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Home
The Lathe of Heaven
The Ides of March
As I Lay Dying
The Skull Beneath the Skin
Gaudy Night
Slouching Towards Bethlehem
No Country for Old Men
The Darling Buds of May
Darkness Visible
Kiss Me Kate
What Dreams May Come
Murder Being Once Done
The Golden Apples of the Sun
A House Divided
A Great Deliverance
Consider Phlebas

Posted on 12 September 2018 By Norman G. Finkelstein

`Free ? The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish

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Unlike the precision of research that is characteristic of Norman Finkelstein when it comes to the issue of the Israel Palestine conflict, *The Holocaust Industry* is a disorganized and ultimately spotty work of political science. Finkelstein's aim is to present an anatomy and an indictment of the Holocaust industry, meaning the subsequent exploitation of the historical tragedy that was the Holocaust for political and financial ends. The book is composed of three basic sections, *Capitalizing the Holocaust*, *Hoaxers, Huxters, and History*, and *The Double Shakedown*. Chapter one deals with the evolution of American awareness of the Holocaust as an event throughout the course of the post war era. In it, Finkelstein alleges that the Holocaust was basically not discussed in America prior to the June 67 war in Israel. The majority of his arguments here are quite correct, though the general thrust of the argument is borrowed heavily from Peter Novick's book, *The Holocaust in American Life*, which Finkelstein cites as a major influence but not a radical critique.⁵ In this section, Finkelstein oscillates between sharp political analysis and careless ranting. He includes bizarre footnotes to designate his terminology such as footnote 7 on pg 13, which states: "In this text, Jewish elites designates individuals prominent in the organizational and cultural life of the mainstream Jewish community. Unfortunately for Finkelstein, this is not really a proper organization which can be referred to on a whim. It are these kinds of generalizations which severely limit the quality and veracity of the arguments presented." Chapter 2 deals with the apparent influx of fraudulent Holocaust literature which has inundated the American public with pro Israeli propaganda. Finkelstein discusses hoaxes like Wilkomirsky's *Fragments*, and Kosinsky's *The Painted Bird*, and rails on Elie Wiesel for charging for his lectures. While it is true that many individuals have turned a profit off of the Holocaust in this way particularly in recent years, this argument remains entirely too reductive. What about the excellent and serious minded work of Primo Levi, Ruth Kluger, and Paul Celan? Are these artists and historians trying to capitalize off of the Holocaust as well? At what point does an author become a Holocaust Huxter? The problem with this line of argumentation is that it lumps individuals into one enormous category that they may not necessarily deserve. The final chapter is the strongest of the book. Finkelstein ruthlessly scrutinizes the actions of the WJC in their claims against Swiss and German banks for Holocaust Survivors. He has documented a record of falsification that is difficult to believe. After winning the European monies at an inflated sum, the relevant organizations subsequently refused to distribute the money to the actual Holocaust survivors. This is a difficult topic to stomach, and it raises many troubling questions. However, Finkelstein's evidence in these final sections is a valuable resource. *The Holocaust Industry* suffers from its polemicist ravings and broad generalizations. At the heart of it is an important issue, namely the issue of form of

