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**Oral history interview with Margaret Lehner and Yehuda Bauer**

YEHUDA BAUER - SIDE B

..... relation of a group of people as defined by them. No in their own time still, not the world over. It's a quasi-religious mission of cleansing humanity of a cancer. German Nazi's was a soul bigger than .... a long time ago. A quasi-religious movement seeking a sight of earthly utopia and the road of the devil in it was played by the Jews. This quasi religion utilized what it believed to be the recent achievements of science, mainly the areas of ... genetics, biology and medicine. The positivist attitude of many ..... thinkers gave credence to the ideas that the belief system based on what was seen as modern science was superior to all others. M... the deadly combination of ideology, technology, modernism, bureaucracy and expertise all learned at the best universities and preached in many churches. Yeah to the German Nazi's left tremendous scars to try and restructure the population of Europe. Restructuring meant moving population, sectoring ethnic Germans in privileged areas. Deporting others and murdering when it came to redundant ..... People that were causing over population. The Nazi's called this their.....population problem. The Nazi's then ..... gained such tremendous popularity for two reasons .... One the very factor it played to be in a way indeed was ..... explaining social, cultural, economic and political phenomenons the world over in what appeared to be a consistent way. Second that it was preached not only by the political leadership but by scientist, experts, churchman, or in other words, by ..... Contrary to the arguments of ..... and his school of thought I would claim that it was ideology that was the common factor, I agree that the ..... also played a part. It was the enthusiastic support of these young experts that the ..... of Nazi ideology into murderous practice. Ideology was not always and is not always to blame. The ..... population of murderers. But it is I believe essentially important for . .... bodies in the cathorial and General ..... regimes. This incidentally, is what explains the thought of misunderstanding by the west of mausoleum fundamentalism today. The liberal west does not understand the power of ..... ideologies in places like Tehran or Sudan or Libya. Neither does the liberal left in ..... Israel understand the tremendous destructive force of Jewish fundamentalism and still considers it to be just what it appears on the surface, namely the crazy creed of a small minority in the population. They forget that every fundamentalist or political imp..... ideology started off by being a minority. Thou .... the murderer of ..... art thou Bengi Goldstein of New York, receive his medical degree in, if you please, the Albert Einstein medical center at ..... University, one of the great school in..... And he is not at .... It is a mistake to think that he is loved. There ..... an environment that breeds these gold .... whether they are Jews, Moslems, Christians or what have you. You just take them, ..... you haven't ..... Another main reason I believe for the strength of the Holocaust code, ..... of the Holocaust, the Jews. The Jews were and are the essentially important factor in Christian Moslem civilization despite the fact that religion is no longer reserved and practiced ..... many Gentiles in this so called Christian ..... The civilization is firmly for the Jews..... After all, speaking in Europe one has to mention the obvious factor for hundreds of years, the Bible was often the only book anyone had despite the fact that ..... and Christians had to be reminded that most of what they saw beyond testament and the new testament was written by Jews. The Jews were the people who have created one of the two pillars on which Christian Moslem civilization rests. The other pillar, Athens and Rome, has disappeared. The ancient Greeks and romans are no more. Their languages are dead and modern

