apologies and reparations
 - to warn of the danger of a renewed Soviet-type Putinist Russia
 - to dispute Russia’s and the West’s World War II narrative (/legacy)
 - to persuade Europe to formally equalize Nazism and Communism
 - to diminish/delete the stain of nationalists’ collaboration with Nazism
 - to just “strike out at the Russians” with another weapon
 - to blur the distinction between the (new) far right and the center-right

**BUT THE STATE'S ESTABLISHMENT
“EXPLAINS IT AWAY”
BY SALVAGING AND “INTELLECTUALIZING” THE
POPULAR VERSIONS**



**THE DOUBLE GENOCIDE THEORY *OR*
THE HISTORY OF TWO EQUAL TOTALITARIAN
REGIMES**

THE STATE FINANCED 'GENOCIDE INDUSTRY' IN LITHUANIA

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

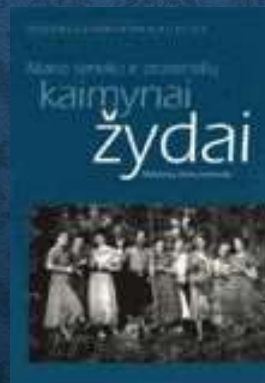
RAPOLAS ČARNAS (1900-1926)

R. Čarnas was born in Kaunas. Nationality - Jewish. In 1921 according to the resolution of Central Bureau of All-union Leninist Communist League of Youth of Lithuania he was sent to study at the Party school in Moscow. Educated for the anti-state work abroad, he came back to Lithuania in May, 1922. He was a treasurer of CC of All-union Leninist Communist League of Youth of Lithuania. Since February 1924 to June 1926 he was imprisoned for the activities in illegal organization financed by another state. He was shot dead under the decision of December 27, 1926 of Court – martial.

STEPPING BACK TO THE 1990S: “WE” TOO PLAYED A ROLE

- pressuring these states to deal with the Holocaust prior to EU and NATO accession, coupled with...
- proceeding to effectively abandon the bold non-Jewish truth-tellers in favor of the state-sponsored institutions and their campaign for the “equality of evils” interpretation of history. “Western naiveté vs. Soviet-style cunning”...

**AFTER INDEPENDENCE & DEMOCRACY:
SINCERE LITHUANIAN ATTEMPTS TO
COMMEMORATE THE HOLOCAUST INCLUDING
LINAS VILDZIUNAS AND THE “HOUSE OF MEMORY”**



Historian
Liudas Truska



THE BALTICS' RESPONSE?

THREE STATE-SPONSORED COMMISSIONS ON NAZI *AND*
SOVIET CRIMES

(“The Red-Brown Commissions”)

THE “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, Jewish organization leaders, politicians and others...
- Result? Holocaust Studies per se is enlisted to help the far-right revisionism

COROLLARY III OF THE DOUBLE GENOCIDE MOVEMENT

“The Jews who participated in the Soviet-sponsored partisan resistance against the Nazis were equally war criminals. The partisans did not observe the Geneva Conventions in the forest.”

- 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...

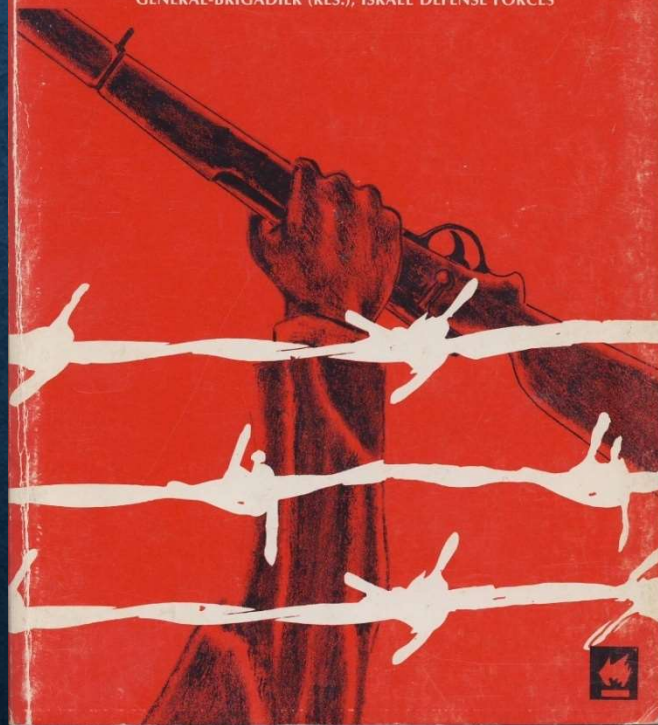


The Partisan

From the Valley of Death to Mount Zion

YITZHAK ARAD

GENERAL-BRIGADIER (RES.), ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES



