

What is the purpose of Razum [Sanity]? On Dr. Stjepan Razum's comment of my review of the book *Jasenovac* by Professor Ivo Goldstein, PhD, published in *Časopis za suvremenu povijest [Journal of Contemporary History]* 51 (2019), no. 1

Dr. Stjepan Razum, Catholic priest and historian, head of Archdiocesan Archives in Zagreb, member of numerous Croatian cultural societies and associations in some of which he performs important duties, has for a number of years been committed to reviewing the prevailing and decades-long promoted allegations about the scale of human losses during the Independent State of Croatia (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska, NDH), especially about the victims of the Jasenovac concentration camp. He supports, in certain Croatian extreme nationalist circles the previous and only acceptable, but also difficult to prove views that after World War II the Jasenovac camp “had a longer duration than during war time. In the post-war [Jasenovac] camp an immensely higher number of people were killed than in the wartime camp”. Dr. Razum claims that during NDH Jasenovac was a “labour and transit camp. There was no killing there”, and concludes without reservation that “there is no evidence of mass killings in the Jasenovac camp”, and then that “the Croats themselves, opponents of the Ustasha regime were the most numerous camp inmates”, and that “the exact number of casualties of the Jasenovac camp is lower than the lowest official communist estimation”.¹ The possibility that “the exact number of casualties of the Jasenovac camp is lower than the lowest official communist estimation” is not negligible, but it is not clear on the basis of which indicators Dr. Razum asserts that “the Croats themselves, opponents of the Ustasha regime were the most numerous camp inmates”. In addition, there are just no credible confirmations that “an infinitely higher number than in the wartime camp” was killed in Jasenovac. Nevertheless, the Reverend Dr. Razum persistently and without any reservation repeats the assertion that “the list of victims of Jasenovac camp is completely false and fictional, in Jasenovac it was

¹ Cf. “Intervju: Dr. Stjepan Razum, povjesničar i arhivist: Vrijeme je da srušimo velikosrpski mit o Jasenovcu: Nema dokaza za masovne ustaške zločine u Jasenovcu, ali ima za partizanske!” [“Interview: Dr. Stjepan Razum, historian and archivist: It is time for us to break the greatserbian myth on Jasenovac: There are no proofs of Ustasha's mass crimes in Jasenovac, but there are of Partisans!”] [conducted by: Andrea Černivec], *Hrvatski list* (Zadar), No. 411, August 9, 2012, pp. 28-35. Cf. e.g. “Intervju: Dr. Stjepan Razum: U Jasenovcu partizani su svoje okrutne i masovne zločine podmetnuli ustašama – mi povjesničari to ćemo i dokazati!” [Interview: Dr. Stjepan Razum: In Jasenovac, the Partisans had planted their cruel and mass crimes to the Ustashas – we, the historians, will prove that!] [conducted by: Ivica Marijačić], *Hrvatski tjednik* (Zadar), No. 501, May 1, 2014, pp. 30-33: Stjepan Razum, “Jasenovac, najveća povijesna laž koja iz dana u dan postaje sve prozirnija” [“Jasenovac, the greatest historical lie that is becoming more transparent by the day”, *Hrvatski tjednik* (Zadar), No. 559, June 11, 2015, pp. 18-25.

not NDH that killed the Serbs, but it was the partisans and communists who were killing Croatian patriots after the war [...]”.²

His collected excogitations on NDH and the Jasenovac camp Dr. Razum in co-authorship with academician Josip Pečarić published in 2018 in a book named *Razotkrivena jasenovačka laž* [The Jasenovac Lie Disclosed].³ In March 2018, Dr. Razum announced to the Croatian people “the final truth” on the number of the Jasenovac camp inmates and the number of camp inmates who lost their lives in the Jasenovac camp. In fact, he claims that during NDH, from 1941 to 1945, there were in total only 18,600 camp inmates in Jasenovac, while 1,360 of them “died” in the camp – “of natural causes, from serious illnesses or as the consequence of the harshest punishments of the camp administration!”⁴

Dr. Razum has the opinion “that we live in an age of twisted values”. – “The obvious truth is denied, and a lie is promoted”. He also reminds us: “The eighth commandment of God is: ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour’, therefore, do not lie!” As for the history of NDH and issues of the Jasenovac camp, the Reverend Dr. Razum, one of the founders and the first president of the Jasenovac Triple Camp Research Society stresses “that the Croatian public can no longer be led by the nose”.⁵ – Nicely put. And I am glad to be able to say that, in a few things, I do agree with the Reverend Dr. Razum. Well, it is time to see who promotes twisted values, who does not abide the eighth commandment of God and who leads the Croatian public by the nose.

