

A10

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The Prague Declaration is Europe's New Anti-Semitic Poison

Your open opponent is your friend. He or she states a clear position that you can accept or dissent from. That is the spirit of robust debate in a democratic society. The real enemy is the camouflaged trick-speak of Orwellian parlance. In a one-to-one fair fight, it can be overcome by a skilled debater.

Much more difficult to come to grips with what is happening in Europe now at the odious nexus of Holocaust revisionism and a special East European brand of antisemitism. Difficult, because the product is manufactured by a cunning and powerful ultranationalist elite, based in the Baltics and spreading westward with alarming speed, working with ample government funding. It is spreading its poison with such cunning that even seasoned players, including naive Westerners (Jews included) do not always see what is happening.

In Eastern Europe, one finds a certain local kind of elitist antisemitism. One of its versions: "We love Israeli, American and British Jews, we just hate the local Jews because they continue to

think that we helped Hitler while the Russians saved them or their parents or grandparents. Time to mix it all up in a trendy new model of equivalence of evils that the westerners will buy into."

A condensed version of a complex narrative: Instead of coming to terms honestly with their Holocaust histories (highest percentages of Jews killed — mid 90s in all of Europe), which various individual Baltic scholars boldly tried to do, these states' elites took the basest antisemitic version (The Jews were all communists and got what they deserved) and transformed it into sophisticated Europeak:

The Equal Evaluation of Totalitarian Regimes, or, as it is best known, Double Genocide. First, the word genocide is legally redefined to refer to any kind of evil (particularly: Soviet deportations and deprivation of freedoms). Second, the imaginary "Jewish Bolshevik" image cherished by antisemites is revived and polished up. Then, the "two genocides" are legally made to be "equal" and — shockingly, here in Lithuania — prosecutors started to

defame and "investigate the war crimes" of Holocaust survivors in their late 80s who are alive because they escaped the ghetto to join the anti-Nazi resistance. They are heroes of the free world. One, Fania Yocheles

Brantsovsky, 87, is librarian of the Vilnius Yiddish Institute. Another, Dr. Rachel Margolis, 88, cannot return to Lithuania for fear of prosecutors' harassment. (She is detested by the state-run "Genocide Industry" for having rediscovered and published a Christian Pole's eyewitness diary of tens of thousands of murders.)

The most dangerous success the history-twisters have had to date is the so-called "Prague Declaration" issued at a conference there in June 2008. It proclaims "Communism and Nazism as a common legacy" and demands that Communism be assessed "in the same way Nazi crimes were assessed by the Nuremberg Tribunal". Just ask any Holocaust Survivor on the planet if the perpetrators of Genocide are "the same" as those who offered refuge to the small number who could flee and indeed, those who liberated the few survivors at war's end.

But the distortion doesn't stop at proclaiming one true Revisionist history for all Europe. The Prague Declaration calls for "the 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". There is demand for a Europe-wide mix-and-match commemoration day for Nazi and Soviet crimes that would in practice supplant Holocaust Memorial Day. The intrepid human rights champion John Mann MP of the UK parliament has very rightly called the Declaration a "sinister document".

One of the founding signatories of the Prague Declaration, Jana Hybásková, is announced as a speaker at a Berlin conference, on

Iran, this weekend, entitled "Time to act". Why are good willed people featuring founders of the dangerous Holocaust Obfuscation movement? Why support an antisemitic movement, while — for very good reason — attacking anti-Zionist Iran? We cannot fight one form of antisemitism while supporting another form of antisemitism. It is not just a mistake of Mrs. Hybásková, which can easily be corrected. She, like the other signatories can simply say that they made a mistake and disown the Prague Declaration, and that's the end of the matter.

