Rule by Secrecy

The hidden history that connects the Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, and the Great Pyramids

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INTRODUCTION

The world is governed by very different personages from what is imagined by those who are not behind the scenes.

— Benjamin Disraeli
Be forewarned.

If you are perfectly contented and satisfied with your own particular view of humankind, religion, history, and the world, read no further.

If you truly believe that humanity has almost reached the peak of its scientific and spiritual fulfillment and that the corporate-owned mass media is keeping you well enough informed, stop here.

But if you are one of those millions who look at the daily news, scratch your head in wonder, and ask, "What in the world is going on?" or if you entertain questions of who we are, where we came from, and where we're all going, you are in for a joy ride.

This book deals with the secrets of government, hidden history, and clandestine revelations, the secrets of wealth, power, and control, the secrets rarely recorded in the history books and never mentioned in the mass media. This material may be disturbing and unsettling to some. But no one has ever gained wisdom by studying material that only reinforced their already predetermined ideas.

Addressed here will be issues many would have us believe occupy only the fringes of knowledge, but that often become major issues suddenly because areas of massive concern! Older readers might recall that irritating but ultimately insignificant fraud indicted who gained prominence in the 1930s. What has happened to that fellow and his followers? Where is he today? What has happened to his followers and his followers? How has he affected the world in an obscure place called Vietnam? Or remember that small conflict halfway around the world in an obscure place called Vietnam.

The book also deals with conspiracy, an activity long decried by the major media despite the fact that the American judicial system regularly convicts people for criminal conspiracy.

Do secret societies truly exist? Is there really a secret government? Is there a worldwide conspiracy bent on the subversion of freedom and democracy? Or is such talk just the irrational ramblings of "conspiracy theorists"?

The answer all depends to whom you choose to listen. And too many
people writing about conspiracy—on both sides of the question—have their own particular agenda. It is time to step back and take the broader view of our world and its history.

As the new millennium begins, the American public is becoming more aware of one Dot-so-secret conspiracy: that for half the year they work for the government. About the first six months of any given year is spent making money, which disappears into taxes before the worker even gets his or her checks. Withholding this invisible tax money has, over the years, consumed almost to the point of impotence. The simple British tax on tea burdened the colonists as a tax which openly burdened them. The simple British tax on tea and to have precipitated the American Revolution was a pittance by comparison.

Despite warnings of a healthy economy by the skewed statistics of the mass media and politicians, polls indicate the public feel an increasing uneasiness about the direction of our national life. This may be why more and more thoughtful people are taking a seri- ous look at conspiracies and the secret groups that spawn them. The Internet is filled with Web sites and chat rooms where conspiracy is the watchword. More and more books and periodicals are being published filled with conspiracies ranging from the secrets of the Crusaders to the JFK assassination.

Yet despite the length and breadth of the Information Highway, the average American remains woefully ignorant. That is not to imply they are stupid or mentally challenged. They have simply not been exposed to the information new available. Many thoughtful, educated people in a variety of fields—physicians, lawyers, computer experts, stock brokers, educators, teachers, etc.—are totally in the dark about a wide variety of issues and the connections between them concerning the balance of the United States.

People cannot be so ignorant on the back of the Internet. The lack of time to educate the average American is to blame. The Internet is taking the place of the news media which does not present the information in all its broader implications. As A. J. Liebling once said, freedom of the press is for those who own the presses... or the radio and TV stations.

So how does one know what is true and what is not? What is important and what is trivial? Who is really in charge? Are there ongoing conspiracies that affect us all? Are these plots that can be traced back through mankind’s history? What are they and what is their purpose?
This book deals with these questions. But before there can be answers, the issue of conspiracy must be addressed.

A QUESTION OF CONSPIRACY

The concept of conspiracy has long been anathema to most Americans, who have been conditioned by the mass media to believe that conspiracies against the public only exist in banana republics or communist countries.

A simplistic view, encouraged by a media devoted to maintaining a squeaky-clean image of the status quo, fails to take into account human history or the subtleties of the word conspiracy.

The word is derived from the Latin conspirare, literally meaning to breathe together, to act or think in harmony. In modern times, conspiracy has taken on a sinister connotation. Most dictionaries now offer two definitions of the term: 1. To plan together secretly, especially to commit an illegal or evil act; or 2. To plan or plot secretly. One definition is vile, the other less so.

Secrecy is the connecting tissue found throughout man's past. There are secrets between individuals and groups as well as secrets to be kept by both church and government authorities. There are political secrets, even secrets of finance and commerce.

Obviously, a conspiracy among colleagues to buy the boss a present is not the same level of conspiracy as bank robbers scheming their next job. Likewise, the small merchant who keeps his business plans secret from his competitors is not participating in a conspiracy equal to corporate leaders plotting to fix prices.

The key to which conspiracy is the intent of the secrecy.

While some secrets may be benign—why spoil the surprise birthday party by telling?—other secrets, such as supporting causes for cancer or AIDS research, may be as important to the ongoing survival of our society as the secrets of science. These secrets that cost in terms of lives, that prevent people from living together in harmony, and are used for control are simply abhorrent to most people. Therefore, whoever conspires to keep such secrets must be carefully scrutinized by everyone concerned with individual freedoms.

Columnist Stewart Alsop once wrote, knowledge is power, and power
is the most valuable commodity in government. So whoever knows the secrets controls the knowledge and therefore holds power. Many people today feel that a mere handful of persons and organizations control much of the global knowledge. This knowledge is jealously guarded by secrecy. It turns the old adage "What you don't know can't hurt you" right on its head. "What you don't know can hurt you!"

The issue of conspiracy also lies at the heart of how one views history. Here there are only two views: accidental or conspiratorial.

The former view is that history is simply a series of accidents, or acts of God, which world leaders are powerless to alter or prevent. An adherent of this view was President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, Zbig- nem Brzezinski. Brzezinski, today a member of the executive committee of the secretive Trilateral Commission, said in 1981, "History is much more the product of chance than of conspiracy. . . . Increasingly, policy makers are overwhelmed by events and information."

Another supporter of the accidental view of history was journalist and self-described "secular humanist" George Johnson. He wrote that the notion of conspiracies has been "pushed by right-wing extremists since the beginning of the century," indicating "that the paranoid style of American politics didn't die with Senator Joseph McCarthy."

The conspiratorial view, on the other hand, could more accurately be called the "cause and effect" view. Obviously, accidents occur. Planes, trains, and cars crash. Ships sink. But in history, it is clear that human planning most often precipitates events.

So why haven't we heard more about such secret planning?

According to conspiracy researchers Jonathan Vankin and John Whalen, like American public's attitudes are shaped by a sanitized "Disney" view of history, which is not easily challenged by "The 'Disney version' of history could just as easily be called the 'New York Times version' or the '60 minutes version' or the 'Saturday Night Live version,' they wrote. "What we are really talking about is theDisney view of history, which is not easily challenged by "The 'Disney version' of history could just as easily be called the 'New York Times version' or the '60 minutes version' or the 'Saturday Night Live version,' they wrote. "What we are really talking about is the media, academia, and government—people who manage the national and global economy of information."

Anthony C. Sutton, a London-born economics professor who was a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover institution, agreed that an "Establishment history" emanates from publishers, politicians, the media, and "Establishment history" written by establishment historians. "During the past one hundred years any theory of history
practical evidence that falls outside a pattern established by the American Historical Association and the major foundations with their gate-making power has been attacked or rejected—not on the basis of any evidence presented, but on the basis of the acceptability of the arguments to the so-called Eastern Liberal Establishment, and its official historical line,” he commented. “Free bridges any book or author that falls outside the official guidelines. Foundation support is not there. Publishers get cold feet. Distribution is hit and miss, non-existent.”

This refrain was echoed by President Bill Clinton’s academic mentor, Dr. Carroll Quigley. His 1966 book, Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time, revealed his insider knowledge of modern secret societies. Quigley said it was withdrawn suddenly by a major New York publisher. “I am now quite sure that Tragedy and Hope was suppressed . . .,” Quigley wrote in the mid-1970s.

Researchers and writers—such as the late Gary Allen, A. Ralph Epperson, G. Edward Griffin, Dr. John Coleman, Jonathan Vankin, Anthony C. Sutton, and Eustace Mullins to name but a few—have written about conspiracies for many years. But these works are nearly always produced by small publishers with limited distribution. These authors charge that the mass media is controlled by corporate America, which has prevented any meaningful exposure of their material.

This concern is echoed even outside the U.S. A French publisher once wrote: “It would not be possible to trace ownership of corporations and the power structure in the United States. ‘They’ would not permit it. ‘They’ would find a way to harass and silence anyone who tried. ‘They’ seem to be a fairly small group of people who know each other, ‘They’ move in and out of government jobs, but public service apparently serves to win private promotion rather than the other way around. The Government ‘control’ that practically everyone recognizes cannot be traced through stock holdings, regulatory agencies, public decisions. ‘They’ seem to function through a maze of personal contacts and tacit understandings.” To this one might add their membership in secret societies.

Many conspiracy authors have written about dark plots to impose a “New World Order” from within modern secret societies such as the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Illuminati, the Committee of 300, and others. Objective researchers point to
the absence of libel suits against such writers as lending some credence
to their views. Yet the mainstream news media rarely sees fit to dis-
cuss—much less investigate—such accusations.

Yet with the arrival of a new millennium, the theme of conspiracy
has found its way into every aspect of American life—from books, TV,
and film treatment to politics. Even the president of the United States is
not immune to the lure of conspiracies.

In 1991, newly installed President Bill Clinton appointed his close
golfing buddy, Webster Hubbell associate attorney general of the
Department of Justice. In a recent memoir, Friends in High Places, Hubbell
wrote that Clinton told him, "Webb . . . if I put you over at Justice, I want
you to find the answers to two questions for me. One, who killed JFK? And
two, are there UFOs?" "He was dead serious," added Hubbell. "I had
looked into both but wasn't satisfied with the answers I was getting."

The president and his top appointee in the Justice Department can't
get a straight answer? Who's in charge?

Following Hubbell's disclosure, Dr. Steven Greer, director of the Center
for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), revealed that in
1993 he gave a three-hour briefing on the reality of UFOs to Chief CIA
director Admiral James Woolsey. Greer said Woolsey was stymied in his
attempts to verify Greer's information and was unable to obtain the rele-
sant documents in CIA files.

When it comes to this nation's deepest, darkest secrets, it appears
there are powers even higher than the president of the United States
and the director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Conspiracy writers and government officials are not alone in sus-
pecting conspiracies.

A 1997 Scripps-Howard News Service poll in conjunction with Ohio
University resulted in these astounding statistics:

—51 percent of those polled believe it is likely that some federal
officials were directly responsible for the assassination of Presi-
dent John F. Kennedy.

—More than a third suspect that the U.S. Navy shot down TWA
Flight 800, either intentionally or unintentionally.

—A majority believe that CIA officials intentionally
allowed Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to
inner-city black children.
—Sixty percent felt the government is withholding information regarding Agent Orange and the causes of Gulf War Syndrome.
—Almost half suspect FBI agents set the fire which killed eighty-one Branch Davidians near Waco, Texas, in 1993. (This number undoubtedly grew much larger in 1999 with revelations about government deceit regarding pyrotechnic devices being used prior to the fire.)
—After the U.S. Air Force released a report that “aliens” reported at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947, were actually crash dummies from tests first begun in 1954, more people now believe that the government is covering up both information and technology from extraterrestrials than before.

Reacting to this poll, the executive director of the Washington Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, Curtis Gans, lamented, “Paranoia is killing this country.” But is it truly paranoid? Is there really no one out there conspiring to gain wealth and power? An old wheeze reminds us, “Just because you’re paranoid doesn’t mean they’re out to get you!”

It is a growing belief that certain individuals with vast wealth and power are generally known to the public, yet the real masters in the United States and the world. “Power is a fact of life in America, but most Americans are far removed from it. Secrecy is power’s chief tool. Government issues defiant, yet uncertain denials. We are increasingly isolated from one another—stuck in front of computer and television screens, prisoners behind windshields. There is a frightening feeling of disconnection to modern American life.” Conspiracy theories try to put the pieces back together.”

Company theories are an attempt to grasp the “big picture” of history. “We believe that many of the major world events that are shaping our destiny come because somebody or somebody has planned them that way,” said conservative author Gary Allen. “If we are truly dealing with the list of events affecting our nation’s well-being, should be good for America. If we are truly dealing with mere coincidence, our leaders should occasionally make a mistake in our favor. . . . We are not really dealing with coincidence or stupidity, but with planning and brilliance.”
Less reflective in his thinking was author Johnson, who set the tone for the Reagan years with the 1983 publication of his book Architects of Fear: Conspiracy Theories and Paranoia in American Politics, an outgrowth of a series of articles he wrote as a reporter for the Minneapolis Star. Johnson stated that a large number of Americans simply cannot accept the idea that "there are a number of ways to interpret events," adding confidently, "the is not a single all-embracing system." Johnson and paranoid Americans "build elaborate systems explaining all the world's troubles as part of a conspiracy" to subdue their fear and hatred rather than accept what he described as a "pluralistic" view of history, economics, and politics. "There is a difference between those who occasionally succumb to the attraction of pat, conspiratorial explanations and the conspiracy theorist — who believes everything bad that has ever happened is part of an all-encompassing, centuries-old plot," he added.

Having said that, Johnson was forced to admit that "neither the historical nor the sociological analysis explains why so many conspiracy theorists construct such strikingly similar worldviews." Furthermore, he failed to note that those who sincerely believe that conspiracies don't exist and benefit those who may be conspiring.

RULE BY THE FEW

"Elites, not masses, govern America," concluded academics Thomas R. Dye and L. Harmon Zeigler in their book The Irony of Democracy. "In an industrial, scientific, and nuclear age, life in a democracy, just as in a totalitarian society, is shaped by a handful of men. In spite of differences in their approach to the study of power in America, scholars—political scientists and sociologists alike—agree that 'the key political, economic, and social decisions are made by tiny minorities.'"

The idea that a small, wealthy ruling elite—an oligarchy—sustains itself in power appears to be well supported by the facts. In disproportionate amount of America's resources is controlled by a handful of its 265 million population. According to a 1983 study by the Federal Reserve Board, a mere 2 percent of U.S. families control 54 percent of the nation's wealth, and only 10 percent of the people own 86 percent of the net financial assets. The majority of American families—55 percent—have zero or neg-
This cycle of the rich getting richer while the poor get poorer has been accelerating since the 1960s through both Republican and Democratic administrations. It gained more momentum in the 1990s, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. From 1992 to 1996, the wealthiest 5 percent’s share of the national income rose 14 percent, nearly twice that of everyone else’s gain during the previous twenty-five years.

Current figures are even more grim. The average worker’s median pay in 1998—adjusted for inflation—is one full dollar below the 1973 hourly rate. During the past twenty years, the income gap between males with a college education and those with some high school grew from 42 percent to 89 percent. Union jobs have borne the brunt of this “outsourcing.” In 1970, the unions representing steel and auto workers counted nearly three million members. Today, membership is below one million.

“...we are evolving into a two-tier society, where people in the knowledge industries prosper, and those without a college education or technical skills fall by the wayside,” noted U.S. News & World Report’s editor-in-chief Mortimer B. Zuckerman. Many are now questioning if this “outsourcing of the American middle class” is truly natural evolution or conscious planning for a “New World Order.”

It is widely reported that the United States uses the world’s natural resources far out of proportion to its percentage of the planet’s population. It is also an uncontested fact that as the new millennium dawns, the United States stands alone as the world’s preeminent power. So who really controls the United States and, hence, the world?

Everyone’s head turns (nervously) when the vast empire of economics, manufacture, stocks, control prices, and avoid taxes. “They” also maintain monopolies over energy, medicine, arms, and manufacturing by suppressing new technologies.

“...they” also wield undue influence over the news media and world governments with their control of multinational corporations as well as private organizations such as the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Bilderberg Group.

“...they” also belong to secret societies such as the Elites, Skull and Bones, Knights of Malta, and the inner circles of Freemasonry. But who exactly are “they”? Who are the men—get names used to be
included—that may well control the destiny of planet Earth? Why do they act in secrecy and why are they attracted to secret organizations? What secrets do they possess that allow them to assume the role of a ruling elite? More important, what are their goals and agendas?

Many people have heard of the modern secret societies named above. But few have had the opportunity to learn the details of their origins, intentions, and connections. Therefore it is natural to question just how much influence or control these groups may have over real events.

This book is a study of these secret societies—both modern and ancient—and their role in world history, an attempt to uncover their secrets, to search for the true meaning of their mysteries.

What becomes clear to even the most casual researcher is that secret societies not only do exist but have played key roles in world affairs over the centuries. What is unclear is exactly who they are and how many are involved. And what are the connections between these groups? After all,

In 1909, Walter Rathenau of General Electric in Germany, said, "Three hundred men, all of whom knew one another, direct the economic destiny of Europe and choose their successors among themselves." Rathenau's figure may have provided the basis for conspiracy author Dr. John Coleman's claim that a "Committee of 300" controls a "secret, super-secret parallel government" that runs Britain and the U.S.

Joseph P. Kennedy, sire of the famed Kennedy family, once remarked, "Fifty men have run America and that's a high figure."

In describing who runs the United States today, David Rockefeller and Irving Wallace, authors of the popular The People's Almanac, echoed high school civics classes by listing the president, two-house legislature, and the nine-member Supreme Court. They also mentioned state, county, and city governments but correctly noted that "most of their laws can be voided by the federal government."

But what about hidden power and control? In a nation unburied under a "Who REALLY rules?" The answer remains, "There are many faces at work in U.S. society. Yet the most powerful by far are the undebatable directors of the major banks, corporations, and insurance companies, with the backing of the leaders of the military. In the words of former president Dwight Eisenhower, 'The military-industrial complex.'"

Okay, but who controls this "military-industrial complex?"
It has not only been fringe conspiracy theorists who have spoken out about hidden control in the world.

British prime minister Benjamin Disraeli as far back as 1856 told the House of Commons, "It is useless to deny, because it is impossible to conceal, that a great part of Europe—the whole of Italy and France and a great portion of what is left of Prussia—of the great empires of the world, is covered with a network of these secret societies. . . . And what are their objects? They do not want to conceal them. They do not want constitutional government . . . they want to change the tenure of land, to drive out the present owners of the soil and to put an end to ecclesiastical establishments [churches]."

President Woodrow Wilson, also, as will be seen, was intimately concerned with confirmation power, wrote, "Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of something. They know there is a power somewhere so organized, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so pervasive that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it."

U.S. Supreme Court justice Felix Frankfurter once revealed, "The real rulers in Washington are invisible, and exercise power from behind the scenes."

In a letter dated December 23, 1933, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote to President Woodrow Wilson's top adviser, Colonel Edward House, "The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the large centers has owned the government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson."

Roosevelt's son Elliot wrote, "There are within our world perhaps only a dozen organizations which shape the courses of our various destinies as rigidly as the regularly constituted governments."

Warnings about a secret government in the United States have been voiced by many people over the years.

Former New York mayor John F. Hylan stated in 1922, "The real menace of our Republic is the invisible government which shapes our current decisions, which cannot be influenced by the ordinary methods of politics, which manage affairs in the deep recesses of secret cabinets and conferences."

At the head of this odyscey are the Rockefeller, Standard Oil interests and a small group.
of powerful banking houses generally referred to as the international bankers [who] virtually run the U.S. government for their own selfish purposes.”

Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty (retired) served as a Focal Point liaison officer between the Pentagon and the CIA from 1955 to 1963. From his vantage point, Prouty was able to observe the control mechanisms over both intelligence and the military.

Writing in 1973, Prouty said the United States is run by a “Secret Team,” an “inner sanctum of a new religious order” answerable only to themselves. “The power of the Team derives from its vast inter-governmental undercover infrastructure and its direct relationship with giant private industries, mutual funds and investment houses, universities, and the news media, including foreign and domestic publishing houses.

... All true members of the Team remain in the power center whether in or out of office with the incumbent administration or set of office holders or from official jobs and the business world in the planet honored by academe.”

Prouty wrote, “This great machine has been constructed by such able men as ‘Wild Bill’ Donovan, Clark Clifford, Walter Bedell Smith, Allen Dulles, Marshall Fiske, Helmuth Beely and many others, who have placed and molded it into the monstrosity that it is today. It is big business, big government, big money, big presence — all operating in self-centered, self-serving secrecy and secrecy.

The disaster should not have these names matter for continuo coup up in connection with modern secret societies.

The great innovative thinker R. Buckminster Fuller also came to understand that the United States is ruled by powerful men behind the scenes. "The USA is not run by its so-called democratic government," he wrote shortly before he died in 1983. "Nothing could be more ridiculous than the idea that some, to be placed by the President of the United States, is the government of the United States." And he even wrote, "In the United States, there is no government. There is only on the surface of the American society a group of men who are absolutely in control of the American mind and media and most over-thirty-years-of-age USA citizens carry on as if the President has supreme power.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself closely connected to many of the prominent members of the secret societies, once remarked, "In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way." 

Another insider who confirmed that a plot was under way: America’s
first secretary of defense, James Forrestal, who may have paid with his life for his forthrightness. Beginning in 1947, Forrestal voiced his concern that government leaders were consistently making concessions to the Soviets. He had amassed more than three thousand pages of notes, which he told a friend would be turned into a book to expose the real motives of his superiors.

"These men are not incompetent or stupid. They are crafty and brilliant. Consistency has never been a mark of stupidity. If they were merely stupid, they would occasionally make a mistake in our favor," he noted.

Forrestal, who was privy to many secrets—he was listed as an original member of a supersecret group in charge of the UFO issue according to the controversial MJ-12 documents—resigned his office at the request of President Truman on March 2, 1949. Two months later, again at the request of Truman, Forrestal entered Bethesda Naval Hospital for a routine examination. A doctor assured his brother that Forrestal was well but refused to allow either the brother or the family priest to see him. On the day that his brother came to take him from the hospital, Forrestal's body was found on a lower floor of the hospital with a rope around his neck. Officials claimed Forrestal had committed suicide, but many people—both then and now—disbelieved this verdict. His notes and diaries were taken and held by the government for more than a year before a sanitized version was finally released to the public.

Although various officials claimed Forrestal was insane at the time, his unbalanced state must have provoked an ability to see into the future. Just before leaving for Bethesda, Forrestal told a friend that American soldiers would soon be dying in Korea. This statement came fifteen months before the North Koreans launched a "surprise" attack on the South.

Another crazy man who voiced a prophetic vision of war was Senator Joseph McCarthy, who mistook evidence of a worldwide conspiracy as support for his own prejudice against Communism. McCarthy, who owned much money in his unexplained and sudden attack on Communists, eventually saw no fault in his assault on the conspiracy to promote war for profit. He charged that the Yalta agreements of 1945 between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin were behind the insecurity of the entire world. The secret agreements between these world leaders—coming from the ceding of Eastern Europe to Stalin, the Middle East to Britain, and the Pacific and Southeast Asian region to America—
were confirmed in the mid-1970s by the release of some of Churchill's papers and correspondence.

On September 23, 1950, McCarthy stated, "Here [at Yalta] was signed the death warrant of the young men who are dying today in the hills and valleys of Korea. Here was signed the death warrant of the young men who will die tomorrow in the jungles of Indochina [later called Vietnam]."

"Here we can account for our present situation unless we believe that men high in Government areconcerting (sic) a plot to kill us in the dark! This must be the product of a great conspiracy, a conspiracy on a scale so immense as to cloud any previous such venture in the history of man," McCarthy warned. "What can be made of this unbroken series of decisions and acts contributing to the strategy of defeat? They cannot be attributed to incompetence."

McCarthy moved on to an inglorious end because he could not—or would not—look past the specter of a worldwide "communist" conspiracy. Fortunately, over time it became possible to discredit his malevolent and inflated accusations. Unfortunately, the demise of "McCarthyism" left the secrets intact.

Were all these people deluded conspiracy theorists? Or did they all, in their own incomplete and limited way, try to reveal the secret agendas behind the facile history fed to the public?

Commentators like Noam Chomsky and Gore Vidal have spoken out against the "national security state" from the Left. The late Senator Barry Goldwater and evangelist Pat Robertson have spoken out from the Right. Even mainstream columnists like commentator Bill Moyers and attorney Gerry Spence have warned of a "secret government." When historical figures along with concerned citizens from opposite ends of the political spectrum all say the same thing, it is time to start paying close attention to what's going on in the international sky.

Authors Harvey Wier and Thomas B. Ross wrote of such matters in their 1965 book, The Invisible Government, which the CIA attempted to suppress. They warned that secret government agencies had financial connections to foundations and universities and that they used American businesses to cover their operations, in direct violation of their charters. More recently these authors noted, "Nothing has happened... to persuade us that the danger of an invisible government in an open society has in any way diminished."

In Rule By Secrecy will be found new information and new ways to...
view history. An attempt will be made to tie together the loose ends of our collective knowledge, to make sense of a long trail of conspiratorial leads and evidence.

There is no guarantee that all of the information presented here is absolute ground truth. But to get a grasp on truth requires as much data as possible. Nothing should be discounted out of hand. All information, no matter how seemingly outlandish or inconsequential, should be considered and evaluated.

While there seems to be an endless number of secret societies—both political and religious—operating in the world, only those that appear to have the greatest impact upon the public are considered here. Prominent sects and cults—such as the Avengers, Black Dawn, the Order of the Phonolograph, Heaven's Gate, etc.—only distract from researching the truly effective organizations.

At this point permit me to make one thing very clear: Nothing presented here is intended to intrude on anyone's religious beliefs. Freedom of religion is one of the greatest aspects of American life. Every person should be permitted the comfort of their own beliefs as long as those beliefs don't adversely impact on another person.

But in researching history and the secret societies, one finds that religion and politics, particularly in the past, have been inextricably intertwined. To exclude religious matters would be a failure to tell half the story. This material must be intellectually considered: how it may fit into one's own worldview should be determined by each reader, depending upon one's own religious views and level of intellectual sophistication.

The immense wealth of information on secret societies, most of it written long ago, is filled with names, dates, and events that are meaningless to the modern reader. Therefore, historians often look for patterns of behavior and personal links between people and organizations. While the evidence usually speaks for itself, guilt by association must be considered and evaluated. All
secret society members are not conspirators. The entire scope of the vari-
ous issues must be examined thoroughly with a watchful eye for sub-
terfuge and deceit. Much historical information is incomplete or distorted
by conventional chroniclers.

What then are the secrets that link the Council on Foreign Relations
and Freemasonry back to Egypt’s Great Pyramid and beyond?

Set preconceptions and conditioning aside and join the attempt to
uncover the history and goals of those who rule by secrecy.
Secrecy is the freedom zealots dream of: no watchdog to check the ships, no accountant to check the books, no judge to check the law. This secret government has no constitution. The rules it follows are the rules it makes up.

—Bill Moyers
Secret societies not only exist, they have played an important role in national and international events right up to this day. In considering the reach of modern secret societies, it is instructive to first look at America’s immediate past presidents and the people and events surrounding them.

While many Americans popularly viewed President Bill Clinton as a youthful saxophone player with an eye for the ladies, most were unaware of his connection to three of the most notorious of modern secret societies: the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations (take particular notice of the initials CFR as they crop up incessantly in the study of U.S. policy decisions and world conflicts), and the Bilderbergers. The Trilateral Commission publishes its membership as well as position papers, but its inner workings are secret. The CFR also publishes a membership roll, but members are pledged to secrecy regarding its goals and operations. The Bilderberg group keeps both its agenda and membership a secret.


Publisher John F. McManus noted that in the fall of 1998, as impeachment loomed over him, Clinton hurried to New York to seek support from his CFR friends. "Bill Clinton knows well that he serves as president because the members of the 'secret society' to which he belongs chose him and expect him to carry out its plans," wrote McManus. Clinton was not the only recent president with connections to these groups. President George Bush was a Trilateralist, a CFR member, and a...
brother in the mysterious Order of Skull and Bones. President Ronald
Reagan, a former spokesman for General Electric, did not officially
belong to these groups, but his administrations were packed with both
current and former members as will be detailed later.

President Jimmy Carter’s administration was so filled with members of
the Trilateral Commission that conspiracy researchers had a field day.
Even the Establishment media began to talk.

THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION

By the early 1970s, thanks to burgeoning communications technology,
many Americans were becoming more aware of secretive organizations
such as the Council on Foreign Relations. Former CFR chairman David
Rockefeller, apparently in an effort to deflect public attention from
CFR activities, instigated the creation of a more public offshoot organi-
zation, the Trilateral Commission.

Both the commission and its predecessor, the CFR, are held out by
conspiracy researchers as the epitome of covert organizations which
may be guiding public policy in directions opposite to those either in
the best interest of or desired by the public.

The concept of the Trilateral Commission was originally brought to
Rockefeller by Zbigniew Brzezinski, then head of the Russian Studies
Department at Columbia University. While at the Brookings Institu-
tion, Brzezinski had been researching the need for closer cooperation
between the trilateral nations of Europe, North America, and Asia.
In 1970, Brzezinski wrote in Foreign Affairs, a CFR publication, “A
more and broader approach is needed—creation of a community of the
developed nations which can offer itself as a forum for the larger con-
cerns confronting mankind ... A council representing the United States,
Europe, and Japan would be a good first step. Such a council could serve
as a forum for the major governments as well as some small standing com-
mittees, would be a good

Later that year, he published a book entitled Between Two Ages: Ameri-
can Role in the Technetronic Era. Within these pages, Brzezinski spelled
out his vision for the future.

He prophetically foresaw a society “... that is shaped culturally, psy-
chologically, socially, and economically by the impact of technology and
electronics—particularly in the area of computers and communications."

Brzezinski’s visions would bring the completion of those opposed to the consolidation of world political and economic power. Declaring “National sovereignty is no longer a viable concept,” he predicted “movement toward a larger community by the developing nations . . . through a variety of indirect ties and already developing limitations on national sovereignty.” He foresaw this larger community being funded by “a global taxation system.”

In explaining that a cooperative hub, such as the Trilateral Commission, might set the stage for future consolidation be assumed, “through the objective of shaping a community of developed nations is less ambitious than the goal of world government, it is less achievable.”

Brzezinski’s hope for a global society did not exclude nations then under the rule of Marxism, which he described as “a further step and counter-stage in the maturing of man’s universal vision” and “a victory of the external man over the inner, passive man, and a victory of reason over belief.”

Brzezinski’s plan for a commission of trilateral nations was first presented during a meeting of the ultrasecret Bilderberg group in April 1972, in the small Belgian town of Knokke-Heist. Reception to Brzezinski’s proposal reportedly was enthusiastic. At that time international financiers were concerned over Nixon’s devaluation of the dollar, surcharges on imports, and budding detente with China, all of which were causing relations with Japan to deteriorate. In addition, energy problems were growing in response to price increases by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

With the blessing of the Bilderbergers and the CFR, the Trilateral Commission began organizing on July 23-24, 1972, at the 3,500-acre Rockefeller estate at Pocantico Hills, a subdivision of Tarrytown, New York. Participants in this private meeting included Rockefellers, Brzezinski, Brookings Institution director of foreign policy studies Henry Owen, McGeorge Bundy, Robert Bowie, C. Fred Bergsren, Robert H. MacNeil, Paul Hoffman, Karl Guenther, George Coleman du Pont, Ignatius L. Donnelly, Rene Fosh, Shin Kukahama, Keiko Miyazawa, Saburo Ikita, and Tadashi Yamamoto. Apparently these founders were selected by Rockefeller and Brzezinski.

The Trilateral Commission officially was founded on July 1, 1973, with David Rockefeller as chairman. Brzezinski was named founding
North American director: North American members included Georgia governor Jimmy Carter, congressman John B. Anderson (another presidential candidate), and Time, Inc. editor-in-chief Hedley Donovan. Foreign founding members included the late Reginald Maudling, Lord Eric Roll, Economist editor Alistair Burnet, Fiat president Giovanni Agnelli, and French vice-president of the Commission of European Communities Raymond Barre. The total exclusive membership remains about three hundred persons.

According to the commission’s official yearly publication, Trilateral:

“The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973 by private citizens of Western Europe, Japan, and North America to foster closer cooperation among these three regions on common problems.” Skeptical conspiracy authors see “closer cooperation” as more like “collusion” of the multi-national bankers and corporate elite with an eye toward one-world government.

The Trilateral Commission has headquarters in New York, Paris, and Tokyo: the executive committee of thirty-five members administers the commission, which meets roughly every nine months rotating between the three regions.

It is not surprising that the question of who funds this group has arisen. Commission spokesmen stress that the group does not receive any government funding. A report in 1974 showed that commission spending from 1973 to mid-1975 was $1,330,000, much of which came from tax-exempt foundations such as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, which in 1975 alone put up $320,000. Donations also came from the Ford Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Japanese government, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

In addition to its newsletter, Trilateral, the commission has regularly issued a number of Task Force Reports or Triangle Papers which are publicly available. For years, conspiracy-oriented newsletter of the Right and Left have been peddling Trilateral’s reports which were obtained directly from the Commission’s resident journalist and Trilateral Commission researcher Robert Klinger. It is obvious to most researchers that, as these papers are available in the public, they don’t contain any true “secrets.”

One such paper, entitled The Crisis of Democracy, was published by the commission in 1975. One of its authors, Harvard political scientist
Samuel P. Huntington, avowed that America needed "a greater degree of moderation in democracy." He argued that democratic institutions were incapable of responding to crises such as the Three Mile Island nuclear accident or the Cuban refugee boatlift operation. The paper suggested that leaders with "expertise, seniority, experience and special talents" were needed to "override the claims of democracy."

Just a few examples indicate that those espousing Trilateralist policies often end up implementing those same policies in the government. Three years after his paper was published, Huntington was named coordinator of security planning for Carter's National Security Council. In this capacity, Huntington prepared Presidential Record Memorandum 32, which led to the 1979 presidential order creating the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a civilian organization with the power to take totalitarian control of government functions in the event of a national "emergency."

Yale University economist Richard Cooper headed the commission's task force on monetary policy, which recommended selling official gold reserves to private markets. Cooper became undersecretary of state for economic affairs, presiding as the International Monetary Fund sold a portion of its gold.

Trilateralist John Sawhill authored an early commission report, Energy: Managing the Transition, which made recommendations on how to manage a movement to higher-cost energy. Carter appointed Sawhill deputy secretary of the Department of Energy. C. Fred Bergsten aided in the preparation of a commission report called The Reform of International Institutions, then went on to become assistant secretary of the treasury for international affairs.

"Many of the original members of the Trilateral Commission are now in positions of power where they are able to implement policy recommendations of the Commission's recommendations that they, themselves, prepared or helped prepare," wrote journalist Eringer. "It is for this reason that the Commission has acquired a reputation for being the Shadow Government of the West."

"The Trilateral Commission's tentacles have reached so far afield in the political and economic sphere that it has been described by some as a network of powerful men too big to control the world by creating a supranational community dominated by the multinational corporations," wrote researcher Laura R. Brand in a piece entitled "Who's in Charge—Six Possible contenders" in The People's Almanac 83.
Even U.S. News & World Report took note of the commission’s globalist agenda, reporting, “The Trilateralists make no bones about this. They recruit only people interested in promoting closer international cooperation.”

Researchers Anthony C. Sutton and Patrick M. Wood in their book Trilateral Over Washington voiced suspicions of the group and offered this view of its inception. “The Trilateral Commission was founded by the persistent maneuvering of David Rockefeller and Zbigniew Brzezinski. [First] chairman of the ultrapowerful Chase Manhattan Bank, a director of many major multinational corporations and investment banks has long been a central figure in the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations. Brzezinski, a brilliant propagandist of one-world idealism, has been a professor at Columbia University and the author of several books that have served as ‘policy guidelines’ for the CFR. Rockefeller, served as the [Trilateral] commission’s executive director from its incorporation in 1972 until late 1976 when he was appointed by President Carter as ambassador to the perceived for national security affairs.”

If two Rockefeller who recruited Carter for the Trilateral Commission in 1972. In fact, during President Jimmy Carter’s administration, so much Trilateral material was made public that considerable disputation ensued within the network.

Even the Establishment-oriented Washington Post pondered in early 1977, “There is the unsettling thing about the Trilateral Commission. The President-elect [Carter] is a member. So is Vice-President-elect Walter F. Mondale. So are the new secretaries of State, Defense and Treasury. Cyrus R. Vance, Harold Brown and W. Michael Blumenthal. So is Zbigniew Brzezinski, who is a former Trilateral director and Carter’s national security advisor, also a bunch of others who will make foreign policy for America in the next four years.”

Sutton and Wood commented, “If you are trying to calculate the odds of three virtually unknown men (Carter, Mondale, and Brzezinski) out of over 60 (Trilateral) commissioners from the U.S. capturing the three most powerful positions in the land, don’t bother. Your calculations will be meaningless.”

Carter administration Trilateral also included Ambassadors Andrew Young,Caspar Weinberger, Richard Gardner, and Elliot Richardson, White House economic aide Henry Owen, Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Director Paul Warnke of the Arms Control and Disarmament...
merit Agency, Undersecretaries of State Richard Cooper for economic affairs and Lucy Benson for security assistance, Undersecretary of the Treasury Anthony Solomon, Robert Bowie of the CIA, and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke.

Lest anyone think that the Trilateral Commission was simply some wing of the Democratic Party, U.S. News & World Report in 1978 listed prominent Republicans who were members. These included former Secretaries Henry Kissinger of State, Wilbur Cohen of Transportation, Carla Hills of Housing and Urban Development, Peter Peterson of Commerce, and Casper Weinberger of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Also listed were ex-Agencies administrator John Searle, ex-CIA Director and future President George Bush, ex-Deputy Secretaries of State Robert Ingersoll and James Baker, ex-Deputy Secretaries of State Robert Taft, Jr., and Marina Whitman, former member of the Council of Economic Advisors.

Provoking additional concern among conspiracy researchers was President Carter’s selection of banker Paul Volcker to head America’s powerful central bank, the Federal Reserve. Reportedly appointed on instructions from David Rockefeller, Volcker had been the North American chairman of the Trilateral Commission as well as a member of those other secret groups, the Council on Foreign Relation, and the Bilderbergers. He was appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve during the Reagan administration by current chairman Alan Greenspan, also a member of the Trilateral Commission, the CFR, and the Bilderbergers.

It is easy to see why so many people believed that U.S. Government policy was being directed from these Rockefeller-dominated organizations.

In 1976, Christian frequencies were broadcasting a Torah reading that mastery for many American citizens concerned over the state of the nation and suggested a conspiratorial origin to gain world control. They were, “By Biblical standards, the United States most certainly deserves judgment—perversion runs amok, child abuse is common, greed and avarice are the passwords to success and morals have rotted. If we are about to be horrors into the pits of the dark ages, the most logical catalyst, or motivator on the horizon is the Trilateral Commission.”
Former senator and presidential candidate Barry Goldwater echoed the fears of many when he wrote, “What the Trilaterals truly intend is the creation of a worldwide economic power superior to the political government of the nation-states involved. As managers and creators of this system they will rule the world.”

Such criticism prompted David Rockefeller to defend the commission in a 1980 edition of the Wall Street Journal. “Far from being a coterie of international conspirators with designs on covertly ruling the world, the Trilateral Commission is, in reality, a group of concerned citizens interested in fostering greater understanding and cooperation among international allies…”

But some criticism came from within the Carter administration itself. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie charged that Brzezinski was making foreign policy rather than coordinating it. William Sullivan, who had been U.S. ambassador to Iran, accused Brzezinski of sabotaging U.S. efforts to ease relations with Iran following the departure of the Shah.

By November 1979, Brzezinski began to make his own policy and establish his own office in Iran.” complaints followed.

It was accusations such as these that prompted public concern in Washington over secret and semi-secret organizations. Columnist Nicholas von Hoffman noted, “Brzezinski has long spooked those who worry about the Trilateral Commission, that Rockefeller-inspired group of globally-minded big shots from the major industrial powers. For countless Americans of both a rightward and a leftward persuasion, the commission, which tried to influence government’s trade and diplomatic policies, is a worrisome conspiracy.”

Concern spilled over into veterans organizations. In 1980, the American Legion national convention passed Resolution 771, which called for a congressional investigation of the Trilateral Commission and its predecessor the Council on Foreign Relations. The following year a similar resolution was introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman Larry McDonald. McDonald’s resolution was passed by the House of Representatives but nothing came of it. McDonald, who as national chairman of the John Birch Society was a vocal critic of these secret organizations, died in the still-controversial shooting of Korean Air Lines 007 on September 1, 1983.

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administration—including Carter himself, who wrote that his association with the commission was "a splendid learning opportunity"—and vowed to investigate the group if elected. While competing with George Bush for the nomination, Reagan lambasted Bash's membership in both the Trilateral Commission and the CFR and pledged not to allow Bush a position in a Reagan government.

Yet during the Republican national convention a strange series of events took place.

While Reagan was a shoe-in as the presidential candidate, the vice presidency was the object of a contentious fight. As expected, national media commentators suddenly began talking about a "dream ticket" to be composed of President Reagan and Vice President (and former president) Gerald Ford. Pressure began building for this concept, which would have created a shared presidency and, hence, divided power. It was even suggested that since Ford had been president he should choose half of the Reagan cabinet.

Faced with the prospect of presiding over half a government, Reagan rushed to the convention floor late at night and announced, "I know that I am breaking with precedent to come here tonight, and I swear to you at this late hour I am not going to give you my acceptance address tonight... But in watching the television at the hotel and seeing the rumors that were going around and the group that was taking place here... let me be simple as I am simpleminded and bring this to a conclusion. It is true that a number of Republican leaders... I felt that the proper ticket would have included the former president of the United States, Gerald Ford, as second place on the ticket... I have decided that the proper ticket would have included..." Reagan never again uttered a word against the commission or the CFR. Following his election, Reagan's fifty-nine-member transition team was composed of twenty-eight CFR members, ten members of the elite Bilderberg group, and at least ten Trilaterals. He even appointed prominent CFR members to three of the nation's most sensitive offices: Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, and Secretary of the Treasury Donald Regan. Additionally, his campaign manager, James A. Baker III, who then served...
as chairman of the Reagan-Bush campaign committee, as his chief of staff. Baker is a fourth-generation member of a family long connected to Rockefeller oil interests.

Then little more than two months after taking office, President Reagan was struck by an assassin's bullet which, but for a quarter of an inch, would have propelled Bush into the Oval Office seven years before his time. Oddly enough, the brother of the would-be assassin, John W. Hinckley, had scheduled dinner with Bush's son Neil the very night Reagan was shot. Hinckley's Texas oilman father and George Bush were longtime friends. It should also be noted that Bush's name—including his then little-publicized nickname “Poppy”—along with his address and phone number were found in the personal notebook of oil geologist George DeMohrenschildt, the last known close friend of Lee Harvey Oswald. The existence of a 1963 FBI memo mentioning a “George Bush of the CIA” in connection with reactions of the U.S. Cuban community to the JFK assassination drew media attention during the 1992 election. Many researchers view these seemingly small, unconnected, and little-reported details as collectively pushing the notion of coincidence to the breaking point.

The undeniable ties connecting America's leadership to the CFR and the Trilateral Commission—along with the fact that globalist banker David Rockefeller was a leading luminary in both groups—has prompted much anxiety among conspiracy writers on both the Left and Right.

"If the Council on Foreign Relations can be said to be a spawning ground for the concepts of one-world idealism, the Trilateral Commission is the 'task force' assembled to assault the beachheads," write authors J. G. Sutton and A. M. Wood in 1979. "Already the commission has placed its members ... in the top posts the U.S. has to offer."

Texe Marrs (no known relation to this author), president of Living Truth Publishers in Austin, Texas, has warned, "The Trilateral Commission is a group with the goal of exterminating the so-called American Government and making way for a New World Order, the secret Brotherhood (the Illuminati)." The late senator Barry Goldwater was just as cautionary. In his 1979 book, With No Apologies, Goldwater warned, "David Rockefeller's newest international cabal [the Trilateral Commission] ... is intended to be the vehicle for multinational consolidation of the commercial and banking interests by seizing control of the political government of the United States."

Such allegations enriched a 1981 commentary by Washington Post
writers normally disinterested in any conspiracy theory. They at last acknowledged the Trilateral presence by sarcastically writing, "Remember those dreaded three-sided Trilateralists, the international conspirators headed by David Rockefeller who were going to take over the world? Jimmy Carter was one. George Bush used to be one too and it cost him dearly in his campaign last year against Ronald Reagan.

"Well, guess who's coming to the White House. Guess who invited them in to come. They will be led by David Rockefeller. The Trilateralists have landed and the conspiracy theorists' no-drama will be done."

Despite public denials, the Trilateral Commission certainly counts as a secret society as its meetings are not open to public scrutiny. And it most certainly represents an extension of the even more secretive Council on Foreign Relations, as all eight North American representatives at the founding meeting of the Trilateral Commission are CFR members.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Globalism did not begin with the Trilateral Commission. The concept of a one-world community stretches back far beyond the twentieth century, but became concentrated in the granddaddy of the modern American secret societies: the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

The council began as an outgrowth of a series of meetings conducted during World War I. In 1917 New York, Colonel Edward Mandell House, President Woodrow Wilson’s confidential adviser, had gathered about one hundred prominent men to discuss the postwar world. Dubbing themselves “the Inquiry,” they made plans for a peace settlement which eventually evolved into Wilson’s famous “fourteen points,” which he first presented to Congress on January 8, 1918. They were globalist in nature, calling for the removal of “all economic barriers,” “equality of trade conditions,” and the formation of a “permanent association of nations.”

Colonel House, who once described himself as a Marxist socialist but whose actions more reflected Fabian socialism, was the author of a 1912 book entitled Philip Dru: Administrator. In this work, House described a
"conspiracy" within the United States with the goals of establishing a central bank, a graduated income tax, and the control of both political parties. Two years after the publication of his book, two, if not all three, of his literary goals had been met in reality.

By late 1918, stalemate on the Western Front and the entry of America into the war forced Germany and the Central Powers to accept Wilson's terms for peace. The subsequent Paris Peace Conference of 1919 resulted in the League of Nations, which forced Germany to pay heavy reparations to the Allies. This ruined the German economy, leading to depression and the eventual rise of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party.

Attending the Paris peace conference were President Woodrow Wilson and his closest advisors, Colonel House, bankers Paul Warburg and Bernard Baruch, and almost two dozen members of "the Inquiry." The conference adopted and ordered Wilson's plan for peace, including the formation of a League of Nations. However, under American law, the covenant had to be ratified by the U.S. Senate, which failed to do so, apparently distrusting any supernational organization.

Undaunted, Colonel House, along with both British and American peace conference delegates, met in Paris's Majestic Hotel on May 30, 1919, and resolved to form an "Institute of International Affairs," with one branch in the United States and one in England. The English branch became the Royal Institute of International Affairs. This institute was to guide public opinion toward acceptance of one-world government or globalism.

The U.S. branch was incorporated on July 21, 1921, as the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). It was built upon an existing, but lackluster, New York dinner club of the same name, which had been created in 1918 by prominent businessmen and lawyers for discussions on trade and international finance. Article II of the new CFR's bylaws stated that anyone revealing details of CFR meetings in contravention of the CFR's rules could be expelled from membership, thus qualifying the CFR as a secret society.


Since 1945, the CFR has been headquartered in the elegant Harold Pratt House in New York City. The building was donated by the Pratt...
family of Rockefeller's Standard Oil. The mansion, with its paneled French doors, elegant tapestries, and fireplaces, presents a clublike atmosphere.

Characterization of the CFR as an "old boys' club" is enhanced by the fact that many members belong to other upper-crust Social Register groups such as the Century Association, the links Club, the University Club, and Washington's Metropolitan Club.

In the CFR's 1997 annual report, Board Chairman Peter C. Peterson acknowledged that there was a "kernel of truth" in the charge that the council was no longer a "New York liberal elite," but stated that the CFR today was "reaching farther into America" with an increasing number of members living outside New York and Washington.

The CFR's invitation-only membership, originally limited to 1,400 participants, today numbers more than 3,300, representing the most influential leaders in finance, commerce, communications, and academia. Admission is a very discriminating and painful process: candidates have to be proposed by a member, seconded by another member, approved by a membership committee, screened by the professional staff, and finally approved by the board of directors.

In an effort to adjust to the modern world, the Council expanded its membership by the early 1970s to include a few blacks and more than a dozen women. To broaden its influence beyond the eastern seaboard, the CFR created Committees on Foreign Relations composed of local leaders to serve across the nation. More than forty-two such committees comprising about four thousand members existed by the early 1990s.

Original CFR members included Colonel House, former New York senator and Secretary of State Elihu Root, syndicated columnist Walter Lippmann, John Foster Dulles and Christian Herter, who both later served as secretary of state, and Dulles's brother Allen, who later served as director of the CIA. The council's first chairman was Russell Leffingwell, one of Morgan's partners. Most of the earliest CFR members had connections to Morgan in one way or another. It could be said that the council was heavily influenced by Morgan interests.

Funding for the CFR came from bankers and financiers such as Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Bernard Baruch, Jacob Schiff, Otto Kahn, and...
Paul Warburg. Today, funding for the CFR comes from major corporations such as Xerox, General Motors, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Texaco, and others as well as the German Marshall Fund, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Starr Foundation, and the Ford Charitable Trusts.


The CFR played a key role in American policy during World War II, and journalist J. Anthony Lucas noted, "From 1945 and into the sixties, Council members were in the forefront of America's globalist activism." In a 1997 mission statement, CFR officials, whose "ranks include nearly all past and present senior U.S. government officials who deal with international matters" stated the council is merely "a unique membership organization and think tank that educates members and staff to serve the nation with ideas for a better and safer world."

Critic dispute this goal, noting that the CFR has had its hand in every major Twenty-first century conflict. Many writers view the CFR as a group of men set on world domination through multinational business, international treaties, and world government.

Even insiders seem to have a hard time convincing themselves that there is no attempt at conspiratorial control. Admiral Chester Ward, retired judge advocate general of the U.S. Navy and a longtime CFR member was quoted as saying, "CFR, as such, does not write the platforms of both political parties or select their respective presidential candidates, or control U.S. defense and foreign policies. But CFR members, as individuals, acting in concert with other individuals CFR members, do."

Androst Lucan agreed, commenting that even if one rejects a "simple-minded" conspiratorial core of the CFR, "one must also recognize that..."
ence flows as well through more intimate channels: the personal ties forged among men whose paths have crossed time and again in locker rooms, officers' messes, faculty clubs, embassy conference rooms, garden parties, squash courts, and board rooms. If the Council has influence—and the evidence suggests that it does—then it is the influence it members bring to bear through such channels.

Admiral Ward went on to explain that the one common objective of CFR members is "to bring about the surrender of the sovereignty and the national independence of the United States. . . . Primarily, they want the world looking monoply from relative power such as to

control of global government." Ward added.

He detailed CFR methods in a 1975 book coauthored with Phyllis Schlafly titled Kissinger and the Couch. "Once the ruling members of the CFR have decided that the U.S. Government should adopt a particular policy, the very substantial research facilities of CFR are put to work to develop arguments, intellectual and emotional, to support the new policy, and to confound and discredit, intellectually and politically, any opposition," he explained.

The public manifestation of the CFR is its publication Foreign Affairs, termed "informally, the voice of the U.S. foreign-policy establishment." Although several supporters claim "articles in Foreign Affairs do not reflect any consensus of beliefs...", critics counter that the CFR signals members to its desired policies through such articles.

Even the stodgy Encyclopaedia Britannica admitted, "Ideas put forward tentatively in this journal often, if well received by the Foreign Affairs community, are later adopted by the U.S. government policy or legislation." The Council has two methods of communicating the thoughts and desires of its inner circle of leadership: regular luncheon or dinner...
meetings where prominent thinkers and leaders from around the world address council members and council study groups that periodically present position papers on subjects of interest.

