

## THE SINGULARITY OF THE HOLOCAUST— THE MAKING OF A VICTIM-SAVIOR JC-CULTURE

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ABSTRACT. We discuss the role of the Memory Industry of the massacre of Jews during WWII in breaking the memory and degrading the importance of the chain large scale enslavements and mass annihilation of many millions; while at the same time acquiring for the Euro-North American societies the double status of history's victims and destined protectors of the weak and persecuted everywhere. We argue that one of the main role of the specific concept of "the holocaust" and the later derived notion of "Jeudeo-Christian tradition" is to acquire for the USA-European powers this double desirable role: Victim and Savior. This, plainly, goes hand in hand with the main role played by the great Christian idol since, after all Jesus Christ has been nothing if not a player of this double-role of a victim and a savior, a simultaneous top-dog and under-dog, a double role God Himself, whether Greek, Roman, Jewish or Moslem, has never played.

*"Les plaques posées sur tant des maison Européenes.... commémorent non seulement des l'excellences.... mais des siècles de massacres et des sufferances, de haine and de sacrifice humain," (George Steiner, "Une Certaine idée de l'Europe")*

- (1) Human sympathies are given to people coming from various social strata and situations. One such subject of sympathies is the victim, the ultimate under-dog who threatens no one. Another is the savior, the top-dog, alpha-monkey hero who will deliver his society from its enemies and miseries and historical limitations. These two opposites draw immense popular sympathy: In modern parlance, people want to buy into shares of the victim since they are not expensive and may have great growth potential, and at the same time they want to buy into the shares of the top-dog since they are booming pyramid-like.
- (2) Many nations and communities aspire to present themselves in at least one of these roles of savior or victim. The victim role requires less effort, of course. And in many cases it is amply justified since many nations have taken more

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*Date:* September 16, 2009.

turns in being victims either of "nature" or of human history than in being saviors.

From Russian to Polish, from Indians to black Americans, from Chinese to Tibetans, from Palestinians to Israelis, from Tribe A to Tribe B... this goal is energetically pursued, and often amply justified. After the double atomic bomb attack, Japan too has acquired this sought-after victim status. Victim-status has its advantages— not the least being the right to retaliate, sometimes forcefully, and a sort of exemption from severe judgements and self-criticism. In addition this self-consciousness of a victim as such greatly facilitates mass recruitment and commitments in many large natural societies ants and humans alike. At bottom it is a crucial defence mechanism often essential for survival.

- (3) Over the last 40 years, in USA and post-nazi Europe the notion of Jewish-Christian culture here abbreviated as *the JC culture* have been created basically ex-nihil. (*compare*— < [/www.osmond-riba.org/lis/essay\\_JC.htm](http://www.osmond-riba.org/lis/essay_JC.htm) >) — In it, some sort of similarity, affinity, unity and contiguity is created between Jewish and Christian history, cultural-biblical tradition, religion, concepts of good, evil and of god. Even a superficial look at the basis of the two religion cultures shows that one of their main difference with Islam is their shared need for concrete materialization of God. A good manifestation of this material nature of God is the notion of human and animal sacrifice. A sacrifice which is always an embodiment of a the notion of victim-hood. In Jewish tradition daily sacrifice was the rule in the temples while in Christianity it is the Son of God himself who is the the sacrifice-lamb. Thus voluntary murder-killing of living things as a necessary and possibly humbling act is at the very basis of Christianity and Jewish culture. The old testimony-Bible is of course full of direct orders from high-up for the total annihilation of entire nations, tribes and cities and of course of completely innocent individual people as in the case Abraham's son and of Job's family.

In non-Suni, Shi'a version of Islam, concrete body sacrifice is very important tradition taking the form of self beating and the infliction of bodily wounds and pain on one's own body. In this Shi'a version of Islam just as as in the Jewish tradition and christianity there is a great role assigned to the Savior, the Messiah or Mehdi.

We see that in these great religions Victim and Savior are important characters.