In the issue of *Hrvatski tjednik* [Croatian weekly] from July 4, 2019 Dr. Razum prattled⁶ about my latest review of the book *Jasenovac* by professor Ivo Goldstein, PhD published in *Časopis za suvremenu povijest* [Journal of

² Cf. Stjepan Razum, “Logor Jasenovac kao sredstvo trajne komunističke indoktrinacije”, [“Camp Jasenovac as a means of permanent communist indoctrination”] *Hrvatski tjednik* (Zadar), No. 581, November 12, 2015, 18-20.

³ Cf. Josip Pečarić, Stjepan Razum, *Razotkrivena jasenovačka laž* (Zagreb: Društvo za istraživanje trostrukog logora Jasenovac 2018).

⁴ Cf. Frković, “Knjiga akademika Pečarića i dr. Razuma donosi konačnu istinu o 18 600 logoraša u Jasenovcu i 1360 smrtno stradalih” [“The book of academician Pečarić and Dr. Razum brings the final truth about 18,600 camp inmates in Jasenovac and 1,360 fatalities”] <http://www.tjedno.hr/knjiga-akademika-pecarica-i-dr-razuma-donosi-konacnu-istinu-o-18-600-logorasa-u-jasenovcu-i-1360-smrtno-stradalih/>, accessed on July 5, 2019.

⁵ Cf. “U Sisku predstavljena knjiga ‘Razotkrivena jasenovačka laž’: ‘Očigledna istina se nijeće, a promiće se laž’” [“The book ‘The Jasenovac Lie Disclosed’ promoted in Sisak: ‘The obvious truth is denied and the lie is promoted’”] <https://narod.hr/kultura/u-sisku-predstavljena-knjiga-razotkrivena-jasenovačka-laz-ocigledna-istina-se-nijeće-a-promiće-se-laz>, accessed on July 5, 2019.

⁶ Cf. “Dr. Stjepan Razum: Na žalost, nema bitne razlike između povjesničara dr. Geigera i povjesničara dr. Goldsteina – obojica učvršćuju nametnute jugosrpske dogme” [“Dr. Stjepan Razum: Unfortunately, there is no significant difference between historian Dr. Geiger and historian Dr. Goldstein – they both reinforce the imposed Yugo-Serbian dogmas, *Hrvatski tjednik* (Zadar), no. 771, July 4, 2019, pp. 16-18.

Contemporary History] 1/2019⁷ and he specifies: “I wonder if Dr. Geiger, historian at the Croatian Institute of History, is allowed to write truthfully about World War II? I guess not! Such a conclusion is imposed on me on the basis of reading an extensive critical review by Vladimir Geiger, PhD, of the likewise extensive book by Ivo Goldstein, PhD, published in 2018” (p. 16).

It is the opinion of the Reverend Dr. Razum that when this “extensive critical review is read to the end, such great disappointment occurs with the reader [Dr. Razum] as the expectation was” (p. 17). – Therefore, the reader, Dr. Razum, is greatly disappointed, so he claims: “The folk proverb ‘You can’t see the forest from the trees’ can be literally applied to the critical review of Goldstein’s book in question. Dr. Geiger has counted so many details that have to be corrected and in which he differs from Goldstein, but in relation to the main subject-matter of the book, i.e. the wartime Jasenovac concentration camp, the authorities of the Independent State of Croatia, the Independent state of Croatia itself, their views are identical” (p. 17). It’s undeniable, Dr. Razum suggests, that I, as well as professor Goldstein, PhD, failed to “get out of Yugoslav-Great Serbian-chauvinist rut” or as Dr. Razum notes in the title of his article in *Hrvatski tjednik [Croatian Weekly]*: “Unfortunately, there is no significant difference between historian Dr. Geiger and historian Dr. Goldstein - both reinforce the imposed Yugo-Serbian dogmas”. And that this is so, in Dr. Razum’s opinion, it is enough to cite a few quotes from that review of mine (p. 17).