But there is an inherent problem in professing support for Israel while obfuscating the Holocaust by comparing that unprecedented genocide with the crimes of the Soviet Union (which certainly merit separate and serious ongoing scrutiny). In the actual current climate in Eastern Europe, where antisemitism is inextricably linked with Holocaust obfuscation, and where Holocaust survivors are pursued and defamed, the red-equals-brown movement is today's elitist antisemitism par excellence. Nobody knows that better than the small, embattled and often vanishing



Antisemitism neo-Nazi style in Eastern Europe today (daubing of the Jewish Community of Lithuania in August 2008; there have still been no arrests).

Jewish communities of Eastern Europe who bear the brunt of the local antisemitic campaigns that are the unspoken accompaniment of those fancy declarations in the European Union. The signatories of this sinister document have provided this antisemitism with high-class cover. High time to unmask the whole charade.

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Antisemitism Prague Declaration style in Eastern Europe today ("Delfi", the major news portal in the Baltics, gloating over "successes" in convincing Europe that Soviet crimes were "worse" than the Nazi genocide of their Jewish populations; most recently published 14 November 2009)

Demjanjuk

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of responsibility than Demjanjuk allegedly had. Demjanjuk is accused as having served as a "Wachmann" or guard, the lowest rank of the so-called "Hilfswillige" or "Hiwi" volunteers who were subordinate to German SS men.

For example, Karl Streibel, commandant of the SS Trawniki training camp, where Demjanjuk is alleged to have trained, was tried in Hamburg but acquitted in 1976 after the judges ruled it had not been proved that he knew what the guards being trained would be used for.

Today's judges grew up in the 1950s and '60s and recently have approached war crimes cases differently from their predecessors.

In August, for example, the same court that will hear Demjanjuk's case convicted Josef Scheungraber, a former German officer, of murder for the massacre of 10 civilians in Italy in 1944, even though no witnesses saw him give the order.

There are no direct living witnesses in Demjanjuk's case either—but prosecutors argue that if he was a guard at the death camp, that necessarily means he was involved in the Nazi machinery of destruction.

"In the early 1950s, there were certainly some mistakes made, and sometimes there may have been an agenda behind it," said Kurt Schrimm, head of the special German prosecutors' office responsible for investigating Nazi-era crimes.

"One must remember, however, that our office has embarked since its founding in 1958 into completely uncharted territory," he added. "It is unique that a people pursues their own crimes over decades, and we are always learning more."

Demjanjuk's family argues that there are now new pressures, from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the U.S. Justice Department and others, to put him on trial.

"I think they're going to push forward to have the trial no matter what, to have the media event and make it seem like Germany is doing what it can to hunt down and prosecute so-called Nazi war criminals," John Demjanjuk Jr told

The AP in a telephone interview, adding that his father suffers from a bone marrow disease and could only have months to live.

"If they wanted to try him, they should have done it 30 years ago," the younger Demjanjuk said.

Schrimm said it was not until 2008, when his department found lists of Jews transported to Sobibor during the time Demjanjuk was alleged to have been there, that there was enough evidence to pursue a case against him in Germany. Now, he said, there is an obligation to proceed with the trial.

"It is naturally difficult to deal with men who are soon in their 90th year," Schrimm said. "But there are no doubts: The lawmakers decided in 1979 to remove the statute of limitations for murder, and therefore I see no reason to treat this case any differently."

Proving the case is another matter. Demjanjuk maintains he was never at the camp and questions the authenticity of one of the prosecution's main pieces of evidence: an SS identity card that they say features a photo of a young, round-faced Demjanjuk and that says he worked at Sobibor.



A World War II-era military service pass for John Demjanjuk.

He claims to be a victim of mistaken identity—a Red Army draftee from Ukraine captured during the battle of Kerch in the Crimea in May, 1942, who himself was held prisoner until joining the so-called Vlasov Army of anti-communist Soviet POWs and others, formed to fight with the Germans against the encroaching Soviets in the final months of the war.

Demjanjuk, being tried in Munich because he lived in the area briefly after the war, emigrated to the United States in 1952 and gained citizenship in 1958.

He was extradited to Israel in 1986 after the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, or OSI, said it had

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