

THE MYTH OF THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE

*A Study of the
Wannsee Conference Minutes*

By Francis Dupont

Revisionist Books

The Wannsee Conference Myth

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Introduction

For decades, those who have propagated the alleged extermination thesis of the Jews by Nazis in World War II, have more often than not started their theory with the assertion that the mass murder of Jews was planned in detail by the National Socialist government at a conference in 1942.

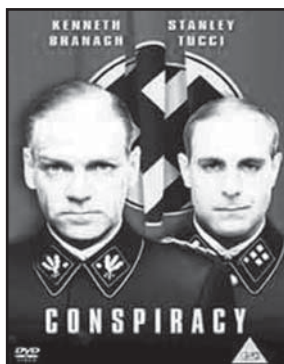
This conference, the Wannsee Conference, named after the resort in the woodlands lying to the south west of Berlin, and its minutes, known as the Wannsee Protocol, have become pivotal for many exterminationist believers, as evidence of the methodical planning and ruthlessness of the alleged Nazi plot.

For example, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington DC, one of the largest resources for exterminationist propaganda outside of Yad Vashem in Israel, has the following to say about the Wannsee Conference:

The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: On January 20, 1942, fifteen high-ranking Nazi party and German government leaders gathered for an important meeting. They met in a wealthy section of Berlin at a villa by a lake known as Wannsee. Reinhard Heydrich, who was SS chief Heinrich Himmler's head deputy, held the meeting for the purpose of discussing the "final solution to the Jewish question in Europe" with key non-SS government leaders, including the secretaries of the Foreign Ministry and Justice, whose cooperation was needed.

The "final solution" was the Nazis' code name for the deliberate, carefully planned destruction, or genocide, of all European Jews. The Nazis used the vague term "final solution" to hide their policy of mass murder from the rest of the world. In fact, the men at Wannsee talked about methods of killing, about liquidation, about "extermination."

The Wannsee Conference, as it became known to history, did not mark the beginning of the "Final Solution." The mobile killing squads were already slaughtering Jews in the occupied Soviet Union. Rather, the Wannsee Conference was the place where the "final solution" was formally revealed to non-Nazi leaders who would help arrange for Jews to be transported from all over German-occupied Europe to SS-operated "extermination" camps in Poland. Not one of the men present at Wannsee objected to the announced policy. Never before had a modern state committed itself to the murder of an entire people." (1)



The Wannsee Conference has also been the subject of a major film, jointly produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

and the American-based Home Box Office (HBO) company. The film, *Conspiracy*, was scripted by the Jewish author Loring Mandel.

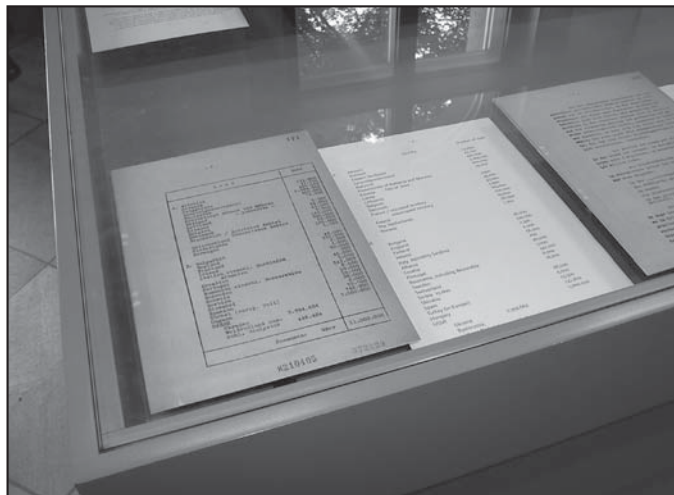
In this dramatization, conference leader Reinhard Heydrich steers the discussion in the direction of the wholesale elimination of Jews, specifically using gas chambers.

This causes consternation among many of the attendees, notably Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Kritzinger, deputy head of the Reich Chancellery, who objects that Hitler had given him personal guarantees that extermination of the Jews was not being considered, and representatives of the Polish administration, who are shocked to discover that the SS have been building camps and making preparations for the "Final Solution" under their noses and in secret. (2)

The Wannsee Protocol, and the meeting itself, have therefore, taken on iconic status within the Holocaust story. The actual villa where the conference took place is still in existence, has been turned into a museum where one can read the minutes of the meeting, on public display there.

The villa now has the atmosphere of a church about it, as the event has been built up into what has become the very founding cornerstone of the entire Holocaust story. Yet, like everything else associated with the alleged Holocaust story, once studied openly, the facts of the Wannsee Conference are considerably at odds with the propaganda.

In fact, it is not exaggeration to say that almost everything that is said about the Wannsee Protocol to date by the exterminationists, is a bare faced lie, predicated upon the—until now—successful hope that no-one would actually take the time to study the text of the Protocol itself, and instead rely purely on the "interpretation" given to them by the exterminationists.



The Wannsee minutes are kept under glass at the Wannsee Villa Museum, creating an atmosphere of sanctity to unsuspecting visitors who never actually read the document in full.

Participants

Despite the Wannsee Conference having assumed giant proportions in the ongoing Holocaust story, the meeting was in fact unknown until the chance discovery of a copy of the minutes in 1947.

This was surprising, given the list of attendees, who were:

- Gauleiter Dr. Alfred Meyer and Reichamtsleiter (Chief Officer).
- Dr. Georg Leibbrandt - Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories
- State Secretary Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart - Reich Ministry of the Interior
- State Secretary Dr. Erich Neumann - Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Four Year Plan
- State Secretary Dr. Roland Freisler - Reich Justice Ministry
- State Secretary Dr. Josef Bühler - Office of Governor General [Poland]
representing Hans Frank
- Under State Secretary Martin Luther - Foreign Office
- SS Senior-Colonel Gerhard Klopfer - Party Chancellery representing Martin Bormann
- Ministerial Director Friedrich Kritzinger - Reich Chancellery
- SS Major-General Otto Hofmann - Race and Resettlement Main Office
- SS Major-General Heinrich Müller - Reich Security Main Office
- SS Lt-Colonel Adolf Eichmann - Reich Security Main Office
- SS Senior-Colonel Dr. Eberhard Schöngarth - Commander of the Security Police and the SD in the General Government [Poland]
- SS Major Dr. Rudolf Lange - Commander of Security Police and Security Service for General Commissariat Latvia, as Deputy of Commanding Officer of Security Police and Security Service for Reich Commissariat Ostland [Baltic States and White Russia]
Security Police and Security Service.

The meeting itself was also relatively brief, and only lasted an hour and a half at the most. The minutes were found in the files of Under State Secretary Martin Luther in 1947 and have since then been boosted to almost mythical status as one of the turning points in Nazi policy towards the Jews.

In reality, the Wannsee Conference was actually just a planning meeting to facilitate shipping Jews out of Germany to the newly-occupied territories in Russia, and nothing more. This is evidenced from a close reading of the minutes, as detailed below.

The Real Wannsee Protocols

In reality, the Wannsee Protocol never talked about extermination, gas chambers or even suggests, in any way, mass murder of any sort.

The Wannsee Conference only discusses a plan which entails the evacuation of Jews to territory recently opened by the German invasion of the Soviet Union, which had started the previous June. It is worth repeating: Nowhere in the Wannsee conference, or the minutes of that meeting, was a plan for the mass murder of all Jews discussed.

Incredibly, exactly the opposite was discussed: amongst other things, the Wannsee meeting:

- Took an interest in saving Jewish lives by warning of the 'dangers' of emigrating during wartime;

- ordered that ALL Jews aged over 65, NOT be evacuated East;

- ordered that ALL German Jews who were decorated or wounded World War I veterans NOT be evacuated East; and

- ordered that ALL Jews working in critical munitions and other factories NOT be evacuated East.

Only in one place do the minutes of the Wannsee meeting suggest (quote) "appropriate action" for a small number of Jews— but, given the context of the quote, the evidence is overwhelming that it was meant that these Jews were to be sterilized so that they could not reproduce.

Jewish Emigration and Evacuation to the East

The real purpose of the Wannsee conference is best gained by a simple reading of the minutes of that meeting. All the quotes below are directly from the Wannsee Protocol, on public display at the Wannsee Villa to this day.

Appendix A to this paper contains a full English translation of the Wannsee Protocol; this can be compared to the full German text found in Appendix B; which in turn can be compared for accuracy to a full set of the original Protocol in Appendix C.

In its own words, the purpose of the conference was to attend to the *“expulsion of the Jews from every sphere of life and living space of the German people”*. This aim was to be achieved as follows:

“In carrying out these efforts, an increased and planned acceleration of the emigration of the Jews from Reich territory was started, as the only possible present solution.”

As a result of this enforced emigration, *“537,000 Jews were sent out of the country between the takeover of power and the deadline of 31 October 1941.”* (The “country” in question was Germany).

This emigration was financed by the Jews themselves:

“The Jews themselves, or their Jewish political organizations, financed the emigration. In order to avoid impoverished Jews remaining behind, the principle was followed that wealthy Jews have to finance the emigration of poor Jews; this was arranged by imposing a suitable tax, i.e., an emigration tax, which was used for financial arrangements in connection with the emigration of poor Jews and was imposed according to income.”