In the intention to picturesquely, in his typical manner, present my way of “solidifying the imposed Yugo-Serbian dogma”, Dr. Razum writes: “Distinguished presenter Dr. Geiger, historian at the Croatian Institute of History, asks Dr. Goldstein a rhetorical question: ‘Does that actually mean that there was a massive exit from Jasenovac?’ (p. 286) by which also suggesting a negative answer, i.e. that there were not many exits, which is not true. [...]” (p. 17).

However, let me repeat – I wrote: “When Goldstein already refers to the Yugoslav royal government, it is strange that he does not wonder what the allegation that Jasenovac is “the central camp that everyone must go through” means. Does this actually mean that there was a massive exit from Jasenovac? Is this in the wake of the claims set forth by his fellow historian Stjepan Razum?” - It could not be clearer that with that rhetorical question to Professor Goldstein, PhD I suggested exactly that many had passed through the Jasenovac camp, but also that many had left the camp as well. - It is not enough to

⁷ Cf. Vladimir Geiger, “Ivo Goldstein, *Jasenovac* (Zaprešić; Jasenovac: Fraktura; Javna ustanova Spomen-područje Jasenovac, 2018) 958 str., [32 str.] s tablama : ilustr., zemljop. karte ; 24 cm”, *Časopis za suvremenu povijest* 51 (2019), No. 1: 269-314.

read something, one has to understand it too. Dr. Razum is clearly incapable of that.

Unburdened by facts, Dr. Razum continues to act smart: “The presenter [Geiger] resents Goldstein for not being able to analyse the intensity and direction of the NDH violence in 1941, to compare it with the NDH violence in 1942 ... (p. 301). The presenter [Geiger] does not cite the violence of an individual, a group or a military unit here, but the violence of the Independent State of Croatia, therefore the violence of the state as such! That is nowhere to be found, except in the Yugoslav-Great Serbian-chauvinistic minds and their works!” (p. 17). – Beautifully formulated... Hence, it is not entirely clear whether Dr. Razum thinks that no state can commit violence, or does it apply to NDH only? At the same time, would Dr. Razum react equally bitterly to the writings about the intensity and focus of the violence of Tito’s Yugoslavia?

In my review of Goldstein’s book *Jasenovac in Časopis za suvremenu povijest [Journal of Contemporary History]* at p. 301 I cited what and how Professor Goldstein, Ph.D., wrote about the events on Kozara in the summer of 1942. I sought to illustrate, above all by using hyperbole, that he is not capable of separating the essential from the irrelevant facts, and I wrote that “unable to comprehend it all, break it down, compare it, Goldstein would prey on mischievous home guards who stole chickens, but would miss a firing squad of some Home Guard mountain infantry brigade that was in Kozara forests shooting hundreds and then displacing thousands of people...”. - Dr. Razum lashed out in *Hrvatski tjednik [Croatian Weekly]* on this quotation and found that I object to “Goldstein dealing with insignificant details, ‘but would miss a firing squad of some Home Guard mountain infantry brigade that was in Kozara forests shooting hundreds and then displacing thousands of people...’ (p. 301). Despite his numerous references, the presenter [Geiger] did not specify the source for this claim, and if it is not invented by him, its source is certainly in some anti-Croatian writing”. In addition, Dr. Razum concludes: “Not only to Goldstein, but also to [Geiger] the presenter of his book the Independent State of Croatia is full of violence, i.e. crime, because they were not committed only by the Ustasas’ (which is commonly known in their works), but also by the Home Guards, hence the entire armed forces of the Independent State of Croatia” (p. 17). That is what the Reverend Dr. Razum is right about.

