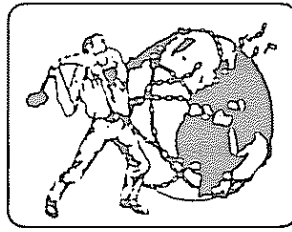


GEGEN DIE STROMUNG



Organ for the Building of the Marxist-Leninist Party of West Germany

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The Wannsee Conference of 1942

Remember everything!

50 years ago on January 20, 1942, Nazi-fascist executioners, the henchmen of German monopoly capital, met in a Berlin villa to co-ordinate and perfect the already-begun genocide of the Jewish (and the Cinti and Roma) populations of Europe. A historic world example should be and was made. The factory-like, industrial murder of entire peoples - that was the plan. And it was carried out to a large extent. It was mainly the fight of the peoples of the Soviet Union under the leadership of the CPSU(B) and Stalin which was able to put an end to the Nazi murder machine in the extermination camps in Poland. But this very important realization of this fact doesn't suffice for the communist world movement and especially not for German communist forces.

The "Normal Terror" of the Nazi Facists

The task for communist forces, especially in Germany, after German imperialism was beaten down by the Anti-Hitler Coalition and the anti-Nazi fight of the peoples, was to understand the entire dimension of Nazi facism and to make it understandable within the working class.

What happened? And why?

The Worker's Movement was struck down in 1933; its organizations and those of the KPD (Communist Party of Germany) were largely shattered. Prisons and concentration camps were filled with men and women comrades of the KPD.

Racist, Nazi anti-Semitism had no serious domestic opposition in Germany. It could show its bloody, murderous face in 1938 in state-organized pogroms throughout the country.

Hardly a resistance worth naming could be noted as synagogues burned and 30,000 members of the Jewish communities were arrested and removed to concentration camps.

The war essentially shaped the situation in Nazi-Germany from 1939 on and raged against

the people with every Nazi cruelty. Large cities like Warsaw and Rotterdam were bombed, the population of the occupied countries were terrorized and dragged off to forced labor in Germany. The firing squads of the German Wehrmacht armies and the SS raged in the villages and towns. The shooting of hostages was a part of daily life in the occupied countries to prevent resistance and partisan action.

The racist murders of the SS "Einsatzgruppen" against the Jewish population in the socialist Soviet Union had already begun, the murder by poison gas had already been started when, at the Wannsee Conference, the organizers of murder of another kind met and planned the co-ordination of deportations to the death factories of Chelmo, Sobibor, Treblinka, Belzec, Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

A New Stage of Terror - the "Industrial" Murder of Entire Peoples

The murderous actions of the German Nazi criminals were more comprehensive and far-reaching than any other facist, reactionary ex-

plorative regime in world history. The systematic mass murder of the inhabitants of entire villages in Greece, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Albania... the policies of murder by starvation of the heroic Leningrad population, the systematic execution of Soviet prisoners of war - everywhere they appeared, Nazis demonstrated their power by the random murder of whole portions of populations, from small children to the oldest village inhabitants. Their primary goal was to break every resistance, to spread paralyzing terror, to produce an atmosphere in which individuals feel helpless, imagine themselves powerless and even begin to believe that the supposedly "unbeatable" German Nazi beasts really were.

Yes, all this is true and may not be excluded from an analysis of the crimes of the Nazi regime. But nevertheless, this kind of murder differentiates itself from the murder of Jews, Cinti and Roma:

It's the uniqueness of a genocide state-ordered, industrially organized, bureaucratically managed and cold-bloodedly carried out with a Prussian mentality. 11 to 12 million human beings, the Jews and - each in their respective railroad cars - the Cinti and Roma of Europe were to be transported like cattle in railroad freight cars to the extermination camps, there to be murdered. Gigantic gas chambers awaited them, into which up to 2,000 human beings could be crammed, as well as crematoriums in which their corpses would be burned.

**The Plan of the Wannsee Conference:
 The Extermination of the Jewish
 Population of Europe**

Country	Number
A. Old Reich	131.800
East German Mark	43.700
Eastern Areas	420.000
General Government	2.264.000
Bialystok	400.000
Protectorates Bohemia and Moravia	74.200
Estonia	no Jews
Latvia	3.800
Lithuania	34.000
Belgium	43.000
Denmark	8.000
France / Occupied Area	124.000
Unoccupied Area	700.000
Greece	65.000
Netherlands	160.000
Norway	2.000
B. Bulgaria	48.000
England	336.000
Finland	2.000
Ireland	4.000
Italy, including Sardinia	58.000
Albania	200
Croatia	40.000
Portugal	2.000
Rumania, including East Moldavia	342.000
Sweden	8.000
Switzerland	18.000
Serbia	28.000
Slovakia	88.000
Spain	6.000
Turkey (European part)	55.000
Hungary	742.000
USSR	5.000.000
Ukraine	2.994.684
White Russia (Belorussia) excp. Bialystok	446.464
total:	over 11.000.000

(From the Protocol of the Wannsee Conference)

Murder in "German form" began. The train schedules, the punctual course of the deportations, the "fincombing" of Europe for Jews, all of that was precisely organized, as if they were vermin and not human beings, even whole families, indeed the entire Jewish, Cinti and Roma populations.

