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Over 25% of United States citizens are of German ancestry

SPECIAL ISSUE

Dear Members and Friends of IGAR,

We consider this edition of IGAR NEWS a Special Issue, because it features the far-reaching article by our distinguished Chairman, Steven B. Vardy, Ph. D., McNulty Distinguished Professor of History, Duquesne University, titled "The Greatest Ethnic Cleansing in Human History." It is our opinion that this subject will continue to be in the fore of IGAR's agenda for many years to come, until the world is ready to finally accept that more than fifteen million German women, children and elderly from the former Eastern and Central German provinces will also be considered victims of World War II.

Dr. Vardy has assembled this crucial information in great detail by listing the historical facts from the past so that the reader will comprehend the full extent of the atrocities, as committed by the Red Armies and the succeeding new Communist governments, under which these innocent German victims tried to survive in their former homeland in the years after World War II. The world, in general, is still not aware of these horrific happenings during these dark days of German history, which cost the lives of two million human beings, who had stayed at their homes as the Red Armies were sweeping across these regions from the fall of 1944 until May of 1945 during the final months of WWII.

Only by publishing reports of this kind, will the world learn of the fate of these people, because an iron curtain had descended over Eastern and Central Europe which had closed off these regions so that nobody on the outside could see what was going on in the immediate years after WW II.

As you will see, Dr. Vardy did a tremendous job in composing this article, as it offers a great amount of important and educational information about this sad and distressing issue.

Dr. Vardy also pays tribute in this article to our distinguished member, Dr. Alfred M. de Zayas, formerly the Secretary of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, who has devoted four decades of his life to the study and publication of this human tragedy in a number of books, all dealing with this historical period after WW II. Dr. de Zayas deserves a lot of credit for his work by shedding light on this period of human suffering.

Wolfgang Rihmland, Editor

Here now is Dr. Vardy's powerful composition.

THE GREATEST ETHNIC CLEANSING IN HUMAN HISTORY

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Ever since the Bosnian conflict in the early and mid-1990s, when tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims, Croats, and Serbs were forcibly evicted from their ancient homelands, the term "ethnic cleansing" became a commonly used phrase. After a short lull, this practice of forced expulsions continued in Kosovo, when in 1999 Serbian authorities waged an eviction campaign against the Kosovar Albanians, who represent 90% of the region's population. The expulsion of nearly one million Kosovars was reversed only after a lengthy bombing campaign by the United States that broke the military power of Serbians. The Kosovars returned to their homeland, and ever since that time Kosovo was only nominally part of Serbia. On February 17, 2008, the Kosovars finally declared their independence. They did so with the support of the United States and the European Union, but against strong Russian and Chinese opposition. The outcome of this act is still unclear and only the future will tell the results.

The term "ethnic cleansing" (etniako ai%o Enje, etnicheskoe chishchenie, eth-nische Sauberung, etnikai tiszogatas, etc.) is relatively new, having been coined during the disintegration of Yugoslavia, but the practice itself is old. It reaches back to ancient times, and it has been applied continuously in the course of human history. An early example of

such an ethnic cleansing was the "Babylonian Captivity" of the Jews in the period between 586 and 538 B.C. This came in wake of the capture of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar II (r.605-561 B.C.) in 586 B.C., who then proceeded to deport all Judeans to Babylonia. In this way he "cleansed" the future Holy land from all of its native inhabitants.

Similar ethnic cleansings took place when Roman Emperor Vespasian (r.69-79 A.D.) ordered the expulsion of the Jews from the Holy Land after the Jewish War; or when Emperor Aurelian (r. 270-275 A.D.) commanded the removal of Dacia's Latinized population to the south of the Danube; or during the so-called Barbarian Invasions (a better term is the German Völkerwanderung = wandering of peoples) when various large tribes forcibly displaced one another and thus restructured the ethnic map of Europe; or when Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, expelled the Jews and the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula in 1492; or when Louis XIV of France revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and then proceeded to evict most of the Protestant Huguenots from his kingdom.

