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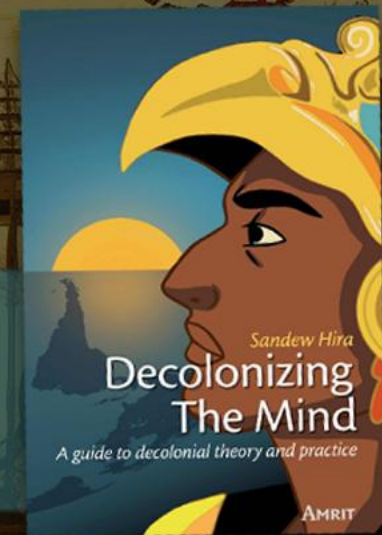
World history

A decolonial canon of world history

Decolonizing the Jewish Holocaust



Decolonizing The Mind,
the final frontier of colonialism
with Sandew Hira



#045

03-06-2024

The history of the Jewish people is a history of suffering in particular, by Christians

Christians held Jews accountable for the death of Jesus. John the Apostle, equated Jews with the devil. Christians blamed the Black Death pandemic that swept through Asia and the Middle East into Europe between 1347 and 1350 on Jews. The Catholic Church accused Jews of being child murderers draining Christian children of their blood in order to use it to bake matzos for the Jewish holidays of Passover.

Martin Luther and Erasmus

The Protestant leader of the Reformation, Martin Luther (1483–1546), wrote a treatise titled “On the Jews and their Lies” in which he describes Jews as *“whoring people, that is, no people of God, and their boast of lineage, circumcision, and law must be accounted as filth.”* He advised to burn down synagogues, refuse to let Jews buy houses among Christians, confiscate Jewish writing and prohibit rabbi’s from preaching.

Erasmus (1469-1536), the humanist philosopher called Jews the *“most pernicious plague and bitterest foe of the teachings of Jesus Christ.”*

The Enlightenment

The philosophers of the Enlightenment were critical of Christianity and some were sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish people, but leading thinkers were imbued with antisemitism. Denis Diderot (1713-1784) wrote about them: *“There is to be found among them only a confused mixture of the principles of reason and of revelation, an affected and often impenetrable obscurity, principles that lead to fanaticism, a blind respect for the authority of the doctors and of antiquity - in a word, all the defects indicative of an ignorant and superstitious nation.”*

Voltaire (1694-1778)

Voltaire (1694-1778), an important philosopher of the Enlightenment, wrote about the Jews: *“They are all of them born with raging fanaticism in their hearts, just as the Bretons and the Germans are born with blonde hair. I would not be in the least bit surprised if these people would not some day become deadly to the human race.”* He addressed them directly: *“You seem to be the maddest of the lot. The Kaffirs, the Hottentots, the Negroes of Guinea are much more reasonable and more honest people than your ancestors, the Jews. You have surpassed all nations in impertinent fables, in bad conduct, and in barbarism. You deserved to be punished, for this is your destiny.”*

The antisemitism of the Nazis was founded in European civilization

It was not an aberration of European history. It was part of it. Hitler placed his hatred for Jews in the context of his Christian beliefs. In a speech in 1922 he says: *“My feeling as a Christian points me to my lord and savior as a fighter... In boundless love as a Christian and as a man I read through the passage which tells us how the Lord at last rose in His might and seized the scourge to drive out of the Temple the brood of vipers and of adders. How terrific was His fight for the world against the Jewish poison.”* When the Nazis took power in 1933, Hitler declared that his national government *“regards Christianity as the foundation of our national morality.”*

The First Crusade 1096

Ideas were translated into actions and starting with the First Crusade in 1096. The Christian military campaign to conquer Jerusalem, which was under Muslim rule, began with the massacre of Jews in Europe. Like Muslims, Jews were regarded as nonbelievers. Thousands of Christians from France travelled via Germany to Jerusalem. In the German district of Rhineland, they carried out the Rhineland Massacres in which thousands of Jews were murdered. It was the first pogrom in Europe. Many pogroms followed, culminating in the Holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis. The systematic destruction of Jewish lives during the Holocaust was beyond human imagination.

