

Jürgen Graf

THE GIANT

WITH FEET OF CLAY

Raul Hilberg
and his Standard Work
on the 'Holocaust'



Theses & Dissertations Press
Capshaw 2001

HOLOCAUST Handbooks Series, Vol. 3:

Graf, Jürgen:

The Giant With Feet of Clay.

Raul Hilberg and his Standard Work on the 'Holocaust'.

Translated by Michael Humphrey

Cover: Gernar Rudolf

Capshaw (Alabama): Theses & Dissertations Press, March 2001

ISBN 0-9679856-4-1

ISSN 1529-7748

Original German edition:

Graf, Jürgen:

Riese auf tönernen Füßen.

Raul Hilberg und sein Standardwerk über den 'Holocaust'.

Castle Hill Publishers, October 1999

ISBN 1-902619-02-1

© 1999, German edition by Jürgen Graf

© 2001, first English edition

by Theses & Dissertations Press,

P.O. Box 64, Capshaw, Alabama 35742, USA

Body text printed in Times New Roman, 11 pt. Throughout this book, double quotation marks (“”) are used for “*quotations*” (set always in *italics*), single marks (‘’) for otherwise non-emphasized text of ‘so-called’ and ‘so-to-say’ character (except when used for quotations inside quotations). Quotations are introduced once with a single “-mark and ended with a ”-mark (to break with the American tradition to introduce every paragraph in a quotation with a “-mark, but never closing it, which, strictly speaking, is an “*unterminated string error*”). Entire sentences or paragraphs of quoted text are rendered in 10 pt font and left indentation. Any addition to quoted text is rendered non-italic and surrounded by [brackets], so are added omission ellipses [...], which could otherwise not be distinguished from ellipses in the original. Titles of books and journals are set in italics without quotation marks. References have the order: a) books: author(s)/editor(s), *title*, [volume,] [edition,] [publishing house,] town year[, pages]; b) journals: author(s), [“*title of article*”], *name of journal*, volume[(issue)] (year)[, pages] (items in brackets optional). All references to the original English version of Hilberg’s book were added by the translator.

Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	7
II. General Remarks	11
1. Consistent Ignoring of Opposing Theses	11
2. No Photos, No Description of the Homicidal Gas Chambers and Gas Vans	12
3. Discrepancy Between the Title and the Contents of the Work	12
III. Remarks on the First Volume.....	15
IV. The Lack of Documents on Annihilation Policy and its Consequences for the Orthodox Historians	19
1. “No Documents Have Survived”	19
2. Intentionalists and Functionalists	21
3. Raul Hilberg’s Errors and Confusions	26
a. Was There the Ominous Hitler Order or Not?	26
b. “No Special Agency... No Special Budget”	28
c. The Myth of the Code Language	29
d. Hitler Quotation as ‘Proof’ for the Mass Murder	31
e. Two Insoluble Problems.....	32
f. “An Incredible Meeting of Minds”	33
V. The Massacres Behind the Eastern Front.....	35
1. The Initial Situation.....	35
2. Hilberg’s Version of German Jewish Policy in the Occupied Soviet Territories	36
3. On the Likelihood of Hilberg’s Description	40
a. The Claimed Numbers of Victims of the Einsatzgruppen.....	40
b. The Refugees Drifting back into the Cities	41
c. The Purpose and the Course of the Ghettoization	41
4. No Valid Evidence for the Claimed Approximately 1.2 Million Murdered Jews Behind the Eastern Front.....	43
5. Hilberg’s Documentary Evidence	46
6. Hilberg’s ‘Affidavits’ and Other Witness Evidence	49
7. Hilberg’s Invented ‘Shooting of Baltic Camp Inmates’	52
8. What Really Happened to the Jews in the Occupied Soviet Territories?	54