The Council also offers a Corporate Service, through which subscribing companies are provided twice-a-year dinner briefings by government officials such as the treasury secretary or CIA director. Noted author John Kenneth Galbraith (who resigned from the CFR in 1970 "out of boredom") called such off-the-record talks a "scandal." "Why should businessmen be briefed by government officials on information not available to the public, especially since it can be financially advantageous?" he reasoned.

Author G. Edward Griffin agreed that initially the CFR, as a front for the British Round Table group, was dominated by the J. P. Morgan family. "The Morgan group gradually has been replaced by the Rockefeller consortium, and the roll call of participating businesses now reads like the Fortune 500," he wrote in 1994.

One example of Rockefeller domination of the CFR came in the early 1970s when David Rockefeller went over the heads of a nominating committee and offered the editorship of Foreign Affairs to William Bundy, a former CIA official instrumental in prosecuting the Vietnam War.

Demonstrating how every U.S. government administration since the Council's inception has been packed with CFR members, conservative journalist and CFR researcher James Perloff noted, "The historical record speaks even more loudly... Through 1990, 14 secretaries of state, 14 treasury secretaries, 13 defense secretaries and scores of other federal department heads have been CFR members."

Nearly every CIA director since Allen Dulles has been a CFR member, including Richard Helms, William Colby, George Bush, William Webster, James Woolsey, John Dean, and William Casey. Many of the council's members have a personal familial interest in foreign relations; "Nearly all of the council's members have a personal familial interest in foreign relations," noted former CIA analyst John D. Marks. "It is not that the council's members are personal friends of friends, but that they are members of the council's extended family."

Many researchers have alleged that the CIA, in fact, serves as a security force, not only for corporate America, but for friends, relatives, and fraternity brothers of the CFR. This may be a two-way street. According to former executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA Victor Marchetti along with former State Department analyst John D. Marks, "The influence..."
tial but private Council, composed of several hundred of the country's top political, military, business, and academic leaders has long been the CIA's principal "constituency" in the American public. When the agency has needed prominent citizens to front for its proprietary companies or for other special assistance, it has often turned to Council members.

CFR members who take government positions tend to bring in fellow members. When CFR member Henry Stimson came to Washington as secretary of war in 1919, he brought with him fellow member John J. McCloy as assistant secretary for personnel. McCloy, in turn, told his past as the years in being another CFR member to government. "Whenever we needed a new man [for a government position], we just checked through the roll of council members and put through a call in New York," once commented McCloy, a former CFR chairman, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, secretary to David Rockefeller, and himself foreign policy adviser to four U.S. presidents.

Another example of the influence of the CFR can be seen in the meteoric rise of Henry Kissinger. In 1955, Kissinger met another academic who attended a meeting at the Marine Corps School at Quantico, Virginia, hosted by then presidential foreign affairs assistant Nelson Rockefeller. This meeting was the start of a lifelong friendship between the two culminating in a $50,000 outright gift to Kissinger from Rockefeller; Kissinger soon was introduced to David Rockefeller and other prominent CFR members. Through the CFR, Kissinger obtained funding and entrance to working within the Atomic Energy Commission, the three branches of the military, the CIA, and the State Department. He used this access to produce a bestselling book entitled Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy, in which he argued that a nuclear war might be "winnable." By the time of Nixon's administration, Kissinger was secretary of state, a position from which he directed foreign affairs.

According to published reports, the Linton/Roberts administration was hopelessly dependent on the CFR for foreign policy advice. During the Clinton years, CFR members were named ambassadorial to Spain, Great Britain, Argentina, Chile, Syria, South Africa, Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Italy, India, France, Czech Republic, Poland, Nigeria, and the Philippines. Currently more than a dozen members of both the Senate and Senate are CFR members.

Author Robert Anton Wilson commented, "If the CFR had a mission..."
of members like, say, the Presbyterian Church, the list might not mean much. But the CFR only has 3,200 members.4

Because of its Wall Street/banking origins and its inherent secrecy, the Council on Foreign Relations came under debate about by conservative writers. This public attention led to the creation of the less secretive Trilateral Commission.

Public awareness of the pervasive CFR presence in government became so widespread that the late Gary Allen, author of a globalist organizations. None Dare Call It Conspiracy, sold more than five million copies despite being ignored by the Establishment media, commented just before the 1972 national elections, “There really was not a dime’s worth of difference [between probable candidates]. Voters were given the choice between CFR world government advocate Nixon and CFR world government advocate Humphrey. Only the rhetoric changed to fool the public.”

In a call to action, Allen echoed the admonition of many researchers who are suspicious of the CFR’s motives when he wrote, “Democrats and Republicans must break the Insider control of their respective parties. The CFR-types and their flunkies and social climbing opportunist supporters must be invited to leave or else the Patriots must leave.” Many conspiracy researchers today see a parallel situation in the 2000 election, shaping up to be a contest between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush, both of whom have long-standing business and family ties to Wall Street and CFR members.

Author Perloff warned from a Christian perspective that a monumental battle is shaping up between the Kingdom of Christ and “an evil, one-world-government: the kingdom of the Antichrist. . . . Many members of the American Establishment have given themselves over to one side in this conflict, and it is not the side the ancient prophets recommended. Whether or not they are conscious, whether they are conscious or not, the power of the invisible hand has helped move the world toward apocalyptic events.”

Clearly the CFR has exerted powerful influence, if not outright control, over U.S. policies for nearly the past century. But for almost fifty years, this influence has been shared with another closely connected secretive group—the Bilderbergers.
The Bilderbergers are a group of powerful men and women—many of them European royalty—who meet in secret each year to discuss the issues of the day. Many suspicious researchers claim they conspire to manufacture and manage world events. Despite the fact that many highly regarded American media members meet with the Bilderbergers, little or nothing gets reported on the group or its activities, leading writers to claim censorship and news management.

As with the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations, Bilderbergers often carry cross-membership in two or more of these three groups.

British author David Icke presented a story from Dr. Kitty Little which gives fascinating insight into the long-range planning of one secret group. Dr. Little, who worked for Britain’s Ministry of Aircraft Production during World War II and later for the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, recounted how she attended the meeting of a Labour Party “study group” at Oxford University in 1940.

The speaker that evening was a young man who claimed to be part of a “Marxist takeover” plot. The speaker said he was a member of a nameless group (it had no name to make it harder to prove its existence) that aimed to engineer Marxist control in Britain, Europe, and parts of Africa. The speaker explained that since Britain dominated economics, group members would pose as moderates, which would allow them to dismiss critics as right-wingers. The speaker added that he had been selected to head the group’s political section and that he expected to be named prime minister of the United Kingdom some day.

The speaker was Harold Wilson, who indeed became prime minister during the 1960s and 70s.

Wilson was referring to the group which has come to be known as the Bilderbergers. It still has no official name, but it has been identified with the Bilderberg Hotel in Oosterbeek, Holland, where it was first discovered by the public in 1954. Its meeting in February 1957 on Saint Simons Island near Jekyll Island, Georgia, was the first on U.S. soil.

Wilson has not been the only head of state to mingle with the Bilderbergers. In 1991, then Arkansas governor Bill Clinton was honored as a Bilderberg guest. The next year he ran for and won the presidency of
the United States. After his election, Clinton made no mention of the Bilderberg meetings. But, according to The Spotlight (a Washington tabloid that has covered Bilderberg conferences for years), Hillary Clinton attended in 1997, becoming the first American first lady to do so. Thereafter, talk steadily grew concerning her future role in politics.

The official creation of this highly secret organization came about in the early 1950s, following unofficial meetings between members of Europe’s elite in the 1940s. They included European foreign ministers, Holland’s Prince Bernhard, and Polish socialist Dr. Joseph (Hieronim) Retinger, a founder of the European Movement after World War II. Retinger became known as the “father of the Bilderbergers.”

Retinger was brought to America by Averell Harriman (CFR), then U.S. ambassador to England, where he visited prominent citizens such as David and Schuck Rockefeller, John Foster Dulles, and then CIA Director Walter Bedell Smith. Previously, Retinger had formed the American Committee on a United Europe along with future CIA Director Allen Dulles, then CFR Director George Franklin, CFR official Thomas Basine, and William Brown, former chief of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS); editor-in-chief of the CIA, Dulles had been an intelligence officer in the OSS. Retinger continued his participation in Bilderberg meetings until his death in 1960.

Another CFR-connected person who helped create the Bilderbergers was Life magazine publisher C. D. Jackson, who served under President Eisenhower as “special consultant for psychological warfare.” From these associations came the idea of holding regular meetings of prominent businessmen, politicians, bankers, educators, media owners and managers, and military leaders from around the world. The Bilderbergers also are closely tied to Europe’s nobility, including the British royal family. According to several sources, meetings are often attended by members of the British royal family.

The primary impetus for the Bilderberg meetings comes from Dutch Prince Bernhard, whose full name and title is Bernhard Julius Court-Kempf, Grand Duke of Lippe-Biesterfeld. Bernhard was a former member of the Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS) and an employee of Germany’s I.G. Farben in Paris. In 1937 he married Princess
Juliana of the Netherlands and became a major shareholder and officer in Dutch Shell Oil, along with Britain’s Lord Victor Rothschild. After the Germans invaded Holland, the royal couple moved to London. It was here, after the war, that Rothschild and Retinger encouraged Prince Bernhard to create the Bilderberg group. The prince personally chaired the group until 1976, when he resigned following revelations that he had accepted large payoffs from Lockheed to promote the sale of its aircraft in Holland.

Since 1991 the Bilderberg chairmanship has been held by Britain’s Lord Peter Carrington, former cabinet minister, secretary-general of NATO, and president of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, a sister organization to the CFR. Carrington has been linked to the Rothschild banking empire by both business connections and marriage.

Americans with famous names who have attended Bilderberg meetings include CFR members George Ball, Dean Acheson, Dean Rusk, McGeorge Bundy, Christian Herter, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Douglas Dillon, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Walter Reuther, Jacob Javits, Robert McNamara, Walter Bedell Smith, and General Lyman Lemnitzer. Other notables who have attended include J. William Fulbright, Henry Kissinger, Georges Pompidou, Giscard d’Estaing, Helmut Schmidt, and France’s Baron Edmond de Rothschild. “In fact, the Bilderbergers are a sort of unofficial CFR, expanded to an international scale,” stated author Neal Wilgus.

Author and former intelligence officer Dr. John Coleman claimed “The Bilderberger Conference is a creation of [Britain’s] MI6 under the direction of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.” Considering the U.S. intelligence connections, it also can be legitimately argued that the Bilderberg conferences have been at least partially organized and sponsored by the CIA.

According to “Strictly Confidential” minutes of the first Bilderberg conference, “Insufficient attention has so far been paid to long-term planning, and to evolving an international order which would look beyond the present-day crisis [the Cold War].” For this reason, it was said here that “the present-day crisis in the Cold War should be considered as the Cold War.”

Investigative reporter James P. Tucker, who has doggedly tracked the Bilderbergers for years, wrote, “The Bilderberg agenda is much the same as that of its brother group, The Trilateral Commission. ...
two groups have an interlocking leadership and a common vision of the world. David Rockefeller founded the Trilateral but shares power in the older Bilderberg group with the Rothschilds of Britain and Europe.

The Bilderbergers usually meet once a year at plush resorts around the globe, and their activities are cloaked in total secrecy despite the attendance by top-level American media members. Although the group claims to merely hold informal discussions on world affairs, there is evidence that its recommendations often become official policy.

The concept of a unified Europe under centralized control—a goal of the medieval Knights Templar—appears well along the way to becoming a reality thanks to the Bilderbergers. George McGhee, a Bilderberger and former U.S. ambassador to West Germany, acknowledged that “the Treaty of Rome, which brought the [European] Common Market into being, was nurtured at Bilderberg meetings.”

Jack Sheinkman, chairman of Amalgamated Bank and a Bilderberger member, stated in 1996, “In some cases discussions do have an impact and become policy. The idea of a common European currency was discussed several years back before it became policy. We had a discussion about the U.S. establishing formal relations with China before Nixon actually did it.”

Sheinkman may be one of those Bilderberger members who do not understand the true goals of the group’s elite leadership. According to Icke, “The Bilderberg Elite, like Gorbachev and those on the steering committees, coordinate the illegal activities of Bilderberg meetings—those who know the real game plan—and those invited on a rare or one-time basis—who may not know the true agenda of the organization, but can be fed the party line that world institutions are the way to peace and prosperity.”

And what is this “true agenda”? It may have been revealed when Prince Bernhard stated, “It is difficult to instill the idea of relinquishing part of their sovereignty to a supernational body.”

The 1998 meeting of the Bilderbergers was conducted on May 14-18 in the palatial Turnberry Hotel near Glasgow, Scotland. As usual, there was little or no reporting on this event by America’s mainstream media. Unlike their American counterparts, some members of Scotland’s news media found their voice. Under the headline “Whole world in their hands,” Jim McBeth of The Scotsman described the tight security.
surrounding the meeting, commenting, "Anyone approaching the hotel who did not have a stake in controlling the planet was turned back."

McBeth described the Bilderberg guest list as "an international who's who of the wealthy, influential and powerful. . . Once a year, the 120 men and women credited with putting Bill Clinton into the Oval Office and ousting Lady [Margaret] Thatcher from No. 10 [Downing Street] meet to discuss world events and, some claim, manipulate them," he added. At least one reporter, Campbell Thomas with the Scottish Daily Mail, was arrested by security officers, handcuffed, and held for eight hours for daring to approach the Bilderberg meeting.

It was reported that one of the decisions of the 1998 Bilderberg meet-
ing was to encourage British prime minister Tony Blair to press harder for Britain's entry into the growing European union, a step viewed with susp-
sicion by his predecessor Margaret Thatcher. Blair may have gone further in this plan to reduce Britain's independence, as he press to dissolve the House of Lords two weeks later in 1998. While the Lords were revered by many as unenlightened idlers, others saw the wealthy, but patrio-
tical Lords as a bulwark against the erosion of English sovereignty by suppor-
ters of the "New World Order."

Unlike their American brethren, the Canadian media actually reported news of the 1996 Bilderberg meeting near Toronto with such headlines as "[Canadian prime minister Jean] Chretien to Speak at Secret World Meet-
ing," "[Canadian publisher Conrad] Black Plays Host to World Leaders," and "World Domination or a Round of Golf?"

When asked to comment about the lack of reporting by journalist William F. Buckley who attended the Bilderberg meeting in Canada, a se-
cretary commented, "I don't think that is the nature of the meeting, is it?" The rules of the conference, which no one admits to, is that we don't talk about what is said. It is all off the record. The fact that I attended is no secret."

Perhaps these reporters don't talk about what they learn at these secret meetings, but it is clear that their association shapes their editorial posi-
tions. Media critics have long charged that the differences in editorial positions of America's major news outlets are negligible.

"If the Bilderberg Group is not a conspiracy of some sort, it is con-
ducted in such a way as to give a remarkably good imitation of one," wrote journalist C. Gordon Clark of London's Financial Times.
About a year later, following ongoing arguments over censorship, Tether was fired by Financial Times editor Max Henry "Fredy" Fisher, a member of the Trilateral Commission.

An obvious connecting link between the CFR, Trilateral Commission, and the Bilderbergers is the Rockefeller family, particularly the youngest son, David.

Several wealthy and well-known businessmen constituted what amounted to an "American royalty" in the early part of the twentieth century: steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, banker Andrew Mellon, and transportation magnates Cornelius Vanderbilt and Edward Harriman.

But none approached the lasting power or international ties of the Rockefellers and the Morgans.

ROCKEFELLERS

John Davison Rockefeller continues to be the most recognized (and perhaps most despised) rich man in the world even though he's been dead since 1937. During the past century, no one family in America has assembled such power and influence as the Rockefellers, besides to their wealth and close ties to England.

Years ago the Rockefeller name continually cropped up in any discussion of secret societies, but today's mass media rarely speak of the Rockefeller role in world events. But at one time the name of John D. Rockefeller was on everyone's lips and his finances were known to all.

An 1897 edition of a small Texas newspaper reported, "John D. Rockefeller sleeps eight and one-half hours every night, retiring at 10:30 and rising at 5. Every morning when he gets up he is $17,705 richer than he was when he went to bed. The sun shines bright and breaks through the clouds at 9 o'clock and leaves the table at 6:30, and in that short half hour his wealth has grown $1,461.50.

"On Sunday he goes to church, and in the two hours he is away from home his riches have grown $4,166. His nightly amusement is playing the violin. Every evening when he gets up he performs the incredible feat of $50,000 richer than he was when he laid it down the previous night. These little facts give some idea of the ridiculous wealth of this great man."

One insight into the forging of John D.'s business philosophy might be gained by an anecdote told by Nelson Rockefeller. It seems that John D. was a small child for his father, W.R. "Big Bill" Rockefeller. He sold car-
cer “cures” from a medicine wagon, taught him to leap into his arms from a tall chair. One time his father held his arms out to catch him but pulled them away as little John jumped. The father said, "This is not the way, son. Remember, never trust anyone completely, not even me."

At the start of the American Civil War, Rockefeller was a young agricultural commodities broker in Cleveland, Ohio. He quickly recognized the potential of the fledgling petroleum industry there, and in 1863 he and some associates built a refinery. In 1870 he incorporated Standard Oil Company of Ohio.

"The National City Bank of Cleveland, which was identified in congressional hearings as one of three Rothschild [the dominant European banking family] banks in the United States, provided [John D. Rockefeller] with the money to begin his monopolization of the oil refinery business, resulting in the formation of Standard Oil," noted a recent investigative video entitled, "The Money Masters."

Rockefeller, who was quoted as saying "Competition is a sin," ruthlessly eliminated competitors by either merging or buying them out. Failing that, he cut prices until his competitors were forced to sell. He also managed lucrative rebates and agreements, which ensured him a near monopoly on the transportation of oil. Standard Oil—the direct ancestor of Exxon—prospered enormously, and by 1880 Rockefeller owned or controlled 95 percent of all oil produced in the United States.

Trouble for Rockefeller began in 1892 with the publication of a series of articles by Ida Tarbell, the daughter of a Pennsylvania oil producer run out of business by Rockefeller. Based on five years of research, Tarbell’s series was published in McClure’s Magazine and entitled "The History of Standard Oil Company." One reviewer proclaimed her work a "fearless unmasking of moral criminality masquerading under the robes of respectability and Christianity."

Such maneuvering continued in 1892 when the Ohio Supreme Court ordered the trust dissolved. Instead, Rockefeller simply evaded Standard's
headquarters to New York City, in 1899 all assets and interests were transferred to a new creation, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

In 1906 the U.S. government charged Standard Oil with violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Although apologists argued that Standard was simply caught in an emotional tidal wave of public discontent over the excesses of big business, the U.S. Supreme Court on May 15, 1911, concluded its decision in these clear terms: "Seven men and a corporate machine have conspired against their fellow citizens. For the safety of the Republic, we must declare that this dangerous conspiracy must be ended by November 15th."

Eight of the companies formed after the dissolution retained "Standard Oil" in their names, but even these were soon altered to present the image of diversity. Standard Oil Company of New York East merged with the trust company Vacuum Oil Co in 1916 to form Standard Vacuum, which in 1966 became Mobil Oil Corporation. Standard Oil of Indiana joined with Standard Oil of Ohio and Standard Oil of Kansas and by 1981 had become Amoco Corporation. In 1980 the combination of Standard Oil of California and Standard Oil of Kentucky had become Chevron Corporation, while the old Standard (A) of New Jersey in 1972 became Exxon Corporation. Other former Standard companies include Atlantic Richfield, Buckeye Pipe Line, Pennzoil, and Union Tank Car Company.

Ironically, the breakup of Standard only increased the wealth of Rockefeller, who now owned one fourth share of the thirty-three different oil companies created by the breakup of Standard. Shortly after the turn of the century, Rockefeller became America's first billionaire. Continued Rockefeller control was confirmed in the late 1930s by the only study of true ownership in America's largest corporations ever made by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The study, The Distribution of Ownership in the 200 Largest Nonfinancial Corporations, was published in 1939. It concluded that Rockefeller holdings, while not the handful of Rockefeller holdings, while not among the largest, were as well distributed as any in the remaining widely dispersed ownership was considered sufficient to give the Rockefeller family control over the corporation." Once again, interlocking directorships allowed the Rockefellers and others to maintain control over the oil industry. "All of the eight largest oil companies were interconnected in 1972 through large commercial banks with at least one other member of the top group," wrote Dr. John M.
Blair, former assistant chief economist for the Federal Trade Commission.

"Exxon had four such interlocks—with Mobil, Standard of Ind., Texaco, and ARCO. Mobil had three—with Exxon, Shell, and Texaco—as did Standard of Indiana—with Exxon, Texaco, and ARCO—as well as Texaco—with Exxon, Mobil, and Standard of Ind.—and Shell with Mobil. Whenever all of the six [largest] commercial banks—the Chase of Bank of America and Western Banking company—held their board meetings, directors of the top eight—excluding Gulf and SoCal—meet with directors of the big four [oil companies]."

Ironically, by the turn of the new century, the old Standard monopoly was being reformed by the anticipated merging of two of the world's oil giants: Exxon and Mobil. This $75 billion "megadeal" was quickly called "Rockefeller's revenge." At this writing the consolidation of oil companies has continued with announced plans for British Petroleum PLC to acquire Amoco.

By the time of his death in 1937, Rockefeller and his only son, John D. Rockefeller Jr., had not only built up an amazing oil empire but had established such institutions as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (established 1901), the General Education Board (1903), the University of Chicago (1890), the Rockefeller Foundation (1913), the Linacre School (1917), where the Rockefeller children began their education, and Rockefeller University in New York City.

The Rockefellers also were greatly interested in the eugenics movement, a program of scientifically applied genetic selection to maintain and improve "ideal" human characteristics, including birth and population control. This idea grew from the writings of the Victorian scientist Sir Francis Galton, who after study reached the conclusion that prominent members of British society were such because they had "excellent" parents, thus continuing Darwin's concept of "survival of the fittest" with the class-conscious "who's your daddy?" If this sounds like a Nazi experiment run wild, consider that in the late nineteenth century, the United States joined fourteen other nations in passing some type of eugenics legislation. Thirty states had laws providing for the sterilization of mental patients and imbeciles. At least sixty thousand such "defectives" were legally sterilized.

Of course, to determine who was dirtying the gene pool requires extensive population statistics. So in 1910 the Eugenics Records Office was established as a branch of the Galton National Laboratory in London.
endowed by Mrs. E. H. Harriman, wife of railroad magnate Edward Harriman and mother of diplomat Averell Harriman. Mrs. Harriman in 1912 sold her substantial shares of New York’s Guaranty Trust bank to J. P. Morgan, thus ensuring his control over that institution.

After 1900, the Harrimans—the family that gave the Prescott Bush family its start—along with the Rockefellers funded more than $11 million to create a eugenics research laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor, New York, as well as programs at Harvard, Columbia, and Cornell. The first International Congress of Eugenics was convened in London in 1912, with Winston Churchill as one of its directors. Obviously, the concept of “bloodlines” was highly significant to these people.

In 1932 when the Congress met in New York, it was the Hamburg-American Shipping Line, controlled by Harriman associates George Walker and Prescott Bush, that brought prominent Germans to the meeting. One was Dr. Ernst Rudin of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Genetics and Demography in Berlin. Rudin was unanimously elected president of the International Federation of Eugenics Societies for his work in planning the Congress for Racial Hygiene, a forebear of Hitler’s racial institutes.

Eugenics work, under more politically correct names, continues right up to today. General William H. Draper Jr. was a “Supporting Member” of the International Eugenic Congress in 1932 and, despite or because of his ties to the Harriman and Bush families, was named head of the Economic Division of the U.S. Control Commission in Germany at the end of hostilities. According to authors Tarpley and Chaikin, “General Draper (in later years) founded the Population Crisis Committee and the Draper Fund, joining with the Rockefeller and Du Pont families to promote eugenics as population control.” The administration of President Lyndon Johnson, advised by General Draper on the subject, began financing birth control in the tropical countries through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

“General Draper was George Bush’s guru on the population question,” Draper’s son and heir William H. Draper III, was co-chairman for finance—chief of fundraising—of the Bush-for-President national campaign organization in 1980. The younger Draper went on to work with population control activities of the United Nations.

Rudin’s eugenics work was in a large part funded by Rockefeller money. “These wealthy American families, like their counterparts in
Britain, feel themselves to be racially superior and they wish to protect their racial superiority," commented author Icke.

Nepotism proved a connecting link in these family chains. According to biographer Alvin Moscow, "Starting in the year 1917 and continuing over the next five years, the elder Rockefeller handed over his fortune to his only son and heir with no strings attached."

John Jr. while dealing primarily with philanthropic activities, revealed his father's penchant for business practices, particularly in his expeditions to Canada. This stance softened at least publicly, following the Ludlow Massacre of 1914 in which Colorado militia members killed forty persons.

Rockefeller Jr. helped create the United Service Organization (USO) for soldiers during World War II and supervised the building of Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. After the war, it was Rockefeller who championed the building of the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan for the headquarters of the United Nations.


The eldest, John III, became chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation and guided millions of dollars to international agencies such as the Indian International Centre and the International House of Japan. His personal money went to his fabulous art collection and the creation of the Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. After the war, it was Rockefeller who donated land in Manhattan for the headquarters of the United Nations.


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push through many social programs as detailed by author Akin Moscow, who writes, "Oveta Culp Hobby was out front as the Secretary; Nelson worked behind the scenes, finding key personnel to head various programs, promoting research and studies, putting together new programs and then trying to steer those new programs through the Eisenhower administration and through a sometimes skeptical Congress." Eisenhower even appointed Rockefeller special assistant for foreign affairs, the same office his close friend Henry Kissinger held under President Nixon. He continually sought the Republican presidential nomination, but his plans were thwarted by Nixon in both 1960 and 1968 and by Senator Barry Goldwater in 1964. Rockefeller eventually was appointed vice president of the United States in 1974 by President Gerald R. Ford, former appointee of President Richard Nixon, who was forced to resign over the Watergate scandal.

Laurance Spelman Rockefeller became the most business-oriented of the brothers and enjoyed a successful career as a venture capitalist. Developing an early interest in aviation, he invested in Eastern Airlines in 1938 along with famed aviator Captain Eddie Rickenbacker and turned the air-line into one of the world’s largest. Rockefeller also invested heavily in the dreams of a young Scotsman named James McDonnell Jr., who went on to launch what became McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Corp. He entered the realm of environmentalism and became chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, president of the American Conservation Association, and chairman of the New York Zoological Society.

Winthrop Rockefeller was considered the maverick of the Rockefeller clan. Dropping out of Yale in 1934, he made his way to Texas where he worked as an oil field roustabout. During World War II, he served on a number of submarines in the Pacific Theater earning a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Returning home, he developed a taste for drinking, women, and New York cafe society. But in 1953, shrugging off this lifestyle, he suddenly moved to Arkansas where he was voted “Arkansas Man of the Year” in 1956. His famous name allowed him to gain the office of governor in 1967. It was then that a young Arkansas Democrat, Rhodes scholar, and Demoley member named Bill Clinton
may have gained the attention of Rockefeller. Winthrop, too, died of cancer in 1973, just two months before his sixty-first birthday.

David Rockefeller was the youngest of the five Rockefeller brothers and the one who became the most powerful, if not the most prominent. After winning a B.A. degree from Harvard, he entered the London School of Economics, a school largely funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust Fund, and the widow of J. P. Morgan partner William Sturgis. Here he came into contact with the teachings of Ruskin and other socialists, including Harold Laski. Educated at Oxford, Laski early on advocated political pluralism but later turned to Marxism, and became a luminary in Britain's Socialist Party. He once wrote that the state is "the fundamental instrument of society."

Returning to the States, David Rockefeller established his deep feelings for England in a letter to the New York Times in April 1941 in which he stated, "We should stand by the British Empire to the limit and at any cost." Just before the outbreak of war, he obtained a doctorate degree from the University of Chicago. His doctoral thesis was entitled "Unused Resources and Economic Waste." Perhaps articulating the driving ambitions of the Rockefeller brothers, he wrote, "Of all forms of waste, however, that which is most abhorrent is idleness. There is a moral stigma attached to unnecessary and involuntary idleness which is deeply imbedded in our conscience."

During the war, he entered the U.S. Army as a private but was soon working in North Africa and France with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner to the CIA. This experience, along with his schooling in England, strengthened a lifelong concern with foreign affairs. It was most probably during this time that Rockefeller developed high-level intelligence contacts which later brought him insider knowledge of many top-secret operations.

In 1948 David Rockefeller was chairman of the board of trustees of the Rockefeller Institute. The president of the institute was Dr. Detlev Wulf Bronk, a biochemist specializing in the human nervous system. According to the controversial MJ-12 documents, Bronk not only was a member of MJ-12—reportedly a supersecret group in charge of the UFO issue—but leader of the team that examined "extraterrestrial biological entities" recovered from a crashed disk near Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947.
After the war, Rockefeller joined the staff of Chase National Bank of New York, where his uncle, Winthrop Aldrich, was chairman of the board and president. Chase traced its history back to central bank advocate Alexander Hamilton’s Bank of the Manhattan Company begun in 1799, and by 1921 it had become the second largest national bank in the United States. In 1955 Rockefeller played a major role in the merger of Chase with the Bank of Manhattan Company, which resulted in Chase Manhattan Bank. In 1969 the bank became part of Chase Manhattan Corp., to fine with the trend of establishing holding companies to avoid banking laws prohibiting certain activities, such as the acquisition of finance companies. That same year David Rockefeller became the company’s board chairman and chief executive officer, thanks primarily to his prominence in international banking.

His connections to the world of international politics as well as intelligence were improved when his uncle Aldrich retired as chairman of the bank in 1953 to become U.S. Ambassador to the Court of Saint James (England). Aldrich was succeeded by John J. McCloy, a former chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations. McCloy, who has been called the “architect of the postwar American intelligence establishment,” served as assistant secretary of war from April 1941 to November 1945, president of the World Bank from 1947 to 1949, and U.S. Governor and High Commissioner for Germany from 1949 to 1952. McCloy also served on the Warren Commission, helping mediate disagreements with members who were troubled by the controversial “single bullet” theory of JFK’s assassination. According to author Alvin Moscow, David Rockefeller soon became “the undisputed protege of McCloy.”

David Rockefeller had already joined the Council on Foreign Relations in 1941 before war came, and in 1950 he had been elected vice president.

His interest in foreign affairs could not have been entirely altruistic, since it has been estimated that the multinational banks, with Chase leading the way, issued more than 51 billion to developing nations between 1957 and 1977. Even sympathetic biographer Moscow admitted, “David’s fascination with international relations, necessitating urbane knowledge of the governmental, social and economic policies of nations throughout the world, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, dovetailed uniquely with his interest and concern in expanding Chase Manhattan’s business in the international banking market.”
To say that David Rockefeller may be one of the most important men in America would be an understatement. According to Gary Allen, in the year 1973 alone, "David Rockefeller met with 27 heads of state, including the rulers of Russia and Red China. In 1976, when Australian president Malcolm Fraser visited the United States, he conferred with David Rockefeller before meeting President Gerald Ford." This is "truly incredible," wrote author Ralph Epperson, "because David Rockefeller has neither been elected nor appointed to any governmental position where he could officially represent the United States government."

But the Rockefeller influence—if not control—extends far beyond their banking and oil interests. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, for example, in 1997 listed nearly $500 million in assets. It was incorporated in 1940 by the five brothers. Since that time, the Fund has dispersed more than $461 million in grants to a wide range of activities and institutions including various universities, numerous arts programs, the Smithsonian Institution, National Academy of Arts, National Park Foundation, Planned Parenthood of New York City, NAACP, German Marshall Fund of the U.S., Yale University, Center for Strategic and International Studies, National Academy of Sciences, and the Society for International Development.

In 1977, the Fund contributed $1 million to the Council on Foreign Relations. Perhaps due to the adverse publicity of conspiracy writers, this amount had dropped to a mere $45,000 in 1997, $25,000 of which went to study the "economic and political implications of Korean unification." The Trilateral Commission, which received $120,000 from the Fund in 1977, was not mentioned in their 1997 annual report.

In 1997 the Fund also spent more than $1.2 million in grants for various projects in New York City, in areas of special and long-term interest to the Fund. These grants were typically provided to environmental issues, as is evidenced by its donations to National Environmental Trust, Greenpeace Environmental Trust, National Wildlife Federation, American Conservation Association, Environmental Defense Fund, among others. Conspiracy authors have noted that Rockefeller "owns an interest in companies which might be unethically affecting the environment, what better way to gain some measure of control over activists than by heavy contributions?"

Abby M. O'Neill, niece of the five Rockefeller brothers, in 1998 stated...
her term as chairman of the Fund. The position was assumed by Nelson's son, Steven C. Rockefeller. The one-world outlook of the Rockefellers was still evident in the Fund's 1997 annual report. Mrs. O'Neill wrote that the Fund had "a refocused 'One World' strategy, with an explicitly global perspective and an emphasis on the convergence of national and international frameworks." Fund president and CFR member Colin G. Campbell wrote that Rockefeller money was being used to help make "a number of controversial partnerships...that involve such sometimes unlikely partners as nonprofit and for-profit entities, government agencies and nongovernment organizations, research universities and grassroots activist groups, ..." "In fact much of the U.S. government's involvement in health, education and welfare in the latter half of the twentieth century seems to have been pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation in the first half of the century," commented author Moscow. Rockefeller activities always seem to involve or produce world leaders. Henry Kissinger already has been mentioned. Prior to World War II, a Rockefeller Foundation division on economic research was headed by Canadian W.L. Mackenzie King. A mentor to John D. Jr., Mackenzie later became prime minister of Canada.

Contributing to the power of their name was the fact that Rockefeller projects were nearly always successful. According to biographer Alvin Moscow, the brothers "served nearly before lending the Rockefeller name or finances to any new endeavor or enterprise. But once committed, they stayed with their commitments for the long haul, giving generously of their money, their time and their efforts. It became a virtue in various civic and social circles that if a Rockefeller was involved, the project most likely had merit and was expected to succeed." Despite their close ties and connections to Britain, the Rockefellers gave the appearance of being a purely American phenomenon. Another American banking empire actually began in Britain.

NORVINS

If John D. Rockefeller had an equal in the halcyon days of the robber barons it was John Pierpont Morgan; a man even more demonstrably connected with an "Anglophile network."
The Morgan banking empire continues to hold sway over both business and political decisions being made today, and many Morgan employees and agents can be counted among the membership of the secret societies.

Morgan's mother was Juliet Pierpont Morgan, whose father, the Reverend John Pierpont, was vocally pro-British and the son of a Yale University founder. J. P. Morgan's father, Junius Spencer Morgan, was an American financier who lectured in England in the 1850s where he was befriended by another expatriate American named George Peabody, a man already doing business with the British Rothschilds. Joining with Peabody under the name Peabody, Morgan & Company, Junius's wealth grew as the result of assisting loans for the North during the American Civil War. His son, John Pierpont Morgan, was born in 1837.

Junius and son took charge of the business upon the retirement of Peabody in 1864 and promptly changed the name to Morgan and Company.

Joining with the British Rothschilds, the Morgans established a close connection to the British Rothschilds, even staying in their home on occasion. Many authors have written that the Morgans eventually became a covert agent for the Rothschilds. "Morgan's activities in 1895-1896 in selling U.S. government bonds to European investors during the withdrawal of the House of Rothschild's from the bond market were based on his alliance with the House of Rothschild," noted author Gabriel Kolko.

The idea that the Morgans were the American front for Britain's Baron Nathan Mayer Rothschild's interests also was advanced by Eustace Mullins, the author who in 1952 first revealed the maneuvering which resulted in the creation of the Federal Reserve System. Regarding the Rothschilds, Mullins wrote, "Even though they had a registered agent in the United States — it was extremely advantageous to them to have American representatives — they were not known as a force behind the facade of J. P. Morgan and Company. "

"Part of the reality of the day was an ugly resurgence of anti-Semitism," wrote George Hackett, author of Pequot Morgan and Friends: Anatomy of a Myth. "Someone was needed as a cover. Who better than J. Pierpont Morgan, a solid, Protestant exemplar of capitalism able to trace his family back to pre-Revolutionary times?"

"The possibilities are obvious that a major portion of the wealth and
power of the Morgan firm was, and always had been, merely the wealth
and power of the Rothschilds who had raised it up in the beginning and
this continued through its entire existence,” agreed author Griffin.

Although J. P. Morgan was born in America and educated in Europe, in
1856 he traveled to Germany where he studied at the University of Got-
tingen, founded by England’s George II in 1737 who then was serving as
Elector of Hanover. Notorious for its expulsion of dissident professors
—called the “Gottingen Seven”—which included the brothers Grimm and
other adherents of Georg Hegel including Karl Marx— the university con-
tinued to be a hotbed of antiestablishment and secret society activity.

Returning to the United States, Morgan joined the New York bank-
ing firm of Drexel, Sherman and Company, the American representa-
tives of their London company. “Thusfar, Morgan appears to have
served as a Rothschild financial agent and went in plain length to
appeal totally American,” Griffin wrote.

At the outbreak of the American Civil War, young Morgan demonstra-
ted that legality and honest played little part in his business prac-
tices. In May 1861 twenty-four-year-old Morgan offered to sell five
thousand military rifles to the commander of the federal army stationed
at St. Louis for twenty-two dollars apiece. The commander, desparate
for rifles, agreed, but when the rifles arrived he refused payment, claim-
ing the weapons were useless and defective. Morgan sued the army
and won a court judgment ordering that he be paid the $109,912.

A congressional investigating committee in 1862 concluded that Mor-
gen had defrauded the government. The committee found that the rifles,
considered “thoroughly unserviceable, obsolete and dangerous,” had
been bought for $3.50 each from a New York arsenal by a Simon Stevens,
who was employed by Morgan. When the St. Louis commander agreed to
buy the arms sight unseen, Morgan had used the agreement as collateral
to borrow money to pay for the weapons. So the U.S. Army had
bought its own defective rifles from Morgan, who, at no financial risk to
himself, realized about 500 percent profit on each gun.

In 1871 he became a partner in one of his father’s firms, Drexel,
Morgan and Company, which later became simply J. P. Morgan and
Company. This firm now became the predominant source of U.S. gov-
ernment financing.
and highly useful connections with the London financial world, and during the 1870s he was thereby able to provide the rapidly growing industrial corporations of the United States with much-needed capital from British bankers,” noted The New Encyclopedia Britannica.

Next to the European Rothschild family, the Morgan Company became one of the most powerful banking houses in the world. But that wasn’t enough for John P. Morgan, who inherited the family business in 1890 following his father’s death in a carriage accident on the French Riviera. Five years earlier he began the reorganization of America’s largest railroads and by 1902 was the world’s most powerful railroad magnate, controlling about five thousand miles of track.

Morgan even helped bail out the U.S. government following a bank panic in 1893. Forming a syndicate, Morgan propped up the government’s depleted reserves with $62 million in Rothschild gold. In the 1890s he oversaw the merger of Edison General Electric and Thomson-Houston Electric Company to form General Electric, which quickly dominated electrical equipment manufacturing. Next, Morgan merged several steel firms to form United States Steel Corporation, and in 1902 he created International Harvester Company out of several competing agricultural equipment manufacturers.

This diversified Morgan empire has never been equaled and continues to dominate the American financial industry to this day. “Through a system of interlocking memberships on the boards of companies he had organized or influenced, Morgan and his banking house achieved a top-heavy concentration of control over some of the nation’s leading corporations and financial institutions,” explained The New Encyclopedia Britannica. This empire was extended to include banks, savings institutions, trusts, pension funds, and even government positions. Such manipulation can explain how control over the commercial and economic life of the United States was achieved and maintained for those with the knowledge, willpower, and wealth.

Although J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller competed with each other in many areas, “in the end, they worked together to create a national banking cartel called the Federal Reserve System,” wrote Griffin.

The initial plan for the Federal Reserve System was conceived at a secret meeting in 1910 at Morgan’s private resort on Jekyll Island off the coast of Georgia.
Morgan, connected to the Rockefellers through his investment associate Nelson Aldrich, remained the dominant American capitalist until his death, in 1913, the same year the Fed was created.

Morgan’s son, John Pierpont Jr., known as Jack, continued to increase the family’s fortune following his father’s death. Positioned to be head of the Morgan empire, the younger Morgan spent eight years working in the firm’s London office developing close ties to British elite banking circles. During World War I, Morgan organized more than two thousand banks for the underwriting of more than $1 billion in Allied bonds. He became the only banker to purchase supplies, both military and otherwise, for both the British and French governments during the war. This indicates considerable leverage and clout within those governments, again suggesting the involvement of the Rothschilds.

Rothschilds

Although largely unknown to modern Americans, the name of Rothschild is synonymous with international banking and can be found behind the scenes of many major world events.

This secretive banking dynasty was begun by Mayer Amschel Bauer, a German Jew born on February 23, 1744, in Frankfurt, then a hotbed of anti-Semitism stemming from the widely publicized philosophies of Immanuel Kant and Johann Fichte. His father dealt in fine silk cloth despite ordinances prohibiting Jews from the practice.

Young Mayer studied to become a Rabbi. He was particularly schooled in Hashkalah, a blending of religion, Hebrew law, and reason, which had become popular during the Age of Enlightenment. The death of his parents forced Mayer to leave Rabbinical school and become an apprentice in business.

Quickly learning the trade, he became court financial agent to William IX, royal administrator of the Hesse-Kassel region, and a prominent Freemason. He ingratiated himself to William, who was only one year older than himself, by joining his interest in Freemasonry and antiquities. Mayer would search out ancient coins and sell them to his benefactor at greatly reduced prices. Considering his Rabbinical training coupled with his interest in antiquities, he surely developed a deep interest in the Rothschilds.
standing of the ancient mysteries, particularly those of the Jewish Cabala. It was during this same period that the metaphysics of the Cabala began to fuse with the traditions of Freemasonry as will be described later.

Young Mayer added to his client list the royal German family of Thurn and Taxis, a descendant of which would be executed as a member of the secret society which created Adolf Hitler. The prominent Thurn and Taxis family administered a courier service throughout the Holy Roman Empire. “They prepared business news received before their rivals were aware of market trends, commodity prices and major political events,” noted Rothschild biographer Niall Ferguson. Mayer saw firsthand that information, especially obtained quickly, often meant great wealth. Today, the axiom has become “time equals money.” To prevent prying eyes from reading their mail, the family wrote all correspondence in Judendeutsch, German written in Hebrew characters. This code has prevented most researchers from any clear understanding of their methods and intentions.

During this time, according to The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, “Mayer set the pattern that his family was to follow so successfully—to do business with reigning houses by preference and to father as many sons as possible who could take care of the family’s many business affairs abroad.”

According to several authors, the family fortune was built upon money embezzled from William IX, who was paid an enormous sum by the British government to provide Hessian soldiers to fight American colonists during the Revolutionary War. William handed over this money to Mayer for investment, but instead it reportedly was used to establish his son Nathan as head of the London branch of the family banking house. Mayer eventually repaid the money but “Nathan manipulated the situation in such a way that this became the origin of the enormous Rothschild fortune,” wrote Ferguson. “In time the temporary deviations of the enormous sums of money projecting at Hessian-Kassel which enabled St. M. [St. Mary’s bank in London] to handle his banking operation, provided him with both liquidity and prestige.”

From the earliest days, the Rothschilds appreciated the importance of proximity to politicians, the men who determined not only the extent of budget deficits but also the domestic and foreign policies. “Rothschild influence
extended to royalty as well. Nathan first came into contact with British royalty thanks to his father's purchase of outstanding debts owed by George, Prince Regent—later King George IV—and his brothers. Ferguson traced Rothschild influence through the British royalty to Queen Victoria's prince consort, Albert, and his sons. The British Rothschilds also came quite close to some prominent Victorian politicians such as Lord John Russell, Lord William Gladstone, Benjamin Disraeli, Arthur Balfour, Joseph Chamberlain, and Lord Randolph Churchill, Winston's father.

It was also about the time of Nathan's arrival in London that Mayer Bauer changed his name to Rothschild (literally "red shield") taken from a red shield emblem on the family home of his ancestors. This name change undoubtedly was an attempt to separate his family from the ragging anti-Semitism prevalent in Germany at the time. To further insulate the family from such society, the Rothschilds used a stable of registered agents and front men to operate their far-flung business dealings.

This may be a good point to dismiss claims that the modern secret societies, either wittingly or otherwise, are furthering the aims of an international Jewish conspiracy. While it is undoubtedly true that many of the world's wealthy elite have a Jewish heritage, one should not be intimidated by the issue of race or religion. There is no evidence of substance to prove that Jews or Hebrews—or any other racial or religious group—are any more greedy or ambitious than anyone else.

Furthermore, any discussions of anti-Semitism is frequently lost in a misunderstanding of the distinction between Hebrews, Jews, and Zionists.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language describes a Hebrew as a member of the Semitic people, a race descended from Abraham of the Old Testament which, interestingly enough, also includes most Arabs. A Jew, on the other hand, is a adherent of Judaism, a religion handed down by the Israelites. A Zionist is a member of a political movement concerned with preserving and furthering the state of Israel. These constitute three separate issues: race, religion, and politics. To lump these three issues into one single conspiracy is both wrong headed and contrary to the historical evidence. Most people in modern America realize that it is wrong to judge a person on race, an attribute over which that person has no control. Likewise, it is considered bad over-
ners by most to publicly attack another person’s religion. Only one’s pol-

citics are considered fair game for dissension and argument.

It is here, in the realm of politics, that much confusion has been sown.

Supporters of Zionism, for years have skillfully attacked their opponents

as “anti-Semites” to the extent that many Americans, Jews and gentiles

alike and especially the media, are loath to even question the policies of

Israel no matter how odious.

Furthermore, the broad brush of anti-Semitism frequently has been

used to besmirch anyone offering a conspiratorial view of history.

“While it may be true that secret organizations in the past were built

along both racial and religious grounds, attempting to bring race or

religion into a discussion of modern secret societies and conspiracies

only serves to sanitize the zone and repel conscientious researchers.

Although many international financiers are of Jewish descent, it is no

more fair to accuse the Hebrew race of an international conspiracy

than it would be to blame all Caucasians for the acts of Hitler’s Nazis.

W. Cleon Skousen, a former FBI agent who served as police chief of Salt

Lake City in the late 1950s, wrote about international conspiracies in sev-

eral books, including The Naked Communist. He, too, came to under-

stand that racial identification was “an oversimplified explanation for the

rise of the global power structure which has ensued.” He explained, “In

studying the global conspiracy it is important to keep in mind that it was

not any particular race or religion but the ‘passion for money and power’

which has drawn the tycoons of world finance into a tightly knitted mutual-

aid society.”

But such considered and reasoned understanding of anti-Semitism

was not in vogue during Mayer Rothschild’s time. So far from being teen-

agered while steadfastly attempting to avoid the noose of anti-Semitism,

This is not to imply that the Rothschilds were not proud of their

Jewish ancestry. By all accounts, family leaders have been most devout

in their observance of Jewish traditions and customs. Once a year, the

family has donned its robes in Jewish costume and may have even

played a vital role in establishing the state of Israel, although some con-

spiracy writers claim that Rothchild interest in Israel stems more from

their control of oil than love of a homeland.

One method utilized to avoid racism was the enlistment of non-Jew-

ish operatives as fronts for the Rothchild organization. At the time of
the American Civil War, J. P. Morgan publicly made anti-Semitic remarks, yet he furthered the goals of the Rothschilds. Much of Morgan’s apparent anti-Semitism was real and was much more than some pragmatic guise, as in the case of a sign for a Jewish store in New York City.

Regardless of one’s interpretation of the nature of the relationship between the Mouses of Morgan and Rothschild, the fact remains that it was close. It was ongoing, and it was profitable to both. If Morgan truly harbored feelings of anti-Semitism, neither he nor the Rothschilds ever allowed them to get in the way of their business,” noted author Griffin.

According to author Icke, Morgan and Rockefeller were wealthy “gofers” who used Rothschild financing to “build vast empires which controlled banking, business, oil, steel, etc., and run the United States economy in the way the Oppenheims do in South Africa.”

Another expediency was the use of Mayer Rothschild’s sons, known as the “Frankfurt Five,” who were carefully schooled and groomed to servally, further the family banking business.

While Mayer and his eldest son, Amshel Mayer, supervised from their Frankfurt bank, son Nathan Mayer established the London branch in 1804. Meanwhile, the youngest son, Jakob (who preferred to be called James), joined Paris banking circles in 1811 while Solomon Mayer began operating in Vienna and Karl Mayer in Naples.

Mayer also worked with neighbors. The Warburgs began lobbying for Rothschild business in Hamburg as early as 1814, though regular dealings were not established until the 1830s. “They were Geographer Niall Ferguson.

In 1785 the Rothschilds shared quarters with a family named Schiff. A grandson, Jacob Henry Schiff, emigrated to America in 1863 after marrying Abraham Kuhn, who had been a partner with New York investment firm. In 1775 young Schiff earned the daughter of Solomon Loeb, who was head of the firm. In 1875 young Schiff joined the firm of Loeb & Company of New York City. Schiff became head of the firm in 1885, and the death ofLoeb Abloof (who founded the purchase of the Union Pacific) from whom many Edward H. Harriman. Father of later world statesman W. Averell Harriman. Both Schiff and Averell Harriman were to play important roles in the rise of Communism in Russia.

The elder Harriman’s two sons attended Yale and were inducted into

the Order of the Skull and Bones—William Averell (The Order, 1913) and Edward Roland Noel (The Order, 1917). During the 1930s W. Averell’s banking firm of W. A. Harriman & Company merged with the private international banking firm of Brown Brothers creating Brown Brothers, Harriman & Company, a longtime partner of Velch von Pommern Billi (The Order, 1917), father of George Bush (The Order, 1949).

Intermarriages between the prominent Jewish immigrant families were common around the turn of the century. “As they set about protecting their vast estates, moreover, these Jewish dynasts often found it useful in the United States as in western Europe to marry among each other,” wrote history professor Howard M. Sachar. “Solomon Loeb and Abraham Kuhn, it is recalled, married each other’s sisters, and Jacob Schiff became an instant partner by marrying Lady’s daughter. In turn, Felix Warburg, scion of a distinguished Hamburg banking family, married a granddaughter of Leopold’s daughter Frieda. Felix’s brother Paul married Solomon Loeb’s daughter Nina—from Loeb’s second wife—and thus became his own brother’s uncle. Another partner, Otto Kahn, married Adelaide Wolff, daughter of one of the firm’s original investors. At Goldman, Sachs & Co., [two Sachs boys married two Goldman daughters].”

Another more recent example of these upper-level connections was the much publicized 1950s love affair between Elie de Rothschild and Winston Churchill’s former daughter-in-law, Pamela Churchill. After the affair broke up, she moved to New York where, after a short-lived marriage to a Broadway producer, she and financier and CFR member Averell Harriman. In 1993 Pamela Harriman was named U.S. Ambassador to France by President Clinton.

Unrelenting attention to business, coupled with intermarriages and the use of front men, built a gigantic and secretive Rothschild banking empire. This empire exerted considerable influence on the economic and hence the political history of Europe as well as the United States, although less so than the covert and indirect manner.

In 1806 Nathan had become an English citizen and wed Hannah Cohen, the oldest daughter of Levi Barent Cohen, then London’s leading financier. The marriage cemented his acceptance by the British banking establishment.

Nathan Rothschild was able to brag later that in the 17 years he had been in England he had increased his original 20,000 pounds stake...
given to him by his father by 2,500 times, i.e. to 50,000,000—a truly vast sum at that time, comparable to purchasing power in billions of U.S. dollars today,” stated one Rothschild investigator.

Derek Wilson, a sympathetic biographer of the Rothschilds, noted that in 1810 Nathan won explicitly one of several Emancipation operating in London. But by 1815 he had become the principal financier to the British government and its Bank of England. “This remarkable compounding rate has been achieved by a complex series of dealings, many of which seem almost in a money which cannot now be penetrated,” commented Wilson.