**CONTINUING THEIR 2006
“ARAD INVESTIGATION”
MEDIA & PROSECUTORS START IN
2008 ON *ADDITIONAL*
“INVESTIGATIONS” OF
ANTI-NAZI JEWISH PARTISANS
(AFTER THIS IS “DEMANDED” IN THE
PRESS)**

MEET FANIA BRANTSOVSKY

- Long-time librarian at the recently closed-down 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

- 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
- Moved to Israel and until 2007 she spent the summer months as Holocaust educator in Vilnius; died 2015 in Rehovot



**ROKHL MARGOLIS
REDISCOVERED & TRANSCRIBED
THE LOST DIARY OF PONÁR
KEPT BY
THE CHRISTIAN POLISH
JOURNALIST
KAZIMIERZ SAKOWICZ**

**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'...**

COROLLARY IV:

LEGISLATING AN EXCEPTION TO FREE SPEECH CRIMINALIZATION OF DISSENT TO “DOUBLE GENOCIDE” (IN THE BALTICS – WITHOUT WESTERN CRITICISM)

1. Hungary 2010 (three years max)
2. Lithuania 2010 (two years max)
3. Estonia 2012 (unclear)
4. Latvia 2014 (five years max)
5. Ukraine 2015 (ten years max)

JOE MELAMED (2011)



**RACHEL KOSTANIAN, STALWART
DEFENDER OF HOLOCAUST TRUTH**



EARLY RESPONSES

**IRISH AMBASSADOR DONAL DENHAM HOSTS BANQUET
TO HONOUR FANIA
(JUNE 2008)**



LEIVICK HOUSE, TEL AVIV, 19 JUNE 2009



**MEANTIME, THE DOUBLE
GENOCIDE BANDWAGON
MOVES ON**

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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-

2009: BIG YEAR FOR “DOUBLE GENOCIDE”

1. European Parliament votes on one Prague Declaration proposal.
2. Canada and US sign the OSCE “Vilnius Declaration”.
3. Change in Western geopolitical policy...

MAJOR LOCAL TOOLS

Defamation

(Soviet in method, nationalist in content)

and

Disemployment

EVALDAS BALČIŪNAS



FURTHER RESPONSES

DEFENDING HISTORY

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Antanas Zubrys and Dr. Matilda Zubrienė are Defending History's Persons of the Year (2020)

FILM & VIDEO

*

"Rewriting History"
Documentary now
available free online

*

But what does "Double
Genocide" sound like?

THE LATEST

"The Power of the Ancient Hebrew Letters"

Arkady Kurlandchik and Dr. Andrius Kulikauskas lead a group in

22240493

“THE BATTLE OF THE DECLARATIONS”

THE SEVENTY YEARS DECLARATION (SYD)

20 January 2012

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PROF.
DANNY BEN-MOSHE...**

**The 70 Years
Declaration**

SYD PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MARCH 2012)





THE GEOSTRATEGIC CHALLENGE THAT BLOCKS WESTERN CRITICISM:

“Something *really* important to your vital ally is
going to be important to you too...”

I: THE US AND ITS CLOSEST ALLIES IN NATO

“These guys are the only ones in all of Europe who will stand up to Putin, and if all they want is some old history stuff adjusted for our new realities...”

II: ISRAEL

“*We need* those votes in the EU, the UN, UNESCO, NATO, and all they wanted from us is to keep our mouths shut about their shenanigans on ancient history ...”

III: USEFUL JEWISH BIGWIGS

1. Honours, junkets, medals
2. Grants. research funding
3. Organizational “sale of Holocaust history”
4. EU citizenship “the fast way”

RECENT COUNTER INITIATIVES

1. Grant Gochin's case re Noreika (+ N 's granddaughter Silvia Foti) from 2018
2. Publication (/posting) of 121 testimonies in English in 2020 (Koniuchowsky collection)
3. Ruta Vanagaite and Efraim Zuroff's book in multiple languages.