VI. The Deportations.....	57
1. The Initial Situation.....	57
2. The Purpose of the Deportations:	
Labor Deployment versus Extermination	59
3. Hilberg’s Invented Mass Shootings in Galicia.....	63
4. As Sheep to the Slaughter... ..	64
5. People ‘Gassed’ in Auschwitz Turn up in Stutthof.....	68
VII. The Killing Centers	71
1. The Initial Situation.....	71
2. Hilberg’s Imaginary Number of Victims	
of the ‘extermination camps’	74
3. Killing Weapons and Removal of Corpses	
in the ‘extermination camps’, as Told by Hilberg	76
a. The ‘Pure Extermination Camps’	76
b. Majdanek	77
c. Auschwitz-Birkenau	78
d. The Holocaust Pope with the Healthy Stomach	79
4. Hilberg’s Methodology: The Revaluation of all Values	80
a. Hilberg’s Star Witnesses	86
b. Hilberg’s Favorite Jewish Witness: Filip Müller	94
5. Hilberg’s Description of the Annihilation of the Jews	
in the Light of Technology and Toxicology	98
a. Diesel Motors as a Killing Weapon.....	98
b. Removal of Corpses in the ‘Pure Extermination Camps’:	
Case Study Bełżec	99
c. Zyklon B as a Killing Weapon	101
d. The Practical Course of the Gassings in Crematories II and III	
in Birkenau, as Told by Hilberg	104
e. The Claimed Incineration of Sometimes 10,000 Corpses Daily	
in Birkenau	106
VIII. Hilberg’s Statistics on Jewish Victims:	
Anatomy of Another Fraud.....	107
1. The ‘Three Categories of Victims’	107
2. Hungary.....	109
3. Poland.....	110
4. The Soviet Union	111
5. Summary	111
IX. Hilberg’s Debacle at the First Zündel Trial.....	113
X. Conclusions	117
The Opponents	119
Sources.....	121
Index of Names	127

“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

– Daniel 2: 31-35 (RSV)

I. Introduction

According to the official version of history, during the Second World War the German National Socialists carried out a mass murder against the Jewish population that was unparalleled in its monstrousness and its systematic ruthlessness. Many millions of Jews, we are told, were taken from German-ruled lands and packed off to ‘extermination camps’ in the Polish territories and there killed, mostly in gas chambers but some in gas vans. We are also told the Germans massacred an immense number of Jews behind the eastern front. The total number of victims of gassing or shooting as well as of those who died from disease, exhaustion, hunger or other cause supposedly runs to five or six million.

This claimed unique genocide is usually labeled with the word ‘Holocaust’, which comes from the Greek word *όλοκαυστός* for “*entirely burned*”, and which has spread throughout and beyond the Anglo-Saxon language domain since the release of the US motion picture of the same name in 1979.

The version of the fate of the Jews during the Second World War just summarized can be found in all the dictionaries and history books of the Western world. It is taken as axiomatic in any public discussion on the ‘Holocaust’. Deviation from this version is discouraged. Dissenting voices are stifled by a powerful media censorship and in many European states they are suppressed with police-state terror tactics.

In the last few decades a vast literature on the ‘Holocaust’ has appeared, but there is general agreement that there is one work which can be regarded as the standard work on the subject: Raul Hilberg’s *The Destruction of the European Jews*.

Born in Vienna in 1926, the Jew Hilberg emigrated to the United States with his parents in 1939. In 1944 he joined the American Army. In 1948 he began to study the question of the destiny of the Jews under the National Socialist regime. In the years 1951/52 he worked in the Federal Documentation Center at Alexandria, Virginia, where his job was to evaluate captured German documents. In 1952 he was awarded a Master’s degree in Political Science, and in 1955 the Doctor’s degree in Law. As is the case with most other authors who have dealt with the ‘Holocaust’, he is not a historian by profession. However, for many years at the University of Vermont, in addition to International Relations and US Foreign Policy he has taught on the history of the Jews during the Second World War.¹

The Destruction of the European Jews first appeared in 1961 and was reprinted unchanged in 1967 and 1979. In 1985, a “revised and definitive” edition with a few changes followed. Amazingly, the complete work was not published in German until 1982, and then only by a small publisher (Olle and Wolter in Berlin). It was called *Die Vernichtung der europäischen Juden*. We will use the three-volume edition published May 1997 by Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag in Frankfurt, based on the “definitive” English version of 1985.²

Hilberg’s study on the ‘Holocaust’ claims to be the unrivalled best and most exhaustive work of its kind. This is made unmistakably clear in the introduction to the German edition of the work:

“If the phrase ‘standard work’ has any meaning at all, Hilberg’s famous comprehensive history of the Holocaust must be considered as such. [...] The theme of this work is the malefactors, the plan, the method of operation and the operation itself. With the ‘coolness and precision’ which characterizes the great historians (Süddeutsche Zeitung) Hilberg traces the involvement and participation of the ruling elites in the government, in industry and the armed forces in the destruction of the Jews. The functional dedication of the ordinary bureaucrat, railway man, policeman and soldier to the work of annihilation will also be traced. A type of criminal steps forward (who will be named) who will never stand before a judge after 1945:

