WESTERN EXTERMINISM: LINDQVIST BOOK EXTERMINATE ALL THE BRUTES

January 7, 2008 at 3:54 pm | Posted in Africa, Books, Globalization, History, Third World | Leave a comment

Exterminate All the Brutes: One Man’s Odyssey Into the Heart of Darkness and the Origins of European Genocide
Exterminate All the Brutes:
One Man’s Odyssey into the Heart of Darkness and the Origins of European Genocide
Sven Lindqvist (Author)
Joan Tate (Translator)

Editorial Reviews
Sven Lindqvist, a traveler and historian, paints a broad-brush history of European colonialism, especially in Africa. Drawing his title from Joseph Conrad’s fable Heart of Darkness, he turns up 19th-century newspaper accounts of British massacres of wounded Sudanese rebels after the siege of Omdurman, of German concentration camps in what was once called Southwest Africa, of a Belgian captain who decorated his flower beds with the heads of recalcitrant plantation workers. These incidents were not unusual, Lindqvist writes. Neither were they thought especially brutal by their perpetrators, for, he argues, colonialism was guided by a doctrine that placed Europe at the top of the evolutionary ladder and regarded non-Europeans as a separate species bound for extinction—a doctrine that found its ultimate expression in the Holocaust. This is an occasionally gruesome and always provocative study.

The Guardian [London]
Sven Lindqvist is one of the most original and imaginative authors working at the end of the twentieth century. ‘Exterminate All the Brutes’ is serious stuff indeed, but it is written with brio
and humor, and it unfolds like the telling of a detective story.

Sven Lindqvist has created here a fascinating, disturbing collage of history, journalism, and memoir — a sometimes surreal exploration of the European impulse toward genocide.

Lindqvist develops a few theses, but his primary one is that imperialism leads to genocidal actions, and that no slaughter is completely unique when viewed in the context of history. He writes, “Auschwitz was the modern industrial application of a policy of extermination on which European world domination had long since rested.”

This is an invaluable book for anyone looking for perspective on Joseph Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness” or 19th century European attitudes toward race and colonialism. It gives a damming picture not only of European actions in Africa, but of the educated European public’s indifference to inhumanity. The writing is extremely clear and readable, compulsively so, because Lindqvist’s technique is to offer tantalizing strands of ideas, all seemingly unrelated, and then slowly and shockingly bring them together as a whole. The organization and balance of the book’s many pieces is magnificent.

There are no clear answers here. Lindqvist digs up a history most people would rather let lie. Its implications about humanity, all of humanity, are dark. But without facing them, we will never cease being accomplices to slaughter.

This review is from: “Exterminate All the Brutes”

This short book doesn’t attempt to say it all about genocide, racism, imperialism or the current state of Africa – but once you’ve read it, all those subjects will make a lot more sense.

It’s beautifully written. In part it is a travel journal recounting Lindqvist’s own slow journey across the Sahara. This is the least developed piece of the narrative, but it gives light relief to the other material. More substantial is Lindqvist’s deconstruction of Joseph Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness,” the iconic European novel of Africa. With a light touch, Lindqvist sets Conrad’s writings in the context of Europe’s developing ideas of Africa in the 1890s, as a glorious playing field, a treasure-house to be looted, a distant extension of the intrigues of the European capitals.

At its heart, Lindqvist’s extended essay is a history of Europe’s colonial instinct for genocide. He argues that Hitler’s Holocaust was not an aberration in European history, but rather a logical extension of the policies used by the British in Sudan, the Belgians in the Congo, the French in Mali, and so on. Hitler’s only difference was that he sought colonial expansion within the boundaries of Europe (a crime against humanity), rather than overseas (the spread of civilisation).

Lindqvist charts how European imperialists seized on the emerging theories of Charles Darwin to justify genocide on pseudo-scientific grounds. And also how Germany, not initially among the imperialists, spawned the most articulate opponents of colonialism. Later, when Bismarck set out to get an empire of Germany’s own, funded by Germany’s rising industrial might, the
prevailing scientific philosophy in Germany became increasingly racist – setting the ground for Hitler.

