

## LIVELY OPINION

## Lithuania's form of Holocaust denial: 'The Jews were the murderers'

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The 70th anniversary of the German invasion into the Soviet Union was June 22, 2011. As a result of this invasion, the Holocaust reached new peaks of horror, destruction and slaughter, culminating in the murder of six million Jews in Europe.

A third of the Jewish people were murdered by the Nazis and their many assistants, among whom were 96% of the Jews of Lithuania.

Only a few of us remain, but as long as we still breathe we will continue telling the true account of those who cold-bloodedly and cruelly murdered our loved ones.

The Lithuanians were among the Nazis' cruelest collaborators. Enthusiastically, diligently and largely by their own initiative, they participated in the slaughter of 96% of Lithuania's Jews.

When the war ended, very few of the killers were indicted by the Soviet government. Thousands of other Lithuanian murderers — some of whom escaped to other countries — were never brought to court.

When Lithuania regained its independence, many of the escaped killers returned, not fearing being caught. On the contrary, they now earned the status of "national heroes" and were designated as "freedom fighters."

From the first years of independence, the various Lithuanian governments began looking at ways and tricks to change their image from "Jew killers" to "victims."

When we look back at the Lithuanians' conduct in this regard, we cannot but reach the conclusion that they planned their actions in reversing

their murderous image — step by step, ruse by ruse.

First they established the "International Committee" to construct a defensive strategy that would divert the accusations away from them onto the Germans and Soviets by introducing the idea of the "two genocides" and by holding the Prague Convention.

The International Committee generated material to be used by the Lithuanians in removing the mark of Cain for their horrifying crimes against the Jews.

The committee's purpose was to "evaluate the events of the Soviet and Nazi period, namely 1941-1944."

The Lithuanians deliberately united the Nazi and Soviet periods in

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order to legitimize the Lithuanian version of the "symmetry" between the "two genocides."

Upon gaining independence, and despite their hate of the Soviets, the Lithuanians still adhered to the Soviet version that "only a few Lithuanians collaborated with the Nazis, and therefore the Germans were the ones who murdered Lithuania's Jews" (as per a book by Soviet Lithuania's prime minister).

This, of course, was very convenient for Holocaust denial.

They added their own "touch," which was cherished by the Jew killers of the LAF and Iron Wolf

Lithuanian Nazi organizations:

"The Jews who ruled Lithuania in the Soviet period, especially in the NKVD, murdered and deported to Siberia thousands of Lithuanians."

Following this assertion, it was very easy to construct the "symmetry" theory: "The Jews murdered the Lithuanians and the Lithuanians murdered the Jews."

The International Committee at first consisted of a grotesque collection of anonymous members who were mostly Lithuanian (including the chairman) and among whom only one had studied these issues.

To these the Lithuanians added their loyal Jew Emanuel Zingeris; another Jew from the American Jewish Committee, a Jew from Bnai Brith, a German and a Russian.

In addition to the committee members, the Lithuanians appointed 10 "experts" (mostly Lithuanian) who were entrusted with the preparatory work on the material to be approved by the committee itself.

The committee's composition did not earn it much esteem around the world, and when the Lithuanians realized this, they decided to contact Yad Vashem and ask it to join. As this was a highly respected institution in the international arena, they knew it would add some "scientific aura" to the committee and additionally attract other important personages to join as well.

Against our opinion, Yad Vashem decided to collaborate, and appointed two committee members on its behalf, Prof. Dov Levin and Dr. Yitzhak Arad.

Prof. Levin left the committee after

one meeting and Dr. Arad left after the Lithuanians began questioning him about his supposed participation in an attack on a Lithuanian village when serving as a partisan in WW II.

We had warned everyone, and Yad Vashem particularly, that the Lithuanians would use the committee to further their own ends, namely distorting history.

Unfortunately, we were right. This can be seen from the distorted material published by the committee, as well as by the idea it widely advertised that all was done with the consent of Yad Vashem.

The "experts" published 18 books, out of which 17 dealt with the murder, exile and atrocities allegedly done by the Soviets to the Lithuanians when the country was under Soviet rule, 1940-1941 and 1944-1990.

Only one book covered the relationship between the Lithuanians and Jews during the WW II, and it contains many inaccuracies and irrelevant events.

The Lithuanians were successful in introducing a large amount of utterly false material into the readers' minds, and the material

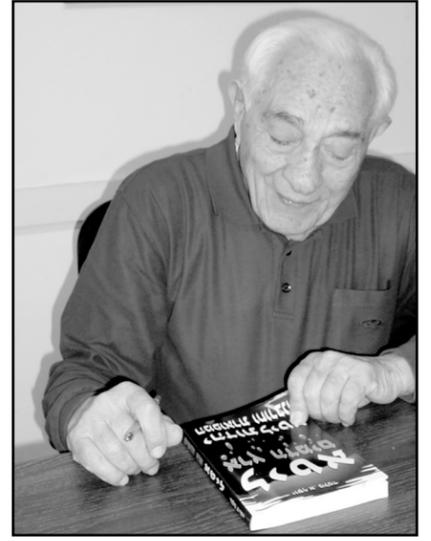
### Lithuania proposed the theory that Jews killed the Lithuanians

published by the committee served undoubtedly as the foundation for their further plans.