True, Islam has gone much further is the dematerialization of God, who never communicate directly with the world below, only obedience to his rules of behavior mostly relating to solidarity among believers and common acceptance

of the Nominator and his nominated prophet. But this slightly higher degree of abstraction of Godly existence forms, seems to be the only deep difference between the three religions.

- (4) The Jewish people in Europe have been mass massacred in their millions, during the early 1940's, by a principal and very traditional European power, by a very traditional European army and ruling elite. The above mentioned concept of JC-affinities has turned the annihilation-war against an important part of the Jewish-Christian cultures and nations (the Jewish part..) into a criminal war against the whole JC-culture. Hence, also by affinity, against each and every European nation. Germany and France are included implicitly or explicitly, and appear as victims of that war too. In fact by any standard use of the word "victim," most of the European population of whatever country was, no doubt, victim of that war, and of Nazism in particular. We were all victims then, so who is the perpetrator of these crimes?
- (5) The responsibility of that five years long mass murder is largely reduced to the *direct perpetrators* of the crime against the "Jewish-Christian culture"; namely, is reduced to the Nazi party, mostly to Hitler and his direct associates, subordinates, etc. The rest of the population or other state machines are reduced to the role of active or passive "collaborators," with little real drive of their own, carried along by events. Stalin is sometimes added to this evil bunch for variety's sake and other reasons. These "direct perpetrators" are then presented as Evil Dark Forces, in essence outside forces that came from a deep underground, from a completely uncomprehensible, and in principle unknowable sources. An alien force to the JC culture.
- (6) The main property claimed by the JC culture for this huge disaster-crime is *uniqueness and unknowability*. What is very often minimized is its contiguity with Europe's recent history and its deep connection to European cultural and possibly to deep biological traits of our species— the homo-sapience.
- Thus it transpires that in WWII the whole of Europe suffered a unique historical blow of a biblical, unprecedented magnitude. A blow against which "Nous [la France et les Etates Unis] avons lutté [ensemble] pour éradiquer le nazisme.."* (M. Sarkozy, *Le Monde* 11 Sep. ,2006) Here Sarkozy, verbally transforming France into history's struggling victim, does not hint of course at the very active, and at times enthusiastic collaboration of the French state machine with the systematic murder of its Jewish population by nazi Germany. In fact, in

the history of France, this mass killing of its Jewish population pales in light of other historic mass enslavements and murder by the same French state machine, in Algiers, Indo-China, Africa, Napoleonic Spain, and elsewhere.

- (7) *The direct and otherwise obvious continuity, affinity, cause-and-effect relations, etc. between WWI and WWII is thus often completely broken.* The direct continuity between the mass murder of 5-7 millions Jews and 30-odd millions from other groups and nations —the murder, death and massive deep suffering by premeditated wars and war crimes of dozen of millions of other Europeans, Chinese, Japanese and others is broken. The overwhelming enthusiasm with which Europeans of all nationalities of all classes, entered the Great War— WWI— with its 30-40 millions —hard to count— victims, is buried in a careful separation between the two wars. The almost unanimous and complete support that intellectuals, writers, poets, journalists, philosophers, Jewish and Christian alike gave to their own wars, (there were but few Muslims at the time in Europe but never mind, in the Ottoman part of Europe, the new state of young Turkey, the inheritor of the good old Second Rome, was massacring their own Christian-Armenians at that time, again by low millions.) Each supporting his own country and army, each fulfilling his patriotic duty, each encouraging his own country's generals and politicians. Yes, and competing in sacrificing enthusiastically and proudly their own young children, that mad enthusiasm and support is now completely separated from the "Nazi mass murders" that occurred twenty odd years later at the same heart of the same Europe.
- (8) Without such careful distinction between the two great wars, Jewish and European cultural celebrities — the JC intellectuals— would not be able to so pointedly blame the whole thing on some the dark forces materialized in Hitler, and the Nazi machines. But in truth these "dark forces" cheerfully and energetically did what was not so far from what all Europeans, en masse , did and applauded only two decades earlier— highly mechanized mass killing, using the new industrial war machines, killing by the dozens of millions innocent people for a rather abstract nonsensical "national causes" somehow related power moves, to colonial competitions or other dominions. The stupidity of these wars is then masked behind learned studies of the deep colonial and economic causes of the Great War. A truer and more distant lesson of these two wars and of many others is rather that *it does not take very much to unleash such state-organized mass killing.* Look at the very recent war of Israel against Lebanon unleashed after two Israeli soldiers were taken prisoners by a Lebanese-Hizb-alla force. Masses of people will invariably and enthusiastically follow suit their leadership's and intellectual's call-to-the-flag. Canetti saw it all in WWI and

its immediate intellectual aftermath.

