

VIII. Hilberg's Statistics on Jewish Victims: Anatomy of Another Fraud

1. The 'Three Categories of Victims'

In his third volume, Hilberg discusses the Jewish population losses in the areas under German rule (pp. 1280-1300; *DEJ*, pp. 1199-1220). The relevant subchapter is entitled "*Statistics of Killed Jews*", although 'Statistics of Deaths of Jews' would be more precise, because the statistics also include Jews who died in the camps and ghettos from epidemics, exhaustion and other causes. (In *DEJ* this subject is put in an appendix, entitled "*Statistics of Jewish Dead*.") Hilberg counts 5.1 million Jewish victims (p. 1300; *DEJ*, p. 1220) and misses the classical number six million by almost a million. On p. 1282 (*DEJ*, p. 1202) he writes:

"Any assessment based on additions must reflect the origins and meanings of the numbers found in wartime documents. The large majority of these figures stems from an actual count of the victims. By and large, the numbers fall into three categories: deaths as a result of (1) privation, principally hunger and disease in ghettos, (2) shootings, and (3) deportations to death camps."

That the victim counts Hilberg postulates "*reflect ... numbers found in wartime documents*", of which "*the large majority... stems from an actual count*", is, as we have said several times, pure flummery.

On p. 1299 (*DEJ*, p. 1219) Hilberg identifies how victims in these three categories met their deaths. Here is his table in simplified form:

Death camps:	2,700,000 dead or less
Camps with low death counts, incl. labor and transit camps:	150,000 dead
Romanian and Croatian camps:	150,000 dead or less
Ghettos incl. Theresienstadt and privation outside ghettos:	800,000 dead or more
Open-air shootings (USSR, Serbia and " <i>elsewhere</i> "): 1,300,000 dead	
<hr/> TOTAL APPROXIMATELY:	<hr/> 5,100,000 DEAD

First, on the victims of open-air shootings; because of the insignificant number of Serbian Jews we restrict ourselves to the Soviet Union.

On pp. 409f. (*DEJ*, p. 390) Hilberg has attributed shootings of more than 900,000 Soviet Jews to the Einsatzgruppen, and adds, these correspond to “only about two-thirds of the total number of Jewish victims in mobile operations”. Therefore, 1.35 million Soviet Jews must have been killed. On p. 1300 (*DEJ*, p. 1220) he gives a far smaller number; he counts the number of Jewish victims in the Soviet Union as “over 700,000”, of which “up to 130,000” were in Lithuania, 70,000 were in Latvia and “over 1,000” were in Estonia (in *DEJ*, 2,000); given these statistics, the number of Jews killed in the territories of the Soviet Union, including the Baltic area can hardly have exceeded 900,000. What accounts for the difference of 450,000 as compared to the earlier number?

Possibly Hilberg has lumped in the Jews who fled from west to east in Poland following the partition of Poland in Fall 1939 who were overtaken and killed by the German army after 22nd June 1941 with the figure of 900,000 Soviet Jewish victims in the second set of statistics. If there were 450,000 of them, they should have been subtracted from the number of Polish Jewish victims, but on p. 1300 (*DEJ*, p. 1220) Hilberg says there were “up to 3 million” of the latter. Since, as he tells us, there were 3.351 million Jews in Poland in August 1939, shortly before the German invasion (p. 1288; *DEJ*, na), there cannot have been 3 million of these annihilated in Poland itself and 450,000 in the USSR if the Germans had exterminated all of Polish Jewry without exception.

So it is clear from the start that Hilberg is playing with marked cards.

Hilberg says the number of Jews who died in the ‘common’ concentration camps Dachau, Buchenwald, Mauthausen and Stutthof and also in work and transit camps was 150,000, which is in the realm of possibility.²⁰³ We can say nothing on the victim count of 150,000 ascribed to Romanian and Croatian camps because we have not studied these camps.

There remain the 800,000 victims in the ghettos and those resulting from privation outside the ghettos. How in heaven’s name does Hilberg arrive at this number? Most Polish Jews were supposedly fetched from the ghettos and transported to the ‘extermination camps’ and gassed there, and the Jews from the ghettos in the USSR were allegedly shot when the ghettos were broken up. Does Hilberg count these deaths twice? Apparently yes, because otherwise the desired final totals would never be reached!

203 In Poland there were hundreds of small work camps which were not considered outlying camps of the official concentration camps. An overview of these camps can be found in the work published by the Główna Komisja Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce (Head Commission for the Investigation of Hitler Crimes in Poland) entitled *Obozy Hitlerowskie na Ziemiach Polskich*, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warsaw 1979.