1 For Hilberg’s biography see the Introduction to the German edition of Hilberg’s work, (*Die Vernichtung der europäischen Juden*, Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt 1997), and also Barbara Kulaszka (ed.) *Did Six Million Really Die?*, Samisdat Publishers, Toronto 1992, pp. 5f. (online: <http://www.ihr.org/books/kulaszka/falsenews.toc.html>)

2 3 vols., Holmes and Meier, New York 1985.

the Prussian general, the national conservative ministerial official, the diplomat, the jurist, industrialists, chemists and medical doctors.

Hilberg has collected and refined the material for his book throughout his lifetime. He is known as the best-informed specialist on the sources, which for the most part came from the perpetrators. They have recorded the proof of their deadly handiwork—with characteristic thoroughness—a hundred thousand times over—with official stationery and seals.

The present comprehensive history of the Holocaust is 'source material for specialists, analysis for theoreticians and a history book without parallel for the general public.' (Sunday Times)."

That Hilberg's work is the result of an immense and devoted labor is recognized even by Revisionists, those who dispute the current version of the fate of the Jews in the Third Reich. For the Frenchman Prof. Robert Faurisson, one of the most prominent Revisionists, Hilberg stands "*high above Poliakov, Wellers, Klarsfeld and others like them.*"³ Because of Hilberg's dominant position in orthodox 'Holocaust' literature the Revisionists have had to confront his work again and again. The first such confrontation was in 1964, three years after the appearance of the first edition of *The Destruction of the European Jews*. At that time, the Frenchman Paul Rassinier, a former Resistance fighter, ex-prisoner of the NS concentration camps Buchenwald and Dora, and the founder of Revisionism, made a full attack on Hilberg. In his book *Le Drame des Juifs Européens*, Rassinier made a thorough study of Hilberg's statistics on Jewish population losses during the Second World War. He rejected the latter's conclusion that the number of Jewish victims should be set at 5.1 million; he said Hilberg could only have arrived at this number by a gross manipulation of his data. According to Rassinier, and based on Hilberg's data, the real number of Jewish NS victims was less than one million.⁴

Revisionist research has not stood still in the more than 35 years since the appearance of Rassinier's critique of Hilberg. However, there has never been a comprehensive analysis of the methods Hilberg applied nor a critical appraisal of his conclusions. The purpose of the present work is to remedy that lack.

Our investigation will concentrate on the following points:

3 Robert Faurisson, "*Mon expérience du révisionnisme*", in: *Annales d'Histoire Révisionniste*, no. 8, spring 1990; quoted from Robert Faurisson, *Écrits révisionnistes (1974-1998)*, 4 volumes, privately published 1999, p. 954 (v. III). (online: <http://aaargh.vho.org/fran/archFaur/1986-1990/RF9003xx1.html>)

4 Paul Rassinier, *Le drame des juifs européens*, Les Sept Couleurs, Paris 1964, Reprinted by La Vieille Taupe, Paris 1984, pp. 15-32, 107-221. (online: <http://aaargh.vho.org/fran/archRassi/dje/dje.html>)

- What proofs does Hilberg provide that the NS regime planned the physical destruction of Jews living in its area of control?
- What proofs does Hilberg provide for the existence of extermination camps, that is, camps erected solely or partially for the murder of Jews and provided with killing gas chambers for this purpose?
- What proofs does Hilberg provide for the figure of close to 5.1 million which he claims is the number of Jewish victims of National Socialist policy?

There will be no discussion on the persecutions and deportations of Jews during the Second World War nor on the suffering of Jews in camps and ghettos, which are doubted by almost nobody: Hilberg's work rests on incontestably solid source material here. The mass shootings of Jews behind the eastern front are a different matter. It is not disputed by anyone that some shootings took place; what is in dispute by Revisionist researchers is the extent of these shootings as claimed by Hilberg and other orthodox historians. On this point too we will examine critically the numbers of victims Hilberg claims and the sources he has used.

In short, we will attempt to determine whether Hilberg's great work on the 'Holocaust' deserves the scholarly merit it lays claim to or must be found lacking.