- (9) *Moreover, by singling out the holocaust as the heart of WWII, a much longer, easily accessible and evident, continuous chain of brutalities and mass killings is broken, and thus old pieces are forgotten.* There is a long chain that led to these Great Wars, the chain goes through the earlier two or three hundreds years of enslaving Africans, shipping them off, again by the many millions, to all parts of Euro-America, in conditions (and results) that seems—from anecdotal stories, few were their the record carefully the daily life of these slaves on their way to doom — worse then the Nazi concentration camps. The conscious intention was not always total annihilations, the actual result was even larger scale of mass killing of people for the sole reason of belonging to "the wrong race". Before and during that period, a chain of enslaving and killing American-Indians, again in the tens of million— almost impossible to count now with fidelity to the truth — and the utter destruction of the American and African cultures, economies and social structures. These were older versions of present day Iraq war—again supported by "top" intellectuals, philosophers and journalist— on a hugely larger, more durable persistent scale—hundreds of years— with much larger open moral support by all states and all religions.
- (9) *Breaking this chain, which is continuous historically and logically by every possible objective standard, is the major content and achievement of re-constructed concept of Jewish-Christian (JC) culture.* This purported cultural unity is supposed to rest of bedrock of eternal "religious, humanistic, God given ten commandments" values. In fact, breaking this chain is the major conceptual content-achievement of the JC culture, and it rests on another central concept. Namely, on the concept of "The Holocaust," at the heart of WWII as the largest, deepest catastrophe in known human history far surpassing all other instances of mass human suffering. The major players will defend these two twin concepts nail and tooth. The above very real chain of human suffering inflicted mostly by Christian Europe is broken by the construction of the concept of *the Holocaust as a singular point in history* and by the newly constructed European affinity to its Jewish victim and to the shared bedrock values of JC-culture.
- (10) The word "holocaust" is thus constructed to mean not just "the organized premeditated murder of several millions of Jews, for the sole reason of being of Jewish origin, by the German and other state machines", no, rather it means *the Nazi organized mass murder of the European Jewry during WWII as a singular*

*point in human history.* That is why a special name, with apocalyptic, unique-universal ring is assigned to it. One of the main intellectual and propagandist work that still goes into the discussion and the presentation of the holocaust is an effort to establish its *uniqueness and singularity* either in regards to the means, the brutality, the planning, the mass participation, etc. Therefore there is a dogmatic refusal to call it say "the genocide of the European Jews", a-la Armenian genocide, which came earlier and foretold it. Such appellation would put it in the true historical context of all genocides, something to be avoided at all costs.

This recent Jewish suffering-annihilation is presented not as a (rather horrific) part of the general suffering in the last 400 years of western civilization's wars of discovery-through-domination of the rest of humanity, but as a continuation of the Jewish and Christian suffering in general, Jews by the dark- and middle-age forces and Christian suffering at the hands of cruel, Hitler-like Roman emperors, and Muslin warriors.

- (11) With these preparation of conceptual framework, the holocaust as a singular, most-horrible premeditated mass-killing in recorded human history, can be, and is, naturally considered by the run of the mill intellectuals-philosophers-journalist as *have been done to the whole of Jewish-Christen community-culture* by some *outside, invasive, devilish* force that took hold of a part of it and was expelled successfully by the true, natural and deep soul of that same tradition as represented by the America-British-French alliance, namely Nato forces which later came to include Germany, on good grounds of course.

