

Translated from German

## **RUSSIA AND THE JEWS**

In the 19th century almost half the world Jewish population lived within the borders of the Russian Empire. At that time the nation did not have the resources to assimilate these millions of people and had to protect them. Jews were permitted to settle only in the west and southwest of the Empire, i.e. in those regions where they already had a long historic presence. This area included some of the richest provinces of the Empire and covered an area twice the size of France. The more than 60,000 Jewish citizens of St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Rostov, are evidence of the generous interpretation of this regulation. The Jews had no access to civilian services. In this Russia was not alone. Similar laws existed in Germany until 1914, and even in such a democratic country as Switzerland, a Jewish officer or official was an exception. Only 10% of all Jewish students, with the exception of the most gifted, had access to state run high schools. On the other hand the Jews had their own schools in Yiddish where Russian was an obligatory foreign language. These schools were subsidized by the State. It may sound strange, but all of the more important Jewish universities were located in the Russian Empire. As all subjects of the Czar, Jews were under the protection of the Laws of the Empire, and as citizens had the right to leisure and to be elected to Parliament, the Duma. Is it not strange that despite this so called Russian antisemitism, Jews and Judaism survived only in Russia? Just think of the terrible persecution in the previous centuries of the Jews by the Inquisition in the "civilized nations" of the West, with the near total annihilation of the Jews, and repeated up into the modern era! In Spain, in England and in the so called "Holy Roman Empire", an indefinable entity, Jews were physically exterminated and the survivors were forced to migrate into what at that time were the Polish territories and Turkish Balkan provinces. This is where Russia found them, together with a almost unsolvable ethnic problem, whose solution was imminent, and was interrupted by the Revolution. Even Hitler's "Final Solution" was only an expression of the West European contemporary mood! The emigration of Russian Jews to America in the previous century was not a reaction to the so called Pogroms, as sustained by international Russo-phobe interests, but a response to the introduction in Russia of universal compulsory military service. To the question "Where the Jews miserable in Russia?", one can answer NO, with a clear conscience. Jews were better off in Russia than in Western Europe, where they were granted a decent life only after the French Revolution. Many Jews who had fled to the West after the Russian Revolution are ready to sustain this, i.e. the great pianist Vladimir Horowitz, etc. The immutable patriotism of these Jewish immigrants and their loyalty to the Monarchy will certainly be an unpleasant surprise for the many exponents of the "horrors and atrocities of the Czars" theory.

**And what about the Pogroms?** The continuously repeated lie that the government of the Czar was the instigator of these horrible actions, has been factually refuted many times. Pogroms took place almost exclusively in former Polish territories that had been subject to forced Catholicism. The State in all cases took immediate and rigorous action to suffocate such aberrations and to protect the lives and property of the Jewish population. Unfortunately Pogroms, even in our times, have continued in other nations, in an even more abhorring form. If there were still the Czar in Russia, such events would never have been possible!

**Russia!** For generations it was the bastion against the Mongol invasion of Europe, bled and stagnated under the Mongol rule, thus defending Europe, and giving the Robber Barons of the West, of "civilized" Europe, a free hand to mutually slaughter each other in small, and even smallest feudal and dynastic wars! War in Russia was different! Russians fought not out of

rapacity, but to dear life! In its thousand year long history, Russia has never had witch hunts, no inquisition, no burnings at the stake, but nevertheless it scared the Europeans. Russia was terrifying! Like a thunder cloud, it threatened the prince in the West. They were afraid, that one day, Russia could attack them, subjugate and enslave them, and all this only because that was the normal treatment that they always reserved for their weaker neighbors. They were afraid of Russia because in the past they had tried to invade Russia, only to have their noses bloodied: The Swedes, the Poles, the Teutonic Knights! When one traveled to Muscovite Russia from a Europe plundered and devastated by feudal wars, one was amazed by the splendor and majesty of the royal household and the Russian princes and boyars, by the beauty of the land with its strange churches and monasteries and golden domes. Everything was different in this land! Everything was foreign! It was sinister! It was barbarian! But it was also rich! And this wealth was to be taken!

**Everything was different in this land.** And then there was the Latin Catholic Church that desired to force these heretics under the authority of the Pope. For this reason alone one was already justified to hate this mysterious and feared land, and motivated to bring war to it, and plunder it. After all, this was Godly work!

