

Why Accuse Heusinger of Genocide, When East and West Prepare Wider Cremations?

Only One Lesson Matches the Crimes the Eichmann Trail Recalled

Walking around East Berlin in 1959, I wandered into a theatre where a movie was playing called "Sterne" (Stars). The stars were the stars of David the Jews wore in the Hitler period. It was a Bulgarian-East German film about a Jewish concentration camp girl with whom a Wehrmacht officer falls in love, later joining the Partisans when she is packed into the freight cars for Auschwitz. When I hear that the Eichmann verdict has finally been handed down in Jerusalem, I remember a scene in that film when the concentration camp inmates first hear rumors that the Germans are burning up people in crematoriums. They go to their leader, an old Jewish doctor, and he reassures them saying, "*Aber die Deutschen sind auch Menschen*," i.e. "The Germans are also human." He feels no human being could possibly do anything so wicked; the rumors couldn't be true.

How Easily They Excuse Themselves!

I cried, remembering the survivors with whom I travelled as a reporter from Poland to Palestine in the spring of 1946, and the stories they told. I haven't had the heart to follow the Eichmann trial. This one man in the dock is too trivial beside the mountainous toll of humiliation and death he symbolized. Whether sincerely or not, the picture he drew of himself was a picture likely to appeal to many Germans as guilty as he, the picture of the fussy bureaucrat who only did his duty, a cog in a machine. How easily the Germans excuse themselves.

But we learn nothing by blaming them. Events since the war have prepared greater crematoriums. Everywhere men excuse themselves the same way. We dropped little bombs on the innocent in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Now we and the Russians together are prepared to drop bigger ones. The issues have become blurred. Most terrible of all is that these dreadful truths have become stale and futile commonplaces we all ignore.

I don't know what the verdict will be on Eichmann. I don't care. But it would honor world Jewry if the judges were to refuse even in his case, with all it implies, to impose the death penalty Israel abolished. It would be a noble rebuke to an

Stalin Too Soft On Berlin!

"Zhukov, oh he's all right," the [Aerflot] pilot interjected. . . . 'If Stalin had listened to Zhukov in 1945 we would not be about to have a war over Berlin. He never wanted to let in all those Americans. It was we, after all, who captured the place. Stalin did not listen to Zhukov and let them walk in. And now look where we are. They won't get out without a war and Nikita Sergeyich won't back down either.'"

—Dinner table conversation in the National Hotel, Moscow, last summer as reported by "Monitor" the Soviet expert of The Times (London) in its Nov. 30 issue, one of a series on his trip through the U.S.S.R. Another remark he reported, "Do you know, if you think of it, during the cult of personality we had almost less democracy than they did in the West!"

un-Christian Christian world and to a still brutal Russian Communist world of death sentences for minor offenses, to two worlds which share the poison of anti-Semitism still despite the Gospels they respectively proclaim and the horror to which Hitler showed it could lead. Let Eichmann live on like Cain, with the Mark upon him.

It is more important to recognize that the Mark is on all of us. What good is it for Moscow to accuse Heusinger of war crime when Khrushchev himself threatens it on a greater scale, and we do likewise? Would an extra-terrestrial tribunal after a new war distinguish between Russians and Americans and Germans? Is mass murder justified for any reason whatsoever? Is not every national leader a war criminal if he does not recognize that no dispute justifies risking the future of our common human species?

I would proclaim a day of meditation on the crematoriums, a universal Day of Atonement. I would remember that we all march with Eichmann to the prison or the gallows. Whether it was the human oven or the H-bomb, we built it. To be human is to be guilty. No other message has the dimensions to match what this trial recalled.

Minor Triumph Dept.: At press time the ECLC Bill of Rights Dinner had been reinstated at the Commodore for Dec. 15 on order of N. Y. Supreme Court Judge Arthur Markewich (who was praised for this by the New York Times).

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