

# Nuremberg II could cleanse Russian conscience

As we enjoy the spectacle of East Germans exulting in unexpected freedom, at this moment in which our principles are vindicated, it behoves us to keep faith with the victims of communism.

How many have died in the name of Marx? It may take a millennium to get an accurate accounting, but we know enough to make a reliable guess. Think of the figure associated with Hitler's holocaust: six million. Double that, 12 million; now double it again, 24 million; and again, 48 million; and again, 96 million. This number is the low end of authoritative estimates of the number of communism's worldwide victims.

Hitler killed millions, Stalin tens of millions. Mao may have killed 60 million. In this century of ideological intoxication, no doctrine has been more murderous than Marxism.

Both Hitler and Stalin benefited from Lenin's example. Russian writer Vassily Selunin has produced an essay titled "The Sources," in which Lenin is portrayed as the creator of concentration camps to liquidate "Class Enemies." Another Soviet writer, Vassily Grossman, provides a parallel testimony in "Forever Flowing," in which Lenin is depicted as a theoretician of totalitar-

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## VIEWPOINT

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ianism and its first practitioner.

The institutional de-Stalinization of the Soviet Union and its empire is proceeding at an astonishing pace. What is needed now is the coup de grace that will end the Cold War: the conceptual de-Leninization of Russia; the nation must publicly and explicitly condemn and renounce the founder of the Soviet regime.

In this regard, columnist Patrick Buchanan has made a useful suggestion: what is needed is Nuremberg II. Murray C. Bernays, the American lawyer who originated the Nuremberg concept, envisioned a trial that would not only punish war crimes and offenses against humanity, but also the bestiality from which the crimes sprang. "(The Nazi) crimes and atrocities were not single or unconnected, but were the inevitable outcome of the basic criminal conspiracy of the Nazi party," Bernays wrote. "This conspiracy, based on the Nazi doctrine of racism and totalitarianism,

involved murder, terrorism and the destruction of peaceful populations." This bill of particulars aptly describes the history of Marxism.

Nuremberg was intended to inoculate the world against another outbreak of Nazism. It was an indictment of murderous ideology. The indictment against Marxist totalitarianism is being compiled by Russian patriots like Selunin and Grossman and, incredibly, by official Soviet spokesmen suddenly suffering from inexplicable candor.

How similar are Nazism and Leninism? Consider this declaration by Hitler: "Conscience is a Jewish invention. It is a blemish, like circumcision. Providence has ordained that I should be the greatest liberator of humanity. I am freeing men from the dirty and degrading self-mortification of a chimera called conscience and morality."

Compare that declaration with this catechism memorized by generations of Soviet school children: "Our morality is completely subordinate to the interests of the class struggle of the proletariat ... in the foundation of communist morality lies the struggle for the strengthening and completion of communism."

Nuremberg was intended to recon-

struct the conscience of Germany and fortify the conscience of the West. Nuremberg II could cleanse the conscience of Russia and liquidate the ideological threat of Marxism. It would leave Western socialists without excuse: the disciples of Marx would be treated with the same well-earned contempt that is heaped upon the few remaining disciples of Hitler.

There is a scene at the end of Solzhenitsyn's magisterial novel, *The First Circle*, that should haunt us. Gulag-bound political prisoners are being loaded into trucks (disguised to look like food vans).

As the trucks depart for the camps, they are observed by a correspondent for a "progressive" French magazine. He writes: "On the streets of Moscow one often sees vans filled with food-stuffs, very neat and hygienically impeccable. One can only conclude that the provisioning of the capital is excellent."

Solzhenitsyn here captures the barbarism of the Soviet regime and the willful indifference of Western "progressives." This axis claimed many more lives than the axis the West confronted in World War II. It is to the victims of the second axis that Nuremberg II should be dedicated.

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