

POLAND'S CENSORED HOLOCAUST

WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD ADOLF HITLER risk war with the greatest continental military powers of his era—France, Britain and the Soviet Union—just to grab a piece of Poland? Mainstream historians say his motives were psychopathic, i.e., Hitler was a madman bent on war. But these “court historians” are leaving a very important piece out of the story. Is it possible Hitler’s “inexplicable” decision to attack Poland was based on the highest moral grounds and altruistic goals? Could a man like Adolf Hitler sit by while his fellow ethnic Germans in Poland were slaughtered—more than 59,000 in 1939 alone? The time had come to act.

BY MARC ROLAND

The 70th anniversary of Germany’s 1939 Blitzkrieg afforded mainstream historians the opportunity to yet again depict Poland as the innocent victim of Nazi aggression.¹ Their unquestioned paradigm is the most important foundation for World War II as taught and otherwise publicly presented to three generations, because upon it they have built Adolf Hitler’s full responsibility for that conflict during the past seven decades. According to conventional history, he hated the Poles and wanted to destroy them as his first step on the road to world conquest.

Yet, this characterization of the man is at odds with his actual statements and actions. His early success at international diplomacy was the establishment of a non-aggression pact with Poland in 1934.² Relations between that country and Germany had been strained from long before the National Socialists attained power the previous year. Border confrontations claimed both disputed territories and innocent lives on both sides since the close of World War I, throughout the 1920s.

The non-aggression pact brought a halt to these violent disagreements, thanks in large measure to the Fuehrer’s respect for Józef Klemens Pilsudski. The Polish chief of state was an ardent anti-Communist, who had built up a truly for-



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Gave Poland some bad advice.

midable armed forces of modern weapons and organization aimed at eventually breaking up the Soviet Union, a secret desire Hermann Goering, acting as Hitler’s closest personal emissary, confided to Pilsudski in March 1935.³ Two months later, the Polish marshal was dead of liver cancer, and, back in Berlin, Goering asked assembled representatives of the Reichstag to stand for a moment of silence in honor of the marshal.

Hitler said on that occasion, “We recognize with the understanding and the heartfelt friendship of true nationalists, the Polish state as the home of a great, nationally conscious people.”⁴ Still hoping for closer relations as preconditions for an eventual alliance against the USSR, he extended an exceptionally generous trade agreement to Poland in June.

“This treaty,” according to historian Richard M. Watt, “was extremely important to Poland inasmuch as Germany was by far Poland’s most important export market. In the past, Germany had been able to work considerable havoc on the Polish economy by implementing arbitrary changes in tariffs or quotas on imports from Poland. This new agreement gave Poland most-favored-nation status, and cleared up a number of economic disputes between the two nations.”⁵

As a first move in the direction of military cooperation, Polish and German volunteer flight crews of, respectively, the

Wojska Lotnicze i Obrony Powietrznej (the Polish air force) and the Luftwaffe flew combat missions on the same side of the Spanish Civil War for Franco's Nationalists from 1936 to 1939.⁶ On January 5 of that fateful year, Hitler told Josef Beck during a visit by the Polish foreign minister to Berchtesgaden, "Germany would be greatly interested in the continued existence of a strongly nationalist Polish state, because of what might happen in Russia. . . . Quite apart from that, the existence of a strong Polish army lightened Germany's load to a considerable degree. The divisions Poland kept on her frontier with Russia spared Germany from a similar military burden."⁷

Much later, even following Warsaw's capitulation in October 1939, the Fuehrer still called for an independent Polish state, a proposal emphatically turned down by Stalin, whose forces occupied about half the country.⁸ During the tense times that preceded the outbreak of war, three weeks after conferring with Beck, Hitler told the Reichstag, "Last year, we saw the friendship between Germany and Poland prove its worth as a guarantee of peace in the political life of Europe. At this moment, there are almost no differences of opinion between our friendly, peaceful states about the importance of this instrument (the German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact of 1934)."⁹

But when its 5th anniversary was celebrated in Warsaw, the participating German delegation was confronted with frigid formality. The amiable Polish attitude had been changed by the covert machinations of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal operative in Europe. William Christian Bullitt Jr.—America's first ambassador to the Soviet Union—urged Polish leaders to cease dealing with Hitler and provoke him over the Free City of Danzig. If war came, France and Britain, lavishly supplied by the United States, would invade from the west, enabling the Poles to seize eastern Germany as far as Berlin.¹⁰ Blinded by greed and arrogance, Warsaw politicians abandoned their previously peaceful position with the Reich for the non-binding assurances of a foreign diplomat.