While the practice of "ethnic cleansing" has been a permanent feature of human history, not until the 19th and 20th centuries was this practice made into an official state policy. The first state to initiate such a policy of ethnic cleansing was the United

States, when in 1830 the US Congress enacted the Indian Removal Act. Based on this Act, all major Indian tribes to the east of the Mississippi were forcibly dislodged from their traditional hunting grounds and pushed across the river into the Great Plains. Some of the most visible manifestations of this policy included the Black Hawk War of 1832, which drove the Sauk and Fox tribes into Iowa and Kansas; the Trail of Tears of 1838-1839, which saw the forcible removal of the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw tribes from their homelands to "Indian Territory" (future Oklahoma) west beyond the Mississippi; and the Seminole Wars of the 1830s and 1840s, which forced the native inhabitants of Florida to leave their homelands for the inhospitable lands of the great Southwest.

A similar "ethnic cleansing" — based on an official state policy — forced the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire in 1915 to move to Syria and the Mosul region of Iraq. In the course of this mass removal multitudes of Armenians died. How many is a matter of dispute, but the estimates range from 300,000 to 1.5 million. Because of this mass decimation of the expellees, the Armenians classify this forced population transfer not simply an "ethnic cleansing" (a forced expulsion), but rather a "Holocaust" (a state supported policy of extermination) — putting this event into the same category as Hitler's systematic butchery of the Jews.

The pace of ethnic cleansing picked up in the 20th century. Following World War I (1914-1918), the destruction and/or mutilation of such large states as the Habsburg Empire (Austria-Hungary), German Empire, Russian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire, followed by the creation of nearly a dozen small, allegedly "national," but in actuality mostly "multinational" states⁴ led to a new form of officially sponsored ethnic cleansing. Some of the newly established or radically enlarged "successor states" — Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania — expelled hundreds of thousands of Hungarians from their newly acquired territories. At the same time, the Greek-Turkish War of 1922-1923 ended in a forced population exchange that compelled 1.3 million Greeks to leave their ancient homelands in Anatolia, while at the same time forcing about 300,000 Turks to evacuate Greek-controlled Thrace in the Balkan Peninsula. 1

The climax of the policy of ethnic cleansing came in wake of World War II, when — based on the erroneous principles of collective guilt and collective punishment — fifteen to sixteen million Germans were compelled to leave their ancient homelands in East-Central and Southeastern Europe. At the famous or infamous Yalta and Potsdam Conferences in February and July of 1945, the leaders of the victorious great powers agreed to truncate Germany. They also agreed to deprive the German state from such of its major German-inhabited territories as East Prussia, Eastern Pomerania, Danzig, Eastern Brandenburg, and Silesia, and to endorse the transfer of the region's population to the remaining portions of Germany. They likewise agreed to expel the 3.5 million Sudeten Germans from the mountainous frontier regions of Bohemia and Moravia (the Czech state) — a region that these Germans had inhabited for well over seven centuries. A similar policy of expulsion was also applied, although less stringently enforced, to the smaller German ethnic communities of Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia. All in all, as many as perhaps sixteen million Germans fell victim to this officially sponsored policy of ethnic cleansing that had been demanded by such Little Entente politicians as Edward Beneš (1884-1948), and approved at Yalta by the leaders of the Big Three: Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill. (By the time of Potsdam, a few months later, the Big Three consisted of Joseph Stalin, Harry S. Truman, and Clement R. Attlee.)

Although the Germans were the primary victims of this new version of "ethnic cleansing," the Hungarians have also been subjected to it — especially in Edward Beneš's reconstituted Czechoslovakia. In the course of 1945-1946, over 200,000 of them were chased across the frozen ice of the Danube river, in the middle of the winter, without proper clothing and provisions. This so-called "Košický Program" [Kaschau Program] — which became the Czechoslovak government's official policy⁷ vis-a-vis the Hungarians — was a smaller version of the "Potsdam Agreement" that was aimed at cleansing Czechoslovakia from its ethnic German citizens — notwithstanding the latter's incalculable contributions to the economic and cultural infrastructure of that state.²

Since World War II, ethnic cleansing has been repeatedly practiced in many parts of the world (Balkans, Caucasus region, Central Asia, various parts of Africa), but none of these implemented policies have come even close to the monumentality of the ethnic cleansing that had been applied against the Germans in wake of the collapse of Hitler's Third Reich. It is this monumental population expulsion that is the topic of Alfred de Zayas's oft-reprinted book.³

A Terrible Revenge⁴ is a shorter and more popular version of De Zayas's earlier scholarly monograph entitled *Nemesis at Potsdam*, which, in the decades following 1977, had appeared in three English and over a dozen German editions.⁵ The lighter version of this work originated as a script for a television documentary of the Bayerischer Rundfunk [Bavarian Radio]. This is clearly evident from its structure, which, in some of the longer chapters, consists of short narratives by the author, intermixed with long reminiscences and interviews by the various survivors of this greatest of ethnic cleansings in human history. But this continuous intermixing of the narrative text with lengthy

personal reminiscences by victims is a format that is unusual in a scholarly work. It certainly is more suitable for a documentary script. In the former case, the content of these lengthy reminiscences would be integrated into the analytical text written by the author, while the relevant documents, reminiscences, and interviews would be placed into the appendix of the volume.

