

DENYING HISTORY

**WHO SAYS THE HOLOCAUST
NEVER HAPPENED
AND WHY DO THEY SAY IT?**

Michael Shermer & Alex Grobman

Foreword by Arthur Hertzberg

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

Berkeley | Los Angeles | London

The publisher gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution to this book provided by the S. Mark Taper Foundation and by the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles.

University of California Press
Berkeley and Los Angeles, California

University of California Press, Ltd.
London, England

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the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Shermer, Michael.

Denying history : who says the Holocaust
never happened and why do they say it? /
Michael Shermer, Alex Grobman ; foreword
by Arthur Hertzberg.

p. cm.—(The S. Mark Taper
Foundation imprint in Jewish Studies)

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and
index.

ISBN 0-520-21612-1 (cloth : alk. paper)

I. Holocaust denial. I. Grobman, Alex.

II. Title.

D804.355.S54 2000

940.53'18—dc21 00-028690

Manufactured in the United States of America

09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

The paper used in this publication meets the
minimum requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-
1992 (R 1997) (*Permanence of Paper*).

We dedicate this book to the six million who cannot
respond themselves, and to the survivors who can.

MICHAEL SHERMER dedicates this book to Earl
Livingood for making history come alive in the best
narrative storytelling imaginable; to Richard Olson for
helping him find that delicate balance between his-
torical objectivity and relativism; and to Richard
Hardison for showing that there is theory in history
and that history is subject to myriad revisions and
distortions.

ALEX GROBMAN dedicates this book to his wife,
Marlene; his children, Elon, Ranan, and Ari, along
with their wives, Aviva, Karen, and Rochel Sara; his
granddaughters, Tova and Tamar; and his grandsons,
Efraim Elimelech and Binyamin Mayer. Their love and
support have sustained him. Their devotion and com-
mitment to Hashem and the Jewish people have in-
spired him.

publishing his piece, Joly was fined 300 francs and sentenced to over a year in prison.) The document gained popularity in Russia during the 1905 revolution (which itself fueled fears of Jewish machinations), under the guise of a book entitled *The Great in the Small*, written by a czarist supporter named Sergus Nilus. In the 1911 edition Nilus claimed that the *Protocols* had been stolen from the French headquarters of the Zionist world organization, but he changed that reference to an unidentified source inside the Masonic headquarters for the 1917 edition. That edition was the one that made its way to Germany at the close of the First World War. The Germans began to make use of it after the Nazi ideologist Alfred Rosenberg published several pamphlets between 1919 and 1923, citing the *Protocols* as a source about the Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. It has since been used by a variety of antisemitic groups, including Arabs, South Africans, and even American nationals, such as Henry Ford, who serialized it in the *Dearborn Independent*, then reprinted 500,000 copies in book form as *The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem*. A judge eventually ruled that Ford should discontinue publication, and in 1927 Ford retracted his endorsement of the *Protocols*. The document was ruled a hoax in two trials, one in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in 1934, and the other in Bern, Switzerland in 1934–35. In 1993 the Russian Tancred Golenpolsky, publisher of the Moscow-based *Jewish Gazette*, sued the ultra-nationalist organization Pamyat (memory) for printing antisemitic propaganda, including the *Protocols*. Pamyat struck back with a libel suit, but on November 26, 1993, a Moscow district court judge ruled that the *Protocols* was a fake (though the ruling did not put the screed to rest once and for all: the IHR book catalog lists an edition of it and Mark Weber says it sells very well).