Greeks and Italians are different people. An Israeli child today reads the Bible in his original language for those it was written several thousand years ago. Just go and try and read Joseph or ..... from the..... in the original, you will need a dictionary. The Jews gave the Christians their God and 1900 years after that, baptized Gentiles to quote Frank ..... tried for another. The crisis of Christianity can be described in a sense as the crisis of a suicide attempt. 1900 years after the beginning of the civilization of the Gentile world by a Jewish God, the Gentile world having internalized some of its teachings, turned against him, his people and his teachings, by killing the Jews European society was doing something that approaches suicide, devouring its ....., its own mind and ethical values. German Nazi's was a ..... numbers for European ..... although a German person was and remains the initiating indecisive factor. I believe this feeling of unease and the beginning of self-criticism finds an outlet in all of these increasing affects to deal with the Holocaust. The Jews were crucified yet again and this time the Gentile world, all around, either participated in the murders or stood idly by and they have become yet again the symbol and the ..... It is impossible to avoid even in a general election such as this, the issue of the unique murderous form that Nazi antisemitism took and the continuity or dis-continuity this represented vis-a-vis traditional even radical forms, especially of Christian antisemitism that preceded. Antisemitism is probably as has been pointed out many times over the oldest form of group hate that persists in what we call western civilization to this day. Racist discrimination on the basis of color was not prevalent in ancient times. But dislike of Jews was. J..... was an attractive as well as a repelling creed in the Roman theory and it seems that quite a proportion of the Jewish people in the Roman empire, some think the Jews p.....as much as 10% of the total population, were commoners. And, of course, ..... Roman rule and Roman traditions, Jews had radical and ..... beliefs by rejecting the worship of the Emperors as Gods just as they have rejected the worship of the ..... kings prior to that, they seem to call in question the very foundations of the state. Judias also question the validity of your slavery as an institution. Demand equality before the Lord in the ..... and ..... legal and ethical traditions that can be ..... the unique mix of individualism and communal responsibilities. By their religious taboos Jews set themselves apart from their surroundings, in food and lodging especially, and as they spread throughout the ancient world they carry their civilization with them. The basis of animosity against them in pre-Christian times was that they were different, they were also well known, strange in the minority. Anti-Jewishness stopped for them. Christian anti-Jewishness started, we all know, from a family quarrel within Judea. As Christianity developed and in order to conquer the minds of the elite, it had to make clear where it differed and disagreed with its parent religion and if not done so, it would have remained another Jewish sect which is what it originally was. It found itself in a paradoxical situation, it's holy scriptures were in large part Jewish, or referred to a Jewish background, and it could not deny its essential link to Judas, it's claim to be the legitimate and only valid successor to Judaism that was to be superseded was denied by the very existence of the Jews were refused to recognize the Christian saviors ..... Yet even the most valiant anti-Judaist of the Church fathers did not lead to a demand for physical ..... and in a marked majority of cases even forced conversion was shunned, the theory though by no means always in practice. We can see here the elements of continuity and dis-continuity from pre-Christian to Christian and Judaism ..... antisemitism in the ..... When we compare Nazi antisemitic propaganda with the writing of the Church fathers or even with the statement of anti-Jewish writers in pagan times we find amazing arrogance, sometimes even the same expressions. They are continue to 1994 and ..... to reach under the ..... that is ..... to being Russia, Germany, Egypt or the United States to see how strong the elements of continuity are. .... can hardly be a doubt but that Nazi antisemitism is also a departure from the so-called traditional Christian Anti-semitism that

undoubtedly will prepare the way for us. The difference is catagraphically summarized by saying that the Nazi eyes, the Jews will not ..... by Satan or possessed by Satan as extreme Christian Anti-semitism and argue but ..... Satan. The symbol has turned into ..... reality as only ..... shown many years ago, that cleared the way for a murderous solution because of Hitler's eyes, Nazi humanity could not co-exist with a satanic force of Jewishness as it expressed itself in socialist or conservative democracy. Liberalism ..... Conscious, Hitler is reported to have said to Admiral ..... is a Jewish invention. It was this consideration that led Nazi's into it's radical anti-Christian status. Because it sold Christianity ..... away the continuation of Judaism. Another departure of this course, the concept of racism as a global explanation of social and political development. One cannot, with the antisemitism of the core of concept from which the adaptation of the ..... ideas proceeded. Although the racism gave them necessarily background for the development of Nazi Anti-semitism. In any case, for the first time in history antisemitism became a validating and central concept in the global ideology which was directed against the main traditions of what we call western civilization. Anti-semitism thus became a crucial determining element in world politics, much beyond even the very important place that it occupied in Christian history. In addition, one can revert to the well-worn argument about ..... bureaucratic operators or about the special youth Nazi's remain what, what is now an ..... and the impact of all of this on the Holocaust. Clearly then, there is both continuity and dis-continuity as far from the ..... As I have tried to argue, this has happened before and should therefore not surprise us. Nevertheless, when all is considered I would argue that the elements of continuity are the more important ones if only because of their longevity and continued impact .....

