Twitter Thread by DR. Waitman Wade Beorn (Amputate to heal)



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[Thread] Ok, I suppose I should talk a little about this whole Gina Carano/Cara Dune #Holocaust cancel situation.

She shared this image (among others) which led to her censure (not censor) by Disney, etc.

CW: sexual violence/violence

#CaraDune
#GinaCarano
#CancelDisneyPlus ?



A brief grading of her statements:

Jews were beaten in the streets by neighbors including children ■

Not by Nazi soldiers■
History is edited■
Govts made neighbors hate Jews■-ish
This isn't different from conservatives being criticized■

Carano is a conservative known to post offensive right-wing statements (it's not the 1st time) and the suggestion that conservatives are in any way similar to Holocaust victims is certainly offensive. Interesting how she got some things right while missing her own absurdity.

BUT...I'd really like to talk more about this image which is graphic and shocking and is now flying around the internet with no context. As I am finishing a book on #Janowska that covers the local circumstances of this image, I thought I would take a moment to talk about it.

The image of the woman was taken in Lviv, Ukraine (Lvov/Lwow/Lemberg) in July 1941 shortly after the Nazis had invaded and occupied the city. The majority of those pictured later abusing Jews ARE neighbors (Ukrainian or Polish) and this July Pogrom was encouraged by the Nazis.



Lviv had a Jewish population of 160,000 (3rd largest in Poland). When the Nazis arrived, they discovered the bodies of a large number of prisoners murdered by the NKVD and other Soviet authorities shortly before their withdrawal. (These were political prisoners-incl. Jews)



The Nazis immediately recognized the opportunity for a propaganda coup. They (and local collaborators) forced Jews to drag the bodies out of the prisons and later to bury them, implying that the Jewish community was responsible. This footage made Nazi newsreels.



Here is that newsreel footage. Hitler praised it, saying "it was the best Wochenschau we have made so far."

https://t.co/oK7SaTd4Gz

More footage of the liberation of city and the prisons

https://t.co/RNjE06jnJ6

Here is Alfred Rosenberg on the propaganda goals.

> The entire population surely will welcome our understandable portrayal of the Jews as the chief culprits. The Jewish question can be solved to a significant extent by giving the population free rein for a certain length of time after we occupy the country.
>
> The propaganda should emphasize that the clique in the Kremlin is nothing but a group of Jewish criminal despots who are exploiting the peoples of the Soviet Union.[366]

Images from Lviv prisons...



Given the real privations that the local population (incl. Jews) suffered under the Soviets, legitimate anger mixed with a desire for revenge and pre-existing local antisemitism leading to increasing displays of spontaneous violence known as the July Pogrom or Prison Aktion.

Some of the perpetrators were members of the "Nachtigall" Battalion, a German-led unit made up of Ukrainian nationalist volunteers who participated in Operation Barbarossa.

Hilfswillige. Ukrainer aus Lemberg melden sich zur Waffen-SS



Initially, leaders of the Einsatzgruppen killing units hoped that local pogroms would do much of the killing work ("self-cleasning") for them. This excerpt from an EG document illustrates this policy.

Reich Secret Document

Einsatzgruppe A

General Report up to October 15, 1941

. . . II *Cleansing* [of Jews] *and securing the area of operation.*

1) *Encouragement of Self-cleansing* Aktionen (Selbstreinigungs-aktionen).*

Basing [oneself] on the consideration that the population of the Baltic countries had suffered most severely under the rule of Bolshevism and Jewry while they were incorporated into the U.S.S.R., it was to be expected that after liberation from this foreign rule they would themselves to a large extent eliminate those of the enemy left behind after the retreat of the Red Army. It was the task of the Security Police to set these self-cleansing movements going and to direct them into the right channels in order to achieve the aim of this cleansing as rapidly as possible. It was no less important to establish as unshakable and provable facts for the future that it was the liberated population itself which took the most severe measures, on its own initiative, against the Bolshevik and Jewish enemy, without any German instruction being evident.

In Lviv as elsewhere, this ideal was not realized, but mass violence took place throughout July. As one survivor recalled, the Nazis “started by giving the Ukrainians two days for them to dance, as they themselves called it later. So they danced.” Another said:

The public enjoys gaping at this spectacle, at this martyring of innocent people. Rarely does someone cast a disapproving glance at the assassins or reacts with pity or disgust at what transpires.

Edmund Kessler, Lviv

This "dance" consisted of brutal beatings, rapes, and murders throughout the city, in broad daylight and in public. In addition, the Nazi killers went about their more systematic business of eliminating their targets as well.



In a separate aktion during this period, the Nazis executed over forty university professors and their families.All in all, during World War II in Poland, the Nazis killed 57% of lawyers, 39% of physicians, and 29.5% of professors (both Jewish and non-Jewish.)

The communal and public nature of these assaults can be seen in these photos. Many of the participants had traveled into the city to participate in the violence.



Much of this violence was directed at women, including the image Carano shared. Most of the images are too graphic or objectifying for me to share. But these illustrate the point, I think. Women were subjected to sexual violence and humiliation as part of this.



Here is Nazi newsreel footage of the assaults.

CW: graphic violence

https://t.co/rPjztTBpZg

Perhaps as many as 5,000 people, mostly Jews, were murdered during these assaults. Throughout Galicia, perhaps as many as 12,000 were killed.

So, Carano was most obviously wrong about a lot but, in her offensiveness, perhaps she presents us an opportunity to learn more about the woman whose image she is hijacking for her nonsensical #Holocaust comparison.

It is ironic that a supporter of a party that seems intent on extralegal violence would identify with the victims of REAL extralegal violence while missing the point that until recently it was her government inciting neighbors to violence.

For more on this and the Holocaust in Lviv, see:

Lower, Wendy. "Pogroms, Mob Violence and Genocide in Western Ukraine, Summer 1941: Varied Histories, Explanations and Comparisons." Journal of Genocide Research 13 (2011): 217-46.

@TarikCyrilAmar's study here:

https://t.co/WOj3aL2AVZ

https://t.co/N3MjqyntBu

https://t.co/qT78kbYkAo

https://t.co/wCipmeAqPh

https://t.co/wCgdV3uxnm

https://t.co/pa3vC4k5Vo

https://t.co/h6ckXThDrm

As always, support your local historian and punch your local Nazi.*

(Metaphorically, of course.)