Wannsee Protocol Expressed Concern for Jewish Safety

Far from expressing a desire to murder Jews, in fact the Wannsee Protocols then show concern for Jewish safety: by placing a ban on emigration during wartime:

“In the meantime the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police had prohibited emigration of Jews due to the dangers of an emigration in wartime and due to the possibilities of the East.”

Nowhere in the Wannsee Meeting or its minutes is the murder of Jews discussed; only their emigration and evacuation - forced - to the eastern territories opened up after the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

The Wannsee minutes state this aim quite openly:

“III. Another possible solution of the problem has now taken the place of emigration, i.e. the evacuation of the Jews to the East, provided that the Führer gives the appropriate approval in advance.”

It is alleged that the term “evacuation” as used at Wannsee, meant extermination. There is absolutely no evidence to support this assumption, and a wealth of evidence to indicate the opposite. In fact, the Wannsee Protocols go into detail on which groups of Jews should NOT be evacuated.

No Jews over 65 to be Evacuated to the East

Instead of plotting the mass murder of all Jews, the Wannsee conference minutes actually talk about keeping large numbers of Jews in Germany.

For example, with regard to Jews over the age of 65, the Protocol specifically says:

“It is not intended to evacuate Jews over 65 years old, but to send them to an old-age ghetto—Theresienstadt is being considered for this purpose.”

No Jewish World War I Veterans to be Evacuated East

The Wannsee minutes then go on to make special mention of German World War One Jewish veterans in this way:

“In addition to these age groups—of the approximately 280,000 Jews in Germany proper and Austria on 31 October 1941, approximately 30% are over 65 years old—severely wounded veterans and Jews with war decorations (Iron Cross I) will be accepted in the old-age ghettos. With this expedient solution, in one fell swoop many interventions will be prevented.”

No Jews Working in “Vital Industries” to be Evacuated

The Wannsee conference also noted that Jews working in industries vital to the war effort are also not to be evacuated:

“With regard to the issue of the effect of the evacuation of Jews on the economy, State Secretary Neumann stated that Jews who are working in industries vital to the war effort, provided that no replacements are available, cannot be evacuated.”

The Wannsee minutes then record that Reinhard Heydrich, often fingered as the mastermind behind the conference, agreed and was recorded so in the minutes:

"SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich indicated that these Jews would not be evacuated according to the rules he had approved for carrying out the evacuations then underway."

So, instead of a "blueprint to murder all Jews," the Wannsee meeting actually discussed specific steps to protect entire groups of Jews from harm of any sort.

The Number of Jews under German Control Identified

The Wannsee conference then discussed exactly how many Jews would be involved in their planned emigration program. For this purpose, they divided Europe up into two sections: "A" and "B".

Only 4.5 Million Jews Ever Under Direct German Control

The "A" territories included Germany and all those countries under direct German occupation: these lands were (with numbers of Jews in parenthesis) :

Germany, (131,800);

Austria (43,700);

Eastern territories (420,000);

General Government (2,284,000);

Bialystok (400,000);

Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia (74,200);

Estonia (0);

Latvia (3,500);

Lithuania (34,000);

Belgium (43,000);

Denmark (5,600);

France /occupied territory (165,000)/ unoccupied territory (700,000);

Greece (69,600);

Netherlands (160,800);

Norway (1,300).

This gives a total of 4,536,500 Jews under German control. This is an important figure, as will be seen presently.

The "B" category countries were those with Jewish populations NOT under German control. These were:

Bulgaria (48,000);
England (330,000);
Finland (2,300);
Ireland (4,000);
Italy including Sardinia (58,000);
Albania (200);
Croatia (40,000);
Portugal (3,000);
Rumania including Bessarabia (342,000);
Sweden (8,000);
Switzerland (18,000);
Serbia (10,000);
Slovakia (88,000);
Spain (6,000);
Turkey (European portion) (55,500);
Hungary (742,800);
USSR (5,000,000, including as subdivisions the Ukraine (2,994,684) and
Byelorussia (446,484).)

This gives a total of 6,755,800 Jews in Europe NOT under direct German control.

These two figures, when added together, give a total of 11,292,300 Jews. It is worth once again stating that by the Nazi's own estimates, only 4,536,500 Jews were under direct German control.

Category "B" Countries Excluded from German Control

Of the "B" category countries, the following can be excluded from all calculations: England; Finland; Ireland; Portugal; Sweden; Switzerland; Spain; and Turkey; as none of these countries ever came under German occupation, nor in any way entered the German sphere of influence. Their Jewish numbers can therefore be completely removed from any calculations.

L a n d	Zahl
A. Altreich	131.800
Ostmark	43.700
Ostgebiete	420.000
Generalgouvernement	2.284.000
Bialystok	400.000
Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren	74.200
Estland - judenfrei -	
Lettland	3.500
Litauen	34.000
Belgien	43.000
Dänemark	5.600
Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet	165.000
Unbesetztes Gebiet	700.000
Griechenland	69.600
Niederlande	160.800
Norwegen	1.300
B. Bulgarien	48.000
England	330.000
Finnland	2.300
Irland	4.000
Italien einschl. Sardinien	58.000
Albanien	200
Kroatien	40.000
Portugal	3.000
Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien	342.000
Schweden	8.000
Schweiz	18.000
Serbien	10.000
Slowakei	88.000
Spanien	6.000
Türkei (europ. Teil)	55.500
Ungarn	742.800
UdSSR	5.000.000
Ukraine	2.994.684
Weißrußland aus- schl. Bialystok	445.484
Zusammen: über	11.000.000

The breakdown of the number of Jews in Europe, including the Soviet Union, as outlined in the Wannsee Minutes. Only 4,5 million were ever under German control, making a mockery of the "6 million dead" claim, particularly in the light of the 4.3 million "Holocaust survivor" claims made by Jews against the post-war German state.

The other "B" category countries were either at some stage allied to Germany or parts thereof were occupied by German troops in combat, mostly against the Soviet Union. The former included Bulgaria; Italy; Croatia; and Rumania; the latter included Serbia; Slovakia; Hungary; parts of the USSR; Ukraine; and White Russia.

It is however incorrect to assume that these countries were allied to the Germans, that those countries' Jews were handed over to the Nazis.

The most famous example of this is Bulgaria, whose entire Jewish population was protected by that country's government, as recounted in Jewish historian Martin Gilbert's Book *"The Holocaust"* (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985):

"Also lucky were forty-eight thousand Jews of Bulgaria: those living within the pre-war borders of the state. At first, it seemed that they too would be deported, as had those from the Bulgarian-occupied zones of Thrace and Macedonia. Following German insistence, the Bulgarian government had indeed ordered the deportation of all Jews from Bulgaria proper, some of whom had already been interned.

But the deportation order led to such an outcry from the Bulgarian people, including many intellectuals and church leaders, that the government rescinded the order, and Jews already taken into custody were released. The release of the Jews, which took place on March 10, came to be known in Bulgaria as a 'miracle of the Jewish people'." (3)

The Yad Vashem— Israel's official Holocaust memorial, itself claims that Denmark only lost 60 Jews dead; that Finland lost 7 Jews dead, that of all Italy's 58,000 Jews (by Nazi estimates) were reduced by only 7,600 and so on. (4)

Russian Jews Flee Advancing Germans

The German invasion of the Soviet Union, which started on 21 June 1941, would not have captured all the 5 million Jews which the Wannsee minutes calculated were present in this region. Millions upon millions of Jews were evacuated by the Soviets themselves, or fled the advancing German troops.

Those Jews who stayed behind became the subject of German "Einsatzgruppen" or Special Action Group units.

These Einsatzgruppen were sent in behind German lines with the express orders of fighting partisans, and then killing what remained of the Communist party infrastructure in the occupied areas of the Soviet Union.

Einsatzgruppen Exaggerations

Due to the high number of Jews in the Soviet Communist party infrastructure (the Wannsee minutes actually make mention that over 23 percent of all Soviet Jews were employed by the Soviet state), this of course meant that many Jews became the target of the Einsatzgruppen.

Although a final figure of Jews killed by the Einsatzgruppen has never been presented, some of the most extreme estimates by Yad Vashem and others say that between 900,000 and 1.25 million people—Jews and others—were killed by the special action units.

This figure is without doubt a gross exaggeration, considering that the Einsatzgruppen never had more than 3,000 men in total serving in its units at any one time, and furthermore spent most of their time fighting partisans.

In fact, at least two Einsatzgruppen commanders were killed in action fighting partisans, which in itself shows the true nature of the work of those units.

But even if this grossly exaggerated figure is accurate—and all evidence is that it is not—this grandiose figure is still nowhere near the 5 million Jews the Nazis estimated were in the Soviet Union's territory.

4.5 Million Jews Under Direct German Control—Yet 4.3 Million Claim Compensation

As detailed above, of the 6.7 million Jews estimated by the Nazis themselves to be in the category "B" countries; almost none actually fell into German hands.

The category "A" country figure of 4.5 million Jews can therefore be taken as the most reliable estimate of the number of Jews who actually fell into Nazi hands, give or take a few hundred thousand.