People argue that since Lindqvist published this book, monstrous slaughters in Cambodia and Rwanda have destroyed his thesis. Not so. It is not hard to argue that both Cambodia and Rwanda’s genocides were a reaction, at least in part, to European or American policies. Even if you choose not to accept that argument, there can be no denying that Lindqvist’s fundamental thesis remains. Europeans in Africa (and elsewhere, including Australia) brought with them the civilisation of racism and the gun. All else is unimportant.

Here’s a unique look at the Western world’s impact on Africa during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It’s told in a sort of travelogue as the author travels through the Sahara. On the way he muses over Joseph Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness”, in which a European issues orders to solve the African native problem by “exterminating the brutes.” The details of atrocities committed against indigenous populations in the Congo and elsewhere are horrific. The format leaves something to be desired as at times you’re not sure whether you’re in the present or back in the past, but perhaps that’s what the author intended. Keep “Exterminate All the Brutes” in mind the next time you hear someone talking about bringing civilization to the savages.

“Exterminate All the Brutes”
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KOREA INSIGHT JANUARY 2008

January 4, 2008 at 11:50 pm | Posted in Asia, Economics, Financial, Globalization, Research, Third World | Leave a comment
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SafeNet seeks dominance in Asia

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4 January 2008

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SafeNet seeks dominance in Asia

By Batara Siagian

Thu 1/03/08

Cryptography company pushes advanced security technology to drive business in the financial services sector

Despite a fat client list including Bank of America, UBS, Samsung, Fujitsu and Hitachi, U.S encryption technology provider SafeNet suffers from relative anonymity. “Eighty percent of all inter-bank transfers in the world are protected by our hardware—that’s trillions of dollars,” claims Andy Solterbeck, SafeNet’s vice president of commercial products. But so far that hasn’t been enough to raise the company’s profile.

“It is a classical engineering company, with strong R&D capabilities and deep technical know-how,” says an industry observer. “The problem is that its products tend to be embedded in somebody else’s. A lot of banking industry professionals who use SafeNet products every day don’t even recognise the name.”

That may be changing. In 2006 SafeNet, who pulls in approximately $300 million in annual revenue, scored a major win when SWIFT selected it to provide hardware security modules and authentication tokens to protect public key infrastructure operations on SWIFT's financial services network, the largest of its kind in the world. The deal brought considerable attention to SafeNet.

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THE END OF VICTORY CULTURE: ENGELHARDT BOOK
January 3, 2008 at 1:14 pm | Posted in Arabs, Books, Film, Globalization, History, Literary, USA | Leave a comment
world civilizations
The End of Victory Culture:
Cold War America and the
Disillusioning of a Generation
(Revised Edition with new preface
and afterword)
Tom Engelhardt (Author)

Editorial Reviews

Publishers Weekly:

Freelance writer Engelhardt here traces the roots of American “triumphalism” back to early New England, where the massacre of Indians set the pattern for the self-justified slaughter of external enemies, a ritual that would be replayed endlessly not only in life but also in fiction, movies, toys and comics. In his sprawling meditation, he considers the effect of our “loss of enemy” when the Japanese surrendered in 1945. In his tedious recap of the Vietnam tragedy Engelhardt suggests that the American public’s inability to view the Viet Cong as a savage, lesser adversary contributed to our becoming “the world’s most extraordinary [because least expected] losers.” The desire to create a Third World battlefield with maximum U.S. weaponry and minimum U.S. casualties was briefly satisfied, he contends, by the Gulf War with its seemingly bloodless, machine-versus-machine destructiveness. America, according to Engelhardt, is still yearning for a revival of our national identity via the victory culture, “the story of their slaughter and our triumph.”

Library Journal:

Engelhardt, an editor and freelance writer, traces the growth and decline of “victory culture” in American history. A triumphalist myth, unquestioned for years, promoted the belief that America would always overcome its enemies. Engelhardt shows how major events since 1945 have thoroughly eroded this belief, resulting in disillusionment for those over 40 and bewilderment
for the post-Vietnam War generation. He focuses on a variety of related themes: Indian captivity narratives; Hollywood’s depiction of our “enemies,” usually dehumanized Native Americans and Asians; the phenomenon of “GI Joe,” the most popular war toy ever created; and the advent of rock’n’roll and the teen subculture that grew up around it. Engelhardt’s study is a solid contribution to Cold War literature, especially where it touches upon questions of national purpose and identity. Although scholarly in tone, his book will appeal to anyone interested in American popular culture. Recommended for most libraries.