Author Icke saw this connection as proof of conspiratorial control by the Rothschilds. “They had the crown heads of Europe in debt to them and this included the Black Nobility dynasty, the Hapsburgs, who ruled the Holy Roman Empire for 600 years,” he wrote. “The Rothschilds also took control of the Bank of England. If there was a war, the Rothschilds were behind the scenes, creating the conflict and funding both sides.”

“They may have held allegiance in the country of their residence, but patriotism was beyond their comprehension,” wrote Griffin. “They were also very bright, if not cunning, and these combined traits made them the role model of the cool pragmatists who dominate the political and financial world of today.”

The Rothschild financial empire arose from loans to Europe’s rulers and from the family’s successful use of fractional banking. To understand fractional banking requires a brief look at the nomenclature and history of money; to understand its application requires a look at one of the most powerful financial institutions on the planet.

SECRETS OF MONEY AND THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Money—whether a piece of paper or a figure on a computer screen—is intrinsically worthless, yet it holds the modern world. The trappings of money and banking have been compared to those of a religion, yet only those who profit from it understand the inner workings of the money cult. And they work hard to keep it that way.

In America the ultimate control of money rests with the bankers of the Federal Reserve System (the Fed). “We traced immunity at the very core of representative democracy, an incredible achievement—

Early men had no need for money. He hunted when he was hungry and hunted to stockpile food for the winter. If he needed a commodity which belonged to his neighbor, bartering was the order of the day. But as work became more specialized, the limits to barter became apparent. The shepherder could not always take his entire herd to market. So barter turned to gold as a measure of wealth. Precious metal, particularly gold, was limited in supply, always desirable, and easily transported as small coins imprinted with words or pictures to assure authenticity and purity—plus there was some sacred, almost holy, reverence attached to it (that later, helpful role of gold coins was hard currency, not to mention a tempting target for thieves and robbers).

Some were paper money. A paper bill was simply a promise: "You can have a hun- dred dollars of this commodity if you pay for it with this paper proof of its worth." This procedure worked well for a time, but then certain individuals realized that paper money, if loaned for a fee, could be used to generate new money. The early goldsmiths who warehoused gold coins used this stockpiled wealth as the basis for issuing paper money. Since it was highly unlikely that everyone would demand their gold back at the same time, the smiths became bankers. They would loan out a portion of their stockpile for interest or profit. This practice—lending a greater portion of wealth while retaining only a small fraction for emergencies—became known as fractional-reserve, or fractional banking. This system worked well enough unless everyone suddenly wanted their deposits back at the same time and started a "run" on the bank.

Added to fractional banking was the concept of "fiat" money—simply worthless pieces of paper made acceptable by law or decree of government. An early example of this system was recorded by Marco Polo during his visit to China in 1275. Polo noted the emperor forced his people to accept black pieces of paper with an official seal on them as legal money under pain of imprisonment or death. The emperor then used this fiat money to pay all his own debts.
One is tempted to marvel at the [emperor's] audacious power and the subservience of his subjects who endured such an outrage," wrote author Griffin, "but one strengthens rapidly when one considers the similarity of our [United States] Reserve Notes. They are adorned with signatures and seals, counterfeiters are severely punished; the government pays its expenses with them, the population is forced to accept them—they and the 'invisible' checkbook money into which they can be converted—are made in such vast quantities that it must be equal in amount to all the treasure of the world. And yet they cost nothing to make. In truth, our present monetary system is an almost exact replica of that which supported the tyrants of seven centuries ago.

But today it is the bankers, not warlords, who profit from money and they have created an incredible mechanism for doing so: the Federal Reserve System.

Anyone seeking to prove the existence of conspiracies in American society need look no further than the origin of our present central bank. Here is a well-documented conspiracy involving the very names tied to modern secret societies.

The early American colonists had printed small quantities of paper money and were prospering. Benjamin Franklin explained, "In the colonies we issued our own money. It is called Colonial Script. We issue it in proper proportion to the demands of trade and industry to make the products pass easily from the producers to the consumers... In this manner, issuing the money for our own paper money, we control its purchasing power, and we have no interest to pay to anyone."

The English parliament, at the urging of the Bank of England, put a stop to this colonial prosperity with passage of the Currency Act of 1764, which prohibited the printing of currency. The colonists were forced to accept notes from the Bank of England. Franklin and others claimed it was this outlawing of debt-free money which caused economic depression and widespread unemployment precipitating the American Revolution.

The very idea of a central bank run by professional bankers has been a contentious issue since the founding of the United States. The arguments for and against a central bank can be seen in the debates of Founding Fathers Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.

Hamilton favored strong central government and a central bank run by a wealthy elite. "The society could succeed which did not...
unite the interest and credit of rich individuals with those of the state,” he wrote. Supporters of Hamilton’s elitist ideals formed America’s first political party, the Federalists. Hamilton, once described as a “tool of the international bankers,” argued that “a national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing.”

The Bank of North America was created in 1781, even before the drafting of the Constitution, by Continental Congressman Robert Morris, who tried to staff it after a central bank copying the Bank of England. It lasted just three years before being discontinued due to rampant fraud and the inflation caused by the issuance of worthless “ fiat” currency.

Hamilton, a former aide to Morris, became secretary of the Treasury and in 1791 started the next attempt at a central bank by establishing the First Bank of the United States, a move strongly opposed by Jefferson and his supporters.

Jefferson learned from European history that a central bank could quickly become the master of a nation, he pointed to the British experience and noted that “The other nations of Europe have tried and trodden every path of license and folly (in finans were not the same object), yet not even expect to find in juggling tricks and banking dreams, that money can be made out of nothing...”

“I sincerely believe... that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies, and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale,” he wrote to John Taylor in 1816, adding, “Already they have raised up a money aristocracy... The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs.”

Jefferson further believed a central bank to be unconstitutional. “Consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground: That all powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people. To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specially drawn around the powers of Congress is to take premises of it; the incorporation of a bank, in my opinion, from delegation to the United States, by the Constitution.”

Ironically, Jefferson’s supporter, considered liberal in their time, formed what was to become the Republican Party.
Jefferson was not alone among the Founding Fathers to express dis-
trust over the profit of banking. "Our whole banking system I ever abhorred, I continue to Abhor, and I shall die abhorring," wrote John Adams in 1811. "Every Bank of Discount, every Bank by which interest is to be paid or profit of any kind made by the [lender], is monstrous corruption. It is taxation for the public for the benefit and profit of individuals."

The First Bank of the United States also was closely modeled after the Bank of England and created a partnership between the government and banking interests. Twenty percent of the bank's capital was obtained through the federal government with the remaining 80 percent pledged by private investors, including financiers such as the Rothschilds. "The law records show that they [the Rothschilds] were the power in the old Bank of the United States," wrote author Gustavus Myers. It is clear that con-
spiring European bankers and their New World associates were trying to gain control over American money supply.

This bank also caused inflation by the creation of fractional-reserve notes. Money merchants prospered but the average citizen suffered. In 1811, when the bank's twenty-year charter came up for renewal, it was defeated by one vote in both the Senate and the House.

But the costs of the War of 1812, along with erratic financial condi-
tions, prompted Congress to issue a twenty-year charter to the Second Bank of the United States in 1816. This central bank united in 1816, after President Andrew Jackson in 1832 vetoed a congressional bill to extend its charter, precipitating what became known as the Bank War. Jackson, the first president from west of the Appalachian Mountains and the hero of the Battle of New Orleans, denouement the central bank as unconstitutional as well as "a curse to a republic; inasmuch as it is calculated to raise around the administration a moneyed aristocracy dangerous to the liberties of the country."

Jackson's 1835 America's first assassination attempt was made on Jackson in 1835 by a man named Richard Lawrence, who claimed to be "in touch with the powers in Europe." Lawrence's pistols misfired, and the unharmed but infuriated Jackson withdrew government funds from the "den of vipers" and Second Bank president Nicholas Biddle retaliated by curtailing credit nationally, caus-
ing widespread economic panic. According to author Eustace Mullins, Biddle was an agent of Jacob Rothschild in Paris.
Next, Jackson was censured by Biddle's friends in the Senate by a vote of 26-20 for failure to obtain Congressional authorization to withdraw the funds. The political motivation behind this action was confirmed in 1837, when the Senate annulled Jackson's censure by a 24-19 vote. Biddle disappeared from the scene, and by the end of his two terms "Old Hickory" had managed to totally eliminate the national debt. Jackson saw Biddle's maneuverings as a bald-faced attempt to blackmail the government into renewing the bank's charter. He warned, "The bold effort the present bank had made to control the Government, the distress it had wantonly produced ... are but premonitions of the fate that awaits the American people should they be deluded into a perpetuation of this institution, or the establishment of another like it."

There were other attempts to resurrect a central bank, but none succeeded until the creation of the Federal Reserve System in 1913.

There were other attempts to resurrect a central bank, but none succeeded until the creation of the Federal Reserve System in 1913. The effort to resurrect a central bank actually began three years earlier. "There was an occasion near the close of 1910, when I was as secretive, indeed, as furtive as any conspirator. ... I do not feel it is any exaggeration to speak of our secret expedition to Jekyll Island as the occasion of the actual conception of what eventually became the Federal Reserve System." wrote Frank A. Vanderlip, one of the men who created the Fed.

He went on to become president of New York's National City Bank. Vanderlip was referring to a secretive trip on the night of November 22, 1910, by seven men representing perhaps as much as one fourth of the wealth of the world, to Jekyll Island, J. P. Morgan's island retreat off the coast of Georgia. The mission was so secret that only first names were used and the regular servants on the island had been relieved by new employees who did not know any of the participants.

The secretive seven were Vanderlip, who represented William Rockefeller Sibber and James Stillman's investment lines of A. T. and Company; Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury Abraham Piatt Andrew; senior partner of J. P. Morgan Company Henry P. Davison; president of First National Bank of New York (a Morgan dominated institution) Charles D. Norton; Morgan investment banker Irving, Azrila, Leth & Company partners Paul Warburg; and Rhode Island Republican Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, chairman of the National Monetary Commission, the only non banker in the group. But Aldrich was not an associate of Samuel J. F. Morgan and father-in-law of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Warburg, a representative of the European Rothschilds, was brother to Max War.
The group included Bechtel of Bankers Trust and Morgan of J. P. Morgan & Co., along with a number of other prominent bankers. The group secluded themselves for a week on Jekyll Island and prepared plans for banking reform which the government deemed necessary due to a series of financial panics. Today, many researchers believe these panics were artificially created with a view toward forcing public acceptance of their very "reforms."

Author Ralph Epperson noted that Morgan returned to the States after visiting Europe in early 1907 and began rumors that the Knickerbocker Bank of New York was insolvent. Frightened depositors started a run on the bank, which sparked runs on other banks and the Panic of 1907 began. "A study of the panic of 1873, 1893 and 1907 indicates that these panics were the result of the international bankers' operations in Europe," concluded author Eustace Mullins, the authorized biographer of poet Ezra Pound, who encouraged Mullins to research the Fed in 1948.

Princeton University president (soon to be U.S. president) Woodrow Wilson proclaimed he solution to the financial panic, "All this trouble could be avoided if we appointed a committee of six or seven public-spirited men like J. P. Morgan to handle the affairs of our country."

"So the American people, who had suffered through the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the battles between Andrew Jackson and the Second Bank of the United States, the Civil War, the previous panics of 1873 and 1893, and now the Panic of 1907, were finally conditioned to the point of accepting the solution offered by those who had caused all of these events: the international bankers. That solution was a central bank," wrote Epperson.

Under pressure from constituents, Congress passed the Aldrich-Vreeland Act of 1908 which authorized national banks to issue emergency currency called "script" and created the National Monetary Commission—chaired by Senator Aldrich—to recommend ways of stabilizing the U.S. monetary system.

"From the start, it was obvious that the Commission was a sham," wrote author Griffin. "The so-called fact-finding body held no official meetings for almost two years while Aldrich toured Europe consulting with the top central bankers of England, France and Germany. Three-hundred thousand tax dollars were spent on these junkets, and the only tangible product of the Commission's work was 38 massive volumes of..."
the history of European banking. These volumes focused on the Ger-
man Reichsbank whose principal stockholders were the Rothschilds
and Warburg's family firm, M.M. Warburg Company.

The Commission's final report was prepared by the seven prominent men
who secretly journeyed to Morgan's Jekyll Island Hunt Club ostensibly to
hunt ducks. These men concluded not to have one central bank in the
United States, but several and they agreed that no one was to utter the
words "central" or "bank." Most important, they decided that this creation
would be made to look like an official agency of the U.S. government.

Speaking before an appreciative audience of the American Bankers'
Association, Aldrich stated, "The organization proposed is not a bank,
but a cooperative union of all the banks of the country for definite pur-
poses." Warburg had conceived of the idea of constructing this cooper-
ative union as a means to stabilize the banks and the public.

But this proposal, which came to be known as the Aldrich Plan after its
Senate sponsor, was ill-fated from the start. Too many people saw that it
was a transparent attempt to create a system of the bankers, by the
bankers, and for the bankers. "The Aldrich Plan is the Wall Street plan,"
warned congressman Charles A. Lindbergh, father of the famed aviator.

When Aldrich proposed his plan as a bill, it never got out of committee.
Author Greider sneered that "conspiracy-minded critics exaggerated
the importance of the Jekyll Island meeting" but conceded that "their
suspicions were poetically accurate" as the bankers knew "any pro-
posal identified as Wall Street's bill would be doomed in the Demo-
cratic House of Representatives."

A new tactic was needed and it came in the form of House Banking
and Currency Committee chairman, congressman Carter Glass of Vir-
ginia, who attacked the Aldrich Plan by openly stating it lacked govern-
ment control and created a banking monopoly. Glass drafted an alter-
native, the Federal Reserve Act, and presented anti-Wall Street
sentiments.

Jekyll Island planners Van Doren and Aldrich spoke at the same time
against Glass's bill, even though entire sections were identical to the
Aldrich Plan. It was clearly an effort to garner public support for the
Glass bill by the appearance of banker opposition.

These efforts were underscored by a banking reform organization
called the National Citizens' League, "easily financed and controlled by
the banks under the guidance of Paul Warburg," according to Griffin.

"The function of the organization was to disseminate hundreds of thousands of 'educational' pamphlets, to organize letter-writing campaigns to Congressmen, to supply quotable material to the news media, and in other ways to create the illusion of grass-roots support for the Jekyll Island Plan," he added.

Heading the league was economics professor J. Laurence Laughlin of the University of Chicago, a school heavily endowed by John D. Rockefeller.

While popular support for a new banking system was garnered, another effective tool was played out in the political arena. President William Howard Taft was already on the record as being hostile to any legislation creating a central bank. A more compliant leader was needed by the bankers.

This leader was Woodrow Wilson, the academic who had been retained as president of Princeton University by his former classmates Cleveland H. Dodge and Cyrus McCormick, both directors of Rockefeller’s National City Bank of New York. "For nearly 20 years before his nomination Woodrow Wilson had served in the shadow of Wall Street," wrote author Ferdinand Lundberg. Wilson, who had praised J. P. Morgan in 1907, had been made governor of New Jersey. His son became the banker's choice for president. Wilson's nomination was secured by the man who could bring that point instead of his cousin to his attention, Cleveland Edmond Hanes, a close associate of Morgan and Morgans. "The Schiffs, the Warburgs, the Kahns, the Rockefeller, and the Morgans [all] had faith in House," noted Professor Charles Seymour, who edited House's papers.

But there was a problem. Early polling indicated that Democrat Wilson could not defeat Republican Taft. In a maneuver that has been used successfully several times since, former president Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, also a Republican, was encouraged to run as a third-party candidate with large sums of money provided to his Progressive Party by two major contributors closely connected to Morgan. The scheme worked well. Roosevelt pulled votes from Taft so that Wilson, who already had pledged to sign the Federal Reserve Act, was elected by a narrow margin.

The appearance of opposition by Wall Street was necessary. William McAdoo, Wilson's son-in-law who was appointed secretary of the Treasury, later revealed, "Bankers fought the... Federal Reserve Act with the..."
tireless energy of men fighting a forest fire. They said it was populistic, socialistic, half-baked, destructive, unreliable, badly conceived and unworkable.” Senator McAdoo said in interviews with these bankers, “I perceived gradually, through all the haze and smoke of controversy, that the banking world was not nearly as much opposed to the bill as it pretended to be.”

Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act on December 23, 1913, just two days before Christmas, with some Congressmen already known for their hostility and with the average citizen’s attention clearly elsewhere.

“Congress was outflanked, outfoxed and outclassed by a deceptive, but brilliant, psycho-political attack,” commented Griffin.

The Federal Reserve System today is composed of twelve Federal Reserve banks, each serving a section of the country, but dominated by the New York Federal Reserve Bank. These banks are administered by a board of governors appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, usually a rubber-stamp procedure.

The Fed is such a pivotal force in the world economy that financial experts in every nation pay close attention to any action it takes. “The attention is warranted,” wrote Kim Clark of U.S. News & World Report, “since even the slightest interest rate change can make or destroy millions of jobs.”

But the real story of the Fed is who controls it and why. “Using a central bank to create alternate periods of inflation and deflation, and then manipulating the public for real profits, had been worked out by the international bankers to an exact science,” noted Allen.

Congressman Lindbergh in 1913 said that the Federal Reserve System “establishes the most gigantic trust on earth. ... When the President signs this act, the invisible government by the money power ... will be legalized. The next step will create inflation whereas the trusts create deflation. From now on, impressions will be scientifically calculated.”

Despite the word “Federal” in its name, the Fed is not part of the U.S. government. It is a private, non-profit institution that operates independently of Congress. The Board of Governors, which consists of six members appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, is the central bank of the United States.
government. It is a private organization owned by its member banks which, in turn, are owned by private stockholders. And who are these stockholders? An examination of the major stockholders of the New York City banks clearly shows that a few families, related by blood, marriage, or business interests, still control the New York City banks which, in turn, hold the controlling stock of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York,” reported researcher Herman Melvin in the 1993 book, The Secrets of the Federal Reserve. Mullins presented charts connecting the Fed and its member banks to the families of the Rothschilds, Morgans, Rockefellers, Warburgs, and others.

This private bank control of the Fed continues today. “The Federal Reserve Bank of New York—which completely dominates the other 11 branches through stock ownership, control and influence, having the only permanent voting seat on the Federal Open Market Committee and handling all open market bond transactions—has 19,752,655 shares outstanding and is majority-owned by two banks: Chase Manhattan Bank (now merged with Chemical Bank), with 6,389,445 shares or 32.35 percent; and Citibank, NA, with 6,019,051 shares or 31.15 percent. Together, those two banks own 12,408,496 shares or 62.5 percent—which is majority control,” stated a 1997 report by researcher Eric Samuelson.

It would appear that the warnings of Jefferson and Lindbergh about private control over a central bank have proven correct. Griffin pointed out that with the creation of the Federal Reserve, the major bankers finally obtained a long-standing goal—taxpayer liability for the losses of private banks. He quoted Paul Warburg, who admitted, “While technically and legally the Federal Reserve notes are an obligation of the United States Government, in reality it is an obligation, the sole actual responsibility for which rests on the reserve banks... . The United States Government could only be called upon to take the notes in case the reserve banks failed.”

“The man who masterminded the Federal Reserve System is telling us that Federal Reserve notes constitute privately issued money with the taxpayers standing by to cover the potential losses of those banks which issue it,” Griffin explained (emphasis in the original).

The money to cover government overspending comes from a number...
nism instigated by these same men at this same time—a national income tax and the means to collect it.

In fact, the banker globalists behind Wilson had a field day. Sound-ine this rhetoric, Wilson pushed through more “progressive” legislation than any previous American administration, adding to the Federal Reserve System enforcement of the graduated income tax (trills the Internal Revenue Service of the Treasury Department to enforce it), the Federal Farm Loan Act (which created twelve banks for farmers), the Federal Trade Commission to regulate business, among other bills.

To many people at the time, all of this legislation appeared necessary. Some still would argue that perhaps it is better that knowledgeable bankers be in charge of our country’s money supply. After all, a 1963 Federal Reserve publication states, “The function of the Federal Reserve is to foster a flow of money and credit that will facilitate orderly economic growth, a stable dollar, and balance our international payments.”

But has the Fed accomplished its stated goal? Everyone over the age of forty has experienced the alternating periods of inflation and recession. In 1972 President Nixon devalued the dollar after Europeans refused to accept it. Since 1976 the United States has had a negative trade balance, and, in 1985, for the first time since 1914, U.S. debt owed to foreign creditors exceeded foreign debt owed to the United States,” noted The New Encyclopedia Britannica.

If the Fed has failed to fulfill its stated goal, then it has failed miserably. “It would seem that such a system with such a dismal record . . . would be scheduled for total demise,” stated author Lyman, who suggested that perhaps the “system was created to do exactly the opposite of what it tells the American people.”

Another recent aspect of the money game is demand deposits; money placed in a bank which can be withdrawn at any time. We know this system as checking accounts. Today they are rapidly being replaced by plastic “debit” cards. Depositors today pay ever-increasing “service charges” for the privilege of allowing their money to be used for profit by their bank.

Consider that when a person deposits $50 in a bank, this is in effect...
a loan to the bank since it must be repaid on demand. Therefore, on the books the $50 is considered a liability. However, the bank then loans the $50 to someone else who must repay it with interest. Now the $50 is considered an asset. The same $50 is both an asset and a liability, thus contradicting each other, proving that money is essentially ethereal - like there's the matter of interest. When the $50 is put into a savings account, there is some small amount of interest accrued, when one the condition that the money can't be withdrawn quickly. When the $50 is placed in a checking account, the depositor draws no interest at all. But when the bank lends $50, they charge healthy interest based on current rates and reap the profit. It is clear then that in banking debt equals profit.

This is a primary secret of money.

It is not too difficult to see that it is much more profitable to open a bank than a checking account. A bank also exploits why the most mighty United States has become a debtor nation.

Younger people today have no concept of the term. Once money was defined as any interest charged for a loan, but modern dictionaries softened this to merely "excessive" interest. The U.S. constitution once defined money as any interest in excess of 6 percent. This ceiling was increased over the years until the idea concept was deleted. Banking critics have noted that the Fed's actions have caused money to change hands without any interest.

"Charging interest on pretended loans is usury," and has become institutionalized under the Federal Reserve System," argued author Griffin. This has been accomplished by masking the operations of the Fed in secrecy and arcane economic terms. "The ... mechanism by which the Fed creates credit into money may seem complicated at first, but it is simple if one remembers that the process is not intended to be logical," Griffin added.

Greider agreed, writing, "This is the secret that ordinary citizens fail to understand. Some believe this ignorance may be a blessing. Henry Ford was quoted as saying, "It is well enough that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system for, if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning."
Most Americans have no real understanding of the operation of the international moneylenders," concurred the late senator Henry Goldwater. "The bankers want it that way. We recognize in a hazy sort of way that the Rothschilds and the Warburgs of Europe and the houses of J.P. Morgan, Kuhn, Loeb and Company, Schiff, Lehman and Rockefeller possess and control vast wealth. How they acquire this vast financial power and employ it is a mystery to most of us.

International bankers make money by extending credit to governments. The greater the debt of the political state, the larger the interest returned to the lenders. The national banks of Europe are actually owned and controlled by private interests. These same private interests can be demonstrated to own and control the Federal Reserve System. According to author Greider, today's money managers have designed such intricate and esoteric details surrounding their financial transactions that the Fed has assumed the proportions of a cult.

"To modern minds, it seemed bizarre to think of the Federal Reserve as a religious institution," he wrote. "Yet the conspiracy theorists, in their own diabolical way, seemed to have been on to something real and significant... [The Fed] did also function in the realm of religion. Its esoteric powers of money creation, inherited from priestly forebears, shielded a complex bundle of social and psychological meanings. With its own lines of secret incantation, the Federal Reserve presided over awesome social ritual. Transactions so powerful and frightening they seemed to be beyond common understanding...

"Above all, money was a function of faith. It required implicit and universal social consensus that was indeed mysterious. To create money and use it, each one must believe and everyone must believe. Only then did worthless pieces of paper take on value."

Many researchers and writers see the profit of debt, couched in ancient and mystical jargon, and coupled with the documented connections of bankers dominating government decisions, as the cause for increasing debt, both public and private.

"Thanks to the Federal Reserve's decision to tolerate an enormous increase in the money supply, and to the flood of foreign capital seeking safe haven in the United States, American consumers and businesses still have a surplus of credit available to them," wrote Philip J. Langman and Jack Egan in the business-oriented U.S. News & World Report in January.
1999. They also noted, “The economy continues to create new jobs, but Americans are going into debt faster than their incomes are rising.”

Prior to the 1930s paper bills could be redeemed for gold, since Section 10 of the Constitution specified gold and silver as the only lawful tender. Older Federal Reserve notes bore the inscription, “Redeemable in lawful money of the United States Treasury, or any Federal Reserve bank.” But no more:

“A new dimension of trust had added to the illusion [of real worth],” explained Greider. “Finally, the last prop for the money illusion was kicked away in this century: the gold standard was abandoned.” The original purpose of money—to represent tangible goods and services—has been forgotten. The simple secrets of money have been carefully hidden by the priesthood of the money cult. “The American public, not unlike its political leaders, clung to familiar cliches for its limited understanding of money,” commented Greider. “Average citizens simply could not understand the language, and most economists made no effort to translate for them.”

Money today is increasingly mere electronic blips in a computer accessed by plastic cards at ATMs. There is nothing to back it up. Yet this illusory money is loaned at interest by great institutions. As the total amount of money grows, its worth decreases. This is called inflation, or, in effect, a built-in tax on the use of money. And inflation can be manipulated upward or downward by those who control the flow of paper money or the electronic blips.

“The result of this whole system is massive debt at every level of society,” wrote author William Bramley. “The banks are in debt to the depositors, and the depositors’ money is loaned out and creates indebtedness to the banks. Making the cycle even more akin to something out of a maniac’s delirium is the fact that lenders, like other lenders, often have the right to seize physical property if their paper money is not repaid.”

In the Great Depression of the 1930s, money retained its value. It was simply hard to come by and prices were depressed to reflect its scarcity. Today, America is experiencing an inflationary depression—prices continue to rise because of an inflated money supply. The more money that’s in circulation, the less it is worth.
Bankers such as the Rothschilds quickly learned that they could manipulate the worth of money by controlling the amount in circulation. Fractional banking allowed them to issue or withhold money at their discretion. They multiplied their profits and passed many times over by making loans to entire nations rather than mere individuals. "As they matured and learned the magic of converting debt into money, they moved beyond the confines of Frankfurt," noted Griffin. As documented by several authors, the Rothschilds also added efficient intelligence networks and quasi-official smuggling to enhance their empire.

For example, when Napoleon refused to take loans from the Rothschilds, creating his own Bank of France instead, he made vengeful enemies. After his return from exile in 1814, Napoleon was forced by circumstances to borrow heavily to defend France from the British Duke of Wellington and his cobbled-together European army. London's Nathan Rothschild accommodated Napoleon with a loan of five million pounds. At the same time, Nathan, with the aid of other Rothschild family members, smuggled a vast amount of gold through France to equip Wellington. Again, the Rothschilds played both ends against the middle.

When Wellington's revitalized army defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in June 1815, news of the victory was rushed to England by Rothschild couriers bearing their well-known and untouchable red pouches. The Rothschild messenger arrived a full day ahead of Wellington's own courier, knowing of his capacity for early intelligence, all soon on the London Stock Exchange turned to Nathan Rothschild, who, appearing dejected, sold every share he held, with the sad result that Nathan Rothschild's agents soon were able to buy up a large portion of British debt for only a small portion of their true value. Much later, Nathan Rothschild commented on his act by saying, "It was the best business I have ever done."

By the early nineteenth century the Rothschilds had managed to acquire nobility titles. The French line affixed the "de" in front of their names in 1816 while the Austrian branch became barons in 1882. In 1885 a reluctant Queen Victoria finally baronized Nathaniel Rothschild, Nathan's grandson.
Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, the brothers conducted important transactions on behalf of the governments of England, France, Russia, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Naples, Portugal, Brazil, various German states and smaller countries. They were the personal bankers of many of the crowned heads of Europe. They made large investments, through agents, in markets as distant as the United States, India, Cuba and Australia," noted Griffin.

Of course, to protect such high-level investments, the Rothschilds needed to control to some extent the activities of the nations in which they operated. They also financed various countries and then played them against each other as a means of coercing compliance to their will. This ploy became known as the "balance of power" game and it required great secrecy.

"By remaining behind the scenes, they were able to avoid the brunt of public anger which was directed, instead, at the political figures which they largely controlled," explained Griffin, adding, "One is a technique which has been practiced by financial manipulators ever since, and it is fully utilized by those who operate the Federal Reserve System today."

The Rothschilds have remained clannish throughout the twentieth century as evidenced by biographer Wilson's description of how Lionel de Rothschild "once went through with me a list of every living family member—dozens of them. And he was able to provide a quick verbal sketch of each one."

By the late 1990s the patriarchs of the Rothschild empire were Barons Guy and Elie de Rothschild in France and Lord Jacob Rothschild and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild in Britain.

Despite today's openness in the media, the Rothschilds still hold their secrets. In 1998 Oxford Fellow and history tutor Niall Ferguson was allowed to publish a detailed biography of the Rothschilds—but only covering the years up to 1848. He referred to "the original Zionism" of the Rothschilds. Ferguson admitted that he had been refused access to any other archives and private collections of papers as far as these sources gave him permission to do so, "The explanation..."
Even then, Ferguson discovered significant gaps and omissions in the archives, particularly for the years preceding the American Civil War. As a self-styled “atheist from a Calvinist background,” he paid no attention whatsoever to the metaphysical aspects of the Rothschild background, their knowledge of Cabalistic tradition, or their connection to Freemasonry and other secret societies.

The Rothschilds cannot escape all media scrutiny, however, and occasionally there is a brief view afforded by news events, such as the July 8, 1996, “suspicious suicide” of forty-one-year-old Amshel Rothschild, chairman of the family financial empire.

Amshel, as an eldest son, had become chief executive officer of Rothschild Asset Management in 1993 and ascended to the chairmanship in 1993. He reportedly was “uncomfortable” with his role in the banking empire having been coerced into it by his father, Lord Victor Rothschild. Rumors circulated that family members were dissatisfied with his business policies. According to journalist Sally Bedell Smith, the Rothschild firm had suffered about $10 million in losses in the year preceding Amshel’s death. This came at a time when Evelyn Rothschild had just concluded a joint venture with the second largest bank in China. In an effort to absorb this loss, Amshel planned to consolidate the family’s far-flung operations into one $28 billion global concern.

Amshel Rothschild was found dead in the marble bathroom of his Paris hotel room. He was lying at the base of the towel rack which was only five feet off the floor, prompting one reporter to comment, “Hanging himself could not have been easy for a man six feet one.” He was wearing only a terry cloth robe and one end of the robe’s belt was wrapped around his neck. The other end was attached to the towel hanger rail which reportedly was accidentally pulled from the wall by one of the investigators.

Cause of death was initially reported as a heart attack but was later changed to apparent suicide by strangulation. There was no suicide note, no personal problems, and no note, suicide was the least likely theory of Amshel’s death.

Despite the curious circumstances of his death and his position in world banking, there was hardly a word of Amshel mentioned in the news media and the verdict that he had hanged himself was never challanged.
question or comment. The 1997 Britannica Book of the Year mentioned his death in only one sentence. It was buried in a section entitled "Economic Affairs: Banking," and stated, "The British banking industry was shaken in July by the apparent suicide of Amshel Rothschild, chief executive of the British branch of the Rothschild dynasty and heir apparent to the family's global banking operations." The lack of coverage of the questionable death of so prominent a person argues well for those who see hidden control over the media.

Rothschild biographer Wilson was awed by the rising powers of the family. "Naval, naval, naval," he defiantly shouted, "I have played their part in preserving one of the most remarkable—perhaps the most remarkable—family of recent history," he concluded with satisfaction. "For centuries, until the exception of solitary revolutionaries preserved from criticism by the right of primogeniture, have maintained their influence over the world for seven generations."

Primogeniture refers to a primary condition of Mayer Amschel's original will instructing that only the eldest son in each generation could control the family wealth. This method, not only has the Rothschild family been held tightly together but in the secret societies, those family members not privy to the innermost control have little knowledge of its financial dealings. Former top executives of the Rothschild businesses complained they were kept "out of the loop" on important decisions.

This family togetherness and secrecy coupled with the incredible wealth may explain patriarch Mayer Rothschild's oft-repeated quote, "Permit me to control the money of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws." Rothschild influence spread worldwide. Rothschild influence over Japan's dominant banking house of Nomura came through the friendship of Edmund Rothschild with Tsunao Okumura, the man most responsible for creating that financial giant.

It was a Rothschild who helped create the state of Israel. In 1917, after serving as a number of the British Parliament, Zionist 2nd Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild—the eldest son who inherited Nathan's money and title after his death in 1915—received a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour expressing approval for the establishment of a homeland for Jews in Palestine. This letter later became known as the Balfour
Declaration. In 1922 the League of Nations approved the Balfour man-
date in Palestine, thus paving the way for the later creation of Israel.

Baron Edmond de Rothschild, who built the first pipeline from the Red
Sea to the Mediterranean to bring Iranian oil to Israel and founded the
Israel General Bank, was called the father of modern Israel.

In the United States, journalist William F. Fall said the family's creation
of American wealth was "phenomenal." "Working through the Wall Street
firms of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and J. P. Morgan Co., the Rothschilds
financed John D. Rockefeller so that he could create the Standard Oil
empire," Fall wrote. "They also financed the activities of Edward Henry
Henry [Trust] and Andrew Carnegie [steel]." Whether or not the Rothschilds truly dominate or influence the
economy of the United States, the close connections between America's
wealthy families and secret societies with those of Britain provide a
solid and demonstrable link to Europe.

One such link is a sister organization to the Trilateral Commission,
CFR, and Bilderbergers: the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS—ROUND TABLES

The agendas and methods of the modern American secret societies did
not originate in America, but were imports from the secret societies
that had dominated Europe for centuries.

Returning to the 1919 meeting in Paris which led to the creation of
the Council on Foreign Relations, it must be noted that the council was
merely the American branch of a proposed "Institut de Relations
Internationales." The English branch retained the original name, being known
as the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA).

Like the CFR, creation of the institute was initiated by Woodrow
Wilson's adviser Colonel House, bankers Warburg and Baruch, and
other members of House's "Inquiry" group of internationalists. The
RIIA was built upon an existing secret society, the Round Table Groups,
established around 1910 by the trust of English diamond magnate
Cecil Rhodes.

...
Author Donald Gibson explained these conceptions briefly, "The Royal Institute had been created in 1919 to perpetuate British power in the world and it helped to create the Council on Foreign Relations as part of an effort to link England's upper class and its foreign policy interests to those of the United States."

This view is echoed by author Icke, who wrote, "This so-called "special relationship" between Britain and America is, in fact, the relationship between the RIIA and the Council on Foreign Relations."

The RIIA, settled in Chatham House, located in London's Saint James's Square just across from the home of the wealthy Astor family. British foreign policy is frequently said to emanate from Chatham House. Leading the creation of the RIIA was Lionel Curtis, a veteran of South Africa's Boer War who became secretary to Sir Alfred Milner. Britain's high commissioners to South Africa Curtis had been one of the bright young proteges of Milner known as "Milner's Kindergarten." He has been described as a "British public administrator and author, advocate of British imperial federalism and of a world state, who had considerable influence on the development of the Commonwealth of Nations."

He was chiefly responsible for replacing the term [British] 'empire' with 'commonwealth.'"

Milner, an "ardent imperialist" educated at Oxford and New College, provoked the Boer War of 1899-1902 by his rigid attitudes and his victory gained British control over South Africa's diamond mines and a good portion of its gold supply. It was no coincidence that Milner became a principal trustee of the estate of Cecil Rhodes, the diamond tycoon of South Africa.

Cecil Rhodes, more than any other one person, provided the impetus to form several secret societies including the RIIA and the CFR, beginning with his Round Table groups.

Professor Carroll Quigley, a prominent historian and professor of history at Georgetown University and President Clinton's academic mentor, explained, "The Rhodes Scholarship of today may well be no more than the secret society to which Rhodes in his will left his fortune to form a secret society which was to play itself in the promotion and expansion of the British Empire."

Since Quigley and many others identify the Round Table Groups as...
the ancestor of the modern secret societies, it would indicate a closer look be given to Cecil Rhodes, his mentor Lord Milner, and their viewpoints.

RHODES AND RUSKIN

Cecil Rhodes, the progenitor of the modern secret societies, and his academic mentor, John Ruskin, carried on a philosophical tradition which can be traced to ancient Greece and beyond. Others who followed this tradition included Socialist pioneers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Born in 1853, Rhodes, son of the vicar of Bishop's Stortford, was steeped in religious concepts from an early age. In 1879 he joined a brother who was operating a South African cotton farm. Both brothers soon succumbed to the lure of diamond prospecting.

After some initial success finding diamonds, Rhodes formed de Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., named after the Nicolaas de Beers family mining claims he acquired.

For eight years Rhodes divided his time between mining in Kimberley, South Africa, and studies at Oxford, where he fell under the spell of fine arts professor John Ruskin.

The son of a prosperous wine merchant, Ruskin had departed from mainstream thinking to the extent that one biographer described his as "an inwardly difficult, lonely life, often pursued and struck at by madness." Given to frequent masturbation and nympholepsy (a frenetic fondness for underage girls), Ruskin nevertheless failed to consummate his marriage to nineteen-year-old Effie Gray in 1848. Six years later, still a virgin, she had the marriage annulled, a shocking development in those times.

Ruskin was an ardent student of the King James Version of the Bible but eventually gave up his belief in God. "John Ruskin, the man who inspired Cecil Rhodes, Alfred Milner, and those who formed the Round Table secret society, was himself influenced by the esoteric writings of [Greek philosopher] Plato and by Madame Blavatsky [founder of the occult Theosophy Society], the books of Lord Edward Bulwer-Lytton and secret societies in the mould of the Order of the Golden Dawn," wrote Richard Icke.
Ruskin, who reportedly read Plato’s Republic every day, embraced Plato’s concept of the perfect society being one that had structure imposed from centralized leadership – a ruling class, decreed. More and Jiang, the Guernsey or modern Communism, also were students of Plato and echoed Ruskin’s views. Advocating tight control over the state, either by a dictator or a special ruling class, Ruskin proclaimed, “My continual aim has been to show the eternal superiority of some men to others, sometimes even of one man to another.”

According to Quigley, Rhodes was so stirred by Ruskin’s philosophies that he copied one of his Oxford lectures in longhand and kept it with him for many years.

Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, authors of The Temple and the Lodge, showed that Rhodes was active in British Freemasonry, which involved him with other prominent nineteenth century persons such as the royal George IV and William IV, as well as Lord Randolph Churchill (“Winston’s father”), Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, and Oscar Wilde. This group’s preoccupation with the philosophies of Plato, Ruskin, and the Theosophist Madame Blavatsky coincided with the ideals of Freemasonry.

With the aid of a close friend, German diamond merchant Alfred Beit, Rhodes expanded his diamond company until, by 1891, de Beers owned 90 percent of the world’s diamond production. In the mid-1890s, Rhodes founded the Diamond Syndicate, forerunner of today’s Central Selling Organization which controls almost 80 percent of the worldwide diamond trade.

He also gained large control over the rapidly developing Transvaal gold mines. With ever-expanding wealth, Rhodes’s desires also grew to include plans for a railroad from South Africa to Cairo and expanding the British Empire to include that century-long dream of reclaiming the American colonies.

When Quigley, Baigent, and Leigh mention the vast power of the Rothschild family, behind Rhodes we find that fortune of the Rothschild family.

“Every commercial Dan for Cecil Rhodes, making it possible for him to establish a monopoly over the diamond fields of South Africa,” wrote author Griffin. “They are still connected with the de Beers.” In November 1997, when Baron Edmond Adolphe Maurice Jules Jacques de Rothschild died at age seventy-one from emphysema in Geneva, it was reported that he left substantial holdings in de Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. of South Africa.
Leading support for a relationship between Rhodes and the Rothschilds was author and former British Intelligence Officer Dr. John Coleman, who wrote, "Rhodes was the principal agent for the Rothschilds... [who] dispossessed the South African Boers of their birthright, the gold and diamonds that lay beneath their soil." According to Coleman, Rhodes's first Round Table group was established in South Africa with funding from the British Rothschild family to train business leaders loyal to Britain in ways to maintain control over that country's wealth. The idea of Rothschild funding behind Rhodes also was supported by author Frank Aydelotte, who wrote in American Rhodes Scholarships, "In 1888 Rhodes made his third will... having everything to Lord Rothschild..."

The Round Tables started out as a collection of semisecret groups formed along the lines of the Illuminati and Freemasonry, with "Inner" and "Outer" circles and a pyramid hierarchy. The inner circle was called the Circle of Initiates (or the Elect) while the outer circle was called the Association of Helpers. Two members of Rhodes's inner Circle of Initiates were British financiers Lord Victor Rothschild and Lord Milner. Rhodes called the secret society the Round Table after the legendary meeting place of King Arthur. It should be noted that the Arthurian Legend concerning the Holy Grail is closely connected to the controversial notion of a continuing bloodline from Jesus—the Sangreal or royal blood—which shall be discussed later.

Coleman wrote that, armed with immense wealth gained from control of gold, diamonds and drugs, "Round Table fanned out throughout the world to take control of fiscal and monetary policies and political leadership in all countries where they operated.

Setting an example for today's interlocking corporate directorships and tax-exempt foundations, "The Round Table itself consists of a maze of companies, institutions, banks and educational establishments, which in themselves would take a qualified insurance actuary a year to sort out," according to Coleman.

While some might dismiss Coleman as a conspiracy theorist, they could not say the same of Dr. Quigley.

"There does exist, and has existed for a generation, an international Anglophile network which operates, to some extent, in the way the radical Right believes the Communists act," confirmed Quigley. "I know of the operations of this network because I have studied it for 20 years and was permitted for two years, in the early 1960s, to examine..."
Quigley's words were echoed by authors Wallechinsky and Wallace who quoted from Rhodes's will. It called for "the establishment, promotion and development of a Secret Society, the true aim and object whereof shall be the extension of British rule throughout the world... [to include] the ultimate recovery of the United States of America."

In 1890 Queen Victoria, impressed with his imperialistic views, named Rhodes prime minister of Africa's Cape Colony. Upon his death from heart disease in 1902, Rhodes's reputation as an inflexible businessman and politician was softened by the news of his generous scheme to provide scholarships in Oxford for promising young men. Though Rhodes was praised for prohibiting the disqualification of applicants on the basis of race, it is clear he remained a product of his time since he once affirmed his desire for "equal rights for every white man."

Rhodes himself was thought to have been a member of a covert group known as the "Olympians" after the Greek gods. According to author Coleman, this was merely another name for the globalists he termed the Committee of 300. Additionally, Rhodes was thought to have been connected to the secretive and mysterious Illuminati as well, most probably through his Masonic connections.

Quigley identified Rhodes's secret society in the plural as the Round Table Groups, which had added branches in seven nations by 1915. Though created by Curtis and others, funding for the society came principally from Rhodes's followers and Lord Milner. Since 1925 there have been substantial contributions from wealthy individuals and foundations, including the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Rockefeller and Whitney families, and other organizations associated with J. P. Morgan, the Rockefellers, and Whitney families. "...Quigley added, not mentioning the Rothschilds by name.

With Rhodes's death, Milner, Rothschild, and their international banker associates gained complete control over the Round Tables, which began expanding far beyond the British Empire. Professor Quigley explained, "At the end of the war of 1914, it became clear that the orga-
nization of this [Round Table] system had to be greatly extended." Lionel
Curtis was called upon to establish the Royal Institute of International
Affairs as an umbrella organization for the Round Table Groups.
Quigley saw the goals of these groups—the chief aim of which
apparently was to form the world’s nations into one English-speaking
entity so as to maintain peace and bring both stability and prosperity to
underdeveloped areas—as "largely commendable."

In a great irony, the Round Table organization—which proclaimed
world peace as a primary goal—may have directly led to the development
of the atomic bomb. During its expansion period, the Round Tables estab-
lished many splinter organizations, one of which was the Institute for
Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, New Jersey. This was the "American
copy of All Souls College at Oxford," according to Quigley. The IAS was
funded liberally by the Rockefeller General Education Board. It was here
that the scientists working on the atom bomb were assisted by IAS mem-
bers Robert Oppenheimer, Niels Bohr, and Albert Einstein.

For all that, Quigley wrote admiringly, "They were gracious and cul-
tural gentlemen of somewhat limited social experience who were much
concerned with the freedom of expression of minorities and the rule of
law for all."

Other writers have not been so complimentary. Journalist William T.
Still in his book New World Order: The Ancient Plan of Secret Soci-
eties wrote of "the contrived plan of social existence to render the
Constitution for the citizens of the United States.

"Rhodes committed the same error made by so many humanitarians
before him," wrote author William Bramley, "in his belief that he could
accomplish his goals through the channels of the corrupted Brother-
hood network. Rhodes founded the Bilderberg Group, which passed its
power to the hands of those who would effectively use these
organizations to suppress the freedom of the nations."

In certain circles, these secret organizations (which allowed America’s
wealthy and powerful to communicate) in certain circles, these were national
connections through which more secret groups, such as the infamous Order of Skull and Bones.
SKULL AND BONES

Skull and Bones, a highly secret fraternal order apparently only found at Yale University, has been the source of an unprecedented number of government officials who have furthered the globalist aims of their brethren in other covert groups, according to researchers.

"Members of the CFR when accused of being involved in a conspiracy, have protested to the contrary. And by and large they are right," wrote conspiracy researcher and author Anthony C. Sutton. "Most CFR members are not involved in a conspiracy and have no knowledge of any conspiracy...However there is a group WITHIN the Council on Foreign Relations which belongs to a secret society, sworn to secrecy, and Skull and Bones controls the CFR." (emphasis in original)

Members have included extremely powerful men such as Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Averell Harriman, U.S. Ambassador to Russia; Averell Harriman, publisher Henry Luce, and J. Richardson Dilworth, longtime manager of the Rockefeller fortune.

According to Sutton and others, this secret society is the American chapter of an earlier German secret organization, known variously as Chapter 322, the "Brotherhood of Death," or "The Order." This group is most popularly known as "Skull and Bones" or simply "Bones." The American chapter of The Order was founded at Yale University in 1832 by General William Huntington Russell and Alphonso Taft.

Taft, who served as Secretary of War in 1876 and U.S. Attorney General and an ambassador to Russia, was the father of William Howard Taft, the only person to serve as both president and chief justice of the United States.

Russell would go on to become a member of the Connecticut legislature. His family was at the center of Russell and Company, a firm controlled by some of Britain's most "Blue Blood" families that were enriched first by the slave trade and then by opium smuggling in the early nineteenth century. Some researchers believe this unsavory background explains the pirate symbol of skull and crossed bones adopted as The Order's insignia, an emblem originally used as the flag of the old Knights Templar.

According to Sutton, The Order was brought from Germany to Yale by Russell, whose cousin, Samuel Russell, was an intimate part of the British
inspired Opium Wars in China. A pamphlet detailing an 1876 investiga-
tion by a rival secret society of Skull and Bones headquarters at Yale
(known as the "Tomb") stated, "Dr. Stradley [Randall] was in Germany
before Senior Year and formed a warm friendship with a leading member
of a German society. He brought back with him to college authority to
found a chapter here. Thus was Bones founded."

The secret German society may have been none other than the reno-
vanced and infamous Illuminati. Ron Rosenbaum—one of the few
journalists to take a serious look at Skull and Bones—took note that
the official skull and crossbones emblem of The Order was also the
official crest of the Illuminati. In an investigative piece for Esquire mag-
azine Rosenbaum wrote, "If its roots lie here, come across difficult, if
alike, links between the origins of Bones and those of the
enigmatic Hermetic Illuminati...."

Author Ecke agreed, writing that The Order was merely the "Illumi-
nati in disguise... The synthesis of [sic] solution ceremony would
appear to indicate at least close links with Freemasonry." He added
freemasonry symbols, cryptic, a freemason fringe, cross the key of their
initiation rite—"all are identical to those found in Masonic lodges in
Germany associated with the Illuminati.

Considering the repressive background of its founders and their fam-
ilies, authors Webster Griffin Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin warned,
"The background to Skull and Bones is a story of opium and Empire,
and a bitter struggle for political control over the new U.S. republic."
Whatever its inception, Skull and Bones was officially incorporated as
the Russell Trust in 1856. The Order conducts annual meetings at a club
site on New York's Saint Lawrence River named Deer Island. The miss-
spelling was at the request of its donor, Bones member George D. Miller.

While undoubtedly the preeminent secret club, Skull and Bones is
not the only one. According to Tarpley and Chaitkin, "Princeton has its
eating clubs,' especially Ivy Club and Cottage Club, whose oligarchical
tradition runs from Jonathan Edwards and Aaron Burr through the
Dulles brothers. At Harvard there is the ultra-blue-blooded Porcelpian
(known also as the Porc or Pig Club); Theodore Roosevelt bragged to
the German Kaiser of his membership there; Franklin D. Roosevelt was
a member of the slightly lower Fly Club."
name four—and, as stated by Rosenbaum, anyone in the Eastern Establish-
ment who does not belong to Skull and Bones almost assuredly belongs in one of these other groups. But no other group has the demonstrable blood and wealth connections of the Skull and Bones. Each year, only fifteen Yale juniors are selected to participate in Skull and Bones during their senior year.

In addition to extraordinary secrecy—Bones members are required to leave the room if anyone should mention the group—the Order has its own membership designations. Neophyte members are called Knights, after the leaders of earlier secret societies such as the Knights Templar Knights of Malta, or Knights of Saint John. Once a full mem-
ber, he is known as a Patriarch, one honored as a founding father. Outsiders are derogatorily referred to as "Gentiles" or "vandals.

Author Sutton noted that active membership in Skull and Bones comes from a "core group of perhaps 20-30 families... First we find old-line American families who arrived on the East coast in the seventeenth cen-
tury, e.g. Whitney, Lord, Philips, Walworth, Allen, Bundy, Adams and so on," he wrote. "Second, we find families who acquired wealth in the last 100 years, sent their sons to Yale and became almost old-line here-
tics, e.g., Harriman, Rockefeller, Payne, Davison.

Ecke wrote that these families exhibited an Old World concern over their heritage and bloodlines. He said they utilize arranged marriages "to protect or achieve the genetic lines of the pseudo-blue bloods who owe the origins of their inherited wealth and influence to drug- running, slavery and carefully-chosen marriage partners. These inter-
connected families help and support each other in their quest for finan-
tial, political and genetic dominance."

"You... get the feeling there's a lot of intermarriage among these Bones families," Rosenbaum agreed. "Year after year there will be a Whitney married Townsend, or a Phelps married Adams."

Nepotism runs deep in The Order as seen in the fact that modern finances of the Russell Trust were handled by John B. Madden Jr., a part-
ner in Brown Brothers Harriman, formed by the merger of Brown Bros.
& Company and W. A. Harriman & Company in 1933. Madden started there in the 1940s, working under senior partner Prescott Bush, father of
former president George Bush, all of them members of Skull and Bones.

A more recent example of members' fierce loyalty was shown in the

1980s scandal of President Bush's connection with the criminal activity in

the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). As the bank's

illegal activities came to light—involving many prominent names—

attempts were made by the Bush administration to block or blunt any

meaningful investigation. Finally a formal investigation of the BCCI was

launched by the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Terrorism,

Narcotics, and International Operations headed by Massachusetts sena-

tor John Kerry. Kerry was chairman of the Democratic Senate Campaign

Committee, which had received significant BCCI contributions, and he

was also a number of Skull and Bones. The Kerry-led investigation

emerged, Jack Blum, a special counsel to Kerry's subcommittee, stated,

've proposed a serious investigation of BCCI and was brushed aside. ...

A high-level cover-up of everything concerning BCCI was set into place after

Greenspun identified across your money-laundering operation in Miami,  

did it still in place?'

