

soil or extradition to the countries where their unspeakable crimes were actually committed. The sordid details of this deliberate footdragging are forcefully described in the concise update to the book, entitled "Aftermath", and should serve to alert vigilance and watchfulness of Canada's role and participation in shaping the evolving international attitude towards and treatment of the perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

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Margolian, Howard. *Unauthorized Entry: The Truth About Nazi War Criminals in Canada, 1946-1956*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000. 327 pp.

Howard Margolian's, *Unauthorized Entry: The Truth about Nazi War Criminals in Canada*, purports to explain how Canadian immigration and security officials tried their best in the decade following the end of the Second World War to prevent Nazi war criminals from reaching Canada's shores. Notwithstanding their concerted efforts, problems in obtaining adequate and accurate screening information resulted in the arrival of some war criminals and collaborators to Canada. Yet the proportion of such unsavory characters compared to the total number of postwar immigrants to Canada, argues Margolian, is statistically insignificant.

Intended as an antidote to the Deschênes Commission's inquiry into Nazi war criminals in 1985-1986, and those reports and books criticizing Canadian immigration authorities for their laxness in allowing at least 2000 Nazi war criminals into Canada from 1946 to 1956, *Unauthorized Entry* is utterly unsuccessful in proving its thesis. Instead, Margolian succeeds in confirming his critics' worst suspicions: Canada was, in fact, a haven for Nazi war criminals and collaborators in the early postwar period. The only surprise is that more of them did not enter the country.

Formerly an investigator for Canada's war crimes prosecution unit, Margolian, a lawyer *cum* historian, successfully clarifies the bureaucratic processes, policy decisions, and domestic and external pressures which allowed for the entry into Canada of Waffen SS members, Polish Nazis, Ukrainian Nazis, and a host of other collaborationist elements in the wake of the Second World War, largely because they were deemed to be good immigrant material. The strength of this book rests in its use of primary sources to examine the domestic and external pressures which affected the actions of Canadian immigration and security officials overseas, who were working with international refugee organizations to deal with Europe's postwar refugee crisis.

What is disconcerting, however, is that in his examination of the external and domestic considerations which led to a relaxation of immigration restrictions against former Nazis and Nazi collaborators, Margolian gives only passing reference to the impact of the Cold War mentality on Canada's choice of immigrants; he does not address the stereotype pervasive at the time that Jews were over-represented within the group of Communist subversives. Indeed, while discussing the emigration of hundreds of thousands of refugees from various parts of Europe (something Margolian consistently confuses with *immigration*—did not his editor at least know that one *emigrates from* a country and *immigrates to* another?), Margolian's refusal to acknowledge the Canadian government's dishonourable response to the plight of Jewish refugees gives his book the same "cast-of-mind argument" that he attributes to other works. How one could write an entire book about the postwar immigration of European refugees to Canada and not once address the issue of Jewish refugees defies explanation.

Yet this is only part of a broader problem with *Unauthorized Entry*—it offers little historical context and no acknowledgement of the current historiography regarding early postwar immigration to Canada. (The small exception is the brief Appendix, which should form part of the even briefer

Introduction in order to provide at least some historical and historiographical context). Moreover, Margolian's lack of evidence at key points leaves what little analysis exists wafting in the wind and subjects the reader to extended lapses of logic. For example, in his discussion of Prime Minister Mackenzie King's "absorptive capacity" speech of 1947, which heralded a new era of immigration, Margolian argues that, "By pledging Canada's assistance in the search for a solution to the European refugee crisis, the prime minister was implying that the prewar policy of isolationism had been both an economic and a moral failure." (p. 76). Aside from his apparent misunderstanding of the main geo-political meaning of isolationism (an error he repeats in his discussion of King on p. 206), Margolian's ignoring of the historical relationship between the Canadian economy and its immigration policies results in an evidence-free inference of what King *meant*; and the consequence is simply bad history.

Other lapses of logic abound, including Margolian's argument that relatively few Nazi war criminals would have entered Canada via Western intelligence "rat-lines" because the Western powers used only high-profile Nazis and Nazi collaborators in their propaganda and espionage efforts in the Soviet bloc. "Surely it is no coincidence", argues Margolian, "that, of the Canadian cases [of Nazi war criminals] that have come to light thus far, all involved individuals who had been either high-ranking fascists or senior security operatives during the war. It strains credulity, therefore, to think that more than a select and 'elite' handful of ex-Nazis would have been accorded the privilege of admission to Canada via intelligence ratlines." (p. 205). What strains credulity is the illogic of the argument; is it not much more plausible that in the politically correct environment of the 1980s old Nazis would be sold out by the very government apparati that had assisted them three decades earlier? More seriously, even if these high-ranking Nazis had not, in fact, been assisted by Western governments in their immigration to Canada, what does this say about our country's so-called screening criteria?

Perhaps the worst criticism of this book is that Margolian seems to bemoan all the good Nazis that never entered Canada because of the country's restrictive immigration apparatus, while applauding the fact that a mere 2000 Nazi war criminals and collaborators arrived among the nearly 1.5 million other European immigrants in the first decade following the end of the war. Regarding the entry of *any* Nazi war criminal to Canada, Margolian might have heeded the phrase coined by an earlier Canadian immigration official opposing the acceptance of Jewish refugees, and made famous by Irving Abella and Harold Troper—"None is Too Many".

In sum, *Unauthorized Entry* lacks context and analysis; it is uneven in its quality of writing and is poorly organized; and it is utterly unsuccessful in proving its thesis. Yet despite these rather major flaws, Margolian has cobbled together an interesting book. Its real success lies in its corroboration of earlier arguments that Canada, in fact, did *not* succeed in barring Nazi war criminals from its shores. One only need read Margolian's description—and defence—of how Canadian immigration officials resorted to "spot-checking" the visa applications of former Nazis, in order to discover the real "Truth" about Nazi war criminals in Canada.

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Medres, Israel. *Montreal of Yesterday: Jewish Life in Montreal 1900-1920*. Trans. Vivian Felsen. Montreal: Véhicule Press, 2000, 214 pp. Trans. of *Montreal fun Nekhten*. Montreal: Eagle Publishing Co., 1947.

In his preface to the original Yiddish publication of *Montreal of Yesterday*, the poet J.I. Segal wrote that Israel Medres "momentarily opened for the reader a tiny window through which to view his past, reminding him that not long ago he was a very different person who bore the imprint of the old