historiography and memory regarding the Holocaust and other outrageous acts of genocide Finkelstein is angry that the Holocaust has apparently been elevated above all human suffering, and he is angry that individuals have positioned themselves in such a way as to capitalize off of this horrible tragedy Yet his work deteriorates in his tendency to rant and rave, as well as his frequent use of generalized and unsupported claims Near the end of the book, Finkelstein writes that The abnormality of the Nazi holocaust springs not from the event itself but from the exploitative industry that has grown up around it 150 Are there no other instances of the exploitation of human tragedy I am inclined to cite 9 11 and the U.S.S.R under Stalin as other examples of the same phenomenon. Norman Finkelstein is the son of two Holocaust survivors He is vocal against Israel s crimes against Palestinians, and is strongly opposed to using one of the worst tragedies in history to justify genocide His willingness to speak the truth without mitigation has put him in many difficult situations even leading him to lose his job as a university professor The Holocaust Industry, however, deals with a different subject In it, Finkelstein discusses how the nazi holocaust was used to service the greed of individuals and organisations with their own private agendas It s an intense read to say the least Finkelstein does not hold back Because of what his parents went through, particularly his mother, he takes this subject very personally He s not wrong to do so. The term Holocaust Industry is used to refer to this wide array of organisations and individuals who claim to be defenders of Jews and Holocaust victims, while in truth they only aim to serve their own interests According to Finkelstein, the Holocaust industry has spread the following false ideas into mainstream American culture 1 Gentiles have an inert hatred of Jews They possess an irrational need to spill Jewish blood.2 The Jews have suffered because they are superior to the Gentiles, and it s the Gentiles jealousy of the Jews that had created silent executioners during the Holocaust.3 The Holocaust is a unique event in history To even suggest that the suffering of any other group is just as tragic constitutes holocaust denial.4 To criticise Israel in any way is an act of anti Semitism, which will lead to a new Holocaust. One cannot say that Finkelstein is exaggerating since he offers than enough support One citation after another, footnotes extending than half the page, some of the most detailed referencing that I have ever come across, only serve to strengthen his credibility that along with his outstanding academic achievements in political science. Finkelstein explores in depth how the Holocaust Industry demanded compensation from countries such as Switzerland and Germany several times over in the name of the actual survivors while, the survivors received very little Finkelstein s mother only recieved 3500 out of a deal that offered billions in compensation He explains how the money went to fund Jewish cultural projects that, instead of insuring the rights of the survivors or the heirs, only continued to serve the interests of a chosen few He also goes into great detail about the hypocrisy that lies behind the Industry s outcries and accusations of anti Semitism When Germans or Swiss refuse to pay compensation, the heavens cannot contain the righteous indignation of organised American Jewry but when Jewish elites rob Jewish survivors, no

ethical issues arise it's just about money page 86. The quote refers to how actual Jewish survivors of the Nazi holocaust received very little from the monetary compensation, while the bulk went to financing various pet projects and individual payments to rabbis and outstanding Jewish leaders. Finkelstein also discusses the extortion of poor Eastern European countries by the Holocaust Industry right after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The demands this time, unlike the many compensation demands against Germany and the Swiss banks, were not publicised as it might come off as grave robbery. To justify the pressures exerted on Eastern Europe, he Stuart Eizenstat explained that a hallmark of Western normality is to return or pay compensation for communal and private property wrongfully appropriated. For the new democracies in Eastern Europe, meeting this standard would be to commensurate with their passage from totalitarianism to a democratic states. Eizenstat is a senior US government official and a prominent supporter of Israel. Yet, judging by the respective claims of Native Americans and Palestinians, neither the US nor Israel has yet made the transition page 134. Finkelstein has been criticised as a self-hating Jew. However, the truth could not be different. It is his unwillingness to accept the exploitation of his heritage, and his parents suffering, that motivates him to speak. If anything, it is his self-respect as a Jew that has driven him to take up this position. In conclusion, *The Holocaust Industry* is a must-read for anyone interested in learning than the superficial on this topic. People like Finkelstein care about the truth they deserve to be heard. Uncomfortable Reading Has anyone read Binjamin Wilkomirski's *Fragments Or The Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kosinski. Did you like those books. Did you find yourself affected by either of them. Perhaps they're on your favourite book shelf right now. If any of the above is true for you, then I would advise you pick this book up. The validity of these authors and their work is the tip of the iceberg in what *The Holocaust Industry* targets within its concise 171 pages. I've been listening to Finkelstein's strict analysis of Israeli policy for a few years now. However, this is my first outing with the Professor's written work. It's not a random choice that I picked out this essay first he's written a fair few. This book caused a riot when first released, and still the repercussions of its criticisms and exposure of the so-called Holocaust Industry hold relevance today. After reading a few reviews of Finkelstein's other work on Goodreads, I was expecting a fairly dry, difficult to diffuse, but ultimately intellectually satisfying book. What I received instead, was a pretty amazing read with a damning indictment of a handful of people profiteering from the compensation money paid up by Germany and Switzerland for the horrors of the Holocaust. Not only this, but Finkelstein makes some very poignant observations over the fact that the United States government could have equally shared blame for the same accusations the above countries received. His further critique of the ideology behind the holocaust in the United States is also very eye-opening. I won't press any further as it's a short book and deserves a reader's full attention. It's available online via PDF, but Finkelstein is a moral force to be reckoned with. I fear for any dishonest author/intellectual who finds themselves caught in his sights and