Hitler's legacy and antisemitism are mostly a problem for Europe

The story of the Holocaust is part of the public memory of man's inhumanity to man. But compared to the genocides of colonialism the Holocaust is a local phenomenon, not a global one. More particular, the Holocaust is a European problem and the anti-semitism that comes with it is part of the Western civilization; it is not a problem of the Chinese, Hindu or Muslim civilization. The overwhelming majority of the world suffered racism by Western colonialism. Racism is a worldwide problem, anti-semitism is a problem of the European civilization, and more specifically of Christianity. Hitler's legacy and antisemitism are mostly a problem for Europe. Colonialism and racism are a problem for the whole world.

Misconceptions about the Jewish Holocaust

- ❑ The Jewish Holocaust was not the worst crime against humanity
- ❑ The Jewish Holocaust was not the main concern for Hitler
- ❑ Colonialism was worse than fascism.

Frantz Fanon

“When I turn on my radio, when I hear that Negroes have been lynched in America, I say that we have been lied to: Hitler is not dead; when I turn on my radio, when I learn that Jews have been insulted, mistreated, persecuted, I say that we have been lied to: Hitler is not dead; when, finally, I turn on my radio and hear that in Africa forced labor has been inaugurated and legalized, I say that we have certainly been lied to: Hitler is not dead.”

Aimé Césaire

Every European “has a Hitler inside him, that Hitler inhabits him, that Hitler is his demon, that if he rails against him, he is being inconsistent and that, at bottom, what he cannot forgive Hitler for is not crime in itself, the crime against man, it is not the humiliation of man as such, it is the crime against the white man, the humiliation of the white man, and the fact that he applied to Europe colonialist procedures which until then had been reserved exclusively for the Arabs of Algeria, the coolies of India, and the blacks of Africa.”

Winston Churchill

“Hitler is a monster of wickedness, insatiable in his lust for blood and plunder”

Hitler's view on nazism and colonialism - 1

While Churchill contrasted Hitler with the British and 'the rest of the civilized world', Hitler himself saw the British and 'the rest of the civilized world' as his model and inspiration for Nazism and the Third Reich, the Third Empire. The first empire was founded by the German Charles The Great (742-814) who united most of Western Europe in the European Middle Ages. The second empire was led by Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898) who created a unified German state as a federation of formerly loosely states with a national parliament and universal suffrage for men. The new empire that should have lasted for thousand years was to be built the Nazi's with the British Empire as their model.

Hitler's view on nazism and colonialism - 2

What India was for England, the territories of Russia will be for us... It should be possible for us to control this region to the East with two hundred and fifty thousand men plus a cadre of good administrators. Let's learn from the English, who, with two hundred and fifty thousand men in all, including fifty thousand soldiers, govern four hundred million Indians. This space in Russia must always be dominated by Germans... The Russian space is our India. Like the English, we shall rule this empire with a handful of men.... The wealth of Great Britain is the result less of a perfect commercial organisation than of the capitalist exploitation of the three hundred and fifty million Indian slaves."

Hitler's view on nazism and colonialism - 3

“The German colonist ought to live on handsome, spacious farms. The German services will be lodged in marvellous buildings, the governors in palaces. Beneath the shelter of the administrative services, we shall gradually organise all that is indispensable to the maintenance of a certain standard of living. Around the city, to a depth of thirty to forty kilometres, we shall have a belt of handsome villages connected by the best roads. What exists beyond that will be another world, in which we mean to let the Russians live as they like. It is merely necessary that we should rule them. In the event of a revolution, we shall only have to drop a few bombs on their cities, and the affair will be liquidated.”

Hitler's view on nazism and colonialism - 4

“We ought to remember that during the first period of American colonization numerous Aryans earned their daily livelihood as trappers and hunters, etc., frequently wandering about in large groups with their women and children, their mode of existence very much resembling that of ordinary nomads. The moment, however, that they grew more numerous and were able to accumulate larger resources, they cleared the land and drove out the aborigines, at the same time establishing settlements which rapidly increased all over the country.”

Hitler's view on nazism and colonialism - 5

“Had it not been possible for them to employ members of the inferior race which they conquered, the Aryans would never have been in a position to take the first steps on the road which led them to a later type of culture; just as, without the help of certain suitable animals which they were able to tame, they would never have come to the invention of mechanical power which has subsequently enabled them to do without these beasts.”

