

DYER'S RECIPE FOR KOSOVO WAR APOLOGISTS

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In the column entitled “Reports of genocide in Kosovo exaggerated?” Gwynne Dyer shares an imaginative recipe for Kosovo war apologists (Sunday Telegram, Dec. 5).

First, take the 2,108 bodies exhumed by war crimes investigators. Assume all were ethnic Albanians, in contradiction to investigators’ statements that some were Serbs. Assume, despite press reports about numerous KLA mass reburials for their “martyrs,” that all were ethnic Albanian civilians and no KLA fighters were killed in battle.

Second, take the number of bodies per investigated gravesite and multiply by the number of reported sites not yet investigated to estimate bodies to be exhumed next year. Ignore that investigators chose to investigate the largest, most plausible claims first, and will encounter diminishing returns to further investigation.

Third, lend plausibility to your extrapolation by citing an even larger, official-sounding number of deaths based on reports received from self-styled eyewitnesses. Ignore that these are the very reports investigated by war crimes investigators and found to be false in some cases and inflated in others.

Cart before the horse

Fourth, indignantly proclaim that your extrapolation is an appalling number and would have been much larger if NATO had not intervened. Put the cart before the horse and ignore that NATO started the war producing the very numbers you are trying to exaggerate.

Fifth, and most important, frame the whole issue as a crusade with but one consideration: the well-being of KLA supporters. Ignore hundreds of Serbian civilians killed and thousands maimed by NATO bombs; hundreds of Serbs, Roma, Slavic Muslims, and non-conforming ethnic Albanians killed by KLA supporters under NATO’s occupation; massive damage to housing and infrastructure; and so on.

Finally, to the list of five artificial ingredients listed above, add several screams of “genocide” and stir. Ignore all inconvenient facts because, after all, the sole purpose of this recipe is self-exoneration.

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