What was the Roman Catholic Church's support of the Ustasha of Croatia, if not a perfect example of monstrous "moral relativism"?

The deniers of the Catholic Church's complicity in the holocaust are so numerous that there is barely a Roman Catholic in a million, no matter how educated, who is even aware of the atrocities perpetrated in the Roman Catholic country of Croatia in the name and under the leadership of their own Catholic hierarchy, and with the full knowledge and approval of their "Holy See" during World War II.

Eleanor Roosevelt was so right when she told the author of a book revealing this shocking history that the power and influence of the Roman Catholic Church was such that it could prevent the world from hearing what he had uncovered. Although Avro Manhattan is the leading authority on the atrocities committed in God's name during World War II, and much of what he has written is available online at www.reformation.org/holocaust.html, most Catholics know nothing about either Croatia or these scandals. Although the Church didn't see fit to put Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" on its "Index of Forbidden Books", it made sure that all of Mr. Manhattan's books were on that Index.

The following is an excerpt from the site http://Reformation.org/holoc4.html, which highlights some of the writings of Avro Manhattan (1914-1990), whom some consider the world's foremost authority on Roman Catholicism in politics. A resident of London, during WW II he operated a radio station called "Radio Freedom" broadcasting to occupied Europe. He was the author of over 20 books, including the best-seller The Vatican in World Politics, which went through 57 editions and was twice Book-of-the-Month. He was a great Briton who risked his life daily to expose some of the darkest secrets of the Papacy, before disappearing mysteriously from the face of the earth. (Let me know if you can find anything about his death.)

The web site above documents the fact that the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church in Croatia under the leadership of then Archbishop Stepinac during this period was not only
Isn't it amusing how English-speaking Catholic churchmen insist on translating the Latin "Sancta Sedes" into the meaningless "Holy See", instead of the correct, but silly-sounding "Holy Seat"?

The web site above documents the fact that the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church in Croatia under the leadership of then Archbishop Stepinac during this period was not only complicit with the Nazis, but that their Catholic version of the Nazis, the "Ustashi", were even more guilty than the Nazis, because they committed atrocities in God's name, with the blessing of their priests, their bishops and even of their so-called "Vicar of Christ"!

Here are examples of what you will find there, and at other similar sites

"The present author (A. M.), at a private dinner party in Upper Brook Street, Mayfair, London, met Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the late American President. Since, at this period, the author was engaged upon his inquiries concerning the authenticity of the Ustashi, he asked Mrs. Roosevelt whether she had ever heard of them.

"One of the worst, if not the worst, crimes of the war, was her prompt reply. I heard of them in the winter of 1941-2. Neither I nor my husband (F.D.R.) at first believed them to be true."

"I did not believe them either," the present author (Avro) commented. I assumed them to be propaganda."

"We thought the same," replied Mrs. Roosevelt. "The Catholic lobby was the most successful at the White House for years."

Had she ever heard of an American author, L. Adamic? (The principal white-washer of the Catholic atrocities). She had. One of the many who had persuaded her husband that the atrocity stories from Croatia had been concocted by the Nazi propaganda machine. Could she explain why these Catholic atrocities were not as well known as the Nazi ones?

"Nazi Germany is no more," replied Mrs. Roosevelt. "The Catholic Church is still here with us. More powerful than ever. With her own Press and the World Press at her bidding. Anything published about the atrocities in the future will not be believed. . ."

The present author thereupon told her he was writing a book about them.

"Your book might convince a few," she commented. "But what about the hundreds of millions already brainwashed by Catholic propaganda?"

A few years later, in 1953, when the book was eventually published, although two editions were sold within weeks, no part of the British or American Press dared even to mention it."

It wasn't her looks that made Eleanor Roosevelt the "most admired woman in the world" for 11 years, even after the death of her husband, President F.D.R.,. She was a brilliant person, with her heart as well as her head in the right places.

The Catholic Church's Holocaust in Croatia
The Catholic Church's Holocaust in Croatia

"The history is complex. In the Croatian maelstrom of ethnic and religious hatred, steered by Nazi mentors and puppet masters, Catholic Croats ironically decreed that all Muslims were Croats. This enabled the Catholic Croats to establish a majority in their enlarged territorial domain. That enlarged Independent State of Croatia was known in the dialect as Nezavisna Država Hrvatska, or the NDH. The NDH’s all-controlling killing and terror militia was the Ustasha, the worst perpetrators of depraved killing in the Holocaust. The Independent State of Croatia was in fact a bi-ethnic murder regime sworn to exterminate the millions of Yugoslavians who were neither Catholic nor Muslim through their bi-ethnic killing machine, the Ustasha. Although Muslims were a minority in the NDH, the Bosniak Muslim faction and the Croatian Catholics jointly ruled and jointly murdered. The NDH’s fascist extremist president was staunch Hitler ally and former Jesuit seminarian, Ante Pavelic. His official title was Poglavnik, a Croatian word that approximates der Führer. The vice president was Muslim Džafer-beg Kulenovi, previously president of the Yugoslav Moslem Organization, a Bosniak nationalist organization."