Hitler's view on nazism and colonialism - 6

“When one contemplates this primitive world, one is convinced that nothing will drag it out of its indolence unless one compels the people to work. The Slavs are a mass of born slaves, who feel the need of a master.”

Hitler and Ali

Muhammed Ali visiting the site of WTC. A journalist asks: *“How do you feel about the fact the terrorists responsible for the attacks shared your Muslim faith”*

Ali: *“How do you feel about Hitler sharing yours?”*

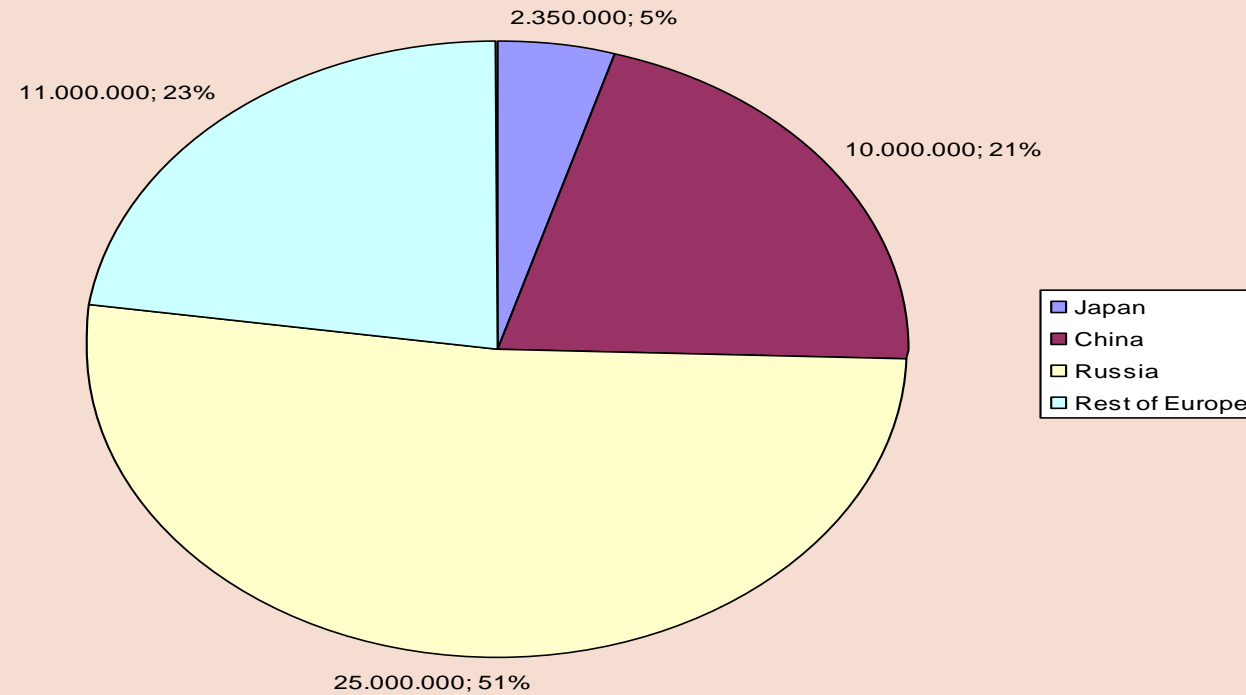
Hitler and Christianity

“Catholics and Protestants are fighting with one another to their hearts’ content, while the enemy of Aryan humanity and all Christendom is laughing up his sleeve.. [The Jew] is of this world only and his mentality is as foreign to the true spirit of Christianity as his character was foreign to the great Founder of this new creed two thousand years ago. And the Founder of Christianity made no secret indeed of His estimation of the Jewish people. When He found it necessary He drove those enemies of the human race out of the Temple of God; because then, as always, they used religion as a means of advancing their commercial interests. But at that time Christ was nailed to the Cross for his attitude towards the Jews.”