It's also of basic importance to understand a further aspect. The 250,000 German members of the Jewish Communities, the over five million Jews from all occupied countries and additionally half a million Cinti and Roma, were not in the first place murdered in order to break their resistance.

Of course they were also killed in order to rob their money, possessions and property. Their gold teeth were broken out of their mouths and melted down. Even their hair was shorn and "processed". And it's also true that prior to their murder, hundreds of thousands were sentenced to slave labor and turned over to the Nazi regime and all the large corporations of German imperialism, for their maximum exploitation.

But neither pure economic profit nor concrete military needs can satisfactorily explain why, in the years of war and particularly in the years of the ever clearer military defeats of the Nazi regime, why it was the Nazi executioners continued to direct the trains with hundreds of thousands of human beings into the extermination camps and why they continued to murder millions humans on a factory basis.

Nazi Genocide - Also a Threat of German Imperialism for the Future

We underline with every emphasis that the conclusion drawn by the Communist International was and is correct: that the Nazi dictatorship is "the open, terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic and most imperialistic elements of financial capital". This is the core of our total evaluation. At the same time, we emphasize that a struggle against the vulgarizing of scientific communism is necessary.

Completely wrong in any case is the idea that, out of the correct conclusion that the Nazi regime is the open, terroristic dictatorship of finance capital, it automatically follows that the practice of genocide on the Jews, Cinti and Roma also has to be explained "economically".

For the Nazi fascist state created in the interests of German imperialism and the Nazi fascist ideology have quite a certain weight of their own. The system of arbitrariness and mass terror, as trademark of the Nazi fascist dictatorship, in itself shows that not every measure of the Nazi regime can be explained as resulting directly out of finance capital interests, or for economic or so-called "rational military" reasons.

The systematic policy of genocide on the Jewish population of Europe and the Cinti and Roma in

From the Protocol of the Wannsee Conference

Under proper direction in the course of the final solution, the Jews should be deployed in a suitable manner in labor service in the East. In large work columns with separation of genders, Jews capable of labor will be detailed to road construction in these areas, whereby a large portion will undoubtedly be lost due to natural attrition.

The miscellaneous finally remaining rest stock will have to be dealt with appropriately, for without doubt we're dealing here with the most resistant portion since they represent a natural selection and if released, were to be regarded as the germ cells of a new Jewish buildup. (Witness the experience of history.)

Europe will be combed from West to East in the course of the practical execution of the final solution. The Reich area, including the Boehmen and Maehren protectorates, will have to come first, alone for reasons of housing questions and other social-political necessities.

The evacuated Jews will initially be brought step by step to transition ghettos, as they are called, in order to be transported from there farther towards the East.

Secret Reich Document

Europe has its roots first and foremost in the system of the Nazi fascist terror regime, which had the expressed goal of creating a thousand year example of brutality and cruelty the likes of which the world had never seen before.

All this took place in the deep-lying and long-term interests of the actual power centers of the Nazi regime, in the interests of German monopoly capital and German imperialism, which showed the peoples of the world of what it is capable.

The uniqueness of this genocide survived by far the defeat of German imperialism in the Second World War.

The genocide, the system of Auschwitz as monstrous product of the world system of imperialism, as a self-creation of German imperialism, acts today more than ever as a signal of still living German imperialism, which was not destroyed by its defeat, but only beaten back. It is a signal and threat to all peoples "to decide", to "voluntarily" make room for German impe-

rialism, now in its third attempt at world domination, and to submit to it!

Shatter the Global System of Imperialism and West/German Imperialism!

For communist forces in West/Germany, the memory of the Wannsee Conference means to face the task of proving their determination to the peoples of the world, especially to the Jews, Cinti and Roma, of warring against a system which contains the death machinery of Auschwitz within itself: the system of imperialism.

Communist forces in West/Germany must especially distinguish the special role of "their own", of West/German imperialism, which has today recovered from its defeat in the Second World War and is making renewed attempts at world domination. *They must self-critically evaluate and sum up the total experience of communist forces in Germany. They must correctly measure as a peculiarity and strength of German imperialism its incredible influence on wide masses of the German populace.* They have to take the internationalism of peoples in struggle against Nazi facism as example. Communists must unwaveringly maintain the struggle to educate the working class and its allies in the spirit of socialism and communism. They must continue the struggle for the preparation and carrying out of the proletarian revolution in order to, side by side with the working classes of all countries, finally snuff out the flame of German imperialism by means of the socialist revolution. They must render impossible any eventuality of a renewed German imperialistic war and a recurrence of genocide by a German imperialistic regime.

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