Dr. Razum complacently argues that the allegation of shooting the prisoners in the forests of Kozara by the Home Guard mountain infantry brigades is either my own fabrication or an incorrect claim - a lie undoubtedly taken from “some anti-Croatian writing”. It is time to see who is a total ignorant or who does not abide the eighth commandment of God – who is lying and who is leading the Croatian public by the nose.

At the end of May 1942 under the command of General Friedrich Stahl the German Combat Group “Western Bosnia” was formed, which in addition to the German troops was mostly made of the Home Guard and Ustasha forces. The Combat Group “Western Bosnia” intended to establish “barrier groups” around Kozara and Prosara, which were supposed to suppress and ultimately destroy the Partisans. The combat efforts began in mid-June 1942. The Partisans defended themselves and went into sharp counterattacks, in which some Home Guard troops suffered significant losses. At the end of June, additional German troops arrived from Serbia as reinforcements to the Combat Group “Western Bosnia”, so the venture against the Partisans successfully resumed early in July. Finally, on April 18, 1942 the Combat Group “Western Bosnia” venture on Kozara and Prosara ended with “great success”, according to the assessment by the Germans. In these battles, the Partisans suffered heavy losses in manpower, and significant amounts of weapons and military equipment were captured in the Kozara forests.⁸

Although there is abundant literature on the 1942 Kozara offensive created in the period of socialist Yugoslavia, and now there is also Dr. Razum’s opinion, still I trust archival sources on these events more. My work was made easier because on the events in Kozara in 1942 there are scientific papers of Croatian historians who have also used archival materials. For example, historian Dr. Nikica Barić in a recent scientific article “Kozara 1942. – sudbina zarobljenika, civila i djece [Axis Offensive on Kozara Mountain, 1942 – the Fate of the Prisoners of War, Civilians and Children]” published in journal *Pilar*, in the chapter “Postupak prema partizanima, njihovim suradnicima i sumnjivim osobama [The treatment of partisans, their associates and suspicious persons]”⁹ also writes more about the treatment of prisoners during the operation of the German and Croatian armed forces on Kozara and Prosara, including the executions of prisoners, and refers to archival sources, notably German military and diplomatic reports and reports of the Home Guard General Staff. And what do these documents tell us?

On June 4, 1942 General Friedrich Stahl gave the instructions for the operation to surround and destroy partisans in western Bosnia. Those indicated that he personally assumed tactical command of the NDH troops that would participate in the operation. In his instructions, General Stahl also determined how to deal with captured partisans and the civilian population during the upcoming operation. People who resist the German army and the NDH troops, or are captured with weapons, should be shot. It was also ordered to shoot

⁸ Nikica Barić, “Kozara 1942. – sudbina zarobljenika, civila i djece”, *Pilar: Časopis za društvene i humanističke studije* XI (2016), no. 22 (2): 53-54. And there quoted sources and bibliography.

⁹ *Ibid.*: 56-62.

people who were proven to have assisted partisans.¹⁰ On July 14, 1942 General Stahl reiterated the instruction that the troops under his command, after the interrogations, were to shoot captured Partisans and people who helped them. The more important prisoners, with the minutes of their hearings, were to be referred to the superior command.¹¹ A daily report by the Home Guard General Staff from July 15, 1942 noted that the Home Guard and German forces on Kozara mountain encountered very slight resistance, as well as the fact that 59 Partisans were shot, four were captured and the spoils consisted of 29 rifles.¹² These figures show a discrepancy between the number of shot and captured Partisans and the amount of weapons seized. On this basis, it can be concluded that it was not only Partisans who were shot, but also civilians who were identified as or suspected of being associates of Partisans. In this sense, the difference between “real” Partisans and the rest of the population, especially young men and adults, was probably “blurry” for German soldiers and Home Guards.¹³ However, the suspicion of the German army and the NDH troops towards the civilian population was not unfounded. Indeed, the District Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia for Bosanska Krajina, regarding the behaviour of the population that was besieged by Partisans on Kozara mountain later stated: “The population also massively took part bare-handed in the fight against the storming enemy and so many of them died.”¹⁴

