

# Mufti al-Husseini's initiatory role in the Holocaust

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been widely castigated for highlighting the role of Haj Amin al-Husseini, a former Mufti of Jerusalem, in the Holocaust, during [widely criticised](#). Even anti-Semitic illustrator Carlos Latuff has mocked Netanyahu over the episode – a rich irony given his grotesque near-[such as that of Eichmann's assistant](#), establishes that the Mufti had a role in encouraging the Holocaust rather than expulsion as a means for Hitler to be rid of Jews:

“Adolf Eichmann's deputy, Dieter Wisliceny, stated at his Nuremberg trial that the mufti's importance “must not be disregarded[.] ... [T]he Mufti had repeatedly suggested to ... Hitler, Ribbentrop and Himmler, the extermination of European Jewry[.] ... The Mufti was one of the initiators of the systematic extermination of European Jewry and had been a collaborator and advisor of Eichmann and Himmler in the execution of the plan.”

Netanyahu later [blog collates some interesting material](#) on this issue. The book ‘Nazis, Islamists, and the Making of the Modern Middle East’, authored by Wolfgang G. Schwanitz and Barry Rubin, points to Hitler being open to emigration as a solution to the “Jewish Question” as late as 1941, while Bernard Wasserstein's book ‘Britain and the Jews of Europe, 1939-1945’, asserts that the Third Reich precluded Jews being allowed to emigrate to British-Mandatory Palestine due to the NAZI alliance with the Mufti.

The Mufti was instrumental in helping initiate the extermination programme. Netanyahu may not have been mistaken

in tying the extermination plan largely to a meeting in late 1941 between the Mufti and Hitler, given the sequence of events that would ensue. To quote at length an extract from