The interests of both the Morgans and Rockefellers were well repre-

sented in The Order. Member Percy Rockefeller tied The Order to Stan-

dard Oil properties, while a number of Morgan men show up on the

rolls of Skull and Bones.

While J. P. Morgan was not a Bonesman, Harold Stanley (The Order,

1906) joined Morgan's Guaranty Trust bank in 1915 and eventu-

ally became a Morgan partner and president of the combined Mor-

gan, Guaranty & Company. W. Averell Harriman (The Order, 1913) was

a board member of Guaranty Trust. H. P. Whitney (The Order, 1894}

and his father, W. C. Whitney (The Order, 1863) were both directors of

Guaranty Trust.

The flow of financial power was not always channeled through

direct membership in Skull and Bones. "The Order controls the sub-

stantial wealth of Andrew Carnegie, but no Carnegie has ever been a

member of The Order," wrote author Sutton. "The Order used the

Ford wealth so flagrantly against the wishes of the Ford family that two

Fords resigned from the board of the Ford Foundation. No Ford has

been a member of The Order. The name Morgan never appeared on the

membership lists, although some of Morgan partners are with the inner

core, for example, [partner Harold] Stanley [of Morgan, Stanley &


-McGeorge Bundy  (The Order, 1940] was president of the Ford
Foundation from 1966 to 1979. During the early to mid-1960s, Bundy served as a national security adviser to both Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. At the same time, his brother William Bundy (The Order, 1989) also had been with the CIA, serving as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Many other illustrious names can be connected to Skull and Bones, such as Larry Tesor, Cordell, Delano, Tait, Stanton, and others. Prominent recent members include President George Bush (The Order, 1949); William Bissell (The Order, 1925) whose brother Richard Bissell, became Deputy Director of Plans for CIA); James Howe Bradford (The Order, 1940), who married Carol Warburg Rothschild in 1941 and soon became general manager of the New York Times; Henry Lewis (The Order, 1925); who became head of the powerful and influential Luce publishing empire which included Time and Life magazines; and William F. Buckley (The Order, 1950) nationally syndicated conservative commentator.

Authors Taupley and Chaitkin did not see all this as a harmless college fraternity. “The present century owes much of its record of horrors to the influential Anglophile American families which came to dominate and emplty the Skull and Bones Society as a political recruiting agency, particularly the Harrimans, Whittneys, Vanderbilts, Rockefellers and their lawyers, the Lords and Tafts and Bundys,” Boy commented.

Other researchers see Skull and Bones as the epicenter of New World Order control. The Order has been called a “stepping stone” to the Council on Foreign Relations, Bilderbergers, and the Trilateral Commission.

After examining The Order’s influence and control in the areas of foreign policy, finance, education, and religion, Christian author and publisher Texe Marrs urged, “The Order of Skull and Bones must be unmasked for what it is—a great and present danger to our freedoms and to our constitutional rights.”

Rosenbaum, in a possible explanation of The Order’s sinister tampings, wrote that it was made so by one asynmptotic young Russell [sic], just stumbled on the same mother lode of pseudo-Masonic mumbo-jumbo as in the Illuminists.” Although, perhaps with some sarcasm, he also added the poignantly for the Eastern Establishment is the demonic creation of a clandestine elite manipulating history, and Skull and Bones is one of the recruiting centers.” Rosenbaum also wrote he saw Skull and Bones in “tendril.
"...decline" and in recent years it has become "a more lachrymose, bode-
notic, confusible scene, sad and some, described pitying."

Controversy concerning The Order surfaced during the 1980 presiden-
tial election. Former U.S. Labor Party National Chairman Lyndon H.
LaRouche began an independent bid for the presidency. In the New
Hampshire primary elections, LaRouche attacked Republican candidate
George Bush for his affiliation with The Order, stating: "Skull and Bones
is a very serious, very dedicatedroll conspiracy against the U.S.
Constitution. Like the Cambridge Apostles, the initiate to the Skull
and Bones is a dedicated agent of British secret intelligence for life." Many
observers believed that the revelations of Bush's connection to Skull and
Bones, the CFR, and the Trilateral Commission cost him the New Hamp-
hshire primary and eventually the presidency, in 1980.

"The Order has either set up or penetrated just about every signifi-
cant research, policy, and opinion-making organization in the United
States," declared Sutton.

There are indications Sutton may be correct. One of the most thor-
ough investigations of institutional shareholders ever conducted was a
1980 study by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs entitled
Structure of Corporate Concentration. Its conclusion, as reported by
author Donald Gibson, was to the point; "Financial institutions, part
of or extensively interconnected with the Morgan-Rockefeller complex,
are the dominant force in the economy."

After studying this report, Gibson states, "The board of directors of
Morgan included individuals serving on the boards of 31 of the top
100 firms. Chase was tied to 49 top companies, and Chase Rich-
ton, Chemical Bank, and Manufacturers Life had 29 other top com-
panies represented on its Board. These and a multitude of other
overlaps among the top 100 firms provide a dense network of collabo-
rative advantages for the super-rich elite. These same financial insti-
tutions are major stockholders in some of the largest companies in the
United States. These ties to other institutions such as the Council on
Foreign Relations [Skull and Bones, The Trilateral Commis-
sion] and the Business Council."

Gibson also noted that at least two Morgan-Rockefeller institutions
were among the top six stockholders in AT&T, General Motors, Du
PONT, Exxon, General Electric, IBM, United Technologies, and Union
Pacific.
As with other secret societies, many telltale connections between Skull and Bones and the CIA are discernible. In addition to the aforementioned Bush, Bundy, and Bissell, other Bonesmen who became CIA officials included Director of Personnel F. Trubee Davison (The Order, 1918); Beirut CIA Station Chief James Buckley (The Order, 1944); Rhodes scholar and Deputy Director for Plans Hugh Cunningham (The Order, 1934); and poet Archibald MacLeish (The Order, 1915) who helped Office of Strategic Services (OSS) William Donovan form the CIA in the late 1940s.

"Yale has influenced the Central Intelligence Agency more than any other university, giving the CIA the atmosphere of a class reunion," stated Yale history professor Gaddis Smith. Rosenbaum made a point of mentioning that Yale slang for a secret society member is "spook," the same term used in the CIA for an undercover operative.

Yet the CIA is only one of numerous U.S. government "alphabet" agencies whose many fronts are used as agents of change and control along with dozens and dozens of front organizations, foundations, think tanks, and study groups created and/or financed by the secret societies. Many researchers claim such private organizations are actually owned by leading secret society members.

TAX-EXEMPT FOUNDATIONS AND ALPHABET AGENCIES

Today, there are more than forty thousand tax-exempt foundations operating within the United States alone, most professing the most laudable of intentions. Yet many can be seen as furthering the secret societies’ agenda of globalization and centralized government.

Norman Dodd, director of research for the Senate Select Committee to Investigate Foundations and Corporate Monopolization, in [12].

Dodd claimed in his book, [12], that the Ford Foundation was one of the CIA’s front organizations. He stated, "An understanding and obligation to us is that we are operating under directive from the White House. This is a breach of our charter..." Further, he elaborated that "The Soviet Union is the end of the line. It can’t be worked with. It can’t be brought around..." What is now known is that the Ford Foundation, along with the CIA, was instrumental in financing the war in Vietnam.

With the collapse of Communism, the advent of the United Nations and NATO along with various economic treaties now in place, it is now apparent that the goal is close to becoming realized.

A superficial glance at some of the past and current organizations and
foundations linked to Skull and Bones, the CFR, the Trilateral Commiss-
on, the Rockefellers, and other power centers by several writers comes
some surprises. To name just a few, these include the Agency of Interna-
tional Development, American Civil Liberties Union, American Council
of Race Relations, American Press Institute, Anti-Defamation League,
Arab Bureau, Aspen Institute, Association of Humanistic Psychology, Bat-
telle Memorial Institute, Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral
Sciences, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Urban Studies,
Center for Democratic Institutions, Christian Socialist League, Compara-
tive Langues, Environmental Fund, Education Society, Ford Foundation,
Foundation for National Progress, German Marshall Fund, Hudson Insti-
tute, Institute for Pacific Relations, Institute on Drugs, Crime and Justice,
International Institute for Strategic Studies, Jewish Institute, Metaphysi-
cal Society, Milner Group, Mont Pelerin Society, National Association for
the Advancement of Colored People, National Council of Churches, New
World Foundation, Rand Institute, Rand Research Institute, Tavistock
Institute of Human Relations, Union of Concerned Scientists, Interna-
tional Rail Lines, and the YMCA.

The Aspen Institute, for example, is a "global concern with consid-
erable diplomatic influence" with nearly $60 million in net assets that
"regularly hosts presidents, prime ministers, philosophers, scientists,
scholars, scholars, journalists, artists, activists and a roster of corpo-
rate representatives to rival the Fortune 500 list," noted Paul Anderson,
writing in the Aspen Times Weekly. "Yet, despite its national—indeed,
international—prominence, the Institute remains an enigma to the
majority of local residents and visitors."

The Aspen Institute was founded in the 1940s as the Aspen Institute for
Humanistic Studies—the appellation regarding humanism was dropped
in the 1970s. Founders included Walter Paepcke, a Chicago industrial-
ist; Robert Maynard Hutchins, president of the Rockefeller-dominated
University of Chicago; Mortimer Adler, a philosopher; and CFR and
Bones member Henry Luce, the powerful head of Time-Life publica-
tions. All of these men were closely connected to the University of
Chicago-affiliated Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

Despite a series of serious disagreements with the town of Aspen over
expansion and land use, the Institute continues to utilize the restful
Rocky Mountain atmosphere to soothe attendees at its many influen-
tial seminars and conferences.
The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), an umbrella organization encompassing hundreds of diverse groups representing both the Left and the Right of the political spectrum, is still active in Washington. It is another example of an organization linked to the secret societies. Author Coleman wrote, "IPS has shaped and reshaped United States policies, foreign and domestic, since it was founded by James P. Warburg and the Rothschild entities in the United States, bolstered by Bertrand Russell and the British socialists through its networks in America... The objectives of IPS come from an agenda laid down for it by the British Round Table... one of the most sinister being to create the 'New Left' as a grassroots movement in the U.S. IPS was to agitate, stir up and spread chaos like a wildfire out of control, promote the ideology of left-wing nihilistic socialism, support untrammeled use of drugs of all types, and be the 'big stick' with which to beat the United States political establishment."

According to Coleman, IPS founders Richard Barnett and Marcus Raskin have controlled such diverse elements as the Black Panthers, Daniel Ellsberg, National Security Council staff member Morton Halperin, the Weathermen, the Venceramos and the campaign staff of candidate George McGovern.

Author S. Steven Powell noted that a stated IPS goal was "the dismantling of all economic, political, social, and cultural institutions in the United States." Following an extensive investigation just prior to the collapse of Communism, he concluded, "An ordered accounting of [IPS activities] reveals that much of what the institute does, for all intents and purposes, also serves the interests of the Soviet Union... [The] IPS has been remarkably successful in promoting a sweeping radical agenda by masquerading the funding of its myriad radical research centers."

According to researchers, much of IPS funding comes from CFR-connected organizations, including the Helms Foundation, represented by the New York law firm of Lord, Day & Lord. The Lord family has counted on the rolls of Skull and Bones since 1898. Winston Lord (The Order, 1959), a former aide to Henry Kissinger, in 1983 was chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations and later President Reagan's ambassador to China.

A long-time president of the Lord Foundation was the ubiquitous McGeorge Bundy, CFR member, Bonesman, and the National Security Advisor who prevailed over the Gulf of Tonkin incidents precipitating the Vietnam War.
In the mid-1980s a movement toward revising the U.S. Constitution gained momentum in part due to the work of the Center of the Study of Democratic Institutions, which was established with Ford Foundation money. It founded the field of applied ethics.

The outlines of the ideology are mapped on their fellows by underwriting great centers of education such as the London School of Economics and Political Science. Funding for the creation of this school came from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust Fund, and others connected to J. P. Morgan & Company. This prestigious school was established by Sidney James Webb, a founding member of the Fabian Society.

Founded in London in 1883, the Fabian Society was a group of evolutionary socialists who took their name from the Romans’ general Fabius Cunctator, who managed to defeat Hannibal’s larger army through a series of hit-and-run attacks. By avoiding head-on pitched battles, Fabius managed to conquer in the long run. The Fabian socialists, whose aim was “the reorganization of society by the emancipation of land and industrial Capital from individual and class ownership,” look like Fabian tactics.

In fact, the question of tactics was about the only difference between Fabian socialists and communists. Where communists desired to establish socialist governments through revolution, the Fabians were content to slowly move toward socialism through propaganda and legislation.

The Fabians were idealized by their critics because of their most prominent members, authors H. G. Wells and E. H. Carr. In his 1909 book, “Fabian Socialism,” a Fabian, E. H. Carr, noted, “at least we are society... a cautious counsel of caution, something like a belief that the world may be modernized into socialism without a violent and bloody revolution.”

The Fabians, like historians of ideas, sponsored Wells and continued their tactics of stealth and subterfuge.

Other notable Fabians included George Bernard Shaw and English economist John Maynard Keynes, whose “new economics” of greater debt and tighter economic control by government was the mainstay of American economics until the arrival of “Reaganomics” and a “counter-reform” instigated by University of Chicago economist Milton Friedman and his monetarist theories.

After failing to achieve their socialist ideals within Britain’s Liberal and Conservative parties, the Fabians in 1906 formed the powerful British Labour Party.
Early in the twentieth century, Fabian Society founder Webb reorganized the University of London into a federation of teaching institutions, drafted Britain’s Education Acts of 1902 and 1903, and founded the London School of Economics. Famous students from the London School of Economics include David Rockefeller, Joseph Kennedy Jr., and his younger brother, the future President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy Jr., future senator Daniel Moynihan, author Zecharia Sitchin, and newscaster Eric Sevareid.

Government “alphabet” agencies susceptible to secret society control include not only the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) but also the National Security Council (NSC), National Security Agency (NSA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), and many others. These agencies are secretive executive, citing reasons of national security, executive privilege, or the need to protect information or national secrets. Government “alphabet” agencies susceptible to secret society control include not only the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) but also the National Security Council (NSC), National Security Agency (NSA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and many others. These agencies are secretive executive, citing reasons of national security, executive privilege, or the need to protect information or national secrets.

One prime example of tight inner government control by secret society members may be found in the National Security Council, which, since its creation by the National Security Act of 1947, has come to dominate U.S. policy decisions including those involving the use of armed force. Most Americans have no idea who exactly comprises the powerful NSC. They might be shocked to learn that council principals are the president, vice president, and secretaries of State and Defense, positions predominately held by members of the CFR or the Trilateral Commission throughout the twentieth century.

If the top leadership of government and business is controlled by the secret societies, as alleged by many writers on the subject, then the activities of subordinate agencies and divisions must be of vital consequence. The very lives of millions of people are determined by these agencies and their policies. Many government agencies have had their origins in secret societies and work hand in hand with them to manipulate world events. This is why these agencies are able to control many of the major world issues but are often unable to control others.

Many people today believe that this same small group of men and women along with friends and associates run many of the major world issues but also control the tax-exempt foundations. These people connect with each other through a variety of means—
international business and politics, conferences, social gatherings, foundations, etc.—and therefore constitute a cohesive group. This group has been called by many names: the New World Order, the Committee of 300, the World Order, the Secret Brotherhood, or simply "they." More than one author even suggests that these persons are themselves guided or controlled by extraterrestrial intelligences, described as "prison wardens" or "Custodians."

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eties and their financial backers in government, business, and foundations feel they face a disheartening maze of obstructions in trying to bring the story to the public. Many publishers won’t publish and news agencies won’t accept or distribute the stories and often ridicule such writers as “alarmists” and “conspiracy theorists.” Occasionally, there is even the threat of violence against investigators who dig too deep.

The eyes of the average citizen—conditioned to consider only the issues presented in their daily media—glaze over at any discussion of secret societies or hidden history. After all, they ask, if any of this were real, wouldn’t it be covered on Sixty Minutes or the nightly news?

**IT'S NEWS TO US**

While the mass news media does not operate in secret, its internal structure and operation remain a mystery to most of the public. And its influence cannot be understated.

Throughout 1998, no one could long consider the Clinton Administration’s transfer of nuclear technology to China or the president’s signing of questionable Executive Orders such as an extension of the international zone along the northern U.S. border more than 150 miles. The mass media had everyone’s attention focused solely on Clinton’s sexcapades.

“The media may not always be able to tell us what to think, but they are overwhelmingly successful in telling us what to think about,” stated media critic Michael Parenti.

Many people complain that the major media are superficial, con
formist, and subjective in their selection of news. A recent Pew Research Center poll showed respondents who thought news reporting unfair and inaccurate tanged into the 60 percentiles. A survey by the news industry publication Editor & Publisher showed that journalists themselves do not disagree. Nearly half of its members indicated their belief that news coverage is shallow and inadequate.

The purpose of the mass media is not to tell us what it is, according to media critics, but rather to tell us what the media owners want it to be. Parenti wrote that the major role of the media is “to continuously recreate a view of reality supportive of existing social and economic class power.” This skewed perspective can clearly be seen in the terms used to describe news concerning “false allegations”—it’s never “management den

putes." He pointed out that management always makes "offers" while labor issues "demands." "Much, of what is reported as 'news' is little more than the uncritical transmission of official opinions as an empowering public," wrote Per and "What important perspective is just a mindless kind of neutrality," added journalist Britt Hume, who added reporters "should try to be objective, they should try to be honest."

Yet the power of the combined media is overwhelming. A 1990 study by Veronis, Suhler & Associates revealed that the typical American spends more than four hours a day watching TV, three hours listening to radio, forty-eight minutes listening to recorded music, twenty-eight minutes reading newspapers, seventeen minutes reading books, and fourteen minutes reading magazines.

The consolidation of the corporate media power which produces these time-consuming products has accelerated immensely in the 1990s, turning formerly prestigious newspapers into little more than advertising distribution systems. And even these are dwindling in number. Ben Bagdikian, former dean of the School of Journalism at the University of California in Berkeley, reported that in 1950, fifty corporations controlled most of the mass media in the United States. By January 1990 that number had shrunk to a mere twenty-three. By the end of 1997 this number was down to ten.

According to Standard and Poor's Industry Surveys—Publishing the top ten media corporations (moving from the largest on down) were Time-Warner (magazines, radio/TV, cable); Walt Disney Co. (movies, theme parks, magazines, cable/TV, radio); Viacom (television, movie studio, cable/TV); CBS (radio/TV, cable, other); General Electric (radio/TV, cable, home appliances); Turner Broadcasting (television, movie studio); Atlantic Publishing (theme parks, magazines, books); Conde Nast Publications (television, movie studio, magazines, books); and Hearst (radio/TV, cable, books).

These ten companies take in a yearly gross revenue greater than the next fifteen largest media companies combined. During the 1990s, Telecommunication firms were engaged in the most visible and dramatic drive for corporate alliance and consolidation, wrote author Greenspan in Our World, Ready or Not. "AT&T, Time-Warner, WARNER, Viacom, Turner Broadcasting and News, CBS, ABC, Disney and many others—the overlapping dark cloud spanning a U.S. firm ranked in size
market power and technological assets in cable and telephone systems, broadcasting, filmmaking, publishing and other media, while simultaneously forging alliances partnerships abroad. U.S. consumers would provide the capital for these huge new conglomerates through the deregulated rates they paid to cable and telephone companies. The winners, it was clear, would be a handful of broad and powerful media combines, as dominant in the railroad and oil trusts were in the 1890s.

World War II veterans might wince to learn that with the July 1998 acquisition of Random House publishers, the German firm of Bertelsmann A.G. became the largest trade publisher in the English-speaking world. This new company now controls more than twenty top publishers, including Ballantine, Bantam, Crown, Del Rey, Delacorte Press, Broadview Books, Dell, Dell, Doubleday, Fawcett, Harmony, Laurel, Pantheon, Penguin Books, and Times Books. Adding to this publishing clout, in October 1998 Bertelsmann, headquartered in Mayer Raths's hometown of Frankfurt, purchased a 50 percent interest in barnesandnoble.com, the bookstore's Internet site.

Over and above ownership consolidation, there is a decreasing number of distribution companies, which are critical to the widespread dissemination of information. Standard & Poor's editors noted that in 1996, distribution problems caused by the consolidation of formerly independent distributors "eliminated deliveries and relationships with major clients...canceled, missed, and late deliveries were common occurrences." Authors have complained for years that books on controversial subjects always seem to encounter distribution or publicity problems. With an estimated eight hundred new magazines added each year to the existing eighteen thousand or so (most fail within the first year), it is easy to understand the importance of distribution.

Major banks own significant amounts of stock in the ever-decreasing number of media corporations, which in turn are controlled by secret society members. "Through elite policy-shaping groups like the Council on Foreign Relations and the Business Roundtable, they steer the ship of state in what they deem to be a financially advantageous direction," noted authors Martin A. Lee and Norman Solomon in 1990. "GE, CapCities, CBS, the New York Times and the Washington Post all have board members who sit on the Council on Foreign Relations." Little has changed today. A cursory glance at the 1998 edition of Time
Standard & Poor's Corporation Records showed several CFR and Trilateral members sit on the boards of the major media corporations. Corporate ownership intermingled with secret society members, many of whom are employed in the media, may explain why Bilderberg, Trilateral, and CFR meetings are not reported by America's "watchdog" media. In fact, the membership lists of these societies read like a who's who of the mass media.

These members include many past and present media corporate leaders such as Laurence A. Tisch and William Paley of CBS; Edward W. Bliss Jr., of NBC; Thomas A. Murphy of ABC; Robert McNicol, Ann Lipton, Hedding Carter III, and Daniel Schorr of Public Broadcast Service; Katherine Graham, Harold Anderson, and Stanley Swinton of Associated Press; Michael Moore of Reuters; Joan Ganz-Cohen of Children's TV Workshop (Sesame Street); S. Thomas Johnson of CNN; David Gergen of U.S. News & World Report; Richard Golly, William Safire, Crys Yvonne, A. M. Rosenthal, and Harrison Salisbury of the New York Times; Brian Shul, Henry Grunwald, Sid Levinson, and Shulie Talbott of Time; Robert Christensen and Philip Null of Newsweek; Katharine Graham, Leonard Dureez Jr., and Stephen R. Ross of the Washington Post; Howard Dean of the Washington Times; Richard Wood, Robert Bartley, and Kevin O'Connell of the Wall Street Journal; William F. Buckley Jr. of National Review; and George V. Graves and William G. Bennett of Reader's Digest. Furthermore, sitting on the boards of directors of the corporations which own the media are secret society members.

Some of the well-known reporters, anchors, and columnists who are members of the CFR and/or the Trilateral Commission include Dan Rather, Bill Moyers, C. C. Cloud, David Broder, Carl Bernstein, Barbara Walters, John Chancellor, Morton Kondracke, Bernard Neuberger, Joseph Kraft, James Reston, Marc Pullman, David Halberstam, Jonathan Kozol, A. Vito Rizzuto, Bill Moyers, Thomas Friedman, Daniel Schorr, George Will, Burton Benjamin, Joseph Kraft, Bootsy Collins, and many others.

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Not according to writer Michael Collins Piper, who in 1998 made pub-
lic that AIM founder Reed Irvine was paid $37,000 a year as an "Advisor
for the division of international finance" of the Federal Reserve System.
It's notable that many Fed members also belong to the most secretive, high-
profile international clubs. Piper wrote, "To this day, Irvine and AIM never touch on any subject which is
sensitive to the interests of the international Establishment: whether it be
the Bilderberger group, the Trilateral Commission, the Council on For-
eign Relations or the truth about the privately owned Federal Reserve."

There are also choke points within the flow of information, such as
the international desk of Associated Press headquarters in New York,
where one person decides what news from outside the United States
makes it onto the wire service. It is important to understand that the
cable control over the news media is not direct control over the thou-
sands of hardworking editors, reporters, and news directors through-
out the nation, but rather the control over the distribution of the infor-
mation.

Then there is the Tremendous pressure created by fear of job security
and loss of sources. Many national columnists must rely on insider
sources to provide juicy information. Much of this information comes
from government sources which would dry up if they published the
wrong story. Even the most hard-fisting national reporters still must
pull their punches if they want to maintain their insider sources.

The ever-changing corporate ownership of the media has meant
that objectivity in news, long considered a public service, flies out
the window in favor of bottom-line profits based on ratings. At the time
of the JFK assassination, the three major TV networks—ABC, CBS, and
NBC—supported their news departments with public service funds.

Today, newsroom departments are funded as programming with
a secondary concern over ratings. News today is "a kind of commodity,
and not journalism," CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr declared.
"Today, it doesn’t matter anymore. You just make your money and to hell with public service.”

Veteran newsman Walter Cronkite agreed. Quoted in a professional
journal, he said the current state of television journalism is "disastrous
and dangerous" and voiced "unreasonable profits ... to satisfy share-
holders. In demanding a profit similar to that of the entertainment
area, they’re dragging us down.”

I challenge any viewer to make the distinction between [TV talk]
Jerry Springer and the three evening newses and CNN,” commented 60 Minutes correspondent Morley Safer.

The watchdog media in America, as they like to portray themselves, appear to be more like lapdogs to their corporate owners. This may explain why of the top ten “censored stories” of 1995, as determined by Alternet news service, involved business stories such as the monopolization of telecommunications, the worsening child labor situation, increased government spending on nuclear arms, medical industry fraud, the chemical industry’s battle to subvert environmental laws and the transgresions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Such stories failed to reach a wide audience because, as Greider accurately pointed out, “any who question the reigning mantra of economic orthodoxy will be harshly disciplined by the press and multinational interests.”

It is especially intriguing that none of America’s major “watchdog” media show much interest in determining who owns the corporations which control the media and the nation. One explanation for this lack of investigative zeal may be found in the story of an NEC-TV news researcher who in 1990 contacted Todd Putnam, editor of National Boycott News. The news staffer was interested in “the biggest boycott going on right now.” Putnam replied, “The biggest boycott in the country is against General Electric.” To which the NBC staffer immediately responded, “We can’t do that one—well, we could do that one but we won’t.” In 1986 NBC was bought by General Electric.

COMMENTARY

There can be no argument regarding the reality of secret societies today. The existence of groups like the Trilateral Commission, Council on Foreign Relations, and the Bilderbergers is well documented. The only question is the extent of their control and manipulation of major world events.

Likewise, there is no question that members of these societies must inevitably control most of the largest corporations and banks in the world. These corporations, in turn, control essential minerals, energy, transportation, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, telecommunications, and entertainment—on other words, the basics of modern life.
They also provide an inner core of ranking government officials on a revolving door basis. These officials often implement the very policies conceived and desired by the societies.

These societies hold considerable sway over national elections and policy, yet remain strangely immune to any investigation, whether by government or the mass media. Since its inception in 1913, there has never been an outside, objective audit of the Federal Reserve System despite periodic calls for such. The same can be said for the powerful private foundations which direct so much of modern science and culture.

Taken together the facts suggest that the overall goal of these modern societies is to bring about one world government with attendant centralized social control and loss of national sovereignty. This objective is coming ever closer to reality, largely through the increasing corporate and financial control over both governments and economies.

Samuel Berger, Clinton’s national security adviser and a regular attendee of the Bilderberg meetings, revealed that group’s outlook in a recent talk at the Brookings Institution when he stated, “Globalization—the process of accelerating economic, technological, cultural and political integration—is not a choice. It is a growing fact. It is a fact that will proceed inexorably, with or without our approval. It is a fact that we ignore at our peril.”

No one is suggesting that this issue be ignored. Quite the contrary. Conspiracy writers seek a more open dialogue on this matter. It’s the major media that shies away from the subject. It may be that global government is desirable. It certainly appears inevitable. And it’s nothing new. World domination has been the focus of men since before Alexander the Great. Why then is there so much secrecy about this issue today?

The question of whether or not the plan for one world government is a sinister conspiracy to subjugate the populations or simply an attempt to facilitate a natural evolutionary step is a matter still to be decided, apparently with little or no help from the mainstream media.

But one thing is absolutely clear. It is apparent that globalization or one world government or the New World Order is not simply the imaginings of conspiracy theorists or paranoids but the articulated goal of the secret brotherhoods, organizations, and groups, all of which carry the imprint of the old orders of Freemasonry, the Round Tables, and the Illuminati, which will be examined more closely here.
The recognition of a ruling elite by knowledgeable experts like Quigley and the others quoted, coupled with the suspicions of many more regarding secret control, has created a climate in which the average person feels less and less control over both his country's destiny and his or her own. It is not necessary to believe in such widespread conspiracies. What is necessary is to learn that others do believe and act accordingly. To understand the world around us, we must study the full range of evidence if we are to avoid either destructive paranoia or baseless and naive faith.

The evidence points clearly to a commonality of purpose on the part of secret society members and their associates, their relatives, and associates. It points to the two interrelated.

That luminaries of the modern secret societies—people connected by blood, marriage, social and business associations—call the cards is beyond dispute. They have dominated the scene since the days of Mayer and Nathan Rothschild, Cecil Rhodes, and Alfred Milner, and their associates. Their power is exerted through their power over business, advertising, government, and the mass media.

All this prompts several questions. If the CFR, the Trilateral Commission, and the Bilderbergers are simply innocent well-intentioned people working to bring about a peaceful and prosperous world, then why all the secrecy? Why all the front organizations, some of which are the antithesis of others? Why do they obviously distrust public attention?

Which leads to the single most important question: If they do create a centralized one-world government, what's to prevent some Hitler-like tyrant from taking control?

Secrecy is the key. Any activity that is justified and honorable should
be able to withstand the light of public scrutiny. When the secrets of
these societies are laid bare before the public, everyone will be able to
judge for themselves the worth of their goals and purposes.

Until that time, the diligent researcher must sift through the histori-
cal record, piecing together the clues which will prove or disprove
secret society involvement in world events, searching for the telltale
fingerprints of conspiracy.
PART II

THE FINGERPRINTS OF CONSPIRACY

War is a racket... War is largely a matter of money. Bankers lend money to foreign countries and when they can't pay, the President sends Marines to get it.

Conspiracy writers have long accused members of the secret societies of using their torch of power and influence to light the fires of war. They have been charged with fomenting the Cold War, two world wars, the American, French, and Russian Revolutions, along with countless other conflicts and revolts. It is also claimed that these hidden hands can be traced directly to the secret organizations of the past.

And a careful study of history indeed reveals the telltale fingerprints of the same schemes throughout the history of warfare. Of all human activities, war alone offers the greatest potential for profit—both from war materials and from the loans to produce them. And there are deeper rationales, such as the need to distract the public from their domestic troubles as well as the hidden agendas of their rulers. "American capitalism needed international rivalry—and periodic war—to create an artificial community of interest between rich and poor, supplanting the genuine community of interest among the poor that showed itself in sporadic movements," wrote history professor Howard Zinn.

This view was addressed in detail in a controversial 1966 study of war and peace called the "Report from Iron Mountain."

REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN

The study that led to the Report from Iron Mountain began in 1961 with Kennedy administration officials such as McGeorge Bundy (CFR, Bilderberger, and Skull and Bones), Robert McNamara (Trilateralist, CFR, and Bilderberger) and Dean Rusk (CFR and Bilderberger). Knowing of Kennedy's goal of ending the Cold War, these men were concerned that there had been no serious planning for long-term peace. In early 1963 a special study group was selected to study the hypothetical problems of peace just as government think tanks such as the Rand and Hudson Institutes studied war. The fifteen members of this...
group have never been publicly identified, but it reportedly included
highly regarded historians, economists, sociologists, psychologists, sci-
entists, and even an astronomer and an industrialist. The group met about
once a month at various locations around the nation.

But its principal meetings were at Iron Mountain, a huge underground
complex "located below" near Hudson, New York, site of the Hudson
Institution, widely regarded as a CFR think tank. It was, in case of nuclear
attack, even more redundant corporate offices of Rockefeller-controlled
Standard Oil of New Jersey, the Morgan bank, Manufacturers Hanover
Trust, and Dutch Shell Oil, firms located by Bilderberger founder Prince
Bernhard.

A copy of the Report from Iron Mountain was leaked by a man identi-
ified only as "John Doe," a Midwestern university professor who claimed
to have been a participant. It was published by Dial Press in 1967. John
Doe told the publisher that, while he agreed with the findings of the study,
he disagreed with the group's decision to conceal their work from a pub-
lic "unexposed to the exigencies of higher political or military responsi-
bility." He said he believed the American public, whose tax money paid
for the report, had a right to know its disturbing conclusions, while his fel-
low authors feared "the clear and predictable danger of a crisis in public
confidence which untimely publication of the Report might be expected
to provoke."

Over the years, the Report from Iron Mountain has received little or no
publicity, and certain members of the government and media have
attempted to brush it off as a joke or satire. But Dial Press published the
work with no such disclaimers, and the serious and erudite tone of this
footnoted study along with its global and macro-analytical approach
belies the charge of fiction. It is an amazing document, written at the onset
of our national experience in Vietnam, and most certainly reflects the elit-
est views of those who are said to have solicited the study.

John Doe said the "Iron Mountain Boys," as they called themselves,
conducted an informal, off-the-books secret study uninhibited by normal
government restraints. They submitted their report in March 1966.

According to the report, "War itself is the basic social system, within
which other secondary modes of social organization conflict or conspire.
It is the system which has governed most human societies of record, as it
is today." The report's authors are as yet unknown and deserve so
"the principal organizing force" as well as "the essential economic stabilizer of modern societies."

They expressed concern that through "ambiguous leadership" the "ruling administrative class" might lose its ability to "rationalize a desired war," leading to the "actual disestablishment of military institutions" as potentially "impossible to sustain." Therefore the report concluded, "We must first reply, as strongly as we can, that the war system cannot responsibly be allowed to disappear until (1) we know exactly what forms of social control we plan to put in its place and (2) we are certain beyond reasonable doubt that these substitute institutions will serve their purpose..."

Most significantly, the report states, "The elimination of war amplifies the inevitable elimination of national sovereignty and the traditional nation-state." It added, "The possibility of war provides the sense of external necessity without which no government can long remain in power... The basis authority of a modern state over its people resides in its war power."

The report goes on to say that war has served as the last great safeguard against the elimination of necessary social classes,... layers of social and classes of status" and that war functions to control "essential class relationships."

In addition, it credited military institutions with providing "essential elements with an acceptable role in the social structure... It is not hard to visualize, for example, the degree of social disruption that might have taken place in the United States during the last two decades if the problem of the socially handicapped of the post-World War II period had not been handled effectively and efficiently," noted the report. "The younger and more dangerous, of these handicapped groups, have been kept under control by the Selective Service System." In the post-World War II period, the Selective Service System was viewed as a means to control the disaffected youth of the post-war era. The report suggests that the Selective Service System was a "significant factor in the stabilization of post-war society." It noted, "Perhaps this refers to the current practice of utilizing prison labor or private businesses utilizing prison labor to re-
“wage slaves,” those so mired in credit that they have lost any option but to continue working for wages in an unfulfilling job. It is highly intriguing to compare the recommendations of this report with life in the United States today. The Iron Mountain “hoys” listed these possible substitutes for the “functions of war”:

- a comprehensive social-welfare program
- a giant, open-ended space research program aimed at unreachable targets (targets, etc.)
- an international, unaccountable disarmament inspection system (bureaucrats, etc.)
- an international, unaccountable police force in the Far East (the Persian Gulf War or the Balkans)
- an international, unaccountable environmental program (global warming, etc.)
- an international, unaccountable religious program (New Age religions, etc.)
- an international, unaccountable sport program (international football, etc.)
- an international, unaccountable eugenic program (fertility control, etc.)

The authors admitted that “alternative enemies” might prove unlikely, but stressed that “one must be found” (emphasis in the original) or, more probably, that “such a threat will have to be invented.” Finally, the Iron Mountain Special Study Group proposed the establishment by presidential order of a permanent and top-secret “War/Peace Research Agency,” operated “along the lines of the National Security Council,” outside the purview of Congress, the media, and the public, provided with “non-accountable funds” and “responsible solely to the President.” The purpose of this agency would be “Peace Research” to include creating the above listed substitutes for the functions of war and the “unlimited right to withhold information on its activities and its deci-
sions from anyone except the President, whenever it deems such secrecy to be in the public interest.”

No one seems to know—or is willing to tell—if such a secret agency was ever considered or created. Regardless if it was or not, the tone of the proposal is certainly conspiratorial and it was hatched by men connected to the secret societies whose class-conscious objectives are reflected in this report. Those same men were responsible for the involvement of America in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s, and their mindset was behind the attempt to foment war in Nicaragua in the 1980s as well as the conflicts of the 1990s in the Middle East and Balkans.

“In human terms, it is an outrageous document,” commented Leonard C. Levine, who arranged for the report’s publication. “And it explains, or certainly appears to explain, aspects of American policy otherwise incomprehensible by the ordinary standards of common sense.”

Despite this study of “peace,” as the Cold War drew to a close in the early 1990s, there was one more large scale, seemingly “incomprehensible” modern war to further the aims of those secret society men who seek profit from hostilities: war in the Persian Gulf.

**PERSSAN GULF**

The Allied victory in the Persian (Gulf war of 1991 was loudly trumpeted by the American mass media, but the actions leading to this conflict were sparsely reported throughout the coverage. These machinations involved people in secret societies and indicated a very different rationale for the war than the one presented to the public.

No one argues that the United States military, with some assistance from British, French, and Arab forces, did not perform magnificently during this brief conflict. It took only between January 17 and February 28, 1991, for the coalition forces, involving the strong forces of Saddam Hussein, then representing the fifth largest army in the world, to overwhelm his military forces. This stunning military success was due primarily to the Allied forces’ superiority in both weaponry and training, as opposed to Saddam’s conscripts who, though veterans of combat against Iran, had limited training and low morale.

This disparity resulted in a lopsided war which resulted in more than 300,000 Iraqi casualties, both military and civilian, and 5,000 prisoners.
ers, compared to the extraordinary low Allied losses of 234 killed, 470 wounded, and 57 missing.

Primary leader of the war was U.S. President George Bush, a former CFR member, Trilateralist, and Skull and Bonesman.

As with most Middle East conflicts, the primacy issue was oil. Both Bush and then Secretary of State James Baker were deeply involved in the oil business. Any Bush policy which increased the price of oil meant more profit to his companies, those of his oilmen supporters and, of course, to the Rockefeller-dominated cartel.

An added bonus was that any conflict which divided the Arab world would only strengthen the power of the U.S., Britain, and Israel in the region. A coalition of countries fighting for the United Nations could only advance the globalists' plan for a one-world military force.

This "battle of the New World Order was no mere kind of melodramatic crisis with a hidden agenda," wrote conspiracy researchers Jonathan Vankin and John Whalen after careful study of the events leading to the conflict.

Bush and Saddam Hussein had had a close relationship for many years. In his role as CIA director and later as vice president, George Bush had supported Saddam through his eight-year war against Iran following the ouster of the Shah in 1979.

By 1988 Saddam's Iraq was a primary threat to the balance of power between Israel and the Arab nations, but Saddam's support for Israel during the war with Iran could not pay for itself. Under pressure from the international bankers for more repayment of loans and from the Organization of Petroleum Producing Countries (OPEC), which refused to allow Iraq to raise oil prices, Saddam turned his eyes to Kuwait as a source of income. The time was ripe for the Kuwaiti oil that Saddam had long coveted but without success.

The Pentagon had known that Iraqi troops were massing along the Kuwait border since mid-July 1990. On July 25 Saddam sought advice...
from the United States on his intentions to reclaim Kuwait. He met with U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie, who told him, "I have direct instructions from President Bush to improve our relations with Iraq. We have considerable sympathy for your need for higher oil prices, the immediate cause of your confrontations with Kuwait..."

"I have received an instruction to ask you, in the spirit of friendship and good relations, regarding your intentions: Why are your troops massed so very close to Kuwait's borders?"

According to transcripts released long after the war, Hussein explained that, while he was ready to negotiate his border dispute with Kuwait, his design was "to keep the whole of Iraq in the shape we wish it to be." This shape, of course, included Kuwait, which Saddam considered still a part of Iraq. "What is the United States' opinion on that?" he asked.

"We have no opinion on your Arab-Arab conflicts, like your dispute with Kuwait," replied Glaspie. "Secretary Baker has directed me to emphasize the instruction, first given to Iraq in the 1960s, that the Kuwaiti issue is not associated with America."

"Shortly after this, April Glaspie left Kuwait to take her summer vacation; another signal of elaborate American disinterest in the Kuwait-Iraq crisis," noted authors Tarpley and Chaitkin in George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography. On July 31 Bush met with GOP congressional leaders but said nothing about the Gulf situation.

The crisis escalated on August 2, when Iraq troops moved into Kuwait. Bush froze all Iraqi assets in the United States, adding to Saddam's money woes, which had worsened in 1990 after international bankers refused him further loans. Glaspie was prohibited from speaking out by the State Department, so the American public could not learn of Bush's duplicity.

In later testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Glaspie pointed out that the July 25 conference was her first and only meeting with Saddam, who had not met with any foreign ambassador since 1984, the midpoint of his war with Iran.

But if Saddam had not met with U.S. diplomats, the same could not be said of American businessmen. Economist Paul Adler noted, "It was known that David Rockefeller met with the Iraqi leader on at least three separate occasions after the Chase Manhattan corporation became the lead banker in a number of major Iraqi credit applications." It was also reported that Alan Greenspan, a vice president of (Henry) Kissinger.
Associates met with Iraqi leaders during a two-year period preceding the Gulf conflict.

"Saddam began to realize that he could not get what he wanted from the striped-pants set. He began doing business with the people who mattered to him—foreign businessmen, defense contractors, technologists and scientists, occasionally even visiting journalists," reported the Washington newspaper, The Spotlight.

Following the money trail of such nondiplomatic contacts which led to the Gulf War, Congressman Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, discovered that almost $5 billion in loans had been passed to Saddam Hussein in the 1980s through the Atlanta, Georgia, branch of Italy's government-owned bank, Banca Nazional del Lavoro (BNL). The branch manager, Christopher Drogoul, was finally brought into federal court, where he pleaded guilty to approving that huge cash transfer without the approval of BNL's head office in Italy. However, the whole investigation was put on hold during the Gulf War.

Most observers believed that Drogoul could have conducted such a massive transaction without the knowledge of his superiors. Bobby Lee Cook, one of Drogoul's several defense attorneys, argued that his client had been made the patsy in "a scheme orchestrated at the highest levels of the U.S. Government."

In fact, BNL officials told the Postal Service that his boss Drogoul had acted on the advice of the bank's consultants, Kissinger Associates. In both 1989 and 1990, the Bush Justice Department had quashed indictments against the BNL by the Atlanta Attorney General's office following an FBI raid on August 4, 1989. Action against the bank managers was held up for more than a year. Indictments were finally handed down the day after Bush declared a cease-fire in the Gulf War.

This scandal—dubbed "Iraqgate"—prompted Congress to appoint a special prosecutor in the case, which was then assigned to Attorney General William Barr. But "obstruction of justice" charges by the House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Dingell failed on a technicality, and no special prosecutor was appointed. In a classic case of who-will-watch-the-watchman?, Barr refused to appoint a special prosecutor when asked to do so by Congress.
The clincher of this sordid story of financial scheming and official malfeasance was that not only had most of the $5 billion been used by Saddam to buy weaponry to be used against American servicemen, but the U.S. taxpayers picked up the tab!

Gonzalez said $500 million of the loans to Saddam came through the government-backed Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and had been intended to purchase grain from U.S. farmers. However, grain embargoed through the CCC had never been delivered. Instead, it was sold by the government to Saddam at a profit of $500 million. The grain shipped through the port of Houston had gone to then-Soviet bloc nations in exchange for weapons, while the remainder of the grain purchased had freed Saddam’s limited cash reserves to buy more military materials. The Bush administration had pledged taxpayer guarantees should Saddam default on the loans, which he did after sending troops to Kuwait. According to at least one public source, more than $700 million in American tax money was paid to the Gulf International Bank in Bahrain, which was owned by seven Gulf nations including Iraq. This amount was only the first of an estimated $5 billion to be paid to ten banks by the CCC to cover the $5 billion of Saddam’s defaulted loans.

“The $5 billion commitment, in the form of loan guarantees for the purchase of U.S. farm commodities, enabled Saddam to buy needed food on credit and to spend his scarce hard currency on the arms buildup that brought war to the Persian Gulf,” wrote author Russell S. Bowen.

Even after the Iraqi invasion began on August 2, Bush publicly appeared strangely noncommittal. Asked by reporters if he intended any intervention in the Gulf crisis, Bush said, “I’m not contemplating such action...”

His attitude apparently changed drastically that same day after meeting with British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, a regular attendee of Bilderberg meetings who had been implicated with Bush in both the Iran-Contra and October Surprise scandals.

After meeting with Thatcher, Bush began to describe Saddam as a “new Hitler” and said “the status quo is unacceptable and further expansion by Iraq could be even more unacceptable.”

Despite assurances from Saddam that Kuwait was his only objective and with no concrete evidence to the contrary, Bush quickly decided that even if Saddam’s objectives were limited, he still needed to invade Iraq to prevent Saddam from using Kuwait as a base for attacks on Israel. This conflict would become the Gulf War of 1990-1991, which lasted over a year and involved a coalition of nations led by the United States and the United Kingdom. The conflict ended with a ceasefire agreement that established a UN-authorized no-fly zone in Iraq and the creation of a UN-protected buffer zone between Kuwait and Iraq.

WHO PAYS THE TAB?
as much as $4 billion to Bush and other world leaders as secret payoffs to
protect their kingdom, according to Sabah family member Sheik Fahd
Mohammed al-Sabah, chairman of the Kuwait Investment Office.

Long after the Persian Gulf War, when audits found this money had
been diverted into a London slush fund, anti-Sabah elements in Saudi
Arabia criticized the payoff. They were told by al-Sabah, "That money
was used to buy Kuwait's liberation. It paid for political support in the
West and among Arab leaders—support for Desert Storm, the interna-
tional force we urgently needed."

Whether this money played any role or not, Bush soon drew a "line in
the sand" to block further Iraqi intrusion. It is interesting to note that this
line was located between the Iraqi forces and oil interests owned by his
son, soon-to-be Texas governor George W. Bush.

Bush, the president's eldest son, was a $50,000-a-year "consultant"
to and a board member of Harken Energy Corp. of Grand Prairie,
Texas, near the home of the Texas Rangers baseball team of which the
younger Bush was a managing general partner.

In January 1991, just days before Desert Storm was launched, Harken
shocked the business world by announcing an oil-production agreement
with the small island nation of Bahrain, a former British protectorate and
a haven for international bankers just off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the
Persian Gulf. Bahrain was listed among the top forty countries of the
world with the highest per capita Gross Domestic Product in 1990.

Veteran oilmen wondered aloud how unknown Harken, with no pre-
vious drilling experience, obtained such a potentially lucrative deal. Fur-
thermore, it was reported that "Harken's investments in the area will be
protected by a 1990 agreement Bahrain signed with the U.S. allowing
American and 'multi-national' forces to set up permanent bases in that
country.

The younger Bush, in October 1990, told Houston Post reporter Peter
Brewton that accusations that his father ordered troops to the area to pro-
tect Harken drilling rights were "a little far-fetched." He further claimed
he sold his Harken stock before the Iraqi invasion. An Securities and
Exchange Commission (SEC) researcher could find no record of the sale in the files of the
Inc. (The Houston Post)

Records of Bush's Harken stock sale finally turned up in March 1991,
eight months after the July 10, 1990, SEC deadline for filing such disclo-

...
dropped to $3.03 a share. The tardy SEC records revealed that by some good fortune, Bush had sold 66 percent of his Harken stock on June 22, 1990—just weeks prior to Iraq's invasion—for the top-dollar price of $4.00 a share, netting him $848,560. Despite locating productive wells in South America, the drop in oil prices in early 1999 nearly halved Harken stock to around $1.00 a share.

Stock prices, oil and grain deals, arms sales, loans, and guarantees; the reshuffling of the Arabs in the Middle East; the movement toward a global army and government created a mind-numbing entanglement. "It is doubtful whether the real reason why the United States went to war in the Persian Gulf will ever emerge," wrote Vankin and Whaley. "Vietnam in Vietnam, where the superpowers' outcome elicited nothing one way or the other, in the Gulf the decisiveness of victory has buried the only story after any Iraqi or American soldier who went to a sandy grave."

The duplicity didn't end with the fighting. Throughout the Clinton administration there have been periodic air strikes into Iraq, ostensibly to punish Saddam for preventing UN inspection of his development centers for biological and nuclear weaponry. However, these too have been a tool of the international arms trade. The former Trading under the Table, a book written by two ex-businessmen who dealt with Saddam Hussein, runs through the Clinton administration. The book, which was written while the administration was in power, claims that the United States sold arms to Saddam Hussein in exchange for intelligence on Iraq's weapons programs. The book, which was written while the administration was in power, claims that the United States sold arms to Saddam Hussein in exchange for intelligence on Iraq's weapons programs.

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Scott Ritter, a member of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) created to locate and eliminate Saddam Hussein's secret weapons caches, resigned in August of 1998 and accused the U.S. government of using the commission to justify an attack on Iraq. Ritter said that before his resignation he discovered that Saddam Hussein'sMODE was being used to "prove a crime" but he shortly came to agree with the change. Ritter's surrender maddened the allegations, claiming Ritter's knowledge of the situation was "ludicrous."
However, in early 1999 it was reported that Washington had used UNSCOM to plant electronic bugs in the Ministry of Defense (Iraq's Pen- tagon) and other U.S. officials confirmed much of Ritter's accusations.

"The relationship between the United States and the inspection commis- sion... has long been a subject of debate," wrote U.S. News reporter Bruce B. Auster. "The issue is sensitive because UNSCOM is an arm of the U.S. Security Council, not an agency of the United States, although it does rely on the United States for intelligence and personnel."

On December 15, 1998, after stockpiling cruise missiles in the Per- sian Gulf during the fall, the U.S. launched a much-delayed air strike against Baghdad.

But with Christmas coming, most Americans couldn't get too worked up over civilian casualties halfway around the world. And any doubts about U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf—except among those unfortunate having to deal with Gulf War Syndrome caused by a lethal combination of oil fires, biological agents, and radioactive or chemically-tipped artillery and tank shells—had been blown away, along with the yellow ribbons which had proudly displayed the total support of the uninformed.

VIETNAM

While human connivance to actually create war may seem unpalatable to some members of the secret societies' milieu, there is much evi- dence indicating that the Vietnam War was largely contrived by men of the "Iron Mountain" mindset.

Many conspiracy writers see the Vietnam War as a classic example of the Hegelian dialectic in action—create a problem (the Viet Cong sup- ported by North Vietnam) after the initial (ever-increasing aid and troops to South Vietnam) to create synthesis (U.S. hegemony over South- east Asia).

United States involvement in Vietnam began with the secret agree- ments of Yalta during World War II. America's "sphere of influence" in the postwar world was to be the Pacific—we still have a presence in that region today. However, after hostilities ended in Europe, France was quick to resume its colonial control of French Indochina and U.S. plans for the region were put in place.
The history of the Vietnam War can be personified in Nguyen That Thanh, the son of a lower Vietnamese rural educator. This man later changed his name to Ho Chi Minh (He Who Enlightens) and became the driving force behind Indochinese nationalism for three decades. He also can be connected to the same forces which produced the communist movement during the twentieth century.

As a young man during World War I, Ho lived in France where he came into contact with French socialists and their philosophies derived from Illuminati and Freemasonry roots. In 1919 he spoke before the Warburg brothers and the other attendees of the Versailles Peace Conference, calling for expanded rights in Indochina.

In 1920 Ho founded the Vietnamese Communist Party, which later was changed at the urging of Soviet leaders to the Indochinese Communist Party to avoid being perceived as a national movement. However, the nationalism of his party was reaffirmed in 1941, when he and other national Vietnamese created the League for the Independence of Vietnam, or the Viet Minh.