As the Combat Group “Western Bosnia” troops from the beginning of July 1942 started to detain more and more civilians from the territories they besieged, suspicions emerged that also Partisans were hiding among them. Thus, in the daily report of the Home Guard General Staff from July 8, 1942, regarding the situation among the enemy on Kozara mountain, it was stated that according to the statements of civilians who surrendered to the German and Croatian forces, there were also “Partisans who changed clothes” among the civilians themselves.¹⁵ The daily report from July 9, 1942 stated: “It has

¹⁰ *Zbornik dokumenata i podataka o NOR-u naroda Jugoslavije*, vol. XII, book 2: *Dokumenti Nemačkog Rajha 1942*. (Belgrade: Vojnoistorijski institute 1976), document No. 85.

¹¹ *Zbornik dokumenata i podataka o NOR-u naroda Jugoslavije*, vol. XII, book 2, document No. 110.

¹² Hrvatska (Croatia, HR), Hrvatski državni arhiv (Croatian State Archives, HDA), fund no. 487, Glavni stožer domobranstva, Prilog dnevnom izvješću br. 196 (po podatcima primljenim 15. srpnja 1942 godine do 9 sati), Tok operacije “Kozara” [Home Guards General Staff, Addition to the daily report No. 196 (according to data received on July 15, 1942 by 9 a.m.), Operation “Kozara” course].

¹³ Jonathan E. Gumz, “Wehrmacht Perceptions of Mass Violence in Croatia, 1941–1942”, *The Historical Journal* 44 (December 2001), No. 4: 1022.

¹⁴ *Zbornik dokumenata i podataka o NOR-u naroda Jugoslavije*, vol. IX, Book 1: *Partijsko-politička dokumenta 1941 – 1942*. (Belgrade: Vojnoistorijski institut 1961), documents No. 122.

¹⁵ HR-HDA-487, Glavni stožer domobranstva, Prilog dnevnom izvješću br. 189 (po podatcima primljenim 8. VII. 1942 godine do 9 sati), Tok operacije “Kozara” [Home Guards General Staff, Ad-

been confirmed again that the Partisans were ordered to bury their weapons and hide among the fugitives".¹⁶ The daily report from July 11, 1942 said: "The enemy is still not accepting the fight. According to one seized Partisan order from July 2, the Partisans have instructions to bury heavy weapons and supplies and to break through to Grmeč mountain by light troops, while special reconnaissance troops which know the sites of concealed weapons will remain on Kozara mountain and carry out disturbances and raids reporting our movements. According to the prisoners' accounts, the masses of Partisans are among the population as peasants."¹⁷ The daily report of the Home Guards General Staff from July 18 stated that on the previous day the operation on Kozara and Prosara mountains had been ended successfully, and that total partisan losses amounted to 3,397 deaths and another 250 partisans to be shot after the interrogations. It was also stated that 294 partisans were shot during combat reconnaissance northeast of Prijedor, and three were captured.¹⁸

The German Legation in Zagreb reported to Berlin on July 23, 1942 that in the operation against Partisans on Kozara 3,500 Partisans out of 5,000 were killed, and 300 captured Partisans were court-martialled and shot.¹⁹ Later, the German army's documents will indicate even higher figures of killed Partisans. Thus, it was mentioned that in the period from June 24 to July 23, 1942 the Combat Group "Western Bosnia" killed 6,589 Partisans, 423 Partisans were wounded, and 777 people were shot in retaliation.²⁰ Should I list further?

What and how Dr. Razum claims and concludes about the events on Kozara in the summer of 1942 is the most common ignorance and prattle or the most ordinary lie. – The Reverend Dr. Razum does not care about archival sources - German military and diplomatic reports and reports of the Home Guards General Staff and recent works of Croatian historiography that used

dition to the daily report No. 189 (according to data received on July 8, 1942 by 9 a.m.), Operation "Kozara" course].

¹⁶ HR-HDA-487, Glavni stožer domobranstva, Prilog dnevnom izvješću br. 190 (po podatcima primljenim 9. srpnja 1942 godine do 9 sati), Tok operacije "Kozara" [Home Guards General Staff, Addition to the daily report No. 190 (according to data received on July 9, 1942 by 9 a.m.), Operation "Kozara" course].

