

Why Do People Inflict Such Unspeakable Suffering on Their Fellow Human Beings?

This cannot be understood without the findings of psychology

By [Dr. Rudolf Hänsel](#)

Theme: [History](#)

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For many years, as a psychologist and educationalist, I have been trying to point out, in the spirit of my psychology teacher, in view of the unspeakable suffering that people inflict on their fellow human beings, that humanity must embrace the results of psychological research in order to create a life worthy of human beings and end the unspeakable suffering of people all over the world (1).

Only when we truly understand how we have become through the education of our parents and teachers in childhood, how we have learnt to obey them and all other authorities, and by realising that we carry these experiences as ballast into adulthood, will we see ourselves, our fellow human beings and the entire social order in a different light and understand why people can do to their fellow human beings what they do every day without much scruple.

Actually, the barbarism during the worldwide colonisation of the past centuries and the horrors of the two world wars and all other wars should have made it clear to us how we humans, without exception, react to the orders and commands of the "world leaders", the so-called authorities, who are imbued with the spirit of violence, and what disaster develops from each of them.

As wide-awake and rational citizens who want to live in peace and freedom, we should not be at the mercy of this seemingly inevitable "fate".

However, it is never too late to come to this fundamental realisation that without psychology and our self-awareness, the respective disaster will continue to take its course and only end in the "unthinkable".

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Dr Rudolf Lothar Hänsel is a school rector, educational scientist and qualified psychologist. After completing his university studies, he became an academic teacher in adult education. As a pensioner, he worked as a psychotherapist in his own practice. In his books and specialist articles, he calls for a conscious ethical and moral education of values as well as an education for public spirit and peace.

Note

(1) Hänsel, Rudolf (2023). Making the results of psychological research your own! Insights from an encounter with the psychologist Friedrich Liebling and his liberal psychotherapy. Gornji Milanovac; in German and English: <http://www.nrhz.de/flyer/beitrag.php?id=28579>

Featured image: Syrian families suffering at Rukban Concentration Camp run by US occupation forces

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