This is the Farhud book cover:

Croatia was the part of Yugoslavia with the largest proportion of Roman Catholics, as opposed to Orthodox Serbs and Muslims who dominated the rest of the country. They and their church longed for an independent and autonomous Catholic state of their own, and they got their chance when the Serbs defied Hitler's attempt to subjugate Yugoslavia and Hitler used all of his might to crush the Serbs, and to "liberate" the Catholic Croats who had allied themselves with the German invaders against their largely Serbian countrymen.

Hitler and the Holocaust, by Robert S. Wistrich, has this interesting summary of the Croatian holocaust:

"The Vatican record in Croatia was particularly open to condemnation and much worse than in Slovakia because of the monstrous crimes committed by a piously Catholic regime, headed by Ante Pavelic, the leader of the Ustashe movement, which had come to power on 10 April 1941. Ustashe violence directed against the 'schismatic' (i.e., the Orthodox Serbs), resembled a 'religious crusade.' The Vatican deplored preaching the gospel out of the barrel of a gun, but it also knew how proud the new regime was of its thirteen hundred year old links with the Holy See. The Croatian state had wasted no time in passing racial laws against the Jews-accomplishing in a matter of weeks (one month) what it had taken the Nazi regime years to achieve in Germany. As early as May 1941, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps."

Within months of creating their "independent state" of Croatia, the leaders made clear what this new Catholic nation was all about: "On June 2, 1941, in Nova Grarfiska, Dr. Milovan Zanitch, Minister of Justice, declared:

'This State, our country, is only for the Croats, and not for anyone else. There are no ways and means which we Croats will not use to make our country truly ours, and to clean it of all Orthodox Serbs. All those who came into our country 300 years ago must disappear. We do not hide our intention. It is the policy of our State, and during its promotion we..."
ways and means which we Croats will not use to make our country truly ours, and to clean it of all Orthodox Serbs. All those who came into our country 300 years ago must disappear. We do not hide this our intention. It is the policy of our State, and during its promotion we shall do nothing else but follow the principles of the Ustashi." [from http://www.reformation.org/holoc4.html]

"In a speech given in Gospic on June 6, 1941, Mile Budak, the Ustasha Minister of Education and Cults, explained the policy of genocide against the Orthodox Serbs as follows:

'One-third of the Serbs we shall kill, another we shall deport, and the last we shall force to embrace the Roman Catholic religion and thus melt them into Croats.' " [Jasenova, by Carl Savich]

Miloan Zanic, President of the Legislative Council, in a speech at Nova Gradiska reprinted in Novi List of June 3, 1941, explained the genocide and ethnic cleansing policy of the NDH (Croatia) as follows: 'This must be a country of Croats and of no one else, and there is no method that we Ustashe will not use in order to make this country truly Croatian and to cleanse it of Serbs... This is the policy of this state'," (ibid.)

Mile Budak, Ustasha Minister of Education and Cults, at Vukovar on July 8, 1941:

'They [Serbs] only belong to the Orthodox Church, and it has not worked for us to assimilate them. They should, however, know that our solution is: bow down or get out.'

[ The Yugoslav Auschwitz and the Vatican, by Vladimir Dedijer, p. 130 - featured below on this web page -]

"Catholicism was proclaimed the main religion of the State. Other religions and those professing them were ostracized, chief among these, the Orthodox; while the Jews were compelled to wear the Star of David on their clothes, all members of the Orthodox Church went in fear for their property, their personal and family safety. To be Orthodox had suddenly meant to be a potential victim. Soon, in all parks and public transport vehicles, a new inscription appeared: 'Entry forbidden to all Serbs, Jews, Gypsies, and dogs.' The Ministry of the Interior, led by Andrija Artukovic, issued the following decree: 'All the Serbs and the Jews residing in Zagreb, the Capital of Croatia, must leave the town within 12 hours. Any citizen found to have given them shelter will be immediately executed on the spot'."

[from http://www.reformation.org/holoc4.html]
The Catholic Church and Dictator Pavelic were the epitome of a church-state merger.

Priests, invariably Franciscans, took a leading part in the massacres. Many went around routinely armed and performed their murderous acts with zeal. A Father Bozidar Bralow, known for the machine gun that was his constant companion, was accused of performing a dance around the bodies of 180 massacred Serbs at Alipasin-Most. Individual Franciscans killed, set fire to homes, sacked villages, and laid waste the Bosnian countryside at the head of Ustashe bands.
According to the accounts of some survivors, Filipovic continued to act as a chaplain while commanding the camp and sometimes wore his Franciscan robes while carrying out his crimes. As a result he came to be known among prisoners as "Fra Sotona" ("Brother Satan"). There is no evidence that he was excommunicated by the Catholic Church, but he was removed from the Franciscan order on 22 October 1942, the date on which he was transferred to Stara Gradiška.

"Until now we have worked for the Catholic faith with the prayer book and with the cross. Now the time has come to work with rifle and revolver." [ ibid; p. 131 ]

At a meeting in Udbina on June 13, 1941, he [Friar Mate Mogus] gave the following homily:

'Look, people, at these 16 brave Ustashis, who have 16,000 bullets and who will kill 16,000 Serbs, after which we will divide among us in a brotherly manner the Mutilic and Krbava fields'— a speech which was the signal for the beginning of the slaughter of Serbs in the district of Udbina.