believe me when I say, there are than a few he locks onto here Not only this, but he manages to be very funny at times, but only when mocking those who are dishonest in their claims and validity. Overall, It s a crushing attack I cant recommend books like this enough, as they ask the uncomfortable questions that others would turn their eyes away from Don t stand too close. Norman Finkelstein is a phenomenon. He enrages people but he never speaks falsehoods Backing up his words with copious footnotes referencing the facts upon which he makes his statements, he marches like Sherman through Georgia, laying low everything in his path All dissemblers must flee before him because there is no rebuttal to the truth. He is the same in his public appearances, citing the works of the person he debates to turn that person s own words back upon him. This logical, relentless, driving method is much needed in the area where he is an expert the terrible hypocrisy that is Israel. Being Jewish, with parents who were subject to the Holocaust and whose other relatives died in it, no one can say the man has no standing He has devoted his life to investigating and exposing the myths and falsehoods that crowd densely around the Jewish State His is a voice greatly needed in the United States, blind as this country is to the machinations of Zionists while subject to Zionist influence at all levels of government, industry and finance This country stands alone in supporting the decades old oppression that Israel exerts over the natives of Palestine the largest single factor in the deterioration of the prestige of the United States over the past 40 years. In this book, Finkelstein examines what can only be called the shakedown of Europe by organized Jewish groups, such as the Anti Defamation League, claiming to act in the name of the victims of the Holocaust but mainly working for their own enrichment It relates in detail how the Swiss banks and Germany were harassed into provide huge payments to the groups which they intended to use for themselves In this grand scheme, non Jewish victims of the Holocaust were scarcely mentioned, the number of Jewish victims was inflated, people who were nowhere near the death camps were included and the imaginative writing of people who claimed to be survivors of Nazi atrocities but weren t, are lauded as true accounts So bad was it that actual Holocaust victims sued the Jewish groups for the proceeds. As Finkelstein relates, United States banks were just as free in dealing in gold with Hitler s Germany as were the Swiss banks But since the Jewish groups who pressed for reparations were based in the United States and needed U.S clout to pressure the Europeans, American involvement with Nazi Germany never surfaced. As the Jewish organizations pushed for quick settlements in the name of survivors nearing death from old age and poor health, once the money was obtained the payouts were delayed for years by these same organizations as they successfully took much of the money for their own projects An impartial investigative team under Paul Voelker came up with the facts after three years of research but the Jewish organizations had already pressured the Swiss banks into a huge settlement before the Voelker report repudiated most of what had been claimed. It s a disgusting story, but very much in keeping with the story of Israel a state that wants the world to pity the plight of

