

# Chomsky Promotes Anti-Semitism

**Jerry Gladstone**

Between 1939 and 1945 the German capitalists, who were ruling through the Nazi Party, along with their allies in other countries, unleashed a savage war that resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of people. In addition to the millions who were killed as a result of military action the Nazis murdered about twelve million civilians and Soviet prisoners of war throughout Europe. They used assembly line techniques from modern industry. Of these twelve million who were murdered in this way about six million, or half, were Jewish people, members of a relatively small ethnic-religious minority.

In many countries where Jewish people had lived for centuries they were virtually destroyed.

These are facts proven beyond doubt by the testimony of witnesses (both perpetrators and victims), Nazi documents and information that was gathered by intelligence services of the allied powers. A war crimes tribunal consisting of Soviet, British, French and American jurists held a series of trials in the German city of Nuremberg after World War II and concluded that the Nazis had murdered, among others, six million Jewish people, or two out of every three European Jews.

Why is it necessary at this time to repeat these facts?

## World Wide Fascist Violence

Over the past two years there has been a wave of fascist and neo-Nazi violence in Europe, the United States and Argentina. This has taken the form of bombings that killed scores of

people in Genoa, Italy and Munich, West Germany as well as the bombing of a synagogue in Paris. In Spain ultra fascists seized the Parliament building and then the central bank.

In the United States the Government organized a Klan and Nazi death squad that killed five members of the Communist Workers Party on November 3, 1979. Two of those murdered were of Jewish background, and the Klan/Nazi murderers shouted anti-Semitic as well as other racist epithets as they did their murderous work. None of these fascists were convicted of any offense.

## Ideological Offensive

Every movement has its ideology and generally when a movement takes the offensive physically and militarily it also attacks ideologically. Today the ideological offensive of fascism includes an all-out effort to turn the fact that they committed genocide against the Jewish people into a doubtful subject of debate. Ultimately in order to make anti-Semitism "respectable" again they want to erase this crime from history because it gives them (and capitalism) a bad name.

Although these ideological storm troopers are centered around the fascist Liberty Lobby's front group in California called the "Institute of Historical Review" the first substantial salvo of their attack took place last year in France when a previously unknown professor named Robert Faurisson published a book claiming to prove that the Nazis never committed genocide against the Jewish people. This caused an uproar in France where

unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust.

One man told his story on a bullhorn, full of anger and rage. "They made us dig a huge trench, a hundred feet long and very wide. Then they had us cut logs, put them in and pour gasoline over them. They lit the logs on fire, and into this burning hell, they dumped children from the backs of dump trucks, raising the trucks up so that hundreds of living children slid into the fire, burning them alive. Do you want to see that again? That's why we're here today. Never again!"

Suddenly, the 11 Nazis appeared. Hundreds of rocks, bottles and eggs flew through the air as the Nazis, ducking behind their swastika-painted shields, vainly tried to set up their sound system to spew out their racist filth. Senior citizens, survivors of the Holocaust, were seen knocking each other over to get to bags of bricks that had been smuggled in, to launch them at the Nazis. As the Nazis managed to unfurl their disgustingly sick banner, "Holocaust — Six Million Lies," an angry cry filled the air and the barrage intensified. Seven minutes after they showed up, they scurried away for their lives, with the police doing all they could to hold off the furious crowd.

When it was over, six people were arrested, four for "disorderly conduct" (breaking through police lines). One was arrested later at a hospital, allegedly for throwing flashlight batteries at the cops. The *only* person out of the hundreds throwing things, who was arrested for throwing an object, was Carlton Grisson, the *only* black arrested that day. He was arrested by plainclothes cops who could go anywhere in that crowd, but they chose him, a 19-year-old Afro-American youth.

## Broad Support for Carlton

Carlton is a member of the Revolutionary Youth League, and a supporter of the Communist Workers Party. He says, "I know we have to fight the Nazis and Klan wherever they are. The

government uses them to keep us blaming and fighting each other, rather than getting together to fight the government. I went there to take a stand with the Jewish people against the Nazis."

And they are standing with Carlton against the cops, the defenders of the Nazis. The survivor's group even retained a lawyer the day after his arrest, to get him, as well as the others arrested, out of jail. The cops lied to one survivor that Carlton said he was a Communist and didn't need or want their help, but the response was to stand by him anyway. They told a CWP member, "There's no way we're going to let him stand alone. Whatever it takes, he will not spend time in jail. That he is a Communist is not the point. He stood with us against the Nazis."