"Corpses of children starved to death in the notorious Concentration Camp of Jasenovac in Catholic Croatia, one of whose commandants had been ordained in 1939 as a Franciscan Monk, Father Filipovic. [Miroslav Filipovic-Majstorovic], following the advice of another priest, Father D. Juric, let more than 2,000 other Orthodox children die while the camp was still under his rule. (Filipovic, who was Commandant of this and then of another camp during much of the worst period 1942 & 43.)

Jasenovac was the 3rd largest Concentration Camp in Europe and distinguished itself because of the number of young inmates sent there. In 1942 the Camp held over 24,000 Orthodox youngsters. Twelve thousand of them were murdered in cold blood by the Commandant. . . One eye witness testified that "Vrban [Commandant of the Camp] ordered all children to be separated from their mothers and put in one room. . . . When the room was full, Vrban brought poison gas and killed them all' . . . a pious Catholic, Vrban protested indignantly at his trial after the war when accused of having killed hundreds of children. He asked the Judge to consider the accusation a lie, 'Since,' he explained, he had killed personally 'only sixty-three of them'."

[ from http://www.reformation.org/holoc6.html ]

"Priest Bozo Simlesa, in the village of Listani, was one of the most active members of the Ustashis. He held the post of chief of the district of Livno. During the slaughter of the Serbs in the county of Listani he told the people from the pulpit that the time had arrived to exterminate all Serbs living in Croatia. He personally organized the Ustashi militia and..."
the Ustashi. He held the post of Chief of the district of Livno. During the slaughter of the Serbs in the county of Listani he told the people from the pulpit that the time had arrived to exterminate all Serbs living in Croatia. He personally organized the Ustashi militia and obtained arms for them. On July 27, 1941, he held a meeting in the village, and when he was informed that all Serbian men had been murdered and that women and children were to be killed that night, he told them not to wait for the night, for twenty-four hours had already passed since the chief had issued his order that not a single Serb must be left alive in Croatia."

[from http://www.reformation.org/holoc6.html ]

Katolicki Tednik, publication of the archbishopric of Sarajevo, June 15, 1941, printed the following:

‘... For the Croatian people, the Serbs are the biggest enemies, to which, as in the rest of Europe, we can add the Jews, the Free Masons, and the communists. ... Therefore: may we finally stop using the dumb claim, so unworthy of the followers of Christ, that one should fight against evil and against ruinous people in a polite and elegant manner. Hildebrand, the simple Benedictine monk filled with holy rage, and also Pope Gregory VII purged the Church of many parasites, not with elegance but with a strong hand directing the holy revolution.

The poglavnik ("fuëhrer") is a courageous man, a great man, a man of God and of the people. May the dear Lord preserve our poglavnik for a long life! And may He preserve him always ready for action in the holy revolution against all evil!’ "ibid, p. 132

Papal Rome / the Vatican cannot plead ignorance of the situation in Croatia. Branko Bokun, in his published diary, 'A Spy in the Vatican' tells of how he was sent from Yugoslavia to the Vatican with a file of evidence documenting the ongoing genocide, along with a letter imploring the 'pope' and the Vatican to order a stop to the massacres. Here are but a few examples of the documentary evidence in his file:

‘This is very important,’ he went on, handing me a newspaper cutting. 'It's from the Catholic paper, Katolicki Tjedenik.'

It was headed, 'Why are the Jews persecuted?'

'Love has its own limits,' I read. 'Nazism, which aims to free the world of Jews, is a movement of the Renaissance of Human Dignity. Almighty God is aiding this movement.'

... This is a copy of the special document No. 46468 issue by the Croatian Head of State on 30 July 1941. 'Orders for the conversion by force of all remaining Serbs and Jews.'

..."This is an excerpt from the Bosnian Archbishop's article in The Catholic Weekly of Sarajevo. I have underlined the following phrase: 'It was foolish and unworthy of Christ's disciples to assume that the struggle against evil could be waged in a noble way and with gloves on.'

Now a document describing the game of 'cut-throat' played by the Ustashi in concentration camps. Whoever is able to kill a Serb or a Jew causing the least agony is the winner. On 14 July the Pope received, and gave his blessing to, a hundred Ustashi policemen. The delegation was selected from the winners of 'cut-throat'."

[A Spy in the Vatican, © 1973 by Branko Bokun, pp. 9 - 10 ]

And here is the letter that accompanied the file:

‘Christians and true friends of peace in Yugoslavia beseech the Vatican authorities with all their hearts to employ every possible effort to stop the killing of innocent people..."
'Christians and true friends of peace in Yugoslavia beseech the Vatican authorities with all their hearts to employ every possible effort to stop the killing of innocent people in Croatia. We beg this also, for the sake of the Croatians. In the future all these people will be blamed for the dreadful crimes committed by a handful of fanatical Catholics. These Catholics are killing Serbs and Jews, because in their primitive minds they are convinced that it will please the Vatican. If the Vatican does not intervene immediately, the fight between Serbs and Croats will reach such proportions that it will take centuries to die down. If, knowing this, the Vatican does not act, it means that the hatred ad infinitum, between Serbs and Croats, is the basis of the policy of the Vatican in the Balkans, the policy that as long as there is hostility between Serbs and Croats the unity of Yugoslavia remains impossible. But this will only contribute to the success of Communism in this country. In fact, Communism is already taking strong roots, especially in the areas of the massacres...' (ibid.), p. 11

Bokun goes on to reveal how he found that there was full knowledge in Rome of what was taking place in Croatia, but it was a matter with which the Vatican hierarchy was merely bored, and upon which it was unwilling to act.

