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We dedicate this book to the six million who cannot respond themselves, and to the survivors who can.

MICHAEL SHERMER dedicates this book to Earl Livingood for making history come alive in the best narrative storytelling imaginable; to Richard Olson for helping him find that delicate balance between historical objectivity and relativism; and to Richard Hardison for showing that there is theory in history and that history is subject to myriad revisions and distortions.

ALEX GROBMAN dedicates this book to his wife, Marlene; his children, Elon, Ranan, and Ari, along with their wives, Aviva, Karen, and Rochel Sara; his granddaughters, Tova and Tamar; and his grandsons, Efraim Elimelech and Binyamin Mayer. Their love and support have sustained him. Their devotion and commitment to Hashem and the Jewish people have inspired him.
publishing his piece, Joly was fined 300 francs and sentenced to over 2 year in prison.) The document gained popularity in Russia during the 1905 revolution (which itself fueled fears of Jewish machinations), under the guise of a book entitled The Great in the Small, written by a czarist supporter named Serguei Nilus. In the 1911 edition Nilus claimed that the Protocols had been stolen from the French headquarters of the Zionist world organization, but he changed that reference to an unidentified source inside the Masonic headquarters for the 1917 edition. That edition was the one that made its way to Germany at the close of the First World War. The Germans began to make use of it after the Nazi ideologist Alfred Rosenberg published several pamphlets between 1919 and 1923, citing the Protocols as a source about the Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. It has since been used by a variety of antisemitic groups, including Arabs, South Africans, and even American nationals, such as Henry Ford, who serialized it in the Dearborn Independent, then reprinted 500,000 copies in book form as The International Jew: The World’s Foremost Problem. A judge eventually ruled that Ford should discontinue publication, and in 1927 Ford retracted his endorsement of the Protocols. The document was ruled a hoax in two trials, one in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in 1934, and the other in Bern, Switzerland in 1934–1935. In 1993 the Russian Tanscered Golenpolsky, publisher of the Moscow-based Jewish Gazette, sued the ultra-nationalist organization Pamyat (memory) for printing antisemitic propaganda, including the Protocols. Pamyat stuck back with a libel suit, but on November 26, 1993, a Moscow district court ruled that the Protocols was a fake (though the ruling did not put the scree to rest once and for all: the IHR book catalog lists an ecction of it and Mark Weber says it sells very well).

The political ideologue and former Marxist Lyndon LaRouche, whose literature can be routinely found at tables set up by his devoted followers in front of U.S. post offices, thrives on conspiratorial thinking. He and his wife, Helga Zepp LaRouche, are known for their theory that the queen of England is behind the international drug trade. The contents of their newspaper, The New Federalist, suggest that they are professional contrarians. For example, in Zepp LaRouche's Hitler Book she dismisses Darwinism because it gave rise to Hitlerism (despite the fact that Hitler and the Nazis employed social Darwinism as part of their justification for the extermination of the Jews—see chapter 8). Amid claims that they resolved the wave-particle duality problem in physics, found the error in Karl Marx's thinking (only one?), discovered a new economic system, and conceived the strategic defense initiative, the

LaRouches dismiss the Holocaust as "mythical," claiming the whole thing is "a swindle."

A good example of how someone's ideological bent can distort the historical record comes from a book by the Canadian author James Bacque, Other Losses: An Investigation into the Mass Deaths of German Prisoners at the Hands of the French and Americans After World War II. Bacque argues that immediately following the end of the war in Europe, General Dwight D. Eisenhower conspired to withhold food, housing, and supplies from millions of German POWs, "murdering" them through starvation. Carefully selecting German and American sources who claim they witnessed this mass starvation (even when supplies were readily on hand), Bacque concludes that approximately one million German were murdered in a conspiracy by the French and Americans—a "holocaust," he claims, on par with what the Germans did to the Jews.

Bacque's statistics are worth noting. Using weekly ledgers of POWs and Disarmed Enemy Forces from the U.S. European Theatre Headquarters, Bacque shows that the prisoner accounting system in these weekly ledgers had such columns as "Previous on Hand," "Discharged," or "Transferred." The most curious, for Bacque, is a column headed "Other Losses," which he takes to mean either escaped or dead. Since the rate of escape was less than one per thousand prisoners, he concludes that about five thousand German POWs died per week. Extrapolating to the length of their encampment, Bacque arrives at his one-million figure. What was Eisenhower's motive? It was revenge, says Bacque, brought on after seeing the Nazi concentration camps, coupled with his pathological hatred of Germans. Why have we not heard about this incredible genocide before? Because, Bacque contends, history is written by the victor, who conspire to cover up their own atrocities, and this was not a story complimentary to the Allied postwar goals.

Bacque's argument is easy to refute. Albert Cowdrey and Stephen Ambrose show the gaping holes in Bacque's book. One of his eyewitnesses, for example, was ninety years old and legally blind when interviewed, and he admitted his memory of the POW experience was fuzzy at best. Other eyewitness testimony seems equally flawed, with conflations of separate memories and confabulation, interweaving fact and fiction, not uncommon. In addition, as Cowdrey and Ambrose reveal, Bacque's statistical analysis of the "other losses" is highly suspect. One million missing Germans are a lot of people. Why were they not noticed for nearly half a century, despite the fact that the Red Cross compiled lists of MIAs (totaling only 41,000 in the European theater)? It turns out the "other
70. Ibid.
71. Ibid., 79-80.
72. Ibid., 17, 117.
73. Ad in Student Life (February 1992), Washington University, St. Louis.
74. All quotations from The Revisionist: A Journal of Independent Thought 1 (November 1999).
78. Zündel, interview (1994). Unless otherwise noted all quotations in this section are from this interview.
79. Cole, interview (1994). Unless otherwise noted all quotations in this section are from this interview.
82. The sixth person is not named.
84. Quoted in ibid.
85. Quoted in ibid., 3.
89. Irv Rubin, telephone interview by Michael Shermer, April 6, 1998. All subsequent quotations from Rubin in this section are from this interview.

4. Why They Say the Holocaust Never Happened

3. The publication ran quarterly from 1980 to 1992, then switched to bi-monthly from 1993 to the present. It was not published at all in 1987, and only six issues were published throughout the two-year span from 1996 to 1997. The issuance of the magazine is quite sporadic, with occasional long lapses between issues.