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Dear Mr Man,

Thank you for your letter, and I am sorry for not having replied earlier. It's the usual tale of academic inefficiency - and term time is very busy.

You ask me a series of specific questions about the Holocaust. I think I pointed out to you earlier that I am not a historian of the Holocaust. My interest in the Holocaust denial came from studying neo-fascist/radical nationalist/etc. writings over the last twenty-thirty years, and noting the occurrence of such material. I tried to do to this literature what it tries to do the writings on the Holocaust - namely look for internal flaws etc.

I have not yet written about Germany during the second world war for my forthcoming book on fascism. So I have not had to look very carefully at the Holocaust literature yet. Perhaps it would be more sensible if I wrote to you again then. Nevertheless, as I understand it there is considerable material in the Russian archives which supports the claim that there was a policy of systematic genocide. There has also been a drift in the general academic literature to stress how extensive Nazi racial theory penetrated German society - e.g. see O. Bartov's book (1991) on the German army. In other words, the Holocaust denial literature has made no impact whatsoever on academic writing - other than perhaps to encourage further research (for example, in the Russian archives).

Another thing which strikes me at present is that the Holocaust denial probably harms rather than strengths current radical nationalist/etc. groups. Whilst the BNP, for example, has a clear following in a limited number of areas, the belief that it has a Nazi/anti-semitic side loses rather than gains it support. I do not think it matters to my argument whether the BNP is truly 'fascist' or whatever. The very fact that it sells Holocaust denial literature is enough to de-legitimise it - a point I've heard from students and many others.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Eatwell.