Unaware of Bullitt's secret agitation, Hitler was both alarmed and mystified by the Poles' inexplicable hostility. It was expressed first in government policy, then throughout Poland's educational system, and fanned into popular hysteria by the national press. "Germany must be destroyed!," proclaimed Poland's leading newspaper, *Kurier Polski*, in banner headlines, while negotiations with Hitler were still in progress during mid-summer 1939.¹¹ At the same time, no less than the

Polish armed forces commander-in-chief, Edward Rydz-migly, declared, "Poland wants war with Germany, and Germany will not be able to avoid it, even if she wants to."¹²

According to Hans Schadowalt, chief investigator for the German Library of Information, "The intensified campaign of anti-German propaganda had an increasing influence on public opinion and incited it against Germany and the German minority in Poland."¹³

Hysterical conditions reached their zenith in August. "For weeks, there had been unrest in Poland," a German U-boat captain, Werner Hartmann, remembered:

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Ethnic Germans were lynched.
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The newspapers and cabarets mocked the German people. German citizens were, without grounds, accused and arrested. Ethnic Germans were lynched. General Ironside (British chief of the imperial general staff) inspected the Polish army. Megalomaniacal balloon-cap military men talked about the Battle of Tempelhof (i.e., Berlin) and "the border" on the Elbe.

Danzig was systematically cut off, and Gdingen—a schizophrenic formation made of half-finished, concrete blocks, and wooden fences along the sea—was supposed to become the great port of Eastern Europe. Each day, the newspaper headlines reported new and more worrisome excesses of this escalating chauvinism. One time, they claimed a Polish fleet would prepare a Salamis in the Baltic for us, and the waves would turn red with our blood all the way to the white chalk cliffs of Ruegen.¹⁴

Captain Hartmann accurately described the immediate prewar situation, but he drastically underplayed it. In point of fact, the agony inflicted on Poland's German minority of 1.4 million residents—many of them stranded behind the Polish border since World War I's Treaty of Versailles came into effect—was of a magnitude to rival the most extreme personal accounts of the "holocaust." The former are unknown to the outside world, or cynically dismissed as the fantasies of Nazi propaganda. Their sufferings are nonetheless far more convincingly authenticated.

An official German report issued in 1940 was, *ipso facto*, dismissed by the outside world as nothing more than atrocity propaganda used to justify Hitler's war against Poland. However, Allied skeptics failed to notice that medical and legal observers from the United States were participants in the Polish

war crimes investigations and verified their findings, as did forensic pathologists from the International Red Cross. Moreover, the German organizations that undertook these investigations belonged to the police and civil administrations, not the Nazi Party or *Wehrmacht*, and the findings were publicly released through the German Library of Information, not the Propaganda Ministry.

The report was carefully scrutinized after the war by anti-German researchers intent on unmasking it as propaganda. But in 1954, the East German Communist historian Theodor Bierschenk stated, after a four-year study entitled *Polish Acts of Atrocity Against the German Minority in Poland*, that the charges were based entirely on factual evidence.¹⁵ His judgment was challenged the following year by Otto Heike, a West German Social Democrat journalist, who was forced to admit that Bierschenk's conclusions were correct.¹⁶

Since then, the 1940 report has been similarly verified by the few university-trained researchers who have bothered to examine it for factuality. Foremost among them is the American lawyer and historian Alfred-Maurice de Zayas, presently professor of international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, formerly a senior lawyer with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. De Zayas goes into great detail about this in his book *The Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau, 1939-1945*.¹⁷

He was seconded by the renowned and meticulous U.S. historian David Leslie Hoggan.¹⁸ Hoggan noted that *Polish Acts of Atrocity Against the German Minority in Poland* documents these war crimes in a thoroughly professional and credible manner, as illustrated by the following, cogent excerpts:

Up to November 17, 1939, the closing day for the documentary evidence contained in the first edition of this book, 5,437 murders, committed by members of the Polish armed forces and by Polish civilians on men, women and children of the German minority had already been irrefutably proved. It was quite apparent even then that the actual number of murders far exceeded this figure, and by February 1, 1940, the total number of identified bodies of the German minority had increased to 12,857. Official investigations carried out since the outbreak of the German-Polish war have shown that to these 12,857 killed there must be added more than 45,000 missing, all of whom must be accounted dead since no trace of them can be found.