In addition to the usual acknowledgements, foreword and introduction, the volume is divided into six chapters and an epilogue. The first of these chapters summarizes the arrival, settlement, and role of the Germans in the countries of East Central Europe. They stretched from Livonia in the Baltic region, through the Kingdoms of Poland-Lithuania, Bohemia, and Hungary, to the northern Balkans. In summarizing the history of German settlements, the author emphasizes their significant contributions to this region. These include the founding of cities, the introduction of artisanship, industry, and improved methods of agriculture, as well as various aspects of Western Christian Civilization, such as literacy, culture and scholarship. The author also points out that in most instances these settlers came not as conquerors, but as invited "guests" of this region's native rulers. The latter, living on the fringes of Western Christian Civilization, needed the skills and the know-how of the German settlers. Their efforts to urbanize, modernize, and "Europeanize" their respective countries could hardly have been achieved without the role of these German settlers. True, in order to gain their services, these settlers often received special privileges from the monarchs of East Central Europe. These included the right to establish their own walled cities, with their own laws, customs, and traditions, and to continue to use their own native language. Yet, in spite of these privileges, the relationship between them and the natives was generally friendly and rewarding; although at times the native nobility rebelled against these privileges, and against the fact that the German settlers could not be forced into their services, as was the case with these countries' peasant population.

The second chapter of *A Terrible Revenge* deals with the period of the interwar years, which saw the formerly friendly and relatively benign relations between the Germans and the non-Germans undermined by the destruction of the old multinational empires, and by the foundation of nearly a dozen small, often artificially conceived states. They were established in the name of national self-determination, but most of them were almost as multiethnic as the old empires used to be. Moreover, the creation of these small states resulted in what historians have called the "Balkanization of Central Europe."

The very birth and unavoidable multinational composition of these new, reborn or altered states made the application of the principle of ethnic cleansing almost inevitable. In light of the absence of historic, mostly natural frontiers, and in light of the desire of the new national leaders to make their newly created, reborn or enlarged states as homogeneous ethnically as possible, conflicts between them were virtually inevitable. These included the conflicts between the Poles and Lithuanians over Vilna and its environment; the conflict between the Poles and Ukrainians over Poland's eastern borders; the conflict between the Czechs and the Poles over Teschen; the conflict between the humiliated Germans and the reemerging Poles over the city of Danzig and Silesia; the conflict between the Hungarians and all of the surrounding nationalities (Slovaks, Ruthenians, Romanians, Serbians, Croats, and even Austrians) over the fragments of what used to be Historic Hungary; the conflict between the Serbs and Croats within newly created Yugoslavia; the conflict between the defeated Bulgarians and victorious Serbs over Macedonia; the conflict between the Albanians, Serbians, Bulgarians, and Greeks over the same region; the conflict between the Turks and the Greeks over Thrace and Western Anatolia; the conflict between the Armenians and Turks, within the newly established Republic of Turkey, and numerous other more localized and less heralded confrontations. The existence and persistence of these and other related conflicts poisoned the relationship among the region's nationalities, and also made it inevitable that these conflicts would eventually turn into a full scale war.

While many of the smaller nations were in no position to take the reshaping of their destinies into their own hands, in case the humbled but still powerful Germans the situation was very different. After all, even though many of the new states were created or reshaped in the name of the "principle of national self-determination," this same right had been denied to the Germans. Millions of them were left on the other side of the new frontiers, immediately next to Germany. These included Bohemia, Silesia, Danzig, and even Austria (which initially wanted, but was forbidden to join Germany.) In other words, the highly touted principle of "national self-determination" was applied to most others, but not to the Germans, nor to the Hungarians. This was the violation of the very same "sacred principle" in the name of which many of the new or reemerging states were created (Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Albania), recreated (Poland), or enlarged (Romania). With the reemergence of Germany under Hitler, the violation of this principle in their case was bound to come to the fore. And when it did, it was bound to lead to a war, which in this case turned out to be World War II.