Over 2.5 million imaginary gassing victims, a massively inflated number of shooting victims, a massively inflated number of deaths in the ghettos and due to privation outside ghettos—by these means the ‘Holocaust’ pope sees to it that he can count, if not six, at least over five million dead Jews.

Let us examine Hilbergs statistics for three critical countries.

2. Hungary

In 1944 Hungarian Jews were indisputably visited with two great deportations. Between May and July most of the Jews living outside Budapest were deported, mostly to Auschwitz. According to the dispatches of the German special ambassador in Budapest, Edmund Veesenmayer, the number of deportees was 437,402. The operation was stopped on 7th July by Hungarian Regent Miklos Horthy and the Jews of Budapest were spared. In October, after the fall of Horthy and the seizure of power by Arrow Cross forces (Hungarian National Socialists) under Ferenc Szalasi, many thousand Hungarian Jews were driven to the borders of the Reich in forced marches to build fortifications against a Soviet invasion.

Of the first deportations the *Enzyklopädie des Holocaust* writes:²⁰⁴

“Most of the Hungarian Jews were gassed shortly after their arrival in Auschwitz-Birkenau.”

Hilberg also asserts (on p. 1000; *DEJ*, p. 936) that “*the great bulk*” of Hungarian deportees in 1944 “*were gassed in the Auschwitz killing center upon arrival*”. On the other hand, in a table on p. 1300 (*DEJ*, p. 1220) dealing with “*Deaths by Country*”, he gives the total number of Hungarian-Jewish victims as “*over 180,000*”. Because this must include the deaths from the second deportation, carried out in October 1944, then, of the 437,000 displaced between May and July, clearly less than 180,000 met their deaths and thus many more than half survived the war. Thereby Hilberg undercuts his own assertion that “*the great bulk*” was gassed. Where were people sent who did not die in Auschwitz? Hilberg mentions several thousand transferred elsewhere (pp. 999f.; *DEJ*, na). What happened to the others? The readers are never told.

Nor are they told where Hilberg has gotten his figure of 180,000 Hungarian-Jewish victims.

Because the claimed mass annihilation in Birkenau cannot have taken place due to its radical technical impossibility, it is likely that the actual

204 v. III, p. 1467.

population losses of Hungarian Jews did not exceed several tens of thousands. Auschwitz was probably a transit camp (*Durchgangslager*) for the Hungarian Jews who were not registered there. The proven transfers from Auschwitz to Stutthof²⁰⁵ mesh with this description closely.

3. Poland

Someone not familiar with the difficulties of population statistics might think that the demographic losses of Jews in Poland could be determined by subtracting the number of Jews living there *after* the war from the number living there *before* the war. This is the method used in, among others, the collected work edited by the notorious Prof. Wolfgang Benz, *Dimension des Völkermords*,²⁰⁶ in which the concept of Jewish emigration does not appear. Hilberg concedes magnanimously that 15,000 Polish Jews emigrated “to Palestine and other areas” during the war and that “thousands” survived in the territories annexed by the Soviet Union or were deported by the Soviets (p. 1293; *DEJ*, p. 1213). He says “up to 3 million” Polish Jews died (p. 1300; *DEJ*, p. 1220), which is almost 90% of the (claimed) 3.351 million alive before the war.

This three million number is a pure fantasy. For one thing, the starting number is too high, since the last Polish census before the war, according to which 3,113,033 Jews lived in Poland, took place in 1931 and, according to the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, during the decade of the ‘30s some 100,000 Jews a year emigrated from Poland.²⁰⁷ After Poland was partitioned in Fall 1939 there was a massive flight of Jews out of the German half into the Soviet half. In his study *The Dissolution*, Sanning names numerous towns from which more than half the Jews had moved to the east. Although on 22nd June 1941 the Soviet occupied area of Poland came quickly under the control of the Wehrmacht, a large share of the Jews there fled with the Red Army and some had previously been deported further east by Stalin’s willing executioners.

According to a report in the *United Press* in February 1946, 800,000 Jews still lived in Poland.²⁰⁸ The following facts should also be noted:

- immediately after the end of the war numerous Polish Jews emigrated to America, Palestine and other places;

205 Cf. chapter VI.5.

206 Published 1991 by R. Oldenbourg.

207 Expert report of the Institute of Contemporary History, Munich 1958, cited by W. Sanning, *op. cit.* (note 33), p. 32.

208 *Keesings Archiv der Gegenwart*, 16th/17th year, Essen 1948, Reported on 15.2.1946.