Thus, the victims belonging to the German minority in Poland already now total over 58,000. Even this appalling fig-



The 1939 'Corridor Massacres'

As early as April 1939, Poles had been attacking Germans in the Danzig corridor in Poland, with smaller incidents stretching back to the close of World War I. Germany had protested in writing to the League of Nations dozens of times with no results. In all, Polish and Soviet Bolsheviks killed 58,000 German nationals in the Danzig corridor in the months leading up to the German invasion of 1939. Mass killings of thousands of ethnic German civilians (*Volksdeutsche*) by both Polish civilians and Soviet secret police—confident that Poland would quickly defeat Germany in the event of war—took place. Many apparently expected to take possession of German farms and businesses. To stop further depredations against German civilians, Hitler decided to end the carnage by force of arms. These assaults against the German population living in Poland were the main cause for the invasion. Above are shown victims of the Bromberg massacre.

ure by no means covers the sum total of the losses sustained by the German minority. These murders were intentional, and for the greater part, committed by Polish soldiers, police and gendarmes, but also by armed civilians, schoolboys and apprentices. Protestant churches and parish halls were destroyed and burnt in Bromberg-Schwedenhöhe, in Hopfengarten near Bromberg, in Gr. Leistenau near Graudenz, in Kl. Katz near Gottenhafen.

The number of vicarages robbed and pillaged has not been ascertained. In the parish church of Bromberg and in St. Peter's Church in Posen, altars were defiled and the altar lights destroyed, bibles and altar cloths were torn to rags. ... the oldest man murdered was the 86-year-old Peter Rierast of Ciechocinek and the youngest victim the two and a half month

old infant Gisela Rosenau of Lochowo, who died of hunger on the breast of her murdered mother.

Although mainly men of military age, especially between the ages of 16 and 25, were killed, later on even German women and girls were not spared, and for weeks after those sordid events, death notices in the *Deutsche Rundschau* in Bromberg as well as in the *Posener Tageblatt* give an appalling survey of how German men, women, old men, cripples, invalids and children were done to death at the murderous hands of the Poles, and how most of them were mutilated in a ghastly way and robbed.

The type of injury (shots in the neck, stabs in the eye-sockets, crushing of skulls with rifle butts, and exposing the brain, shots in the head fired straight down, etc.) is singularly uniform in all the different localities where murder took place. The numbers of killed and missing as ascertained by the Central Office for the Discovery and Interment of Minority Germans instituted by the Head of the Civil Administration in Posen, have already had to be vastly increased since that date.

Not only were far more Germans killed in the surroundings of Posen and within the radius of Bromberg on "Bloody Sunday," but even Silesia and Central Poland have disclosed such hecatombs of victims that, according to the latest figures available on February 1, 1940, the number of dead and missing in the German minority now amounts with certainty to 58,000, of whom 12,857 have so far been discovered and identified. The worst persecutions of Germans took place between Aug. 31 and Sept. 6, 1939. They reached their climax on the "Bloody Sunday," Sept. 3, in Bromberg and terminated about Sept. 17-18 with the liberation of the abducted victims by the arrival of German troops near Lowitsch.

The Germans were usually herded together, driven off and massacred in isolated spots, in numbers ranging from 39, 48, 53 to 104 at a time. The largest mass grave found close to Tarnowa, north of Turek, on October 14, 1939, contained 104 bodies of Germans, who had been led away in columns from Schroda and were afterwards killed by blows, or shot and mutilated. A mass grave of 40 minority Germans from Thorn and its neighborhood, discovered close to Alexandrowo, contained such terribly mutilated bodies that only three could be identified.