This is where the figures get interesting: the figure of 4,536,500 Jews is important when it is considered that, until the end of 1987, some 4,384,138 individual claims for compensation had been made by Holocaust survivors against the post war German government. (5)

This means, by the Nazis' own reckoning, that of the estimated 4.5 million Jews directly under their control in 1942, at least 4.3 million had claimed compensation from the German government for persecution by 1987.

These figures by themselves speak volumes about the true number of Jewish casualties during the war.



Healthy-looking prisoners, freed by the Soviet Army at Auschwitz on January 27, 1945. Pictures such as these are rarely shown because they give lie to the tales of ill-treatment and mass extermination.

Wannsee Protocol Details Forced Jewish Labor

The Wannsee minutes do not end there though: they go on to specifically state what is to be done with able bodied Jews once they have been evacuated and resettled in the Eastern territories:

“Under proper guidance, in the course of the final solution the Jews are to be allocated for appropriate labor in the East. Able-bodied Jews, separated according to sex, will be taken in large work columns to these areas for work on roads, in the course of which action doubtless a large portion will be eliminated by natural causes.”

This is the first mention of Jews dying - not by execution, but by “natural causes.”

“Appropriate Action” For Survivors of Forced Labor

Then comes the only part of the Wannsee minutes which could be interpreted in a sinister fashion. Following directly on the remark that a large portion of able bodied Jews will be eliminated by natural causes, the relevant sentence reads:

“The possible final remnant will, since it will undoubtedly consist of the most resistant portion, have to be treated accordingly, because it is the product of natural selection and would, if released, act as the seed of a new Jewish revival (see the experience of history.)”

It is alleged that this sentence means that these Jews—who, important to note, are not all the Jews, but only a small select group—were meant to be killed. Read in context of the entire document, this conclusion is spurious.

“Appropriate Action” Meant Sterilization

Firstly, elsewhere in the Wannsee minutes, as already pointed out, specific mention is made of saving Jews from the ‘dangers of wartime emigration’ and even not evacuating certain classes of Jews. To allege that the Wannsee Protocol was to “kill Jews” on the one hand, and save whole groups of Jews on the other is clearly impossible.

The reference to “appropriate treatment” means that these Jews are to be sterilized so that they cannot have children, a fact which becomes obvious when the very next section of the Wannsee minutes is read.

The next section - in fact one of single longest sections of the entire minutes—deals with which Jews should be evacuated, and how persons of mixed Jewish—German ancestry are to be handled, with the answer being to sterilize certain highly mixed groups rather than evacuating them.

To quote this section of the Wannsee Protocol:

“Persons of mixed blood of the first degree who are exempted from evacuation will be sterilized in order to prevent any offspring and to eliminate the problem of persons of mixed blood once and for all. Such sterilization will be voluntary. But it is required to remain in the Reich. The sterilized “person of mixed blood” is thereafter free of all restrictions to which he was previously subjected.”

And

“SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann advocates the opinion that sterilization will have to be widely used, since the person of mixed blood who is given the choice whether he will be evacuated or sterilized would rather undergo sterilization.”

And

“State Secretary Dr. Stuckart maintains that carrying out in practice of the just mentioned possibilities for solving the problem of mixed marriages and persons of mixed blood will create endless administrative work. In the second place, as the biological facts cannot be disregarded in any case, State Secretary Dr. Stuckart proposed proceeding to forced sterilization.”



*Nazi Germany was not the only country to practice sterilization. This poster, from a 1936 edition of the German magazine Neues Volk, was titled *Wir stehen nicht allein* or “We do not stand alone”. On the shield is the name of the German 1933 Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring, which allowed compulsory sterilization. Around the picture are flags of nations which had enacted (to the left) or were considering (bottom and to the right) similar legislation. The countries which had enacted compulsory sterilization laws were: United States, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland while the countries where sterilization laws were being considered were Hungary, the United Kingdom, Switzerland,*

Poland, Japan, Latvia and Lithuania. In this context, references in the Wannsee minutes to sterilization are not that unusual for the time.

Read in this context, the meaning of the “appropriate action” remark becomes plain: by this it was meant to sterilize those Jews who had survived the forced labor in the East.

Conclusion – The Wannsee Conference Was a Discussion about the Mechanics of Moving Certain Groups of Jews to the East, and Never Mentioned Mass Murder in Any Form

In conclusion then, the following can be said:

- 1) The Wannsee meeting and its minutes do not contain a master plan to kill Jews;
- 2) Nowhere in the meeting’s minutes is genocide discussed, planned, proposed or even suggested;
- 3) The Wannsee meeting never discussed gas chambers, shootings or any of the fantasies propagated by the exterminationists;
- 4) The number of Jews under Nazi control was estimated by the Nazis themselves to be in the region of 4.5 million (yet 4.3 million Jewish compensation claims have been lodged against the post war German government);

5) The Wannsee meeting was a planning meeting on how Europe's Jews should be deported, via transit camps, to the East; with able bodied Jews being forced to build roads and other labor intensive tasks in those regions;

6) The most "sinister" part of the Wannsee Protocol suggests that "appropriate action," (which, in the context of the document, clearly means sterilization), be applied to those able bodied Jews who survive the forced labor in the East;

7) The Wannsee conference also made allowance for specific exceptions to Jewish evacuation, such as Jewish German World War One veterans; ALL Jews over the age of 65; and ALL Jews working in industries vital to the German war effort, to be released from the threat of evacuation and be allowed to stay in Germany.

There is therefore, no justification for alleging that the Wannsee Conference was a 'master plan for mass murder' and the Western media, Holocaust institutions and reference books are simply lying.

This lie becomes even more sinister when it is considered that no-one who actually reads the Wannsee Protocol, could come to any other conclusion except that outlined above.

To suggest that the Wannsee Conference was anything else, shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that those propagating this lie, do so shamelessly, in direct contradiction of the facts, to try and prop up the rest of the Holocaust fabrication.

References:

(1) *The Wannsee Conference and the "Final Solution*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 10 October 2006.

(2) *Conspiracy* (2001), Directed by Frank Pierson, Writing credits Loring Mandel. BBC/HBO

(3) *The Holocaust* by Martin Gilbert, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985

(4) Yad Vahsem, Israel, *Holocaust FAQs*.

(5) West German Federal Indemnification Law-BEG ("Wiedergutmachung"). German Finance Ministry Leistungen der öffentlichen Hand auf dem Gebiet der Wiedergutmachung Stand: 31. Dezember 2009.

Appendix A: The Wannsee Protocol: Full English Translation

Stamp: Top Secret 30 copies 16th copy

Minutes of discussion.

I

The following persons took part in the discussion about the final solution of the Jewish question which took place in Berlin, am Grossen Wannsee No. 56/58 on 20 January 1942.

Gauleiter Dr. Meyer and Reichsamtleiter Dr. Leibbrandt, Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern territories, Secretary of State Dr. Stuckart, Reich Ministry for the Interior, Secretary of State Neumann, Plenipotentiary for the Four Year Plan, Secretary of State Dr. Freisler, Reich Ministry of Justice, Secretary of State Dr. Bühler, Office of the Government General Under Secretary of State, Dr. Luther, Foreign Office, SS-Oberführer Klopfer, Party Chancellery, Ministerialdirektor Kritzinger, Reich Chancellery, SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann, Race and Settlement Main Office, SS-Gruppenführer Müller, SS-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann, Reich Main Security Office, SS-Oberführer Dr. Schöngarth, Commander of the Security Police and the SD in the Government General, Security Police and SD, SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Lange, Commander of the Security Police and the SD for the General-District Latvia, as deputy of the Commander of the Security Police and the SD for the Reich Commissariat "Eastland", Security Police and SD.

II.

At the beginning of the discussion Chief of the Security Police and of the SD, SS-Obergruppen-führer Heydrich, reported that the Reich Marshal had appointed him delegate for the preparations for the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe and pointed out that this discussion had been called for the purpose of clarifying fundamental questions. The wish of the Reich Marshal to have a draft sent to him concerning organizational, factual and material interests in relation to the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe makes necessary an initial common action of all central offices immediately concerned with these questions in order to bring their general activities into line. The Reichsführer-SS and the Chief of the German Police (Chief of the Security Police and the SD) was entrusted with the official central handling of the final solution of the Jewish question without regard to geographic borders. The Chief of the Security Police and the SD then gave a short report of the struggle which has been carried on thus far against this enemy, the essential points being the following:

a) the expulsion of the Jews from every sphere of life of the German people,

b) the expulsion of the Jews from the living space of the German people.

In carrying out these efforts, an increased and planned acceleration of the emigration of the Jews from Reich territory was started, as the only possible present solution.

By order of the Reich Marshal, a Reich Central Office for Jewish Emigration was set up in January 1939 and the Chief of the Security Police and SD was entrusted with the management. Its most important tasks were

a) to make all necessary arrangements for the preparation for an increased emigration of the Jews,

b) to direct the flow of emigration,

c) to speed the procedure of emigration in each individual case.

The aim of all this was to cleanse German living space of Jews in a legal manner.

All the offices realized the drawbacks of such enforced accelerated emigration. For the time being they had, however, tolerated it on account of the lack of other possible solutions of the problem.

