

'Captive Nations': From Nazi trope and CIA meme to Cold-War trump card



"During **Captive Nations Week**, we condemn the cold grip of tyranny that holds nations under unjust rule, ... we reaffirm our commitment to all who are fighting to overcome oppression ... and we know the **United States will continue to shine as an unparalleled example for all nations.**"

"We will never waver in our firm belief that **liberty, justice and the rule of law unleash the fullness of life that God intended for everyone.**"

"[T]herefore, I, Donald Trump, ... do hereby proclaim July 19 through July 25, 2020, as **Captive Nations Week.**"

bit.ly/WhiteHouseCNW

Since 1959 every US president has made similar statements during "Captive Nations Week"

Before and during WWII, Nazi propaganda against Jews and Communists was rife with references to "captive nations." This meme continued throughout the Cold War and is still alive and well today. The phrase "captive nations" has been a major trope used in many anti-Soviet propaganda assaults, especially those created, funded and led by the CIA and its front groups. Their vitriol about ethnic groups enslaved by the USSR was wielded with vehemence by East Europeans who dominated the diaspora. Their émigré groups were often created, led and organized by ethnonationalists who had allied with Nazi Germany during the war.

After WWII, the US assumed the Nazi's role as the world's leading anticommunist force. The CIA recruited top military, intelligence and propaganda assets from Nazi Germany and Eastern Europe. It also continued the Nazi's divide-and-conquer strategy to exploit émigré dreams of "freedom" that sought to splinter the USSR into a myriad of ethnonationalist states.

The Nazi-backed "Subjugated Nations" movement

During the Cold War, the "captive-nations" trope fulfilled the same role as "subjugated nations," which was a key metaphor of Nazi allies across Eastern Europe. For example, on Nov 21-22, 1943, when Stepan Bandera's Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B) initiated a network of fascist armies to aid Germany's war machine, these Nazi allies called themselves the Committee of Subjugated Nations (CSN).

These East European fascists expressed their antiSoviet views with the same propaganda motifs as the Nazis. In 1947, the

CSN rebranded itself the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) and became the driving force of the global, captive nations movement. For the next 50 years, its magazine, *ABN Correspondence*, frequently used the terms "subjugated nations," "captive nations" and "enslaved nations."¹ This motif was also favoured by the World Anti-Communist League (WACL). It employed the "subjugated nations" idiom about 40 times in a single issue of its magazine in 1973.² The trope was also used by Western governments and their mass media allies.

The "Captive Nations" conceit in Nazi propaganda

Nazi propaganda often used tropes of enslaved, subjugated and captivated nations. These appeared in countless speeches, books, pamphlets, articles, posters and cartoons. While Germany was said to be a captive nation, Nazi propaganda raised fears that the evil Moscow-based JudeoBolshevik slavemaster was bent on subjugating the world.

Such lies went back 400 years to Reformation leader Martin Luther. His book, *On the Jews and their Lies* (1543), told Germans to murder Jews, steal their possessions and burn their homes, schools and synagogues. A Nazi pamphlet, "Aryan Law" (1934), cited Luther: "They [the Jews] hold we Christians captive in our own land by their cursed usury."¹

This common theme appeared in a Nazi pamphlet for youth on "The German National Catechism" (1939). It asked "How has the Jew subjugated the peoples?" and then replied: "With money. He lent them money and made them pay interest." Readers were then told that the "November Revolution of 1918 ... was the work of the Jew" who "incited people... and seduced them into treason."²

The CIA-backed

"Captive Nations" movement

The Captive Nations movement was a CIA-funded psychological warfare effort of the Assembly of Captive European Nations (ACEN). This US-based group, created in 1954, was funded for decades by the CIA's National Committee for a Free Europe (NCFE). While this was not admitted until 1971, the CIA website is now proud to state:

NCFE was actually the public face of an innovative 'psychological warfare' project undertaken by the CIA. That operation—which soon gave rise to Radio Free Europe—would become one of the longest running and successful covert action campaigns ever mounted by the US.³ Created in 1949 to "conceal [the] CIA's hand" in "massive propaganda campaigns," the NCFE was a creature of its covert operations wing.⁴ NCFE founder, Allen Dulles, who led its first executive committee, was the longest standing CIA Director (1953-61). He ran the Bay-of-Pigs invasion of Cuba (1961) and—with his brother, US Secretary of State John F. Dulles—led US coups in Iran (1953) and Guatemala (1954). The NCFE was "a thinly veiled 'private-sector' cover," said journalist Christopher Simpson, for passing "clandestine US funds" to ACEN exile groups.⁵ Simpson also exposed Nazi collaborators among the ACEN's Albanian, Lithuanian and Latvian delegates.⁶

When blaming Jews for Germany's failed 1918 revolution, Hitler used the same language of subjugation and slavery by saying that:

driven to sedition stands the hate-filled power of our Jewish foe ... who attempted to subjugate and make of our German Volk [ie, nation] its slave ... in November 1918.³

Julius Streicher, a Nazi propagandist executed at Nuremberg, used similar tropes to describe "revolutions incited by the Jews" and "the Jewish drive for world domination ... when Germany was betrayed and enslaved." Jews, he said, desired the "final enslavement" of all Nazi and "Fascist-led peoples ... under the yoke of the world criminal Pan-Jewry."⁴ The idea that Jews were trying to enslave all nations was shown on the cover of Streicher's magazine. Its vile cartoon of a fanged Jewish monster with a hammer and sickle, was captioned: "Far be it from the Jews to enslave a single people. Their goal is to devour the entire world."⁵

Hitler too promoted this Big Lie. He equated "plutocracy and Bolshevism" with "the common ambition of all Jews to exploit nations and make them the slaves of their international guild of criminals."⁶ The "plan,"

The US government's "Captive Nations Week" law

The ACEN's greatest legacy was to create Captive Nations Week. Since the law was unanimously-adopted in 1959, every US president has promoted "captive nations week," including Barack Obama who joined this propaganda offensive eight times. While blindly ignoring US apartheid, the genocidal subjugation of First Nations, the sponsoring of dozens of coups, invasions and dictatorships held captive by the US, this law calls America the "citadel of human freedom." In stark contrast to the "democratic process," which it claims created the "harmonious national unity" of the US "from the most diverse of racial, religious, and ethnic backgrounds," this law refers to the "enslavement of a substantial part of the world's population" by "imperialistic policies of Communist Russia." The USSR, it says, "led ... the subjugation of the national independence" of many captive nations.⁷ Among the "nations" listed by this law were Cossackia, Idel-Ural and White Ruthenia. These fictitious nations were "invented" by Nazi theorist Alfred Rosenberg.⁸ As an ideological architect of the Holocaust and the Nazi's Minister for Occupied Eastern Regions, Rosenberg was executed at Nuremberg in 1946.

Leaders of the Captive-Nations crusade have included SS veterans who hated Jews, communists and Russians. For example, a 1984 Captive Nations Week event in New York, heard from Nicholas Nazarenko, a "Cossackia" liberation leader who admitted interrogating POWs for the SS. His talk minimized the "Jewish Holocaust," by claiming that communism killed 140 million religious people. Critiqued what he called "a certain ethnic group that ... makes its home

he said, of "Jewish-eastern Bolshevism" and "Jewish-western capitalism is to enslave all free nations."⁷ The Nazis used this "enslaved nations" motif to explain the need for WWII:

It is a matter of who shall live in Europe in the future: the white race with its cultural values and creativity, with its industry and joy in life, or Jewish subhumanity ruling over the stupid, joyless enslaved masses doomed to death.⁸

Shackled to this fascist idea that "Jewish World Domination would mean Tyranny and Slavery," was the Nazi hate for Soviets. As a Nazi booklet for soldiers and Hitler Youth noted: "[T]he Jews have their greatest hope in Russia" because it was "the springboard to reach [their] goals."⁹ The Jews, claimed Hitler, had taken over Russia and imposed "the most miserable type of slavery ... that the world has ever seen." Ruling this captive Soviet nation, said Hitler, was "the regime of commis-

sars, ninety percent of whom are of Jewish descent, who control this whole slave state."¹⁰ In September 1943 when the Red Army was forcing the Nazi military to retreat after the Battle of Stalingrad, Hitler warned that Germany might become a captive nation: A defeated Germany would forever be the servant of the International Jews, whether under the club of a Bolshevik commissar or held captive by the chains of international economic slavery.¹¹