**Product Details:**

Paperback: 387 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 155849586X


*The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation* (Culture, Politics, and the Cold War) (Paperback)

“Is there an imaginable ‘America’ without enemies and without the story of their slaughter and our triumph?” (p. 15) This is the question at the heart of Engelhardt’s remarkable blending of popular culture studies and military history.

In its outline, the thesis is straightforward: a long-established racially-exclusive national myth of bloody but righteous American retaliation to treacherous foes unraveled in the three decades after World War II. The new limited war strategies of the nuclear age forced awkward “containments” of this myth. The battlefields of Asia and, in particular, of Vietnam, led to “reversals,” in which increasing numbers of Americans came to conclude that the familiar patterns that had helped to define national identity had been turned upside down. It is in the details of his argument that the author is at his best, making unexpected but genuine links between Mr. X (George Kennan) and Malcolm X; between the Mary Rowlandson captivity narrative of 1675 and the My Lai massacre of 1968; between the Strategic Air Command and Rod Serling; between V-for-victory signs and peace signs; between Chewbacca and Edward Teller; between Charles Manson and 1950s comic book culture.

Engelhardt brilliantly explores the complex connections between the games of American children and the broader national culture. That Engelhardt himself, born in 1944, was embedded in the post-war childhood culture is simultaneously a source of the book’s greatest strengths and its greatest weaknesses. On the positive side, he draws upon autobiographical reminiscence in an understated and thoughtful manner. At times, however, he risks confusing the disillusioning of a generation (his own) with the end of what he calls “victory culture.” The myth of American innocence is indeed a powerful one, but Engelhardt perhaps exaggerates its coherence and pull in the pre-December 7, 1941 world. The boundary lines of any national story are always fluid, and it was not only the Civil War that tested these boundaries in earlier eras. I also wonder whether it may be too soon to conduct post-mortems on victory culture. Engelhardt sees efforts to reinvigorate the tales of American exceptionalism in the post-Vietnam decades as tortured and ineffective. His comments about yellow ribbons, POWs, and new myths of victimization are intriguing, but my sense is that the metaphorical circling of the
wagons will continue. Americans are not yet ready to see themselves as part of a vast human comedy.

*The End Of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation*

Tom Engelhardt's *The End Of Victory Culture* is a thought-provoking, historical look at how the concept of defeating a less-than-human enemy was part of American culture. Ingrained in that was the mission to defeat that enemy. The trouble was, the enemy was human, be they the Native Americans the colonists and later the American government displaced. We also had this mindset that we were always on the right and they were always wrong, therefore, they had to be defeated.

One element was to exaggerate the atrocities committed, meaning that yeah, some of it happened, but not on the large scale depicted by the white leaders to drive home the point that we had to kill these unholy, ungodly, members of the enemy race. Colonist Mary Rowlandson's accounts on her captivity and the massacre she survived was the archetypal demonizing of the "enemy."

Victory culture nestled itself cozily in new visual media—the movies and television. Basically, the enemy performed some horrible atrocity on innocent whites, and it was up to the heroes to punish the enemy. The enemy would be defeated, more often than not killed, and everybody would live happily ever after. Straight and simple. It was in straight black-and-white (the issues as well as the early programs before colour TV and film came into being).

Engelhardt argues that between 1945 and 1975, the ends of WW2 and Vietnam respectively, that victory culture ended.

Pearl Harbor gave plenty of opportunity to dehumanize the Japanese as an enemy, along with Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

The Cold War was where it all went into overdrive. The Communists were now the enemy, and that paranoid ideological struggle into the unknown carried through not only into Korea and Vietnam, but into movies, TV shows (*Twilight Zone*), comic books (*Tales From The Crypt*, *MAD*), and even toys (GI Joe).