¹⁷ HR-HDA-487, Glavni stožer domobranstva, Prilog dnevnom izvješću br. 192 (po podatcima primljenim 11. srpnja 1942 godine do 9 sati), Tok operacije "Kozara" [Home Guards General Staff, Addition to the daily report No. 192 (according to data received on July 11, 1942 by 9 a.m.), Operation "Kozara" course].

¹⁸ HR-HDA-487, Glavni stožer domobranstva, Prilog dnevnom izvješću br. 199 (po podatcima primljenim 18. srpnja 1942 godine do 9 sati), Tok operacije "Kozara" [Home Guards General Staff, Addition to the daily report No. 199 (according to data received on July 18, 1942 by 9 a.m.), Operation "Kozara" course].

¹⁹ Bogdan Krizman, *Pavelić između Hitlera i Mussolinija* (Zagreb: Globus, 1980), p. 356.

²⁰ *Zbornik dokumenata i podataka o NOR-u naroda Jugoslavije*, vol. XII, Book 2, Apendix I.

these sources. These are “anti-Croatian writings”. “The truth” is what it seems to him happened or could have happened. And period.

Dr. Razum then writes and claims in *Hrvatski tjednik [Croatian Weekly]*: “Critic Geiger easily claims: ‘I have no doubt at all that there were mass graves of Jasenovac camp inmates – numerous sources confirm this’ (p. 311). Despite numerous references, Dr. Geiger did not cite a single source for this claim, more accurately – a lie, let alone listed many sources” (p. 17).

The question of who has no elementary knowledge on the issues discussed is imposed again, who does not abide the eighth commandment of God – namely, who lies and who leads the Croatian public by the nose.

True, in the review of Goldstein’s book *Jasenovac* in *Časopis za suvremenu povijest [Journal of Contemporary History]*, I also wrote that “I have no doubt at all that there were mass graves of Jasenovac camp inmates – numerous sources confirm this” (p. 311). I repeat it here, too: I have no doubt at all that there were mass graves of Jasenovac camp inmates – numerous sources confirm this.

These numerous sources on the mass graves of Jasenovac camp inmates that I am mentioning are post-war testimonies of the survived camp inmates, post-war exposes of the Ustashas who were in service in the Jasenovac concentration camp, as well as the conducted field surveys, aerial recordings and so-called anthropological researches in the area of the Jasenovac camp. Many have written about it.²¹ Some, for example Prof. Ljubo Boban, PhD, in the late 1980s, Vladimir Žerjavić in the early 1990s or Prof. Josip Jurčević, PhD, in the late 1990s, justifiably warned about the manipulations of the actual findings of these various field surveys, aerial recordings and anthropological researches.²²

Since he is already philosophizing, Dr. Razum should know what the term “mass grave” means. – “Masovna grobnica je naziv za grobnicu u kojoj je pokopan veći broj mrtvih istovremeno. [...] Masovne grobnice uslijed ratnih zločina su posljedica organiziranih i masovnih ubijanja ljudi, kao dio etničkog čišćenja ili genocida. [...]”²³ or “A mass grave is a grave containing multiple human corpses, which may or may not be identified prior to burial. [...] Mass graves are usually created after a large number of people die or are killed, and

²¹ Cf. Jovan Mirković, *Objavljeni izvori i literatura o jasenovačkim logorima* (Laktaši - Banja Luka - Belgrade: GrafoMark - Besjeda - Muzej žrtava genocida 2000).

²² Cf. Ljubo Boban, *Kontroverze iz povijesti Jugoslavije*, vol. 2 (Zagreb: Školska knjiga - Stvarnost 1989), pp. 367-369; Vladimir Žerjavić, *Opsesije i megalomanije oko Jasenovca i Bleiburga: Gubici stanovništva Jugoslavije u drugom svjetskom ratu* (Zagreb: Globus 1992), pp. 29-31, 53-57; Josip Jurčević, *Nastanak jasenovačkog mita: Problemi proučavanja žrtava Drugog svjetskog rata na području Hrvatske* (Zagreb: Sveučilište u Zagrebu - Hrvatski studiji 1998), pp. 58-70.