The work concerned with emigration was, later on, not only a German problem, but also a problem with which the authorities of the countries to which the flow of emigrants was being directed would have to deal. Financial difficulties, such as the demand by various foreign governments for increasing sums of money to be presented at the time of the landing, the lack of shipping space, increasing restriction of entry permits, or the cancelling of such, increased extraordinarily the difficulties of emigration. In spite of these difficulties, 537,000 Jews were sent out of the country between the takeover of power and the deadline of 31 October 1941. Of these approximately 360,000 were in Germany proper on 30 January 1933 approximately 147,000 were in Austria (Ostmark) on 15 March 1939 approximately 30,000 were in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia on 15 March 1939.

The Jews themselves, or their Jewish political organizations, financed the emigration. In order to avoid impoverished Jews' remaining behind, the principle was followed that wealthy Jews have to finance the emigration of poor Jews; this was arranged by imposing a suitable tax, i.e., an emigration tax, which was used for financial arrangements in connection with the emigration of poor Jews and was imposed according to income.

Apart from the necessary Reichsmark exchange, foreign currency had to be presented at the time of landing. In order to save foreign exchange held by Germany, the foreign Jewish financial organizations were - with the help of Jewish organizations in Germany - made responsible for arranging an adequate amount of foreign currency.

Up to 30 October 1941, these foreign Jews donated a total of around 9,500,000 dollars.

In the meantime the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police had prohibited emigration of Jews due to the dangers of an emigration in wartime and due to the possibilities of the East.

III.

Another possible solution of the problem has now taken the place of emigration, i.e. the evacuation of the Jews to the East, provided that the Führer gives the appropriate approval in advance.

These actions are, however, only to be considered provisional, but practical experience is already being collected which is of the greatest importance in relation to the future final solution of the Jewish question.

Approximately 11 million Jews will be involved in the final solution of the European Jewish question, distributed as follows among the individual countries:

Country	Number
A.	
Germany proper	131,800
Austria	43,700
Eastern territories	420,000
General Government	2,284,000
Bialystok	400,000
Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia	74,200
Estonia - free of Jews -	
Latvia	3,500
Lithuania	34,000
Belgium	43,000
Denmark	5,600
France/occupied territory	165,000
unoccupied territory	700,000
Greece	69,600
Netherlands	160,800
Norway	1,300
B.	
Bulgaria	48,000
England	330,000

The Myth of the Wannsee Conference

Finland	2,300
Ireland	4,000
Italy including Sardinia	58,000
Albania	200
Croatia	40,000
Portugal	3,000
Rumania including Bessarabia	342,000
Sweden	8,000
Switzerland	18,000
Serbia	10,000
Slovakia	88,000
Spain	6,000
Turkey (European portion)	55,500
Hungary	742,800
USSR	5,000,000
Ukraine	2,994,684
White Russia	
excluding Bialystok	446,484
Total over	11,000,000

The number of Jews given here for foreign countries includes, however, only those Jews who still adhere to the Jewish faith, since some countries still do not have a definition of the term "Jew" according to racial principles.

The handling of the problem in the individual countries will meet with difficulties due to the attitude and outlook of the people there, especially in Hungary and Rumania. Thus, for example, even today the Jew can buy documents in Rumania that will officially prove his foreign citizenship.

The influence of the Jews in all walks of life in the USSR is well known. Approximately five million Jews live in the European part of the USSR, in the Asian part scarcely 1/4 million.

The breakdown of Jews residing in the European part of the USSR according to trades was approximately as follows:

Agriculture	9.1 %
Urban workers	14.8 %
In trade	20.0 %
Employed by the state	23.4 %

In private occupations such as medical profession, press, theater, etc. 32. 7%

Under proper guidance, in the course of the final solution the Jews are to be allocated for appropriate labor in the East. Able-bodied Jews, separated according to sex, will be taken in large work columns to these areas for work on roads, in the course of which action doubtless a large portion will be eliminated by natural causes.

The possible final remnant will, since it will undoubtedly consist of the most resistant portion, have to be treated accordingly, because it is the product of natural selection and would, if released, act as a the seed of a new Jewish revival (see the experience of history.)

In the course of the practical execution of the final solution, Europe will be combed through from west to east. Germany proper, including the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, will have to be handled first due to the housing problem and additional social and political necessities.

The evacuated Jews will first be sent, group by group, to so-called transit ghettos, from which they will be transported to the East.

SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich went on to say that an important prerequisite for the evacuation as such is the exact definition of the persons involved.

It is not intended to evacuate Jews over 65 years old, but to send them to an old-age ghetto - Theresienstadt is being considered for this purpose.

In addition to these age groups - of the approximately 280,000 Jews in Germany proper and Austria on 31 October 1941, approximately 30% are over 65 years old - severely wounded veterans and Jews with war decorations (Iron Cross I) will be accepted in the old-age ghettos. With this expedient solution, in one fell swoop many interventions will be prevented.

The beginning of the individual larger evacuation actions will largely depend on military developments. Regarding the handling of the final solution in those European countries occupied and influenced by us, it was proposed that the appropriate expert of the Foreign Office discuss the matter with the responsible official of the Security Police and SD.

In Slovakia and Croatia the matter is no longer so difficult, since the most substantial problems in this respect have already been brought near a solution. In Rumania the government has in the meantime also appointed a commissioner for Jewish affairs. In order to settle the question in Hungary, it will soon be necessary to force an adviser for Jewish questions onto the Hungarian government.

With regard to taking up preparations for dealing with the problem in Italy, SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich considers it opportune to contact the chief of police with a view to these problems.

In occupied and unoccupied France, the registration of Jews for evacuation will in all probability proceed without great difficulty.

Under Secretary of State Luther calls attention in this matter to the fact that in some countries, such as the Scandinavian states, difficulties will arise if this problem is dealt with thoroughly and that it will therefore be advisable to defer actions in these countries. Besides, in view of the small numbers of Jews affected, this deferral will not cause any substantial limitation.

The Foreign Office sees no great difficulties for southeast and western Europe. SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann plans to send an expert to Hungary from the Race and Settlement Main Office for general orientation at the time when the Chief of the Security Police and SD takes up the matter there. It was decided to assign this expert from the Race and Settlement Main Office, who will not work actively, as an assistant to the police attaché.

IV.

In the course of the final solution plans, the Nuremberg Laws should provide a certain foundation, in which a prerequisite for the absolute solution of the problem is also the solution to the problem of mixed marriages and persons of mixed blood.

The Chief of the Security Police and the SD discusses the following points, at first theoretically, in regard to a letter from the chief of the Reich chancellery:

1) Treatment of Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree

Persons of mixed blood of the first degree will, as regards the final solution of the Jewish question, be treated as Jews.

From this treatment the following exceptions will be made:

a) Persons of mixed blood of the first degree married to persons of German blood if their marriage has resulted in children (persons of mixed blood of the second degree). These persons of mixed blood of the second degree are to be treated essentially as Germans.

b) Persons of mixed blood of the first degree, for whom the highest offices of the Party and State have already issued exemption permits in any sphere of life. Each individual case must be examined, and it is not ruled out that the decision may be made to the detriment of the person of mixed blood.

The prerequisite for any exemption must always be the personal merit of the person of mixed blood. (Not the merit of the parent or spouse of German blood.)

Persons of mixed blood of the first degree who are exempted from evacuation will be sterilized in order to prevent any offspring and to eliminate the problem of persons of mixed blood once and for all. Such sterilization will be voluntary. But it is required to remain in

the Reich. The sterilized "person of mixed blood" is thereafter free of all restrictions to which he was previously subjected.

2) Treatment of Persons of Mixed Blood of the Second Degree

Persons of mixed blood of the second degree will be treated fundamentally as persons of German blood, with the exception of the following cases, in which the persons of mixed blood of the second degree will be considered as Jews:

a) The person of mixed blood of the second degree was born of a marriage in which both parents are persons of mixed blood.

b) The person of mixed blood of the second degree has a racially especially undesirable appearance that marks him outwardly as a Jew.

c) The person of mixed blood of the second degree has a particularly bad police and political record that shows that he feels and behaves like a Jew.

Also in these cases exemptions should not be made if the person of mixed blood of the second degree has married a person of German blood.

3) Marriages between Full Jews and Persons of German Blood.

Here it must be decided from case to case whether the Jewish partner will be evacuated or whether, with regard to the effects of such a step on the German relatives, [this mixed marriage] should be sent to an old-age ghetto.

4) Marriages between Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree and Persons of German Blood.

a) Without Children.

If no children have resulted from the marriage, the person of mixed blood of the first degree will be evacuated or sent to an old-age ghetto (same treatment as in the case of marriages between full Jews and persons of German blood, point 3.)

b) With Children.

If children have resulted from the marriage (persons of mixed blood of the second degree), they will, if they are to be treated as Jews, be evacuated or sent to a ghetto along with the parent of mixed blood of the first degree. If these children are to be treated as Germans (regular cases), they are exempted from evacuation as is therefore the parent of mixed blood of the first degree.

5) Marriages between Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree and Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree or Jews. In these marriages (including the children) all members of the family will be treated as Jews and therefore be evacuated or sent to an old-age ghetto.

6) Marriages between Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree and Persons of Mixed Blood of the Second Degree.