**For a thousand and more years, Russia was always on the defensive.** It fought for its existence, for its bare life! Only in the late 16th century was it able to subjugate the steppes of the south and stop the sackings of Russia by the murderous nomadic and Tartar hordes, and begin to build its future in calm and peace.

**Russia's growth was organic**, i.e. logical and natural. Her history is that of a land that first had to fight for its existence, and only thereafter mutated into an empire of settlers and colonizers. The colonizing of the southern steppes, Siberia, Transcaucasia and Turkestan was a victory for civilization, in all quite similar to the American subjugation of the Wild West, however with one major difference: In the Russian expansion eastward, the conquered people were not expelled, were not enslaved, were not robbed of their lands and property, and were not exterminated like the American Indians. The conquered people all became citizens of Russia and subjects of the Czar, with equal rights and obligations! The Russian colonists, so often branded as half-Asians, were in fact Europe's bastion against Asia and bringers of European civilization. It took only two to three generations to bring law and order to the volatile tribes of the Caucasus, Turkestan and North Siberia. The Russian Empire's expansion was not motivated greed for power and conquest, but by the desire for stable and secure borders! Imperial Russia never had colonies in the classical sense as the Western Powers. The law was always the same for all subjects of the Czar, including Jews! There never existed first class and second class citizens in Russia, as for example in the British Empire. British administration, the so called British Rule, with its restrictions on the Jews, the Riot Acts and its dictatorial Governor Generals, was substantially different for the English in the homeland and those under British Rule outside England.

**Written history is always a personal view or a political manifesto.** The Western distortion of Russian history is an intentional misinterpretation and lie of the development of the Russian state under the Czars, tailored to suit western political objectives. People of all nations have individual characteristics and psychological tendencies which are reflected, evident, and repetitive, in their historic development. In comparing those nations which have created, or tried to create, large empires, the most evident differences are in how they treated their neighbors:

- **The Greeks** despised their neighbors as unworthy barbarians.
- **The Romans** divided their people into Patricians and Plebeians, their neighbors in allies of various categories, and the defeated into booty colonies.
- **The Germans** enslaved the vanquished and stole their land; this includes the sacking of Rome, Byzantium, and the Baltic States. And they had the same intentions for Russia. The later without success. Under Hitler, even the Germans were divided in non equal citizens: Reichsdeutsche (citizens of Germany), Volksdeutsche (German speaking populations), and Auslandsdeutsche (foreign Germans).
- **England:** Armed or unarmed robbery and plunder of everything that is left, i.e. piracy, Ireland and India. Wealth for the victor paid for by the vanquished, enforced slave and opium trade.
- **France:** Robbery and sacking of the colonies, with total incompetence in colonial administration. Loss of almost all colonies. Overextension.
- **Spain:** Almost total extermination of the local inhabitants, sacking of the colonies and total loss of its empire.
- **USA:** Extermination of Indians against payment of a \$3 to \$5 bounty for every scalp: adults, male or female, children included.
- **Russia:** No evidence of plunder or sacking of national minorities for the benefit of the Russian population. The State paid for economic development of the outskirts of the Empire.

**The result:** Rome and England became rich at the expense of their colonies. Central Russia became poorer, while the outskirts of the Empire prospered. Of all the empires, the Russian Empire proved to be the stronger!

### **And what about the Bloody Czars?**

- **Peter the Great** forced through reforms that undermined hundreds of years old an established covenants. He was a violent man, but he died of pneumonia contacted while personally saving drowning workers from the ice cold waters of the Neva river.
- **Czar Paul I** was murdered by the nobles because he wanted to liberate the Serfs. This Czar took the Georgians and Armenians of the Caucasus under his protection from the Turks and Islam, and gave these people protection that they had sought for generations. He gave the Serfs equal rights under the law and improved their standing. He saved the Order of Malta from Napoleon. He sent General Suvorov to assist the Austrians against the French in Italy. Czar Paul was murdered by the nobility. His murderer was the German Kurlaender Count von der Palen.
- **Czar Alexander I** defeated Napoleon, liberated Europe, spared France, and tried, through the Holy Alliance, to create permanent peace in Europe. He created the German Bund and the confirmed the neutrality of Switzerland.
- **Czar Nicolas I** defeated the Turks and began the liberalization of the Balkan Christians from Turkey, saved the Austrian monarchy in 1848, and created a Russian bureaucracy (against the will of the nobility), as a prerequisite for the liberation of the Serfs. He gave Poland exceptional liberties and privileges, a liberal constitution, and a Kingdom in personal union with himself.
- **Czar Alexander II** freed the Serfs and gave them land and property, liberated the Greeks and Bulgarians, but put German (not Russian) princes on their thrones, and gave Finland a liberal constitution, liberties and privileges.
- **Czar Alexander III** forced the world to stay at peace.
- **Czar Nicolas II** convened the Hague Peace Conference in 1899, and saved the French and Allies repeatedly in WWI by sacrificing his best troops. He fell a victim to a palace