In nearly every case there were ghastly mutilations such as eyes gouged out, teeth smashed, brains oozing out of the skulls; tongues torn out, abdomens slit open, broken arms and legs, fingers hacked off, feet and lower portions of the legs chopped off. Those who were massacred in this way lay bound together with ropes in twos or threes, or were placed in rows, hands tied [behind] their backs with ropes and straps.¹⁹

It is important to understand that the majority of Poles were appalled and intimidated by the maniacal behavior of their fellow countrymen. The German report records instances "where

soldiers arriving on the scene took preventive action against the bloodthirsty Polish civilians, or where a Polish officer liberated a German woman from the assassins' hands. Whenever a Pole intervened in earnest on behalf of a minority German, he was intimidated by threats and violence to such an extent that he had to put conscientious objections out of his mind. In spite of this, various Poles behaved decently and courageously. Polish landlords and servants are reported to have tried to protect Germans at the risk of their own lives."²⁰

Anti-German hysteria ignited by Warsaw government officials and fanned into a conflagration by the nation's press instigated the lowest human elements in Poland. Every people has a criminal class whose violent instincts may be set off with little provocation, and the Poles were neither more nor less cursed with dangerous elements.

The atrocities committed by German Communists during the 1920s and early 1930s against their fellow citizens matched in every way save numbers the brutality offered by Polish criminals against helpless Germans.

As the author of 1940's report wrote, "The derisive attitude of the Polish soldiers toward any idea of morality or right sprang from politico-psychological

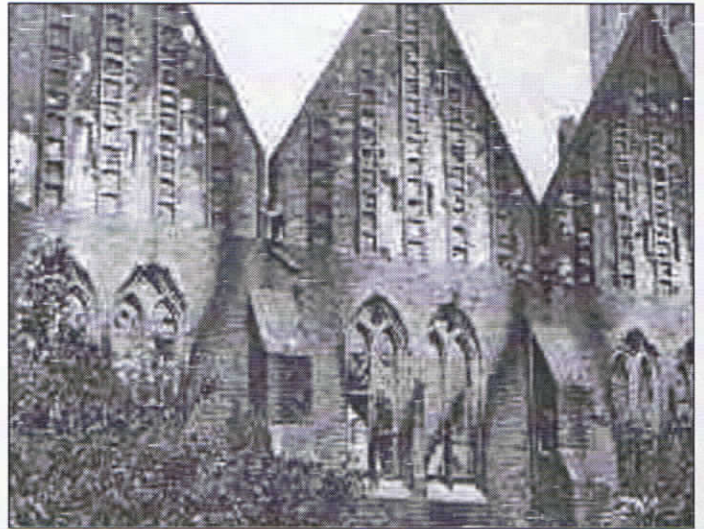
roots; every kind of influence having been employed in the barracks to create a general atmosphere against everything German especially by the repeated orders of the Polish government, clergy, subordinate officials, as well as certain quarters financed by the authorities, to eliminate all trace of the established German element."²¹

By late August 1939, even the British and French were urging Warsaw statesmen to negotiate with Hitler, but they adamantly refused, trusting Bullitt's confidential assurances. At the same time, Hitler sought to head off a military confrontation by requesting the resumption of direct talks with the Polish foreign minister. "In these circumstances," the Fuehrer informed Sir Neville Henderson, the British ambassador, "the German government agrees to accept the British government's offer of their good services in securing the dispatch to Berlin of a Polish emissary with full powers. They count on the arrival of this emissary on Wednesday, August 30."²² Josef Beck answered him with actions, not words, when "this emissary" flew to London. There, he and his diplomatic colleague, Count Edward Raczynski, joined the British foreign secretary, Lord Halifax, in signing a Mutual Assistance Pact. It guaranteed England's armed intervention if Poland was at-

"The majority of Poles were appalled by the maniacal behavior of their countrymen. Polish soldiers took preventive action against out-of-control civilians on occasion."

Bloody Sunday in Bromberg . . .

Sept. 3-5, 1939: On "Bloody Sunday," Polish Jews, under the protection of the Polish army, attacked the small German town of Bromberg and viciously killed 5,500 Germans. According to reports, groups of Bolsheviks attacked Bromberg from Ponz, Lotz and Warsaw and started killing the farmers on the outskirts. Children were nailed to barns, women were raped and hacked to death with axes; men were executed where they stood. **Right**, a church where 328 Germans perished after being rounded up, forced into the structure and the church set on fire. Two weeks before, on August 20, 1939, the Upper-Silesian *voivode* Micha Grazynski screamed to the crowd at a meeting of the Association of the Insurrectionists of Poland: "Strike down the Germans, anywhere you meet them!" This became the slogan of the attackers who were determined to eradicate all things German.



tacked "by any foreign foe," although Germany alone was cited in a secret protocol not disclosed until after the war. By then, Poland's armed forces were being mobilized.