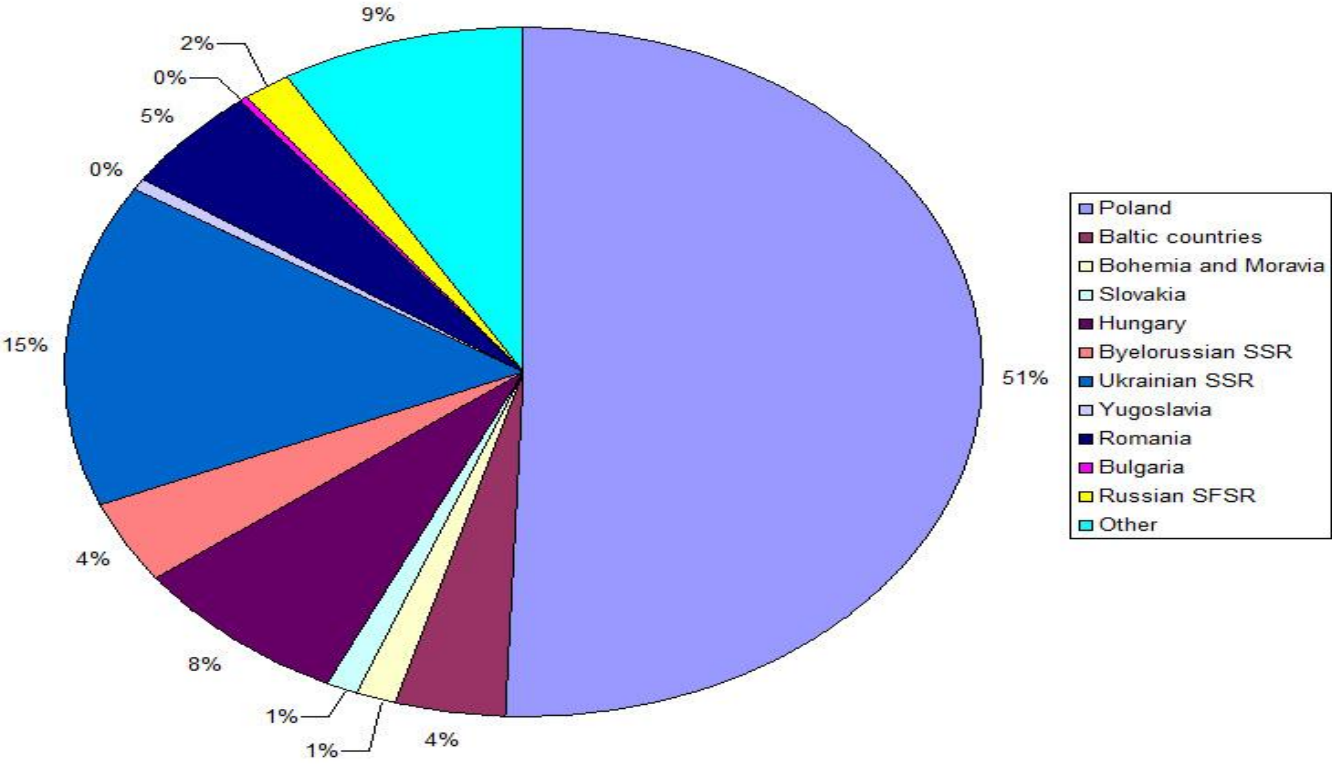
Conclusion

- ❑ Conceptually there is no difference between nazism and colonialism.
- ❑ The practice however is very different: colonialism was much worse than nazism

Victims of World war II: in Europe it was about Russia



Victims of the Holocaust: it is not about Western Jews, but about Eastern Europe



The decision on the Holocaust

Before 1941 the Nazi policy towards the Jews was based on forcing them to emigrate from the Third Reich and not on killing them. This policy entailed the expropriation of Jewish property, the introduction of laws to ban marriages between Jews and non-Jews and occasionally the organization of violence like in the case of the Kristallnacht on 9-10 November 1938 when a pogrom was organized during which windows of Jewish stores, buildings and synagogues were destroyed.

The decision to start the Holocaust was made after Hitler's army had managed to cut off Leningrad on the northern front and capture Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, in September 1941. The prospect for a final victory looked bright. The problem of what to do with the millions of Jews living in Eastern Europe – soon part of the Third Reich – was now on the agenda. Migration was not an option, so the idea of annihilation became a reality. Once the decision was taken, it was a matter of technicality. The technical solution that was ultimately implemented was the gas chamber.