A new dynamic also came, of the enemy hiding behind some citadel or bunker, such as the Forbidden City or Kremlin, with only large posters of the leader representing the human face of the enemy. Thus the enemy couldn’t be destroyed.

Vietnam demonstrated once and for all that we were fallible, and for a while, we were in a funk. And with My Lai, WE became the massacring enemy, the Vietnamese the colonists. The concept of victory culture was turned on its head with that event. And think about it: we lost Vietnam for the same reasons the British lost the American War for Independence. History has come full circle to America.

This book came out in 1995, and early on in the book, Engelhardt makes a well-worn but important point: “with the end of the Cold War and the loss of the enemy, American culture has entered a period of crisis that raises profound questions about national purpose and identity.” Ponder that passage, and what’s going on today in the world.

The main thing to ask today is, do we really need to have an enemy and a war to unite the people together? Peace and harmony can do the same thing. We do not need victory-for-one-side culture anymore. What we need is victory-for-all culture.

*The End Of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation*  
(Culture, Politics, and the Cold War)
Tom Engelhardt’s dense but thoroughly readable cultural history presents the past fifty-six years of American history as an investigation of narrative. A common theme in analysis of nationalism and nationality is the concept of an historical narrative that members of a nationality look to for explaining their present position within their world. Engelhardt investigates a time period that saw, as he argues, a violent uprooting and reconfiguration of the American cultural narrative.

This narrative makes use of a wide ranging set of metaphors and images, such as the frontier and its mythology of American innocence, that have helped Americans understand their position within a complex and ever changing world. World War II provided the last war in which the innocence of America was posited with little debate (although the dropping of the atom bomb indeed challenged this innocence).

The beginning of the cold war and military endeavors in Korea and Viet Nam saw a gradual eroding of this narrative of innocence. As the enemy became harder to identify, at times even looking like ourselves in the case of anti-communism, the moral clarity and absolute innocence of American military actions dissolved. Engelhardt takes a sweeping view of the last half-century of American history and tracks the profound shift in narrative and cultural understanding that we are still dealing with. It would be interesting to see what Engelhardt would say about September 11th. I would argue it has restored much of America’s innocence, allowing us to attack Iraq with little domestic objection.

Engelhardt writes with an engaging voice helping to make what could be a tedious read quite enjoyable. At times his ideas can be difficult to connect, making this a book to be tackled as quickly as possible so that the plethora of information and full scope of the analysis can be engaged without losing what was written in earlier pages. Do not expect any sort of ‘traditional’ work of history. This is for the students of American culture and anyone interested in the intricacies and complexities of the American identity. When you read this book, to a large extent you are learning about yourself.

Juan Cole at his Informed Comment website: “It is in some ways an answer to Frederick Jackson Turner’s conundrum— if the Frontier had been so central to American identity, what would happen now that (in the 1890s) the frontier was closing up? Engelhardt’s work has two implications. First, the frontier has just been projected abroad, and other ‘native’ peoples substituted for the ‘Injuns.’ And, second, that frontier gets old fast, too. (There is a reason we don’t watch shows like Gunsmoke in prime time any more, folks). So, the American Right takes refuge in myths like ‘we could have won in Vietnam’ and remembers its boyhood games when heroes and villains were so easy to tell apart. Engelhardt’s book is a must read.”

The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation
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We hope that you will find it interesting reading and welcome your valuable feedback on the issue.

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Best regards,

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Market Snapshot from Treasury

attached: 02jan2008...pdf (78.9 KB)

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Wed 1/02/08

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Wed 1/02/08

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NUMBER OF IRAQIS SLAUGHTERED SINCE THE U.S. INVADED IRAQ: 1,139,602

January 2, 2008 at 3:26 am | Posted in Arabs, Iraq, Military, Research | Leave a comment
GLOBALIZATION OF ETHNIC CLEANSING
January 1, 2008 at 2:22 am | Posted in Arabs, Globalization, History, Israel, Judaica, Middle East, Palestine, Zionism | Leave a comment
GLOBALIZATION OF ETHNIC CLEANSING

After World War II, the Germans were “rewarded” for genocide with the Marshall Plan while the Palestinians received the Holocaust Bill.