When the Japanese overran Indochina in 1945, Ho and General Vo Nguyen Giap began working with the American Office of Strategic Services to oust the occupation forces.

Ho continued to receive American aid after the Japanese withdrew from Vietnam following their surrender on August 14, 1945. "We had a trusted agent whom we regularly supplied with weapons, radio equipment, operators and medicine. All of it served to reinforce his position and status," wrote journalist Lloyd Shearer.

France's Charles de Gaulle realized that Ho intended to create an independent Vietnam which would give his American handlers entree to the area. So in October 1945 de Gaulle ordered French troops into Saigon. Hoping to exclude Vietnam as a French possession, de Gaulle even proposed to return Vietnamese emperor Bao Dai to power, but his proposal was rejected by Ho.

After years of fighting, Ho's Viet Minh, led by his able general Giap, had gained control of most of the countryside and, in May 1954 the French Army was defeated at Dien Bien Phu and forced to leave.

In a subsequent Geneva conference in July to determine Vietnam's future, Ho's delegation was met by a rival delegation representing the French-backed emperor Bao Dai. The resulting conflict was resolved by dividing Vietnam along the Seventeenth Parallel with Ho given con-
trol of the north. Ho accepted this division chiefly because the Geneva
Accords promised a vote on reunification by both sides and he was
confident both would join together under his leadership. The accords
were not signed by the United States.

South Vietnam, which contained most of Vietnam's resources and
wealth, ended up in the hands of Ngo Dinh Diem, a Catholic in a land
that was 95 percent Buddhist. Diem had lived in the United States follow-
ing the French defeat and had met with high-ranking officials and CFR
members. A veteran of twenty years of civil service, Diem was supported
by Colonel Edward Lansdale, head of the newly arrived U.S. Military
Advisory and Assistance Group. Lansdale's group was there to aid the
234,000-man Vietnamese National Army, created and financed by the
United States.

The Diem government, with the agreement of the United States, post-
poned indefinitely any reunification elections. "All this suggests that the
U.S. conspired against the Geneva terms...," wrote journalist Michael
McClure. This also virtually guaranteed civil war in Vietnam.

Vietnamese nationalists, largely anti-Catholic Buddhists and veter-
ans of the Viet Minh, aided by a growing number of expatriates return-
ing from the North, began reclaiming areas in the South under the
name Viet Cong or just Viet Cong.

Increasing violence prompted the arrival of American military "advis-
ers" in South Vietnam, a move not totally supported by Congress. "No
amount of American military assistance in Indochina can conquer an
enemy which is everywhere and at the same time nowhere, an 'enemy of
the people' which has the sympathy and covert support of the people,"
warned Senator John F. Kennedy in 1954.

Aid to communist North Vietnam came from Russia and China while
South Vietnam grew more and more dependent on American support.
The balance of power steadied. The stage was set for war.

JFK OPPOSED GLOBALISTS

By 1963 the biggest obstacle to a wider war in Southeast Asia was Pres-
ident John F. Kennedy, who had already voiced his reservations about
U.S. involvement. Democratic John F. Kennedy upset Eisenhower's Vice president, Republi-
can Richard Nixon, in the 1960 election and his top advisers came from the secret societies. Special Advisor John Kenneth Galbrairh noted, “Those of us who had worked for the Kennedy election were tolerated in the government for that reason and had a say, but foreign policy was still with the Council on Foreign Relations people.” The overabundance of CFR members in government even caught the attention of President Kennedy, who remarked, “I’d like to have some new faces here, but all I get is the same old ones.”

Immediately after his election, Kennedy was faced with a confrontation in Laos. In a foretaste of Vietnam, this conflict pitted the Pathet Lao communists against CIA-backed General Phoumi Nosavan. Upon entering office, Kennedy was advised by everyone from outgoing President Eisenhower to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to send troops to support Nosavan. CFR members Secretary of Defense Robert Strange McNamara and Walt Rostow, head of the State Department’s Policy Planning Council (usually important in the use of troops, Kennedy declared),

The CFR had been concerned with Vietnam right from the start. In 1951 the CFR, along with the Royal Institute for International Affairs, created a study group headed by the Rockefeller Foundation to study Southeast Asia among other things. The group recommended joint British-American domination of the region in accordance with the agreements at Yalta. During the Eisenhower years, CFR founder and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, along with his brother CFR founder and CIA Director Allen Dulles, oversaw implementation of this policy which gave rise to the arrival of U.S. military advisors.

In September 1954, just four months after the fall of Dien Bien Phu, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, a founder of the CFR, convened the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). This action locked the United States, Britain, France, the Philippines, and others into a mutual defense pact in Indochina. C. L. Sulzberger of the New York Times in 1966 said, “Dulles fathered SEATO with the deliberate purpose, as he explained to me, of providing the U.S. President with legal authority to intervene in Indochina. When Congress approved SEATO, it signed the first of a series of blank checks yielding authority over Vietnam policy.”

It soon became apparent that Kennedy, unlike his predecessors, was
out content to be manipulated by the Eastern Establishment. "In fact the Establishment takeover of Kennedy became increasingly intense during his time in office," wrote University of Pittsburgh Professor Donald Gibbon in his well-researched 1994 book Battling Wall Street: The Kennedy Presidency.

Increasingly, students of the Kennedy assassinations are coming to believe that his opposition to the globalists' agenda may have played a significant role in his murder.

Described by economist Seymour Harris as "by far the most knowledgable President of all time in the general area of economics," Kennedy quickly launched a variety of sweeping initiatives to increase both the human and technological potential of the nation. "What he [tried] to do was to change everything from global investment patterns to tax breaks for individuals to reform laws and policies so that the power of property and the reach for profit would not end up destroying rather than creating economic prosperity for the country," explained Gibbon.

Kennedy revealed his animosity toward business interests in the spring of 1962 when he forced the major U.S. steel companies to rescind price increases. An agreement not to raise prices in exchange for labor concessions had been suddenly revoked after wage increases had been put on hold. Angered by this betrayal, Kennedy ordered his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, to launch a price-fixing investigation, threatened the cancellation of steel contracts by the Defense Department, and told the American public that the action by steel was unjustifiable and irresponsible. The steel companies, led by United States Steel, backed down.

Viewing the steel executives' actions as an attack on his own proposed economic programs, Kennedy's rival interests, "In my opinion, if the rise in prices had been permitted to stand it would have been extremely difficult in several segments of the legislation..." Kennedy told his brother. He then threatened the steel execs again, adding: "You are not doing right by the country. As far as I am concerned you are committing a crime," which included many members of the CFR and other powerful institutions.

Kennedy's efforts to refashion the American financial system, including his efforts to weaken the Federal Reserve Board and limit its power, are well-documented. In June 1963 Kennedy took the ultimate step against the Fed by author-
rizing the issuance of more than $4 billion in “United States Notes” through the U.S. Treasury, not the Federal Reserve. “Kennedy apparently reasoned that by returning to the Constitution, which states that only Congress shall coin and regulate money, the soaring national debt could be reduced by not paying interest to the bankers of the Federal Reserve System, who print paper money then loan it to the government at inter-
est,” noted one conspiracy author.

In his attempt to level the economic playing field, Kennedy took a wide variety of actions, all of which disturbed the anomaly of Wall Street. As documented by author Gibson, these included:

— offering tax proposals to redirect the foreign investments of U.S.
  companies
— making distinctions in tax reform between productive and non-
  productive investment
— eliminating the tax privileges of U.S-based global investment
  companies
— cracking down on foreign tax havens
— supporting proposals to eliminate tax privileges for the wealthy
— proposing increased taxes for large oil and mineral companies
— revising the investment tax credit
— making a proposal to expand the powers of the president to deal
  with recession

Kennedy’s economic policies and proposals were publicly attacked by Fortune magazine editor Charles J. V. Murphy, New York governor Nelson Rockefeller, David Rockefeller, and the editors of the Wall
  Street Journal. Kennedy’s own Treasury Secretary, CFR member Dou-
  glas Dillon, counsel agreements with David Rockefeller in his capacities.

In foreign policy, Kennedy depicted marked antagonism toward both
  colonialism (open control over a country’s political and economic life)
  and neocolonialism (covert control). “Kennedy’s support for economic
  development and Third World nationalism and his tolerance for govern-
  mental economic planning, even when it involved expropriation of prop-
  erty owned by interests in the U.S., all led to conflict between Kennedy
  and other leaders both the U.S. and foreign nations,” wrote Gibson.
In Vietnam, Kennedy early on assuaged his hawkish counselors by increasing the number of military advisers until by late 1963, the number had grown to about fifteen thousand. But he was having second thoughts and, following the ill-fated Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961, he had become more and more dubious of the intelligence reports from the military and CIA. On October 11, 1963 Kennedy approved National Security Action Memorandum 263 which approved a possible disengagement in Vietnam by the end of 1965 and even ordered a quiet withdrawal of some military personnel by the end of that year.

He consistently rejected recommendations to introduce U.S. ground troops as he had earlier in Laos. "In rejecting an expanded military involvement, Kennedy went against the Joint Chiefs and a host of high-level people in his government, including (CFR members) Dean Rusk, Robert McNamara, and McGeorge and William Buudy," Gibson noted.

Another key player was Averell Harriman, a CFR man whose connections to covert secret society manipulations stretched back to World War I and the founding of Soviet Communism. In the fall of 1963 it was Harriman, one of JFK’s inner circle, who advocated the removal of Vietnam President Diem and who sent what became known as the "green light" cable to Saigon. This cable urged support for a movement against the corrupt Diem government. "It did not deal with the warning about a coup and therefore seemed to encourage one," noted author Michael McClear. On November 2 Diem was assassinated in a coup by his own generals, believed by many to have been inspired by the CIA, and the Vietnam War soon escalated.

"The axis of Lodge [CFR] and Harriman [CFR] was too strong for President Kennedy to thwart or overcome," observed former U.S. Ambassador to Saigon Frederick E. Nolting.

Kennedy knew he had to tread lightly in his opposition to a war supported by such powerful interests. He confided to Senator Mike Mansfield that he had decided on "a complete withdrawal from Vietnam" but said this couldn’t be done until after he was given a mandate in the 1964 election. Corporate America may well have seen Kennedy as the "ambiguous leadership" that so concerned the "Iron Mountain Boys."

Although there is every indication that Kennedy planned to end U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, no one will ever know for certain. Gunned in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, ended his presidency.
The circumstances of JFK's assassination remain controversial at best. It might be noted that the wife of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in 1994 told author A. J. Weberman, "The answer to the Kennedy assassination is with the Federal Reserve Bank. Don't underestimate that. It's wrong to blame it on [CIA official James] Angleton and the CIA per se only. This is only one finger of the same hand. Five people who supply the money are above the CIA."

Two more things should be noted here. One is that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968 only after he turned his dynamic oratory and organizing skills to protesting the Vietnam War. Second, the overwhelming evidence of obstruction to a truthful investigation of Kennedy's death indicates the use of tremendous and lasting force wielded at the highest level of the American power structure — the level controlled by the secret societies and their Wall Street members.

ALL THE WAY WITH LBJ

Kennedy's successor, Texas Lyndon B. Johnson, the powerful Senate majority leader who had been a member of the House Armed Services Committee, was more situated in the Joint Chiefs and the CFR crowd. On December 2, 1963, just days after becoming president, a White House memo from Johnson to General Maxwell Taylor (CFR) only released to the public in 1998, stated, "The more I look at it, the more it is clear to me that South Vietnam is our most critical military area right now. I hope that you and your colleagues in the Joint Chiefs of Staff will see to it that the very best available officers are assigned to General [Paul] Harkins' command in all areas and for all purposes. We should put our blue ribbon men on this job at every level."

Even with this reversal of attitude toward Vietnam in Washington, the war needed a provocation to enlist public support along with congressional authority. "In hopes of provoking a North Vietnamese attack," wrote West Point historian Major H. R. McMaster, "Johnson persuaded the Congress of America's vested interest in the Gulf of Tonkin" with the so-called Tonkin Gulf incidents. "On August 4, 1964 the U.S. destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam received a message that the National Security Agency had monitored preparations for an attack."

On August 4, 1964 the U.S. destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam received a message that the National Security Agency had monitored preparations for an attack.
by North Vietnam gunboats. Defense Secretary McNamara telephoned President Johnson and confirmed an "anticipated" attack.

This came only two days after three small North Vietnamese torpedo boats had made test runs to attack areas on the Middle East situation for raids on the North Vietnamese coast by small boats operated jointly by the U.S. Navy and South Vietnam in an action called Operation Planning (OPLAN) 34-A, a provocative scheme unilaterally ordered by McNamara. The destroyer's crews knew nothing of the OPLAN 34-A raids.

The crew of the destroyers went to full battle stations and for two hours Navy guns roared. When the smoke cleared, no damage or casualties were reported and no gunboats were actually seen. Naval commander Wesley McDonald, whose A-4 jet squadron was circling over the gulf, later reported, "(The destroyer crews) were calling out where they thought the torpedo boats were, but I could never find the damn torpedo boats."

Yet on the basis of this "phantom" attack, Johnson called together congressionally elected leaders and asked for the power to respond militarily. He told them, "We want them [the North Vietnamese] to know we are not going to take it lying down" and that "some of our boys are floating around in the water."

Stampeded in those tense Cold War days, the House voted 416 to 0 to allow Johnson, as Commander in Chief, "to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed forces, to repel any invasion or any imminent threat of armed attack against any member or protocol state of the [CFR-inspired SEATO] Collective Defense Treaty requiring assistance in defense of its freedom."

The Joint Resolution to Promote the Maintenance of International Peace and Security in Southeast Asia, better known as the "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution," passed 88 to 2 in the Senate. One of the dissenters, Alaskan senator Ernest Gruening warned that the resolution was nothing more than "a predated declaration of war." The other, Oregon's senator Wayne Morse warned, "I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is about to make such a historic mistake."

The resolution nearly bypassed the constitutional requirement that only Congress has the power to declare war. In late January 1965 it was McNamara and National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy who told President Johnson it was time to end fifteen years of limited U.S. involve-
ment Vietnam. They said it was time for either direct military interven-
tion or a negotiated settlement of the conflict. "Well and I said to the first
counsel, Mana" laine, recently, Johnson signed order one month later a bomb-
ning campaign against North Vietnam code named "Rolling Thunder," began. By July, Johnson had ordered in 500,000 combat troops and the
Vietnam War was begun to another.

Adding strength to the military buildup, U.S. ambassador to Saigon,
CR member Henry Cabot Lodge, was replaced by CFR member and
former chairman of the joint Chiefs, General Maxwell Taylor.

From the perspective of 1999, editors of U.S. News & World Report
were correct when they noted in the following passage: "The seeds were sown for today’s running conflict between President Reagan and Congress over the use of U.S. military
power—both Central America to Lebanon and the Persian Gulf." By
1999, with President Clinton under impeachment for sexual misconduct, no one in Congress seemed concerned that he was continuing the
unconstitutional tradition by attacking Iraq and Kosovo on behalf of the
United Nations.

A look at members of the Council on Foreign Relations—those creation
of Rockefeller-Morgans who connected back to the Rhodes-Milner secret
society—appears to be the who’s who of the Vietnam War era:
McNamara, Cyrus Vance, Walt Rostow, William and McGeorge Bundy,
Dean Acheson, Dean Rusk, and Averell Harriman. U.S. ambassadors to
to Saigon during the war—Henry Cabot Lodge, Maxwell Taylor, and
Ellsworth Bunker—all were CFR members and played prominent roles in
U.S. policy. "In fact, many of the most important advocates of U.S.
involvement in Vietnam, both within and outside the government, were
members of the Board of Directors of the CRC," wrote another Donald
Gibson. This would include Allen Dulles, David Rockefeller, John J.
McCloy, and Henry M. Wriston. "By the early 1960s, U.S. strategy for
Vietnam, both within and outside the government, was developed by
members of the Council on Foreign Relations." According to CFR researcher James Peckel, Wall Street Journal, who becomes President Johnson’s national security adviser in 1966, was not only
a CFR member but had been rejected three times for employment
in the Eisenhower administration for failing security checks. In his 1960 book, The United States in the World Arena, Rostow revealed his CFR globalist outlook by calling for an international police force. “It is a legitimate American national objective to see removed from all nations—including the United States—the right to use substantial military force to pursue their own interests. Since this residual right is in the root of national sovereignty ... it is, therefore, an American interest to see an effort undertaken as has been historically defined” for it to be removed.

CFR member McNamara added to America’s secret intelligence apparatus on August 1, 1961, by creating the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), an expansion of the U.S. intelligence apparatus in Vietnam by recommending the addition of 16,000 troops. Opposition came from Undersecretary of State George Ball who strongly opposed the idea, saying that such a move would result in the deployment of at least 100,000 American troops within two years. Kennedy acceded to McNamara’s wishes.

Later it was McNamara, serving as Secretary of Defense until 1968, who continually cut back on U.S. military capability and formulated the policies (including strategic air strikes in North Vietnam) in 1970, after the Vietnam War ended with a communist victory in 1975. McNamara became president of the World Bank (a for-profit agency of the United Nations and CFR pet project) and coordinated a $60 million loan for the victors.

William Bundy (The Order, 1939), who joined the CIA in 1951, became a director of the CFR in 1964, the same year he was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. A major planning force behind U.S. Vietnam policy, Bundy drafted the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, according to the Pentagon Papers. It was Bundy who was involved in OPLAN 34-A, the aggressive CIA-run incursions of U.S. gunboats against the North Vietnam coast (possibly in violation of international law) which provoked retaliation on the U.S. Sixth Fleet resulting in the Gulf of Tonkin incident. Bundy went on to become editor of the CFR publication Foreign Affairs.

Bundy’s brother, CFR member McGeorge Bundy (The Order, 1940), reportedly was one of the instigators of the Report from Iron Mountain and Special Assistant for National Security Affairs to both Kennedy and Johnson, a post which could be used to screen information to his benefit.
Bundy joined the U.S. Army as a private at the start of World War II and suddenly was helping to plan the invasions of Sicily and Normandy. He went on to become Assistant to the Secretary of War at age twenty-seven. He later served as president of the Ford Foundation from 1966 to 1979.

"By acting jointly, the Bundy brothers could have controlled absolutely the flow of information relating to Vietnam from Intelligence, State and Department of Defense," postulated author Anthony C. Sutton.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, another named as an instigator of the Report from Iron Mountain, had been deputy chief of staff with the Allied Command in Asia during World War II. A Rhodes Scholar, Rusk guided the policies of both Kennedy and his close friend Lyndon Johnson, who told his biographer Doris Kearns that "his [Johnson's] advisory system around Rusk." CFR members Dean Acheson and Robert Lovett had "enthusiastically" recommended Rusk to President Kennedy.

As documented by authors Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas, President Lyndon Johnson met with a select group of fourteen advisers on almost a daily basis. Twelve of these advisers were CFR members, all were bankers or lawyers, and all committed increased commitment in Vietnam. His key advisors were Truman's Defense Secretary Robert Lovett, McCloy, Harriman, Acheson, State Department adviser Charles Bohlen, and James E. Acheson, ambassador to Russia George Kennan—all CFR. Johnson called these close friends his "Wise Men." By 1968 those same advisors suddenly turned against the war.

Johnson was so shocked and disheartened by this betrayal by the foreign policy establishment that he went on television to announce that he would not run for reelection. When asked why Johnson's advisors had such a change of heart, General Maxwell Taylor could only respond "My friends in foreign relations know we are living in the shadow of The New York Times." In afterwords, these men held themselves from their self-delusions and dispaired that their country was tearing itself apart over Vietnam. Even then, they continued another seven years.

With newly installed president Richard Nixon taking the war effort, CFR member and Trilateralist Henry Kissinger stepped in as National Security Advisor in early 1969. By the end of the year Kissinger was controlling U.S. policy in Vietnam. Some later Kissinger was placed from for that reason. Nixon's Defense Secretary Melvin Laird admitted, "I would
say that in the conceptual view of the world, President Nixon was influ-
enced to a great degree by Kissinger, although he had not been a friend of
his and did not know him before December of 1968."

In 1970 Kissinger closeted himself with staffer Winston Lord. Accord-
ning to Lord he was "trained in short and subtle talks with his closest aides
since policy decisions, so that the popular image of Kissinger as a man
who doesn't like to hear dissent [was shown to be] not true." Lord and
other staffers must have approved of Kissinger’s plan to widen the war,
since fighting soon spread into Cambodia.

Despite this expansion, the war grew static and began sliding down.
Kissinger, considered America’s leading diplomat even into the
1990s, prompted Eugene McCarthy to comment, "Henry Kissinger got
the Nobel [Peace] Prize for watching the end of a war he’s advocated—
and he’s partly right diplomatically."

In 1971 Louisiana Congressman John R. Rarick was blunt in
denouncing the CFR as the instigators of Vietnam. In a circular, Rarick
wrote, "The My Lai massacre, the sentencing of Lt. [William] Calley to
life imprisonment, ‘The Selling of the Pentagon’ and the so-called Pen-
tagon Papers are leading examples of attempts to shift all of the blame
to the military in the eyes of the people.

But no one identifies the Council on Foreign Relations—the CFR—
as the culprits and policy makers in the Vietnamese War.

CBS tells the people it wants them to know what is going on and who
is to blame. Why doesn’t CBS tell the American people about the CFR and
the people whose names are those of the leading members of the CFR:
the planners and the civilian leaders of a society which is headed by
an intellectual inner circle which has had little to do with the actual
policy and operations and who are forbidden by law to tell the American people
the truth. Who will tell the people the truth if those who control ‘the right to
know machinery’ also control the government?"

Since CFR members realized the economic necessity of war but agreed
that nuclear war was unthinkable, it was decided that future conflicts
would have to be limited in scope. "We must be prepared to fight limited
actions ourselves," wrote one contributor in the CFR’s Foreign Affairs in
1957. "Otherwise we shall have made no advance beyond Monroe’s

The national 'rules of engagement', which tied our hands in conflicts involving less than our survival, and we must be prepared to lose limited actions.

How easy it is to lose conflicts when the military is hamstrung. In 1985, the Congressional Record published the newly declassified 'rules of engagement' by which the U.S. military fought in Vietnam. These rules filled twenty-five pages and included restrictions such as repeated refusals to allow Air Force bombing of the most strategic targets as determined by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a general order for U.S. troops not to fire on the North Vietnamese if they were not fired upon first, vehicles more than two hundred yards off the Ho Chi Minh Trail could not be bombed, North Vietnamese fighter planes could not be attacked unless they were in the air and openly hostile, SAM sites under construction were off limits, and enemy forces could not be pursued if they crossed into Laos or Cambodia.

The United States publicly assured North Vietnam it would not bomb certain areas, which allowed their antiaircraft batteries to concentrate in areas that could be bombed, greatly increasing U.S. casualties.

In addition to such restrictions, which were totally incomprehensible to trained military officers, vital materials and supplies were allowed to move unhindered through the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong, some 80 percent coming from America's ostensible enemies—Russia and China.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

At the height of the war, trade with the communist nations supplying North Vietnam was actually increased—another goal of the CFR.

As far back as 1961, Trilateral Commission founder Zbigniew Brzezinski had written in Foreign Affairs that the United States should provide economic aid to Eastern Europe. David Rockefeller signaled his approval of such trade by making a trip to Moscow in mid-1964. Rockefeller, president of Chase Manhattan Bank, briefed President Johnson before his two-hour meeting with Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev of Russia. Rockefeller told Johnson that during the two-hour talk, the Red leader said the United States and the Soviet Union should 'do more trade.' Khrushchev, according to Rockefeller, said he would like to see the United States extend long-term credits [to]
the Russians," reported the Chicago Tribune on September 12. The Rockefellers had a long history of trade with Russia, dating back to the 1920s when Chase Bank helped create the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce.

On October 13, 1966 the New York Times reported, "The United States put into effect today one of President Johnson's proposals for stimulating East-West trade by removing restrictions on the export of more than 400 commodities to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe." On October 27, less than a month later, the Times reported, "The Soviet Union and its allies agreed at the conference of their leaders in Moscow last week to give North Vietnam assistance in material and money amounting to about $1 billion in aid." In 1967 the Rockefellers joined with Cyrus Eaton, called "the communists' best capitalist friend" by Parade magazine, in financing aluminum and rubber plants in the Soviet Union. Young Eaton had been dissuaded from becoming a preacher by John D. Rockefeller and instead became the founder of Republic Steel Corporation. In the 1970s it was American technology and financing, primarily through the Rockefeller Chase Manhattan Bank, which resulted in construction of the $5 billion Kama River Factory. The factory produced heavy trucks, many of which were converted to military use.

Signing the accord which authorized U.S. funding for the Kama River Factory was George Pratt Shultz, who later replaced CFR member Alexander Haig as President Reagan's secretary of state. Shultz was a CFR director and a cousin of Mrs. Harold Pratt, who donated the Pratt House to the council as a headquarters.

So United States troops were fighting North Vietnam while United States goods and financing went to Russia and Eastern Europe, which provided funds and materials to North Vietnam. It is not understandable why college students, many of whom were real patriots of the majority of whom had never set foot in the U.S.S.R., began to demonstrate against the war.

Given the pattern movement may one find the hand of the same society. In 1968 James Simon Kunen, author of an autobiography of his student activist days entitled The Shareholders' Boy: Notes of a College Revolutionary, wrote, "At the war, the decisions for a democratic society-sponsored First International Student's convention, even from Business International Roundtable—this movement sponsored by Business Interna-
tional for their client groups and heads of government—tried to buy up a few radicals. These men are the world's leading industrialists and they convene to decide how our lives are going to go. These are the guys who wrote the Alliance for Progress [a 1961 Kennedy program designed to generate about $20 billion in loans to 22 Latin American nations for economic and social reform which passed in 1961].

They're the left wing of the ruling class... They offered to finance our demonstrations in Chicago. We were also offered Esso—Rockefeller—money. They want us to make a lot of radical commotion so they can look more in the center as they move to the left."

Koonce caught the penal spirit of the youthful antiwar protestor in an opening to his book when he wrote, "Isn't it singular that no one ever goes to jail for waging war, let alone advocating those that the jails are full of (the jails are full of those who want peace). Not to kill is to be a criminal. They put you right into jail if all you do is ask them to leave you alone. It strikes me as quite singular."

For those Americans who lived through it—whether against the war or not—the costs of the Vietnam War should remain fresh in their consciences: Nearly 50,000 dead GIs, more than 300,000 physical casualties (many more with mental and emotional problems), and President Johnson's hopes for a "Great Society" dashed by a divided, hostile public saddled with a faltering economy. The cost to Vietnam was much worse—250,000 South Vietnamese dead and 600,000 wounded compared to the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong who suffered 900,000 killed and 2 million wounded. An additional hundreds of thousands of civilians in both North and South were killed, mostly in the U.S. bombing campaigns, and the countryside was decimated by bombs, artillery, land mines, and chemical defoliants. Total financial cost of the war has been estimated at more than $200 billion.

After all this, the United States pulled out. It is inconceivable today that anyone can view the U.S. experience in Vietnam as anything but a total defeat—a defeat incomprehensible to the brave men and women who fought there and to most Americans.

"The Vietnam War is a mystery only if seen through the accumulated myths surrounding it—which form a clouded view of reality—of the anti-war movement," explained author Perloff. "Vietnam, however, as an example of deliberate mismanagement, it comes to signify, for its outcome fulfilled precisely the pact traditional to the CFR."
KOREA

Nowhere has the secret society manipulation of both sides of a conflict been more evident than in Korea in the early 1950s. As in the Persian Gulf and Vietnam, official semantics termed this conflict, which cost almost 34,000 American lives, a mere “police action,” and not a war. Much documentation exists to show that the Korean conflict was the result of careful planning by men whose control extended to both the United States and the Soviet Union.

This conflict began with the founding of the United Nations at the end of World War II. The name “United Nations” had been imprinted in the mind of the American public during the war when it referred to the countries allied against Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The UN organization was merely an outgrowth of the old League of Nations, that failed attempt at bringing world governments together by Woodrow Wilson and members of the Milner-Rhodes secret societies. The concept was resurrected during the distraction of the world war when representatives from the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and Chong-Ki-yate’s China met at the Dumbarton Oaks estate near Washington, DC, from August 21 to October 7, 1944.

A primary mover of this and subsequent actions to establish a United Nations was John Foster Dulles, who had helped found the Council on Foreign Relations. A participant in the 1917 Versailles Peace Conference, Dulles also created the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization which provided the legal rationale for the war in Vietnam.

Further details of United Nations operations were worked out during the pivotal Yalta Conference in February 1945. It was secret protocols at Yalta that agreed to partition Korea along the Thirty-eighth Parallel and allowed the Soviet Union and China control over the North.

Such action had been contemplated a year earlier. An April 1944 article in Foreign Affairs called for “a trusteeship for Korea . . . assumed not by a particular country but by a group of Powers, say, the United States, Great Britain, China and Russia.” The CFR leadership realized that the American public might not agree to war should such a “trusteeship” be challenged and began to develop a rationale for intervention.

An internal 1944 CFR memo stated that the “sovereignty fetish” and the “difficulty . . . arising from the Constitutional provision that only Congress may declare war” might be countered with “the contention that a treaty would override this barrier [and] . . . our participation would thereby neutralize the barrier” and “we participate.”
tion in such police action as might be recommended by [an] international security organization need not necessarily be construed as war."

"It is not unreasonable to say that there never would have been a Communist regime in North Korea, nor would there ever have been a Korean War, had American negotiations [led by CFR members] and lend-lease shipments not brought the USSR into the Pacific theater," commented Perloff.

Formal construction of the UN began two months after Yalta at the United Nations Conference on International Organization held in San Francisco. A charter was signed in June and went into effect October 24, 1945, little more than two months after World War II ended. The United Nations was created "essentially by the Council on Foreign Relations," wrote Ralph Epperson. "There were 51 members of the American delegation to the UN conference in San Francisco."

Their "senior adviser" was John Foster Dulles. "Emboldened by his fantastic achievements, Dulles turned his appointment as secretary of state by President Eisenhower, in January, 1953, as a mandate to originate foreign policy," stated The New Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Considering Dulles and the other CFR members behind the creation of the UN, it is no surprise to find that organization today supervising the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (commonly called the World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The UN also oversees a number of social agencies including the International Labor Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In 1947, following a breakdown in negotiations over reunification, the matter of Korea was turned over to the United Nations. By 1950 the U.S. had more than 34,000 troops in Korea. Over 300,000 South Korean soldiers were under arms to face a North Korean communist army of more than 150,000 armed with up-to-date Russian tanks, planes, and artillery. When General Albert C. Wedemeyer, sent by President Truman to evaluate the situation, reported that the communists represented a direct threat to the South, he was ignored and his report kept from the public.

In January, 1950 North Korean premier Kim Il-sung proclaimed a
“year of unification” and began massing troops along the Thirty-eighth Parallel. As in the story Persian Gulf war, the CFR-filled U.S. State Department did nothing. Truman’s secretary of state, CFR member Dean Acheson, stated publicly that Korea was outside the influence perimeter of the United States. “This gave a clear signal to Kim, who invaded the South that he was under Soviet auspices,” wrote Perloff.

American leaders professed surprise and anger over the June 25 North Korean assault and called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, then composed of the U.S., Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and Nationalist China.

This council, with the Soviet Union absent and China represented only by renegade Chiang Kai-shek, voted for UN intervention in Korea. It has been noted by conspiracy authors that this vote could have been prevented by a Soviet veto. But strangely, Soviet delegates had staged a walkout to protest that Communist China had not been recognized by the UN. Soon after this vote for UN-backed conflict, the Soviet delegates returned, even though the People’s Republic of China still had not been recognized.

On June 27, with UN sanction, President Truman ordered American troops to assist the UN “police action” of defending South Korea. Through July and August, the outnumbered and outgunned South Korean Army, along with the four ill-equipped American divisions sent by Truman, was pushed down to the tip of the Korean peninsula. The situation looked bad until mid-September when General Douglas MacArthur launched a brilliant and daring attack on Inchon Harbor, located midway up the peninsula, that broke the North Korean battle line and cut their supply routes.

Badly shattered, the North Koreans pulled back with the UN troops—90 percent of which were Americans—close behind. As the fight crossed the Thirty-eighth Parallel, Chinese “volunteers” moved north in mass and continued to pour in north of the Yalu. MacArthur warned the State Department that Chinese troops were massing north of the Yalu, but his warning was unheeded. On November 25, nearly 200,000 Chinese “volunteers” crossed the Yalu and smashed into the unprepared UN troops. Another 500,000 followed in December.

Again the Americans and their allies were pushed back but managed to regroup and later counterattacked back to the Thirty-eighth Parallel.
The war settled into a series of actions back and forth across the contested parallel.

As in Vietnam, the U.S. military was hamstrung with policy decisions which prevented them from fully prosecuting the Korean conflict. But unlike in Vietnam, a military leader of considerable standing balked at these restrictions and appealed directly to the American public for support. General MacArthur, the hero of World War II, ordered the Air Force to bomb the Yalu River bridges, which would have cut China’s supply and communication lines. He appealed to sympathetic congressmen to support his military actions and to allow the Nationalist Chinese on Taiwan to launch a second front against China to relieve pressure on Korea.

The official response to MacArthur was swift in coming. MacArthur’s bombing orders were cancelled by General George Marshall (father of the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II and a CFR member who had been called out of retirement by President Truman to serve as Secretary of Defense). This was the same Marshall who, as Army Chief of Staff, reportedly received advance word of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

MacArthur was ordered not to bomb key Chinese supply bases and to order pilots not to chase fleeing enemy aircraft. Chinese commander General Lin Piao was to say later, “I never would have made the attack and risked my men and my military reputation if I had not been assured that Washington would restrain General MacArthur from taking adequate retaliatory measures against my lines of supply and communica-
tions.”

MacArthur’s appeal to the public resulted in his dismissal by President Truman on April 10, 1951. He was replaced by General Matthew B. Ridgeway, who also became a CFR member.

The MacArthur plan for a diversionary attack by Taiwan was never to be. This plan had been blocked by an order from Truman only two days after the North Koreans attacked. According to government documents, Truman said, “I have ordered the Seventh Fleet to prevent any attack on Formosa [now Taiwan]. As a corollary of this action, I am calling upon the Chinese Government on Formosa to cease all air and sea operations against the mainland. The Seventh Fleet will see that this is done.” General Marshall also rejected an offer by Chiang Kai-shek to send Nationalist Chinese to aid Americans in Korea.
Added to these incomprehensible rules restricting military options, was the amazing fact that Russian commanders were running the conflict on both sides. Under the agreement at Yalta and due to their supplying North Korea with military hardware and technology, Soviet military officers were largely in control of the war. Author Epperson cited a Pentagon press release which identified two Soviet officers as being in charge of movements across the Thirty-eighth Parallel. One, a General Vasilev, actually gave the order to attack on June 25, 1951.

General Vasilev’s chain of command reached from Korea to Moscow through the United Nations Undersecretary General for Political and Security Council Affairs. At the same time, General MacArthur’s chain of command went through President Truman to the UN Undersecretary General for Political and Security Council Affairs, an office held at that time by Russian Communist Zinchenko. This meant that Soviet officers were overseeing the North Korean war strategy while reporting back to a fellow Soviet officer in the same UN office that coordinated the allied war effort.

“In effect, the Communists were directing both sides of the war,” wrote author Griffin. What past conspiracy authors failed to consider was the evidence that Communist Russia was financed and controlled from the beginning by the inner circle of America’s modern secret societies.

This war finally settled into a stalemate which ended with an armistice signed on July 27, 1953, six months after General Dwight Eisenhower had become President of the U.S.

MacArthur, noting that for the first time in its military history, the United States had failed to achieve victory, was keen to state, “We have never before been engaged in mortal combat with a hostile power without military objectives, without policy other than restrictions governing operations, or without futile even formally recognizing a state of war.”

This set a precedent in the United States which continues to haunt us to this day.

But was there again a hidden purpose to this seemingly pointless conflict, one that matched into the upper circles of the secret societies? A 1952 Foreign Affairs article explained, “The meaning of our experience in Korea is this: that we have made historic progress toward the establishment of a viable system of collective security.”

So Korea was another step forward in realizing the CFR goals of one-world government backed by a unified military command, as with the North Atlantic Treaty Organ-
zarion (NATO). CFR member Dean Acheson later admitted, "The only reason I told the President to fight in Korea was to validate NATO." Both NATO and the United Nations resulted from the most momentous event of the twentieth century—World War II—and once again the diligent researcher finds the unmistakable imprint of the secret societies.

RISE OF THE NAZI CULT
As hard to believe as it may be for Americans brought up on wartime propaganda films and publications devoted merely to war technology and battles, World War II was largely the result of infighting between secret occult societies composed of wealthy businessmen that eventually led to international tensions that provoked open warfare.

As in other conflicts, the manipulation and influence of these societies is found in the origins and outcomes of the war, not on the battlefields. Abundant evidence now exists indicating that World War II was brought about by agents and members of secret societies connected to the Illuminati and Freemasonry in both Germany and Britain. It was in this "good war," that the older mystic societies sought freedom from both church and state merged with the modern secret societies concerned primarily with wealth, power, and control.

"Sir Winston Churchill himself . . . was insistent that the occultism of the Nazi Party should not under any circumstances be revealed to the general public," wrote either Trevor Ravenscroft, who claimed to have worked closely with Dr. Walter Johannes Stein, a confidential adviser to Churchill. "The failure of the Nuremberg Trials to identify the nature of the evil at work behind the outer facade of National Socialist creed was due to the reluctance of the prosecution to refer to the initiations and occultic aspects of Nazi philosophy.

This remarkable statement was corroborated by Airey Neave, one of the postwar Nuremberg prosecutors, who said the occult aspect of Nazi activities was ruled inadmissible because the tribunal feared both the psychological and spiritual implications in the Western nations. They also thought that such beliefs, so contrary to public rationalism, might be used to mount an insanity defense for Nazi leaders. History identifies Adolf Hitler as a dominant figure in the war, so it..."
understand the involvement of the secret societies, one must first under-
stand Hitler and the origins of his Nazi Party. Many books, articles,
and even TV specials have been produced documenting the ties
between Hitler's Nazis and occult societies, but few have made it plain
that Hitler was their creation.

To fully understand how and why Hitler was created, a close study
must be made of the secret groups operating around Hitler as well as
their connection to military intelligence services.

Adolf Hitler's Nazis were far more than simply a political move-
ment. They saw themselves leading a quasi-religious movement horn
out of secret organizations whose goals were the same as those found in
the Illuminati and Freemasonry. "They were a cult...[and] so with
any typical cult, its chief enemies were other cults," noted author Peter
Levenda in a well-researched book dealing with Nazis and the occult.

Hitler himself acknowledged this by stating, "Anyone who interprets
National Socialism merely as a political movement knows almost noth-
ing about it. It is more than religion; it is the determination to create a
new man."

This Nazi cult grew from a variety of organizations, theologian and
Isaiah, present in Germany at the end of World War I—al stemming
from the remains of older groups such as the Jesuitica (Jesuitica,
Communards, Freemasons), and the Teutonic Knights.

A prerequisite for grasping this background is understanding The
Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, also known as The Protocols
of the Wise Men of Zion, a list of procedures for world domination.

This document may have wreaked more havoc than almost any other
piece of literature in recent history.

A version of the Protocols first appeared in 1864 in France in a book
titled Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu or the
Politics of Machiavelli in the Nineteenth Century by a Contemporary.

It was written anonymously by a French lawyer named Maurice Joly
and given as a political satire against the Machiavelli-inspired machi-
nations of Napoleon III. Joly reportedly was a friend of Victor Hugo
and both were members of the Order of the Rose-Croix or Rosicru-
cians, a secret society that may have been influenced by occult. Joly's iden-
tity was discovered, and he received a fifteen-month prison sentence for
his impertinence and his book was almost forgotten.

In the spring of 1895, Joly's obscure book went viral and was adopted by
secret societies and occult groups as a cause celebre, and its influence
spread far and wide.
with anti-Semitic material) to order of the Russian Czar, the czar's secret police. It was added to the work of a religious writer named Sergei Nilus and published in coincidence with the founding of the first Zionist movement (seeking a return to Palestine) at the 1897 World Congress of Jewry in Basel, Switzerland. The Protocols were included as an appendix to Nilus's book, partly what The Anti-Christ is Near at Hand.

The objective was to relieve public pressure on the czar by portraying Russian revolutionaries as pawns of an international Jewish conspiracy. The document purported that a clique of Jews and Freemasons would join forces to create a one-world government by means of liberalism and socialism, a conspiratorial theory still alive in some quarters.

The Protocols still chill readers with its prophetic description of the methodology for tyranny: by fear. Its message is grave well with the elitist outlooks of men like Cecil Rhodes and the Rothschilds. "We are the chosen, we are the only true men. Our minds give off the true power of the spirit, the intelligence of the rest of the world is merely instinctive and animal. They can see, but they cannot foresee; then their inventions are merely corporeal. Does it not follow that nature herself has predestined us to dominate the whole world?" stated the Protocols.

"Outwardly, however, in our 'official' utterances, we shall adopt an opposite position, and always do our best to appear honorable and cooperative. Astatesman's words do not have to agree with his acts. If we pursue these principles, the governments and peoples which we have then prepared will take our IOUs for cash. One day they will accept us as benefactors and saviors of the human race. If any State dared to resist us, if its neighbors make common cause with it against us, we will unleash a world war."

The Protocols goes on to explain that the goal of world domination will be accomplished by controlling how the public thinks by controlling what they hear, by creating new conflicts or restoring old orders, by spreading hunger, destitution and plague, by seducing and distracting the youth. "By all these methods we shall so wear down the nations that they will be forced to offer us world domination," they proclaim.

Some of the forty-four Protocols bear a brief summary. If any part of them is to be believed, they provide a clear connection to Freemasonry and to the Ancient Mysteries as well as an amazing road map for world conquest. Because the Protocols were rewritten and attributed to Jews...
before World War I with the intent of inciting anti-Jewish sentiment, their use of the term goyim, a demeaning Jewish word for non-Jews, has been substituted with the term "masses." Pertinent points include:

—The Protocol计划 “will remain invisible until the moment when it has gained such strength that no cunning can any longer undermine it.” (Protocol 1)

—“Wars, so far as possible, should not result in territorial gains.” (Protocol 2)

—“The minds of the masses must be diverted toward industry and trade. Then, all the nations will be swallowed up in the pursuit of gain and . . . will not take note of their common foe.” (Protocol 4)

—“We shall create an intensified centralization of government.” (Protocol 5)

—“We shall put government power in the hands of persons whose past and reputations are such that between them and the people lies an abyss, persons who, in case of disobedience to our instructions, must face criminal charges.” (Protocol 8)

—“We have fooled, bemused and corrupted the youth of the masses by rearing them in principles and theories which are known to be false.” (Protocol 9)

—“We shall destroy among the masses the importance of the family and its educational value.” (Protocol 10)
"What is the part played by the press today? ... It serves selfish ends... It is often vapid, unjust, mendacious and the majority of the public have not the slightest idea what ends the press really serves. We shall saddle and bridle it with a tight curb... Not a single announcement will reach the public without our control..." (Protocol 12)

"The need for daily bread forces the masses to keep silent and be our humble servants... In order that the masses themselves may not guess what they are about, we shall divert them with amusements, games, problem, pastrami, people’s police (no TV at that time). From now on, we shall begin through the press to propose petitions in art, in sport of all kinds..." (Protocol 13)

"It will be unwise for us that these should exist any other religions than ours... We shall therefore stamp out all other forms of belief... "(Protocol 17) "Freedom of conscience has been declared everywhere, so that now only years divide us from the moment of the complete wrecking of that Christian religion, as to other religions we shall have still less difficulty in shaking with them." (Protocol 17)

"When we at last definitely come into our kingdom by the aid of coup d’etats prepared everywhere for one and the same day... we shall make it our task to see that against us such forces as arise shall no longer arise. While this purpose we shall enucleate every soul who takes arms to oppose our coming... Anything like a secret society will also be punishable with death..."

"To our program enunciated at the meeting [will keep the rest under observation from a sense of duty, on the principle of volunteer service in the State. It will be an advantage to be a spy and infiltrate, but only as an agent of the State. It will be desirable to see that the greatest number of the people is not allowed to be informed of our intentions..."

"Sedition-mongering is nothing more than the barking of a dog among an elephant... in order to destroy the prestige of heroism, for political crimes we shall send it for trial in the category of theft, fraud, murder and every kind of abominable and filthy crime. Public opinion will form... instead of with the same contempt..." (Protocol 19) "Vend [abominable] crime once committed we shall not lay..."
Later Protocols dealt with finances. Protocol 20 called for general taxation. "The lawful confiscation of all sums of every kind for the regulation of their circulation in the State." This would be followed, by a "progressive tax on property" and then finally a graduated income tax, a "tax increasing in a percentage ratio to capital," as well as taxes on sales, "receipt of money," inheritance, and property transfers. There was a discussion of "the substitution of interest-bearing paper money" since "economic crises have been produced by it ... by no other means than the withdrawal of money from circulation."

The Protocols also discuss at great length taxes, which it states "being like a sauce of bitterness over the buds of which, with, instead of taking from their subjects by a temporary tax, some begging with unhumbled public in our bankers."

Whoever produced the Protocol clearly understood the secrets of banking. In a passage which could have been titled "The National Debt of the United States," Protocol 20 stated, "A loan is an issue of government bills of exchange containing a percentage obligation [interest] commensurate to the sum of the loaned capital," it proceeded to explain. "If the loan bears a charge of five percent [hefty interest in those more knowledgeable times] then in 30 years the State totally pays away in interest a sum equal to the sum borrowed, in 45 years it is paying a double sum, in 60—triple, and all the while the debt remains an unpaid debt."

The writer also determined that no one would figure out what was happening. "We shall so hedge about our system of accounting that neither ruler nor the most insignificant public servant shall be in a position to detect even the smallest flaw from its constitution without detection or to direct it another direction."

The Protocols also demonstrate a linkage to the Ancient Mysteries, referring to hierophants such as "the head of Bacchus," "saints of the band," and even the "Euphrates Index," as one of the ancient titles.

Niles most likely was obviously quite captivated by the Protocols. Sound- ing eerily similar to today's television evangelists, he wrote in 1905 that he hoped to "put on their guard those who still have ears to hear and eyes to see [and] that events are precipitated in the world at a terrifying speed—plagues, wars, invasions, famines, epidemics, earthquakes—everything..."
which even yesterday was impossible, today is an accomplished fact... somehow grasped and released itself to be forgotten in the immediate need of preparing against the coming of the Antichrist... Despite their dubious origin, the Protocols were taken seriously by many powerful people, including Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II, Russia's Czar Nicholas II, and American industrialist Henry Ford, who used them to help persuade the U.S. Senate not to join President Wilson's League of Nations.

The Schuman's plan worked a bit too well. A counterrevolution took place and pogroms against Russian Jews were instigated by vigilantes called "The Black Guard," incited by the Czarist propaganda. Continuing instability and violence finally resulted in the 1905 Russian Revolution, during which the Protocols again were trotted out by pro-czarist elements to inflame the public.

Hitler saw the Protocols as a real proclamation despite the evidence of fabrication. In Mein Kampf he wrote, "They are supposed to be a 'forgery' the Frankfurter Zeitung moans and cries out to the world once a week; the best proof that they are genuine after all... But the best criticism applied to them is reality. He who examines the historical development of the past hundred years, from the point of view of this book [the Protocols], will immediately understand the claims of the Jewish press. For once this book has become the common property of a people, the Jewish danger is bound to be considered as real..."

Author Konrad Heiden, an anti-Nazi contemporary of Hitler, while denying the authenticity of the Protocols, also saw a certain reality-there. "Today the forgery is incontrovertibly proved, yet something infinitely significant has remained: a textbook of world domination... The great principle of inequality fights to preserve its rule; the ruling class philosophy of a natural hierarchy of innate differences between men. Once this principle is expressed in the form of historical events, it also soon assumes the aspect of conspiracy... The spirit of the Protocols, therefore, contains historical truth, though all the facts put forward are of a very different origin..."

It is the possibility of "historical truth" which has kept the Protocols in circulation since its inception. Today, modern conspiracy writers see it as a real program predating Nazism or Communism. Some claim the Frenchman Joly simply incorporated in his book concepts he picked up as a secret society member. Author David Icke saw a "remarkable
resemblance" between the Protocols and confiscated secret documents of the mysterious Bavarian Illuminati of the late eighteenth century. "I call them the Illuminati Protocols," wrote Icke, with some justification considering the numerous Masonic references in them.

The authors of Holy Blood, Holy Grail had an even more intriguing take on the Protocols. They noted that the original Nilus edition contained references to a king as well as a "Masonic kingdom," concepts clearly not of Jewish origin. Furthermore, it concluded with the statement, "Signed by the representatives of Sion of the 33rd degree."

These authors argued that Nilus produced a "radically altered text" based on a legitimate original created by "some Masonic organization or Masonically oriented secret society that incorporated the word "Sion" and that it may indeed have been a serious blueprint for infiltrating Freemasonry and gaining global domination. They identified one secret society as a prime suspect—the mysterious Priory of Sion of which more will be said later.

The Protocols may indeed reflect a deeper conspiracy beyond its intended use to encourage anti-Semitism, one hidden within the secret upper ranks of the Illuminati and Freemasonry.

In the summer of 1917 a young Estonian Jew named Alfred Rosenberg was a student in Moscow where he was given a copy of the Protocols by a stranger. Following the Russian Revolution the following year, the anti-Bolshevik Rosenberg fled to Germany where he used the book to gain entry to a secret society in Munich, a move which was to have far-reaching effects for the world.

In late 1918 Rosenberg presented the Protocols to an aging Munich newspaper publisher named Dietrich Eckart. A boozing bon vivant and one of Germany's better known poets at the time, Eckart was enthralled by this plan for world domination and introduced Rosenberg to fellow members of the Thule Gesellschaft or Thule Society, a "literary discussion" group founded by a Baron Rudolf Freiherr von Sebottendorff. The society proved to be more a front for a more secret society, the Germanenorden or German Order. Both were anti-Semitic nationalist organizations laced with beliefs in the supernatural. Eckart claimed to be a "Christian mystic" who, according to an article written by Rosenberg after Eckart's death, was knowledgeable of the ancient Indian lore of Cosmic Consciousness (Atman) and the idea that reality is actually an illusion (Maya).
Sebottendorff, Eckart, and others within the Thule Society were greatly influenced by the beliefs of the most prominent twentieth-century occult group—the Theosophical Society.

THEOSOPHISTS, THULISTS, AND OTHER CULTISTS

The term Thespis is derived from the Greek words "theos" (god) and "sophia" (wisdom) and has been interpreted as meaning "the divine wisdom." Thespisism comes into being in 1925 when a Russian-born apostate named Helen Petreine Blavatsky founded the Theosophical Society in New York City. Blavatsky had emigrated to America in 1877 after many years of travel and research in Europe and the Middle East.

Between 1877 and 1880 Blavatsky published occult material including her two most famous books, her Unveiled and The Secret Doctrine. Both were intended to present a quasi-scientific understanding for religion. Both were intended to present a quasi-scientific understanding for religion. Blavatsky's society spread throughout the East and into Europe and America; bringing significant "tension to Eastern philosophy. This promotion of Buddhism and Hinduism greatly affected several religious-oriented movements, including "I Am," the Liberal Catholic church, Rosicrucians, the Unity church and, more recently, various "New Age" groups.

According to author Nesta Webster, it was evident that Blavatsky also drew heavily from the Hebrew Cabala and Talmud, cementing the connection with the Ancient Mysteries.

Writing in 1924, Webster warned, "The Theosophical Society is not a study group, but essentially a propagandist society which aims at substituting for the pure and simple teaching of Christianity the amazing compounded of Eastern superstition, Cabalism, and 18th century charlatanism..."