How the holocaust became the top marker in the hierarchy of human suffering

- ❑ Is there a hierarchy in human suffering?
- ❑ The construction of a hierarchy of suffering based on a peculiar concept: the concept of singularity
- ❑ The conceptualization of other crimes against humanity as common crimes: trivialization of colonial crimes

The concept of singularity – uniqueness, distinctiveness: 'Historians Dispute' ('Historikerstreit') (1980s)

- ❑ Jürgen Habermas versus Erik Nolte: left against right
- ❑ Crimes of Stalin: 20 million deaths
- ❑ Holocaust unique because of the industrialization and bureaucratization of a killing machine with the aim of destroying human lives of an ethnic group. The method (industrialization) and the aim (murder) were unique. This singularity then elevates the Holocaust to the top of a hierarchy of suffering.

The foundation of the Holocaust: The Herero and Namaqua genocide 1904-1907 Namibia

- ❑ 100.000 Herero and 10.000 Namaqua
- ❑ 'Vernichtungsbefehl': annihilate a whole ethnic group
- ❑ Concentration camps, not gas chambers
- ❑ Medical experiments

The Holocaust and crimes of colonialism - 1

- ❑ Erasing the crucial differences between the Holocaust and the crimes against colonialism
- ❑ Erasing the similarities
- ❑ Trivializing the crimes of colonialism

Comparison

Nazism and Jews

- ❑ Batches of yellow stars on cloth
- ❑ Acknowledged as human beings
- ❑ Lasted for a few decades in social, political and cultural dimension

Slavery and Africans

- ❑ Iron branding on bare skin
- ❑ In bookkeeping registered like cattle
- ❑ Lasted for centuries in five dimensions: economic, political, social, cultural, geographical

The similarities of collaboration: three levels

- ❑ The Nazi's got the people of the country they invaded and occupied involved in collaborating with the occupation. In this way they created the infrastructure for the transport of Jews to concentration camps.
- ❑ The Nazi's got the Jewish leaders of the Jewish communities in the occupied countries involved in collaborating to set up the infrastructure for the transport.
- ❑ In the concentration camps the Nazi's ensured that Jews were involved in the work of the killing of other Jews.

14-volume studies of nazi-occupation in Holland: first level

1. People took Jews in their homes and then betrayed them to the Nazi's to collect rewards.
2. The National Press Agency and many media outlets (print, TV, radio) accepted Nazi-instructions to spread their propaganda without protest.
3. Civil servants from the lowest officer to the highest ranking directors collaborated with the Nazi's to keep the government apparatus running. In setting up an administration to register Jews the Nazi's got help from ingenious Dutch officers who developed the system for them. The system was used for the deportation of Jews.
4. The Highest Court in the judicial system decided to cooperate with the introduction of the registration forms.
5. When the Dutch army was demobilized, the Nazi's set up a military unit – the Waffen SS – that welcomed 23.000 Dutch volunteers.
6. The Dutch police on all levels wholeheartedly cooperated in the arrest of thousands of Jews. Police units were established to hunt down Jews.
7. The education ministry created a commission to purify textbooks from anti-German and pro-Jewish references.
8. The ministry assisted in separating Jewish schoolchildren from non-Jewish in schools and universities.
9. The libraries cooperated with the instructions to get rid of unwanted titles.
10. A Dutch Nazi-political party (National-Socialist Movement) founded in 1931 saw its membership rise from 33.000 in 1940 to 80.000 in 1943.
11. Private companies cooperated with the Nazi war machine in occupied Holland. The Dutch Railway Company took care of the transport of Jews to labour camps in Germany without a single case of protest. They got paid for it.