²³ “Masovna grobnica”, https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masovna_grobnica, accessed on July 5, 2019.

record in the Jasenovac camp area in 1964 is published, which shows how many corpses were found in each single probe. – Findings of the probe no. 1: 23 skeletons, probe no. 4: 24 skeletons, probe no. 5: 5 skeletons, probe no. 6: 4 skeletons, probe no. 7: 3 skeletons, probe no. 8: 7 skeletons, probe no. 9: 23 skeletons, probe no. 10: 29 skeletons, probe no. 15: 5 skeletons, probe no. 18: 8 skeletons, probe no. 20: 30 skeletons, probe no. 21: 9 skeletons, probe no. 22: 5 skeletons, probe no. 23: 8 skeletons, probe no. 24: 10 skeletons.³⁰ This also encouraged Leljak, otherwise undoubtedly Razum's — and not only his — role model, to clearly state: “The record does not specify the analysis and assumption of the total number of victims in the cemetery area of the camp. But today, based on the known size of the cemetery, and the number of probes that were excavated, we can estimate that there are about 1,300 victims in the cemetery.”³¹

If to the Reverend Dr. Razum it is not acceptable what and how in this regard was written and interpreted by Leljak — after all it is also not to many others — he should study the book *Nastanak jasenovačkog mita* [*The Emergence of the Jasenovac myth*] by Professor Josip Jurčević, PhD who in the chapter “Antropološka istraživanja grobišta” [“Anthropological excavations of the graveyard”] refers to the above mentioned probes, in which human remains were found during excavations in the area of the Jasenovac camp, as mass graves because it is obviously clear to him what this is about.³²

However, to leave the abundant treasury of Dr. Razum's misconceptions and ignorance intact, it would be best to declare the writings of both Leljak and Professor Jurčević, PhD as “anti-Croatian writings”. Or, in the opinion of meanies like me, it would be more advisable that the Reverend Dr. Razum does not teach or lecture anyone on the issues he knows nothing about.

Dr. Razum did not wonder where and how the remains of those camp inmates who lost their lives in the Jasenovac camp — as he nicely lists — “of natural causes, from serious illnesses or as the consequence of the harshest punishments of the camp administration” were buried. Dr. Razum obviously assumes that all the camp inmates who lost their lives in the Jasenovac camp were buried in individual graves. — The fact that Dr. Razum is convinced, as well as some others, that all the post-war testimonies of the camp inmates and the post war statements of the Ustashas about the mass graves in Jasenovac are false, as well as he is convinced that all field surveys, aerial recordings and anthropological researches found mass graves that only confirm the existence of

³⁰ Ibid., pp. 312-336.

³¹ Ibid., p. 29.

³² Josip Jurčević, *Nastanak jasenovačkog mita*, pp. 59-61.

the “post-war Jasenovac camp”, is not my problem. The Reverend Dr. Razum is also convinced that the Earth is flat. That is not my problem either.

When is it that you cannot see the forest from the trees, and when the trees from the forest? It is not a simple question. Dr. Razum, a self-proclaimed expert on all issues regarding the history of NDH and the Jasenovac camp, either knows nothing about the things he discusses and writes, or he is lying. There are liars and liars. - Compulsive liars are aware of their lies. Pathological liars are usually unaware of their lies because they themselves believe that what they are saying is actually true.

The insufficient level of knowledge about NDH and the Jasenovac camp that Professor Ivo Goldstein, PhD has is to Dr. Razum unreachable. Chronic, hopeless ignorance. Or maybe there is something else in question. However, I see many similarities between Dr. Razum and Professor Goldstein, PhD, because they have both specialized (including their doctorates) in medieval subjects, both then almost overnight found themselves in exploring the most sensitive topics of our contemporary history, both express a similar, though not identical tendency to arbitrarily interpret past events and be unfamiliar with historical sources, and to draw insufficiently substantiated conclusions or conclusions without any arguments.