## Stop the Railroad of Carlton

As the motion to dismiss was denied, Carlton goes to trial on Sept. 14 because a cop was allegedly on the receiving end of his brick. Already the unity forged of Jewish and progressive groups is powerful and this is force that can free Carlton. The defense committee will continue to try to rally the broadest possible sectors of not only the Jewish and black communities, but of all progressive people to keep Carlton from being railroaded. While the government spent thousands of dollars for 275 police to protect the Nazis, they're now using our tax dollars to prosecute Carlton. He needs your help: write letters to the Illinois State Attorney demanding the charges be dropped, and contribute for legal fees. Please call (312) 935-6350 to help him out. In the words of a 60-year-old survivor who was arrested that day and who addressed a meeting of 120 other survivors, "We will fight the Nazis wherever they are — if they are in the black community, if they are in the white community. We don't care. Wherever they are." □

*This article was sent to the WV by a member of the Carlton Grisson Defense Committee.*



NEW YORK, N.Y.—Women construction workers demanding jobs on the Convention Center building site picketed the office of the Urban Development Corp., the city's contractor, on Aug. 5. United Trades Women, a New York-based organization, called for the protest after officials of the corporation failed to hire even enough women to fill federal guidelines of seven percent employment of women.

City council members and minority groups were among those who joined the women on the picketline. Since negotiations have begun, 12 women have been hired, including four on the Convention Center site, without any layoffs of male workers.

"Of course our goal is to have more than seven percent," said a UTW member, "but we have to start somewhere. Right now the city is having a building boom and there should be enough jobs for everyone. We want to get women on these sites and keep them there." □

## Chomsky

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the people experienced Nazi rule first hand.

Faurisson came under attack, so he wrote a second book. Shockingly this book carried an introduction written by Noam Chomsky, an American Jew who has a reputation as a progressive of some sort. This American was also among the first to sign a petition defending Faurisson, and due to the respect he had in France as a "libertarian socialist" the petition was known as the "Chomsky petition."

The petition claimed that Faurisson had made "findings" based on "extensive independent historical research." What were these so-called "findings?" That the Nazis never committed genocide. That the Nazis never were a threat to human civilization. That the Jewish people are not a people at all but a vast conspiratorial network that managed to convince the world that the Nazis killed six million of their number in order, Faurisson says, to advance their alleged plot to rule the world!

And here was an American Jewish "progressive," a professor at M.I.T., whose specialty is language and its relationship to thought, writing an introduction to this book! In this introduction Chomsky said that Faurisson is a scholar, a liberal, and not at all an anti-Semite!

Early this year the New York Times reported on these events. Chomsky was attacked in the social-democratic journal, *In These Times*, and in *The Nation*. The Liberty Lobby's racist newsletter "Spotlight" defended Chomsky as a victim of the alleged Jewish conspiracy from which he is presumably excluded or has defected.

Chomsky refuses to admit he has aided the neo-Nazi ideological offensive and says that his defense of Faurisson is only concerned with his

supposed civil right to attack the Holocaust survivors with slander and his supposed right to help the fascists organize more murderers as long as he only comes up with the words that they need to have in order to organize their actual material terror.

Even a naive person who can't see any connection between fascist propaganda and actual fascist murder would have to admit that Chomsky did not only defend some abstract right to say or write anything at all regardless of the consequences, but put across a strong message that he feels that Faurisson's slanderous and murderous lies are a legitimate point of view that people ought to consider.

This becomes a matter of concern for communists not only because we do not believe fascists have any right to organize mass (or individual) murder but because in France last year and now in the United States capitalist media have used Chomsky and Faurisson to try to prove a supposed closeness between Marxism and fascism. In the June 10-16 issue of the *Village Voice* a front page article entitled "Gas Chamber Games: Crackpot History and the Right to Lie" uses the fact that Chomsky calls himself some kind of socialist (as does Faurisson's publisher) to make this attack.

Neither Chomsky nor any of Faurisson's supporters are Marxists and none of them call themselves Marxists. They claim to be part of a "libertarian 'socialist'" tradition closer to anarchism than to Marxism. Faurisson doesn't even consider himself any sort of a leftist.

