

Letters to the editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

10/17/93

Whatever David Mills' purpose in his Outlook "Half-Truths and History: The Debate Over Jews and Slavery"^{articles} he is unfair to the point of dishonesty and becomes a propagandist himself in his references to Jews alone in the slave trade while not once referring to Catholics, Protestants or Muslims in it. Nor in his statistics does he once cite the percentage of all blacks initially sold into slavery by other blacks.

He also says that "Spain had similarly (to Portugal) forced its Jews to convert or flee five years earlier." That is all the Inquisition that he did not mention did? And it was Spain alone? Not the Catholic Church? No murders including burnings at the stake?

In saying that "The Portuguese were the first to colonize Brazil" and became involved in the slave trade Mills refers to Jews only, not Catholics, who were far and away most.

Mills refers to the owners of the Dutch West Indies Company by religion only with regard to Jews, who hardly controlled it with a ten percent interest. But in referring to the Portuguese recapture of Brazil from the Dutch, of the Dutch who remained in the West Indies Mills distinguishes between the other Dutch and those who were Jews.

Approaching the subject on the basis of religion is grossly dishonest without mention of all the practitioners of all religions involved in that rotten business. Separating Jews alone is in itself propaganda and a subtle kind of its own racist.

Harold Weisberg

