

Dr. Juliane Wetzels, Center for Research on Antisemitism, Technical University Berlin

Trivialization of the Holocaust

➤ Holocaust Trivialization

The word “Holocaust” is often used as term for raising awareness for events that have nothing to do with the genocide of the European Jews – abortion, cannibalism, mass animal transports etc. The users generally do not target Jews but they want to attract attention for their political aims or use the term for a commercial gimmick.

This is other than “distortion”, where Jews are targeted, for example in sense of a victim-perpetrator-reversal in blaming Israel and its government being the “new Nazis”, i.e. their actions in the Palestinian territories are equated with those of the Nazis against the Jews.

➤ Using the term “Holocaust” for getting attraction for an political or social issue. A category of abuse that does not necessarily result from antisemitism

➤ Holocaust Deminishment

Deminishing the numbers of the murdered Jews often is based on an intended Holocaust denial but might not be expressed openly for evading law enforcement in those countries with legislation against Holocaust denial

Holocaust justification

➤ posits that the Jews bore responsibility for their own destruction;

Holocaustpromotion

➤ continued incitement toward genocide against the Jews or Israel;

Holocaust denial

➤ denying or negating the historical truth or the number of murdered Jews;

Holocaust deflection and whitewashing

➤ the admission that the Shoah happened, while simultaneously denying the responsibility of specific groups or individuals who participated in it;

Holocaust de-Judaization

- Method to void, or to a large extent, minimize the Jewish character of the victims and evading the fact that the Shoah was unprecedented – belittling the fact that it was first of all an industrialized mass murder of Jews;

Holocaust equivalence

- false claim that the German genocidal behavior under the national-socialist regime was similar to that of other nations before and during the war and that Communist rule after the war was similar to that of the National-socialists. (23 of August as remembrance day for both dictatorships and crimes);

Holocaust inversion

- derivative of Holocaust equivalence. The inverters seek to delegitimize Israel by claiming that it behaves like Nazi Germany and think Israel is conducting a war of extermination against the Palestinians;

In several cases these categories overlap.

Misuse of the term “Holocaust”

- „Hunger Holocaust“ (Holodomor) plague of hunger catastrophe in Ukraine in the 1930th
- “Nuclear Holocaust”
- “American (Indian) Holocaust”
- “Bombenholocaust” (Bomb-Holocaust) - used by right-extremists for the Allied bombings of Dresden in February 1945, used by the right-extremist party NPD even in the parliament of Saxony in 2005. In 2005 in Germany the term got the third place as taboo word of the year
- “Vertreibungsholocaust” (expulsion-Holocaust) used by German right-extremists
– i.e. the expulsion of the German population after 1945 from former German territory in Sudetenland, East-Prussia, etc.
- “Babocaust” (Abortion)
- “The Holocaust on Your Plate” – Animal protection
- “Palestinian Holocaust”