14-volume studies of nazi-occupation in Holland: second level

1. The Nazi's created an infrastructure in the form of the so called Jewish Council. The called upon the leaders of the Jewish community to form the Council. The task of the council was to communicate the orders of the Nazi's and carry out their policies in regards to the Jewish community.
2. The Council made a call to the community to turn in all weapons (firearms, knives etc) to the local police.
3. In February 1941 Dutch workers organized a general strike against the Nazi-occupation. Leader of the Council argued against the strike.
4. In April 1941 the Council start with the publication of a Jewish Weekly to inform the community about policies of the Nazi's.
5. The Council drew up a list of all Jewish organizations (about 1,000) and verified their existence together with Nazi-officials.
6. The Nazi's had set up segregation of Jews in all sectors of public life: parks, zoo's, hotels, restaurants, theaters, libraries, museums, libraries etc. Jews had to ask for permits to change their residence. The Jewish Council was the institute that they had to turn to for a permit. The Council also set up a information centre to inform people about the correct definitions of a facility (for example, what is a park?).
7. The Nazi's began to set up Jewish labour camps in Holland. The Council established a card system to register Jews for the labour camps. In one month (January 1942) 7,500 Jews were sent to labour camps in the different provinces of Holland.
8. Jews had to pin a Jew Star (a Start with the text 'Jew') on their cloth so they would be branded in public as Jews. The Council had the task of distributing these stars. They had three days to distribute 570,000 stars. They succeeded in finishing the job on time. They promoted the acceptability of the star. One of the sons of a Council member declared that the children liked the star.
9. The Nazi's wanted to organize the transportation of Dutch Jews to concentration camps in Europe. The Council was called upon to establish the administrative apparatus to do the job. The registration included a list of all their possessions: furniture, household items and artifacts. They registered 120.000 Jews. The Council communicated to their community that all Jews had to turn in their bikes to the police. The member of the Jewish Council were allowed to keep their bikes.
10. The Jewish Council financed their work from Jewish money. They were not paid by the Dutch state or the Nazi's. Their sources of funding were twofold. First was a collection that was held in the community to support German Jewish refugees. The money was used for the Council in Holland. Second was the money of Jews that were deported from Holland to the concentration camp. This money was deposited at a bank. The Council had access to this source.

Auschwitz account by Miklós Nyiszli (1901-1956): third level

The Sonderkommando was an elite group; its advantages and privileges have already been noted. In contrast to the prisoners in the camp proper, who writhed in lice-filled boxes, who, mad with hunger, battled furiously for a scrap of bread or a piece of potato, its lot was indeed good

Holocaust and trans-Atlantic enslavement

- ❑ Holocaust: the guilt of the collaborator is shifted to the nazi-perpetrator: they forced them rather than enticed them. They are bad.
- ❑ Trans-Atlantic enslavement: the guilt of the collaborator is shifted to the black victim, not the white colonialist. There was no collaboration, but the initiative was with the blacks: creates self-guilt: we are bad

Human cost of colonialism

Crime	Lives destroyed		Period	Years
	Min	Max		
Black Holocaust	200	400	1650-1850	200
Indigenous Holocaust Americas	50	75	1492-1650	150
Victorian Holocaust	30	60	1872-1902	30
Congolese Holocaust	10	10	1880-1910	30
Total	290	545		
Jewish Holocaust	6	6	1940-1945	5

Indigenous Holocaust



Trans-atlantic enslavement



Victorian Holocaust

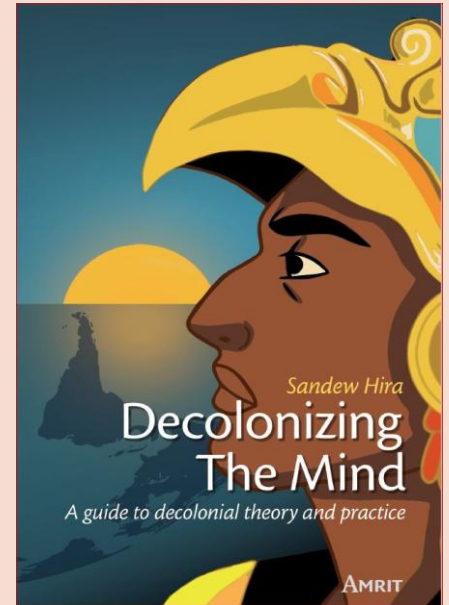


Conclusion

Colonialism was the worst crime in human history compared Nazism, but because of racism this fact is deleted from the history books.

Source in the DTM book

- Index: The role of Nazism and the Jewish Holocaust in Western civilization Par. 8.3
- Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



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