In these marriages both partners will be evacuated or sent to an old-age ghetto without consideration of whether the marriage has produced children, since possible children will as a rule have stronger Jewish blood than the Jewish person of mixed blood of the second degree.

SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann advocates the opinion that sterilization will have to be widely used, since the person of mixed blood who is given the choice whether he will be evacuated or sterilized would rather undergo sterilization.

State Secretary Dr. Stuckart maintains that carrying out in practice of the just mentioned possibilities for solving the problem of mixed marriages and persons of mixed blood will create endless administrative work. In the second place, as the biological facts cannot be disregarded in any case, State Secretary Dr. Stuckart proposed proceeding to forced sterilization.

Furthermore, to simplify the problem of mixed marriages possibilities must be considered with the goal of the legislator saying something like: "These marriages have been dissolved."

With regard to the issue of the effect of the evacuation of Jews on the economy, State Secretary Neumann stated that Jews who are working in industries vital to the war effort, provided that no replacements are available, cannot be evacuated.

SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich indicated that these Jews would not be evacuated according to the rules he had approved for carrying out the evacuations then underway.

State Secretary Dr. Bühler stated that the General Government would welcome it if the final solution of this problem could be begun in the General Government, since on the one hand transportation does not play such a large role here nor would problems of labor supply hamper this action. Jews must be removed from the territory of the General Government as quickly as possible, since it is especially here that the Jew as an epidemic carrier represents an extreme danger and on the other hand he is causing permanent chaos in the economic structure of the country through continued black market dealings. Moreover, of the approximately 2 1/2 million Jews concerned, the majority is unfit for work.

State Secretary Dr. Bühler stated further that the solution to the Jewish question in the General Government is the responsibility of the Chief of the Security Police and the SD and that his efforts would be supported by the officials of the General Government. He had only one request, to solve the Jewish question in this area as quickly as possible.

In conclusion the different types of possible solutions were discussed, during which discussion both Gauleiter Dr. Meyer and State Secretary Dr. Bühler took the position that certain preparatory activities for the final solution should be carried out immediately in

the territories in question, in which process alarming the populace must be avoided.

The meeting was closed with the request of the Chief of the Security Police and the SD to the participants that they afford him appropriate support during the carrying out of the tasks involved in the solution.

Appendix B: The Wannsee Protocol, Full German Originals

Geheime Reichssache

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50 Ausfertigungen
16. Ausfertigung

Besprechungsprotokoll.

I. An der am 20.1.1942 in Berlin, Am Großen Wannsee Nr. 56/58, stattgefundenen Besprechung über die Endlösung der Judenfrage nahmen teil:

Gauleiter Dr. Meyer und Reichsamtseiter Dr. Leibbrandt	Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete
Staatssekretär Dr. Stuckart	Reichsministerium des Innern
Staatssekretär Neumann	Beauftragter für den Vierjahresplan
Staatssekretär Dr. Freisler	Reichsjustizmini- sterium
Staatssekretär Dr. Bühler	Amt des General- gouverneurs
Unterstaatssekretär Luther	Auswärtiges Amt
H -Oberführer Klopfer	Partei-Kanzlei
Ministerialdirektor Kritzing	Reichskanzlei

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<p> 4-Gruppenführer Hofmann 4-Gruppenführer Müller 4-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann </p>	<p> Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt Reichssicherheitshauptamt </p>
<p> 4-Oberführer Dr. Schöngarth Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD im Generalgouvernement </p>	<p> Sicherheitspolizei und SD </p>
<p> 4-Sturmbannführer Dr. Lange Kommandeur der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für den Generalbezirk Lettland, als Vertreter des Befehlshabers der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für das Reichskommissariat Ostland. </p>	<p> Sicherheitspolizei und SD </p>

II. Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD,
~~4~~-Obergruppenführer H e y d r i c h , teilte
eingangs seine Bestellung zum Beauftragten für die
Vorbereitung der Endlösung der europäischen Judenfrage durch den Reichsmarschall mit und wies darauf hin, daß zu dieser Besprechung geladen wurde, um Klarheit in grundsätzlichen Fragen zu schaffen. Der Wunsch des Reichsmarschalls, ihm einen Entwurf über die organisatorischen, sachlichen und materiellen Belange im Hinblick auf die Endlösung der europäischen Judenfrage zu übersenden, erfordert die vorherige gemeinsame Behandlung aller an diesen Fragen unmittelbar beteiligten Zentralinstanzen im Hinblick auf die Parallelisierung der Linienführung.

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Die Federführung bei der Bearbeitung der Endlösung der Judenfrage liege ohne Rücksicht auf geographische Grenzen zentral beim Reichsführer-~~H~~ und Chef der Deutschen Polizei (Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD).

Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD gab sodann einen kurzen Rückblick über den bisher geführten Kampf gegen diesen Gegner. Die wesentlichsten Momente bilden

- a/ die Zurückdrängung der Juden aus den einzelnen Lebensgebieten des deutschen Volkes,
- b/ die Zurückdrängung der Juden aus dem Lebensraum des deutschen Volkes.

Im Vollzug dieser Bestrebungen wurde als einzige vorläufige Lösungsmöglichkeit die Beschleunigung der Auswanderung der Juden aus dem Reichsgebiet verstärkt und planmäßig in Angriff genommen.

Auf Anordnung des Reichsmarschalls wurde im Januar 1939 eine Reichszentrale für jüdische Auswanderung errichtet, mit deren Leitung der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD betraut wurde. Sie hatte insbesondere die Aufgabe

- a/ alle Maßnahmen zur Vorbereitung einer verstärkten Auswanderung der Juden zu treffen.
- b/ den Auswanderungsstrom zu lenken,
- c/ die Durchführung der Auswanderung im Einzelfall zu beschleunigen.

Das Aufgabenziel war, auf legale Weise den deutschen Lebensraum von Juden zu säubern.

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Über die Nachteile, die eine solche Auswanderungsforcierung mit sich brachte, waren sich alle Stellen im klaren. Sie mußten jedoch angesichts des Fehlens anderer Lösungsmöglichkeiten vorerst in Kauf genommen werden.

Die Auswanderungsarbeiten waren in der Folgezeit nicht nur ein deutsches Problem, sondern auch ein Problem, mit dem sich die Behörden der Ziel- bzw. Einwandererländer zu befassen hatten. Die finanziellen Schwierigkeiten, wie Erhöhung der Vorzeige- und Landungsgelder seitens der verschiedenen ausländischen Regierungen, fehlende Schiffsplätze, laufend verschärfte Einwanderungsbeschränkungen oder -sperrren, erschwerten die Auswanderungsbestrebungen außerordentlich. Trotz dieser Schwierigkeiten wurden seit der Machtübernahme bis zum Stichtag 31.10.1941 insgesamt rund 537.000 Juden zur Auswanderung gebracht. Davon

vom 30.1.1933 aus dem Altreich	rd. 360.000
vom 15.3.1938 aus der Ostmark	rd. 147.000
vom 15.3.1939 aus dem Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren	rd. 30.000.

Die Finanzierung der Auswanderung erfolgte durch die Juden bzw. jüdisch-politischen Organisationen selbst. Um den Verbleib der verproletarisierten Juden zu vermeiden, wurde nach dem Grundsatz verfahren, daß die vermögenden Juden die Abwanderung der vermögenslosen Juden zu finanzieren haben; hier wurde, je nach Vermögen gestaffelt, eine entsprechende Umlage bzw. Auswandererabgabe vorgeschrieben, die zur Bestreitung der finanziellen Obliegenheiten im Zuge der Abwanderung vermögensloser Juden verwandt wurde.

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Neben dem Reichsmark-Aufkommen sind Devisen für Vorzeige- und Landungsgelder erforderlich gewesen. Um den deutschen Devisenschatz zu schonen, wurden die jüdischen Finanzinstitutionen des Auslandes durch die jüdischen Organisationen des Inlandes verhalten, für die Beitreibung entsprechender Devisenaufkommen Sorge zu tragen. Hier wurden durch diese ausländischen Juden im Schenkungswege bis zum 30.10.1941 insgesamt rund 9.500.000 Dollar zur Verfügung gestellt.

Inzwischen hat der Reichsführer-~~er~~ und Chef der Deutschen Polizei im Hinblick auf die Gefahren einer Auswanderung im Kriege und im Hinblick auf die Möglichkeiten des Ostens die Auswanderung von Juden verboten.

III. Anstelle der Auswanderung ist nunmehr als weitere Lösungsmöglichkeit nach entsprechender vorheriger Genehmigung durch den Führer die Evakuierung der Juden nach dem Osten getreten.

Diese Aktionen sind jedoch lediglich als Ausweichmöglichkeiten anzusprechen, doch werden hier bereits jene praktischen Erfahrungen gesammelt, die im Hinblick auf die kommende Endlösung der Judenfrage von wichtiger Bedeutung sind.