These are but a sampling of the huge volume of documented evidence that exists proving beyond a doubt not merely the complicity — but the leadership — of papal Rome in the genocide of the Serbs in Croatia. It seems to be a simple thing for the Roman 'catholic' to commit genocide, or to murder his innocent neighbor: just call him an enemy and evil, and make reference to the crusades or some other atrocity of the past, and the 'Church' will understand — especially if the 'enemy' is an Orthodox Serb, or some other non-'catholic'.

But the evidence is yet far more damning. The legitimate government of Yugoslavia had gone into exile in London. Fascist Pavelic's NDH (Croatia) was a lawless regime and a puppet of Hitler's Germany. He had come into power under the protection of fascist Roman 'catholics' Mussolini and Hitler — both of whom had entered into concordats with the Vatican — Hitler's concordat having aided his (Hitler's) rise to power. Pavelic was a murderer and a fugitive from justice, sentenced to death for the assassination of Yugoslav King Alexander.

When Slavko Kvaternik proclaimed in Zagreb the founding NDH (Croatia) on April 10, 1941, Pavelic was in Italy with 240 Ustashe. They returned to Croatia on April 15; on April 16, Pavelic received a visit from the archbishop of Zagreb, Dr. Alojzije Stepinac. Regarding this visit, it is recorded in Stepinac's diary, volume IV, pp. 205 - 207, April 27, 1941:

In the first days after the return of the poglavnik, the archbishop had the first meeting with him in the former courtyard of the Banus palace... The archbishop wished him God's blessing on his work... When the archbishop had finished, the poglavnik said that he would be of assistance in everything concerning the Catholic Church... He added that he would not be tolerant of the Serbian-Orthodox Church, because it for him was no church but rather a political organization. From all of that, the archbishop got the impression that the poglavnik was an upright Catholic... [The Yugoslav Auschwitz and the Vatican, by Vladimir Dedijer, p. 75]

So here Pavelic, the fugitive from justice and puppet of Hitler — under the sentence of death for the assassination of King Alexander, and already voicing his ill intent toward the Orthodox Serbs — is receiving the blessing of the archbishop of Zagreb, who is under the impression that this man is an upright 'Catholic'!

Ante Pavelic wrote to Pius XII:

"Holy Father! Since divine providence has made it possible that I take over the helm of my people and my homeland, I am firmly determined and wish Croatian Holocaust http://liberalslikechrist.org/Catholic/MoralRelativismCroatianStyle.html

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providence has made it possible that I take over the helm of my people and my homeland, I am firmly determined and wish fervently that the Croatian people, faithful to their laudable past, also in the future remain loyal to the holy apostle Peter and his followers and that our homeland, filled with the law of the New Testament, become Christ's kingdom. In this truly great work, I fervently ask the aid of Your Holiness. As such aid I first see that Your Holiness with Your highest apostolic authority recognize our state, then that You deign as quickly as possible to send Your representative, who will help me with Your fatherly advice, and finally that he impart to me and my people the apostolic blessing. Kneeling at the feet of Your Holiness. I kiss your sacred right hand as the obedient son of Your Holiness" . . . (ibid., p. 78)

While the Vatican could not be so brazen as to grant to the Ustasha - NDH (Croatia) de jure (legal) recognition — it yet maintained recognition of and diplomacy with the exiled Yugoslavian government — it did grant the NDH de facto recognition in a couple of ways: In August 1941, the papal legate Ramiro Marcone was sent from Rome to Zagreb, providing a constant Vatican representative in the NDH. The NDH sent its representative Dr. Nikola Rusinovic to the Vatican, who was later replaced by Prince Erwin Lobkowicz. Thus, informal diplomatic relations were maintained. Also, in January 1942, Stepinac was appointed by Pius XII as military vicar 'sine titulo' for the Croatian army."

As the leader of the Catholic Church in Croatia, Archbishop (later Cardinal) Stepinac is important enough to deserve his own web page, i.e. JesusWouldBeFurious.Org/Catholic/Stepinac.html

"Orthodox worshippers, when not dispatched to concentration camps, suffered the same fate as their clergy. Congregations, unless willing to change their religion, were not only persecuted, hunted down and arrested; but, at times, besides being massacred by the Ustashi bayonets or machine guns, they were killed within their own churches.

There were instances even when they were burned alive within them. To terrorize the population into becoming Catholic, the Ustashi very often hanged lay Orthodox Leaders and their Orthodox parish priests during mass executions under the very eyes of the faithful. This was one of the most tangible methods of 'persuasion' whenever the Orthodox proved obdurate. Those who escaped with their lives were sent to concentration camps, while about 700 that is, one quarter of the total number of Orthodox priests — were murdered by the Ustashi in this manner."