The political ideologue and former Marxist Lyndon LaRouche, whose literature can be routinely found at tables set up by his devoted followers in front of U.S. post offices, thrives on conspiratorial thinking. He and his wife, Helga Zepp LaRouche, are known for their theory that the queen of England is behind the international drug trade. The contents of their newspaper, *The New Federalist*, suggest that they are professional contrarians. For example, in Zepp LaRouche's *Hitler Book* she dismisses Darwinism because it gave rise to Hitlerism (despite the fact that Hitler and the Nazis employed social Darwinism as part of their justification for the extermination of the Jews—see chapter 8).¹⁶ Amid claims that they resolved the wave-particle duality problem in physics, found the error in Karl Marx's thinking (only one?), discovered a new economic system, and conceived the strategic defense initiative, the

LaRouches dismiss the Holocaust as “mythical,” claiming the whole thing is “a swindle.”¹⁷

A good example of how someone's ideological bent can distort the historical record comes from a book by the Canadian author James Bacque, *Other Losses: An Investigation into the Mass Deaths of German Prisoners at the Hands of the French and Americans After World War II*. Bacque argues that immediately following the end of the war in Europe, General Dwight D. Eisenhower conspired to withhold food, housing, and supplies from millions of German POWs, “murdering” them through starvation. Carefully selecting German and American sources who claim they witnessed this mass starvation (even when supplies were readily on hand), Bacque concludes that approximately one million Germans were murdered in a conspiracy by the French and Americans—a “holocaust,” he claims, on par with what the Germans did to the Jews.¹⁸

Bacque's statistics are worth noting. Using weekly ledgers of POWs and Disarmed Enemy Forces from the U.S. European Theatre Headquarters, Bacque shows that the prisoner accounting system in these weekly ledgers had such columns as “Previous on Hand,” “Discharged,” or “Transferred.” The most curious, for Bacque, is a column headed “Other Losses,” which he takes to mean either escaped or dead. Since the rate of escape was less than one per thousand prisoners, he concludes that about five thousand German POWs died per week. Extrapolating to the length of their encampment, Bacque arrives at his one-million figure. What was Eisenhower's motive? It was revenge, says Bacque, brought on after seeing the Nazi concentration camps, coupled with his pathological hatred of Germans. Why have we not heard about this incredible genocide before? Because, Bacque contends, history is written by the victors, who conspire to cover up their own atrocities, and this was not a story complimentary to the Allied postwar goals.

Bacque's argument is easy to refute. Albert Cowdrey and Stephen Ambrose show the gaping holes in Bacque's book.¹⁹ One of his eyewitnesses, for example, was ninety years old and legally blind when interviewed, and he admitted his memory of the POW experience was fuzzy at best. Other eyewitness testimony seems equally flawed, with conflation of separate memories and confabulation, interweaving fact and fiction, not uncommon. In addition, as Cowdrey and Ambrose reveal, Bacque's statistical analysis of the “other losses” is highly suspect. One million missing Germans are a lot of people. Why were they not noticed for nearly half a century, despite the fact that the Red Cross compiled lists of MIAs (totaling only 41,000 in the European theater)? It turns out the “other

70. Ibid.
71. Ibid., 79-80.
72. Ibid., 37, 117.
73. Ad in *Student Life* (February 1992), Washington University, St. Louis.
74. All quotations from *The Revisionist: A Journal of Independent Thought* 1 (November 1999).
75. G. Brewer, "Letter from the Editor," *The Revisionist: A Journal of Independent Thought* 1 (November 1999): 4.
76. *New York Times*, November 17, 1999, B8.
77. B. R. Smith, "The Holocaust Story: How Much Is False? The Case for Open Debate," *Daily Northwestern*, April 4, 1991.
78. Zündel, interview (1994). Unless otherwise noted all quotations in this section are from this interview.
79. Cole, interview (1994). Unless otherwise noted all quotations in this section are from this interview.
80. Editorial, "Rebel Without a Cause," *The Jewish News*, January 21, 1994. A supportive view of Cole can be found in J. Wickoff, "An Interview with 'Holocaust' Revisionist David Cole," *Remarks*, May-June 1992, 1-7.
81. Quoted in H. Roques, "Faurisson and Cole on the Struthof 'Gas Chamber,'" *Adelaide Institute Newsletter*, April 20, 1995, 2.
82. The sixth person is not named.
83. Roques, "Faurisson and Cole" (1995), 2.
84. Quoted in *ibid.*
85. Quoted in *ibid.*, 3.
86. Robert J. Newman, "David Cole: Monstrous Traitor," www.jdl.org.
87. "Reward for Information," www.jdl.org.
88. "Statement of David Cole." www.jdl.org.
89. Irv Rubin, telephone interview by Michael Shermer, April 6, 1998. All subsequent quotations from Rubin in this section are from this interview.
90. Weber, phone conversation with Michael Shermer, April 7, 1998.
91. M. Weber, *The Zionist Terror Network: Background and Operation of the Jewish Defense League and Other Criminal Zionist Groups* (Newport Beach, Calif.: Institute for Historical Review, 1993).
92. David Cole, phone message to Skeptics Society, April 10, 1998.
93. Theodore J. O'Keefe, letter, *Journal of Historical Review*, October 1999.