Jews in history while at the same time denying any sympathy due the native Palestinians that it roused from their land at gunpoint. Israel exists only because of the Holocaust card that it has played relentless to this day Norman Finkelstein is a praiseworthy man who seeks to follow the truth wherever it leads and whoever it indicts. What is the lesson to be learned It is that any people who have protection to do wrong will do so Jews are people just like everyone else but the Holocaust has allowed some of them a free ride under the protection of the guilt of others and the horror of the event that intimidates people frightened that they might be called anti Semitic We are now witnessing this invisible protective force crumbling before the facts of Israeli behavior. Finkelstein's account of the lack of interest in the Holocaust or Israel by American Jews prior to the 1967 war is astounding and profound evidence of the construction of the Holocaust Industry from that time. Every one of us should first examine ourselves for fault before going after others This book is the work of someone who does so It is a quick read, infuriating, and should prompt any American reader to speak up against Israel and for the benighted Palestinians who have been part of the huddling masses the United States has resolutely ignored for over 60 years. The Holocaust Industry By Dr Norman G Finkelstein II divide my review into sections so you can skip what you don't want to read in this review a About the writer the first time I heard about Norman was 6 months ago I was watching a clip where he was arguing a point with TV program host who had the same opinion as me after watching the clip I was amazed and fascinated with the compelling argument of Dr Finkelstein and this rarely happen with me as I reach my conclusion and opinion based on careful study Dr. Finkelstein is an amazing researcher and well trained political scientist He has an admirable sense of justice and moral value His parents were holocaust survivors the rest of his families were not as fortunate and none of them survived b About the book 1 Research and referencing this where Norman truly shine I spent reading about reference in the footnote than reading the actual book of course if your not interested in reading them you can skip them and just read the actual book As for the research this book is full of an amazing amount of relevant information and compelling evident of his conclusion 2 The content The main idea of the book is about the deprivation of the Holocaust survivor by the American Jewish organization from their rights in the compensation obtained from the Swiss banks and Germany and other country on their suffering and how these organization used the suffering of the holocaust victim to blackmail the Swiss bank and Germany from their own self interest with the help of the American Government and the former President Clinton 3 The 1st edition and 2nd edition addition Dr Finkelstein added a lot of important research on the Swiss banks issue that almost equals in amount to the actual book content 4 Writing style its trade book so the writer presents the subject by introducing the conclusion and documented with the evidence throughout the book Sometimes the writer use the famous Hyake style to give the writing little bit of flavor which mistaken by some as an angry or sarcastic tone C Book criticism 1 Some of those who's Norman quoted in the book claimed that he miss quoted them or selectively quoted

them but they failed to give even one example of these claims even when they been asked to do so and if you checked the book yourself you will find no basis for these claims 2 Some accused the book of having an angry tone and that because the writer sometimes used the famous Hayek style to give the writing little pit of flavor which some mistaken it to be angry or sarcastic tone and you can see after finishing the book there are no basis for these claims 3 Some accused the book content of being just a propaganda if you read the book you will find that the amount of facts and information dismiss such claims and those who claimed such thing failed to prove there claims when asked to 4 The only thing I think Norman should have changed is the title The Holocaust Industry which in my opinion caused a lot of people to judge the book without reading it. When you start a book like this, you sort of go, Jeeze, I almost hope I don t like it, because you know if you do, you re going to have to explain yourself And, confound it, I liked it.I want to conflate a couple of the points from the letters section of this book with an anecdote of my own In 2005, while I was living in China, the whole of China became incensed at yet another inaccurate history textbook published in Japan The text described the Nanjing Massacre a.k.a The Rape of Nanking as The Nanjing Incident In response, the Chinese government mobilized college students They took to the streets, chucked bottles at the Japanese embassy, and called for a worldwide boycott of Japanese goods Around the same time, I d attempted to set up an information booth charity collection for the genocide in Darfur a genocide, it should be noted, that the Chinese government helped to arm in exchange for oil The response was supreme indifference They claimed that they d love to help but, pitifully, there were too many Chinese citizens in need of help first Why, I asked, is the rest of the world meant to care about a massacre that occurred 70 years ago when you don t care about a genocide occurring right now It s because people are consumed by this implicit belief that they really are special OUR pain is greater THIS crime is unprecedented And so on and so forth And when you feel you ve been wronged, you can justify any theft or crime of your own I ve seen this attitude elsewhere in the world, too Apologies are rarely recognized and when they are, they re not enough Generations of people cling to the idea of reparations, no doubt because it s tough getting by in this world and people will take what they can get But perpetuating guilt perpetuates conflict It s terribly short sighted.This is part of what Finklestein tries to point out about Israel and it s important that he does Communities need dissent from within God forbid you re an outsider Look at what they re saying about Gunter Grass Suddenly Grass is an anti semite and banned from Israel, despite his belief in the right to a Jewish nation All anyone can do now is point out that he d served in the Waffen SS Well, so did the Pope If even a bad poem can get their panties in a bunch, clearly they need to hear from dissenting Jews Of course, then they just say that he s a self hating Jew The larger Jewish community has sealed itself off from valid criticism Plenty of other groups do the same.Remember when Bill Cosby had some hard words for the black community in America Oh, how they were pissed He d betrayed them And what would the white people