Chapter three of the book deals with the vicissitudes of the war, the flight of the German population before the invading Red Army, accompanied by the increasingly vicious attacks against German civil population by some of the other nationalities who had suffered from Hitler's wrath during the war. This chapter is most reflective of the fact

that *A Terrible Revenge* was originally written as a documentary. Only about one-fourth of this chapter consists of the author's narrative, while three-fourths is the reproduction of lengthy testimonies by various survivors. While these testimonies are interesting and often very shocking, it would probably have been better had their contents been integrated into the author's text, with only short quotations. The original reminiscences could then have been placed into an appendix, containing most of the related documents. While a very valuable and revealing section of the book, this chapter makes a rather fragmented reading, as if the author would have been unwilling to digest the contents of these testimonies sufficiently to be able to retell it in his own words.

Chapter four is a rather short summary of the decisions reached by the Big Three at the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences concerning the future of Germany and the Germans. It was at these conferences that Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill (later Stalin, Truman, and Attlee) agreed to the expulsion and resettlement of the Germans. And they were to be expelled not only from the eastern territories transferred to Poland and Russia, but also from several other East Central European countries. Thus the Germans subjected to expulsion included the Sudeten Germans of Bohemia, the Danubian Swabians from Yugoslavia, as well as various smaller German islands from Hungary and Romania.

Chapter five deals with the process of expulsion and deportation itself, in the course of which about two million Germans perished. Structurally this chapter is very similar to chapter three, with a very heavy intermixing of long personal testimonies into the author's text. In this chapter the author devotes special attention to the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia, to the horrendous internment camps for the German civilian population in Poland and Czechoslovakia, to the fate of the Danubian Swabians in Yugoslavia (former Southern Hungary), to the viciousness of the allegedly "orderly resettlement" from all of the territories designated for "de-Germanization," and to the deportation of close to a million Germans to the slave labor camps of the Soviet Gulag.

Chapter six deals with the fate of the German expellees, once they arrived in one or another section of partitioned Germany. They were hardly received with an open arm by remaining Germany's native population, for their unexpected presence only added to the misery of the natives.

One should remember that in the years following World War II all Germans were forced to live under conditions where 80% per cent of their country's infrastructure was in total ruin, where they were treated with contempt, and where the future was very bleak. To impress the population of the lowly views that the Allies harbored about them, American occupation forces had to follow a strict policy of non-fraternization. During the initial months of occupation, they were not permitted to speak to the Germans, not even to the famished German children. This policy ended in September 1945, but contacts with the other sex was still very limited, and marriage between an American and German or Austrian civilians was completely forbidden until January 1946 in Austria, and December 1946 in Germany.⁶

The allies also began to implement the horrendous "Morgenthau Plan," whereby Germany was to be pushed back to the "pastoral age," via the dismantling and destroying Germany industrial potential.⁷ In January 1946 the Allied Control Council issued an order whereby German steel production was to be no more than 25% of the prewar level. They even floated the idea that German standard of living was to be reduced to the level of the height of the Great Depression in the early 1930s. In the Soviet zone the country was completely denuded of industrial machinery and infrastructure, while in the western zones rebuilding was slowed to the minimum. On top of all this, all of the occupying forces were scurrying to gain control over German "intellectual property" by forcibly enlisting the services of the German scientists, and taking control over German patents and licensing. In this was thousands of German scientists were deported and put to work on various scientific projects in the USA, France and the Soviet Union. Those in the USSR were basically treated as Gulag slaves, although not housed in the forced labor camps of the Gulag.⁸

German power was also to be diminished by reducing the nutritional levels of the German population, resulting in a very high mortality rate. During the first year of occupation, in the eastern occupation zones the average daily ration level fluctuated between 700-1190 calories per day, at the same time when the calorie intake for the members of the US Army was 4000, for Americans in general 3200-3300, for the British population 2900. Even non-German displaced persons living in various refugee camps in Germany and Austria fared much better, receiving 2300 calories per day.⁹ Given the above, although the deportees were fellow Germans who spoke German, they too were received with suspicion and often even with animosity. They too were often referred to by the famished natives as "Verfluchte Ausländer" [damned foreigners].¹⁰

It was only with the passing of years that ultimately these deportees were integrated into German society. But even then, they had their special problems. Among these problems was their unending longing for their lost homelands, and the two German governments' unwillingness to speak up for them and their concerns. Although they too were

the victims of Hitler's madness, they were viewed as partners in a crime. No one paid much attention to them, no one was eager to help them, and no one wanted to represent their interests vis-à-vis the countries that had expelled them under the most horrible conditions. They were robbed of their homelands and all their property, yet they were unable to find a ready ear to listen to their concerns. No one made any attempt to compensate them for their losses.

