

## XX: Holocaust Problems/Nuremberg Problems:

### I. Definitions

1. 1945-1961: “Disaster,” “Catastrophe,” “Mass Murder”
2. 1961-1990: “Holocaust”
3. 1990: “Chruban”
4. 1990: “Shoah”
5. 1990: “Judeocide”
6. Never “Genocide”

Why?

Context: UN Genocide Convention of 1948

Definition: Destroy in whole or in part a national, religious, or racial group, specifically:

1. Killing
2. Physical or Mental Harm
3. Establish a condition of life designed to lead to group’s destruction.
4. Prevent Births
5. Transfer Children

BUT:

- A. Nothing about the destruction of Cultural or Political groups
- B. Nothing about a Hierarchizing of Suffering

Problems of Comparison vs. Connections

- A. Legal, but not Moral Comparisons
- B. Similarities: Nation-State, War/Rev., Dehumanizing

Answer:

Calling something a “Genocide” implicates the UN and International Law, which forces dangerous and costly action. This is why the UN has NEVER invoked its own Genocide Convention during a given event, only after it has occurred (c.f. Dharfur).

### II. Israel

History:

1. 1945 DP camps = Nazi camps
2. Failed Repatriation in the Eastern Countries
3. Nov. 29, 1947: UN 2/3 majority Vote to Partition Palestine
4. May 15, 1948: Yom Ha Atzmaut

Issues

1. Israel is a Product of the Holocaust. It remains part and parcel of its political, military, and cultural psyche.
2. Israel forced to be a product of a Morality issue, which allows the World to scrutinize its political decisions morally.
3. Ideology of Survival, so that every War is a War for its very existence.

#### 4. Never Again (Yizkor)

### III. The Becoming-History of Political Events

1. Loses its Passion, Relevance, and Power to Instruct.
2. Holocaust becomes a Metaphor, which leads to its Trivialization.
  - a. Ex's:
    - i. Bush = Hitler
    - ii. Abortion Clinics = Auschwitz
    - iii. PETA's "Holocaust on Your Plate" Campaign of 2003.

### IV. Popularization

1. Hitler and Nazism as Commodity (c.f. Elvis, DeLillo's *White Noise*)
2. Holocaust "Scholarship" vs. Holocaust "Literature"
  - a. Academic
  - b. Historical  
(European Hist.)
  - c. Multicausal
  - d. Post WW II
  - a. Political
  - b. Not Historical  
(Jewish Studies)
  - c. Monocausal
  - d. Post '67 War

### V. Problems associated with the Nuremberg Trials

#### A. Legal

1. Authority of Allies to try Nazis
  - a. Never Fair
  - b. Justice vs. Punishment
  - c. Fairness v. Right
- d. Their own Rules
  - e. Judges and Prosecution
2. Self Defense (Goring)
3. Organizations: Collective Guilt, but not Collective Punishment
4. Political, Legal, and Cultural Crimes, but not Moral crimes
5. Degree and Scope of the Violence
6. Executions
  - a. Msg. John C. Woods (15 yrs Exp/347 people)
7. Mitigation preceded Guilt or Innocence
  - a. Julius Striecher
    - i. Vulgar, Perverted, and Antisemitic
    - ii. Not in any Position of Power (forced retirement)
    - iii. Shunned and ostracized by other Nazis
    - iv. Unanimous Decision to Hang
  - b. Fritz Sauckel
    - i. The Only Working-Calls Defendant
    - ii. Not Cruel, Not Antisemitic
    - iii. Not in a Top position of Authority  
(under Speer)
    - iv. Weak-willed

- A. Embarrassing
    - B. Poor Public Speaker
    - C. Cryer
  - v. Unanimous Decision to Hang
- c. Albert Speer
  - i. Not Cruel, Not Antisemitic
  - ii. Expressed “Genuine” Guilt and Remorse
  - iii. Clean-Cut Image
    - A. Handsome
    - B. Professional Mannerisms
    - C. Exemplary Public Speaker
  - iv. Refused Hitler’s Scorched Earth Policy
  - v. “Supposed” Plot to Kill Hitler
  - vi. Provided German technical and military secrets to the Western (not Eastern) Allies, so the West could continue to fight Communism.
  - vii. 3-to-1 Decision for a Limited Sentence.

B. Political

- a. Nuremberg is the First Stage of the Cold War
  - i. West Germany is the Front Lines of this War
  - ii. Only 10K of 100K perp’s tried by allies
  - iii. “Legitimate” Trials quickly suspended
    - A. Israeli Trials
      - 1. Holocaust Crimes Predate Israel
      - 2. Adolf Eichmann 1961
      - 3. Ivan (John) Demjanjuk 1987
    - B. Until Slobodan Milosevic’s trial of 2003, No other State Leader has been tried for Genocide, War Crimes, or Crimes Against Humanity (c.f. Idi Amin, Pol Pot, etc.)

C. Emotional

- a. Marie Claude Vaillant-Coururier
- b. Rudenko’s Numbers
  - i. 1,710 Cities
  - ii. 70K Villages
  - iii. 6M Buildings
  - iv. 3 M POW’s
- c. Film Footage
- d. Pity, but not Remorse (c.f. Hoss, von dem Bach-Zelewski)
- e. Speer’s Guilt and acceptance of Responsibility