Chomsky's record as a leftist has been compromised before and he is proud enough of his anti-communism to have summed up his anti-communist and his really anti-leftist history for us

in the February 28 issue of *The Nation*.

For example, Chomsky is remembered as an opponent of the Vietnam War. He reminds us that his writings during the war were against the particular anti-insurgency strategy that the Pentagon was carrying out in Vietnam. Actually, he tells us, he was warning that the bombings in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (before the U.S. defeat) were going to lead to a communist victory. He pointedly in this article does not refer to the terror bombings of socialist North Vietnam, because his articles during that time were about how the Pentagon was pursuing the wrong strategy to defeat the socialist

Chomsky also recalls in his article in *The Nation* how he opposed student anti-war activists on questions that aroused the deepest feelings among the youth of the late 60's. "At the height of the Vietnam War," says Chomsky, "I publicly took the stand that people I regarded as authentic war criminals should not be denied the right to teach (!)... I even wrote in 1969 that it would be wrong to bar counterinsurgency research in the universities, though it was being used to murder and destroy..."

This pompous defender of counterinsurgency research such as is used to develop chemical-biological warfare and electronic battlefield techniques says of Leninists: "I am unimpressed with their recent conversions and unwilling to join in their new crusades, which often strike me as morally dubious and intellectually shallow." So, for Chomsky Leninism is morally dubious, not Nazi apologists like Robert Faurisson, whose morality Chomsky doesn't question, nor his intellectual integrity.

The question of why Chomsky chose to aid the fascist propaganda campaign is a fair one to ask. Plainly it goes beyond defending their "right" to spread their poison, because he's gone on a limb to say that their words are not poisonous at all.

It's consistent with his defense of an alleged "right" to develop terror weapons and techniques on campuses. Yet Chomsky never defended chemical or electronic warfare as such, only some sacred right of university professors to take money from the Pentagon to develop things like that on campuses like his own M.I.T.

It's significant that up till now the attack on Chomsky has been mainly from non-Marxist circles because he stands on common ground with them.

In the most detailed of these exposures in the *Village Voice* the author proves that Chomsky is a liar and that he's covering up for forces who want to put Hitler in a "not so bad" light after all. What was Hitler about more

than any one thing but the destruction of what he perceived to be Jewish Marxism?

The *Voice* shielded the anti-Communist "left" by fully admitting what Chomsky had done then leaping to the illogical blame of Marxism. Chomsky, Faurisson, and the others are anti-Marxists! Berman, in the *Village Voice* also concluded that Chomsky's after all not so bad, (perhaps confused), and that his history is quite honorable.

Harder to explain is a recent article in the radical *Guardian*, which considers itself to be Marxist. The article attacked the notion that the Nazis didn't commit genocide and exposed the Institute for Historical Review as a front of the Nazi apologist Liberty Lobby. The *Guardian* failed during this expose to mention anything of the controversy in France, or the Liberty Lobby's reprinting of Faurisson's anti-Semitic pseudo-history or their championing of Noam Chomsky. It's easy to see why liberals and other anti-Communists want to blur the whole issue of the Holocaust and the Chomsky fiasco, but hard to understand why a self-proclaimed Marxist publication protected Chomsky by omission.

Contrary to the *Village Voice*, Chomsky and Faurisson's anti-Semitism have nothing to do with a crisis in Marxism. What it is a sign of the ideological crisis in anti-Marxism, from Nazism to social democracy to anarchism. These ideologies can't explain reality and can't chart a course for humanity's future. It is they and their system capitalism who need scapegoats, not Marxism.

The question of the way Zionism and the western rulers have used the Holocaust to try to justify the oppression of the Palestinian people and the attempted domination of the whole Middle East ought by right be part of this discussion, and hopefully this and other aspects can be gone into in appropriate detail in the future. Suffice it to say here that Communists are not the supporters of either the Israeli state or their more obnoxious policies today, and we state our position regardless of any slander of being accused of anti-Semitism. It is we communists who are the staunchest opponents in principle of any scapegoating or blanket attack on any nationality, language or ethnic group. The best hope of the Jewish people is a final victory of a socialist society where the problems humanity faces can be attacked rationally rather than scapegoats being found to hide an inability to solve the problems of the day. □

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