The impact of the Holocaust has to be put I think in the context of a growing awareness of what one might call the dark side of humans. Rudolph ....., United States has pointed to the fact that between 1900 and the end of 1987 between 160 and 170 million people were murdered by government or quasi-governmental organizations. This includes only civilians, not soldiers. I must say that I ... do not find important. .... calls this phenomena Demosai(?) and sees Genesai [possibly Genocide] as the elimination of a people or nation or ..... The holocaust was in ... view a unique case of Genesai. I find myself in general agreement with these views. Like D..... I would define Genesai narrowly and exclude religious murders and political murders from the definition of Genesai because these additions muddy the waters. The reason for and against this ..... exclusion have been discussed in the relevant literature and I know that I am in this splendid isolation there. To my mind religious and political persecution are conditional, that is they take place, at least in principal, though not always in practice, against the leads and convictions that people hold. When these religious or political beliefs are changed, they hold the possibility, again in principal though not necessarily in practice, that the intended victim becomes far ..... persecuting..... German social democrats or communists were re-educated to kill those people in concentration camps and as it were known, equally known is the fact that killing many leftist Germans changed their color to brown even without needing this kind of re-education. In minority ..... the Jehovah's witnesses, he asked the ..... also succumbed to Nazi pressure and persuasion but Poles, Romans, Russians, or Jews, once they were defined as such by the Nazi's could not change, at least not in the eyes of a perpetrator. Hence, my preference for a narrow and perhaps more exact definition of Genesai. Contrary the definition of United Nations which was, after all, the result of a post World War II political horse-trading ..... R.... and I also agreed that the Holocaust, the planned total mass annihilation of the Jews for ideological ... quasi-religious reasons as a sense of ... of the national socialist project is a unique case of the general genius of Genesai election beyond the ..... of every historical event being ... I fail to see the general ..... distinction to get ..... in Germany and

the United States why the murder of German handicapped or the horrible genesai .....murder committed against the Roman people, not just against the ..... Germany but against all Rome should be equated with the Holocaust or become part of it in peoples minds, it doesn't help either the Romanist or the handicapped or any other. The murder of a human being is the same, whether it is a Russian, a ....., a Frenchman, a German or a Jew. As far as value judgments go, there is no difference between one human life and another. One mass murder is no better no worse, but equal even with the other. But there is a difference for the purpose of analysis and we are not dealing here with abstractions but with ..... product. Our analysis should lead us ideally to proposals or options or prevention, but this can only be done if we differentiate between different social pathologies. We do not see typhoid, tuberculosis, and cholera ... with the same aspirin, we differentiate in order to be able to fight these diseases. The murder of the wrong people was committed as we all know for a number of reasons. Hatred of gypsies as a foreign element was and still is part of the European legacy despite the fact that European gypsies are Christian. The Nazi's saw in the gypsies an asocial element to be removed as wanderers. A hereditary asocial element. In Germany they taught first and foremost those who were considered to be m....., mixed blood between Germans and Gypsies but when all is said and done the Gypsies were not a major but a marginal problem in the eyes of the murderers. And outside of the Reich they did not bother about sedentary wrong people, there are no public pronouncements of importance except perhaps during the time of the ..... There is no ideology, there is no clear policy in the end it appears though we still have only partial research, that outside of Germany wandering road people were murdered and sedentary ones left alone. That is in ..... policy ordered by Hitler at the border states and to ..... but the Nazi regime was confronted by something it considered to be a social nuisance. It solved the question by murder, the case of the wrong people was clearly one of Genesai, clearly one of mass murder which still continues in the kind of attitudes that is accorded the wrong people in Europe. The case of the German handicap was not Genesai but mass murder for ideological reasons. .... a national socialist ideology and an anti-humanistic medical and genetic theory has shown us where these things can lead. ....and others had shown that these theories and practices continue to exert a major influence on German and general thinking and action to this day. Quite a number of academics have been misled in ..... comparisons by the fact that in the Nazi eyes the murder of the handicapped, the gypsies and the Jews and the Poles and Russians and others, was determined by their racism. It was for the Nazi's all a matter of biology and biological selection, it was the blood, the ..... of the elements that determined who and what a person would be and what should be done. A hereditary illness, a supposedly hereditary asocial previous position or Jewish black, all determine for the Nazi's how they should chose, but to draw from this the conclusion that the treatment of Jews, gypsies and the handicapped is all part of the same thing is a fallacy because in the same racial principal, differentiations were made by the Nazi's and value assigned to different forms of negative heredity. .... Neither the handicapped nor gypsies had in the remotest sense similar importance as that central so-called problem for the Nazi's, the .... universal problem of the Satanic force of the Jews. And it is precisely because of the instinctive realization of their difference that there is such a tremendous and growing impact of the Holocaust on our civilization. .... only or even mainly by Jews. .... quite understand is the fact that the increasing interest in the faith of the gypsies and the handicapped, arises in the context of dealing with the Holocaust. And the last part is a result of the ..... there are of course links, essential links between Jews, gypsies and the ..... and between all of these and the faithful sum of all of the ..... people during ... as there is between the faith of the Jews and other Gensais..... but as I pointed out the differences, how significant are the similarities and ..... more promising if we make the necessary analytical ..