Blavatsky's society taught the belief in one creator, that there was an underlying unity in the universe including all humans, that social mores..."
ings are found in all religions, and, most controversial, that “Great Masts” or “Adepts,” sometimes called the “Great White Brotherhood,” are secretly directing the evolution of humankind.

Blavatsky, in forming the German branch of the Theosophical Society in 1884, brought her belief in channeling, reincarnation, racial superiority, and extraterrestrial visitation to people who later would form the ideological basis of Nazism.

German occultists like Lanz von Liebenfels, Guido von List and Rudolf von Sebottendorff borrowed heavily from Blavatsky. They sought to show that the ancient Germans had been keepers of a secret science—which had originated in Eden/Atlantis,” wrote author William Henry.

“The rationale behind many later Nazi projects can be traced back to ideas first popularized by Blavatsky,” agreed Levenda, who detailed connections with other European secret organizations. “We have the Theosophical Society, the OTO [Ordo Templi Orientis or Oriental Templars], [Rudolf Steiner’s] Anthroposophical Society and [the Order of] the Golden Dawn all intertwined in incestuous embrace.”

Following World War I, the occult societies began to merge with political activism, particularly in southern Germany.

Munich was flooded with anticommunist Russian refugees and Dietrich Eckart was delighted to find in the Protocols what he saw as the final proof of the long-theorized Jewish-Masonic-Bolshevik world conspiracy. The book’s ideas spread throughout Germany and Europe and even to America. “The story of the circulation of The Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion would seem to indicate the existence of an international network of secret connections and cooperating forces,” wrote Schlesinger. He described how the book was first published in Germany, where a disaffected and impoverished population was asking why they had been defeated in the war. With anti-Jewish, anti-Semitic, or even anti-Semitic, the idea of the conspiracy fell to the Eastern European Jews. The circulation of the Protocols fueled long-standing anti-Semitism and further fueled anti-Semitism.

Political factions fought throughout the nation, with the newly arrived communist philosophy gaining great broads in a disillusioned public unaccustomed to self-rule.
To counter this communist threat and the spreading chaos, more than two dozen right-wing nationalist organizations sprang up in Munich alone. Among them was the Thule Society, named after the mythical German homeland of icebound Ultima Thule. The logo of the society was a swastika superimposed over a sword.

Thule, in the minds of German occultists, was a Teutonic Atlantis, a mystical prehistoric island in northern climes believed to be the home of a long-suspected civilization of extraterrestrials who lost awareness of their origins by interbreeding with humans. Eckart, Sebottendorff, and their followers believed that the advanced science of Thule had survived through the centuries, handed down by select initiates into this secret and esoteric wisdom. Thulists were continually seeking this wisdom through rituals designed to contact superior beings.

"The inner core within the Thule Group were all Satanists who practiced Black Magic," wrote Trevor Ravenscroft. "That is to say, they were solely concerned with raising their consciousness by means of rituals to an awareness of evil and non-human intelligences in the Universe and with achieving a means of communication with the intelligences. And the Master Adept of this circle was Dietrich Eckart."

It is well known that in Munich during those turbulent postwar years, there were several hundred unsolved "political" murders and kidnappings. "And it was from among these missing persons, most of whom were either Jews or Communists, that we must look to find the 'sacrificial victims' who were murdered in the rites of 'Astrological Magic' carried out by Dietrich Eckart and the innermost circle of the Thule Gesellschaft," charged Ravenscroft, who claimed it was a "well-known fact" that the Thulists were a "Society of Assassins."

Assassins or not, it is true that on April 7, 1919, when communist revolutionaries held Munich for a short period proclaiming a Bavarian Soviet Republic, the only people they rounded up and executed en masse were Thule Society members. The leader of the revolution was the Thule Society's secretary and Prince von Thurn und Taxis. By May 3 army veterans comprising the Frei Korps (Free Corps), with their swastika festooned with the insignia of the Thule Society, rid Munich of the Bolsheviks. It was the last serious threat to Germany by Communism until after World War II.

The monarchists and industrialists of the Thule knew they had to win the support of the rank-and-file worker to defeat the socialist factor...
To this end they adopted a two-pronged strategy. While Munich's business, military, and intellectual leaders plotted at Thule Society meetings in the Four Seasons Hotel, a second, blue-collar organization was formed—the German Workers Party run by sportswriter Karl Harrer and railroad machinist Anton Drexler. According to Time-Life editors, "The [Thule] society had contacted Drexler because it hoped to foment a workers' revolution but knew nothing about workers."

The party was created in January 1919 by merging Drexler's Committee of Independent Workmen with the Harrer-led Political Workers Circle. The Circle had been founded by the Theosophist Sebottendorff, who was also instrumental in creating the secret Germanenorden. The Germanenorden was an order patterned after the Freemasons, but decisively anti-Masonic and anti-Semitic, with intricate initiations and ceremonies extolling the glories of German mythology and the medieval Teutonic Knights, who were formed through the Knights Templar.

Widely perceived as subversive, Sebottendorff's Germanenorden contrived the Thule Society as a cover organization. "The original conceptions of the modern Thuleites was extremely crude and naive," wrote Raven-Scroft. "The more sophisticated versions of the legend of Thule only gradually developed in the hands of Dietrich Eckart and General Karl Haushofer, and were later refined and extended under the direction of Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler, who terrorized a large section of the German academic world into lending a professional hand at perpetuating the myth of German racial superiority."

According to William Bramley, Haushofer was a member of the "Vril," another secret society based on a book by British Rosicrucian Lord Belworst Litton about the visit of an Aryan "super race" to Earth in the distant past. Haushofer was a mentor to both Hitler and his deputy Rudolf Hess. Himmler was another member of the Vril. Haushofer had traveled extensively in the Far East before becoming a
general in the Kaiser's army. "His early associations with influential Japanese businessmen and statesmen were crucial in forming the Ger-
man-Japanese alliance of World War II," wrote Levenda. "He was also
the first high-ranking Nazi to form important relationships with South
American governments in anticipation of military and political actions
against the United States, relationships that would eventually be
exploited by war criminals—and Nazi cultists—firing the torch of the
計畫的嘗試的。" Standard, as a professor at the University of
Munich, worked out Hitler's policy of Lebensraum, "living space" for a
hemmed-in Germany.

Backed by the violent thugs of Army Captain Ernst Roehm's Brown-
shirts and incited by anti-Jewish and anti-Bechstein diatribes, the fledg-
ing German Workers Party joined the growing opposition to the insta-
ble Weimer government.

Eckart, who carried dual membership in both the fledgling party and
the Nazis, realized the German Workers Party needed a leader.
"We need a follower of the leader who can stand the sound of a machine
gun. The rabble need to get fear into their pants. We can't use an officer
because the people don't respect them anymore. The best would be a
worker who knows how to talk. ... He doesn't need much brains. . . .
He must be a bachelor; then we'll get the women," he told members
during a meeting in 1919.

THE LEADER ARRIVES

Eckart found his leader in the form of an Army intelligence agent sent
to infiltrate the Party—a failed Austrian-born painter named Adolf
Hitler—once described as a "child of Illuminism."

It has been well documented how Hitler shared Eckart's interest in
the supernatural and occult. As a child in Austria, he thrived on heroic
folk tales of the Germanic Teutonic Knights.

As a destitute artist in Vienna before World War I, Hitler haunted
libraries and old bookstores filling his mind with esoteric lore and anti-
Jewish propaganda. An admirer of Hegel and his philosophies, he also
studied ancient history, Eastern religions, Yoga, occultism, Theosophy,
and eschatology. According to Ravenscroft, he even sought enlightenment 19th style.
by ingesting hallucinogenic drugs. "It was in the small back office of
the bookshop in the old quarter of the city that Ernst Pretzsche 
[the shop owner] unveiled for Hitler the secrets hidden behind the astrolog- 
ical and alchemical symbolism of the search for the Grail," he wrote.
"It was here too that the sinister hunchback handed to his monstrous 
pupil the drug which evoked the clairvoyant visions of the Aztecs, the 
emol Peyotl [Peyote] named like a deity."
Ravenscroft, a former British commando officer reported that while 
in Vienna Hitler became obsessed with the so-called "Spear of Des- 
tiny," reportedly the spear of a Roman soldier named Gaius Cassius 
who became known as Longinus. By legend, Longinus used the spear to 
pierce the side of Jesus on the cross, not as punishment, but to merci-
fully shorten his agony. What claims to be the same spear is still exhib-
ted in the Hofburg Museum in Vienna.

It was here, according to Ravenscroft, that young Hitler (earned of the 
legend that whoever possesses the Heilige Lance, or Holy Spear, controls 
the destiny of the world. In his book The Spear of Destiny, Ravenscroft 
weaves a rich tapestry of Germanic history and folklore, tying Hitler and 
the spear to a detailed background of magic, occultism, and secret soci-
eties.

Ravenscroft claimed to have heard direct knowledge of both the spear and Hitler in 
his youth. Dr. Walter Johannes Stein, a Vienna scientist and philoso-
pher who knew Hitler but later fled to England. Stein told how Hitler 
entered a trance while "channeling" a nonhuman entity in proximity to 
the spear, "Hitler's soul life was not mature enough at that moment to 
maintain an awareness of himself and his surroundings when this non-
human entity entered him," Stein explained to Ravenscroft.

This trance-like channeling was noted by an audience member during one of Hitler's speeches: "He just stood and spoke. He caused everyone 
to believe that he was speaking, he cast a spell, a very powerful one, 
which he unmasked. Hitler used this "spiral" ever since, and when he was finished and exhausted, he just sat down once again 
as simple and nice man... It was just as if he switched into another gear 
and there was no in-between."

Hitler himself alluded to metaphysical control. He mentioned to sev-
eral associates that an "inner voice" guided him and once remarked, "I 
follow my course with the precision and security of a sleepwalker."
After during his time in Vienna, Hitler met Jorg Lanz von Liebenfels, 
publisher of Ostara, a magazine with occult and erotic themes. A Cister-
cian monk who founded the anti-Semitic, secret Order of the New Tem-
ple, Liebenfels and his mentor, Guido von List, sought to revive the
medieval brotherhood of Teutonic Knights, which had used the swastika
as an emblem.

List was a respected author on pan-German mysticism until he was
exiled after Nazi disclosures that his secret brotherhood involved sexual perversions and "medieval black magic." It was the
philosophies of Liebenfels and List about the power of pagan occultism and the superiority of the Aryan race, that provided the foun-
dation of the Thule Society. "The names List and Liebenfels even became
synonymous with the Pan-Centrism, occultism movement that eventually
grew into the Nazi Party," reported author Levenda.

Whatever Hitler learned in Vienna changed him drastically. Previ-
ously a devout Catholic choirboy who had considered becoming a
priest, he became openly antireligious and has even been accused of
black magic. Author Epperson outlined these connections, "So
the swastika was a symbol of the Thule Society; it was a symbol of the
Nazi Party; it was somehow connected to a symbol of the Sun-god; and
the Sun-god was a symbol of Lucifer."

Lending support to the accusation of Satan worship, as well as
reflecting Hitler's fascination with the supernatural, is a poem he wrote
in 1915 while serving in the German army on the Western Front. It was
reproduced in Adolf Hitler by John Toland:

I often go on bitter nights
To Wotan's oak in the quiet glade
With dark powers to weave a union—
The runic letter the moon makes with its magic spell
And all who are full of impudence during the day
Are made small by the magic formula!

Hitler's connection with the supernatural became even more personal
while being blinded by mustard gas during a British attack on the night
of October 13-14, 1918.

Sent to a hospital in Polanen, Pomerania, Hitler's eyesight was
improving when he learned of Germany's defeat and the signing of the
armistice from a visiting pastor.

As he languished in pain and despair, Hitler, experienced a supernat-
utal vision. "Like St. Joan, he heard voices summoning him to save Germany," Toland wrote. "All at once 'a miracle came to pass'—the darkness encompassing Hitler evaporated. He could see again! His ordinarily roved, as promised, that he would become a politician and devote his energies to carrying out the command he had received."

Peter Levenda saw Hitler's experience as "a kind of mystical enlightenment, like that experienced by Guido von List many years before during his own Temporary Blindness—or like that of Saul, blinded on the way to Damascus—so, from that point on, Adolf Hitler was changed."

Arriving in Munich after the war, Corporal Hitler was assigned the menial job of guarding prisoners until the communist takeover in the spring of 1919. When the Reichswehr evacuated, Hitler remained behind to spy on the revolutionaries. Later, when the Army and the Freikorps retaken Munich, it was Hitler who calmly walked down the ranks of constitutional captives singling out the ringleaders for execution.

As a reward for this undercover work, Hitler was assigned to the Press and News Bureau of the Political Department of the German army, a thinly disguised army intelligence operation. By the fall of 1919 he was assigned to spy on the various revolutionary groups springing up on the tumultuous Bavarian political scene. Hitler's commander, Captain Karl Mayer recalled that Hitler resembled "a tired stray dog looking for a master... ready to throw in his lot with anyone who would show him kindness" and "totally unconcerned about the German people and their destinies."

Hitler recalled, "One day, I received orders from my headquarters to find out what was behind an apparently political society which, under the name of 'German Workers Party,' intended to hold a meeting... I was to go there and look at the society and report upon it. Arriving at the Sterneckerbrau beer hall, I was not overly impressed. I met there about 20 to 25 people, chiefly from among the lower walks of life," wrote Hitler. The young military agent "astonished" the small gathering by arguing against a proposal that Bavaria break ties with Prussia. To his surprise, a few days later a postcard arrived at his barracks informing Hitler that he had been accepted as a member of the GWP. "I did not know whether to be annoyed or to laugh at it," he wrote. "I had no intention of joining a ready-made party, but wished to found a party of my own." Nevertheless, on orders from his superiors, Hitler rejoined.

One of the early German Workers Party members was Eckart...
referred to as the spiritual founder of National Socialism. Eckart saw Hitler as the malleable leader he had been seeking and was soon introducing the new member to the right social circles in Munich and his intellectual friends in the Thule Society.

Although Eckart’s role in metaphysical practices as well as in the foundation of the Nazi Party has been marginalized by most historians, it is significant that Hitler clearly understood Eckart’s importance. He ended his infamous book Mein Kampf with these words, “And I want also to reckon among [Nazi heroes] that man, who, as one of the best, by words and by thought and finally by deeds, dedicated his life to the awakening of his, of our nation: Dietrich Eckart.”

As Eckart lay dying in 1923, he said, “Follow Hitler! He will dance, but it is I who have called the tune. I have initiated him into the ‘Secret Doctrine,’ opened his centers in vision and given him the means to communicate with the Powers. Do not mourn for me; I shall have influenced history more than any other German.”

The “Secret Doctrine” imparted to Hitler by Eckart and University of Munich Professor Haushofer was an amalgamation of concepts and philosophies largely stemming from the work of Madame Blavatsky and her Theosophical Society.

Blending Eastern mysticism, occultism, and hidden history, the doctrine concerns the effort to understand man’s origins. According to Ravenscroft, “When the Third Eye [believed by many to be the pineal gland between the ears] had been opened to a full vision of the Akashic Record [the mythical hidden record of mankind], the initiate [of the Secret Doctrine] became a living witness of the whole evolution of the world and of humanity. Traveling back through tremendous vistas of time, the very spirit origin of the earth and of man was ascertained to him, and he was able to follow the unfolding destiny of mankind through cross-changing conditions of life and cycles of development.”

The doctrines described by Madame Blavatsky produced by genetic manipulation—“divine-human hybrid beings, sort of God-men” divided into seven races—such as the Rmoahals, Tlavatli, Toltecs, Turanians, Aryans, Akkadians, and Mongols. During this process there were many mutations, resulting in mutations such as the “giants” of biblical and Hindu mythology. These races lived through progressive life cycles during the time of Atlantis.

With the destruction of Atlantis, they were scattered around the world.
and their mental and physical attributes began to degenerate. Their life spans decreased significantly. While their thought processes in the material world sharpened, “these faculties of thought and sense perception were gained at the price of a total loss of all magical powers over nature and over the life forces in the human organism,” wrote Ravenscroft. With this loss of intuitive powers, these early humans were taught by their creators that everything on Earth was directed by invisible “gods” and that they should serve these “gods” unreservedly. “Above all, they were taught to respect and protect the purity of their blood,” he added.

Hitler echoed these concepts in Mein Kampf, writing, “Aryan tribes... subjugate foreign peoples, and... develop the mental and organizational [sic] abilities slumbering in them. Often, in the course of a few millennia or even centuries, they create cultures which... bear the inner features of their character... Finally, however, the conquerors deviate from the purity of their blood which they maintained originally, they begin to mix with the subjugated barbarians and thus they and their own races... On the fall of man in Paradise has always been followed by capitulation.”

At this point, it is not necessary to decide whether or not to take any of this seriously. It is enough to understand that many educated and thoughtful people at that time did take such concepts seriously. And, as in the case of Hitler, these ideas caused serious repercussions for millions.

It is interesting to note that the term “Aryan” (a Sanskrit word meaning noble) until the time of Hitler usually referred merely to people using Indo-European languages rather than any race. However, in both scholarly and occult studies the term is also connected to an Indo-European-speaking people traceable to prehistoric times. These people were of unknown origins, but due to common language characteristics many scholars believe they came from northern Europe. One branch of these Aryans are located in present-day Iraq and is connected to ancient stories of gods who came from the sky.

A second branch entered India and intermingled with the existing population. They are mentioned in the Hindu Vedas, also in connection with gods who flew in flying machines called vimanas. It all begins to sound eerily similar to the Theosophist belief in extraterrestrial visitors.

Supported both by funds from Captain Mayr’s army intelligence unit and the dedicated anticommunists of the Thule through Eckart, Hitler quickly gained control of the German Workers Party, which soon became...
three thousand members. Lezenda reported that Miey was reporting to wealthy industrialists and military officers operating out of the Four Seasons Hotel, indicating a connection between Army Intelligence and the Thule Society.

In April 1920 Hirler changed the party's name to the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, the National Socialist German Workers Party; abbreviated to Nazi. Later that year, the party purchased a newspaper, the Volksischer Beobachter (Racial Observer) with secret army funds and placed Eckart in charge. "At the beginning of 1923 the Volksischer Beobachter became a daily," wrote Williams, "Thus a daily newspaper to preach the party's gospel," wrote Williams. From that point on, the Nazi machine rolled inexorably forward.

It is apparent that the Nazis could never have existed without the aid and support of the German Reichswehr and the secret Thule Society. A study of the Twenty-five Points formulated in 1920 by Hitler, Drexler, and Eckart as the basis of the Nazi Party, reveals many which are nearly identical with the stated ideals of Marxism, indicating a common origin. Also addressed are reforms in the areas of international banking and business, particularly denouncing "world finance."

HITLER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Despite his clear intention to nationalize and control the power of international business and finance, Hitler had little trouble getting funds from corporate sponsors who saw National Socialism as a welcome alternative to Communism.

It was, in fact, wealthy businessmen in Western industrial and banking circles who guaranteed Hitler's success. After Hitler lost a popular election to the aging war hero Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg in 1932, thirty-nine business leaders, with familiar names like Krupp, Siemens, Thyssen, and Bosch, signed a petition to Hindenburg urging that Hitler be appointed chancellor of Germany.

This deal bringing Hitler into the government was cut at the home of banker Baron Kurt von Schroeder on January 4, 1933. According to Eustace Mullins, also attending the meeting were John Foster and Allen Dulles of the New York law firm Sullivan and Cromwell, which
represented the Schroeder bank. The next year, when Rosenberg repre-
sented Hitler in England, he met with Schroeder Bank of London man-
aging director T. C. Tiarks, who also was a director of the Bank of
England. Throughout World War II, the Schroeder bank acted as Gener-
cal agents for Germany in both Britain and the United States.

Schroeder, the powerful head of the J. H. Stein & Company banking
house of Cologne, had long provided financial support to the Nazis in
hopes they would counteract the spread of Communism. Hitler had
pledged his word to von Schroeder that “National Socialism would
engage in no foolish economic experiments.” In other words, he would
not attack banking practices except in rhetoric.

With this assurance and with Schroeder’s blessing, Hitler was named
director of Germany by the usually President Hindenburg on January
30, 1933. A week later, the Reichstag (Parliament) building burned in a
fire that was set on the premises. In another few days, Hitler was given
dictatorial power with the passage of an emergency decree called the
Enabling Act, euphemistically titled “The Law to Remove the Distress
of the People and State” and began to assume control of the govern-
ment.

Army and senior officials were becoming alarmed over Hitler’s power,
especially with some three million Sturmabteilung (SA) or Brown Detach-
ment Brownshirts under the command of Hitler’s SA chief Ernst Roehm.
The Army proposed a deal: If the power of the SA was broken, the mili-
tary would pledge loyalty to Hitler. Hitler agreed, and on June 30,1934,
tumped up charges of plotting a revolution against Hitler, and hundreds
of Brownshirts were killed, and the SA quietly faded away.

With the death of the eighty-seven-year-old Hindenburg on August
2, 1934, Hitler merged the offices of president and chancellor and pro-
claimed himself commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the absolute
leader—fuhrer—of all Germany.

With both the government and military now firmly in hand, Hitler
knew it was time to make deals with the international bankers and indus-
trialists. This proved an easy task considering their multinational nature.

In the 1930s many people in both Britain and America viewed Nazi
ideology favorably. In 1934 there was even a failed attempt by Morgan
and Du Pont agents to bring about a fascist dictatorship in the United
States, as detailed in my book Alien Agenda.

Automobile maker Henry Ford became a guiding light to Hitler.
especially in the realm of anti-Semitism. In 1920 Ford had published an anti-Semitic book entitled The International Jew. At Hitler's request, his book Mein Kampf was published in English. Ford was impressed with Hitler's writing and corresponded with him. In 1924, he referred to Ford as "one great man." Ford became an admirer of Hitler, provided funds for the Nazis, and in 1938 became the first American to receive the highest Nazi honor possible for a non-German: the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle.

Like Hitler, Ford's suspicions initially were centered on international financiers. "At first he talked only about 'the big fellows' and said he had nothing against Jews in ordinary walks of life," recalled Edwin Pipp, editor of Ford's anti-Semitic newspaper, the Dearborn Independent. "Later he said, 'They are all pretty much alike.' He said that he believed they were in a conspiracy to bring on war for profits.'

Ford said he learned this in 1915, when he chartered a ship to Europe in an unsuccessful attempt to negotiate an end to the war there. Later, he said that Jewish passengers on board told him that it was international Jewish bankers who arranged wars for profit and that his peace effort would be in vain unless he contacted certain Jews in France and England, undoubtedly referring to the Rothschilds. Hitler too initially kept his verbal attacks confined to international bankers, particularly the Rothschilds. In speeches during the early 1920s, Hitler praised German industrialists such as Alfred Krupp, while condemning "the rapacity of a Rothschild, who financed wars and revolutions and bought the peoples into interest servitude through loans."

Despite these attacks, the emerging Nazi party continued to fast-develop in Britain, even within the Rothschild-dominated Bank of England. The New Year's Day, 1924, the country's largest, was held in London at a meeting between Hjalmar Schacht, the new Reichsbank governor, and Montagu Norman, governor of the Bank of England. Schacht praised the new Reichsbank governor of the Bank of England, Hjalmar Schacht, for his "desperate financial situation." He then proposed to open a German credit bank second to the Reichsbank, but one which would issue notes in pound sterling. Schacht related Norman to provide half the capital for the new bank and declared, "What prospects such a measure would afford for economic collaboration between Great Britain's World Empire and Germany..."
Within 48 hours Norman not only formally approved the loan at
the exceptionally low interest of a flat five percent but convinced a
group of London bankers to accept bills for securing the loan.

William Bramley noted these international banking connections: Max
Warburg, a major German banker, and his brother Paul Warburg, who
had been instrumental in establishing the Federal Reserve System in the
United States, were directors of J. Henry (now Morgan) Warburg or I.G.
Farben, the giant German chemical firm that produced chlorine gas used
in Nazi extermination camps. H. A. Matt of I.G. Farben was a director of
the Warburg Bank of Manhattan, which later became part of the Rocke-
feller Chase Manhattan Bank. Standard Oil of New Jersey had been a co-
operating partner with I.G. Farben prior to the war. One American I.G. Farben
director was C. E. Middel, who was also director of the Federal Reserve
Bank of New York and of Warburg’s National City Bank. The president
of I.G. Farben in Germany, Heinrich Strobl, served on the boards of the
Deutsche Bank and the Bank for International Settlements. In 1929
Schmitz was voted president of the board of National City Bank, now
Chase Manhattan.

Paul Manning, a CBS news correspondent in Europe during World
War II, noted that Schmitz “held as much stock in Standard Oil of
New Jersey as did the Rockefellers.” Schmitz also controlled eleven I.G.
Farben companies in Japan. After the war, twenty-four I.G. Farben exec-
tutives were tried for war crimes at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity,
including the building and maintenance of concentration camps and the
use of slave labor.

I.G. Farben’s American subsidiary, American I.G. Chemical Corpora-
tion, proved an ongoing source of important intelligence to the Nazis
throughout the war as noted by German economic minister Dr. Dietrich
Jung in his book “Antworten, Information which we receive continuously
from [American Corporation] is indispensable for our observations of
American conditions. It is a kind of summary of American economic
activity. This is an important source of information for governmental, econo-
ic and military officials.”

Financing the rearmament of Germany in violation of the Versailles
Treaty proved as profitable as it was dangerous to European nations.
Another American supporter of Hitler was Joseph P. Kennedy, father of
the future president. On May 1, 1940, President Roosevelt was advised by
FBI director J. Edgar Hoover that “Joseph P. Kennedy, the former architec-
sador to England, and then Smith, the Wall Street operator some time in
the past had a meeting with [Nazi Luftwaffe chief Hermann] Goering in
Vichy, France, and that subsequently Kennedy and Smith had donated a con-
siderable amount of money to the German cause. They are both described
as being very anti-British and pro-German."

And support for Hitler continued to grow in Britain. According to
Howard S. Katz, "In the spring of 1934, a select group of city-
financiers gathered around Montagu Norman . . . [head of the Bank
of England]. . . Hitler had disappointed his critics. He regime was no
temporary nightmare, but a system with a good future, and Mr. Nor-
man advised his directors to include Hitler in their plans. There was no
opposition and it was decided that Hitler should get covert help from
London's financial section until Mr. Norman had succeeded in finding
sufficient pressure on the Government to make it abandon its pro-
French policy for a more promising pre-German orientation." Condi-
tions financial aid also came from Sir Montagu Norman. His motives
stemmed from the hope that Hitler, who had made it clear in Mein
Kampf that he intended to subjugate Russia, might regain Deterding's
assets in the Baku, Grozny, and Maikop oil fields.

Why would these powerful businessmen, all with financial links to
the great Rothschild empire, support the overtly anti-Jewish Hitler?
Part of the answer may lie in an astounding assertion that Hitler was a
blood relative to the Rothschilds!

Dr. Walter C. Langer, a psychologist who produced a wartime psy-
choanalysis of Hitler for the American OSS, reported that a secret pre-
war Austrian police report proved Hitler's father was the illegitimate
son of a peasant cook named Maria Anna Schicklgruber, who at the
time she conceived her child was "employed as a servant in the home of
Baron Rothschild" in Vienna. Upon learning of his parentage in 1877,
Hitler's mother, Alois, left Vienna. Fifty years later, she reportedly married an American named Johann
Georg Hiedler. In 1927, Hitler's brother Alois took the name Hiedler and assumed his illegitimate
identity. In 1938, Alois changed his name to Hitler, either by mistake or to confuse authorities.

Alois Hitler led a sad and morose life, chiefly as a government
bureaucrat, and married his own second cousin, Klara Poelzl, in 1885, after obtaining special Episcopal dispensation. Adolf was born in Inns- 

toom, Austria, in 1889, when Alois was fifty-two years old.

This incredible story might be written off as fanciful wartime propa-
ganda except for the fact that the OSS never made this story public, 

indicating the tale may have been considered too sensitive to publicize.

The issue came up in the late 1930s, when Hitler's English nephew, William Patrick Hitler, hinted to newsmen about the German leader's 

Jewish background. Hitler's personal attorney Hans Frank confirmed this 

scandalous information. Not the same Frankenberger was substituted for 

Rothschild. When no record of a Frankenburger could be found in 

Vienna, the matter was quietly dropped by all but Hitler. Historians have 

long noted that the question of possible Jewish ancestry haunted Hitler 

throughout his life.

In case someone might question if a Rothschild would consider dally-

ing with the servants. A novice to the Rothschild biographer Ferguson 

stated that the son of one of Lehman's senior clerks "recalled that by the 

1840's, [the Vienna Rothschild] had developed a somewhat reckless 

enthusiasm for young girls."

The late Philippe Rothschild, a descendent of Nathan, in 1984 pub-

lished memoirs revealing his "scandalous love life." He wrote, "I was a 

tremendous success...leaping from bed to bed like a mountain goat... 

I was always convinced [my father] had won his spurs riding my grand-

mother's chambermaids."

"It is possible that Hitler discovered his Jewish background and his 

relation to the Rothschilds, and aware of their enormous power to make 

or break European governments, reestablished contact with the family," 

wrote author Epperson. "This would partially explain the enormous sup-

port he received from the international banking fraternity, closely 

entwined with the Rothschild family, as he rose to power."

It certainly appears that with all their wealth and power, the Roth-

schills suffered little during Hitler's Holocaust. The New York Times-

day's Dictionary carefully stated, "The Rothschilds, particularly those of
Vienna and Paris during the Nazi period preserved the kind of family unity necessary to weather great misfortunes. According to biographer Derek Wilson, various family members had narrow and traumatic escapes from Europe following German victories in 1940, but the fear was that most would gather in New York City. Far from being the destitute refugees as sometimes portrayed, some Rothschilds played crucial roles in the war effort. In May 1940 it was the French Maurice de Rothschild who arranged a secret meeting in Paris’s Ritz Hotel between French Prime Minister Paul Reynaud, his minister of war Georges Mandel (whose real name was Rothschild though the claim is that there was no relation to the banking family), and Britain’s Prime Minister Churchill, along with Anthony Eden, to determine the future of France. Also present was French General Charles de Gaulle, who within a month had organized the French government in exile in London.

Another family member, Lord Victor Rothschild, provided close security to Churchill during the war. He eventually was named to head Britain’s powerful Central Bankers Policy Review Staff. “Lord Rothschild had access to all manner of leaders and experts,” noted Wilson. “No two responsible only to the Prime Minister and answerable to no one.”

One exception may have been a Robert Rothschild, who during World War II refused to sell his French holdings to Alfried Krupp, grandson of the great German armaments magnate Alfred Krupp. According to The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, the irate Krupp had Rothschild sent to the infamous death camp Auschwitz, where he was gassed. This incident, along with his exploitation of slave labor, landed grandson Krupp in front of the Nuremberg War Crimes judges.

With or without Rothschild influence, there is no question that Hitler’s rise to power rested heavily on the support of the major German banks—Schroeder’s Cologne banking firm, the Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Kredit Gesellschaft, and the huge insurance firm, Allianz. One Deutsche Bank executive outlined a few of the bank’s wartime loans: 150 million Reichsmarks to the aircraft industry; 22 million to Bavarian Motor Works (BMW); 10 million to Daimler-Benz (Mercedes) in 1943 alone. Similar amounts were loaned again in 1945.
HITLER'S FORTUNE TURNS

At the zenith of his power, two important aspects of Hitler's position were reversed. Following the strange flight of his lieutenant Rudolf Hess to England, Hitler officially turned against occultism and the international order turned against him.

One of Hitler's early cronies was Rudolf Hess, who became deputy leader of the Nazi Party. Hess also was deeply involved in metaphysical studies, particularly astrology. He learned much from Professor Haushofer's explanations of the "Secret Doctrine," and was a student of Dr. Rudolf Steiner's school of anthroposophy, the use of man's higher consciousness to contact the spirit world. Hess also was an early member of the Thule Society.

On May 10, 1941, after secret but thorough preparations, Hess flew a specially prepared Messerschmitt 110 to England, where he parachuted out over the estate of the Duke of Hamilton. He apparently hoped to discuss a negotiated peace between Britain and Germany. "Twenty-five years later, in Spandau prison, Hess assured me in all seriousness that the idea had been inspired in him in a dream by supernatural forces," wrote Nazi minister of armaments and war production Albert Speer. "Hess's flight was an under-the-table effort by Hitler to end fighting in the West and prepare for his coming attack on Russia."

Whatever the true purpose, nothing came of the flight. Hess was promptly imprisoned in the Tower of London and Hitler denounced him as a lone nut. According to Speer, Hitler wanted Hess to end the "corrupting influence of Professor Haushofer." General Walter Schellenberg, head of the Nazi Foreign Intelligence Service who believed that British intelligence agents may have encouraged Hess through Haushofer, said Hess astonished him by his belief in "old prophecies and visionary revelations. He would recite whole passages out of books of prophecies, such as Nostradamus and others that I cannot remember, and also referred to old horoscopes concerning the near fate as well as that of his family and of Germany."

Fearful that Hess would reveal plans for his attack on the Soviet Union, Hitler declared Hess insane and vowed to put an end to "these stargazers." Hitler outlawed the public practice of astrology, palm and tea-leaf reading, and seances, as well as any "Freemason-like Organizations" to
include the Theosophical Society, the Oriental Templars, the Order of the Golden Dawn, and Dr. Steiner's Anthroposophical Society. Many histori-
ans point to this crackdown as proof that Hitler disbelieved in such things.
Author Levenda argued that this was simply a case of cult infighting. 

"Occultists in general have no difficulty distancing themselves—with
appropriate invective and astral curses—from other occultists with whom
they disagree on philosophical grounds; and virtually every 'serious
occultist' ... has had nothing but disdain for tea leaf readers, palmists
and cut-rate astrologers. Thus ... [I] find no contradiction at all in
Hitler's fascination with occultism on the one hand and his orders to ban
popular occult practices on the other."

"Duplicity in his approach to occultism was nothing new to Hitler.
"The Fuehrer himself constantly ridiculed the overseas occult groups
on the official platform—while secretly soliciting their advice and conse-
ciling away from the prying eyes of both the press and the superstitious
Christian public," noted Levenda, who also described in detail, based
on captured Nazi documents, several knowledge-gathering expeditions
to Tibet by the Ahnenerbe-SS, which in 1940 became a part of Himmler's
staff.

After annexing Danzig, the Sudetenland, and Austria, Hitler had

"... during which, in March 1939 he was ready to move into Poland,
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tranquility, and as soon as the French and British at a
meeting in Munich. By mid-1939 he was ready to move into Poland,
bolstered, joined Hitler against France and Britain. France fell in a matter of weeks, leaving a desperate Britain to fight on alone. The balance of power had dangerously shifted, and the international bankers must have begun to withhold their support for Hitler.

JAPAN AGAINST THE WALL

On the other side of the world, matters were coming to a head with the Japanese Empire. Like Britain, the island nation was totally dependent on imports for survival and with the economic depression of the late 1930s, the country was in desperate straits. Funded by its own rich history of societies involving knights (samurai) with a strict code of honor (Bushido), Japan sought its own Lebensraum by attacking Manchuria on mainland China in 1931. During the next five years, Japanese forces took ever larger portions of a China weakened by civil war between Chiang Kai-shek’s nationalists and the communists.

With Britain busy fighting Hitler in 1940, it was clear that the United States was the only power capable of stopping Japanese expansion in the Pacific. Animosity between the two nations intensified when Japan was forced to seize further resources in China due to an ever-tightening American embargo which deprived the home island of vital materials.

In September 1940 Japan became partners with Germany and Italy in the Tripartite Pact, which pledged mutual assistance should the United States enter the war. President Franklin D. Roosevelt reacted by halting Japan’s importation of American petroleum, which had provided more than 90 percent of Japan’s needs. On July 2, 1941, Japan entered Indochina, the nearest alternative source of fuel. President Roosevelt retaliated by freezing all Japanese assets in the United States. It was clear at the highest levels that war was inevitable.

This fact was not lost on Roosevelt, who had campaigned for a third term in office in 1940, pledging to keep America out of the European war. However, planning for war was already underway—at least within the secretive Council on Foreign Relations.

Journalist Lucas noted, “In September, 1939, the Council offered to undertake language planning for the hardship State Department. The Department accepted, and its study groups—on Security and Arm—
ments, Economics and Finance, Politics, Territorial and Peace Aims—were established. Over the next six years, financed by the Rockefeller Foundation, they flooded the State Department with 682 memoranda. By 1942 the Council groups were virtually absorbed into the State Department.

The conclusion of this CFR undertaking—known as the War and Peace Studies Project—was made public in 1940 when a group of CFR members placed newspaper ads declaring that “the United States should immediately declare a state of war exists between her country and Germany.”

“CFR members were interested in exploiting the Second World War—as they had the first—as a justification for world government,” asserted Perloff. “The globalists hoped to use the Axis threat to force the U.S. and England into a permanent Atlantic alliance—an intermediate step toward world government.”

But throughout 1940, even after Hitler invaded Russia that summer, the American policy establishment maintained a position of noninterference toward the war. A 1940 Gallup poll showed 83 percent of the public was against intervention. A good pretext was needed to gain support from an intransigent public.

Controversy has raged for years over the question of Roosevelt’s foreknowledge of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. While incontestable proof remains elusive, the accumulation of available information has made general wide acceptance of the idea that the devastating attack was encouraged and tolerated in an effort to galvanize public support for America’s participation in the war.

It cannot be denied that Roosevelt’s Depression era social and economic policies greatly centralised the federal government and initiated social engineering which continues to this day, and he was quite open in his allegiance to England. While proclaiming neutrality, Roosevelt sent war ships and ammunition to Britain as proposed by the Century Group composition of CFR members. He ordered the occupation of Iceland, closing it off to the Germans, and authorized attacks on U-boats. He openly approved loans to Japan’s enemy, nationalist China, and quietly approved the recruitment of well-paid American “volunteers” for Chiang Kai-shek’s famous “Flying Tigers.” Much of this was in violation of international war rules and was guaranteed to provoke the Axis powers.
“Roosevelt was himself a prototypic Wall Streetier,” wrote Perloff. “His family had been involved in New York banking since the eighteenth century. His uncle, Frederic Delano, was on the original Federal Reserve Board.” Roosevelt’s son-in-law, Curtis B. Dall, wrote, “Most of his [Roosevelt’s] thoughts, his political ‘ammunition,’ as it were, were carefully manufactured for him in advance by the CFR-One World Money group.”

Those who accept the idea that Roosevelt and a few other insiders knew that Pearl Harbor was to be attacked point to these suspicious facts:

—During Pacific naval exercises in 1932 and 1938, and with Japanese military attachés closely observing, U.S. Navy officials theoretically destroyed the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor both times.

—Roosevelt ordered the Pacific fleet moved to the exposed position at Pearl Harbor over the vigorous objections of Admiral James O. Richardson, who was replaced by refusing to issue the order.

—Roosevelt, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and other high-level officials knew that war was inevitable and that negotiations with Japan’s Kichisaburo Nomura were hopeless since the broken Japanese code revealed that Nomura was instructed not to yield to Hull’s hard demands.

—They also knew that a large Japanese task force, including six aircraft carriers, had slipped from sight after moving toward America.

—This prompted U.S. Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, a close associate to many CFR members, to send an oddly worded message to Pearl Harbor commanders on November 27, 1941, “Hostile action possible at any moment. If hostilities cannot, repeat CANNOT, be avoided, the United States desires that Japan commit the first overt act. This policy should not, repeat NOT, be construed as restricting you to a course of action that might jeopardize your defense.” Despite this clear warning, with its accompanying suggestion not to attack any attackers, Pacific fleet ships remained at anchor and aircraft were bunched into clusters of “sitting ducks” as “security” against saboteurs.

—During the first week of December, Americans intercepted the Japanese diplomatic “Purple” code ordering their embassy in Washington to destroy all secret papers and prepare to evacuate.
—On December 4 Australian intelligence reported sighting the miss-
ing Japanese task force moving toward Pearl Harbor but Roo-
sevelt dismissed it as a rumor begun by pro-war Republicans.

—A British agent named Dusko Popov learned of Japan's plans from German sources but his warnings to Washington were
ignored.

—According to author John Toland, separate warnings regarding a pending attack on Pearl Harbor, though varying as to a specific
time, came from U.S. ambassador to Japan Joseph C. Grew, Edie
Warren, J. Edgar Hoover, Senator Guy Gillette, Congressmen
Martin Dies, Brigadier General Elliot Roosevelt in Iowa, and Colonel
F. C. M. Waagner, the Dutch military attaché in Washington.

—During investigations after the attack, Herbert Hoover and Navy Secre-
tary Frank Knox both testified they could not recall where
they were the night of December 7. It was later revealed that they
were both in the White House with Roosevelt.

Then there is the issue of the aircraft carriers. In 1941 the American
public, as well as a few hidebound military officers, still believed that
the battleship was the ultimate weapon. But anyone who had been pay-
ing attention knew that General Billy Mitchell had proven in the mid-
1920s that a single bomb-laden airplane could destroy a battlefie-
scape. Mitchell had proved that by instinct, by design, by 
this time, the two-Nimitz strategy was absolute. Victory in any Pacific war would go to the
side with the strongest air power and that meant aircraft carriers.

—Not one aircraft carrier was present when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

—On November 25, 1941, Secretary of War Henry Stimson had a con-
versation with Roosevelt, after which he wrote in his diary, “The ques-
tion was how we should maneuver them into the position of firing the
first shot without too much danger to ourselves. ... It was desirable to
make sure the Japanese be the ones to do this so that there should
remain no doubt in anyone’s mind as to who were the aggressors.”

—The answer to this dilemma came within thirty-six hours. The
most damning evidence of Roosevelt’s foreknowledge of an attack
comes from the 1948 interrogation of Germany’s Gestapo chief Hen-
rich Muller. In a 1995 book by Gregory Douglas based on previously
secret files, Mueller stated that on November 26, 1941, the Germans in Holland had intercepted a private trans-Atlantic telephone conversa-
tion between Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill.
Churchill informed Roosevelt of the movements of the missing
Japanese fleet and stated, "I can assure you that their goal is the (con-
versation broken) fleet in Hawaii, at Pearl Harbor."
"This is monstrous," exclaimed Roosevelt. "Can you tell me ... indi-
cate ... the nature of your intelligence?" "Reliable," answered Churchill,
who mentioned agents within the Japanese military and foreign service as
well as from human sources.
"The obvious implication is that the Japs are going to do a Port Arthur
on us at Pearl Harbor. Do you concur?" asked Roosevelt. Churchill
replied, "I do indeed unless they add an attack on the Panama Canal to
this vile business." Port Arthur, today called Pinyun Lu-shun, was a strate-
gic Russian port on China's Liaodong Peninsula. The Japanese launched
a surprise torpedo attack against the port, which began the 1904-05
Russo-Japanese War.
Roosevelt then said, "I will have to consider the entire
problem.... A Japanese attack on us, which would result in war
atmosphere—and certainly you as well—would certainly fulfill two of
the most important requirements of my policy." Roosevelt spoke
about absorbing himself from the White House on some pretext,
asking, "What I don't know, can't hurt me and I cannot understand
messages at a distance."
Addressing the unlikely proposition that U.S. military officials
would have foreknowledge, Roosevelt joked, "The warning did not come to Roosevelt from below but
on a parallel level and from a foreign intelligence source which was
unfortunately equipped to decode and translate the Japanese transmis-
sions."

WORLD WAR II

Foreknowledge of the December 7 attack gives new meaning to Roo-
sevelt's words concerning, "A date that will live on in infamy." On that
day, the American public was shocked to learn that its forces in Hawaii
had suffered 2,400 dead, 1,282 wounded, four battleships sunk with
another three badly damaged, and many other smaller vessels and hun-
dreds of aircraft destroyed. Roosevelt addressed Congress, asking for a declaration of war. It was quickly granted with only one dissenting vote—Representa-
tive Jeannette Rankin of Montana. The first woman to hold a seat in either house of Congress, Rankin had also been among the forty-nine Congress members who voted against Wilson’s declaration of war in 1917, and in 1968, at age eighty-seven, she led the first women’s march on Capitol Hill to protest the Vietnam War. Widely despised as a “pacifist,” perhaps Rankin under-
stood the hidden machinations behind these wars better than her fellow
veterans.

A special commission was appointed by Roosevelt to determine responsibility for the Pearl Harbor attack. It was headed by his friend Supreme Court Justice Owen Roberts along with two CFR members on the five-person pack. The Roberts Commission blamed dereliction of duty by Pearl Harbor commanders, Admiral Husband Kimmel and Gen-
eral Walter C. Short, for the tragedy and disbanded. Incensed, the two officers sought a court martial to clear their names, which was finally mandated by Congress in 1944. During those proceed-
ings, internal investigations by both the army and navy were shown to have fixed blame for the surprise attack on Marshall and other Washing-
ton chiefs. Kimmel was exonerated and Short was given a light repri-
sand. Like the future Warren Commission, the Roberts Commission had operated on a presumption of guilt and had selectively chosen evidence to fit this bias. Furthermore, investigators concluded that if decoded mes-
sages had been forwarded to Kimmel in Hawaii, they may have provided “the probable exact hour and date of the attack.”

“The court martial findings were buried in a 40-volume government report on Pearl Harbor and few Americans ever learned the truth,” noted Perloff.

With the entire world now ablaze in war and nearly all of Europe under Hitler’s control, the international war financiers finally realized they had produced a Frankenstein monster, a creation out of control. Their loathing of Communism as well as an offensive against the Japanese Empire was placed on a back burner while they mobilized to stop the man who had vowed to eliminate war profiteers, Freemasons, Jews, and international bankers.
BUSINESS AS USUAL

Even after more than two dozen nations formed an alliance to combat Hitler and the Japanese militarists, there were some businessmen—most connected with secret societies—who could not resist the temptation to profit from the world's misery.

A good example was Walter C. Teagle, chairman of Standard Oil of New Jersey, owned by Rockefeller's Chase Bank. Teagle also was a director of American I.G. Chemical Corp., a subsidiary of the giant I.G. Farben conglomerate.

Author Charles Higham described how Teagle, through Rockefeller banking and oil interests, made his employers a handsome profit just prior to the war. "[Teagle] remained in partnership with Farben in the matter of tetraethyl lead, an additive used in aviation gasoline," Higham wrote in his book Trading with the Enemy: An Expose of the Nazi-American money Plot 1933-1945.

"[German Luftwaffe chief Hermann] Goering's air force couldn't fly without it. Only Standard, Du Pont, and General Motors had the rights to it. Teagle helped organize a sale of the precious substance to [Farben chairman] Schmitz, who in 1938 purchased 500 tons from Erhyl, the British Standard subsidiary. Next year, Schroeder and his partners returned to London and obtained 515 million marks. The result was that Hitler's air force was rendered capable of bombing London, the city that had provided the supplies. Also, by supplying Japan with tetraethyl, Teagle helped make it possible for the Japanese to wage World War II."

Curiously, it was the same Walter Teagle who helped create the National Recovery Administration, one of President Roosevelt's New Deal agencies designed to regulate American business. This was an odd choice if the captains of industry were as opposed to Roosevelt's social policies as they claimed. Some researchers see such activity as evidence that secret agendas were taking place behind seemingly innocuous scenes.

As war approached, the business and banking connections tightened. In 1936 the Schroeder and Rockefeller families formed Schroeder Rockefeller and Company which Time magazine described as "the economic association of the Rome-Berlin Axis." Partners in the company were John D. Rockefeller's nephew, Avery; Henry Moore von Schroeder in London, and Kurt von Schroeder in Cologne. Their lawyers were John Foster and Allen
Dulles’ law firm. The younger Dulles along with Edsel Ford served on the firm’s board of directors.

I.G. Farben and Rockefeller’s Standard Oil had become so intertwined that in 1942 Thurman Arnold, head of the U.S. Justice Department’s Anti-Trust Division, produced documents for Senator Harry S. Truman’s defunct congressional inquiring that “Standard and Farben in Germany had literally carved up the world markets, with oil and chemical monopolies established all over the map.”

Even after the United States entered the war, this cozy relationship con
tinued. Through complicated business transactions, the Rockefeller-connec
tioned selling petroleum products in Germany through third-party nations. “While American civilians and the annual services suffered other
from restrictions, more gasoline went to Spain (then transferred to Ger-
many), than in all domestic consumers,” wrote author Higham.

Higham called the international cabal of interconnected businessmen
and bankers “The Fraternity,” linked by “the ideology of Business as Usual. . . . Bound by identical reactionary ideas, the members sought a common future in fascist domination, regardless of which world leader
might further that ambition,” he explained. “Thus, the losers of the
worldmarket are we know them today had a seven-spot on every side of
the dice cube. Whichever side wins the war, the profits that really ran
nations would not negatively affected.

“When it was clear that Germany was losing the war the businessmen
became notably more ‘loyal.’ Then, when war was over, the car
town pushed into Germany, protected their assets, restored Nazi friends to high
offices, helped produce the Cold War, and insured the permanent future of
The Fraternity.”

It has been carefully documented how Standard Oil of New Jersey
shipped fuel to Germany through Switzerland in 1942; how Chase Bank
in occupied Paris conducted business with the full knowledge of its New
York headquarters; how Ford trucks were produced for the German army
with home office approval; how Colonel Sosthenes Behn, the head of
International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. and a director of National
City Bank, worked to improve Nazi telephone communications and pro-
duce fighter planes along with the V-1 buzz bomb.

All this was done legally. Banks to President Roosevelt: Only six days
after Pearl Harbor, on December 13, 1941, Roosevelt ordered: “A gen-
eral license is hereby granted, licensing any transaction or act prescribed
by section 3(a) of the Trading with the Enemy Act, as amended, pro-
vided — that such transactions or acts are authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to the Executive Order No. 8389, as amended.”
This meant any kind of business transaction could be made legal
with the approval of Roosevelt’s Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Mor-
genthau, whose father helped fund the Council on Foreign Relations.
A considerable amount of the funds used to perpetuate the war came
through the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), owned by the Mor-
genthau-affiliated First National Bank of New York, the Bank of England,
German’s Reichsbank, the Bank of Italy, the Bank of France, and other
major central banks. Created in 1930 in Basel, Switzerland, ostensibly to
handle German war reparations, the BIS was actually a creature of secret
society manipulators. According to Quigley, it was part of a plan
“to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to
dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the
world as a whole... to be controlled in a feudal fashion by the central
banks of the several nations, to control the world’s economic movements by secret agreements arrived at infre-
frequent meetings and conferences.”

The BIS soon fell under the control of Hitler associates Kurt von
Schuschnigg, Reichsbank president Hjalmar Horace Greeley Schacht, and
vice president Emil Puhl. According to author Higham, the bank
invariably “commenced to act as a funnel for American and British funds to flow into
Hitler’s coffers and to help Hitler build up his war machine.” The first
president of the BIS was Rockefeller banker Gates W. McGarrah, a for-
mer officer with Chase National Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank as
well as grandfather to future CIA director Richard Helms. According
to several conspiracy writers, the BIS continues to be a hub of drug
money laundering and interconnected banking control.

Many of the complex and intertwined financial dealings during the
war took place in neutral Switzerland, which by 1939 had 2,278 regis-
tered international corporations, 2,026 holding companies whose own-
ers were not Swiss, and was the home of 214 international banks.

The connections between the German and American steel industries
were outlined in 1944 by an SS Obergruppenfuhrer who explained to
German industrialists and government officials that “patents for stain-
less steel belonged to the Chemical Foundation, Inc., New York, and
the United States Steel Company, Carnegie, Illinois, American Steel & Wire, National
The companies under obligation to work with the Krupp concern. Fritz Thyssen, an early Nazi, who had funded Hitler and introduced him to important business circles.

In a 1942 deal involving Karl Lindemann, Standard Oil's Berlin representative; SS counterintelligence chief Schellenberg; banker Kurt von Schroeder; and ITT head Behn, Hitler's government entered into partnership with ITT. Thanks to these interconnected business ties, "milliseconds before, the German army, navy, and air force contracted with ITT for the manufacture of switches, telephones, alarm gongs, buoys, air raid warning devices, radar equipment, and 50 thousand fuses per month for artillery shells used to kill British and American troops," reported Higham. "This too increased to 50 thousand per month by 1944. In addition, ITT supplied ingredients for the rocket bombs that fell on London,otel via switches for the radar facilities, high-frequency radio equipment and detection and field communication sets."

