

Chris Webb

The Sobibór Death Camp

History, Biographies, Remembrance

Revised and Updated

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For Freya, Cora, and Otto

Dedicated to Jules Schelvis and Thomas (Toivi) Blatt'
In loving memory of
Rita Beard

Taken from us too soon.

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Foreword

The Final Solution needed a number of converging elements to afford it the opportunity to come to fruition. Excuse the term ‘perfect storm’, a rather ironic term in this situation, but it is defined as a critical or disastrous event created by a powerful and unlikely concurrence or confluence of factors. With respect to the Holocaust, some of these major factors include the following:

1. Successive stages of discrimination, oppression, marginalization, and ghettoization, culminating in mass genocide of unimaginable proportions.
2. A megalomaniacal tyrant with obvious issues of unresolved rageful hatred, combined with a need to scapegoat, as well as a tremendous appetite for greed, power, and conquest. A strangely charismatic character totally bereft of any conscience or humanity.
3. A propaganda campaign that was enormous in scope and one in which all forms of resistance or even dissenting opinion were blocked, prevented, silenced and/or punished—most often by death. Paving the way were the Anti-Semitic influences and indoctrinations of the bogus ‘Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion,’ and the perversion of evolutionary theory known as Social Darwinism, the schooling of German children, and the writings and orations of many other influences of the years before Nazism and during its heyday. All of these were aimed at breeding hatred and amplifying prejudice.
4. A collective low morale among the German people following Germany’s defeat in the First World War, aggravated by the crippling reparations it was forced to pay, the significant territorial concessions, as well as other terms

of the Versailles Treaty. This led to bitter resentment which powered the rise of the Nazi Party.

5. A severe economic collapse with extraordinarily high levels of unemployment.
6. In line with the point above, is an often overlooked or minimized motivation for the 'Final Solution'—that of avarice, grand theft, and opportunisms. There was an unprecedented confiscation of homes, land, businesses, and assets of every kind imaginable—including artificial limbs, gold teeth, hair and anything else that could be repurposed or otherwise utilized. The purpose, to finance their war effort, keep the military-industrial complex going, and enrich themselves. This illustrates that desperate people will often sacrifice their moral and ethical code when there are benefits and rewards to serve their selfish interests.

Like the parable of the blind men and the elephant—each examining the parts of it by feeling around and describing what seem to be quite disparate perspectives on the same animal—so too even among Holocaust scholars and researchers. They approach the subject from a wide variety of unique perspectives, and tend to narrow their focus because the Holocaust has so many facets. For example, some present biographical information about Hitler and his henchmen as their focus; some look at opportunisms the Holocaust within the context of geopolitics or social sciences. Some are concerned with demographics and the aggregation of statistics involving the numbers of those murdered. Some spend their time recording and documenting survivor testimonies, while others create timelines and deportation lists. Yet others compile databases and spreadsheets of victims. Some focus on the forensic investigation of extermination camps, while others study the Jewish resistance groups. And the list goes on!

Not surprisingly, and yet still surprisingly, there are those who focus on trying to deny or minimize the enormity of the

Holocaust. My particular niche is leading the way, primarily on social media platforms and other online venues to combat Holocaust denial. In order to effectively achieve this I engage in extensive research to refute all of the highly regurgitated so called ‘challenges’ to the historicity of the Holocaust.

Imagine my joy and pleasure when my path crossed with that of Chris Webb, since his niche ties into my speciality in the sense that he pulls together a vast array of elements that all converge to create an amazingly accurate portrait of the Nazi extermination camps—their conceptualizations, planning, construction, organizing, staffing, operations, policies and procedures, and portraits of many perpetrators, as well as biographies of countless captives, victims and survivors. His works are truly a Holocaust denier’s nightmare.

All of this is meticulously compiled from a wide variety of highly trusted primary, secondary and tertiary sources from every perspective. Chris Webb fact-checks up front, so that you don’t have to. He proactively points out even minor inconsistencies in testimonies, dates and numbers to obviate the need for anyone else to ever had the need to do so. Anyone would be hard pressed to legitimately question anything. All too often we read different accounts of the same historical events and the narratives compete with each other for dominance. It is comforting to find none of that in Chris Webb’s books.

He even provides the reader with a collection of *SS* testimonies, wherein they attest to the crimes against humanity in which they had direct involvement. What could be more compelling and powerful than that? This begs the question of how we can possibly have people denying the Holocaust, when so many of the perpetrators not only confess to it, but spell things out in excruciating detail.

This truth-based reporting and writing, is sadly-enough—and all too often—giving way to a growing tendency to spin historical events and commentary to meet the presenter’s need to influence, persuade, and peddle their biases and agenda, rather than to

impart fact-based, objective historical information. Even the presentation of nightly news is essentially becoming more and more opinion-based these days.

The subtleties in choosing certain words and phrases; the deliberate misuse of statistics, revising history, whitewashing or glorifying on the one hand, and demonizing on the other have become more commonplace than people realize.

Nowadays we see an incredibly fast-growing proliferation of all manner of propaganda videos and comments on social media by social influencers using these venues to shape public opinion—as the Nazis started to do in the 1930's. To immerse oneself in that world is to see just how pernicious this is in inciting hatred through revisionism, widespread use of fallacious reasoning, inversions of truth, demonizing buzzwords, and intolerance of minority groups taken to its extreme—again reminiscent of what was done by the Nazis.

All that said, the reader of this book, as well as every other book by Chris Webb, will find it refreshing to be provided by the facts—the entirety of what is known about Sobibór in this case—and nothing but the facts.

There is no room for speculation or denial. This book is backed by converging evidence. Nothing is filled in, nothing is interpreted, nothing is meant to distort, mischaracterize, misinterpret, or embellish. The only persuasion is that which is justified as a consequence of simply reading this book, it demands that people know it is a book of solid evidence, unbiased research and undeniable facts, and that they feel the compassion, empathy, outrage, and disgust over that was perpetrated at Sobibór, and that they use this as a lesson to caution all societies against any tendency to go down the dangerous steps that culminate in such massive crimes against humanity.

Jerry Steinberg
New Jersey, USA
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