

# Holocaust - Some Facts

**On Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**, the Poland's Senate has adopted a Holocaust law. It is a product as well as a source of controversy in Poland and the world.

Disapproving the view that some in Poland had participated in the crimes committed by Nazis against the Jews during the World War- II, the law asserted that the 'Poles were victims as were the Jews'. The Poland's ruling party, Law and Justice Party (PiS) said that this law was needed to protect the 'Poland's honour and ensure historians recognise that Poles, like Jews, were punished under the Nazis.' The Law sets fines or a maximum three years' jail term for anyone who "ascribes the responsibility or co-responsibility to the Polish nation or State for the crimes committed by the German Third Reich".

Ever since it assumed power in 2015, the Law and Justice Party-an ultra - nationalist party-is persistently attempting to re-write the history to suppress the evidence and facts concerning the crimes.

Here is a look into some related historical facts.

In 1930s, the German Fascists led by Hitler came on the world scene with an ambitious strategy to bring the entire world under their heel by unleashing a most disastrous War. Hitler wanted to wipe out the Socialist Soviet Union from the world map, crush the revolutions, seize the colonies, semi - colonies and the areas of influence under the powers like Britain and France and impose German domination over the entire World.

While the European imperia-list powers were reluctant to checkmate the German Fascists, the German Fascists went ahead with a strategy of first taking other countries into their control, isolate and single out the Soviet Union for future assault.

On Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1939, Hitler said: "Poland will be de - populated and settled with Germans.... As for the rest, the fate of Russia will be exactly the same. We will break the Soviet Union. Then, there will be the dawn of German rule of the earth".

In Sept 1939, the German Fascists attacked Poland. As noted by the Nazi Chief of Operations, General Jodl, the Germans could occupy Poland with relative ease because the French and British armed forces stood idly. French and British Govt's paid a deaf ear to the Soviet proposals for a collective security and Anglo - French - Soviet Co-operation against the aggrandi- sement of Fascism because they wished and hoped that Germany destroy the Soviet Union first. When the Nazi Germany attacked Poland, on the one side, the Polish people were flung into the fire of fascist fury, on the other side, the Polish ruling circles had prostrated themselves before the German invaders. By early Oct 1939, Poland totally fell under the heel of Hitler.

Once the Poland was under their occupation, the German Fascists had carried out their program. In a campaign of mass extermination, called Holocaust, the German fascists had killed around half of Jews (one and half million) in Poland. Jews who were sent to Poland from different parts of Europe were killed en-masse at death camps, specially built and operated by Germans on the soil of Poland and other places. According to US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nazis also killed at least 1.9 million non - Jew civilians.

The prostration of Polish ruling circles at the feet of German Fascists and the connivance of traitors and fascist collaborators in Poland had strengthened the hands of Nazis to carry out their ghastly crimes with some ease. It is a fact of the history.

It is also an undeniable historical truth that the general masses of Polish people, more particularly those who opposed and fought against the German invasion, occupation and atrocities had suffered and sacrificed a lot. They had done so at a great risk. The struggle of Polish people also extended to their opposition to the German mass extermination of Jews and also to their daring attempts to save the lives of Jews.

Honest way of protecting the honour of Polish people and nation can be: to uphold the historic tradition of Polish people in opposing the Fascist invasion and occupation of Poland and the policy of mass extermination of Jews carried out by the Nazis; renunciation of treachery of the sections of Polish ruling circles, traitors who had bloodied their hands by acting as the accomplices of Fascists in the period of Second World War. Any attempt on the part of the present Polish rulers to condone, absolve from the responsibility and paint the faces of the traitors with an anti - Fascist brush would only raise serious doubts among the people about the real intentions of present rulers. The moves of Poland Govt. to stifle the voice of dissent and debate and impose a view by law and punishment will only prove counterproductive. It can be seen in the democratic protest growing in Poland.

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