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Bandera & the Volhynian Slaughter

How Ukrainian Nationalists Massacred 100,000 Poles
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During World War II, Ukraine's leading Nazi-collaborator, Stepan Bandera[1], was determined to carry out the ethnic cleansing of Polish people from western Ukraine (also known as Eastern Galicia[2]). His political faction was called the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B)[3] and it had a military wing known as the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA)[4].

Between 1943-1945, the UPA massacred up to 100,000 Poles in Volhynia – a crime now known as the Volhynian Slaughter.[5]

Volhynian Poles Slaughtered by Bandera's Nationalist Forces

At the OUN-B's Second Conference of February 1943, the faction codified the goal of purging non-Ukrainians from a future Ukrainian state.[6][7] Bandera and his ultranationalist Ukrainian followers believed that ethnic

cleansing was necessary to prevent a post-war Polish state from infringing on the sovereignty of the Ukrainian-majority in the region.

The ethnic cleansing campaign was carried out in what was then German-occupied Poland (present-day Western Ukraine). Bandera's forces slaughtered Poles regardless of their age or gender. In fact, the majority of the victims were unarmed women and children.[8] A majority of the victims were tortured before being killed. Women were systematically raped; children were dismembered and many of the victims were burned alive.[9]

In 2016, the parliament of Poland official declared the massacres as acts of genocide.[10] However, many scholars choose to classify the slaughter as ethnic cleansing, rather than genocide.[11]

It may seem unbelievable that such a large portion of the Ukrainian people could have not only tolerated, but participated in such mass brutality. But that spirit of ethnic supremacy continues to thrive among a significant segment of Ukraine's population today.
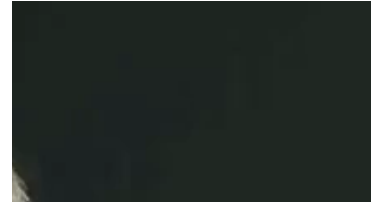
In 2014, US Senator John McCain and Vice President Joe Biden participated in US efforts to assist in the destabilization of the democratically-elected, though pro-Russian, government of Ukraine. Among the extremists they supported was Oleh Tyahnybok, the leader of the far right Svoboda militia and political party . [12][13] In March 2014, Tyahanybok advocated the mass arrest and murder of 5-6 million Russian-speaking Jews and "Ukrainophobes" within the country.[14]

A few months later, on April 14, 2014, Ukraine's Hromadske television station (financially supported by the US Embassy and a George Soros foundation) aired an interview with Ukrainian journalist Bogdan Boutkevitch in which Boutkevitch referred to ethnic-Russians in the Donbass as "absolutely useless people" and called for the murder of 1.5 million of them.[15][16]

Bogdan Boutkevitch on Hromadske TV, April 14, 2014

While some will try to deflect attention away from the seriousness of these statements by suggesting that those advocating ethnic cleansing are a minority among the total population of Ukraine, it should be remembered that Stepan Bandera's ultranationalists were a minority as well.[17] If we are to learn any lesson from the rise of fascism in Germany prior to World War II, it should be that minority status means nothing when it comes to a virulent, passionate faction of people who have grand ambitions backed up by foreign financial support.[18][19][20][21]

The people of Ukraine would be wise to try to strangle this fascist movement in its crib. And, the rest of the civilized world would be wise to stop making excuses in defense of such evil ideology and begin to pressure Ukraine with escalating consequences for its refusal to address this reemerging threat to international stability.

Germany's minority Nazi movement rapidly surged into power

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[1] https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/122778
[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Galicia
[3] https://www.britannica.com/topic/Organization-of-Ukrainian-Nationalists
[4] https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ukrainian-Insurgent-Army
[5] Massacre, Volhynia. "The Effects of the Volhynian Massacres". *Volhynia Massacre*. Retrieved 2018-03-10.
[6] Jarosław Hrycak, Ukraińcy w akcjach antyżydowskich. Appeared in the journal Nowa Europa Wschodnia
[7] Philip Friedman. *Ukrainian-Jewish Relations During the Nazi Occupation*. In Roads to Extinction: Essays on the Holocaust. (1980) New York: Conference of Jewish Social Studies. pp.179–180
[8] Timothy Snyder. "A Fascist Hero in Democratic Kiev". *The New York Review of Books*. NYR Daily.

Bandera aimed to make of Ukraine a one-party fascist dictatorship without national minorities.... UPA partisans murdered tens of thousands of Poles, most of them women and children. Some Jews who had taken shelter with Polish families were also killed.

[9] "Wołyń 1943 – Rozliczenie" (PDF), *Konferencje IPN*, **41**: 27–30, 2010

[10] Polish "Senate recognizes Volhynia massacre to be genocide." http://tass.ru/en/world/887135 http://tass.ru/en/world/887135

[11] McBride, Jared (2016). "Peasants into Perpetrators: The OUN-UPA and the Ethnic Cleansing of Volhynia, 1943–1944". *Slavic Review*. **75** (3): 630–654. doi:10.5612/slavicreview.75.3.0630. S2CID 165089612.

[12] https://www.channel4.com/news/ukraine-mccain-far-right-svoboda-anti-semitic-protests

[13] https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-biden/u-s-backs-ukraine-warns-russia-with-biden-visit-idUSBREA3L0WD20140422

[14] https://twitter.com/morphonios/status/1501051809040846854/photo/1

[15] https://twitter.com/i/status/1501060302426841089

[16] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCD4RS9LsTI&ab_channel=hromadske

[17] "Ukraine :: World War II and its aftermath – Britannica Online Encyclopedia". *Britannica.com*. Retrieved 17 March 2010.

[18] https://www.smh.com.au/business/how-bankers-helped-the-nazis-20130801-2r1fd.html

[19] https://www.ieri.be/en/publications/wp/2019/juillet/banksters-and-warmongers

[20] https://www.jstor.org/stable/23736470

[21] https://www.bastabalkana.com/2013/07/wall-street-and-the-rise-of-hitler-the-history-of-banks-who-funded-nazis/