The author concludes his work with an epilogue, in which he has this to say: "The flight and expulsion of so many millions of Germans from the territories East of the Oder and Neisse rivers, and from the Sudetenland and Southeast Europe, cannot be appreciated as a historical event by means of cold statistics. The fate of each individual person must be kept in mind. The victims of expulsion were people no different from us. They suffered and starved as individual human beings, not nameless subtotal in some statistical column. They were victims just like the Polish officers in the Katyn Forest [massacred by the Soviets], or gypsies liquidated by Nazi hit squads, or the Jews murdered at Auschwitz. For those affected — no matter whether Pole, gypsy, Jew or German — being a victim meant that their personal existence was extinguished, often under circumstances of unbearable torment. All fell victim to injustices that can never be reversed.... We conclude this chronicle of inhumanity by recognizing that expulsion is no solution to the prejudices and hatreds that may exist with respect to ethnic and religious minorities." ¹¹

The epilogue is followed by two very revealing statistical tables on the German population in the expeller countries in 1939 and 1944-1945, respectively. This is followed by Notes, Bibliography, and an Index. The volume also contains two historical maps of pre- and post-World War II Germany and Poland, as well as twenty-four photographs, illustrating the expulsion. All this is great, but neither the statistical tables, nor the photographs are able to portray the viciousness of the greatest of ethnic cleansings in human history.

The author of *A Terrible Revenge* is a trained lawyer and a professional historian. He has clearly done a phenomenal work, not only with this volume, but also with its predecessor, *Nemesis at Potsdam*. And he did all this in an area of historical research that has not been popular with historians. Most of them were kept away from this topic partially because of the general revulsion against the Germans as the result of the crimes of the Third Reich, and partially because of the still prevailing post-World War II attitude that "the Germans got what they deserved." The author has shown much daring in undertaking this project, and demonstrating to the world that not all Germans were Nazis. Many of them were in fact just as much the victims of the Nazi regime, as were those who ended up in one of Adolf Hitler's concentration camps, or in front of his murderous death squads in the occupied eastern territories.

While Alfred de Zayas's *A Terrible Revenge* surveys the whole scene of the ethnic cleansing of Germans during the final months of World War II, and in the years following the war, Genocide of Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia, concentrates on the Danube Swabians. They are the German group that became the victim of the reconstituted Yugoslavia under the leadership of the communist partisan/guerrilla leader, who later became President Joseph Tito's leadership.

This English language work is really the shortened and distilled version of a four-volume, 4000-page documentary collection prepared under the auspices of the Donauschwabische Kulturstiftung [Danube Swabian Cultural Foundation] in Munich, Germany, during the early 1990s.¹² It is a worthy, but depressing reading about Communist Yugoslavia's efforts to exterminate and/or to expel its German speaking population from their centuries old homeland.

The work starts out with Alfred M. de Zayas's foreword, which deals with the question, or rather with the illegality of "ethnic cleansing." Quoting Jose Ayal Lasso, the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, de Zayas asserts that "the right NOT to be expelled from one's homeland is a fundamental right.... I submit that if in the years following the Second World War the States had reflected more on the implications of the enforced flight and expulsion of the Germans, today's demographic catastrophes, particularly those referred to as 'ethnic cleansing', would perhaps not have occurred to the same extent..."¹³ These words were uttered in 1995, on the fiftieth anniversary of the official start of the expulsion of fifteen to sixteen million Germans from their centuries old homelands. In commenting upon this issue, de Zayas maintains that according to "international law mass expulsions are doubly illegal — giving rise to State responsibility and to personal criminal liability." ¹⁴ In this connection he points out that the Nuremberg [Nürnberg] Tribunal following World War II condemned several German Nazi leaders for having been involved in "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity" in connection with the expulsion, at the beginning of the war, of one million Poles from Warthegau,¹⁵ and in 1940 around 105,000 Frenchmen from Alsace. Then he asks the question: How much more of a war crime was the expulsion of fifteen times as many Germans from their homelands in Eastern and Southeastern Europe? Or sending nearly one million Germans as "reparations in kind" to slave labor in Siberia?