"Mr. Captive Nations" Dobriansky

The 1959 Captive Nations Week law created the National Captive Nations Cttee. (NCNC) which aided local groups with "leaflets and other means of propaganda."¹¹ Lifelong NCNC chair, Lev Dobriansky, the Ukrainian-American who wrote the law, had been a US intelligence officer in Germany during WWII. In the Cold War he taught economics at Georgetown Univ. (1947-88), was a loyal ally of Bandera's OUN(B) army and helped lead the ABN's US chapter (the American Council for World Freedom).

As NCNC founder/leader, Dobriansky represented it at ABN and WACL global events. For instance, in 1969 he shared the WACL rostrum with ABN president, Yaroslav Stetsko,¹² in Saigon, South Vietnam, a brutal US puppet regime. Having secured Stetsko's first US visa in 1958, Dobriansky celebrated July 4 with him. Dobriansky was on WACL's North American Exec. Cttee. in the '70s and '80s, and worked closely with the WACL's global chair, Ku Cheng-kang, a leading Taiwanese fascist. To fight the USSR, Dobriansky worked with "Holocaust deniers,... white supremacists, ... anticommunist cult leaders, ... Ukrainian neo-fascists and other rabid Cold War fanatics."¹³

sars, ninety percent of whom are of Jewish descent, who control this whole slave state."¹⁰

In September 1943 when the Red Army was forcing the Nazi military to retreat after the Battle of Stalingrad, Hitler warned that Germany might become a captive nation:

A defeated Germany would forever be the servant of the International Jews, whether under the club of a Bolshevik commissar or held captive by the chains of international economic slavery.¹¹

Two months later, on Nov. 21-22, 1943, the Nazis called on Stepan Bandera's Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists to build an alliance of fascist East European armies. These collaborators, the Committee of Subjugated Nations, were later rebranded the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations. As a driving force of the "Captive Nations" movement, it aided many far-right Cold War propaganda campaigns, including the "Black Ribbon Day" crusade.

For decades, Dobriansky led the top US Banderite front, the Ukrainian Congress Cttee. of America. When addressing its mass rally in Newark, NJ, in 1952, his excessive vitriol shone through with a vengeance:

[T]he peoples enslaved by Moscow are by far the most powerful weapon the West has against bolshevism and Russian imperialism. The ideal of the freedom of these nations is the most affective weapon for destroying the Russian-bolshevist dungeon of peoples....¹⁴

Dobriansky glorified Bandera's Ukrainian Insurgent Army in his preface to a 1954 book on its "Fight for Freedom."¹⁵ In 1982, he was on the international committee honouring its 40th anniversary. That committee included generals from Canada, the US, Europe, Asia and Australia, leaders of Nazi collaborationist armies, Ukrainian church leaders from Canada, the US and Europe, US-backed Afghan *mujahideen* "freedom fighters," Ukrainian Bandera youth leaders, Senator Barry Goldwater and ABN leader, Stetsko.¹⁶

It is no wonder then that for 40 years (1951-90), Dobriansky's leadership of the Captive Nations movement was so often hailed by loyal followers of Stepan Bandera. For over four decades, Dobriansky's articles, speeches and books were continually praised in the major OUN(B) publications.¹⁷

Dobriansky's legacy includes leading the "Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation" (VCMF) in Washington, DC. Its monument, promoted by Bill Clinton, was dedicated in 2007 by then-president George W. Bush. He praised Dobriansky and noted the presence of his daughter Paula¹⁸ who was Bush's Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs (2001-09). Besides being a director of the VCMF, she has furthered her father's far-right legacy through work as a US diplo-