This public and inner attitude towards the genocide of European Jews has become the *sin-qua-e-non* of normal political life, the credo of admission into a larger public ear. So much so that even an outspoken Arab nationalist politician such as Dr. Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli citizen, finds it necessary to declare "*the holocaust was the greatest crime in human history*" (Haaretz, Oct 30th 2006) in order to proceed in demanding some basic rights for Israel's Arab community.

To repeat, in reality, by somewhat more detached and objective standards, the holocaust was not so un-typical act, done by very typical forces, enjoying a wide support rather than a singular event in humanity's long history of mass killings. *Most parties in Europe, most countries in Europe, most intellectuals and political actors in Europe, supported crimes of similar and sometimes of a larger scale, planning and brutality, in the rather near historical past.* Further, by far, most of Germany intellectuals, journalists, Juridical experts came round, sometimes slowly and with pains, to support the Nazis, up close to bitter end. This, it seems, is one of the points of George Steiner quoted above, and have been demonstrated ad nauseam by various writers over the last decades. But

this observation reads now as a "holocaust denial outrage" which it is, since it denies the holocaust *its originality, singularity, uniqueness, unthinkability*. In truth, who is to say that it was worse than dozens of such mass eliminations occurring, across the globe, with astonishing regularity almost several times a century from total destruction of city of Carthage and its people by the Romans down to our 200-a-day murders on a community and national basis in resent days-Iraq. Who is to say it is the worse and who is to be able to really compar fruitfully, meaningfully any two such events. Because to sat it is the worst means exactly that one has carefully compared it to all other mass killings, in all possible details of scale, durations, real suffering etc.

- 11.5 The reason, of course, that the world was so quick to condemn forcefully the destruction of European Jewish communities was that the criminal nation, Germany, was utterly defeated in the war. The crimes of the victorious nation takes much longer to be recognized as such, and when they are they are never upgraded to the "most horrific" category. The sole reason slavery, even in its worse forms, was seen as acceptable by the vast majority, is that it was perpetuated by up-coming victorious powers: Spain, Britain, USA, France, the ottomans, the Islamic empires, and similar powers in Africa etc. Same goes for the destruction form the air of German towns by carpet bombing with devilish explosive-chemical: It was done by the victims of Nazism, by victorious victims. Very few, and with huge lapse of time that diminishes their criminality, their absurd and arbitrary nature, have judged these mass killings by their own "merits". Is is not clear that had Germany come undefeated form the war, or less utterly defeated, the Jewish victims will have stood in line with the rest of the millions of arbitrary and cruel deaths, and their destruction would be be casted in completely different light.
- (12) A hundred years from now Nazism will surely be seen as an integral and part of the two Great Wars. And later-on as integral and rather typical part of human and Euro-American inclination to very large scale brutality, especially during war. What may look by then somewhat special is rather the anachronistic, cynical and brutal treatment of the German population as a whole by their own, short lived, regime and the collapse, in face of massive and brutal oppression, of any European opposition to the Nazis. It is one thing to wage annihilation war against other tribes and quite another to wage such a campaigns against very large section of ones own, although the latter is also not-so-uncommon in human history. The same perspective in time in achieved right now when people view this disaster from a geographic-cultural distance say from China, Indonesia, or deep Africa. From there it is rightly seem as a within the sad range of human follies, nay, murderous behavior.

- (13) If understanding means, in large part, putting the thing in a larger lawful context, the killing of the Jews in Europe is wholly understood by a simple historical, sociological, and yes, *biological* look at mankind in general and Europeans in particular. She was right, Hannah Arendt. There is something deeply banal about mass killings and brutality. To most people this long murderous history is not that frightening since, exactly, the banal rarely frighten us. Not from afar. We are used to it. Only in a real close up, it has a force of a horror. Inside the camps it shocks. But nobody is there save the victims, too shocked to react.

*So we are settled now with an "Euro-American-Jewish" culture that has been history's savior and the victim at the same time.* It is a historical fact that each war, great or small, while it is waged, is supported, at least in its earlier stages, months, years, by the public at large and by the top echelon of seemingly independent-minded intellectuals, historians, journalists, on both sides of the deadly conflict, who deem most other wars in history, and even in their own past wars as "useless, wasteful folly" or "unnecessary" but regard the present one as "absolutely necessary and just".