De Zayas also castigates his fellow Anglo-American historians for not having paid

enough attention to "the flight and expulsion of 15 million Germans, in the process of which more than two million perished."¹⁶ One of the few exceptions was the British pub-Usher and human rights activist, Victor Gollancz, who had the courage to speak up and to condemn this mass expulsion: "If the conscience of men ever again becomes sensitive, these expulsion will be remembered to the undying shame of all who committed or connived at them.... The Germans were expelled, not just with an absence of over-nice consideration, but with the very maximum of brutality."¹⁷

Following de Zayas's introduction to the book, *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia* is divided into seventeen chapters. The first chapters cover the history of the Danubian Swabians, from their settlement in the region in the 17th and 18th centuries, through their presence in the Habsburg and Russian Empires up to the end of World War I, and their partitioning among the small successor states after 1918, and finally their survival during World War II. This is followed by a chapter on the "genocide" of Germans perpetrated in Tito's Yugoslavia after the war (ch. 2), by the "carnage" (executions and mass murders) that took place during the initial postwar months and years (ch. 3), by the deportation of about 24,000 Swabians for slave labor to the Soviet Union (ch. 4), by the incarceration of all Germans in various Yugoslav internment camps (ch. 5), by the portrayal of the tormented existence and partial survival of the interned Germans in these death camps (ch. 6), by the depiction of the so-called "liquidation camps," which housed about 170,000 German inmates, of whom well over half (c.95,000 to 100,000) perished (ch. 7), by the description of the fate of the 45,000 children in these liquidation camps, a sizable portion of whom died of hunger, disease and mistreatment, while others were forcibly "Slavicized" (ch. 8), by the sufferings and dying of German clergymen in these camps (ch. 9), by the various efforts of the German population to flee from Tito's "death camps" via Hungary and Romania (10), by an attempt to calculate the size and human losses of the German population in Yugoslavia (ch. 11), by several statistical tables about the population figures and population losses of Yugoslavia's Germans (ch. 12), and then by a heavily documented chapter on the nature of the genocide perpetrated by the Yugoslav state against its German speaking citizens (ch. 13). This is followed by a description of the survivors' demands for rehabilitation and compensation, with virtually no support from the German Government (ch. 14), by a Danube Swabian historical chronology, stretching from 1526, when the Ottoman Turks defeated the Kingdom of Hungary at the Battle of Mohacs, to the year 1996, when the above-mentioned four-volume documentary collection was finally finished (ch. 15), by a collection of pertinent United Nations documents concerning genocide and crimes against humanity (ch. 16), and finally by a list of the publications of the Danube Swabian Archives in Munich [Donauschwabische Archiv in München], which, by the time of the appearance of this book, has already published 112 volumes of documentary collections, scholarly monographs, and reminiscences by survivors.

Although not in the same category as *A Terrible Revenge*, the book *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia* is an important contribution to the study of the fate of the German civilian population after World War II, and to the unpopular field of the study of this greatest of ethnic cleansings in human history. In the absence of the prevailing and persistent attitude among historians and the general public that "die Germans got what they deserved," *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia* would undoubtedly have been published by a major American or British publisher, alongside dozens of other volumes on various aspects of this morally and legally unjustifiable deed on the part of the victorious Allies. As it is, the study of this topic is still limited to the descendants of the survivors of this mass expulsion, and to a very limited number of Western scholars. The most prominent among them is Alfred M. de Zayas, who has devoted four decades of his life to the study and popularization of this question in a half dozen books, both in English and in German. And he did all this while being active as the Secretary of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, as Chief of Petitions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, and as Visiting Professor at a number of American colleges and universities.¹⁸

Although in somewhat different categories, both of these volumes are worthy of our attention. They should especially be consulted by scholars who study the period of World War II, where virtually all their attention is devoted to the well known victims of Adolf Hitler's diseased mind, the Jews, but without any attention to his other victims, a sizable segment of Hitler's own nation, the Germans. The latter suffered genocidal persecutions in their traditional homelands by virtue of the simple fact that they too belonged to the same ethnic stock and spoke the same language as Hitler, who — alongside with Stalin and Mao — has the distinction of being among the greatest mass murderers in human history.