References

1. Dr. E.H. Schulz and Dr. R. Frercks, "Why the Aryan Law?" 1934. bit.ly/Luther1934
2. Werner May, "The German National Catechism," 1934. bit.ly/AryanLaw
3. Speech in Schwerin, Feb. 12, 1936, in *Adolf Hitler: Collection of Speeches, 1922-1945*, p.288. bit.ly/AHSpeeches
4. Julius Streicher, "The Way to Slavery," *Der Stürmer*, Aug. 1939. bit.ly/Streich39
5. *Der Stürmer*, Oct. 1936, cover. bit.ly/Sturmer
6. Proclamation at Fuhrer Headquarters, Feb. 24, 1943, in *Adolf Hitler...*, p.914.
7. Address to the Wehrmacht, Jan. 1, 1945, in *Adolf Hitler... op. cit.*, p.974.
8. Wolfgang Diewerge, "The War Goal of World Plutocracy," 1941. bit.ly/Diewerge
9. G.G.Otto, "The Jew as World Parasite," 1943. bit.ly/Otto43
10. Speech in Lowenbraukeller, Munich, Nov. 8, 1941, in *Adolf Hitler...*, *op. cit.*, p.817.
11. "No Rebuilding without Victory," *Redner-Schnellinform*, Sept. 1943. bit.ly/NaziCaptive

PM John Diefenbaker: A strong voice at the UN for the "Captive Nations" bloc

For more 30 years the profascist Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) lionized John Diefenbaker for sharing their hatred of the so-called "Soviet imperium." ABN praise for Diefenbaker was repeatedly expressed in *ABN Correspondence*, the world's leading propaganda organ for the Ukrainian cult of Nazi collaborator, Stepan Bandera. At least two dozen of its articles over a 36-year period, hailed Dief as a heroic Cold Warrior.¹ The ABN was especially grateful for his use of Canada's platform at the UN for a fiery speech in 1960, during his time as Prime Minister (1957-63).

As Global Affairs Canada says when proudly recounting its own history: "At the United Nations, the initiative closest to ... Prime Minister [Diefenbaker's] heart was ... denouncing Soviet imperialism."²

Upon his death in 1979, *ABN Correspondence* exalted Diefenbaker on its cover as "The Greatest Champion of Freedom and Independence." The ABN called him the highest-ranking government official in the West to publicly support the independence of Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and other subjugated nations in the USSR and satellite countries... He entered into the history of nations subjugated by Russian Imperialism and Communism as the most outstanding defender of their independence and supporter of their liberation struggle.³

The ABN cover used a smiling photo of Diefenbaker which he signed for Sla-

va Stetsko, its longtime editor (1957-96). She took on her husband's role as ABN president (1986-96), presidium member of the World AntiCommunist League and president of the Banderite Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists in 1991.⁴

In 1992 Slava boasted in her keynote address to the ABN's global congress in Toronto, that the "ABN had been able to establish working relations with various world leaders." After citing US presidents Reagan and Nixon, and vice-president Bush Sr., she listed a who's who of notorious US-backed despots and war criminals with whom the ABN had worked. The pathologically anticommunist tyrants cited by Stetsko included Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Tieu (South Vietnam), Ferdinand Marcos (Philippines), Rhee Syngman (South Korea), Francisco Franco (Spain), Chiang Kai-shek (Taiwan), Narong Kittikachorn (Thailand) and Nobusuke Kishi (Japan). To these far-right ABN allies, Stetsko added a few NATO leaders, including Diefenbaker.⁵

A climax in Dief's "working relations" with the ABN was his UN speech, Sept. 26, 1960. In August, he met leaders of the ABN-linked Baltic Federation of Canada (BFC) who urged him to denounce the

30th Anniversary
ABN CORRESPONDENCE
Freedom for Nations! Freedom for Individuals!
BULLETIN OF THE ANTI-BOLSHEVICK BLOC OF NATIONS



When Diefenbaker died, the ABN's cover heralded him as "The Greatest Champion of Freedom and Independence." Having evolved from a Nazi network of East European armies into a proNATO bloc of CIA-backed "Captive Nations," the ABN exalted Dief for his inflammatory antiSoviet speech at the UN in 1960. That diatribe cemented Canada's role as a firm ally of the US, NATO and the ABN.

USSR at the UN. The BFC is made up of the Estonian Central Council (ECC) in Canada (pp.28-31), the Latvian National Federation in Canada (pp.38-39) and the Lithuanian-Canadian Community (pp.34-37). Its 1960 delegation included ECC vice pres. Aksel Luitsalu, a former police chief in Nazi Estonia and senior officer of Estonia's SS.