ISSUES IN LITHUANIA ON THE EVE OF 2021

- Lithuanian parliament names 2021 for an activist in the 1941 LAF alleged to have committed atrocities in Kaunas.
- Saga of the “Noreika plaque” in Vilnius
- Fate of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Vilna (*also a Holocaust issue*).

ISSUES IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE EVE OF 2021

Backsliding on Double Genocide nearly a decade after the
Seventy Years Declaration:

- (1) Declarations that “slip in” double genocide (Sept. 2019
Declaration on “European Remembrance”, point no. 3)
- (2) ECHR’s shameful adoption of DG thinking for deciding
actual cases.

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS GETS INVOLVED

Backdrop: Vasiliauskas vs. Lithuania
(Oct. 2015): 9-8 (Grand Chamber)
ruling against finding defendant guilty
of “genocide” for killing two members
of the postwar “Forest Brothers”
militia...

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BECOMES A *NÓKSHLEPER*

Follow-up:

Drėlingas vs. Lithuania (March 2019).

Militiaman killed by the accused former KGB agent was an alleged Holocaust collaborator (confirmed in 2019 by Town Council of New Britain, Conn, USA). ECHR GC upholds Lithuanian courts' decisions (5-2). . . *This is now officially 'genocide' in Europe.*

KAUNAS DESIGNATED “CAPITAL OF EUROPEAN CULTURE” FOR 2022

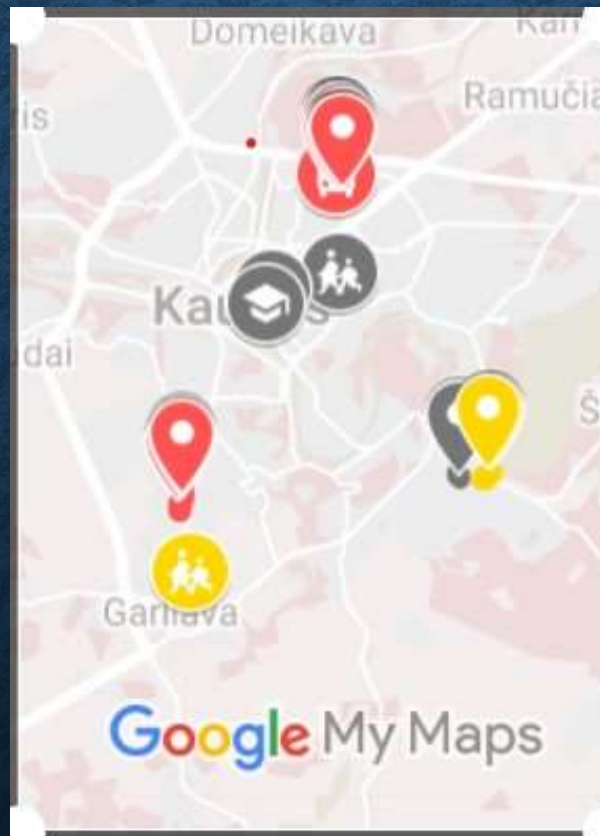
STREET NAME GLORIFYING J. NOREIKA:



AT KAUNAS'S UNIVERSITY:



PROPOSAL: REMOVE SHRINES TO NAZI COLLABORATORS BEFORE 2022 “CAPITAL OF EUROPEAN CULTURE” YEAR



A QUESTION FOR HOLOCAUST PROFESSORS, MUSEUMS, PROGRAMS AND WESTERN GOVERNMENTS:

Is it appropriate to politely comment on or critique

1. An EU/NATO member's parliament for naming 2021 for an alleged Holocaust collaborator?
2. The ECHR's 2019's political and ethical acquiescence to Baltic historiography via an application of genocide law to punish a criminal Soviet functionary who murdered a Holocaust collaborator who had become a postwar militiaman?
3. "Capital of European Culture" for 2022 that has multiple street names, plaques and memorials for Holocaust collaborators?

**PLEASE VISIT AND CONSIDER
SUPPORTING...**

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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS AND
DISCUSSION

Welcome!