Im Zuge dieser Endlösung der europäischen Judenfrage kommen rund 11 Millionen Juden in Betracht, die sich wie folgt auf die einzelnen Länder verteilen:

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L a n d	Zahl
A. Altreich	131.800
Ostmark	43.700
Ostgebiete	420.000
Generalgouvernement	2.284.000
Bialystok	400.000
Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren	74.200
Estland - judenfrei -	
Lettland	3.500
Litauen	34.000
Belgien	43.000
Dänemark	5.600
Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet	165.000
Unbesetztes Gebiet	700.000
Griechenland	69.600
Niederlande	160.800
Norwegen	1.300
B. Bulgarien	48.000
England	330.000
Finnland	2.300
Irland	4.000
Italien einschl. Sardinien	58.000
Albanien	200
Kroatien	40.000
Portugal	3.000
Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien	342.000
Schweden	8.000
Schweiz	18.000
Serbien	10.000
Slowakei	88.000
Spanien	6.000
Türkei (europ. Teil)	55.500
Ungarn	742.800
UdSSR	5.000.000
Ukraine	2.994.684
Weißrußland aus- schl. Bialystok	445.484
Zusammen: über	11.000.000

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Bei den angegebenen Judenzahlen der verschiedenen ausländischen Staaten handelt es sich jedoch nur um Glaubensjuden, da die Begriffsbestimmungen der Juden nach rassischen Grundsätzen teilweise dort noch fehlen. Die Behandlung des Problems in den einzelnen Ländern wird im Hinblick auf die allgemeine Haltung und Auffassung auf gewisse Schwierigkeiten stoßen, besonders in Ungarn und Rumänien. So kann sich z.B. heute noch in Rumänien der Jude gegen Geld entsprechende Dokumente, die ihm eine fremde Staatsangehörigkeit amtlich bescheinigen, beschaffen.

Der Einfluß der Juden auf alle Gebiete in der UdSSR ist bekannt. Im europäischen Gebiet leben etwa 5 Millionen, im asiatischen Raum knapp 1/4 Million Juden.

Die berufsständische Aufgliederung der im europäischen Gebiet der UdSSR ansässigen Juden war etwa folgende:

In der Landwirtschaft	9,1 %
als städtische Arbeiter	14,8 %
im Handel	20,0 %
als Staatsarbeiter angestellt	23,4 %
in den privaten Berufen - Heilkunde, Presse, Theater, usw.	32,7 %

Unter entsprechender Leitung sollen nun im Zuge der Endlösung die Juden in geeigneter Weise im Osten zum Arbeitseinsatz kommen. In großen Arbeitskolonnen, unter Trennung der Geschlechter, werden die arbeitsfähigen Juden straßenbauend in diese Gebiete geführt, wobei zweifellos ein Großteil durch natürliche Verminderung ausfallen wird.

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Der allfällig endlich verbleibende Restbestand wird, da es sich bei diesem zweifellos um den widerstandsfähigsten Teil handelt, entsprechend behandelt werden müssen, da dieser, eine natürliche Auslese darstellend, bei Freilassung als Keimzelle eines neuen jüdischen Aufbaus anzusprechen ist. (Siehe die Erfahrung der Geschichte.)

Im Zuge der praktischen Durchführung der Endlösung wird Europa vom Westen nach Osten durchgekämmt. Das Reichsgebiet einschließlich Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren wird, allein schon aus Gründen der Wohnungsfrage und sonstigen sozial-politischen Notwendigkeiten, vorweggenommen werden müssen.

Die evakuierten Juden werden zunächst Zug um Zug in sogenannte Durchgangsghettos verbracht, um von dort aus weiter nach dem Osten transportiert zu werden.

Wichtige Voraussetzung, so führte H-Obergruppenführer Heydrich weiter aus, für die Durchführung der Evakuierung überhaupt, ist die genaue Festlegung des in Betracht kommenden Personenkreises.

Es ist beabsichtigt, Juden im Alter von über 65 Jahren nicht zu evakuieren, sondern sie einem Altersghetto - vorgesehen ist Theresienstadt - zu überstellen.

Neben diesen Altersklassen - von den am 31.10.1941 sich im Altreich und der Ostmark befindlichen etwa 280.000 Juden sind etwa 30 % über 65 Jahre alt - finden in den jüdischen Altersghettos weiterhin die schwerkriegsbeschädigten Juden und Juden mit Kriegsauszeichnungen (EK I) Aufnahme. Mit dieser

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zweckmäßigen Lösung werden mit einem Schlag die vielen Interventionen ausgeschaltet.

Der Beginn der einzelnen größeren Evakuierungsaktionen wird weitgehend von der militärischen Entwicklung abhängig sein. Bezüglich der Behandlung der Endlösung in den von uns besetzten und beeinflussten europäischen Gebieten wurde vorgeschlagen, daß die in Betracht kommenden Sachbearbeiter des Auswärtigen Amtes sich mit dem zuständigen Referenten der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD besprechen.

In der Slowakei und Kroatien ist die Angelegenheit nicht mehr allzu schwer, da die wesentlichsten Kernfragen in dieser Hinsicht dort bereits einer Lösung zugeführt wurden. In Rumänien hat die Regierung inzwischen ebenfalls einen Judenbeauftragten eingesetzt. Zur Regelung der Frage in Ungarn ist es erforderlich, in Zeitkürze einen Berater für Judenfragen der Ungarischen Regierung aufzuoktrovieren.

Hinsichtlich der Aufnahme der Vorbereitungen zur Regelung des Problems in Italien hält Motorgruppenführer Heydrich eine Verbindung mit Polizei-Chef in diesen Belangen für angebracht.

Im besetzten und unbesetzten Frankreich wird die Erfassung der Juden zur Evakuierung aller Wahrscheinlichkeit nach ohne große Schwierigkeiten vor sich gehen können.

Unterstaatssekretär Luther teilte hierzu mit, daß bei tiefgehender Behandlung dieses Problems in einigen Ländern, so in den nordischen Staaten, Schwierigkeiten auftauchen werden, und es sich daher empfiehlt, diese Länder vorerst noch zu

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rückzustellen. In Anbetracht der hier in Frage kommenden geringen Judenzahlen bildet diese Zurückstellung ohnedies keine wesentliche Einschränkung.

Dafür sieht das Auswärtige Amt für den Südosten und Westen Europas keine großen Schwierigkeiten.

§-Gruppenführer H o f m a n n beabsichtigt, einen Sachbearbeiter des Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamtes zur allgemeinen Orientierung dann nach Ungarn mitsenden zu wollen, wenn seitens des Chefs der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD die Angelegenheit dort in Angriff genommen wird. Es wurde festgelegt, diesen Sachbearbeiter des Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamtes, der nicht aktiv werden soll, vorübergehend offiziell als Gehilfen zum Polizei-Attaché abzustellen.

IV. Im Zuge der Endlösungsvorhaben sollen die Nürnberger Gesetze gewissermaßen die Grundlage bilden, wobei Voraussetzung für die restlose Bereinigung des Problems auch die Lösung der Mischehen- und Mischlingsfragen ist.

Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD erörtert im Hinblick auf ein Schreiben des Chefs der Reichskanzlei zunächst theoretisch die nachstehenden Punkte:

1) Behandlung der Mischlinge 1. Grades.

Mischlinge 1. Grades sind im Hinblick auf die Endlösung der Judenfrage den Juden gleichgestellt.

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Von dieser Behandlung werden ausgenommen:

- a) Mischlinge 1. Grades verheiratet mit Deutschblütigen, aus deren Ehe Kinder (Mischlinge 2. Grades) hervorgegangen sind. Diese Mischlinge 2. Grades sind im wesentlichen den Deutschen gleichgestellt.
- b) Mischlinge 1. Grades, für die von den höchsten Instanzen der Partei und des Staates bisher auf irgendwelchen Lebensgebieten Ausnahmegenehmigungen erteilt worden sind. > Jeder Einzelfall muß überprüft werden, wobei nicht ausgeschlossen wird, daß die Entscheidung nochmals zu Ungunsten des Mischlings ausfällt.

Voraussetzungen einer Ausnahmegenehmigung müssen stets grundsätzliche Verdienste des in Frage stehenden Mischlings selbst sein. (Nicht Verdienste des deutschblütigen Eltern- oder Ehe- teiles.)

Der von der Evakuierung auszunehmende Mischling 1. Grades wird - um jede Nachkommen- schaft zu verhindern und das Mischlingsproblem endgültig zu bereinigen - sterilisiert. Die Sterilisierung erfolgt freiwillig. Sie ist aber Voraussetzung des Verbleibens im Reich. Der ste- rilisierte "Mischling" ist in der Folgezeit von allen einengenden Bestimmungen, denen er bislang unterworfen ist, befreit.

2) Behandlung der Mischlinge 2. Grades.

Die Mischlinge 2. Grades werden grund- sätzlich den Deutschblütigen zugeschlagen, mit Ausnahme folgender Fälle, in denen die Misch- linge 2. Grades den Juden gleichgestellt worden:

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- a) Herkunft des Mischlings 2. Grades aus einer Bastardehe (beide Teile Mischlinge).
- b) Rassistisch besonders ungünstiges Erscheinungsbild des Mischlings 2. Grades, das ihn schon äußerlich zu den Juden rechnet.
- c) Besonders schlechte polizeiliche und politische Beurteilung des Mischlings 2. Grades, die erkennen läßt, daß er sich wie ein Jude fühlt und benimmt.

