

Introduction of Dr. Matthias Kuentzel at talk sponsored by Holocaust Museum Watch and the Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs

My name is Robert Samet, and I'm a board member of Holocaust Museum Watch. This lecture by Dr. Matthias Kuentzel on "Jihad and Jew-Hatred: Islamism, Nazism and the Roots of 9/11" is being sponsored by JINSA and Holocaust Museum Watch. Many of you are already familiar with the work of JINSA in promoting US security interests and in supporting a strong and secure Israel. Holocaust Museum Watch is a new organization, **unaffiliated** with JINSA, which seeks to encourage the US Holocaust Memorial Museum to confront the reality and dangers of the new Islamic anti-Semitism and its connections to the murderous ideology of Nazism.

I am very pleased to introduce Dr. Matthias Kuentzel, an author and political scientist from Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Kuentzel received his doctorate, *summa cum laude*, in Political Science in 1981 from the University of Hamburg. He has served as senior advisor for the German Green Party caucus in the Bundestag, and is currently a Research Associate at the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as well as a member of the Board of Directors of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. He has written for, among others, *The New Republic*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Internationale Politik*, the journal of German Society on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Kuentzel has written for several years about the Nazi roots and connections of Islamic fascist anti-Semitism. In this important book, "*Jihad and Jew Hatred*", which I hope all of you will buy after the talk, he documents the connection of Arab and Muslim hatred of the Jews to Nazi ideology and strategy. Like Nazism and Communism in the 1930's, radical Islam has emerged as the most important political and ideological movement in world politics today. And like Nazism, it places hatred of the Jews at the center of its ideology and policy. Dr. Kuentzel demonstrates that the Israeli-Arab conflict is not the cause of this Jew hatred, but on the contrary, the conflict has been exacerbated by the ideology and politics of radical Islamists.

While Nazism was discredited in Europe after Germany's defeat in WWII, it was not discredited in the Arab world. Rather, Nazi views about the Jews became incorporated into the politics and ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood. Just as Nazism produced an anti-Semitism of unprecedented radicalism compared to its European predecessors, so the Islamists have produced a strain of anti-Semitism that surpasses in violence and hatred the anti-Jewish sentiments that had been an element of previous theologically based Islamic teachings.

Dr. Kuentzel in his book also points out that the Nazi-Islamist connection inspires terrorism today. In a shocking precursor to the World Trade Center terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, the Nazis during World War II worked to build what they called the "*Amerikabomber*," an airplane specially designed to fly suicide missions into Manhattan's skyscrapers. Albert Speer, the Nazi minister for armaments, recalled in his diary: "*It was almost as if (Hitler) was in a delirium when he described to us how New*

York would go up in flames. He imagined how the skyscrapers would turn into huge blazing torches.” Arabs studying in Germany realized Hitler’s fantasy. Dr. Kuentzel’s book demonstrates that al’Quaida and the other Islamist groups are guided by an anti-Semitic ideology that was transferred to the Islamic world during the Nazi period and that the Nazi paranoid world view drives the actions of Islamic terrorists today.

I want to read you just a few comments from a review of Dr. Kuentzel’s book in Ha’aretz by Benjamin Weinthal....

“Kuentzel is dazzling in the way he shifts back and forth between German anti-Semitism and its ability to condition and influence extremist Islamic hatred of Jews”

“Kuentzel's method is a dialectical masterpiece....”

“Kuentzel....debunks the ubiquitous view among a large segment of the chattering classes in Europe that Islamic hatred of Jews was a kind of natural, Pavlovian political reaction to Israel's Independence in 1948. His book establishes ... that a driving engine of radical political Islam is grounded in the ideas of the former grand mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Muhammad Amin al-Husseini, who was an ally of Adolf Hitler. What emerges, according to Kuentzel's analysis, is the crude absorption of German anti-Semitism into shaping and informing Islamic anti-Semitism.”

“Act II of the mufti's campaign to abolish Zionism - and participate in the Holocaust - begins with his passionate support of German fascism ("in the struggle against Jewry, Islam and National Socialism are very close," he said in a talk to the imams of the Bosnian SS division in 1944). Husseini traveled to Berlin in 1941 with a staff of 60 Arabs to unify his Islamic project with the Nazi movement. Via a Nazi-sponsored radio apparatus in Zeesen, Germany, Husseini was able to broadcast to the Arab world his anti-Jewish diatribes, into which he threaded selected quotations from the Koran.

That the man who became Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was an avid listener of the mufti's Germany-based broadcasts, which were transmitted to Iran in Farsi, introduces a new perspective on the after-effects of Hitlerism on the Islamic Revolution in Iran.”

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/946831.html>

Just as an aside, we’ve probably all seen photographs of Al Husseini, the Grand Mufti, sitting with Adolph Hitler and another photograph of him reviewing Nazi troops in formation. One of the most astounding things we discovered when Holocaust Museum Watch was first formed is that among the 80,000 photographs in the Holocaust Museum’s photo archive, no photos at all of the Grand Mufti could be found.

And now we know that the Ayatollah Khomeini was an avid follower of the Mufti’s broadcasts.

All of which points to the value of Dr. Kuentzel's research and his book, which is to educate and inform not only those in the Jewish Community, but everyone, of the ties of Islamic Extremism to the Holocaust and of the pressing need for the world to take Ahmadinejad and the Islamists seriously when they daily declare "We seek Death Like You Seek Life" (Hamas MP Hammad), when Ahmadinejad swears that Israel will be wiped off the face of the earth, and while Iran continues its unflinching march toward production of a nuclear bomb.

We want to thank JINSA for providing a forum for this talk.

We hope that in the future the US Holocaust Museum itself will provide a forum for authors such as Dr. Kuentzel and discussions such as this.