

"It seems that the question of denazification is lately a sort of hit in Belgrade", could be read <1>recently</1>.

**D**enazification – a sort of hit?

**A** hit? – A hit!

**W**here there is a hit, **Hit Parade** must be around.

**I** presume it may look like this:

**C**ollective guilt

**C**atharsis

**K**neeling (the audition for a Willy Brandt stand-in)

**D**enazification

**D**econtamination (cultural and non-cultural)

**T**ruth

**R**epentance

**R**econciliation

**...?**

**T**hen I try translating all this into plain everyday language (as I wasted a sizable chunk of my life translating, this is surely a reflex of Fach-idiotismus).

**T**hese high sounding words probably should mean that there is to be no more wiggling out. Who is a Serb is a Serb. Even an unwilling Serb by force.

**P**irouettes do not help anymore: I am an old Yugoslav, a citizen of the world or of Shangri La.

**W**e are expected (in a better version: we expect from ourselves) to see what we have done during last ten odd years, or if it was done in our name, what we did not want to see.

**J**ustifications wont help: e.g. we saw everything but were powerless.

**O**r: we voted right, signed petitions, appeals, articles and little heart-rending poems, we demonstrated, we deserted (some of us), we directed anti-this or anti-that performances, sent small humanitarian food packages, travelled as delegates, sat at symposia, etc.

**O**r: we wished but could not to prevent all that should have been prevented.

**U**nfortunately, we hibernated like frogs in the ooze and just bubbles burped – like comic strip balloons with a monotonous message - "Awful! Terrible! Horrible!"

**L**et us forget all excuses. Stiff upper lip. Job must be done.

**B**ut not anyhow.

**H**igh sounding terms (see **Hit Parade**) are of small help. They even harm.

**I** even have an unpleasant impression that users of such resounding terms mainly enjoy their resonance while having only a vague notion what these verbal ornaments mean. And this has practical consequences.

**F**irstly, denazification in Germany was not a therapy for which patients, after finding out something is wrong, voluntarily apply, follow advice of the therapist, and after more or less mutual effort, get well.

**I**t was enforced. Goldhagen's prescription for the creation of model democratic citizens is at least that much realistic as it presupposes the presence of a power which enforces this process, conducts it and certifies end products.

**(A**t the moment we can disregard questions how comprehensive was denazification in Germany, whom did it spare by

design, was it later cancelled out by some oppositely directed moves. We are far from such nuances. Nevertheless, German pattern - when studied closely - is not so impeccably efficient and all solving.)

However unpleasant it may sound, what is recommended is a mass re-education of Serbian men, women and children.

Nothing new, we shall easily agree.

The Serbs (and other citizens of former Yugoslavia) were mass re-educated in so called administrative socialism, in self-management socialism, under freedom loving rule which still goes on. An uglier but more scientific name for this re-education is brain washing. Even quality cloths deteriorate after much washing. I do not believe brain is more wash-resistant.

Is a subtler technology <2>needed </2>?

Which?

Let us not forget: the behaviour of the Serbs during the past decade – the reason for dealing with all those unappetizing questions – is explained by the effects of previous re-education undertakings. Brains are damaged.

Let us look at this photograph.



A street, we suppose, in a German town with an extermination camp close by. In 1945 inhabitants of town X (it could be Goethe's Weimar, the cradle of German spirit) carry corpses-samples from the camp in order to understand and smell their guilt: for years they have silently, without complaint, inhaled the air stinking of corpses burnt in the crematorium. They were the willing accomplices of the willing executioners. The spitting image of us, Serbs.

The spectacle has something of a movie. Or theatre. Whatever it is – directing and acting are present.

Genre of the play could be Brechtian **Lehrstück**. In depth – again quite Brechtian – stage managers can be seen. There was no lack of directors (especially, film directors) in the U.S. Forces. George Stevens was on the spot and may be standing behind the photographer. (Capra, Ford, Huston are the reserve.)

This is the announcement of denazification.

The show business and its terminology (which astounded me at the beginning) constantly intrude.

"Catharsis" belongs here.

And opera (scenes à la Brandt).

Victims of what was once called **moral insanity** are also prone to play-acting. Perhaps we Serbs suffer from it.

It can be easily imagined that someone (who?) organizes denazification, decontamination or re-education under some other title, and the Serbs slyly act being denazified.

Therefore, play-acting, theatre, Show Business and Hit Parade should be suppressed, especially among the evident candidates for re-educators.

Authentic or acted outbursts of emotions likewise.

The old expert in things theatrical also has something sneering to say about the "divine acting". Quite appropriately, over an open grave.

**Hamlet** (to Laertes)

'Swounds, show me what thou'lt do:  
Woo't weep? woo't fight? woo't fast?  
woo't tear thyself?  
Woo't drink up eisel? eat a crocodile?

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<2>The local regime has compromised by abundant use many didactic techniques and teaching aids: "genocidal" Croats, Bosnians, Albanians were procaimed "collectively

I'll do it. Dost thou come here to whine?  
To outface me with leaping in her grave?  
Be buried quick with her, and so will I:  
And, if thou prate of mountains,  
let them throw  
Millions of acres on us, till our ground,  
Singeing his pate against the burning zone,  
Make Ossa like a wart! Nay,  
an thou'lt mouth,  
I'll rant as well as <3>thou. </3>

To simplify again. There was an old Italian novel entitled "How They Painted Themselves".

If the job of the Serbs is to see how they painted themselves, it should be thought out in more founded, less lightheaded, less copycat manner how to achieve this.

Let us give up theatricals, acting, hamming, emoting with innumerable <4>re-runs </4>.

Already in the preparation period.

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guilty"; TV was re-educating and still re-educates; school manuals were "corrected"; Serbian poets rampaged emotionally; bones were excavated and carried around; school children were led to visit exhibitions of photos of corpses – all for didactic reasons. Theatre was not neglected: "legitimate", street, "expanded" (Gazimestan, party congresses...). Effects were theatrically primitive. After all, Hitler and his stage designer Speer were inspired by Wagner. </2>

<3>V, i. </3>

<4>Is this not an apology of indifference, call to abolish emotions?

It seems to me I am advocating reestablishment of accountability (it is diminished by emotions).

But here is the fatal "it seems to me".

What is the test of indifference?

An encounter with death?

"Analytically" I return to August 1941.

Little me (8 year old) stands in a tram driving through the Terazije Square. In the top third of an open window (similar to movie screen) appear feet of a hanged man; than second, third pair of feet.

I do not remember panic, fear, tears. (As I do not remember that the tram car was inscribed **Für Juden verboten.**) I remember reflections of sunlight in the beer glasses on the restaurant tables, brass handles on the top of seats, ropewoven belt for opening the window, with leather rings around holes that hold the window at the desired height...etc.

All this sounds sick.

I will pursue this self-analysis. Apologies to the reader for wasting his time on a product of a sick mind (its place is in the case history). </4>