The books reviewed in this article include: (1) Alfred-Maurice de Zayas, *A Terrible Revenge. The Ethnic Cleansing of the East European Germans*, 2d ed., revised and updated. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006, xlii, 182 pp, two maps, twenty-four photographs, bibliography, index. \$19.95; and (2) Documentation Project' Committee, *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia, 1944-1948*, foreword by Alfred M. de Zayas. München, Germany: Donauschwabische Kulturstiftung - Stiftung des bürgerlichen Rechts, 2003, 224 pp., four maps, four statistical tables. 10 Euros.

NOTES

1. For a history of ethnic cleansing, see S. B. Vardy & A. H. Vardy, "Ethnic Cleansing in History," in *Studi Finno-Ugrici*, vol. 4 (2002-2006) (Napoli, Italia, 2007), pp. 227-245.
2. S. B. Vardy, "Historical Overview on Ethnic Cleansing, with Special Regard to the Hungarians of the Carpathian Basin," in *Eurasian Studies Review*, vol. 79 (Indiana University, 2007), pp. 83-110.
3. In addition to the volumes under review, on the ethnic cleansing of the Germans, see especially many of the relevant studies in S. B. Vardy, T. H. Tooley, and A. H. Vardy, *Ethnic Cleansing in 20th Century Europe* (New York East European Monographs, Columbia University Press, 2003).
4. *A Terrible Revenge* first appeared in German under the title: *Anmerkungen zur Vertreibung der Deutschen aus dem Osten* [Remarks about the Expulsion of the Germans from the East], which was published in four editions. The first edition was published in Stuttgart, Germany, by Verlag W. Kohlhammer, in 1986. The fourth edition appeared under the title: *Die Deutschen Vertriebenen* [The German Expellees], and it was published in Graz, Austria, by Leopold Stocker Verlag, in 2006. Its first English version appeared under the title: *The German Expellees: Victims in War and Peace* (New York & London: Macmillan Publishers, 1993). A year later it was republished under the title *A Terrible Revenge* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994); and then as an expanded edition a dozen years later (New York Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).
5. There were fourteen German editions of this work: *Die Nemesis von Potsdam. Die Anglo-Amerikaner und die Vertreibung der Deutschen* [Nemesis at Potsdam. The Anglo-Americans and the Expulsion of the Germans] (München: C. H. Beck, 1977 onwards).
6. Perry Biddiscombe, "Dangerous Liaisons: The Anti-Fraternalism Movement in the U.S. Occupation Zones of Germany and Austria, 1945-1948," in *Journal of Social History*, vol. 34, no. 3 (2001), p. 619.
7. Frederick H. Gareau, "Morgenthau's Plan for Industrial Disarmament in Germany," in *The Western Political Quarterly*, vol. 14, no. 2 (June 1961), pp. 517-534.
8. Norma M. Naimark, *The Russians in Germany: A History of the Soviet Zone of Occupation, 1945-1949* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995), p. 206.
9. Richard Dominic Wiggers, "The United States and the Refusal to Feed German Civilians after World War II," in Vardy-Tooley-Vardy, *Ethnic Cleansing in 20th Century Europe*, pp. 441-466, esp. 451 and 460.
10. The author of this essay has personally experienced this phenomenon on many occasions.
11. Alfred de Zayas, *A Terrible Revenge*, pp. 149, 154.
12. *Leidensweg der Deutschen im kommunistischen Jugoslawien* [Suffering of the Germans in Communist Yugoslavia], 4 vols. (München: Verlag der Donauschwabischen Kulturstiftung, 1990-1995). Vol. I: *Ortsberichte über Verbrechen an den Deutschen im kommunistischen Jugoslawien* [News About Crimes Against the Germans in Communist Yugoslavia] (1990), 958 pp.; vol. II: *Erlebniserichte* [Personal Reports] (1993), 1040 pp.; vol. III: *Erschiessungen - Vernichtungslager - Kinderschicksale in der Zeit von 1944-1948* [Killings - Extermination Camps - Fate of the Children in the Period Between 1944 and 1948] (1995), 1060 pp.; vol. IV: *Menschenverluste - Namen und Zahlen zu Verbrechen an den Deutschen durch das Tito-Regime in der Zeit von 1944-1948* [Human Sufferings. Type and Number of the Crimes Against the Germans During the Tito Regime in the Period Between 1944-1948], 1060 pp.
13. Quoted by Alfred M. De Zayas's in his "Foreword" to *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans*, p. 11.
14. Alfred de Zayas in *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans*, p. 11.
15. Warthegau [Wartheland] was the territory incorporated into Hitler's German Reich in October 1939, in covered of 16,966 square miles (43,905 square kilometers), with a population of 4,922,000 in 1939, and 4,693,700 in 1941. In 1939 there were 385,000 Jews and 325,000 Germans in Warthegau, while the rest of them were mostly Poles. Warthegau was liberated and at the same time conquered by the Soviet Red Army in January 1945. Cf. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Geimany1941.png> AND http://www1.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20206496.pdf
16. Alfred de Zayas in *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans*, p. 12.
17. Victor Gollancz, *Our Threatened Values* (London, 1946), p. 96. Also quoted by Alfred de Zayas in *Genocide of the Ethnic Germans*, p. 12.
18. See Alfred de Zayas's web site at: <http://alfreddezayas.com/linksMINE.slitnil> and at: <http://ahxeddezayas.com/>