"These were not isolated instances. The Ustashi more often than not massacred all the inhabitants of Serb villages, callously torturing and killing even children, and then setting the villages on fire. In the village of Susnjari, for instance, the Ustashi, after having killed most of the inhabitants, led away about twenty surviving children, whom they tied to the threshold of a big barn, which was then set on fire. Most of the children, of an average age of about ten, were burned alive. The few who survived, horribly scorched, were eventually killed. Eye-witnesses testified to similar occurrences:

In the village of Gorevac, on September 13, 194i, children of about 3 years of age were impaled. In some places mothers threw themselves down with children in their arms, and one mother was impaled with her child's head. In some places the head of a young woman was impaled on a point of the stake. In the village of Gorevac, on September 13, 194i, children of about 3 years of age were impaled. In some places mothers threw themselves down with children in their arms, and one mother was impaled with her child's head. In some places the head of a young woman was impaled on a point of the stake.

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In the village of Gorevac, on September 13, 1941, children of about 3 years of age were impaled. In some places mothers threw themselves down with children in their arms, and one stake perforated mother and child. Some young girls had their breasts tied or cut, others had their hands made to pass through them. Men had their ears and noses sawn away, and eyes had been uprooted from their sockets."

"The Nazis, who for a time were posted in Croatia, were so horrified at the Ustashi atrocities that they set up special commissions to investigate them. The Orthodox Church of Serbia, in fact, appealed directly to the Nazi General Dulkeman to intervene and stop the Ustashi horrors.

The Germans and the Italians managed to restrain the Ustashi while they were under their supervision. When the Nazis left Croatia, however, the Ustashi multiplied their atrocities, unreprimanded by the Government. Since the latter's policy was one of total elimination of the Orthodox Serbian population via forcible conversions, expulsion, or straightforward massacre.

Victims were executed in groups without trial on bridges and then thrown into the river. In May 1941 the Ustashi besieged Glina. Having gathered together all the Orthodox males of over fifteen years of age from Karlovac, Sisak and Petrinja, they drove them outside the town and killed 600 of them with guns, knives and sledge hammers."

"The prime mover behind this Ustasha activity in Rome was the secretary of the College, Father Dr. Krunoslav Stefano Dragonovic, who was also an Ustasha colonel and former official of the Croat 'Ministry for Internal Colonization,' the agency responsible for the confiscation of Serb property in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Regarded by U. S. intelligence officers as Ante Pavelic's 'alter ego,' the Croatian-born Father Dragonovic had been a Professor of Theology at Zagreb University. In 1943 he went to Rome allegedly as the representative of the Croatian Red Cross, but probably to coordinate Ustasha affairs in Italy. Taking advantage of contacts inside the International Red Cross and other refugee and relief organizations, Dragonovic helped Ustasha fugitives emigrate illegally to South America by providing temporary shelter and false identity documents, and by arranging onward transport, primarily to Argentina.

U. S. intelligence reports make much of Father Dragonovic's role in helping the Ustashi who sought protection in Rome after the War. He was also reportedly entrusted with the safeguarding of the archives of the Ustasha Legation in Rome, which he hid somewhere in the Vatican, as well as with all the valuables brought out of Croatia by the fleeing Ustashi."

In the same way that German citizens were forced to view what had been done at their concentration camps during the Jewish Holocaust, all Roman Catholics who believe theirs is "the one true, holy church" ought to be required to view the videos below.

In a letter sent in March of 1942, Cardinal Eugene Tisserant, Prefect of the Congregation of Eastern Churches, wrote to Croatia's representative to the Vatican:

"I know for a fact, that it is the Franciscans themselves, as for example Father Simic of Knin, who have taken part in attacks against the Orthodox populations so as to destroy, the Orthodox Church. In the same way, you destroyed the Orthodox Church in Banja Luka. I know for sure that the Franciscans in Bosnia and Herzegovina have acted abominably, and this pains me. Such acts should not be committed by educated..."
destroy, the Orthodox Church. In the same way, you destroyed the Orthodox Church in Banja Luka. I know for sure that the Franciscans in Bosnia and Herzegovina have acted abominably, and this pains me. Such acts should not be committed by educated, cultured, civilized people, let alone by priests." [John Cornwell, Op. cit., p. 259]

- Catholic holocaust perpetrators - Part One
- Catholic holocaust perpetrators - Part Two
- Catholic holocaust perpetrators - Part Three
- Catholic holocaust perpetrators - Part Four

[ Excerpts from
"Unholy Trinity : The Vatican, The Nazis, and the Swiss Banks"
by Mark Aarons and John Loftus

"Pavelic had many reasons for concern, among them the horrific massacres of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies over the previous four years; half a million innocent civilians slaughtered at his personal command. Many had been dispatched using extremely medieval methods; eyes had been gouged out, limbs severed, intestines and other internal organs ripped from the bodies of the living. Some were slaughtered like beasts, their throats cut from ear to ear with special knives. Others died from blows to their heads with sledgehammers. Many more were simply burned alive.

