Surmounting and Fostering Reparations of German Government for Nazi Slave Laborers, Forced to Work for the German Economy During World War II: The Case of the Ukraine

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Abstract

For the past several years the countries of the former USSR (Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova) as well as Poland, the Czech Republic, and Israel have gone through multiple negotiations and agreements to enforce the German Nazi Reconciliation Project. Millions of innocent lives suffered during the devastating period of World War II from 1939-1945.

The 21st century is marked as the century of forgiveness and reconciliation, where the German government agreed to reconcile and compensate victims of war, forced laborers, subjects of inhuman medical experiments, and those whose hearts and minds were totally darkened by violence and evil created by the Nazi regime. Recognition of the total responsibility of German, Austrian, and Swiss governments for Nazi wrong doings during 1939-1945 is noble.

After the collapse of the Former Soviet Union and formation of Newly Independent States (NIS), the relatively stable Soviet systems of social care, protection and pension provision became obsolete. Major political, economic and social institutions needed to be reestablished. As a result of such a rapid shift from a centralized and stable Soviet system to a “so called independent” one, NIS have found themselves incapable of quickly overcoming temporary financial, economical and political declines. For a developing and flourishing bureaucracy, the absence of experience, centralized leadership, and accountability became major contributors to bribery, corruption, political fraud and financial fraud. As a
result of such dynamics, women, children and the elderly became unprotected socially and infringed financially. They became the needy layers of society.

This paper will examine some of the ethical issues concerning socially unprotected elderly veterans and other needy victims of World War II; involvement and participation of international organizations (representing the US, Israel, Switzerland); financial reparations from Germany to the needy elderly and veterans using the example of Ukraine; bureaucracies of the reparation process; domestic managerial and procedural obstacles, and, finally, recommendations and possible solutions for a more dynamic, structural, and simplified mechanism of selection process and financial distribution to deserving victims of World War II.