



**DENIALS OF KNOWN GENOCIDE PREDICT RENEWED VIOLENCE AND GENOCIDE, CELEBRATE 'LOVE OF DEATH MORE THAN LIFE,' AND SUPPORT A CULTURE OF DENIAL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE**

**GPN ORIGINAL**

*The following paper was presented as an address to the International Colloquium of the Bureau Francais de la Cause Armenienne: Armenia-Turkey: How to Normalize Relations? In Paris, April 14, 2010.*

**Summary:**

*This paper proposes two major revisions of existing theoretical understanding of the psychology of denial of known genocides. We have understood that over and above being serious distortions of history as well as accompanying attacks on the sensibilities of survivors and other people who care, denials represent threats of renewed violence and efforts to 'steal' the historical record and control information. But basically we saw the threats as metaphoric statements of justification of the genocide and wishes to renew the killing that were not likely to be acted on, and that they were obviously aimed at the specific victim people of the denied genocide. We also saw the domination of minds by blatant lies as aimed at the historical record of the specific denied genocide and not as a larger cultural pattern of idea control, censorship, and punishment of freedom of thought and expression.*

*I now propose to define denials as possibly very real threats of actual violence and renewed genocide in the current and imminent times, and also not only at the original designated victims but quite possibly at other selected victim groups. And I propose that denials of genocide contribute significantly to larger cultural trends of thought control plus sanctions and punishments of 'dissidents' who object to lies prescribed by the deniers -- who are often powerful institutions and movements, including governments who take up denial as their official policy.*

*The paper also discusses what has been called an emerging "War between Civilizations" in our time. I propose seeing the emerging war overall as combining 1) a war of military and "transnational genocidal terrorist" actions, 2) a basic cultural war between a culture of death and a culture of life, and 3) a basic cultural war for totalitarian control of mind over empirical and scientific knowledge.*

*It needs to be pointed out that not all those lined up against the West today engage in denials of genocide, and not all Muslims nor only Muslims are the sponsors of the above anti-life values; but I do suggest that all deniers of known genocides are very likely contributing to all three anti-life values.*

It is becoming clear that denials of known genocides are much more messages and signals of offenses against human civilization than we had known. These begin with their being signals of possible ongoing violence by the deniers that, strangely, our western world may have known but largely ignored, and also their being warnings that very real dangers of further violence and renewed genocide may well be in the offing. Further, the denials of known genocides are contributions to a **War between Civilizations** that is underway in our world, not only in military and terrorist actions, but with respect to basic cultural values of valuing Life over Death -- a battle between a **Culture of Death versus a Culture of Life**; and with respect to valuing knowledge and empiricism over ideologically mandated falsehoods and denials of knowledge -- a battle between a **Culture of Totalitarian Control of Mind versus a Culture of Knowledge, Empiricism and Rationality..**

First and foremost because of the actual immediate toll in human life, we should recognize that when the denials of a known genocide are unabashedly included in the battle cries of a warmaking or terrorist power, the denials clearly fuse with and play a role in the violence of the attacking military and terrorists. In some cases the denials of the genocide of one victim contribute to a climate and culture of violence and genocide for attacks on another people --thus, today the Turks deny the Armenian Genocide and are heavily occupied with genocide of the Kurds. In other cases when the violence is to be renewed against the already former victim of the genocide that is being denied, the denials paradoxically become part of a battle cry to justify and whip up new violence -- thus in our time Iran's denials of the Holocaust and its mounting campaign for destruction of the State of Israel.

In my judgment, all denials of known genocides intrinsically are contributing to each of the three values of authorizing and legitimating killing, valuing death over life, and seeking ideological control of ideas over empirical knowledge. But we also need to be clear that, in the complexity of human life, it is far from the case that *all* those who oppose the deniers will be consistently on the side of life and the integrity of information. In any number of cases the opponents of deniers may be mobilized against them because the deniers threaten their safety and power to such an extent that they must fight them, but not because they themselves really hold values of life and knowledge inviolate. Thus, as an example, in WWII the Soviet Union is a grand major ally of the US and Great Britain against the Nazis, but the Soviets were hardly fighting for the same values of democracy and protection of human beings' rights to life, and only a short while after WWII they moved into a serious-enough Cold War against the West. We knew already many years ago that denials of genocide were not only rank violations of historical truth and were designed to inflict continuing emotional pain on the survivors and on all those who cared about the victims of the genocide, and that the denials also conveyed other important metameanings. One important message was that the denials