

# Arthur Butz

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## INTRODUCTION

Noted for his 1976 book, *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* --an early effort to portray Holocaust denial as objective scholarly research-- Arthur Butz has steadily promoted Holocaust denial on the Internet, in articles and in public speeches for almost thirty years.

### Quick Profile

**Origins:** 1970s

**Born:** 1933

**Education:** B.S., M.S., MIT; Ph.D., U. Minn.

**Occupation:** Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, Northwestern University

**Ideology:** Holocaust denial

**Extremist Affiliations:** Institute for Historical Review

**Works:** *The Hoax of the 20th Century* (1976)



Arthur Butz's place among the purveyors of Holocaust denial is secured by his 1976 book, *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, one of the first major works of Holocaust denial in the English language. Though not as active as Ernst Zündel or David Irving, Butz has continued to play a role in the Holocaust denial movement by writing articles for the now-defunct *Journal of Historical Review* (on whose editorial advisory board he served from 1980 through 2001) and occasionally speaking at Holocaust denial conferences.

Butz is an associate professor of electrical engineering at Northwestern University. Fellow deniers cite Butz's academic credentials in an attempt to cast his Holocaust writings as respectable works of scholarship. The publication of *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* brought controversy to the Northwestern campus; Jewish groups protested Butz's continued presence on the staff while the university administration attempted to balance its stated abhorrence of Butz's views with its commitment to academic freedom. Because Butz did not introduce Holocaust denial in his classes, Northwestern President Robert Strotz allowed him to continue teaching. Strotz asked Jewish organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League, to help design new classes on the Holocaust for Northwestern's curriculum. The university also sponsored a conference for high school teachers that explored ways of conveying the lessons of the Holocaust.

Many of Butz's Holocaust writings are available on the Internet. *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* was recently reprinted by another Holocaust denier, a German fugitive from justice named Germar Rudolf, who has offered the book as a free download from his Web site. Many of the articles Butz contributed to the

*Journal of Historical Review* are archived on the Web site of the Journal's publisher, the Institute for Historical Review. Butz also maintains his own Web site, though it is infrequently updated.

Some Holocaust deniers argue that Butz's book has never been refuted by mainstream scholars, but in fact many of his arguments have been thoroughly debunked in John C. Zimmerman, *Holocaust Denial: Demographics, Testimonies and Ideologies* (University Press of America, 2000), and in Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust* (The Free Press, 1993). Online refutations have been posted by sites such as [www.Nizkor.org](http://www.Nizkor.org) and [www.anti-rev.org](http://www.anti-rev.org).