- most Polish Jews who had fled to the USSR stayed there;
- many Polish Jews who remained in Poland after the war changed their names and were difficult to recognize as Jews.²⁰⁹

We do not possess reliable figures for this problem, so it is not possible to calculate Jewish population losses in Poland even approximately. In any case, of Hilberg's up to three million deaths, the imaginary gassing victims should be subtracted (most of the 1.65 exterminated in the 'pure extermination camps' and a substantial number of those killed in Auschwitz were supposedly Polish Jews). The probable magnitude of Jewish losses in Poland is up to several hundred thousand and truly a tragedy.

4. The Soviet Union

The census of 1939 showed 3.02 million Soviet Jews, but in 1940 the *American Jewish Yearbook*²¹⁰ reported that there were 5.5 million. This can only be explained if a large share of Polish, Baltic and Romanian Jewry were absorbed by the USSR. According to the census of 1959, 2.267 million Jews lived in Soviet lands. However, in the Soviet census every citizen could give the nationality that he thought he belonged to and large numbers of Soviet Jews had assimilated; the latter no longer regarded themselves as Jews, but as Russians, Ukrainians, and so on. In addition, a powerfully anti-Zionist mood was prevalent and an acknowledgement of being Jewish might have brought harassment with it.

On 1st July 1990—long after the beginning of emigration to Israel and to the USA—the *New York Post* referred again to five million Soviet Jews. Because of this unholy chaos of numbers, it is clear that it is not possible to come to a reliable estimate of the extent of Soviet-Jewish population losses in the Second World War—quite apart from the fact that one also must take account of Jewish members of the Red Army fallen in battle as well as Jewish civilians who died of starvation in areas that were not German occupied, whose deaths were not due to German persecution measures and had nothing to do with the 'Holocaust'.

5. Summary

Hilberg's figure of approximately 250,000 deaths of Jews in German concentration, work and transit camps—to be clearly distinguished from

209 On this, cf. for example, Jozef Pawlikowski, "Einige Anmerkungen zu jüdischen Bevölkerungsstatistiken", *VffG*, 2(1) (1998), pp. 36f. (online: <http://vho.org/VffG/1998/1/Pawlikowski.html>)

210 1941, v. 43, p. 319.

‘extermination camps’—is almost certainly too high, but it may be in the right range. Jews who died in Auschwitz and Majdanek of sickness, exhaustion and so on, should also be included in this number. Of the maximum 210,000 deaths incurred at these two camps,²¹¹ some 60% were probably Jewish. This means that at most some 350,000 Jews could have met their deaths in German camps. The mass shootings in the Soviet Union, the misery in the ghettos and the evacuation of the camps in the last months of the war could not have cost more than several hundred thousand Jewish lives. The final figure of Jewish population losses must be much less than one million.

This estimate is confirmed by the investigations of Swedish researcher Carl Nordling. Based on the biographical data of the first 722 Jewish personalities listed in the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* in 1972 who lived in their European homelands when the war began, he determined that of these, 44% emigrated, 35% remained in their homelands but were spared deportations or internment, 8% were deported but survived and 13% died.²¹²

In his study based exclusively on Jewish and Allied statistics, W. Sanning comes to the conclusion that not more than 3.5 million Jews were subject to German power, meaning that they lived in the German area of influence at the time when the ‘Holocaust’ was supposedly transpiring.²¹³ Let us assume that Sanning’s number is too low and that the number of Jews living in the German area of control was 5 million. Let us also assume that Nordling’s statistics are not representative and that not 13%, but 20% of Jews died in the German area of control. In this case, the number of Jewish victims would run to one million—only a fifth of Hilberg’s ‘calculated’ or invented number.

Hilberg’s methods can be quite clearly seen in his treatment of the demographically key country Poland. He ignores the massive emigration of Jews out of Poland before the war, downplays the mass flight of Polish Jews into the USSR in 1939, lets innumerable ‘victims of gassing in the extermination camps’, die a second time as ‘killed in shootings behind the eastern front’ or ‘perished in the ghettos’, does not bother to mention the many hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews who emigrated after the war and pays no attention to the fact that many Polish Jews were no longer recognized as such after 1945. One could not shift and chop statistics any more dishonestly than our Giant has done!

211 Cf. notes 106 and 107 in chapter VII.2.

212 *Revue d’Histoire Révisionniste*, 2 (1990), pp. 50-64 (<http://vho.org/F/j/RHR/2/Nordling50-64.html>).

213 W. Sanning, *op. cit.* (note 33), p. 181.