IGAR's Annual Meeting will be held on November 6, 2009, at Duquesne University

The year of 2009 is special, as it gives us an opportunity to celebrate some very important anniversaries in the history of Germany. The following events will be remembered this year:

1. IGAR will celebrate the 2000th Anniversary of the victory by Hermann "The Cheruscan" and his freedom-loving Germanic tribes over Roman General Varus and his army of 25,000 Roman soldiers. Hermann and his valiant fighters totally defeated the professional Roman forces, which then left the area and gave up Roman rule East of the Rhine River. *
2. IGAR will also celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the successful conclusion of the "Berlin Airlift" which ceased operations on September 30, 1949.
3. Lastly, IGAR will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the "Fall of the Berlin Wall" on November 9, 1989.*

* The lecture by Dr. Vardy carries the title "From Hermann to Helmut: 2000 Years of German History." This indicates that the speech will cover the period from Hermann - The Cheruscan of 2000 years ago until the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, while Helmut Kohl: was Ae German Chancellor and began the re-unification process. which_was then finalized in October of 1990. i

The Program for this event is as follows:

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Department of History, Department of Modern Languages and IGAR
Invite you to attend the IGAR Annual Meeting at Duquesne University on
Friday, November 6, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the
Duquesne Room of the Student Union. Open to the public - No entrance fee.

PROGRAM

Mistress of Ceremonies *Dr. Agnes H. Vdrdy, Duquesne
University & Director, IGAR*

American and German National Anthems
Zachary Dobler Luchette, St. Vincent College

Welcoming Address: *Dr. Marianne Bouvier,
Executive Director, IGAR*

Introduction of the Eyewitness to the Fall of the Berlin Wall
Wolfgang K. Rihmland, Director, IGAR, Editor of IGAR NEWS

"Witness to History: Fall of the Berlin Wall, November 9, 1989"

Keynote Address:
*"From Herman to Helmut: 2000 Years of German History"
"9 AD-2009 AD"*

Dr. Stephen B. Vardy, McAnulty Distinguished Professor of History
Duquesne University and IGAR Chairperson

Presentation of IGAR's Poster Contest Awards to High School Students
Theme of the Poster: *"The Fall of the Berlin Wall"*
*Dr. Edith Krause, Professor and Chair Modern
Languages Department, Duquesne University*

Social Hour and Refreshments to follow at 8:15 P.M.
We hope that many of our members will attend. Please inform us of your decision so that we can make
the necessary arrangement with respect to seating and refreshments

Tel: Wolfgang Rihmland, 412/367-4107; Fax: 412/364-1539
E-mail: wrihmland@msn.com.

Annual Dues

We wish to thank our members for their response to our letter asking for the payment of 2009 dues. In some cases, members included donations as well for which we are particularly grateful. We would appreciate to also receive the dues from those members who have not yet had the time to send their check.

Please note, the year of your last payment of dues is always noted in the upper righthand corner of the mailing label or after your surname.

We thank you all for your contributions to our organization.

IGAR's Website

Please note that we have a new webmaster, Jamie Yoder, who will keep our website updated at all times and feature latest IGAR news as well as interesting articles and our newsletter, IGAR NEWS. To open our website, please enter: <http://igar-usa.org/> and go to the respective links for specific information. We hope that you will enjoy our new website.

Wolfgang Rihmland, Editor

Donations are always welcome.

For Information Contact.....Dr. Marianne Bouvier
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412-364-0812 IGAR Website: PA 15237-5951
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