Thus we can say, in broad strokes, ethnic cleansing has been globalized.

Nazi genocide was itself a backlash to globalization. The period 1914-1945 was one of radical globalization backlash since globalization was seen as a process which would turn the world's peoples into “rootless cosmopolitans” in a world governed by “casino capitalism” or into gulag slaves governed by global Communism.

Presenting the Holocaust Bill to the Palestinians (and other Arabs like the Lebanese) is at the root of world political instability as of January 2008.

The speech:

U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall

Harvard University on June 5, 1947

The earlier public discussions of the need for reconstruction had largely been ignored, as it was not clear that it was establishing official administration policy. It was decided that all doubt must be removed by a major address by Secretary of State George Marshall. Marshall gave the address to the graduating class of Harvard University on June 5, 1947. Standing on the steps of Memorial Church in Harvard Yard, he offered American aid to promote European recovery and reconstruction. Marshall outlined the US government’s preparedness to contribute to European recovery. “It is logical,” said Marshall, “that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health to the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is not directed against any country, but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Any government that is willing to assist in recovery will find full co-operation on the part of the U.S.A.” Marshall was convinced that economic stability would provide
political stability in Europe. He offered aid, but the European countries had to organise the programme themselves.

The speech, written by Charles Bohlen, contained virtually no details and no numbers. The most important element of the speech was the call for the Europeans to meet and create their own plan for rebuilding Europe, and that the United States would then fund this plan. The administration felt that the plan would likely be unpopular among many Americans, and the speech was mainly directed at a European audience. In an attempt to keep the speech out of American papers journalists were not contacted, and on the same day Truman called a press conference to take away headlines. By contrast Acheson was dispatched to contact the European media, especially the British media, and the speech was read in its entirety on the BBC.

Thus, while Europe was supported, the Palestinians were “thrown overboard”:

The Deir Yassin massacre was the killing on April 9, 1948 of about 107 to 120 Palestinian Arabs at the village of Deir Yassin (also written as Dayr Yasin or Dir Yassin, or in Hebrew: Dirat HaYasmin) near Jerusalem in the British Mandate of Palestine by an Irgun–Lehi force. It occurred during the civil war period that preceded the end of the British Mandate when Yishuv forces took the offensive to break the siege of Jerusalem at the beginning of April.

Contemporary reports of this event, with their initial estimate of 250 killed, had considerable impact on the conflict, and were a major cause of Arab civilian flight from Palestine.

The military scholar Uri Milstein maintains that massacres were not uncommon during the war and that the events at Deir Yassin were unique only in the manner they were “seized upon and publicized by all involved parties, albeit for a variety of different reasons.” This analysis is shared by historian Yoav Gelber who points out that far more people were massacred at Lydda or Kfar Etzion.

A few Deir Yassin-type massacres that parallel the Marshall Plan for the Europeans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Responsible party</th>
<th>Casualties/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acre</td>
<td>May 18, 1948</td>
<td>Haganah</td>
<td>100 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Tantura</td>
<td>May 22-23, 1948</td>
<td>Alexandroni Brigade of IDF</td>
<td>70 – 200 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydda–Ramleh</td>
<td>11-12 July 1948</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>dozens of Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suqir</td>
<td>29 August 1948</td>
<td>Givati Brigade of the IDF</td>
<td>10 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-Dawayima</td>
<td>October 29, 1948</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>80 – 100 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safsaf</td>
<td>October 29, 1948</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>50 – 70 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saliha</td>
<td>October 30, 1948</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>70 – 80 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eilabun</td>
<td>October 30, 1948</td>
<td>Golani Brigade of the IDF</td>
<td>13 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majd al-Krum</td>
<td>October 30, 1948</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>12 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hula</td>
<td>October 1948</td>
<td>Carmeli Brigade of the IDF</td>
<td>35 – 58 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab al-Mawasi</td>
<td>November 2, 1948</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>14 Arabs killed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thus the Palestinians have been “Deir Yassin-ized” from then through Sabra and Shatila in the early 1980s, continuing into January 2008, on a daily basis.

Ethnic Cleansing was thus globalized.