- (14) Israel, as a Jewish state, is naturally the best avatar-representative of this JC-culture, built, as it only very partially was, by victims of Nazism and claiming, as a major part of its reason d'être, to be savior of Jews in the past, and the western world in the present. Nowadays, Israel aspires to save the JC culture from the new "incoming dark forces of terror", and from all "irrational, murderous, wild, anti-Semitic" tendencies of humanity in general and the Muslim middle-east in particular. In fact, in Israel the West can recognize the main features of its coveted and real self: *Victim and Warrior, Enslaver and Savior.*
- (15) Europe and North America now bathe in fifty years of almost continuous internal peace letting its traditional saving-by-killing machines operate elsewhere from Algiers to Vietnam to Iraq, now killing people by the lower millions over the last 40 years. The leftovers of their mass-enslavement era in Africa may very well be at the root of present large scale misery in huge swathes of Africa (and to a lesser extent in Latin-America)— where normal human life and health are massively undermined by the apparently impossible-to-reconstruct social, technological and cultural nightmares left by centuries of mass enslavement and total destruction. This kind of holocaust-scale destruction is amply typified by Belgium's conduct in Congo, the German genocidal activity in the first decade



of the 20th century in South-West Africa (now Namibia), and the British-Dutch enslavement-apartheid of South Africa. This basic history is buried and blurred by the holocaust's presumed and widely accepted "singularity."

Incidentally, this German domination-by-genocide of Namibia is significant and illustrative of our point here: It came long before Nazism, and had many things in common with the Nazi genocide of the Jews – including some techniques. Also, some of the race ideologues and Himmler's extermination "experts" underwent their apprenticeship in SW Africa. Real life histories in this vein abound, whole libraries can be filled with them, if one ever tries to flesh them out even to a minimal degree. But, no, today's libraries are filled only with the most detailed account-of-death of direct victim of the defeated German side- the JC society and culture.

- (16) The above discussion is not meant to minimize the traditional internal weakness in the African, South American and other non-European societies that play a large part in their present weakness. Far from it, but we have nothing new to say here. We are concerned here with internal characterization of Europe, as a mass-murder society typical to humanity at large. In the Middle-East at least, including north Africa, these internal weaknesses have not led to such massive scale health-poverty problems, there, traditional Ottoman domination was less cruel and murderous, and slavery, although not uncommon, was not the heart of the domination system.
- (17) Meanwhile there is another important, somewhat independent factor. The western Savior image is now constructed not only by the above holocaust-liberation imagery, not only by the Singular Horror Event, that is forming the JC crowd, not only by the image of the holocaust-victims with atomic weapons in hand, but also by the reality of traditional capitalist mass-production of goods some of them , in fact, ameliorate and extend human life all over the world. The power of the Savior concept rests now no doubt also on the massive life saving-and-improving qualities not only of hugely popular Coca-Cola drink but of western medicine, basic machines and agricultural products and recently of advanced communicating computers and cellular phones. Meanwhile the "new Islamic warriors" concept resting on the reality of that "truly singular event" of burning and crumbling twin-towers with passengers-packed airplanes as detonators, helps preserve the JC victim status.

**Conclusion** Therefore, the point is not just to remember and count the sick and dead bodies and massive social destructions over the last several centuries; this is well-known if often de facto denied by a massive silence. The point that is highlighted here is the perception of the newly forged western victim-savior identity—now also victims-saviors in face of the "new Islamic warriors", the "new Jihadists"—as based on the *constructed singularity of the holocaust* which is perceived as inflicted upon the whole JC-culture and the role of the singular concept of the Holocaust in breaking, trivializing and burying the reality and memory of the very long chain of western enslavement-subjugation-annihilation of the "new world" for the last 400-500 years. A chain of which this very holocaust is, by a simple logic of induction from the particular to the general, a natural and rather typical link. In reality, all great and small real life historical events, without exception, are such typical links in long chains of similar events. Each such link looks special or unique from close up in time and space and rather not-so-special from afar.

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