General Motors prior to 1939 invested more than $30 million in German I.G. Farben plants although executives were well aware that one-half percent of the total wage and salary payroll was being donated to the Nazis. Furthermore, Germany's biggest manufacturer of armored fighting vehicles was Opel, a wholly owned General Motors subsidiary controlled by Morgan interests, and the Germany subsidiary of Ford Motor Company. Reuters News Service reported that Nazi armaments chief Albert Speer said that Hitler would never have considered invading Poland without the synthetic fuel technology provided Germany by General Motors. Thanks to the political and social clout of secret society members on both sides of the Atlantic, Higham said, "The Nuremberg Trials successfully buried the truth of the Fraternity connections."

Their "Fraternity" of men tied together by clandestine individual and business intrigues continued after the gunfire ceased. A U.S. Justice Department attorney named James Howard Martin arrived with an investigative team in January after the war and tried to sort out the tangled web of business dealings. He was blocked continually and finally resigned in frustration.

In his 1950 book entitled All Honorable Men, Martin wrote, "We had not been stopped in Germany by German business. We had been stopped in Germany by American business. The forces that stopped us..."
had operated from the United States but had not operated in the open.
We were not stopped by a law of Congress, by an Executive Order of
the President, or even by a change of policy approved by the President.
In fact, whatever it was that stopped us was not the government
that it clearly had command of channels through which the government
normally operates. The relative powerlessness of governments is of
course not new; national governments have stood on the sidelines
while bigger operators arranged the world’s affairs.
None of the information presented here should be construed to mean
that it was necessary to fight the Nazis and Japanese militarists. Obvi-
ously, however, the world situation is revised today. It must be better than
a string of intercontinental concentration camps, filled with jackbooted
SS troopers and Japanese guards.
But it is important to understand the manipulations of the public by
secret societies in order to prevent future occurrences. And it must be
pointed out that the secret society men who propagated and financed the
war continued to profit throughout the lifetime. Exhibiting no alle-
giance to the countries in which they prospered, these men and their com-
panies continued to provide support to the downfall of nations during the
worse periods of their time for the United States and Great Britain.

Lest anyone think that this is all dry ancient history with no connec-
tion to today’s world, consider that in late 1998 there was a multipli-
city of lawsuits still pending against Ford Motor Co., Chase Manhattan
Bank, J. P. Morgan & Co., several Swiss banks, and other firms in con-
nection with their wartime dealings with Nazi Germany.
The German insurance giant Allianz AG, which in 1990 purchased
America’s Fireman’s Fund Insurance Co. in a $3.3 billion deal, was
sued for failing to pay off life insurance policies of Jewish customers.
The firm also was found to have insured buildings and civilian employ-
ees of the infamous death camp Auschwitz against “careless or mali-
cious actions on the part of prisoners.”
In early 1999 German Deutsche Bank officials were concerned that
their admission that the bank loaned the money to build Auschwitz might
jeopardize the bank’s $9.8 billion buyout of New York’s Bankers Trust
Corp. Why the late admission? Dr. Hermann Josef Abs, the central bank’s
founder and a leading figure for Hitler and the Nazis, had continued as
the bank’s honorary chairman until his death in 1998.
The hand of the secret societies with its attendant banking and business manipulation of war can be seen even more clearly in the "wars to end all wars," commonly known as World War I.

Contrary to the high school textbook explanation that the war was caused by the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary by a Serb in 1914, researchers have found that planning for this conflagration began many years before and, once again, involved members of secret societies.

"Since the latter part of the 18th century, the Rothschild Formula [pitting nation against nation while making loans to both] had controlled the political climate of Europe," wrote author Griffin. "An arms race had been in progress for many years... The acceleration of Ferdinand was not the cause but the trigger."

And so today, the Balkan states were locked in a cycle of war, revolution, and ethnic conflict. Following wars during 1912-13, Colonel Dragutin Dimitrijevic, chief of Serbian military intelligence, conspired to assassinate Ferdinand as part of a plan to liberate Serbs in South Austria-Hungary. He operated under the name "Apis" in a secret society known as "The Black Hand."

According to a 1952 Masonic publication, Ferdinand's assassin, the Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princep, and others were Freemasons, encouraged by Apis and incensed by disclosure of a secret treaty between the Vatican and Serbia. The death of Ferdinand caused a chain reaction of ultimatums and mobilizations which ultimately spread war from the Balkans to the whole of Europe.

Prior to this, trustees of the Andrew Carnegie Foundation's Endowment for International Peace met in 1909 to discuss changing life in America. Bonesman Daniel Coit Gilman was a former president of the Carnegie Institution, and fellow members of The Order sat as trustees of this study. According to one congressional researcher, the trustees came to the same conclusion as the Report from Iron Mountain, "There are no known means more efficient than war, assuming the objective is altering the life of an entire people... How do we involve the United States in a war?"

"It was a very good question, since the American people were overwhelmingly isolationist, adhering to the advice of President George..."
Washington "to steer clear of permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world."

Author Gary Allen in his 1971 underground classic None Dare Call It Conspiracy also saw an evil design in this war. He wrote, "Woodrow Wilson was re-elected by a hair. He had based his campaign on the slogan 'He Kept Us Out of War!'... Just five months later we were in it. The same crowd which manipulated the passage of the income tax and the Federal Reserve System wanted America in the war. J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Colonel House, Jacob Schiff, Paul Warburg and the rest of the Jekyll Island conspirators were all deeply involved."

"Even before the actual clash of arms, the French firm of Rothschild Freres cabled to Morgan and Company in New York suggesting the flotation of a loan of $100 million, a substantial part of which was to be left in the United States to pay for French purchases of American goods," wrote author Charles Callan Tansill in America Goes to War.

This loan received banker J. P. Morgan Jr., who had taken control of the Morgan financial empire after the death of his famed father in 1913. Morgan as the Rothschild's American representative—or way partner—was a pivotal character in the coming bloodbath.

President Woodrow Wilson, who was put in office by the largess of bankers Morgan, Bernard Baruch, Jacob Schiff, and Cleveland Dodge, chose the younger Morgan as chief purchasing agent for the United States even as he was acting as the sole purchasing agent for Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and Canada. In this capacity, Morgan oversaw the transfer of tremendous amounts of money to the war effort. He bought more than $2 billion in American military and other materials on behalf of the Allied powers. He also organized more than two thousand U.S. banks to underwrite more than $15 billion in Allied bonds.

After the war, Morgan's firm arranged loans totaling more than $10 billion to reconstruct the European nations.

Banker Bernard Baruch, who later helped fund the Council on Foreign Relations, was named by President Wilson in 1917 to head the War Industries Board where he controlled all domestic war material contracts. "It was widely rumored in Wall Street that net of the war to make the world safe for international bankers he netted $200 million for himself," wrote Allen.

Morgan and Baruch were not the sole beneficiaries of war profits. According to published statistics, yearly profits to the Du Ponts, among others..."
facturers of gunpowder, rose from $6 million in 1914 to $18 million by 1918, a 950 percent increase. In the five years preceding the war, U.S. Steel's yearly earnings averaged $185 million. This jumped to $240 million during the war years of 1914–18. Profits for the International Nickel Company went from $6 million a year to $73.5 million by 1918, an increase of more than 1,700 percent.

Was this massive amount of money well spent? Not according to Marine Major General Smedley D. Butler. In his 1935 book War is a Racket, Butler commented, "Take the shoe people... For instance, they sold Uncle Sam 35,000,000 pairs of hobnailed service shoes. There were 4,000,000 [U.S.] soldiers. Eight pairs, and more, to the soldier. My regiment during the war had only a pair to a soldier. Some of those shoes probably are still in existence... There was still lots of leather left. So the shoe people told your Uncle Sam hundreds of thousands of McClellan saddles for the cavalry. But there wasn't any American cavalry overseas!... They sold your Uncle Sam 20,000,000 mosquito nets for the use of the soldiers overseas... Well, not one of those mosquito nets ever got to France!... Some 6,000 buckboards [horse-drawn wagons] were sold to Uncle Sam for the use of colonels! Not one of them was used. But the buckboard manufacturer got his war profit."

But trouble soon developed for these gigantic money transactions—Germany appeared to be winning the war and the treasuries of both England and France were empty. British and French bankers, faced with total loss if Germany ended the balance of power by victory, looked to the United States for rescue. U.S. ambassador Walter Hines Page, who also was a trustee of Rockefeller's General Education Board and was being paid a $25,000-a-year allowance by Rockefeller's National City Bank, outlined the problem to the State Department in a March 15, 1917, telegram. "I think that the pressure of this approaching crisis has gone beyond the ability of the Morgan Financial Agency for the British and French Governments to meet. The British and French Governments, of course, cannot make a direct grant of credit."

The leaders wanted America in the war but President Wilson had pledged that the U.S. would not get involved. But quietly he made other arrangements. On March 9, 1916, eight months before the presidential election, Wilson authorized a secret agreement arranged by his right-hand man, Colonel House, to enter the war on the Allied side. "After the war, the text of the agreement leaked out," wrote German sympathizer George Viereck.
"Britain’s Sir Edward Gray was the first to tattle. Page discussed it at length. Colonel House left it to history... But for some incomprehensible reason the enormous significance of the revelation never penetrated the consciousness of the American people.

Yet the American public still resisted going to war. Clearly, the public’s attitudes had to be changed.

Attitudes are shaped by the media, and even in World War I much of the major media was under the control of Rockefeller-Morgan interests. As recorded in the Congressional Record of 1917, “In March, 1915, the J. P. Morgan interests... got together 13 men high up in the newspaper world and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and [the] sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press... They found it was only necessary to purchase the control of 11 of the greater papers.

“An agreement was reached; the policy of the papers was bought; in the paid for by the monthly fee... each paper was furnished with proper supervisory and editorial information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial policies, and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers.”

Any publication which was not controlled outright was intimidated by the strength of Rockefeller-Morgan advertising dollars. Griffin noted, “After the J. P. Morgan bloc the Rockefellers have the most advertising of any group... and when advertising alone is not sufficient to secure the loyalty of a newspaper, the Rockefeller companies have been known to make direct payments in return for a friendly editorial attitude.”

But even this money-backed media blitz, coupled with anti-German rhetoric from the Rockefeller-Morgan foundations and universities, failed to convince the American public to enter the war. Public polls showed opposition to entering the European war at nearly ten-to-one.

A STIMULUS FOR WAR

As throughout history, a provocation was needed to push a recalcitrant public into war. This provocation was the sinking of the ocean liner Lusitania. How this cruel act played out is an intriguing study in behind-the-scenes manipulation.
Britain’s Winston Churchill, who was appointed first lord of the admiralty in 1911, was desperate for America to join England as an ally. In a late book, The World Crisis, Churchill wrote, “The manuever which brings an ally into the field is as serviceable as that which wins a great battle.”

Under existing rules of war, both British and German warships were to give the crew of enemy vessels a chance to escape before sinking them. For submarines this meant surfacing and challenging the enemy. In 1914 Churchill ordered British merchant ships to disregard any challenge, even counterattack if they were armed. This order Social German U-boat commanders to launch torpedoes while submerged. Churchill also ordered British ships to remove their hull names and fly the flags of neutral nations when in port.

Churchill freely admitted his orders were a ploy to involve other nations in the war. “The submerged U-boat had to rely increasingly on underwater attack and thus ran the greater risk of mistaking neutral for British ships and of drowning neutral crews and thus embroiling Germany with other Great Powers.”

Just such a “mistake” occurred on May 7, 1915, when a German U-boat commander torpedoed the British liner Lusitania en route from New York to Liverpool.

Nearly 2,000 persons went down with the ship, including 128 Americans. This act set off a firestorm of anti-German feeling throughout the United States, fanned by the Rockefeller-Morgan dominated press.

Griffin also pointed out that the Lusitania was registered as an armed auxiliary cruiser by the British Admiralty and owned by the Cunard Company, the closest competitor to J. P. Morgan’s international shipping trust, which included Germany’s two largest lines along with Britain’s White Star line. “Morgan had attempted in 1902 to take over the Cunard Company, but was blocked by the British Admiralty, which wanted to
keep Cunard out of foreign control so her ships could be pressed into rail-
way service, submarine service, or into war, noted Griffin.

The imperial German embassy in Washington, fully aware that tons of
war materiel were being carried into the war zone around England,
outside limits strictly pertaining to the U.S. government, made an effort to
persuade Federal officials at time ads in U.S. East
Coast newspapers.

The ad read: "NOTICE! TRAVELERS intending to embark on the
Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Ger-
many and her allies and Great Britain and her allies, that the zone of
war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles. And, in Recom-
merce with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, re-
pects: flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to
sabotage in These waters and that attempts to enter in this zone an
ship of Great Britain or her Allied do so at their own risk."

Of the fifty newspapers slated to carry this notice, only the Des Moines
Register ran it as the date requested. The other papers pulled the ad
because of intervention by the U.S. State Department. Government offi-
cials cowered editors by claiming that, due to the possibility of libel suits,
they should first obtain approval by State Department lawyers.

President Wilson was alerted to the situation. Years later, former
Simpson wrote, "There can be no doubt that President Wilson was toll of
the character of the cargo destined for the Lusitania. He did nothing,
but now to concede on the day he new toll of her sinking that his fore-
knowledge had given him many sleepless hours."

Adding support to those who believed the Lusitania was consciously
sent to her fate, British commander Joseph Kenworthy, on duty when the
ship was sunk, later revealed that her military escort was withdrawn at
the last minute and her captain ordered to enter at reduced speed to an area
where a German U-boat was known to be operating. It is true that ask
sinking was due to a German torpedo, but it is also true that the Lusitania's
crew knew of the presence of a German U-boat on the route. The
sinking was not due to a German torpedo; it was due to the presence of a
German U-boat on the route. The Lusitania's crew knew of its presence
and altered its course to avoid it. The Lusitania's crew knew of the pres-
ence of a German U-boat on the route and altered its course to avoid it. The

Survivors and later investigations revealed that the Germans had
not sunk the Lusitania. Its destruction was caused instead by a sec-
ondary internal explosion, most probably the tons of stored explosives
and ammunition.
Whether the sinking of the Lusitania was contrived or not, the incident still was not enough to propel the American people into war. "Torpedoings of merchant ships and loss of noncombatant lives, including American, convinced Americans of German frightfulness but not of German hostility to themselves," wrote author Barbara W. Tuchman.

The German high command, in a studious effort to avoid antagonizing the United States, following the sinking of several merchant ships including the Lusitania, in September 1915 suspended unrestricted submarine warfare.

Despite all the maneuvering on the part of Wilson and Churchill, it was the Germans themselves that finally propelled America into the war. This event involved Mexico and, more specifically, the man who more than any other launched World War I. This was Arthur Zimmermann, who as acting German foreign secretary in 1916 helped send the telegram that convinced Germany's leaders to support Austria-Hungary against Serbia following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. This action angered Russia and precipitated war.

My January 1917 Zimmermann had been appointed foreign secretary and was a strong supporter of unrestricted U-boat warfare. On January 16, he sent a coded telegram to the German ambassador in Mexico informing him of Germany's decision to support Austria-Hungary against Serbia following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. This action angered Russia and precipitated war.

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In the event that war with the United States ensued, Germany promised to assist Mexico "by separating her lost territories in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico."

While this promise in all likelihood was merely the usual wartime diplomatic maneuvering, it was just the salami needed to put America into the war. The sensational telegram was intercepted by British cryptographers, who spent days deciphering the document before it was...
given to the American ambassador on February 25. It was made public on March 1 and instantly was greeted with great skepticism. Former senator Elihu Root—who later became honorary president of the CFR—and other New York elitists meeting at the Hound Table Dining Club, forerunner of the Council on Foreign Relations, couldn’t believe their good fortune. Former U.S. ambassador to England Joseph H. Choate, "as warm an Anglophile as any in America... openly said that the Zimmermann note was a forgery and was practically unanimously supported by the whole bunch," reported author Tuchman.

But questions regarding the authenticity of the telegram were laid to rest on March 1 at a Berlin news conference. Here a Hearst news correspondent, who later turned out to be a German agent, gave Zimmermann every chance to deny the telegram. "Of course Your Excellency will deny this story," urged the correspondent. Zimmermann then inexplicably announced "I cannot deny it. It is true."

This simple confession produced the desired effect in America. Newspaper columnists called against the " Hun," and public pressure for war against the German Kaiser grew irresistible. Wilson, who had fought so long and hard for a negotiated peace with himself as leader of a "league" of nations, was forced to declare war on April 6, 1917. Eight days later, money began to flow when passage of the War Loan Act authorized $1 billion in credit to the empty banks of the Allies.

While the Zimmermann telegram apparently was authentic, no one will ever know why something so audacious was produced or why it was acknowledged once discovered.

World War I cost 323,000 American casualties, a pittance compared to 9 million Russians, 6 million Frenchmen, and 3 million British. The war also effectively ended any meaningful gold standard for money, although several nations tried to return to it. World War II cost 500,000 American casualties and an estimated $4 trillion, mostly funded by government debt—much inflated from $20.6 to $39.8 trillion, which caused the purchasing power of the dollars to drop by almost 50 percent. Trillions amounts of debt were created, while only those who collected the interest benefited. As always, it was the American public that suffered the real losses in dead relatives, devalued money, and enduring foreign commitments.
The entry of America and the withdrawal of Russia following revolu-
tion guaranteed victory for the Allies in World War I. Hostilities were
ended by the Treaty of Versailles, signed by the belligerent nations on
June 28, 1919. Attending was Paul Warburg, who as chairman of the
Federal Reserve System represented American banking interests, and
his brother Max Warburg, who represented the German central bank,
his own M. M. Warburg and Company, and who especially was
involved with German intelligence during the war.

President Wilson, who grew up in the South under the harsh Recon-
struction policies of the Republicans, knew firsthand the long-term
misery and devastation caused by war. It seems clear that his attempt to
keep America out of the European war was based on a sincere personal
conviction. It is equally clear that this noble impulse was subverted at
every turn by schemers in England and his own advisors.

Perhaps the most tragic aspect of the "war to end all wars" was that
it didn’t settle much of anything. The harsh terms of Versailles only
prompted resentment in Germany and paved the way for Hitler. All
sides soon began to rebuild and rearm, enriching lenders by ever
greater spending and borrowing.

British foreign secretary Lord George Nathaniel Curzon, another
delegate, said he left the treaty only on the stage for more war and even
predicted the date. "This is no peace; this is only a truce for twenty
cars," he stated at the 1919 Versailles conference. His curmudgeon—
or was it informed prophecy?—predicted a second world war just
twenty years later. His comment—or was it informed prophecy?
—generated much comment among conspiracy researchers since World War II indeed began in 1939, exactly
twenty years later.

Curzon may have known precisely what he was talking about, as he
had attended both Oxford and All Souls College, the home ground of
Cecil Rhodes and John Ruskin. Following his marriage to the daughter
of a Chicago millionaire, he became leader of the House of Lords in
1915 and was a member of the inner cabinet that dictated the policies
of World War I.

Marriage, it seems, played an important role in connecting these early
secret society members together. "Money Barons such as the Rockefellers
of National City Bank and Chase Bank, J. P. Morgan of Morgan and
Company, Jacob Schiff of Kuhn, Loeb Company and, most important, the
brothers Warburg ..."
Schiff’s daughter, Felix (Warburg) marrying Loeb’s daughter, and Max staying home in Germany where he could influence the Kaiser and help finance the Russian Revolution,” noted Neal Wilgus in his nonfiction book The Illuminoids.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

There indeed exists a wealth of documentation indicating that the Russian Revolution—indeed the very creation of Communism—sprang from Western conspiracies beginning even before World War I.

“One of the greatest myths of contemporary history is that the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was a popular uprising of the downtrodden masses against the hated ruling class of the Czars,” wrote author Griffin, who claimed that both planning and funding for the revolution came from financiers in Germany, Britain, and the United States.

In January 1917 Leon Trotsky was living in New York City working as a reporter for The New World, a communist newspaper. Trotsky had escaped an earlier failed attempt at revolution in Russia and fled to France, where he was expelled for his revolutionary behavior. “He soon discovered that there were wealthy Wall Street bankers who were willing to finance a revolution in Russia,” wrote journalist Still.

One of these bankers was Jacob Schiff, whose family had lived with the Rothschilds in Frankfurt. Another was Elihu Root, attorney for Paul Warburg’s Kuhn, Loeb & Company. According to the New York journal America, “It is estimated by Jacob’s grandson, John Schiff, that the old man sank about $20 million for the final triumph of Bolshevism in Russia.” Root, a CFR member, contributed another $20 million, according to the Congressional Record of September 2, 1919.

Schiff and Root were not alone. Arsene de Goulevitch, who was present during the early days of the Bolsheviks, later wrote, “In private interviews, I have been told that over 21 million roubles were spent by Lord Milner in financing the Russian Revolution.” Recall that it was called Milner, who was the primary financier behind Rhodes’s Round Tables, that played a central role in the modern secret societies.

“In 1915, the American International Corporation was formed to fund the Russian Revolution,” wrote Icke. “Its directors represented the interests of the Rockefeller, Rothschild, Du Pont, Kuhn, Loeb, Harriman, and
the Federal Reserve. They included Frank Vanderlip (one of the Jekyll Island group which created the Federal Reserve) and George Herbert Walker, the grandfather of President George Bush."

Gary Allen noted, "In the Bolshevik Revolution we have some of the world's richest and most powerful men financing a movement which claims its very existence is based on the concept of stripping of their wealth men like the Rothschilds, Rockefellers, Schiffs, Warburgs, Morgans, Harrimans and Milners. But obviously these men have no fear of international communism. It is only logical to assume that if they financed it and do not fear it, it must be because they control it. Can there be any other explanation that makes sense?"

This conspiratorial view was echoed by none other than Winston Churchill, who in 1920 wrote, "From the days of Spartacus-Weishaupt [head of the mysterious Illuminati] to those of Karl Marx, to those of [socialists Leon] Trotsky, Benito Mussolini, Benito Mussolini, and Emma Goldman, this worldwide conspiracy for the overthrow of civilization has been steadily growing."

"If there can be identified one single motivating factor behind the horror and tragedy experienced in the twentieth century, it is surely anti-Communism. The animosity between the so-called democracies of the West and the Communism of the East produced continuous turmoil from 1918 through the end of the century."

The flight of the privileged elite from Russia in 1918 and from China in 1949 sent shock waves through the capitals of Europe and America and prompted a backlash that lasted for decades. The cry of "Workers of the world unite!" struck fear in the capitalists of Western industry, banking, and commerce who were not in the know. This fear trickled through their political representatives, employees, and on into virtually every home. Concealed conspiracy researchers for years were puzzled how such high-level capitalists as the Morgans, Warburgs, Shiffs, and Rockefellers could condone, much less support, an ideology which overtly threatened their position and wealth."
To understand this seeming dichotomy, indeed to understand how the secret society members operate, one must study the philosopher who influenced them: Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel.

Coming on the heels of the Age of Reason—the intellectual revolt against the authority of the church—German philosopher Hegel, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, and Immanuel Kant inspired their generation to believe that the ideas that modern men could not be eluded by religious dogma and tradition. These iconoclasts differed only in that Kant believed that things which cannot be experienced in the material world cannot be known to man, while the metaphysical Fichte and Hegel believed that man’s reason is “the candle of the Lord.” Kant believed that man could not be understood and equality.

Hegel’s claim to the rational interpretation of the human essence, termed the Hegelian System, was an attempt to reconcile opposites, to comprehend the entire universe as a systematic whole. It was a monumental effort and has not yet been fully completed. Adherents and opponents of Hegel will continue to philosophize well into the coming millennium. It is easy to understand why such abstract thinking has been interpreted in so many ways by Hegel’s followers, including Karl Marx and Hitler.

Hegel’s fellow idealist and the man who most influenced his work, Fichte, was a member of secret societies. “It is interesting that Fichte, who developed these ideas before Hegel, was a Freemason, almost certainly Illuminati, and certainly was promoted by the Illuminati,” wrote author Sutton. It has even been suggested that Hegel himself may have been a member of the revolutionary German Illuminati lodge ordered by the government in 1756. Although no conclusive documentation has been found, it certainly represents the Illuminists’ belief of rationalism.

Maximilian Weber’s important philosophy, the rational social and economic system, which was also associated with the Illuminati. This has become known as the Hegelian dialectic, the process in which opposites—Christian and Jew—were reconciled in commerce or government.

The application relevant here is the idea that Western, capitalist nations created Communism as a perceived enemy to the democratic nations (America) on the other side. The ensuing conflict then became the Hegelian dialectic, where the principles and dogmas of the Illuminati and the Illuminati’s ideology were translated into economic and political propositions.
Often during the past fifty years it was said, the U.S. is getting more like Russia, and they are getting more like the U.S. The members of secret societies traceable to Rhodes's Round Tables understood the Hegelian dialectic well. Their predecessors had successfully used it for centuries without the name of Hegel. These early-day Machiavellis had found it was but a small step to the realization that one needed not wait for crisis and turmoil. Social upheaval could be created and controlled to their own benefit. Hence came the cycles of financial booms and busts, crises and revolts, wars and threats of war, all of which maintained a balance of power.

Social activists and bureaucrats alike have learned this thermostat-like thermonuclear dialectic with others by experience, intuition, or study. Demand more than you really need (thesis) from your opposition (antithesis), and after compromises, you'll usually end up with what you wanted in the first place (synthesis).

"This revolutionary method—the systematic working of thesis vs. antithesis = synthesis—is the key to understanding world history," declared conspiracy author Texe Marrs.

Returning to Trotsky, we find he left the United States by ship on March 27, 1917—just days before America entered the war along with nearly three hundred revolutionaries and funds provided by Wall Street. Trotsky, whose real name was Lev Davidovich Bronstein, was being trailed by British agents who suspected him of working with German intelligence. In a speech before leaving New York, Trotsky stated, "I am going back to Russia to overthrow the provisional government and stop the war with Germany."

When the ship carrying Trotsky and his entourage stopped in Halifax, Nova Scotia, they and their funds were impounded by Canadian authorities, who rightly feared that a revolution in Russia might free German troops to fight Allied soldiers on the Western Front. But this well-grounded concern was overcome by President Wilson's alter ego, Colonel House, who told the chief of the British Secret Service, Sir William Wiseman, that Wilson wanted Trotsky released. On April 21, 1917, less than a month after the United States entered the war, the British Admiralty ordered the release of Trotsky, who, armed with an American passport authorized by Wilson, continued on his journey to Russia and history.
After an abortive revolution in 1905, thousands of Russian activists had been exiled, including Trotsky and Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, a revolutionary intellectual who adapted the theories of Hegel, Fichte, Ruskin, and Marx to Russia's political and economic predicament. After years of attempts at reform, the czar was forced to abdicate on March 15, 1917, following riots in Saint Petersburg (then Petrograd) believed by many to have been instigated by British agents.

As Trotsky traveled to Russia with an American passport and Wall Street funding, Lenin also left exile. Aided by the Germans and accompanied by about 150 trained revolutionaries, "Old Joe" got on the infamous "sealed train" in Switzerland along with at least $5 million," wrote Still. The train passed through Germany unhindered, as arranged by Max Warburg and the German High Command. Lenin, like Trotsky, was labeled a German agent by the government of Aleksandr Kerensky, the second of provisional governments created following the czar's abdication. In November 1917 Lenin and Trotsky, backed by Western funds, had instigated a successful revolt and seized the Russian government for the Bolsheviks.

But the communist grip on Russia was not secure. Internal strife between the "Reds" and the "Whites" lasted until 1922 and cost some twenty-eight million Russian lives, many times the war loss. Lenin died in 1924 from a series of strokes after helping form the Third International or Comintern, an organization to export Communism worldwide. Trotsky fled Russia when Stalin took dictatorial control in 1929. In 1940 Stalinist agents murdered Trotsky in Mexico.

Author Still saw a "multidimensional" aspect to the funding of the Bolsheviks. "The Russian 'revolutionaries' such as Lenin and Trotsky were being used to get Russia out of the war, to the benefit of Germany. But at the Elite level, the bogeyman called Communism was being created to stimulate the division of fear and mistrust presented as communism vs. capitalism vs. fascism."

Even Lenin apparently came to understand that he was being manipulated by more powerful forces. "The state does not function as we desired," he wrote, "a man is at the wheel and seems to lead it, but the car does not move in the desired direction."

This often "stunt" was "the number of the secret societies that were behind the birth of Communism itself, "anonymously became capitalists," as Lenin described them.
THE RISE OF COMMUNISM

Many varied secret societies were involved in the movement which eventually led to Communism. One of the earliest may have been the Carbonari, or charcoal burners, of Italy of the Middle Ages. According to author Arkon Daraul, the Carbonari claimed to have begun in Scotland where they lived a free and communal life in the wild forests burning wood to make charcoal. They created a government consisting of three Councils, or lodges, for administration, legislation, and judicial matters. The lodges were ruled by a High Lodge headed by a Grand Master who headed a form of primitive Masonry.

"Under the pretense of carrying their charcoal for sale, they introduced themselves into the villages, and housing the name of real Carbonari they secretly met their supporters and communicated their secret plans," wrote Daraul. "They made themselves known to each other by signs, tokens, and words." The anticlerical doctrine of the Carbonari, which became known as "forest Masonry," spread widely after initiating the French king, Francis I. At one point members so filled Italy, they nearly dominated the country.

"In the early 1820s, they were more than just a power in the land," wrote Daraul. "They boasted branches and sub-societies as far afield as Poland, France and Germany."

He added, "The Bolsheviki and their forerunners of the Communist persuasion are traced by many as offspring of the Charcoal-burners."

The anti-mercantilistic views of the Carbonari, Illuminated Freemasonry, and other rationalist and humanist groups that grew during the Age of Enlightenment coalesced during the early nineteenth century, greatly aggravating the Roman Catholic Church.

"In our day, if Masonry does not found Jacobite or other clubs, it origi- nates and cherishes movements fully as satanic and as dangerous. Communism, just like Carbonism, is but a form of the Illuminated Masonry of [Illuminati founder] Weishaupt," warned Monsignor George Dillon in 1885.

One such movement was the International Working Men's Association—better known as the First International—the direct forerunner to Communism, convened in London in 1864 and soon under the leadership of Karl Marx.

Marx was born in 1818 in Trier, Germany, to Heinrich and Henrietta
etta Marx, both descended from a long line of Jewish rabbis and hence undoubtedly familiar with the mystical traditions of the Torah and Cabala. To (Jeter anti-Semitism, both Karl and his father were baptized in the Evangelical Established church. And both were greatly influenced by the humanism of the Age of Enlightenment.

Following his graduation from the University of Bonn, Marx enrolled in the University of Berlin in 1836 where he joined a secret society called the Doctor Club filled with devotees of Hegel and his philosophy. Although he had earlier expressed devout Christian ideals, Marx joined these Hegelians in moving from a belief that the Christian Gospels were "human fantasies arising from emotional needs" to outright atheism. Some modern conspiracy theories even claim that Marx eventually became a Satanist. They point to his eventual criticism of Hegel as not material enough in his thinking, the antireligious works in which he excelled; and a work written by Marx as a student which stated, "If there is a Something which devours, I'll leap within it, though I bring the world to ruins... that would be really living." Again, the metaphysical views of both Marx and his detractors cannot be ignored.

In 1843 Marx married and moved to Paris, a hotbed of revolution and extremist groups known as communists. It was in Paris that Marx, Karl Marx, married Elise née List, the daughter of a wealthy German textile manufacturer named Ernst List, and joined the secret society called the League of the Just, composed primarily of German emigrants, many of whom were Jews. The group was soon renamed the Communist League and Marx along with Engels produced its famous pamphlet, The Communist Manifesto.

Marx's manifesto set forth the ten immediate steps to create an ideal
communist state. They bear a striking resemblance to the Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, suggesting some common origin. These steps include:

- abolition of private property
- progressive or graduated income tax
- abolition of all inheritance
- confiscation of all property of dissidents and emigrants
- creation of a monopolistic central bank with state capital in control
- centralization of all communication and transport
- state control over factories and farm production
- state ownership of all capital and the creation of a deployable labor force
- combining agriculture with manufacturing industries and the gradual distribution of the population to blur the distinction between towns and rural country
- free public education to all children

This list was also remarkably similar to the steps for creating the ideal society proposed by the Bavarian Illuminati, strongly indicating a clear connection between the two. "In fact, the Ideological tendencies can hardly be viewed as anything but Illuminated Masonry in a new disguise," commented author Still.

In 1848 Marx failed to incite a socialist revolution in Prussia and, after evading prison, returned to London. Personality clashes, petty bickering, and fractious fights over ideology prevented the Communist League from becoming an effective force. Militant factions chided Marx for being more concerned with speeches than revolutions, and he gradually withdrew into isolation which only ended with his attendance at the 1864 First International.

Marx's life of struggle and poverty made a tremendous impact on world history by providing a philosophical platform for the modern secret societies based on the tenets of the older ones. He died of apparent lung abscesses on March 14, 1883, depressed over the suicides of his two daughters and just two months after the death of his wife.

It is clear that Communism did not spring spontaneously from poor, downtrodden masses of workers, but was the result of long-range
schemes and intrigues by secret societies. "There is no proletarian, not even Communist, movement that has not operated in the interests of money... and without the leaders among its members being the slightest agnostic of the fact," wrote German philosopher Oswald Spengler, author of *The Decline of the West*.

**COMMENTARY**

The imprint of the secret societies can be found in every war and conflict of the twentieth century.

The historic record is unmistakable. The same society members turn up in every instance—passing from father to son, business partner to close associate. Frequently brother to brother. It would seem, based on the public's demonstrated anxiety toward war, that occasionally there would be governmental house cleaning, a complete changeover of leadership and officials. Yet the same old secret society faces keep returning to power, as noted by President Kennedy. The mass media appears unconcerned and the public is exhorted to believe that this is all mere coincidence—simply a case of the most competent men for the job.

The Report from Iron Mountain, whether provable as historic fact or not, unmistakably reflects the thinking of secret society members. For example, in a 1981 interview concerning overpopulation, CFR member Maxwell Taylor blithely stated, "I have already written off more than a billion people. These people are in places in Africa, Asia, Latin America. We can't save them. The population crisis and the food-supply question dictate that we should not even try. It's a waste of time."

While some conflicts arguably were necessary—such as World War II—when the Vietnam and the Gulf War appear less so. Yet all were immensely profitable to secret society members and all advanced their goal of one-world government.

The Royal Institute of International Affairs and the CFR made plans for a conflict in Southeast Asia as far back as 1951. The creation of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization in 1954 was a calculated scheme to provide U.S. officials a legal basis for intervention in Vietnam. President Kennedy, who was assassinated before he could withdraw troops, had been at increasing odds with secret society members on Wall Street,
several of whom passed judgment on his death as members of the War
ren Commission.
President Johnson and his CFR advisers were deceitful in their maneu-
ning to obtain unconstitutional war powers from Congress following
the phony “Gulf of Tonkin” incident in 1964. These same advisers con-
tinued to support that war until it became apparent that the costs—both
in lives, money, and national unity—were becoming greater than the prof-
ts, at which time they turned against Johnson.
Korea was a prototype conflict to judge how the American public
would react to a winless United Nations “police action.” It set the
precedent of American GIs fighting outside the United States under For-
eign commanders, an activity which continues today. Ironically, rank-
ing Russian officials commanded the North Koreans on one side and
the United Nations troops on the other.
World War II was fought to stop fascists in Germany, Italy, and
Japan, who had been created and financed by secret society members in
the West. Despite the cloudy nature of this war, American and British
society members continued to do business with the enemy and then
arranged their reconstructions afterward. Nor was this duplicity more evident than in President Roosevelt’s failure to alert American
forces at Pearl Harbor of the impending Japanese attack brought on by
his own containment policies.
Hitler, that great scourge of the twentieth century, was clearly a cre-
ation of both secret societies and their Western financiers. Explanations
for this extraordinary occurrence range from the desire to create a
balance of power with Communism to the extraordinary possibility
that Hitler was directly related to the Viennese Rothschilds, or Nasti-
tionals, who had long been in the service of the Illuminati. The
combination of European knowledge and absorptions of older European secret societies which can
be traced back to the ancient Mysteries.
These societies had been active during World War I and the Russian
Revolution, which were directly encouraged and financed by American
and British secret society members. The goals of the Russian commu-
nists and Karl Marx were largely the same goals of the Illuminati and
continental Freemasonry. It was all a red-world model of the theory of
Hegel, who saw one side of a conflict (thesis) pitted against the other
(antithesis) creating a compromise (synthesis). This formula—when the
added element of actually creating the conflict—has been used success-
fully by the students of Hegel, which include the Illuminati, Cecil
Rhodes, Hitler and members of the modern secret societies.

It is evident that, to whatever degree, individuals connected by
blood, titles, marriages or membership to secret societies have manipu-
lated and controlled the destinies of entire nations through the foment-
ation and funding of war. Those people consider themselves above the
morality and ethics of the average man. They obviously look to some
higher purpose—whether that be sheer wealth and power or perhaps
some hidden agenda concerning mankind’s origin, destiny, and spiritu-
ality.

Even as Marx, Engels, and their followers were creating Commu-
nism in London during the mid-nineteenth century, the long-standing
plans of the Illuminati and its descendant societies to foment intern-
ally within the United States were being brought to fruition in a great
rebellion.
It was not my intention to doubt that the doctrines of the Illuminati, and the principles of Jacobinism, had not spread in the United States. On the contrary, I am, in some degree, satisfied of the fact from facts.

— President George Washington in a 1781 letter
The stability of both America’s finances and her people in the early nineteenth century must have been a source of great irritation to the wealthy schemers of Europe’s secret societies, even then in the process of changing their focus from ecclesiastical control to debt manipulations.

Russia was under the tyranny of the czar, who had steadfastly refused to create a central bank. Western Europe was financially drained following the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. And since returns meant no profits, European bankers looked to the Americas for new revenue.

Following the War of 1812, also called the Second War for American Independence, the United States was in extremely enviable circumstances. It had defeated the British empire, and its borders with the less-populated countries of Mexico and Canada were secure. As previously noted, President Andrew Jackson had put an end to repeated attempts at creating a central bank, and by 1835 he had repaid all of the national debt. The next year, he halted inflation caused by land speculation by ordering that public lands be sold only for gold or silver.

The lure of America must have been irresistible. However, President James Madison in 1823 had warned off all European intervention and exploitation in the Americas by issuing the Monroe Doctrine. To thwart this policy, a slow and stealthy infiltration process by Europeans was needed, and it may have begun as far back as 1837, the year of Jackson’s retirement. In that year a German-born representative of the Rothschild banking empire arrived in the United States and changed his name from August Schoenberg to August Belmont. According to a sympathetic Rothschild biography, Belmont was actually dispatched to Cuba by Amshel Rothschild and his son but took it upon himself to go to New York instead. He was soon followed by an illegitimate Rothschild himself. Whatever the truth, Belmont was in daily correspondence with the Rothschilds and became their acknowledged representative in the U.S.
With no apparent capital of his own, Belmont soon was buying up government bonds, and within a few short years had created one of the largest banking firms in the nation, August Belmont & Company. Because of his known ties to the family, the firm has always been considered by conspiracy researchers as a Rothschild enterprise.

At the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1846, it was Belmont who bought the greater portion of U.S. government bonds. Thanks to his aggressive business tactics, the Rothschild sons had investments in American industry, banks, railroads, and state bonds; tobacco, cotton, and, of course, gold. Belmont was instrumental in later financing both North and South during the Rebellions which began in 1861.

From 1853 to 1857, due in part to substantial donations to the Democratic Party, he also served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He also married the daughter of the famous U.S. Naval Commodore, Matthew Perry, hero of the Mexican War and Tokyo Bay. An avid equestrian, Belmont introduced Thoroughbred horse racing to the United States and served as president of the American Jockey Club.

In 1849 Alphonse Rothschild traveled to New York to determine if the family should replace their agent Belmont with a permanent banking firm. Rothschild was impressed with the obvious opportunities in America and wrote to his brothers that a bank should be established, adding, "Without the slightest doubt this is the cradle of a new civilization."

Yet, despite the obvious opportunity, the Rothschilds apparently made the mistake of not making a major investment in the United States—at least not openly.

"Had they established a bank in New York at this early stage in the nation's growth, there can be little doubt that the wealth derived from that one source would have dwarfed, within a generation, all that they had amassed so far in Europe," wrote Rothschild biographer Derek Wilson. "The only question was whether James and Lionel [Rothschild] (general Alphonse's potential advisors) or [Alphonse] (general Alphonse's potential advisor) was the better choice." It was indeed difficult to understand from a straightforward business viewpoint, but this division might make some sense when seen from the conspiratorial view of history.

First there is the long-standing allegation that the Rothschilds, due to both anti-Semitism and suspicion of Europeans by Americans, decided to

"It was indeed difficult to understand from a straightforward business viewpoint, but this division might make some sense when seen from the conspiratorial view of history."

First there is the long-standing allegation that the Rothschilds, due to both anti-Semitism and suspicion of Europeans by Americans, decided to
exercise their power through intermediaries such as Belmont, the Rockefellers, Morgans, and others. And there is now abundant evidence that the leaders of Europe were already conspiring to destroy the economically strong, but politically fragile, American union.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Author Epperson reported that an authorized biography of the Rothschilds mentioned a London meeting where the “International Banking Syndicate” decided to pit the American North against the South in a “divide and conquer” strategy. Such a plan would paralyze the solvent U.S. federal government with an enemy that would require massive war expenditures and subsequent debt.

And in the event of Southern independence, “each state could utilize from the consolidation to establish its sovereign states and cut up its own central bank. The Southern states could thus have a series of European-controlled banks, the Bank of Georgia, the Bank of South Carolina, etc., and thus any two could have a series of states, such as in Europe for centuries, in the proposed gene of balance of power policy. It would be a successful method of ensuring that large profits could be made on the loaning of money to the states involved,” Epperson explained.

Criffin quoted German chancellor Otto von Bismarck as stating, “The division of the United States into federations of equal force was decided long before the Civil War by the high financial powers of Europe. These luminaries see that the United States, if they remained in one block and as one nation, would attain economic and financial independence, which would upset their financial domination over the world. The voice of the Rothschilds prevailed — therefore they set their enemies into the field in order to exploit the question of slavery and to open an abyss between the two sections of the Union.”

It is historical fact that for some years the Rothschilds had financed major projects in the United States on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. Nathan Rothschild, who owned a large Manchester textile plant, bought his cotton from Southern interests and financed the importation of Southern cotton prior to the war. At the same time, wrote Rothschild biographer Wilson, “he had made loans to various states of the Union,
had been, for a time, the official European banker for the U.S. govern-
ment and was a pledged supporter of the Bank of the United States.”

“Europe’s aristocracies had never been happy about the prodigious
success of the Yankee democracy. If the nation now broke into halves,
proving that democracy did not contain the stuff of survival, the rulers
of Europe could be well pleased,” noted historian Bruce Catton. lend-
support to the idea of European manipulation of the American sit-
uation, another Rothschild biographer, Niall Ferguson, noted there is a
“substantial and unexplained gap” in private Rothschild correspon-
dence between 1854 and 1860 and that nearly all copies of outgoing
letters from the London Rothschilds “were destroyed at the orders of
successive senior partners.”

If this indeed was the gambit, presidential aspirant Abraham Lincol-
ner saw it clearly. He often tried to explain that his goal was to save the Amer-
ican union, not emancipate the slaves. During his famous debates with
Stephen Douglas in 1858, Lincoln made his personal position on race
quite clear: “I will say, then, that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of
bringing about in any way, the social and political equality of the white
and black races. ... I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having
the negroes everywhere equal in rights with the whites.”

But equally clear was Lincoln’s determination to preserve the federal
union. In late 1862 he proclaimed, “My paramount object in this strug-
gle is to save the union. ... If I could save the union without freeing
any slaves, I would do it; if I could save it by freeing some and leaving
others alone, I would also do that.”

Lincoln understood that the true reason for sectional friction in the
United States was not slavery, but economics. The South desired to buy
deeper imported European products, but the powerful Northern manu-
facturers imposed stiff import tariffs. These tariffs were quickly increased
after Southern congressmen left Washington in 1861. The industrial
North, filling rapidly with immigrants willing to work for a pittance,
no need for slaves, while the major planters of the agrarian South were
reluctantly dependent on human labor. Although Southern leaders had
sometimed demonstrated a willingness to compromise on the slavery issue,
they felt they could not suddenly abandon their “peculiar institution.”

Antislavery advocates in both North and South realized that technol-
ological advances meant the demise of slavery was only a matter of time.
But extremists on both sides, encouraged by agents of the European financiers, continually fanned the fires of discontent. The spearhead of this agitation came in the form of yet another secret society, the Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC).

SECRET SOCIETY AGITATION

The secretive Knights organization was the creation of surgeon and author Dr. George W. L. Bickley, who in 1854 founded his first knightly "castle" in Cincinnati, Ohio, drawing heavily from local Freemasons. This society "had close ties with a secret society in France called The Seaxons, which shall bear a burlap of the Illuminati," charged G. Edward Griffin.

Patterned after Masonic lodges, the Knights had similar passwords, handshakes, "temples," and grand, lesser, and supreme councils. Initiates were sworn to secrecy with a live snake held over their head accompanied by the bloodcurdling oath:

Whoever dares our cause repeat,  
Shall test the strength of Knightly steel;  
And when the torture proves too dull,  
We'll scrape the brains from out his skull  
And place a lamp within the shell  
To light his soul from here to hell.

The name Knights of the Golden Circle was derived from Bickley's grandiose plan to create a huge slaveholding circular empire 2,400 miles in circumference with Cuba at the center point. This vast dominion was to include the southern United States, Mexico, part of Central America, and the West Indies, giving the southern states a dominance over the world's supply of tobacco, sugar, rice, and coffee.

While modern historians have ignored or downplayed the significance of the KGC, it is evident from contemporary writings and newspaper coverage that the organization was considered an extremely credible threat at the time. Bickley was certainly a mysterious individual, always claiming to be in need of money, yet constantly traveling and entertaining dignitaries.
The "financial nucleus" of his order was the American Colonization and Steamship Company, organized in Veracruz, Mexico, and capitalized for $5 million. Somebody other than Bickley was paying the bills.

He also had demonstrable ties to Great Britain, claiming to have been an 1842 graduate of the University of London. Early in the war Bickley was in the Confederate capital of Montgomery, Alabama, identifying himself as a correspondent for the London Times, and after the war he toured extensively in England.

Bickley appeared to have shifting allegiances and philosophies. Previously, he had founded a society called the Wayne Circle of the Brotherhood of the Union, which purported to take constitutional unity. Just before the war started, Bickley wrote an article for his Cincinnati paper Scientific American in which he predicted the end of slavery, stating "this institution is one altogether unenviable, [as] every reasonable man in America will at once admit."

Despite the claims and facts in his article, the first step in Bickley's plans for the Knights of the Golden Circle was to create a separate slaveholding Southern nation, then move southward to Mexico. Like the Nazis much later, the KGC were concerned with purity of blood, as demonstrated by his call for "Anglo-Saxon blood" for the "Texasizing" of the Mexican population.

By 1860 there were more than fifty thousand Knights, mostly in Texas, awaiting orders to march on Mexico. Headquartered in San Antonio, Bickley gained popularity by predicting in "Tell Wall Street" that, "He said new states to the north would become the target of the Knights."

In fact there were two tentative invasions of Mexico in the spring of 1860, but both were repulsed after Bickley failed to provide his men with the necessary reinforcements and supplies. He later said that, he was a member of the Knights at the time but ended when the Knights turned their attention from Mexico to the secessionist movement.

It was in the cause of Southern secession that Bickley spent more successful, as the KGC came to form the nucleus of the Southern military. According to writer Ollinger Crenshaw, "The Southern press received the plans of the order with enthusiasm and many newspapers became its exponents... The Vicksburg Sun said the Knights of the Golden Circle..."
gave the South a military organization capable of defending its rights at home and abroad."

"The KGC was divided into three sections or "degrees"—the "Foreign and Home Guard Militia," the "Foreign and Home Guard Corps" of civilian support, and the "American Legion" which was the political and governing arm. Reportedly, by 1860 membership in the KGC was more than sixty-five thousand and constituted the "brains" of the South. Bickley made them objective clear when he declared, "The face is, we want a fight, before we get it is the question."

Through constant agitation, the Knights stirred up hatreds and fears throughout the North and South. "After Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860, this minority of the Southern minority conspired to bring off a last gamble," wrote historian William W. Freehling. "KGC activity in Northern states involved a plan to create a "Northwest Confederacy" composed of pro-Southern elements in several states, including Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, and Michigan. Illinois alone was reported to have a KGC membership of some twenty thousand. The plan was to seize federal arsenals, then take control of the states and release all Confederate prisoners. One state official, Edmund Wright, tried to oppose the Knights, only to have his wife poisoned and his home burned. In August 1862, sixty KGC members—out of a reported fifteen thousand members in Illinois—were indicted for conspiracy and treason but later released. Federal prosecutors were fearful of creating martyrs and the conspiracy cases were weak."

The Knights' actions created havoc with the national government, prompting President Lincoln to lament, "The enemy behind us is more dangerous to the country than the enemy before us."

The Lincoln administration was compelled to imprison more than fifteen thousand people as "seditious." The KGC, however, was not the only group that countered Lincoln's administration. "Those who before the war had been called "the loyal opposition" found themselves after 1861 commonly referred to as "traitors," wrote author Larry Stanley.

Such repression alienated Democrats and anti-Republicans, who charged federal officials with exaggerating the KGC threat in order to suppress criticism of the administration. Membership in the Knights' organization and its spin-offs, the Order of American Knights and the
Sons of Liberty, grew to number in the hundreds of thousands. According to Griffin, the Knights went underground after the war, eventually emerging as the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1863 Bickley was arrested as a spy in Indiana and held without trial until his release in 1865. A broken man, Bickley died in Baltimore on August 10, 1867.

With national attention focused on the Southern Rebellion and disunity in the North, far-reaching financial measures were being taken in Washington.

In mid-1861, with the war just beginning, U.S. Treasury secretary Salmon Chase (the namesake of Chase Manhattan Bank) asked for and received from Congress the first income tax instituted in America. It began as a mere three percent federal tax on all income, but only a year later the tax was raised to five percent on all income over $10,000. "It was a graduated income tax, just as proposed by Karl Marx just 13 years later," noted Epperson, emphasizing that hidden agendas were being pressed behind the contingencies of tax.

As the war progressed, Lincoln desperately needed more money. Instead of borrowing from the European banks as expected, in 1862 he issued about $450 million in currency printed with green ink called "greenbacks." This paper money was legalized by an act of Congress with wording to secure it: "Embodying the least-fee, fair money, Lincoln proclamed, "Government, possessing power to create and issue currency - should act and should not honor copied or interest. - The privilege of creating and issuing money is not only the supreme prerogative of the government, but it is the government's greatest creative opportunity."

It is fascinating to note that the two U.S. presidents who have issued debt-free currency—Lincoln in 1862 and John F Kennedy in 1963—were assassinated. Lincoln’s assassin, Southern sympathizer John Wilkes Booth, has been established as a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle (along with the famous outlaw Jesse James). Various conspiracy researchers have connected Booth to the previously mentioned Illuminati, the Vatican, Freemasonry, and through Savannah society of John Judeo-Benjamin in the House of Rothschild. After the war, Benjamin, often called the "sinister power behind the throne" of Southern president Jefferson Davis, took English notes he became a successful attorney.