4. WHY THEY SAY THE HOLOCAUST NEVER HAPPENED

1. M. Weber, "The Jewish Role in the Bolshevik Revolution and Russia's Early Soviet Regime," *Journal of Historical Review* 14, no. 1 (1994): 7.
2. Irving, interview (1994).
3. The publication ran quarterly from 1980 to 1992, then switched to bi-monthly from 1993 to the present. It was not published at all in 1987, and only six issues were published throughout the two-year span from 1996 to 1997. The issuance of the magazine is quite sporadic, with occasional long lapses between issues.

4. Weber's article appeared in the November-December 1994 issue; the film satire in the May-June 1994 issue; Irving's article in the January-February issue; and the "60 Minutes" piece in the May-June 1994 issue.
5. The "Great Emancipator" story appeared in the September-October 1993 issue, and the two articles on the Inquisition in the January-February 1996 issue. On Pearl Harbor, see, for example, James Martin's "Pearl Harbor's Place in History" and John Mueller's "Pearl Harbor: The Real Infamy Was an Unnecessary War," both in *JHR*, November-December 1997.
6. Our interrater reliability was 83 percent, acceptable by social science standards.
7. Robert Faurisson, "Ah, How Sweet It Is to Be Jewish," *JHR*, November-December 1998, 11.
8. "A Jewish Appeal to Russia's Jewish Elite," *JHR*, November-December 1998, 13.
9. R. Harwood, "'Holocaust' Story an Evil Hoax," *"Holocaust" News* (London) 1 (1982): 1.
10. Quoted in J. C. Obert, "Yockey: Profile of an American Hitler," *The Investigator*, October 1981, 20.
11. *Ibid.*, 20-24.
12. Quoted in T. McIver, "The Protocols of Creationism: Racism, Anti-Semitism and White Supremacy in Christian Fundamentalism," *Skeptic* 2, no. 4 (1994): 76-87.
13. R. Hofstadter, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics and Other Essays* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979).
14. J. Vankin and J. Whalen, *50 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time: History's Biggest Mysteries, Coverups and Cabals* (New York: Citadel Press, 1995).
15. See N. Cohn, *Warrant for Genocide: The Myth of the Jewish World-Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1967); McIver, "Protocols of Creationism" (1994).
16. Quoted in D. King, *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism* (New York: Doubleday, 1989), 137.
17. *Ibid.*, 138. For their various theories, see L. LaRouche, *The Power of Reason—A Kind of Autobiography* (New York: New Benjamin Franklin House, 1979); LaRouche, *Will the Soviets Rule during the 1980s?* (New York: New Benjamin Franklin House, 1979); LaRouche, *Basic Economics for Conservative Democrats* (New York: New Benjamin Franklin House, 1980); LaRouche, *LaRouche—Will This Man Become President?* (New York: New Benjamin Franklin House, 1983); M. Lefkowitz, *Not Out of Africa: How Afrocentrism Became an Excuse to Teach Myth as History* (New York: Basic Books, 1996).
18. J. Bacque, *Other Losses: An Investigation into the Mass Deaths of German Prisoners at the Hands of the French and Americans After World War II* (Toronto: Stoddart, 1989).
19. A. Cowdrey and S. Ambrose, "A Review of *Other Losses*," *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 7 (1990): 187-191; 8 (1991): 17-20.
20. Quoted in B. Bailer-Galanda and W. Neugebauer, *Incorrigibly Right: Right-Wing Extremists, "Revisionists" and Anti-Semites in Austrian Politics To-*