think when they heard him talk like that Do you remember what he said He said and I m paraphrasing , I don t care what the white people will say I m not talking to the white people I m talking to YOU His point, obviously, is that you can t worry about how others might twist the argument You have to deal rationally with what you know So, yes, white supremecists loved Cosby s criticism Sure, radical Palestinian factions adore Grass s poem And of course neo Nazis have clung to Finklestein s arguments, but you just can t let that affect your thinking Do they have a point or don t they Of course, Finklestein needs to be kept in check, too At the end of the documentary American Radical, Finklestein tells the Palestinian media that he believes there is hope and that that hope is Hezbollah That made me wince a little I don t agree, but I do get why he has such an extreme reaction to bullying. First they laughed at Finklestein, calling him unbalanced Then they banned him from Israel like children in tree houses , and next All truth passes through three stages First, it is ridiculed Second, it is violently opposed Third, it is accepted as self evident Arthur Schopenhauer Let s hope we all see jingoism for what it is, very soon. . .

Reflections on the Exploitation
of Jewish Suffering

NORMAN G. FINKELSTEIN
THE HOLOCAUST INDUSTRY

Second Edition



Wow, what a book I had this book for a few months and, after seeing the author on a documentary about the Holocaust, bumped the book to the top of my To Read pile. This

work discusses the Nazi holocaust the historical event and how the Holocaust capital H was created after Arab Israeli War in 1967 Finkelstein describes how organizations representing victims of Nazi brutality use tactics similar to those the Nazis used to get money from businesses, countries, and other groups that have any connection to Nazi Germany. I don't think a Gentile could have written this book without having a death warrant placed on him. While I try to keep an open mind about anything and might not believe everything Finkelstein used as examples, I feel that if even half of what is in the book is true, that it is very, very sad. The survivors and their descendants deserve the return of what was taken from them, but it should be their decision on what to do with any compensation, not groups who fought on their behalf in the courts but then use the settlement to pay for things in Israel or to fund some project of the group. This is a fairly short book and small, maybe 7 x 5, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in the Nazi holocaust, the Holocaust the created, emotionally charged ideological representation of the historical event, or any type of social justice should read it.

Free ? The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering ? Controversial Indictment Of Those Who Exploit The Tragedy Of The Holocaust For Their Own Gain In An Iconoclastic And Controversial Study, Norman G Finkelstein Moves From An Interrogation Of The Place The Holocaust Has Come To Occupy In American Culture To A Disturbing Examination Of Recent Holocaust Compensation Agreements It Was Not Until The Arab Israeli War Of , When Israel S Evident Strength Brought It Into Line With US Foreign Policy, That Memory Of The Holocaust Began To Acquire The Exceptional Prominence It Enjoys Today Leaders Of America S Jewish Community Were Delighted That Israel Was Now Deemed A Major Strategic Asset And, Finkelstein Contends, Exploited The Holocaust To Enhance This Newfound Status Their Subsequent Interpretations Of The Tragedy Are Often At Variance With Actual Historical Events And Are Employed To Deflect Any Criticism Of Israel And Its Supporters Recalling Holocaust Fraudsters Such As Jerzy Kosinski And Binjamin Wilkomirski, As Well As The Demagogic Constructions Of Writers Like Daniel Goldhagen, Finkelstein Contends That The Main Danger Posed To The Memory Of Nazism S Victims Comes Not From The Distortions Of Holocaust Deniers But From Prominent, Self Proclaimed Guardians Of Holocaust Memory Drawing On A Wealth Of Untapped Sources, He Exposes The Double Shakedown Of European Countries As Well As Legitimate Jewish Claimants, And Concludes That The Holocaust Industry Has Become An Outright Extortion Racket Thoroughly Researched And Closely Argued, The Holocaust Industry Is All The Disturbing And Powerful Because The Issues It Deals With Are So Rarely Discussed In A Devastating New Postscript To This Best Selling Book, Norman G Finkelstein Documents The Holocaust Industry S Scandalous Cover Up Of The Blackmail Of Swiss Banks, And In A New Appendix Demolishes An Influential Apologia For The Holocaust Industry

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