

# Soviets greater menace than dead Nazis

World War II, it seems, must go on. Television books, movies and the press daily trumpet new stories about the Nazi menace. Seventy-five-year-old men are put on trial or deported. Now President Ronald Reagan, who dared to plan laying a wreath at Germany's Bitburg cemetery, is being slowly roasted by a firestorm of criticism and abuse.

To Jewish groups, Reagan's visit to Bitburg, and the embarrassing revelation that some Waffen SS troops were buried there, threatens the sanctity of the Holocaust — an event that has assumed for some a religious significance akin to the crucifixion of Christ. Their anger is understandable.

But what about the other victims of the larger Holocaust of World War II? If we measure evil by the number of victims — and there is no other way — then Josef Stalin was a greater monster than Adolf Hitler and the Soviet Union a more horrible charnel-house than Nazi Germany.

In this terrible calculus of evil, 27 million people died by bullets, hunger or disease in Soviet concentration camps — almost three times the number of Hitler's victims. Let us take the case of one group, 5 million Ukrainians who were murdered by Stalin's secret police in 1932-1933.

Stalin decided to once and for all crush Ukrainian nationalism and opposition to Soviet farm collectivization programs. Food was cut off to all villages that opposed collectivization; the secret police were sent in to shoot "anti-party elements" or "kulaks" (any peasant who had land).

Five million Ukrainian men, women and children were killed while the world ignored this horror. When

dian leaders laying wreaths at war memorials in the Soviet Union, cemeteries that held the bodies of the very same NKVD agents who murdered 27 million people. Yet not one peep of protest has been heard.

If Nazi Germany had somehow survived the war, would we today be welcoming Nazi diplomats to Ottawa? Would we say, as we do with Russia, "well, all of that was long ago and they are now liberals." Try saying this to Ukrainians, Croatians, Hungarians or Poles who saw their families starved or shot. What we are seeing here is a time warp where the past evil of Nazism blinds us to the present evil of totalitarian communism; a fantasy in which we again and again defeat the Nazi scourge while ignoring the very real threat of Soviet expansionism. For the Soviet Union, which also makes an industry out of World War II, our endless preoccupation with the Nazis is a priceless gift.

The lesson to be drawn out of the Bitburg incident is that taking a selective approach to morality is extremely dangerous. If we are to condemn the Nazis for killing 6 million Jews and millions more other victims — and keep this moral outrage alive — then we cannot take a different view of the 27 million killed by the Soviet Union. Jews, today, are being persecuted in the Soviet Union — not in West Germany, a nation that gave billions of dollars to Israel. Yet listening to all the uproar over the Bitburg cemetery, one would think that the Nazis were again in power. The evil that filled the Third Reich lives on today, not in Berlin, but in Moscow. It is time that we demand some repentance from the Soviet Union.



ERIC  
MARGOLIS

Germany's armies invaded the Ukraine, it was hardly surprising that many Ukrainians greeted them as liberators and joined the Germans to fight the Russians. All of the Ukraine had been made into one giant concentration camp.

Hitler and the Nazi movement are dead and gone. The Federal Republic of Germany has been wearing sackcloth and ashes, atoning for 40 years. Anyone who knows Germany today also knows that Nazism is scorned by nearly everyone. The Germans have a point when they ask how much longer they must eat humble pie for something their grandfathers did.

But this is not the case in the Soviet Union. Today's rulers in the Kremlin are the direct political, legal and moral descendants of Josef Stalin. Note that the Soviet Union has never officially disavowed the actions of Stalin. The system and moral precepts that allowed Stalin's terror are still in place in modern Russia. The ghosts of 27 million murdered Ukrainians, Russians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Jews, Tartars and Muslims still haunt the Soviet Union. Unlike Germany's ghosts, they have never been laid to rest by government repentance. Yet they are forgotten by us. How many times have we seen American and Cana-