Even so, Pavelic hoped to be greeted in Austria by both Church and British leaders as a prominent Catholic leader in the struggle against `atheistic Bolshevism'. After all, British intelligence had maintained close pre-war relations with his underground terrorist network, even after the 1934 assassination of Yugoslav King Alexander in Marseilles. Pavelic also knew that the Holy See looked on Croatia as `the frontier of Christianity'; a special relationship between Croatia and the Pope extended back to 700 AD.

Apart from this strong historical connection, Pavelic was also aware that Pius XII and his senior advisers held extremely charitable opinions of his militant Catholicism. During the war Pavelic had forcibly converted tens of thousands of Serbian Orthodox under penalty of death. In fact, the atrocities were already underway at the very moment Pius XII received the Poglavnik in private audience in late April 1941.

The bureaucrats at the British Foreign Office reacted with outrage at `the reception by the Pope of a notorious terrorist and murderer', describing Pius XII as `the greatest moral coward of our age'. When pressed to justify the reception, the Vatican explained lamely that Pavelic had only been received in his private capacity, not as head of the Croatian state. They could not ignore a Catholic `statesman' such as Pavelic, the Vatican replied. But the Foreign Office `was indeed astonished and pained that the Vatican should so consider him even for a moment' .

The British Ambassador to the Holy See found it difficult when he took up the matter personally with the ever charming Pius XII:

... One approaches him with indignation in one's soul and protests on one's lips, [but] it is impossible not to be disarmed by his simplicity, humanity, friendliness and other admirable qualities, even if one disagrees with him. Generally
. . . One approaches him with indignation in one's soul and protests on one's lips, [but] it is impossible not to be disarmed by his simplicity, humanity, friendliness and sincerity and by his devastating combination of saintliness and charm. One talks so easily to him, he listens so readily, responds so frankly and smiles so enchantingly and easily that one's carefully prepared attitude of dignified disapprobation just evaporates."

The Pope called Pavelic `a much maligned man'. Pius XII could not believe that he had been involved in the assassination at Marseilles, even though Pavelic had been convicted in absentia in a French court. The cynics back in the Foreign Office conceded that the Pope 'must indeed be a charmer', but told their Ambassador in no uncertain terms that his reception of Pavelic 'has done more to damage his reputation in this country than any other act since the war began'.

Too bad there was no Isaiah around to address these words of wisdom to this "vicar of Christ":

{ Isaiah 58:1-10 }:

" Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast; tell my people of their sins! Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple every day and are so delighted to hear the reading of my laws – just as though they would obey them – just as though they don't despise the commandments of their God! How anxious they are to worship correctly; oh, how they love the Temple services! ' We have fasted before you,' they say. ' Why aren't you impressed? Why don't you see our sacrifices? Why don't you hear our prayers? We have done much penance, and you don't even notice it!'

I'll tell you why! Because you are living in evil pleasure even while you are fasting, and you keep right on oppressing your workers. Look, what good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me. Is this what I want – this doing of penance and bowing like reeds in the wind, putting on sackcloth and covering yourselves with ashes? Is this what you call fasting? The kind of fast I want is that you stop oppressing those who work for you and treat them fairly and give them what they earn. I want you to share your food with the hungry and destitute. Clothe those who are cold, and don't hide from relatives who need your help.

If you do these things, God will shed his own glorious light upon you. He will heal you. Your godliness will lead you forward, goodness will be a shield before you, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. Then, when you call, the Lord will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply. All you need to do is to stop oppressing the weak and stop making false accusations and spreading vicious rumors! 'Feed the hungry! Help those in trouble! Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you shall be as bright as day.'
A young Yugoslav by the name of Branko Bokun . . . had been sent to Rome by one of Yugoslavia's intelligence chiefs to ask for the Vatican's intervention to stop the slaughter in Croatia. Armed with a large file of documents, eye witness accounts and even photographs of the massacres, Bokun finally gained entrance into the Vatican Secretariat of State in September 1941. He wanted to deliver his file to Monsignor Giovanni Montini, Under Secretary of State for Ordinary Affairs, (the future Pope Paul VI) but could not gain an audience. Bokun was told to leave his file and come back a week later, with the promise that 'the Monsignor will give the matter careful consideration'.

This was at the height of the worst atrocities and Pavelic had taken steps of his own to influence Vatican opinion. He had dispatched Father Cherubino Seguic to Rome to counter the spreading horror with which the massacres were greeted in many Catholic circles. Seguic soon discovered that the Ustashi regime was viewed by many as 'a crowd of barbarians and cannibals'. He promptly sought an audience with Montini, and recorded in his diary that the Vatican bureaucrat sought 'full information on the events in Croatia', also confirming that the 'calumnies' had reached the Monsignor's ears.'

Father Seguic seems to have had a persuasive effect on Montini. When Bokun returned to discuss his file detailing evidence of these 'calumnies', he received short shrift from Montini's secretary. Bokun was simply told that 'the atrocities described in your file are the work of the Communists, but maliciously attributed to the Catholics'. Bokun had the evidence but no access to Montini, while Seguic had no difficulty in presenting his side of the story.'