Let me know return to the implication of R's thesis. It becomes clear I think that there has been a largely unconscious refusal to deal with the results of the human capacity to commit murder in such a massive state. When we teach history we still deal largely, either in general ..... artists and writers or what in Germany is now known as ..... in many cases I believe to a ..... of human evil. .... in Germany most people after all ... lead ordinary lives, working in fields, factories and offices, going to church or for recreation and drinking beer, whiskey or lemonade in the appropriate establishment. Right? No my friend, wrong. The..... important in itself and undoubtedly deserves some attention. But it is considerably less significant than the murder of 160 to 170 million of humans in our century alone. We can no longer sweep this horror under our carpet and as an extremely culturally .... event in our history the holocaust directs our gaze at the global issue, it has become the symbol of overall danger of human self-destruction.

Let me say here the words about Germany from a non-government support. What I will say here now may be very very ..... but I believe that the events in Germany to conduct an argument with Germany in the last 30-40 years has always led back to the Holocaust, ..... The attempt to ..... to ..... is often .... but there is no way that Germans can face their future, the title of .... without ..... but without dealing with it and opposing those elements in their society, that will start to divert the attention and according with each ..... enough of this, .... German, you'll find the same thing happening among the Jews too. There is an attempt amongst the Jews, enough, enough, it's like dealing with a major social trauma and trying to sweep it under the carpet. Every B/A student in psychology knows where this will lead to and in a tragic, impossible, terrible way, you Germans need us for your country, for your continued existence. We need you for our handling of the trauma because for Jews in the future, if there is no truth that the Germans today are different, there is no hope. For the Germans, if they don't deal with the past, it's not a question of war, there's no ....., there's only responsibility, if there is no dealing with the past there is no possibility of advance.... look to the big nation and a very small nation. Not very popular either here or there but slowly I think the realization has come to. One has to be interested in this country, the central importance of the ideological, people act or are directed to act by others because of the ..... they have. Frustrations and crisis are transposed into the hatred of the other, the problem typical other in ..... civilizations is the Jew, hence the connection between Jew hatred and the hatred of foreigners in present day Europe. Jew hatred becomes the combining element between different hatreds in everything to be sure, but in many the emergence of fundamentalists, religious and political ..... most ..... of social economic cultural and political tensions and of the inability of most additional political structures to deal adequately with the frustrations caused by democratic explosion and economic and social crisis. The ..... is fundamentalist. The flight of people into the assumed certainly of divine will, that divine will will decree ..... Muslim, Christian, Jewish or fundamentalists are variations of this theme. Secular fundamentalists are ..... of Marxist ..... as a major force are re-emerging in the form of exclusivist nationalism all over the world, not only in Europe. The road of ideology in all of this is crucial. There may be several ways of fighting this and there is no simple answer, as a precondition for any remote ..... mainly that the university ..... the churches and synagogues and