"As late as three days before the outbreak of the German-Polish War," Hitler later recalled, "I proposed to the British ambassador in Berlin a solution for the German-Polish problem similar to the problem of the Saar area, under international control. This offer cannot be explained away. It was only rejected because the responsible circles in English politics wanted the war, partly in the expectation of business advantages, partly driven by propaganda promoted by international Jewry."²³

As writers for the anti-Nazi *Marshall Cavendish Illustrated Encyclopedia of World War Two* were forced to admit, "The German invasion of Poland was launched after the Polish ambassador in Berlin refused to see Hitler's proposals for a peaceful solution to the problem of Danzig and the Corridor."²⁴

But Poland was primarily attacked due to that country's in-

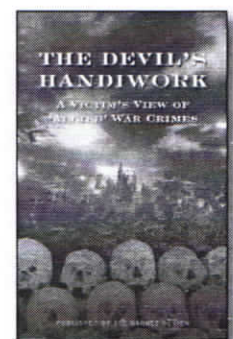
tolerable mistreatment of its German population. No national leader on Earth would have allowed his fellow countrymen to similarly suffer and die just across the border in a neighboring country. As such, the first Blitzkrieg was launched as a rescue mission to save what remained of a much-abused German minority from extermination.

This immediate *casus belli* for World War II is not dramatized in the public entertainment or information media, taught in schools as part of the background for hostilities between the two nations, nor cited by mainstream historians in their prevailing version of events. To do so would invalidate their inviolable paradigm that Poland was nothing more than the irreproachable victim of Hitler's lust for conquest.

Moreover, awareness of civilian German suffering in pre-war Poland might threaten to diminish the moral high ground advocates for "the holocaust" have so long staked out as their unique psychological real estate. For these compelling reasons,

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Perhaps as many as 17 million ethnic Germans—almost triple the number of claimed deaths from “the holocaust”—were killed or expelled or fled from eastern Germany, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland when World War II ended, continuing until 1950 or later—the largest exodus of any group in world history. As many as 3 million civilians died in this human tragedy. Allied leaders agreed that Poland should gobble up eastern Germany and force the natives out. This chaos was described as “orderly” and “humane”—it was anything but. Many civilians were put in internment and slave labor camps never to be heard from again. Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower was personally responsible for the miserable deaths of some 1.5 million surrendered soldiers. Soviet troops committed innumerable rapes and other atrocities. Above, refugees flee from Danzig, a 90% Germanic city. Conditions were especially rough in winter; lines of people miles long trekked through the snow, struggling to keep ahead of the advancing Red barbarians. [For more, see TBR’s book *The Devil’s Handiwork: A Victims’ View of “Allied” War Crimes*, edited by John Tiffany. Softcover, 275 pages, #529, \$25 minus 10% for TBR subscribers. Call 1-877-773-9077 toll free to charge to major credit cards. Add \$3 S&H inside the U.S.

the more than 58,000 persons who perished so miserably more than 70 years ago were not mentioned last year in any memorial services commemorating the start of World War II.

They were merely Germans—and therefore of relatively little significance compared to the 6 million Jews allegedly gassed by Hitler. Except, of course, no such comparisons are ever made by the conventional authorities that dominate public consciousness. Instead, lovers of the truth must find solace in Shakespeare’s conviction that “Foul deeds will rise, though all the Earth o’erwhelm them, to men’s eyes.”²⁵ ♦

ENDNOTES:

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- 17 Alfred-Maurice de Zayas, *The Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau, 1939-1945*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989. Available from the TBR BOOK CLUB for \$22.50 minus 10% for TBR subscribers plus \$3 S&H inside the U.S.
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- 21 Ibid, Section V.
- 22 Richard M. Watt, *Bitter Glory: Poland and Its Fate 1918-1939*, NY: Hippocrene Books, 1998, p.341.
- 23 <http://www.mikekemble.com/ww2/hitler.html>
- 24 *The Marshall Cavendish Illustrated Encyclopedia of World War Two*, Volume I, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 1985, p.76.
- 25 *Hamlet*, Act I, Scene 2.

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