revolution (to the applause of his Allies) and was murdered together with all his family. Russia came under the rule of international fanatics, criminals, and agents of the enemies of Russia. Russia slid into an abyss. He was the last Russian to reign over his people.

**Yes, but there was also Ivan the Terrible?** Yes, he existed!

**Ivan the Terrible!** He reigned in the 16th century! What made this Czar terrible was the fact that he destroyed all his surrounding enemies, annexed their lands and hungry serfs, and gave them all the same rights as had his subjects. His people feared him, but called him the "Strict", not the "Terrible"! But for the West he was the "Terrible", even in his outside appearance, since this best fitted better the general concept. It is true that in his last years of reign he was a despot. But in his era was it not worse in Western Europe? The times were hard and cruel!

In the years when Ivan was beheading his rebellious Boyars, in France the mother of Carl IX, Catherine Medici, organized the mass murder of the Huguenots, and for no better reason other than their refusal to become Catholic. In the Night of St. Bartholomeus, 10,000 people were slaughtered like animals, including women and children! Ivan, although when an evil man, never ordered children killed. In the same period, in France, 30,000 Huguenots were murdered! In the same period, Torquemada in Spain ordered the burning of 10,222 people, mostly Jews that had converted to Catholicism and then renegaded their new faith, and the expulsion of the rest of the Jews (almost one million) from Spain. In the same period, thousands of people were burned at the stake in France, Italy and England. In USA the last 20 Witches were burned a century ago! In general people continued to be burned alive until the mid 19th century. The last group of Witches burned in Spain was in the year 1826, i.e. only 162 years ago! During his long reign, Ivan the Terrible had 3750 people executed. His contemporary, Elisabeth II of England, had 93,000 people executed during her reign, many for minor crimes! She of course is Elisabeth the Great, while Ivan is the Terrible and Russia is a barbaric land! But there existed no Pogroms in Russia similar to those in the West!

Despite France's St Bartolomeo's night, Spain's Torquemada, Englands Henry VIII, and Italy's Cesare Borgia's daggers and poisons, no one has designates these countries as barbaric. But of course for Russian history, there are other criteria. Ivan the Terrible remains as proof of Russians Asian roots and barbarism! Ok, in Europe they burned heretics! But in barbaric Russia? The Holy Orthodox Church punished heretics, witches and wizards by making them lie flat on the floor in front of holy icons, in the presence of all parishioners, and declare their penance loudly to all.

**Then why the Exodus out of Russia, or better out of the Soviet Union?** It is fear, the fear to again be the scapegoat! Certain Jews, revolutionary fanatics, scum of their people, have played a woeful role in the Russian Revolution, but they were not alone. Their brothers in faith, even though having suffered together with the Russian population these aftereffects, have a subliminal fear of a possible reaction by the mob, should the broad public anger turn against their tormentors, the Communists. In addition, the opportunity to escape from the clutches of the inhumane communist system and at the same time solicit sympathy from their people as victim of a "supposedly Russian Antisemitism", is natural. In Israel, the loved land of nostalgia, Russian Jews create Russian speaking colonies and enclaves, because their Russian homeland continuous to call to them! The many requests of Russian Neo-Israelis to return to Russia are a proof of this.

**No people can be happy in exile**, and that is especially true for Jews, a closed religious community, not well received, especially by Christians. But the Orthodox Christians, and especially the Russian ones, were more merciful than their Latin "brothers" in the West, and the Jews in Russia, had it much better than their religious compatriots in the West. As for the Soviet Union, by no means be equated with traditional Russia, all people there, inclusive the Jews, were part of a giant concentration camp, and obviously were not happy.

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Vienna, 22 September 1991

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