Auch in diesen Fällen sollen aber dann Ausnahmen nicht gemacht werden, wenn der Mischling 2. Grades deutschblütig verheiratet ist.

3) Ehen zwischen volljuden und Deutschblütigen.

Von Einzelfall zu Einzelfall muß hier entschieden werden, ob der jüdische Teil evakuiert wird, oder ob er unter Berücksichtigung auf die Auswirkungen einer solchen Maßnahme auf die deutschen Verwandten dieser Mischehe einem Altersghetto überstellt wird.

4) Ehen zwischen Mischlingen 1. Grades und Deutschblütigen.

- a) Ohne Kinder.

Sind aus der Ehe keine Kinder hervorgegangen, wird der Mischling 1. Grades evakuiert bzw. einem Altersghetto überstellt. (Gleiche Behandlung wie bei Ehen zwischen Volljuden und Deutschblütigen, Punkt 3.)

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b) Mit Kindern.

Sind Kinder aus der Ehe hervorgegangen (Mischlinge 2. Grades), werden sie, wenn sie den Juden gleichgestellt werden, zusammen mit dem Mischling 1. Grades evakuiert bzw. einem Ghetto überstellt. Soweit diese Kinder Deutschen gleichgestellt werden (Regelfälle), sind sie von der Evakuierung auszunehmen und damit auch der Mischling 1. Grades.

5) Ehen zwischen Mischlingen 1. Grades und Mischlingen 1. Grades oder Juden.

Bei diesen Ehen (einschließlich der Kinder) werden alle Teile wie Juden behandelt und daher evakuiert bzw. einem Altersghetto überstellt.

6) Ehen zwischen Mischlingen 1. Grades und Mischlingen 2. Grades.

Beide Eheteile werden ohne Rücksicht darauf, ob Kinder vorhanden sind oder nicht, evakuiert bzw. einem Altersghetto überstellt, da etwaige Kinder rassenmäßig in der Regel einen stärkeren jüdischen Eluteinschlag aufweisen, als die jüdischen Mischlinge 2. Grade)

§-Gruppenführer H o f m a n n steht auf dem Standpunkt, daß von der Sterilisierung weitgehend Gebrauch gemacht werden muß; zunal der Misch-

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Appendix C: Adolf Eichmann and the Wannsee Protocol

Adolf Eichmann, the SS Lieutenant Colonel who was tried and executed in Israel in 1962, was tasked with taking the minutes which have become known as the Wannsee Protocol.

Because of this, Eichmann was naturally enough questioned about the Wannsee conference and the minutes during his trial in Israel, at which he confirmed that the meeting was only about transporting Jews to the East. Amongst the points which Eichmann made during his evidence in court, were the following:

- The meeting was held to extend Reinhard Heydrich's influence over the rest of the civil service bureaucracy;

- He had personally prepared the overview of all attempts to move the Jews out of Europe which Heydrich had presented to the conference;

- He specifically denied that the meeting had discussed killing Jews. The only time, he told the Israeli court, that the killing of Jews was discussed in any form was in informal conversation between some delegates afterwards—but Eichmann was unable to give any precise details on what was said or who said it.

- He said the conference had certainly never discussed murder by gas chambers and the informal conversation had only mentioned shooting as a form of execution. This would have been perfectly understandable in terms of the activities of the Einstazgruppen which were already operating behind the German front line in the Soviet Union.

Eichmann also claimed in court that he had seen "preparations in the East for extermination." This was a reference to his earlier claim, made in a taped interview in Argentina, that he had visited a gas chamber in operation at the Majdenek camp near Lublin in "the latter part of 1941" for which a Russian U-Boat motor was used to generate exhaust fumes which allegedly killed Jews.

This claim has always been controversial and a subject of dispute. The reason for this is that the Lublin camp was built as a prisoner-of-war camp in 1941 to accommodate some of the hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers captured during the opening offensive of the German invasion of Russia.

Even the exterminationist "experts" who promote the Holocaust story do not claim that there were gas chambers at Majdenek in 1941. According to those sources, and the official guide book handed out at the camp museum today, "construction of the gas chambers at Majdanek started in August 1942 and was completed in October 1942."

This would make Eichmann's claim to have seen a gassing in 1941 impossible. So why did he say this?

The reason might be found in the rest of his so-called memoirs, which were published in *Life* magazine in 1960 and which contain so many "mistakes" and contradictions that they give cause for great doubt as to their authenticity.

For example, in the section entitled "The Final Solution: Liquidation," Eichmann claims that the Wannsee Conference took place on "Jan. 10, 1942" – whereas it in fact took place on January 20th. (*Life*, Vol. 49, No. 22, November 28, 1960, pp. 24, 101,102). It is unlikely that he would have made such an error, seeing as he was responsible for the minutes.

Other impossible claims made in Eichmann's "memoirs," which cast further doubt on their authenticity, included a claim that he had witnessed the gassing of 1,000 Jews in buses which were "were normal, high-windowed affairs with all their windows closed. During the trip, I was told, the carbon monoxide from the exhaust pipe was conducted into the interior of the buses. It was intended to kill the passengers immediately." (*Life*, Vol. 49, No. 22, November 28, 1960, pp. 24, 102, 104).

Apart from the fact that an ordinary windowed bus full of people would never be airtight, there is no possible way that the victims would have not opened or smashed out the windows as soon as the exhaust fumes entered the interior. This version also contradicts the exterminationists' claim that the "gas buses" used by Nazis were specially constructed machines with no windows.

All in all, there is good reason to doubt the Eichmann "memoirs" as accurate, while his evidence before the Israeli court merely served to confirm that the Wannsee conference did not discuss mass murder.

Verbatim: Adolf Eichmann's Testimony in Jerusalem about the Wannsee Conference

(English transcript of the Eichmann trial [mimeographed], June 23 1961, session 78, pp. ZI, AaI, BbI; June 26, 1961, session 79, p. B1; July 24, 1961, session 107, pp. E1, F1, G1., Dr. Robert Servatius was Eichmann's German attorney.)

Dr. Servatius: ... Will the witness explain what do you know in connection to the initiative to call this conference?

Accused: Without any doubt, the main reason for the convening of the conference was Heydrich's intention to extend the scope of his influence.

Dr. Servatius: Was he afraid of any difficulties? Did he have reason to be afraid?

Accused: Experience up to then showed that all those questions were usually dealt with by various authorities and if it were, there was no coordinated activity and, therefore, actions were delayed considerably as there were all sorts of activities carried out within various offices. And, in a nutshell, one may point out that in the deliberations which were held so far they wouldn't see the wood for the trees, and they wouldn't arrive at any definite solution or any coordinated solution. This is one of the reasons why Heydrich convened the Wannsee Conference, why he actually convened it on his own initiative in order to imprint his own will and that of the Reichsführer SS.

Dr. Servatius: The witness I believe already declared here in Court that you prepared Heydrich's speech. Or this may be collected from the appendix to the Sassen report.

Presiding Judge: Yes.

Dr. Servatius: Are you ready to repeat once again your explanation how it came about that you were asked to prepare this speech?

Accused: Yes. I was instructed to collect material which Heydrich thought relevant for his speech which he was about to hold. That means to say that it should have been a general survey of all the operations that had been carried out in the course of the last years in the realm of the emigration of Jews. It had to be a survey of the results and the difficulties of the operations in question. These prepared remarks that I drew for Heydrich's speech can be seen on the seven pages of the document in front of us, but it struck me that certain points which I prepared were [not] prepared by me. They are not the fruit of my pencil, so to speak, but simply expressed by Heydrich without taking heed of what I had prepared. Because very often as I had seen from experience he would speak very freely, without always taking care of the prepared points. And here on page 6 the last passage, according to which Jews were earmarked for special labor effort and they were to be sent, within the framework of the final solution, to the eastern territories and, as I said, this was to conform with the framework set for the labor effort in the east. The labor columns were to be formed and a separation was to be carried out between the sexes so that the Jews fit for work would be brought within the framework of this plan and would be employed in the construction of the roads. This particular passage could not have possibly stemmed from me and the remarks couldn't possibly been ascribed to what I wrote because this particular passage actually constituted a turning point in the policy towards the Jews and this policy appears for the first time in the Wannsee Conference.

Presiding Judge: I believe there is a written translation into the Hebrew of this document.

Court Interpreter: I do not have it before me.

Accused: May I further point out, your Honors, to complete the picture, that the second function which was bestowed upon me was the function of keeping minutes of the meeting together with a secretary.

Accused: These minutes to which I was referring were rendering the salient points quite clearly. But so far as the particulars were concerned, I have to point out that this was not a verbatim report because certain colloquialisms were then couched by me in official language and certain official terms had to be introduced. Later on it had been revised three or four times by Heydrich. It came back through official channels to us through the channel of Mueller and then again we had to elaborate on it until it assumed its final form.

Dr. Servatius: What is not reflected in the protocol is the spirit which reigned at this conference. Can you report or comment regarding the spirit and attitude at this conference?

Accused: Yes, the climate of this conference was characterized as it were by a relaxed attitude of Heydrich who had actually more than anybody else expected considerable stumbling blocks and difficulties.

Q: It is important how these things found expression on the part of the other participants.