There is no doubt that Montini was well informed of the true situation, for on a number of occasions he castigated Croatia's representatives to the Holy See. While Montini would begin with harsh words, invariably these sessions concluded with assurances that the Holy Father would assist Catholic Croatia.'

The Pope's own attitude towards the murderous Ustashi leader was more than benign neglect. When Pavelic asked for another audience with the Holy Father in May 1943, he was assured by Secretary of State Maglione that 'there were no difficulties attached to the Poglavnik's visit to the Holy Father except that he could not be received as a sovereign'. Pius himself promised to give Pavelic his personal blessing again. By this time, the Holy See possessed abundant evidence of the atrocities committed by his regime.

How ever, senior Vatican officials, including Pius XII, regularly received his 'unofficial' diplomatic representative who called him self the 'Croatian Ambassador'. The Pope also continued to receive other senior officials and delegations, turning his face away from their countless victims.'

Pavelic's record was well known. On one occasion a visiting Italian Fascist journalist had been granted an interview with the Poglavnik. Noticing what appeared to be a large bowl of oysters, he had asked Pavelic whether they were from the Dalmatian coast. He was shocked when the dictator replied that they were forty pounds of Serbian eyes sent to him by his loyal Ustashi.

On another occasion, Pavelic held discussions with Hitler in Berlin. In a strange reversal of roles, he castigated the Fuehrer about the 'lenient' treatment of German Jews, boasting that in comparison he had completely solved the Jewish question in Croatia while some remained alive in the Third Reich.'

[ "Unholy Trinity, pp.70-74 ]

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As the Ustashe were engaged in their most barbaric atrocities, Archbishop Stepinac bragged of ten of the achievements of this Catholic state. The first of them was the crackdown on abortion as a threat to both the Croatian state and the Catholic Church. The second was the banning of all pornographic content, as this was the real pestilence for Croatian youth.

When 8000 photographs were delivered to the Vatican to document the atrocities committed by the so-called Catholic authorities of Croatia, Archbishop Stepinac wrote to dissuade the Vatican from "believing their own eyes".

As horrible a man as Ante Pavelic had been during the war, his church continued to befriend and protect him (and those who had carried out his orders) as is evident in the report below by the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps:

At the end of World War II, one of the worst of the Ustashe, Andrija Artukovic', known as the "the Himmler of the Balkans", was one of beneficiaries of the Vatican "safe line", which enabled war criminals to evade by being smuggled out of Europe to safe places abroad. This particular criminal was given a new identity which enabled him to escape to the U.S. When he was discovered in the 1980's, it took 20 years to extradite him, thanks to the advocacy of the Catholic Church on his behalf. He was eventually condemned to death, but he escaped punishment by dying a natural death at age 88.

Is the Roman Catholic Church STILL Pavelic's ally?

According to

"In December 2011, large memorial masses were held in two Catholic churches in the Croatian cities of Zagreb and Split for Ustashe leader Pavelic, despite the fact that he was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

Can you imagine a similar event taking place in Rome for Mussolini or in Berlin for Hitler? One of the most popular musical groups in Croatia, the Thompson rock band, has drawn tens of thousands to its concerts, where many young people have come proudly dressed in Ustashe uniforms. The band has also included Ustashe slogans in some of its songs, and has even sung lyrics calling for the elimination of Serbs.

A key part of the problem lies in the fact that the memorial museum erected by Croatia at the Jasenovac site seems to have been deliberately designed to obfuscate the true nature of what took place there.

According to Dr. Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the exhibition at Jasenovac is an "educational disaster." He says that it "speaks of the Ustashe without explaining who they are or even what their ideology was," and that it does not even contain any pictures of the Ustashe commanders of the camp or those who perpetrated the mass Croatian Holocaust.
Jasenovac is an “educational disaster.” He says that it “speaks of the Ustashe without explaining who they are or even what their ideology was,” and that it does not even contain any photos of the Ustashe commanders of the camp or those who perpetrated the mass murder.

“If they don’t teach properly about what the Ustashe did at Jasenovac,” Zuroff told me, “one can only imagine what they are teaching in the schools in Croatia.”

Did the perpetrators consult with their religious leaders before committing these crimes? Did their religious upbringing play any role in making them act the way they did? During the Croatian genocide the Vatican had compiled a list of Croatian priests who had participated in massacres of Orthodox Serbs and Jews with the intention of disciplining them after the war. They never did. Not only that, many perpetrators were protected and given passage to safe havens around the world by members of the Vatican who housed them in Vatican properties, clothed and fed them, and eventually helped them evade justice so they could regroup to fight Communism.

You’d think that during the war the Catholic Church would very publicly and loudly object to the genocide taking place in Croatia, given that the impetus behind the genocide was ultimately the propagation of Catholicism, but it didn’t. You’d think that the Catholic Church would attempt to stop the perpetrators, given that they were Catholics strongly loyal to the pope, but it didn’t. You’d think the Catholic Church would give advice and guidance to the Croatian Catholic faithful in an effort to rein them in, but it didn’t. You’d think the pope, Pius XII, would feel shame and embarrassment and distance himself from the Croat Catholics and their leader, but he didn’t.