#### 'Two Genocides'

After the International Committee, the Lithuanians were only a few steps away from the "two genocides" idea. After filling 17 books with accusations against the Soviets who had allegedly deported, murdered, raped and abused them, etc. etc., they were now "certain" that the Soviets had committed "genocide."

If this were so, they now had their



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own genocide. Genocide was no longer exclusive to the Jews. They didn't care that the Soviets had done it to them (if they had done it).

True, the Soviets, especially under Stalin's regime, had a murderous government. It murdered and deported, but this was done not only to the Lithuanians but also to the Poles, Czechs and Yugoslavian peoples, to name a few. They murdered more Jews than Lithuanians, by the way. But this was a crime, not genocide.

I am certain that the Lithuanians understand this very well. But the "two genocides" version is dear to their hearts, allowing them to become "victims" just like the Jews. And if they are victims, the mark of Cain seems much dimmer, and they are the ones who deserve compassion.

#### The Prague Declaration

Despite the illogic in the Lithuanian activity, they persisted and even found those who would share their opinions, mostly nations with their own "cans of worms" such as Ukraine, Latvia and Estonia, but also some "humane" peoples like the Czechs.

Then, in May, 2008, people mostly from Eastern Europe assembled in Prague in order to discuss these issues. On June 3, the Prague Declaration was published, signed by some 40 personages who had participated in the convention.

It asserts, inter alia, "the crimes of communism are equivalent to the Nazis' crimes."

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## HILLEL GOLDBERG: VIEW FROM DENVER

### Black hole and the light of faith

Maybe it began when someone first explained to me what a light year is. Traveling at 186,000 miles per second, light beckons us to do the math: 186,000 times 60 equals the distance light travels in one minute. Multiply that by 60, then by 24, and you have the distance light travels in one day. Multiply that by 365 and you have a "light year."

Can you fathom that number or that distance?

Few people will travel even one second's worth of light — 186,000 miles — in a lifetime.

The notion of a light year got me started on the — speaking literally — *awesome* messages from astronomy.

Voyager 1, the man-made spacecraft now poised to leave the solar system, discovered 23 new moons of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Earth's one moon — the moon we see waxing and waning in the sky — is a mystery. That human beings reached it O so briefly, and walked on it O so lightly, was an achievement dreamed of for millennia. And yet, here are 23 *new* moons, each one

of which human beings do not even dream of coming near to. Awesome, indeed, is this universe.

Most of these planets in our solar system are so much larger than the earth, yet so much smaller than the sun, which itself is a tiny part of our galaxy, which contains millions of stars, most of them millions of "light years" apart — and this galaxy is but a drop in the ocean of galaxies! Can our awe looking up at them, or even contemplating them, send us beyond them?

Take these galaxies, whose numbers dwarf the incomprehensible number of miles that light travels in one year, and call them a universe. Note the latest: there are, supposedly, "parallel universes." How can the vastness of G-d possibly be grasped by the human being confronting the messages of astronomy?

Before attempting to address that question, please forgive me as I

reel from two other messages: that of the "black hole" and of the "Big Bang."

A black hole is a star so dense that its gravity is so great that even light cannot escape from it. How much could one of those black holes weigh?

### I gasp trying to grasp the ungraspable

Well, what does the earth weigh? To grasp that, we may unravel the same type of sequence: Whatever the earth weighs, it is but a drop in the bucket of the sun's weight, which is nothing compared to a star's; on up the scale to a black hole's incomparably greater weight.

Can we grasp it?

I focus on the "r" in the word *grasp* and remove it in order to reach the world "*gasp*." How intimately related those two words seem in astronomy. I gasp trying to grasp the ungraspable.

Then there is the Big Bang, when the universe supposedly began with the explosion of so much matter,

with so much power, that the universe (or at least this one) all came from that single moment, which we measure by earth-bound time as a fraction of a second.

To me, astronomy has always been the firmest, most palpable evidence for a Creator and His act of creation.

That little spacecraft, Voyager 1, which has been in flight for 34 years and may fly for another 10, and which has reconnoitered our solar system and taught us more about our "immediate" surroundings than ever seemed possible, is phenomenal. But in what context? In the context of human exploration, Voyager 1 is resplendent. But in the context of the universe? That the Voyager has revealed Saturn's braided ring structure, Jupiter's ring system and "Great Red Spot," plus these 23 moons and so much more, is nothing.

"What is the human being, that You should remember him? and the son of man, that You should take notice of him?" asks Psalm 8 rhetorically, but then continues: "And You have made him [the human



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being] just short of G-d, and have crowned him with honor and splendor."

We are nothing.

We are everything.

I am dust and ash. For me the world was created.

Gazing out at the uncharted astral straits, we are inexpressibly small; yet it is we who gaze, we who can grasp both our own smallness and the awesomeness of the size and the weight of the universe.

Either way, we gasp. And who gave us that capacity if not the very G-d Who beckons from beyond, and through, the awesome messages of the universe?