



## Mufti Advised Hitler on Holocaust

Noted Middle East Forum scholar Dr. Wolfgang G. Schwanitz responds to criticism of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Schwanitz, a leading expert on ties between Nazis and Islamists, says al-Hajj Amin [al-Husaini](#) was instrumental in the decision to exterminate the Jews of Europe

"The Mufti of Jerusalem al-Hajj Amin al-Husaini was a war criminal whose collaboration with Adolf Hitler played a key role in the Holocaust," says Dr. Wolfgang G. [Schwanitz](#), the Hochberg Family Writing Fellow at the Middle East Forum.

Philadelphia, PA – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has [drawn criticism](#) for comments about the role of al-Hajj Amin al-Husaini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, in conceiving and perpetrating the Holocaust. Indeed, leading Nazi aides testified that al-Husaini was one of the instigators of the genocide. In his Damascus [memoirs](#), the mufti admitted how he advised Hitler and other leading Nazis, and that he acquired full knowledge of the ongoing mass murder.



Adolf Hitler meets Amin al-Husaini in Berlin's Chancellery on November 28, [1941](#)

Middle East Forum scholar, historian, and author Wolfgang G. Schwanitz added, "It is a historical fact that the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem al-Hajj Amin al-Husaini was an [accomplice](#) whose collaboration with Adolf Hitler played an important role in the Holocaust. He was the foremost extra-European [adviser](#) in the process to destroy the Jews of Europe."

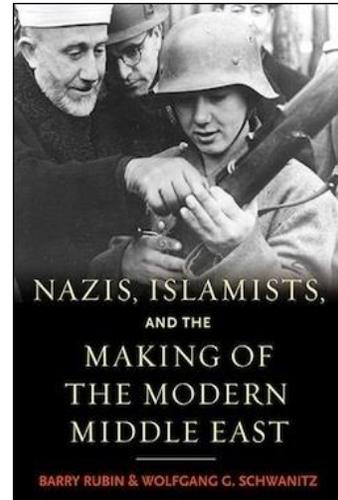
Although Schwanitz hadn't previously heard the dialogue between Hitler and al-Husaini as told by Benjamin Netanyahu, he says it is absurd to ignore the role played by al-Hajj Amin [al-Husaini](#), a war criminal, in encouraging and urging Hitler and other leading Nazis to exterminate European Jewry.

According to the foremost expert on the ties between Nazis and Islamists, there is much evidence that al-Husaini's primary goal was blocking all of the ways out of Europe. He pushed Hitler to slam the last doors of a burning house shut.

In their 2014 book [Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East](#), published by Yale University Press, Wolfgang G. Schwanitz and co-author Barry Rubin delve into the deep ties between Hitler and the Grand Mufti:

At their meeting [on November 28, 1941, Hitler and al-Husaini] concluded the pact of Jewish [genocide](#) in Europe and the Middle East, and immediately afterward, Hitler gave the order to prepare for the Holocaust. The next day invitations went out to thirteen Nazis for the Wannsee Conference to begin organizing the logistics of this mass murder.

The highly acclaimed [book](#) also examined the Grand Mufti's efforts to prevent Europe's Jews from finding refuge in the land that would become Israel:



And since any European Jews let out of Europe might later go to Palestine, [al-Husaini](#) made it clear that if Hitler wanted Muslims and Arabs as allies he must close Europe's exits to Jews. At the same time, [al-Husaini](#) and Arab rulers also told Britain that if it wanted to keep Arabs and Muslims from being enemies, it must close entrance to Palestine to all Jews. By succeeding on both fronts, al-Husaini contributed to the Holocaust doubly, directly, and from the start.

See the [books](#) *Nazis, Islamists and the Making of the Modern Middle East*: [Yale](#), February 25, 2014, 360 pp.; [German](#) book *Islam in Europe, Revolts in the Mideast*: [Weist](#), 2013; 15. September 2014, 2nd ed., [Berlin](#), [order here](#).

#### About the Middle East Forum

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