Indeed, the leader of the Ustasha, Ante Pavelic was a mass murderer who revered Pope Pius XII, and was aware that Pius XII and his senior advisers thought highly of his militant Catholicism. In April 1941 Pavelic was received by the Pope, creating an uproar at the British Foreign Office who was dismayed that the Pope would even consider meeting with such a notorious mass murderer. They thus described the Pope as “the greatest moral coward of our age.” As the Foreign Office later told the British ambassador to the Holy See, the Pope’s reception of Pavelic “has done more to damage his reputation in this country than any other act since the war began.”

Maybe we should excuse the Pope and the Church for not acting during the war because of the fog of war, lack of communications, the desire to remain neutral, etcetera. But these are all hollow excuses. Moreover, even if we were willing to accept them, what could possibly explain the lack of acts of repudiation after the war for the genocide in Croatia?"

[ from a commentary by Gabriel Willensky ]

The Yugoslav Auschwitz and the Vatican

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Vladimir Dedijer, the Yugoslav historian and eyewitness, Tito biographer and President of the International Russell Tribunal, has documented for the first time and comprehensively one of the bloodiest and most unknown chapters of the Second World War: the bestial murder of 800,000 Orthodox Serbs in Ustasha-Croatia, the "Kingdom of God," by henchmen of the Croatian Holocaust.
Vladimir Dedijer, the Yugoslav historian and eyewitness, Tito biographer and President of the International Russell Tribunal, has documented for the first time and comprehensively one of the bloodiest and most unknown chapters of the Second World War: the bestial murder of 800,000 Orthodox Serbs in Ustasha-Croatia, the »Kingdom of God«, by henchmen of the Catholic Church between 1941 and 1943. Particularly since the beginning of the civil wars in Yugoslavia, whose roots and background are illuminated in great depth by this historical documentation, this work has increased its circulation considerably: the fourth revised German edition has been published by now.

From the editor's preface:

»...in Catholic Croatia, the 'Kingdom of God', everyone who did not belong to the Catholic faith - for the most part Orthodox Serbs - was compelled to convert to Catholicism. Those who refused - as well as many who had already converted - were murdered, usually after prolonged torture in which the order of the day was the cutting off of noses, ears, or other body parts, or poking out eyes. Children were cut out of the bodies of pregnant women and subsequently beheaded; people were chopped to pieces before the eyes of loved ones, who were even forced to catch the spurting blood in a bowl, etc., to list only a few horrors as examples. These atrocities assumed such an extent that even German Nazis, who were not exactly sensitive in such matters, protested.

If this historical fact is little known where we are, another fact completely escapes our knowledge: the decisive involvement of the Vatican in these massacres. «

The way the Croatian side is »burying the ghosts of the past« is tailor-made to thrill the hearts of the Catholic and the Green faction: the leader of the Croation regime, Tudjman, has meanwhile had Jasenovac levelled to the ground, destroyed all documents and declared it a »bird sanctuary«.

Other Sites that may be helpful, in addition to those linked above:

- ecumenizm.tripod.com/ECUMENIZM/id26.html
- www.emperors-clothes.com/croatia/stepinac1.htm
- Croatian Holocaust
- The Catholic Hierarchy's role in the Genocide of Croatia
- Essential Disputes between the Serbs and the Croats in the course of History, by Vasilije Krestic
- Jasenovac, The System of Ustasha Death Camps
- Chronology of World War II in Yugoslavia
- History of Serbia and Montenegro
- http://www.fantompowa.net/Flame/yugoslavia_catholic_church.htm
- The Role of the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia's Holocaust, by Seán Mac Mathúna
- Ustasha Movement
- Facts about Civil Wars in Ex-Yugoslavia
- The Serbs Chose War, by Ruth Mitchell
- What is the Vatican Hiding?, by Barry Lituchy
a P.S. : How Croatia proved central to the defeat of Adolf Hitler

According to "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", A History of Nazi Germany, by William L. Shirer Simon and Schuster, New York, 1960, the resistance of the Serbs in 1941 threw Adolf Hitler into one of the wildest rages of his entire life. He issued Directive No. 25 for the immediate invasion of Yugoslavia and advised Hungary, Rumania and Italy that, if they helped in this effort, they would all get a slice of Yugoslavia, which would be divided up among them, except for a Croatian state. Hitler announced the most fateful decision of all. "The beginning of the Barbarossa operation [attack on Russia]," he told his generals, "will have to be postponed up to four weeks." (It had originally been set for May 15 in the directive of December 18, 1940).

"This postponement of the attack on Russia in order that the Nazi warlord might vent his personal spite against a small Balkan country which had dared to defy him was probably the most catastrophic single decision in Hitler's career. It is hardly too much to say that by making it that March afternoon in the Chancellery in Berlin during a moment of convulsive rage he tossed away his last golden opportunity to win the war and to make of the Third Reich, which he had created with such stunning if barbarous genius, the greatest empire in German history and himself the master of Europe. Field Marshal von Brauchitsch, the Commander in Chief of the German Army, and General Halder, the gifted Chief of the General Staff, were to recall it with deep bitterness but also with more understanding of its consequences than they showed at the moment of its making, when later the deep snow and subzero temperatures of Russia hit them three of four weeks short of what they thought they needed for final victory."