A: It was an atmosphere not only of agreement on the part of the participants, but more than that, one could feel an agreement which had assumed a form which had not been expected. Unflinching in his determination to participate fully in the functions with regard to the final solution of the Jewish problem and particularly outstanding in the enthusiastic and unexpected form of agreement was the State secretary, Buehler, and even more than Buehler, Stuckart had evinced boundless enthusiasm. He was usually hesitating, and reserved, reticent and furtive, but all of a sudden he gave expression to boundless enthusiasm, with which he joined the others with regard to the final solution of the Jewish question.

Q: The witness saw before the calling of this conference the preparations in the East for the extermination? He saw the steps taken there?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q: Did the participants at this conference know anything about the way for the final solution?

A: I have to assume that the things were known to the participants of the Wannsee Conference because after all the war against Russia had been going on already about six months. As we saw in some various relevant documents, the operational groups were already acting in the Russian war theater and all those key personalities in the Reich Government must have known about the state of affairs at that time.

Q: How long did this conference go on and what happened after the conference was over?

A: The conference itself took only a very short period of time. I can't recall exactly how long it lasted, but it seems to me that I would not be mistaken in saying that it didn't take longer than an hour or an hour and a half. Of course, the gentlemen who participated in it would later on be standing in small groups to discuss the ins and outs of the agenda and also of certain work to be undertaken afterwards. After the conference had been a[d]journed, Heydrich and Mueller still remained and I was also permitted to remain and then in this restricted get-together, Heydrich gave expression to his great satisfaction I already referred to before....

Presiding Judge: ... Now in connection with the Wannsee Conference, you answered my colleague Dr. Raveh that this part of the meeting, which is not mentioned in the protocol, the discussion was about means of extermination. Systems of killing.

A: Yes.

Q: Who discussed this subject?

A: I do not remember it in detail, Your Honor. I do not remember the circumstances of this co

versation. But I do know that these gentlemen were standing together, or sitting together, and were discussing the subject quite bluntly, quite differently from the language which I had to use later in the record. During the conversation they minced no words about it at all. I might say furthermore, Your Honor, that I would not have remembered this unless I had later remembered that I told myself, Look here, I told myself, even this guy Stuckart, who was known as one of these uncles who was a great stickler for legalities, he too uses language which is not at all in accordance with paragraphs of the law. This incident remained engraved in my memory and recalled the entire subject to my mind.

Q: What did he say about this subject?

A: In detail I do not.

Q: Not details in general, what did he say about this theme?

A: I cannot remember it in detail, Your Honor, but they spoke about methods for killing, about liquidation, about extermination. I was busy with my records. I had to make the preparations for taking down the minutes; I could not perk up my ears and listen to everything that was said. But it filtered through the small room and I caught fragments of this conversation. It was a small room so from time to time I heard a word or two.

Q: I believed that this was the official part of the meeting, of the conference.

A: The official part did not take too long.

Q: Was this in the official part of the conference, or not? It was my belief that this was in the official conference because this should have been included in the protocol of the meeting, although nothing is mentioned.

A: Well of course, it was in the official part, Your Honor. But again this official part had two subdivisions. The first part where everyone was quiet and listened to the various lectures, and then in the second part, everyone spoke out of turn and people would go around, butlers, adjutants, and would give out liquor. Well, I don't want to say that there was an atmosphere of drunkenness there. It was an official atmosphere, but nevertheless it was not one of these stiff, formal, official affairs where everyone spoke in turn. But people just talked at cross vertices.

Q: And were these also recorded by the short-hand typists?

Accused: Yes, yes they were taken down.

Presiding Judge: And you were ordered by someone not to include it in the memorandum of the meeting in the official Protocol of this meeting, weren't you?

Accused: Yes, that's how it was. The stenographer was sitting next to me and I was to see to it that everything would be taken down; then she deciphered this and then Heydrich gave me his instructions as to what should be included in the record and what should be excluded. Then I showed it to Heydrich and he polished it up and proof-read it and that's how it was kept.

Q: And that which was said about this very important theme, you cannot remember at all is this what you say?

A: Well, the most important thing here was...

Q: I did not say, the most important I said it was an important theme, and important enough to be excluded from the record.

A: Well, no. The significant part, from Heydrich's point-of-view, was to nail down the Secretaries of State, to commit them most bindingly, to catch them by their words; and therefore, it was quite the contrary the important part did go into the record and the less significant ones were excluded. It was, I would say, that Heydrich wanted to cover himself, wanted to be sure that each and every one of these Secretaries of State would be nailed-down and these matters, therefore, were put down.

Q: That means to say that the methods of killing the systems of extermination was not an important theme?

A: Ah! the means of killing....

Q: That is what we are speaking about the means of killing.

A: No, no this of course was not put into the record no, no!

Q: Did they discuss killing by poison gas?

A: No, with gas no.

Q: But, how then?

A: It was ... this business with the engine, they spoke about this; they spoke about shooting, but not about gas.

Q: [Reading from the Wannsee Minutes] Dr. Meyer and Dr. Buehler that their opinion was that preparatory work should begin immediately for the “final solution” in the various areas, but at the same time to avoid unrest and anxiety on the part of the population.

A: Ah, yes...

Q: To which preparatory work does this refer?

A: I cannot imagine anything, but...

Q: Don't imagine! My question is and I put it to you, as the Attorney-General put it to you before and all the time what can you remember? This was a turning point, in fact.

A: I was there and I witnessed the preparatory work, with these two little houses in the Lublin area.

Q: Which two little huts in the Lublin area? I'm asking you this question about the Conference.

A: Well, I had seen the preparatory work before in fact, but I don't really know. They spoke about the matter, at the meeting, of not creating any anxiety and perplexity amongst the local population, so all I thought was being discussed, was this same kind of business.

Q: And did you report what you saw to this Conference?

A: At the Wannsee Conference? No, I never uttered a syllable; I was not authorized to open my mouth. No, I had no permission.

Q: So, who was it, who brought the technical details to the Conference?

A: Well, no one discussed the technical details. That is to say, Heydrich opened the meeting and then everyone spoke about it. Well, I mean maybe Buller [Buehler] spoke about it or possible Krueger. I suppose he would have; he was the senior SS and Police Commander in the Government General. In a way he was the head of the entire business, in charge of it. Globocnik was subordinated to this man Krueger. Krueger, as the boss, must have known it in detail.

Presiding Judge: But Krueger did not take part at the Wannsee Conference, according to the list of participants.

A: Yes, but earlier he visited Heydrich and extracted from him an invitation for Buller [Buhler] to take part at the meeting. And then, one spoke about it in detail. Heydrich and Krueger discussed it and for that reason I had to issue special invitations for Krueger and Mueller [Buehler].

Q: You told the Court that you do not consider yourself an anti-Semite and that you never were an anti-Semite.

A: An anti-Semite I never was. No.

Appendix D: Wannsee “A Silly Story,” says Israel’s Leading Holocaust Scholar

That the Wannsee Conference never discussed killing Jews in any way, has actually been confirmed in public by Yehuda Bauer, professor of Holocaust Studies at the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

JTA
JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

Nazi Scheme Not Born at Wannsee, Israeli Holocaust Scholar Claims

January 23, 1992
LONDON (Jan. 22)

An Israeli Holocaust scholar has debunked the Wannsee Conference, at which top Nazi officials are said to have gathered at a villa in a Berlin suburb in 1942 to draw the blueprints of the “Final Solution.”

According to Professor Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Wannsee was a meeting but “hardly a conference,” and “little of what was said there was executed in detail.”

Bauer addressed the opening session of an international conference held here to mark the 50th anniversary of the decision to carry out the “Final Solution.” But it was not made at Wannsee, the Czech-born scholar said.

“The public still repeats, time after time, the silly story that at Wannsee the extermination of the Jews was arrived at. Wannsee was but a stage in the unfolding of the process of mass murder,” he said.

Bauer also said fears that memories of the Holocaust are receding with time are unfounded.

“Whether presented authentically or inauthentically, with empathy and understanding or as monumental kitsch, the Holocaust has become a ruling symbol of our culture.

“Hardly a month passes without a new TV production, a new film, a new drama, a number of new books of prose or poetry dealing with the subject,” the professor said.

Bauer is also the founding editor of the journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, and a member of the editorial board of the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, published by Yad Vashem in 1990.

He is not, therefore, an obscure figure, but a leading and major—in fact, one of the most senior—Jews promoting the Holocaust fable.

As long ago as 1992, Bauer, speaking at a conference held in London to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Wannsee meeting, told the audience that the claim that Wannsee was a “master plan” to kill Jews was nothing but a “silly story.”

Bauer’s remarks were reported in the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* of January 23, 1992, and the *Canadian Jewish Times* of January 30, 1992.

Titled "Nazi Scheme Not Born at Wannsee, Israeli Holocaust Scholar Claims," the JTA report continued:

London (JTA)—An Israeli Holocaust scholar has de-bunked the Wannsee Conference, at which top Nazi officials are said to have gathered at a villa in a Berlin suburb in 1942 to draw the blueprints of the "Final Solution."

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"The public still repeats, time after time, the silly story that at Wannsee the extermination of the Jews was arrived at. Wannsee was but a stage in the unfolding of the process of mass murder," he said.