Diefenbaker saw eye to eye with the antiSoviet BFC and was glad to decry the USSR, especially after its anti-Imperialist declaration at the UN on Sept. 23. When this Soviet resolution on "Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples"⁶ came before the UN in December,⁷ it was supported by the Non-Aligned Movement and 89 UN member states voted in favour. While no countries voted against the USSR's milestone declaration, nine abstained. All colonial powers⁸ except one, the Dominican Republic, ruled by a US-backed military dictator, Rafael Trujillo, since 1930.

American historian Mary Heiss cites declassified US government telegrams to show that its officials conspired to

undercut Khrushchev's declaration, [by] depicting the Soviet Union itself as a colonial power. "Inasmuch as there will be [a] clear majority in [the UN] for any statement condemning colonialism," the Sec. of State...advised the US delegation to the UN, "[the] best course we can follow is to seek [to] turn [the] declaration against [the] Soviets themselves by portraying them in true colonialist colors."⁹

"It [was] important," said the State Department, to "secure as much support as possible" from other countries for the West's "proposition" that the USSR was a "major colonial power." To do this, the US gave propaganda material on the Baltics and Central Asia to UN delegations.¹⁰

.... continued from previous page

mat and policy maker during five presidencies. She has also played key roles in many powerful institutions such as the National Security Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, Atlantic Council, Freedom House, Thomson Reuters, American University in Afghanistan and the National Endowment for Democracy.

References and notes

1. See this search of *ABN Correspondence* bit.ly/ABN-captive
2. *WACL Bulletin*, Sum. 1973. bit.ly/WACL73-2
3. "The National Committee for Free Europe, 1949," May 29, 2007. bit.ly/CIA-NCFE
4. John Prados, *Safe for Democracy: The Secret Wars of the CIA*, 2006. bit.ly/CIAwars
5. Christopher Simpson, *Blowback: America's Recruitment of Nazis and its Destructive Impact on our Domestic and Foreign Policy*, 1988. p.126.
6. *Ibid.*, p.268.
7. Public Law 86-90 "Captive Nations Week" bit.ly/PL86-90
8. Edward Lozansky, "Some Notes on the Discussion of the Captive Nations Resolution at the Russian Academy of Sciences," July 15, 2008. bit.ly/FictiveCNs
9. Simpson, *op. cit.*, pp.274-75.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *ABN Correspondence*, Sept-Oct. 1960, p.2. bit.ly/NCNCgoal
12. *ABN Correspondence*, Jan.-Feb. 1969, p.2. bit.ly/WACL-69
13. Moss Robeson, "Is Paula Dobriansky a Neo-Banderite?" *Covert Action*, July 4, 2018. bit.ly/CA-Dobriansky
14. *Ukrainian Observer*, Jan.-Feb. 1952, p.15. bit.ly/Dobriansky-1952
15. *Ukrainian Review*, 1954, p.72. bit.ly/Dob-54
16. *ABN Correspondence*, Mar.-April 1982, p.33-35. bit.ly/Dobriansky-1982
17. *Ukrainian Observer* (Jan-Feb 1952, p.15); *Ukrainian Review* (Winter 1954, p.72; Fall 1959, pp.94-95; Spring 1964, pp.14-16); *ABN Correspondence* (Mar-Apr 1957, p.14; Sep-Oct 1960, p.2; Jan-Feb 1960, p.16; Mar-Apr 1962, p.3; May-Jun 1962, p.32; Mar-Apr 1966, p.37; Nov-Dec 1966, p.5; Jul-Aug 1968, p.13; Jan-Feb 1969, pp.2,4,27; May-Jun 1970, pp.12-16; Jan-Feb 1979, p.43; Mar-Apr 1982, p.40; Jul-Oct 1982, pp.33, 58-62, 87-90; Sep-Oct 1990, p.19.) bit.ly/ABNcor
18. George W. Bush, "Remarks at the Victims of Communism Memorial Dedication," June 12, 2007. bit.ly/GWBanticom