



**The Hoax of the Twentieth Century: The Case  
Against the Presumed Extermination of European  
Jewry**

*Arthur R. Butz*

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## **The Hoax of the Twentieth Century: The Case Against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry Details**

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## **Michael says**

As in similar previous cases, I am not giving this book a star-rating because I do not wish to validate its viewpoint by rating it in terms of how much I “like” it. Even one star is one star too many.

I picked this book up in college, at the same time as Confessions of a Holocaust Revisionist, but it was too much for me at that time, so I read it a few years later, after I had begun a fairly serious autodidactic study of World War Two and the Third Reich. Since that time, I have completed graduate work in German history, and I now can easily see through the lie that Butz is perpetrating with this volume, but I have to think back to the earlier version of me that actually read it in order to understand the response it continues to get from a less-educated audience. I recall being confused by it, and I particularly remember that it made me aware of my own ignorance. I often stopped to wonder “could he be right?” not in his overall argument (which always seemed preposterous), but in this or that detail which was strategically employed to undermine the credibility of Holocaust scholarship, with which I was almost completely unfamiliar at the time. I suspect that it is this strategy, which may not win him many converts, which has kept this book alive as a weapon against history for four decades now.

It’s hard to believe, however, that anyone is “convinced” by this book who isn’t already pretty strongly predisposed to belief in a vast Jewish conspiracy to control the world. That is, after all, what even the most dispassionate agreement with his thesis requires: someone has forged millions of documents, convinced hundreds of thousands of witnesses and millions of family-members of European Jews to falsify their accounts, and somehow convinced the entirety of Western academia (Butz himself excepted) to act in the interests of Israel rather than those of truth. When you honestly look at the text, it consists more of assertions and accusations against anticipated opponents than evidence to support the thesis. In Butz’s world, the Nuremberg Tribunals were worse crimes than Auschwitz and the deaths of thousands from typhus are simply incidental, and not part of a systematic lowering of hygienic standards to achieve a particular end. And these are hardly the most offensive or irrational of his claims.

I don’t want to get into debating Butz point-by-point, however, that’s ultimately a waste of my time and energy. He plays an interesting role within the pantheon of Holocaust deniers, which is what I’m more interested in. Where Bradley R. Smith is avuncular and down-homey, and David Irving plays the role of the tragically persecuted intellectual, Butz largely takes the mask off and shows himself for what he is. In that respect, he’s probably less of a “gateway drug” than those other two, more of the choice of those who are looking for something “harder” for their kicks. As such, his work will probably be among us long after he finally passes away.

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## **TR says**

Opponents ought to read the whole book before they criticize.

The Dissolution of European Jewry (Walter Sanning) and Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence

(Wilhelm Staeglich) are good supplements to this.

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**Marcin says**

Scrupulous and detailed analysis of the evidence.

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