There is nothing Dr. Razum did not think of to expose me in his pamphlet: “Despite all the efforts to demonstrate that he [Geiger] is a different historian than Dr. Goldstein, with few of these details a distinguished presenter has revealed himself to the extent that the reader [Dr. Razum] can freely conclude that Dr. Goldstein and he [Geiger] are on the same side. They write and think equally about important questions and differ in irrelevant details. Each of them has played and is playing his part, imposed by the ‘masters’ of this World, according to which the Second World War must not be touched and the then established balance of power must not be disturbed.” Dr. Razum claims that “[...] Dr. Goldstein and his critic Dr. Geiger from the Croatian Institute of History are identical in the unanimous preservation and promotion of the politically imposed truth – dogma”. And he argues further that, like Prof. Goldstein, PhD I “look down on” NDH, and that like Prof. Goldstein, PhD I accept “in large part the Communist-Partisan assessment of its life and content” (p. 17).

Of course that I reject such a peculiar assessment/accusation, as with equal and even greater zeal I reject the assessments/accusations that I am the same as Dr. Razum (and in the wasteland of the Internet underworld, such nonsense can also be found). Because my views “on the wartime Jasenovac concentration camp, on the authorities of the Independent State of Croatia, on the Independent State of Croatia itself” are not – as Dr. Razum claims – “identical”

to the views of Prof. Goldstein, PhD (whom I really do resent much and I have written about it on several occasions), but my views are undoubtedly closer to such views than those of Dr. Razum and his like-minded supporters. Just like my views are – regardless of how terrible it must be for the Reverend Dr. Razum to hear that – closer to the views of Blessed Aloysius Stepinac or Dr. Franjo Tuđman, than, and in that I am strongly convinced, to the views of Dr. Razum and all those who observe NDH and the Jasenovac camp in the same manner.

In his comment of my review of Goldstein's book *Jasenovac* Dr. Razum in the end concludes complacently: "The answer to the initially asked question unequivocally is, that a distinguished historian from the Croatian Institute of History unfortunately cannot or must not write truthfully about World War II; he must not be a revisionist that would interfere with the politically imposed truth – dogma. [...] doubt remains, whether he must not do so due to the restraint and ban imposed by the management of his institution or due to self-restraint (self-censorship)" (pp. 17–18). - Not only did he expose me by means of fabrications and ordinary lies, but the Reverend Dr. Razum in his inherent "patriotic" vision in the end also accused me of not "contributing to the liberation of the Croatian people from politically imposed truths – dogmas", but that I "have cemented those truths even more strongly. Unfortunately!" (p. 18). And I say, unfortunately!

It is excruciating and largely purposeless to argue with people who know extremely little and understand even less. At the same time, I wonder what is the difference between Dr. Razum who refers to those who do not accept his vivid interpretations of persons and events from the time of World War II and its aftermath as supporters of lies and "reinforcers of the imposed Yugo-Serbian dogma" who failed to escape from the "Yugoslav-Great Serbian-chauvinistic rut", and his ideological and pseudoscientific antipodes who with equal ease call their adversaries "revisionists", "fascists", "Ustashas" and the like? I am also haunted by the question of how much of common-sense and Christian is in what the Reverend Dr. Razum and his ideological altar boys think and represent about NDH, Jasenovac and other issues from the time of World War II and its aftermath.

I am aware that this text of mine will not change the views of Dr. Razum and his associates and like-minded colleagues one little bit, as it is quite clear to me that my review of Professor Goldstein's book will not sway those who see in this book the ultimate scientific work which probably brings the story of Jasenovac to an end.

Dr. Razum is right that we "are living in an age of twisted values". The problem with ignorance and misconceptions is that they leave us in the dark.

- It is crystal clear to Dr. Razum: Croatian historiographic community, including myself, intimately know that the Truth is on the side of Dr. Razum and his followers, but because of the tasks obtained by the “masters’ of this World”, institutional pressure or “self-restraint” we remain on the side of Darkness. - Aware that in this case the power of arguments and logic has a very limited impact, I leave him/them in that belief. Because in the cases when the knowledge about contemporary Croatian history, especially the history of NDH, and the judgment ability are like in the case of the Reverend Dr. Razum, not even all of the Fourteen Holy Helpers can help.

Vladimir Geiger