

## Bail out memory banks to quash Holocaust deniers

Re: "The sickness in Europe's memory banks." The controversy over Bishop Richard Williamson proves that Europe is still at war with its own history, and that its actual history is losing the battle.

Bishop Williamson is a known Holocaust denier. His latest outrage was an interview given to Swedish television late last year, during which he said that "the historical evidence is strongly, hugely against 6 million Jews having been deliberately gassed in gas chambers as a deliberate policy of Adolf Hitler." Stupidity and ignorance are not crimes. But those qualities evidently have not disqualified him from a leadership role in the Catholic Church if he recants his long-held views, as the Vatican has now demanded, belatedly.



**Bishop  
Williamson**

Yet Bishop Williamson is not alone. There is a sickness in the memory banks of Europe. The people who produce this nonsense would be happy to see it recur. Some of those people are plotting to do exactly that,

and people such as Bishop Williamson are their enablers. They are not only developing the weaponry to make genocide possible. They are conditioning the world to expect and even to permit it, just as Hitler did in his time.

A critical part of today's genocidal scheme is the denial of history. Deny the Holocaust and you deny the reason Jews deserve their own state. Deny the right to a state and you deny the need to protect it. Deny the need to protect it, and you have accepted that it need not exist. And that final point is the predicate for any attack on Israel.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki confirmed this strategy at a Holocaust denial conference he hosted in December 2006: "If the official version of the Holocaust is thrown into doubt, then the identity and nature of Israel will be thrown into doubt," according to the State Department.

This is why the work of Holocaust remembrance is so vital. Take away the Holocaust from the history books and Jewish survival is not so urgent a task. What are a few million Jews worth to a global community of several billion? We have seen that question asked and answered.

The result? Five thousand Jewish communities destroyed, 1.5 million children slaughtered, and 6 million voices silenced.

We ask Europe in particular to remember not only because it happened there. We ask Europe to remember because in that act of memorializing a community, protecting a cemetery no longer tended, rededicating a synagogue long abandoned, or confronting a tragic chapter of history, Europe can turn back the inevitable march of forgetfulness and deliberate denial.

We in America take for granted that to follow such a path is sheer ruin. We wish for all the world to look forward and do better. I am optimistic, though by no means assured. But I remain hopeful. Because, after all, I am an American.

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*Editor's note: Warren Miller is chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, a federal government agency that works with European governments to protect sites of historical importance to Americans.*