As in the Kennedy assassination, Lincoln’s death sparked cries of conspiracy which still echo today. The Lincoln assassination conspiracy...
involved several persons, four of whom were hanged, including Mary Sur- ratt, the first woman executed in this country for a capital offense. It is historic fact that the Lincoln assassination case was a complex plot including smuggling and kidnapping plans that involved Knights of the Golden Circle agents. "The fact remains that the story of why Abraham Lincoln was murdered can only be completed within the confines of the Lincoln assassination plot..." noted author Starkey. The plot also involved some of the highest officials in Washington, including Lincoln's secretary of war Edwin Stanton. The full story of this plot has yet to reach a wide audience.

Despite pervasive use of the term, the conflict between 1861 and 1865 was never really a civil war, which is defined as a conflict between factions or sections within a nation. The majority of citizens in each Southern state freely elected to leave the Union. Confederate President Davis, a former United States senator and secretary of war, in his inaugural address on February 18, 1861, cited "the American idea that governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them or to reform them as the occasion requires. They become destructive of the ends for which they were established..." Then the secession states began to federate or to form this Confederacy, and it is by abuse of language that their act has been denominated a revolution."

"Secession—or rebellion, as the Jacobins preferred to call it—might be treason, but no court had ever said or ever would say so—no matter what the radicals had on the matter," observed historian Shelby Foote.

But Lincoln and the radical Republicans did proclaim that secession was treason and prepared huge armies to drive the secession states back into the Union. And while twenty-two million Northerners were locked in strife with nine million Southerners, France and Britain moved to encircle the conflicted nation.

With regimental bands playing "Dixie," Britain sent eleven thousand additional troops to Canada, which had become a haven for Confederates. France's Napoleon III manipulated Austrian Archduke Maximil- ian an emperor of Mexico, which promptly appealed negotiations with the Confederacy and allowed the transportation of supplies into Texas, bypassing the Union blockade. French troops were poised on the Texas border. Both France and England were ready to step in just as soon as the North and South had bled each other dry.
Two eventualities forestalled the complete breakup of the United States: Lincoln's proclamation freeing slaves in Confederate states and the quiet intervention of Russia.

**PREEMPTIVE STRIKES**

On September 22, 1862, just days after the federal army stopped a Confederate advance at the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln announced his plan to order the freeing of slaves if the Southern states returned to the Union. This decree had been held in abeyance for nine months awaiting a Union battlefield victory.

With no response from the South, Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. He proclaimed freedom for all slaves in Rebel-held territory. It was a purely political act, since obviously he had no authority in those areas. But it brought the issue of slavery to the forefront of the conflict. Lincoln later explained this pragmatic gesture by saying, "Things had gone from bad to worse until I felt that we had reached the end of our rope in the path of operations we had been pursuing, that we had about played our last card, and must change our tactics or lose the game. I saw only alternative upon the adoption of the emancipation policy." In other words, it was halfway through this fratricidal war that slavery became a contradiction.

The proclamation was a brilliant strategic maneuver as the citizens of neither Britain nor France would have accepted their nation's support of slavery—and it strengthened Lincoln's hand at home.

When Lincoln mobilized the first military draft in 1863, there were riots in several major cities including New York. Between July 13 and 16 more than one thousand people were killed or wounded as army troops restored peace at gunpoint. "After the passage of many years, it is easy to forget that Lincoln had an insurrection on his hands in the North as well as in the South," commented Griffin dryly. "To control [the Southern] insurrection, Lincoln ignored the Constitution once again by suspending the right of habeas corpus, which made it possible for the government to imprison its critics without formal charges and without trial. Thus, under the banner of opposing slavery, American citizens in the North, not only those killed on the streets of their own cities, they were put into military..."
combat against their will and threw into prison without due process of law. In other words, free men were enslaved so that slaves could be made free. Even if the pretended crusade had been genuine, it was a bad exchange.”

By the fall of 1863, Lincoln was becoming increasingly concerned with foreign military presence in Canada and Mexico. His concern over the French in Mexico led to a hastily attacked Sabine Pass at the mouth of the Sabine River separating Texas from Louisiana. On September 8, 1863, a mere forty-seven Texas militiamen with six cannons chased off a flotilla of Union ships comprised of twenty-two transports carrying five thousand Yankee troops escorted by four gunboats.

With France and Britain coming dangerously close to both recognizing and aiding the South, it was Russia’s pro-North Czar Alexander II who tipped the balance the other way. After receiving information that England and France were plotting to divide up the Russian Empire, Alexander ordered two Russian fleets to the United States in the fall of 1863. One anchored off the coast of Virginia while the other rested at San Francisco. Both were in perfect position to attack British and French commerce shipping lanes. No threats or ultimatums were made public, but it was clear that should war come, the Russian Navy was in a position to wreak havoc. “Without the inhibiting effect of the presence of the Russian fleets, the course of the war could have been significantly different,” commented Griffin.

Due chiefly to the presence of these fleets, coupled with the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation on their constituents, Britain and France declined to intervene for the South as planned.

By early 1865, the South had been bled dry, both in men and materiel. The Mississippi River was in federal hands and Union General William T. Sherman had cut the Confederacy in two with his infamous “march to the sea” through Georgia. The Confederate nation was able to keep an army in the field at all only because of the matchless endurance and determination of its suffering soldiers,” wrote Carter. “Opposing it was a nation which had the greater strength to begin with and which had now become one of the strongest powers on the globe. The war could end only as it did. The Confederacy died because the
The blood cost of the war was horrendous—the 360,000 Yankee deaths combined with 258,000 Confederates totaled more dead than all other U.S. wars combined.

But the financial cost was staggering. At the end of 1861 government spending was $67 million. By 1865 the number had grown to more than $3 billion. The national debt, which was a mere $1.10 per capita for a population of 31 million in 1861, rose to $55 per person by 1863. It was estimated in 1910 that the total cost of the war, including pensions and the burial of veterans, totaled almost $12 billion, a proposition impossible at the time.

In the middle of this immense flow of money was Rothschild agent Belmont, financing both sides. He strongly influenced bankers in both England and France to support the Union war effort by the purchase of government bonds. At the same time, he quietly bought up the increasingly worthless bank bonds of the South at great discounts, with the idea that the South would be forced to honor them in full after the war. In 1863 the Chicago Tribune assailed "Belmont, the Rothschilds, and the whole tribe of Jews, who have been buying up Confederate bonds." Much later, this charge was styled a "libel" by those who could not understand the duplicity of Belmont and his employers with their public pro-North sentiments.

One of the young Rothschilds visited America at the onset of the war and was as openly pro-Confederate as their agent Belmont was pro-Union. Concerning Lincoln, Salomon Rothschild wrote, "He rejects all forms of compromise and seeks only of insipid by force of arms. He has this appearance of a peasant and can only tell barroom stories." The Rothschilds profited both sides and apparently $60 billion in government bonds were purchased in the name of U.S. ministers to Brussels, Henry. "When your country is desperate, your government must indemnify your country." The Rothschild formula is mingled throughout the graves of American soldiers on both sides in confusion by telling U.S. minister to Brussels Henry, named "When your country is desperate, your government must indemnify your country." The boot print of the Rothschild formula is indelible across the graves of American soldiers on both sides.

If indeed the War Between the States was a plot by the secret societies to split the United States—as claimed by a Knights of the Golden Circle tract published in 1861—a plot by the European Rothschilds, it very nearly succeeded. The book Reconstruction politics of the Republican...
government, which caused the South to suffer under punitive economic policies well into the 1960s, generated lasting hatred and bitterness into the twentieth century as well as the growth of other secret societies in the South, such as the Ku Klux Klan.

Historian Foote used the term “Jacobins” to describe the secessionists of the era—disrupters of the established social, religious, and political order—who had been operating in America since the late eighteenth century. The Jacobins, a form of “Illuminated” Freemasonry, were the connective tissue that tied the secret societies of the Old World to hidden manipulation in the New World.

They had crossed the Atlantic after successfully destroying the “Old World Order” in France and were now looking for new worlds to conquer. These fugitives were former members and the offspring of members of older secret societies such as the Hibernian Illuminati, which traced its origins back to the days of Freemasonry.

The men who created societies such as the Knights of the Golden Circle, the Thule Gesellschaft, and Cecil Rhodes’s Round Table Groups drew from a long history of these clandestine European organizations.

However, by the time of the War Between the States, much of the secret society machinations had been forgotten by the American public thanks to the Anti-Masonic Movement of the early nineteenth century.

THE ANTI-MASONIC MOVEMENT

Freemasonry, the eldest and most powerful secret society in the history of the world, had planted firm roots in early-day America and even played a significant role in the American Revolution. It played an even greater role in the subsequent French Revolution, which naturally was greeted with great joy and approval in the United States. The number of Masonic lodges quickly grew and in 1815 the American Journal of Freemasonry estimated that Masons in the United States numbered nearly fifty thousand.

But in that year, one Mason broke ranks. It became known that a Captain William Morgan of Batavia, New York, was planning to publish a book revealing the secret symbols, handshakes, oaths, and purposes of the Freemasons. Morgan, a thirty-year member of the order,
wrote, "The bane of our civil institutions is to be found in Masonry, already powerful and daily becoming more so. I owe my country an exposure of its dangers."

Before the book could be printed, Morgan and his publisher were kidnapped in Batavia. Irate friends and neighbors pursued the kidnappers and managed to rescue the publisher, but Morgan was not so fortunate. He vanished never again.

Years later, a Mason named Henry L. Valance confided to his doctor as he lay dying that he and two other Masons had dropped Morgan into the Niagara River. Valance said that on the night he had satisfied a guilty conscience — "the mark of Cain" — and sought atonement for his sin.

Yet at the time of the kidnapping, no one could seem to get a straight answer regarding Morgan's fate. According to the Reverend Charles G. Finney, writing in 1869, the wheels of justice were slowed by brother Masons in the courts and law enforcement, and among witnesses and jurors. Rumors that Morgan had been abducted and murdered by the Masons spread throughout New York and on into the New England and mid-Atlantic states and a major scandal erupted.

Due to the public backlash against the secrecy and exclusiveness of Masonry, Finney claimed that about forty-five thousand members left the order and more than five hundred lodges closed. "Thousands of Masons turned their backs; in a few years' time, membership in the New York lodges dropped from 40,000 to 100 at a direct result of the Morgan incident," wrote author William J. Whaley.

In 1827 Morgan's book, Illustrations of Masonry by one of the Fraternity Who Has Devoted Thirty Years to the Subject, was published posthumously. For the first time, non-Masons were able to learn of the order's inner workings.

The chilling "blood oaths" of punishments for revealing Masonic secrets was the zenith of the widespread belief that Morgan had been murdered by the Masons. Although Morgan disclosed that the initiate into the order's beginning or First Degree of the Blue Lodge pledged to "binding myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea at low-tide mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in 24 hours. . . ." The penalties in higher degrees grew progressively more gruesome.

In 1829, under public pressure, the New York State Senate investigated Freemasonry and reported that vaguely and provisionally Masons.
recently found at every level of government. The Senate also criticized the "silent as the grave" news media, reporting, "This self-proclaimed sentinel of freedom, has felt the force of Masonic influence...."

Opponents of President Andrew Jackson himself a Freemason—took advantage of the scandal to form the Anti-Masonic Party, the first time a third party was created in the United States. Anti-Masonic candidates were successful in state and local elections but failed to unseat Jackson in 1832. By the late-1830s the Anti-Masonic party had turned again against slavery and the strictly anti-Jackson members had joined the newly formed Whig Party. Nevertheless, a serious blow had been inflicted from which Masonry was not to recover for decades.

Suspicions and sentiment against Masonry had been growing in the years prior to the abduction of Morgan as many Americans understood how the organization had played a role in the nation's two earliest, but long forgotten, insurrections.

Early in 1787 about one thousand Massachusetts farmers, led by Revolutionary War veteran Daniel Shays, attacked the Springfield arsenal to seize arms. Their uprising resulted from anger over increased taxes, the banning of paper money, and laws that only the wealthy could hold state office. Irritated and overburdened farmers demonstrated in several towns, burned shingles, and blocked roads to disrupt the flow of goods.

The American union was far from stable, especially in the western areas. In 1791 Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton—a Mason—had pressed through Congress a series of tax laws intended to support the newly created Bank of the United States and force full repayment of the
government bonds held by his friends. It was also an exercise to assert the power of the fledgling federal government. His actions resulted in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794.

One group hardest hit by Hamilton’s taxes was the Scotch-Irish farmers of western Pennsylvania, who were particularly incensed at a tax on whiskey. Aside from their imbibing, most farmers converted their grain to whiskey for easy transport to Eastern markets. They saw the whiskey tax as a direct attack on their livelihood and tax collectors were met with resistance. A few were tarred and feathered.

According to some researchers of this period, the involvement of recent immigrants influenced by Enlightenment ideas was demonstrable. For example, the natural disobedience of the angry farmers was heightened by agitation from French ambassador to the U.S. Edmond Genet. Expelled from Russia for inciting revolution (Genet had arrived in America in the spring of 1791) and began organizing secret societies called “Democratic Clubs.” They were direct replicas of the Illuminati-inspired clubs then advocating revolution in France. John Quincy Adams noted that the Democratic Clubs were so perfectly affiliated with the French Jacobins that their origins form a common parent cannot possibly be doubted.

President George Washington also voiced concern, stating, “I gave it as my opinion . . . that if these societies were not counteracted . . . they would shake the government to its foundations.”

In July 1794 Washington donned his old military uniform and reviewed an army of thirteen thousand men led by General Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee. The militia army, gathered from neighboring states, moved into Pennsylvania and the few hundred farmers opposing it quickly scattered. Two farmers were convicted of treason but later pardoned by Washington after Jefferson’s Republicans expressed dismay over what they saw as overreaction by the government. The Federalists saw the incident as a victory since it was their first opportunity to establish federal authority by ordinary means unlike mini-breadstabs.

But critics saw it as further imposition of elitist authority under a different name. Why did Madison, Hamilton and Washington bother participating in the American Revolution?” wondered author Bramley. “They simply used their influence to create the very same institutions in America that the colonists fought against under British rule.”

With a full-blown revolution underway in France, under suspiciously
Jeffersonian Republicans and fearful of Illuminati influence in the nation’s Masonic lodges and Democratic Clubs, Federalists in Congress in 1798 passed the Alien and Sedition Acts. These unpopular laws, “intended to protect the United States from the dangerous French Jacobin conspiracy, paid agents of which were even in high places in the government,” empowered the president to expel or imprison foreigners, curtailed immigration, and provided punishment for anyone writing or speaking “with intent to defame” the government.

Many thought these laws were a thinly disguised attempt to consolidate unwarranted federal power, and resolutions were passed in the Kentucky and Virginia legislatures essentially negating the acts. These states declared that since the federal government was the result of a compact between the states, if the federal government assumed powers not specifically granted by the Constitution, the states had the right to declare such powers unconstitutional. This was the beginning of the constitutional argument that supported secession in the mid-nineteenth century.

The religious nature of early Northeastern America, founded in great part by the Pilgrims and Puritans, proved resistant to the anarchistic ideas imported by Illuminized Freemasonry—but such was not the case.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

If one desires to point to a major world event proven to have been inspired by secret society machinations, one need look no further than the French Revolution, which devastated that nation between 1787 and 1799. Revolutionary battles, in seeking to eradicate the decreed monarchy of King Louis XVI, launched the first national revolution of modern times.

Although popularly federal to have begun due to a public uprising over lack of food and government representation, the record is quite clear that the revolution was instigated by cults of French Masonry and the German Illuminati.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica tells us that in France “there arose a political system and a philosophical outlook that no longer took Christianity for granted, that in fact explicitly opposed it. . . . The brotherhood taught by such groups as the Freemasons, members of secret societies.
societies, and the Illuminati, a rationalist secret society, provided a rival to the Catholic sense of community."

Secret society researcher and author Nesra H. Webster was even more pointed, writing in 1924, "[The Masonic book A Ritual and Illustrations of Freemasonry] contains the following passage, "The Masons . . . originated the Revolution with the infamous Duke of Orleans at their head.""

Author Brassey wrote, "During the first French Revolution, a fact which bears out the Duke of Orleans, who was grand master of French Masonry before his resignation at the height of the Revolution. Marquis de Lafayette, the man who had been initiated into the Masonic Fraternity by George Washington, also played an important role in the French revolutionary cause. The Jacobin Club, which was the radical nucleus of the French revolutionary movement, was headed by prominent Freemasons."

It was the Duke of Orleans, grandmaster of the Grand Orient Lodge of Freemasons, who reportedly bought all the grain in 1789 and either sold it abroad or hid it away, thus creating mass starvation among the commoners. Galard de Montjoie, a contemporaneous, blamed the Revolution almost solely on the Duke of Orleans, adding that he "was moved by that invisible hand which seems to have caused all the events of our revolution in order to lead us towards a goal that we do not see at present."

Drawing on an impressive number of contemporary writings, Webster added, "It seems, it is said that the French Revolution was prepared in the lodges of Freemasons—and many French Masons have boasted of the fact—that it always was added that it was Illuminated Freemasonry that caused the Revolution, and that the Masons who initiated it are Illuminated Masons, initiates of the same lodges initiated into the lodges of Finance in 1768 by the agents of Voltaire, pupil of the Freemasons." (emphasis in the original)

Drawing on an impressive number of contemporary writings, Webster added, "It seems, it is said that the French Revolution was prepared in the lodges of Freemasons—and many French Masons have boasted of the fact—that it always was added that it was Illuminated Freemasonry that caused the Revolution, and that the Masons who initiated it are Illuminated Masons, initiates of the same lodges initiated into the lodges of Finance in 1768 by the agents of Voltaire, pupil of the Freemasons." (emphasis in the original)

Giuseppe Balsamo, a student of the Jewish Cabala, a Freemason, and a Rosicrucian, became known as Louis XIV's court magician Cagliostro. He wrote how the German Illuminati had infiltrated the French Masonic lodges for years and added, "By March 1789, the 266 lodges controlled by the Grand Orient were all 'illuminized' without knowing it. For the Freemasons in general, were not told the name of the sect that brought them these revelations, and only a very small number were really initiated into the secret."
Jacobins and Jacobites

Pro-revolutionary members of France's National Constituent Assembly had formed a group which became known as Society of the Friends of the Constitution. After the assembly moved to Paris, this group met there in a hall leased from the Jacobins' convent of Catholic Dominican friars. These revolutionaries, sworn to protect the revolution from the aristocrats, soon were known as the Jacobin Club. Since that time, all revolutionaries have been called Jacobins.

At least that is the official story of the Jacobins. As usual, the facts are tied to earlier secret societies, in this case a movement to restore a kingship in Britain.

In 1688 England's unpopular and pro-Catholic Stuart king, James II, was deposed by the Dutch minister, the Protestant William of Orange. James—whose name in Latin was Jacobus, hence the name Jacobites—fled to France. There he continued to be supported by Freemasons in Scotland and Wales who sought to restore him to the English throne. They were accused by French Freemasons of converting Masonic rituals and titles into political support for his restoration.

According to some versions of Masonic history, James was ensconced in the Chateau of Saint-Germain by his friend, French king Louis XIV, where, with the help of Catholic Jesuits he established a system of Masonry that became the basis of Masonic traditions such as the "Scottish Rite."

"The theory that connects the royal house of the Stuarts with Freemasonry...as a political engine to be wielded for the restoration of an exiled family to a throne...is so repugnant to all...that one would hardly believe that such a theory was ever seriously entertained, were it not for many too conclusive proofs of the fact," was the convoluted admission of this political involvement by Masonic author Albert Mackey, writing in the nineteenth century.

After a series of failed rebellions, the Jacobites in Scotland were finally crushed at the Battle of Culloden Moor near Inverness in 1746. Their leader, Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie, the young pretender," escaped to France, taking with him Jacobites imbued with Freemasonic ideals. A year later in Arras, France, Charles chartered a Masonic Sovereign Primordial Chapter of Rose Croix known as "Scottish Jacobites."
"The organization of this chapter was intended only as the begin-
ing of a plan to enlist other Masons... to create a chapter in what-
erver town they thought proper, which they actually did... among
them was one at Paris in 1730, which in 1801 was asked to the Grand Ori-
ent Lodge of France," explained Mackey.

"The absolute dissolution of the Paris lodge is not a matter of dis-
pute," wrote Webster. But she argued that "the founders of the Grand
Lodge in Paris did not derive from the Grand Lodge in London, from
which they held no warrant, but... took their freemasonry with them
to France before the Grand Lodge of London was instituted, they were
therefore in no way bound by its regulations." This may be where En-
glish and Continental Freemasonry began to diverge.

According to Mackey, the attempt to connect Masonic traditions
with the Stuart claims to the English throne was the first time politics
had been introduced into the "speculative philosophy" of freemasonry.
It certainly was not the last.

French Masons too were heavily involved in the political events of that
day. Webster noted, "All the revolutionaries of the Constituent Assembly
were initiated into the third degree" of Illuminized Masonry, including
revolutionary leaders such as the Duke of Orleans, Valence, Lafayette,
Mirabeau, Garat, Richard, Marot, Robespierre, Danton, and
Dumouriez.

Simon-Gabriel Riqueti, Comte de Mirabeau, a leading revolutionary,
indeed espoused ideals which were identical to those of Adam Weishaupt,
founder of Bavarian Illuminized Masonry. In personal papers, Mirabeau
called for the overthrow of all order, all laws, and all power to "leave the
people in anarchy." He said the public must be promised "power to the
people" and lower taxes but never given "truth; for the people or legis-
lations are very dangerous. [W]hen unstable laws which seem to
rule, there proceeds. He said the clergy should be destroyed by "ridicul-
ing religion.

Mirabeau ended his tirade by proclaiming, "What matter the means
as long as one arrives at the end?"—the same end-justifies-the-means
philosophy preached from Weishaupt to Lenin to Hitler.

As is common in world events, the issues that sparked revolution origi-
nally centered on finances. France had spent a considerable amount of
money supporting the American Revolution. In February 1787 French
enough money was amassed in an assembly by the control of the general
Seventy, who proposed increasing taxes on the wealthy to reduce the national debt. Needless to say, the wealthy noblemen rejected this idea and instead called for a meeting of the Estates-General, France’s parliament composed of the three Estates of the nobles, the clergy, and the commoners. It had not met in nearly two hundred years.

Agitation for the Estates-General to consider political reforms continued through 1788, with disturbances in major French cities, including Paris. During this period, representatives of the three Estates were elected.

The three Estates met at Versailles on May 5, 1789, and were immedi-
ately divided over how voting should be tabulated. Popular votes favored the majority, primarily the commoners, while a vote by the Estates would favor the nobles and clergy.

Third Estate commoners, gaining support from some of the priests, were out, and King Louis XVI, predictably, called for a National Con-
stituent Assembly to devise a new French constitution while secretly gathering troops to suppress the gathering.

Word of these troop movements spread, and in the ensuing Great Fear of July 1789, a crowd in Paris stormed the king’s chief prison, the Bastille, where they released only seven prisoners—most were mentally ill—but acquired much-needed guns and powder.

Contrary to popular history, this attack was not the spontaneous action of a downtrodden mob. “That brigands from the South were deliberately enticed to Paris in 1789, employed and paid by the revolutionary leaders, is a fact confirmed by authorities too numerous to quote at length. … In other words, the operation of the contingent of hired brigands conclusively refutes the theory that the Revolution was an irre-
pressible rising of the people,” wrote Webster.

Meanwhile, mounted couriers dispatched by the secret societies rode from town to town warning the fearful peasants that conspirators against the nation were hiding in the aristocrats’ castles and manors. They were told the king had ordered them attacked. Chaos and violence were soon widespread and fueled the revolution.

“We see in the French Revolution the first time where grievances were systematically created to select political blame,” wrote author M.B.

Such exploitation began with the Frondeurs as early as 1772 when the Grand Orient Lodge was firmly established in France, counting 104 lodges. This number grew to 2,800 lodges by the time of the Revolu-
tion, with 447 lodge members participating in the 605-member Estates-
General. According to several researchers, the Grand Orient Lodges
were the core of the Illuminati penetration of Freemasonry.

This penetration began in the early years of the eighteenth century
when the Jacobites and Templar remnants fought for control of the
French lodges of Freemasonry. Author Webster believed that "most
Masonry" was merely a veil for Templarism and that the Grand Lodge
of France was "invaded by intriguers" (meaning the Jacobites).

French Masonry soon split into two factions—the Grand Lodge of
France with its Temple tradition infused with Illuminism, and the
expelled Grand Lodge Lacorne, which in 1772 became the Grand Ori-
ent Lodge with the future Duke of Orleans at its head.

"The Grand Orient then invited the [Grand Lodge of France] to revoke
the decree of expulsion and unite with it, and this offer being accepted, the
revolutionary party irresistibly carried all before it, and the Duc de Choiseul
[now in the Duke of Orleans] was declared Grand Master of all the con-
cealed, cognoscenti and secret lodges of France. In 1782 the 'Conseil d'Empire'
and the Knights of the East combined to form the Grand Orient
General de France," which in 1789 joined up with the Grand Orient. The
victory of the revolutionary party was then complete," explained Webster.

Alarmed over the spreading havoc, the national assembly in 1789
hastily introduced a Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Cit-
izen, proclaiming liberty, equality, the inviolability of property, and the
right to resist oppression—all basic longtime tenants of Masonry.

When the king refused to approve the declaration, a Parisian mob
marched to Versailles and took him to Paris, where the assembly con-
tinued to hammer out new laws and policies. One was to nationalize prop-
erty of the Roman Catholic church to pay off the national debt. This
action drew a yawn from conservatives and their supporters within the
court, increasing hostility on both sides. The assembly then attempted
to create a constitutional monarchy similar to England’s, but the weak
and fearful Louis tried to flee the country in June 1791. He was captured
at Varennes and returned to Paris under guard.

Meanwhile, buoyed by the situation in France, Masonic-based revo-
lutionary clubs sprang up in other countries, including England, Ire-
land, the German states, Austria, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland. Ten-
sions between outside enemies and France rose until 1792 when France
declared war on Austria and Prussia.
Confronted with both a war and a revolution, France degenerated into the Reign of Terror, during which time King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, and many thousands, chiefly aristocrats, were executed. In a move similar to Hitler’s action 150 years later, the Jacobins closed down all Masonic lodges in 1791, ironically fearful that Freemasonry’s organizing power might be turned against them.

"Behind the Convention, behind the clubs, behind the Revolutionary Tribunal, there existed — that most secret convention which directed everything — an occult and terrible power of which the other Convention became the slave and which was comprised of the prime initiates of Illuminism," wrote Webster.

Author Epperson, after an exhaustive study of the subject, agreed. He wrote, "The invisible hand that guided the entire French Revolution was the Illuminati, only 13 years in existence, yet powerful enough to cause a revolution in one of the major countries of the world."

Wars, riots, and coups continued in France until a young General Napoleon Bonaparte finally seized complete control in 1799. Although he carried on his own brand of terror in Europe for years, Napoleon proclaimed an end to the revolution. France was in a shambles. Hundreds of thousands had died of starvation, war, violence, and the guillotine. The power of both the monarchy and the monolithic church had been largely destroyed.

"So in the 'great shipwreck of civilization,' as a contemporary has described it, the projects of the Cabalists, the Gnostics, and the secret societies which for nearly eighteen centuries had sapped the foundations of Christianity found their fulfillment," commented Webster.

The confidence to initiate a major revolt such as the French Revolution may have been gained in the new lands of America. While the American Revolution was the only instance of social revolution as in France, there were precedents for a subtle undermining of secret society connections based on both religious and philosophical differences.

### SIR FRANCIS BACON AND THE NEW ATLANTIS

In the early seventeenth century, two distinct groups of Englishmen made their way to the new land of America: "Illuminized" Freemasons who founded the ill-fated Jamestown colony, and the religious Pilgrims.
who fared better at Plymouth. It is instructive to briefly consider both.

Jamestown was named after England's King James I, who commissioned the first "authorized" version of the Bible. It became the first permanent English settlement in America after its founding by Captain John Smith in 1607. The colony was strictly a business venture of the Virginia Company of London, a firm formed in 1606 by secret society members including Sir Francis Bacon, who might rightfully be viewed as the founder of modern America.

This well-educated son of the lord keeper of Britain's Great Seal, Bacon became a lawyer and member of Parliament. Despite a quarrel with Queen Elizabeth, he was knighted in 1603. Sir Francis Bacon served as England's grand chancellor under King James I and was described by author Marie Bauer Hall as "the Founder of [English] Freemasonry... the guiding light of the Rosicrucian Order, the members of which kept the torch of true universal knowledge, the Secret Doctrine of the ages, alight during the dark night of the Middle Ages." British author Icke said Bacon was "a Grand Commander of the Brotherhood Order called the Rosicrucians, and very much involved in the underground operations of the Knights Templar in London."

Bacon indeed was a fascinating figure, largely ignored in history except for his scientific work. Despite his attacks on scholastic orthodoxy, Bacon gained renown as a scientist and philosopher. Twenty years after Bacon's death in 1626, his "Academy of Sciences" of scholars formed a society of learned men, which in 1660 became the Royal Society of London for the Promotion of Natural Knowledge. According to Masonic historian Albert Mackey, many members of the original society were also members of the Company of Masons. "This was the reason of their [Society's] meetings at Mason's Hall, in Mason's Alley, Broadway Street," wrote Mackey. "Many of them were freemen of the Company of Masons, and there were a great many at every meeting, who had been members of the Company of Masons... [which] gave birth to the denomination of Freemasonry which has flourished from hence."

In Stuart England, the early Freemasons of Charles I and Charles II were men of philosophy, astronomy, physics, architecture, chemistry and generally advanced learning. Many were members of the country's most important scientific academy, the Royal Society, which had been founded after it was forced underground during the Cromwellian...
Protectorate. Early members included Robert Boyle, Isaac Newton, Robert Hooke, Christopher Wren and Samuel Pepys," wrote author Lawrence Gardner. He noted of the men of the Royal Society that "like the early Templars, they were endowed with very special knowledge."

For nearly three decades, according to authors Michael Baigent and Richard Prince, "Rosicrucianism," Freemasonry and the Royal Society were not just to overlap, but virtually to be indistinguishable from one another. According to some Masonic writers, the only meaningful difference between the Freemasons and the Royal Society was that the latter conducted open meetings.

England's first recorded Masonic initiation was for Sir Robert Moray in 1641. Moray also was one of the founders of the Royal Society and said to be its "real" and "sparking spirit." He also was said to be a chemist and a priest of the Rosicrucians, yet another example of that sect's penetration of Freemasonry.

Bacon for many years has even been identified by some as the true author of the writings of William Shakespeare, an allegation not as ludicrous as it sounds. There is ample evidence to support it, and believers included Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, Henry James, Sigmund Freud, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It was alleged that William Shakespeare was merely an illiterate stable hand and actor whose name was used to mask the radical political writings of a secret Elizabethan society which included Bacon, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Edmund Spenser, it was even rumored that Bacon was actually the illegitimate child of Queen Elizabeth.

Adding to the suspicions concerning Shakespeare's true identity was the fact that no biography of the Bard was written for more than two hundred years after his death in 1616. In addition, not one mention of an original Shakespeare script has ever been found—nor even correspondence with producers, patrons, or fellow actors—and there is really no evidence that even the name William Shakespeare existed at all.

It was alleged that Shakespeare's plays were a written record of the activities of the Rosicrucians, and the Rosicrucians' secret society included Bacon, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Edmund Spenser. It was even rumored that Bacon was actually the illegitimate child of Queen Elizabeth.

Another valid argument against Shakespeare's authorship was that the dramas and comedies evinced a knowledge of history, politics, geography, and court etiquette unlikely in a commoner. In Love's Labour's Lost, Shakespeare supposedly wrote an anagram in Latin which translated, "These
plays, the offspring of F. Bacon, are preserved for the world.” Acknowledged as a “master of English prose,” the courtly Bacon would certainly seem the prime candidate as author of the Shakespeare material. Bacon’s Masonic beliefs were advanced in two books—De Sapientia Veterum (The Wisdom of the Ancients) and New Atlantis. In the latter, according to occult researcher Andre Nataf, “Bacon is here describing a Utopia which underlies many secret societies, including modern Freemasonry.”

Masonic writer Manly P. Hall said the reason New Atlantis was not published until after Bacon's death was that “it told too much . . . [revealing] the entire pattern of the secret societies which had been working for decades to achieve the ideal commonwealth in the political world.”

This “ideal commonwealth” proved to be America, hailed as a land of boundless opportunity and the site of the Masonic “Great Pivot” to found a “New Atlantis.”

“Time will reveal that the continent now known as America was actually discovered and, to a considerable degree, explored more than a century before the beginning of the Christian era,” wrote Hall. “The true story is in the keeping of the Masonic Orders, and passed from them to the secret societies of the modern world. The magnetic poles of Europe, Asia, and the New East were in at least triangular communication with the predecessors of the same advanced Australian nations.”

“Plans for the development of the Western Hemisphere were formulated in Alexandria, Mecca, Delhi, and Lhasa [Tibet] long before most European nations were aware of the great Utopian program.”

Following the ancient secret society plan, Sir Walter Raleigh and other members of the “Baconian Circle” made an ill-fated expedition to America, landing on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, in 1584. Raleigh, who was executed by King James I in 1618 for treason, was accused by the Catholic Jesuits of operating a “School of Atheism” because of his Freemason connections and philosophy.

With the failure of Raleigh’s venture, interest about America waned in England until the posthumous publication of Bacon’s New Atlantis. Many of the subsequent Jamestown colonists led by Captain John Smith were Rosicrucian Freemasons and, some have said, relatives of Bacon. They certainly were for the most part aristocratic Englishmen who relied on their Utopian ideals rather than hard work for success. The
colony suffered severe hardships and would have disappeared but for the aid of friendly Indians and the arrival in 1610 of Thomas West, Lord De La Warr, and reinforcements.

Meanwhile two groups of religious dissenters were colonizing America.

In 1534 King Henry VIII broke with Catholicism and formed the Church of England. Those who sought to purify the new church of any taint of Catholicism were called Puritans and a splinter group who wanted nothing whatsoever to do with the church were known as Separatists. Collectively these dissenters became known as Pilgrims when they journeyed to America.

The Pilgrims set up colonies in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and elsewhere in New England. Plymouth leader William Bradford quickly decided that the communal style of living advocated by the London merchants who financed the colony was not working well.

"Everyone was fed from common stores," wrote Still. "The lack of incentive was disastrous. In two Plymouth lots is another Jamestown ..." Bradford instituted an incentive system. He assigned a plot of land to be worked by each family. From then on, the little community never again was in need of food.

"The first two colonies in America were excellent examples of two rival systems," Still continued, "one based on the concept of individually-held property driven by industry, the other based on the communal theories of Plato and Francis Bacon."

As America grew, so did English Freemasonry. A Freemason centre was founded in London on June 25, 1717, when four lodges united to form the Grand Lodge of England, also called the Mother Grand Lodge of the World. "Encouraged by the Mother Grand Lodge in London, the Freemasonic lodges in the colonies of America began to plot and agitate against British rule," wrote author Icke.

One of the earliest revolts was led by Nathaniel Bacon, a descendant of Sir Francis, according to journalist Still. Bacon in 1676 organized a militia for the purpose of fighting Indians, but instead he took control of Jamestown, thus starting the first revolution in America. His rebellion disintegrated with his sudden death at age twenty-nine.

According to several sources, American Masons included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Ethan Allen, Henry Knox, Patrick Henry, John Hancock, Paul Revere,
Benjamin Franklin became grand master of the Philadelphia Lodge in 1734.

Colonel LaVon P. Linn, a Masonic chronicler, wrote that of the estimated 14,000 officers in the Continental Army, 2,018 of them were Freemasons representing 218 Lodges, many of them "skill lodges" that served with the army from camp to camp. British Freemasons received numbers from among the American troops they trained prior to the revolution. The "challenge of the military personnel socialized, communities and men on both sides, were either practicing Freemasons themselves or were steeped in the values and attitudes of Freemasonry," noted authors Baigent and Leigh.

According to one theory, it was Washington, who became a Mason at age twenty, who helped initiate revolution in the British colonies. In 1754 Washington led a military party into the Ohio Valley, where his troops fired upon French soldiers. These Frenchmen later said they were ambushed and募资ed by Washington. French retaliatory actions forced Washington's force to surrender at Fort Necessity, Pennsylvania. The incident turned long-standing frontier tensions into the French and Indian War, which spread to Europe as the Seven Years War. This war drained Britain's finances, forcing Parliament to saddle the American colonies with higher taxes, a key issue of the revolution.

According to A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, "In the tense times before the American Revolution the secrecy of the Masonic Lodges offered the colonial patriots the opportunity to meet and plan their strategy. The Boston Tea Party was actually Masonic, carried out by members of St. John's Lodge, where the tea was stored. Others have identified the lodge as Saint Andrew's, but the point is made.

Of the fifty-two signatures of the Declaration of Independence, only one was known not to be a Freemason, asserted Masonic writer Manly P. Hall, who in The Secret Teachings of All Ages also echoed of a most mysterious incident at the time of the signing of this historic document. As the debate over their future reached a crescendo and many hesitated to sign the declaration realizing they would be putting their life on the line, one...
suddenly a tall stranger with a pale face spoke out. No one knew who he was or where he came from, but the force of his oration was transfixing. His stirring words ended with the cry, "God has given America to be free!" Amid cheers filled with emotion, every man rushed forward to sign the declaration except the stranger. "He had disappeared," wrote Hall, "nor was he ever seen again or his identity established." Hall said this episode paralleled similar incidents in world history, when strange unknown men suddenly appeared just in time for the creation of some new nation. "Are they coincidences," he asked, "or do they demonstrate that divine intervention of the Ancient Mysteries is still present in the world, serving mankind as it did of old?"

Recall that England in 1764 had outlawed the creation of colonial scrip. This forced the colonists to sell bonds of indebtedness to the Bank of England and use its banknotes... "The colonies would gladly have borne the little tax on tea and other matters had it been that England took away from the colonies their money, which created unemployment and discontent," wrote Benjamin Franklin. Author Epperson commented, "Franklin acknowledged that the cause of the Revolution was the resistance of the colonies to the idea of borrowed money, resulting in debt and inflation as well as interest payments, and not 'taxation without representation' as is commonly believed." Again, this is an issue that we of modern-day America are not supposed to consider, much less understand.

"When speaking of deficit spending," explained author Griffin, "the colonists discovered, every government building, public work, and cannon of war is paid out of current labor and current wealth. These things must be paid today, with today's labor, and not the monies that pay-interest payments fall partly to future generations, but the total cost is paid by those in the present. It is paid by loss of value to the economy and thus the productivity of the people."

Faced with the staggering costs of the American Revolution, the colonists found that the unrestricted printing of money offered no lasting solution. In an attempt to avoid interest on borrowed money, the new states began putting their own paper money, eventually called "Continentals." The total money supply went from $12 million in 1775 to $425 million by the end of 1779. By that year the one dollar Continental note was worth less than a penny, hence the old slogan "not worth a Continental."
Working to agitate these fiscal problems into open revolution were the secret societies. Freemasons were drawn to Samuel Adams’s Committees of Correspondence and the Sons of Liberty, which organized boycotts of British goods. peppersd violet acts, such as the Boston Tea Party, were instigated by the minute members of the Freemason lodges, although sometimes even peaceful demonstrations get out of hand.

In the summer of 1765, wealthy Boston merchants, including many Masons, formed a group opposed to England’s Stamp Act called the Loyal Nine. This group organized a procession of more than two thousand demonstrators who marched on the house of the local stampmaster and destroyed his effigy. After the initial indignation died, the aroused crowd began destroying property. Armed citizen patrols were organized and the very merchants who formed the Loyal Nine denounced the violence of the crowd.

Thomas Paine clearly advocated Masonic ideals, as when he attacked the divine right of kings in his book Common Sense. Referring to the Norman invasion of England by William the Conqueror in 1066, Paine wrote, “A French bastard landing with an armed banditti and establishing himself king of England against the consent of the natives, is in plain terms a very paltry rascally original. It certainly hath no divinity in it.”

Author A. Ralph Epperson concluded that Masons controlled the American Revolution, while William Bramley noted, “There was clearly something deeper driving the revolutionary cause; the whole went out to establish a whole new social order.” A “Who’s Who of the American Revolution” about a “Who’s Who of American Colonial Freemasonry.”

Most of the patriots never realized the hidden manipulation. “Twas of these men, of that heart of the town of which only the bottom of Masonry was seen,” wrote Sir James Grant, “that their belief was more significantly involved in the cause of gaining independence from a tyrant. Masonry was the society that had the social and financial organization promoting social skills and providing fellowship to its members.”

Further proof of Freemasonic influence in the American Revolution can be found in an examination of the U.S. dollar bill—with Mason George Washington on the front and Masonic symbols on the reverse. One finds a pyramid with a missing capstone but topped by an “All-Seeing Eye,” both significant and long-standing Masonic symbols. These
are also the Latin phrases Annuit Coeptis (He hath prospered our beginning) and Novus Ordo Seclorum (New Worldly Order).

Charles Thompson, designer of the Great Seal of the United States, was a Freemason and a member of Benjamin Franklin's American Philosophical Society, an American counterpart to Britain's "Invisible College." According to author Laurence Gardner, "The imagery of the Seal is directly related to alchemical tradition, inherited from the allegory of the ancient Egyptian Therapeutae [medicine]. The eagle, the olive branch, the arrows and the pentagons are all occult symbols of opposite: good and evil, male and female, war and peace, darkness and light. On the reverse, as repeated on the dollar bill, is the truncated pyramid, indicating the loss of the Old Wisdom, severed and forced underground by the Church establishment. But above this are the rays of ever-ting light, incorporating the all-seeing eye, said as a symbol during the French Revolu-

Author Bramly noted that the official seal of the United States bears the word "Pilgrim" in Latin, originally depicted a Phoenix rising from ashes, a Masonic symbol traced to ancient Egypt. But so many people mistook the legendary Phoenix for a turkey that the Bald Eagle was substituted in 1841.

With these undeniably Masonic symbols prominently displayed on money and considering the wealth of information available to the scholar Washington was clearly correct in his 1782 quote acknowledging the role of Illuminated Freemason doctrine in the early United States.

Many conspiracy writers view one particular secret society—the Illu-
mation—on an early stage manager of world affairs from behind the scenes. A group powerful and dedicated enough to infiltrate and control even the Freemasons. To understand the mysterious and elusive Illuminatii or Illuminated (enlightened) Ones, one must first look to Germany in the eighteenth century.

THE ILLUMINATI

Although Illuminati concepts can be traced back through history to the wanted sects claiming esoteric knowledge, the order was first publicly identified in 1776. On May 1 of that year—a day long honored by illuminati who have before adopted that philosophy—on the
Illuminati doctrine—the Bavarian Illuminati—was formed by Adam Weishaupt, a professor of Canon Law at Ingolstadt University of Bavaria, Germany. One of his cofounders reportedly was William of Hesse, the employer of Mayer Rothschild. It is certainly true that the Rothschilds and German royalty were connected through Freemasonry; Rothschild biographer Niall Ferguson wrote that Mayer's son Salomon was a member of the same Masonic lodge as Mayer's bookkeeper Seligmann Geisenheimer. Studying to be a Jesuit priest, Weishaupt was undoubtedly angered over the 1773 banning of the order by Pope Clement XIV. While this act eventually led Weishaupt to break with the church he remained conversant with Jesuit theology. He also was greatly influenced by a merchant, named only as Kolmer, turned by author Webster “by the most exquisiteness of all the mystery men.” Kolmer, according by some researchers to be the same man called Altimas who was adored and mentioned by the French court magician and revolutionary Cagliostro, learned the esoteric knowledge of Egypt and Persia while living in the Near East for many years. Kolmer passed along to Weishaupt, who then spent several years determining how to consolidate all occult systems into his new “Illuminated” order. Weishaupt then spent several years considering the question of why not the Illuminati adopt the Persian calendar? Considering his deep knowledge of the aliens, Weishaupt may have taken the name “Illuminati” from a secret spinnerei group called the “Alumbrados” (enlightened or illuminated) of Spain, which was created by Jesuit founder, the Spaniard Ignatius Loyola. The Alumbrados taught a form of Gnosticism: belief that the human spirit could obtain direct knowledge of God and that the language of formal religion was sense-
nary for those who found the "light." It is no wonder that the Spanish Inquisition issued edicts against this group in 1568, 1574, and 1623. Weishaupt noted that with his formation of the Illuminati, he, too, incurred "the implacable enmity of the Jesuits, to whose intrigues he was incessantly exposed."

Despite this enmity, Weishaupt created a pyramid structure of degrees for his initiates based on the Jesuit and Freemason structure, with key personnel located within only the top nine degrees. In the 1770s (Illuminati), Weishaupt was known by his code name "Spartacus" in honor of the slave who led a bloody revolt against the Romans in 73 B.C.

According to a 1969 magazine article, the Illuminati originated within the Muslim Ismaili sect, a group closely connected to the venerated Knights Templar who may have brought Illuminati ideals to Europe centuries before Weishaupt. This article stated that Weishaupt studied the teachings of the leader of the infamous Muslim Assassins, named for their consumption of hashish, and himself achieved "illumination" by ingesting homegrown marijuana. A harbinger of the psychedelic 1960s, the Illuminati slogan Ewige Blumenkraft meant "Eternal Flower Power."

The Illuminati were indoctrinated with ancient esoteric knowledge and were opposed to what they saw as the tyranny of the Catholic church and the national governments it supported. "Man is not bad," Weishaupt wrote, "except as he is made so by arbitrary morality. He is bad because religion, the state, and bad examples pervert him. When, at last, reason becomes the religion of men, then will the problem be solved."

Weishaupt also evoked a philosophy which has been used with terrible results throughout the years by Hitler and many other tyrants. "Behold our secret. Remember that the end justifies the means," he wrote, "and that the wise ought to take all the means to do good which the wicked take to do evil." So, for the enlightened, any means to gain their ends is acceptable—whether this means lies, deceit, theft, murder, or war.

The key to Illuminati control was secrecy. Edinburgh University professor John Robison was a Mason invited to join the Illuminati in the late eighteenth century. After investigating the order, Robison published a book which offered his conclusions in its title, Proofs of a Conspiracy Against All the Religions and Governments of Europe Carried on in the Secret Meetings of the Free Masons, Illuminati, and Reading Societies.
He quoted from Weishaupt’s letters to Silvio Hirtmann. One 1794 work, Die neuesten Arbeiten des Spartacus und Philo in dem Illuminaten-Orden, stated:

“...The great strength of our Order lies in its concealment. Let it never appear in any place in its own name, but always covered by another name and another occupation. None is fitter than the three lower degrees of Freemasonry; the public is accustomed to it, expects little from it, and therefore takes little notice of it. Next to this, the form of a learned or literary society is best suited to our purposes. By establishing reading societies and subscription libraries, etc., we may turn the public mind to any end we will, in like manner we must try to obtain an influence in ..., all offices which have any effect either in forming, or in managing, or even in directing the mind of man.”

Weishaupt not only set out to deceive the public, but he reminded his top leaders they should hide their true intentions from their own initiates by “speaking sometimes in one way, sometimes in another, so that one’s real purpose should remain impenetrable to one’s inferiors.”

“Weishaupt’s lieutenants were enlisted by the most subtle methods of deception and led into totally a goal entirely unknown to them,” noted Webster. “It is this... constitutes the whole difference between honest and dishonest secret societies.”

Unlike anarchists that seek an end to all government, Weishaupt and his Illuminati sought a world government based on their philosophy of human-centered rationalism. This world government, of course, would be administered by themselves. “The pupils [of the Illuminati] are convinced that the order will rule the world. Every member therefore becomes a ruler,” he proclaimed.

In 1777 Weishaupt blended his brand of Illuminism with Freemasonry after joining the Munich Lodge Theodore of Good Counsel in Munich. The French Revolutionary leader and Illuminati member Mirabeau noted in his memoirs, “The Lodge Theodore de Bon Conseil at Munich, where there were a few men with brains and hearts ... man’s nature to their leader another occult association in which they gave the name of the Order of the Illumines. They modeled it on the Society of Jesus [Jesuits], while preparing to themselves, types diametrically opposed.” It was here that the anticlerical message of Freemasonry combined with one against established government. In the Freemasons Lodge Munich and the Illuminati formulated the very political agenda proposed at France’s Constituent Assembly twelve years later.
The Illuminati philosophy was further spread—and unwittingly—by the Bavarian government which tracked down the organization in 1783. Authorities saw the Illuminati as a direct threat to the established order and outlawed the organization. This action prompted many members to flee Germany, which only spread their philosophies farther. Secret Illuminati orders sprang up in France, Italy, England, and even the new lands of America.

Mason, Founding Father, and former president Thomas Jefferson wrote with admiration, “Weishaupt seems to be an enthusiastic philanthropist. Weishaupt believes that to promote the perfection of the human character was the object of Jesus Christ. [Weishaupt's] precepts are the love of God and love of our neighbor.” Either Jefferson lacked knowledge of the inner Illuminati teachings or, as was charged in his time, he himself was a secret member.

Warnings against the Illuminati came from many quarters. Professor Robison, utilizing the order's own internal papers, made it perfectly clear that the organization was created for the “...express purpose of rooting out all the religious establishments and overturning all the existing governments of Europe.”

But Weishaupt presented yet another dimension to this goal of political and religious upheaval, one which may provide the basic motivation for all secret societies right up to today: the desire for power. He wrote, “Have you sufficiently what it means to rule—to rule in a secret society? Not only over the lesser or more important of the populace, but over the best men, over men of all ranks, nations, and religions, in rule without external force, to rule without external authority, men distributed over all parts of the world?”

Weishaupt achieved such power himself by creating a pyramid chain of command so secure that no one knew he was the head of the Illuminati until Bavarian authorities seized the group's internal papers. In these documents, Weishaupt described his organization, “I have two immediately below me into whom I breathe my whole spirit, and each of these two has again two others, and so on. In this way I can set a thousand men in motion and on fire in the simplest manner, and in this way one can make orders and operate in politics.”

By 1790 the Illuminati appeared to have disbanded, but many members had simply fled to other countries while retaining their loyalty to the group's ideals. The Bavarian government tried to alert the leaders of other nations to what they saw as the danger of the Illuminati.

Officials...
collected Illuminati documents into a publication entitled Original Writings of the Order of the Illuminati and distributed it to other European governments. But their warning fell on deaf ears.

Webster wrote, "The extravagance of the [Illuminati] scheme... rendered it unbelievable, and the rulers of Europe, refusing to take Illuminism seriously, put it aside..." Many researchers share the same reservation. Why has this early connection of the Illuminati to American politics remained buried?

It was easy enough for the Illuminati to elude Bavarian authorities in the late 1780s. They simply went further underground, having successfully merged with Continental Freemasonry earlier in that decade.

Illuminist Victor wrote in his diary, "The connection of the Illuminati with the earlier institution is simply that they adopted some of its Degrees and proceeded Illuminantly from this source."

Despite Victor's attempt to make this distinction, it was recorded that Weishaupt's group had formed an earlier alliance with the "Order of Strict Observance" of Freemasons in Frankfurt, Germany. This order was based on an earlier Rosicrucian group called the Order of the Gold and Rosy Cross.

One prestigious member of the Order of Strict Observance was the Hanoverian Baron Adolph Friedrich Ludwig von Knigge. Though himself long proposing reforms in Masonry, once Knigge discovered the strength of Weishaupt's Illuminati, he joined and took up their cause.

Although Weishaupt was absent, Knigge represented the Illuminati at the Masonic Convention of Wilhelmsbad in Hesse, convened on July 16, 1782, under the chairmanship of the Duke of Brunswick and attended by Masonic representatives from all over Europe. Leading the Illuminati contingent under his Illuminati name "Philo," Knigge "effected a kind of marriage between Freemasonry and Illuminism," wrote Victor. Although Knigge and Weishaupt later quarreled and parted ways, the latter proved instrumental in merging the Illuminati with the higher degrees of Freemasonry.

According to Victor, Knigge, "who had been traveling about Germany proclaiming himself the reformer of Freemasonry, presented himself at Wilhelmsbad..." Victor continues, "and succeeded in enrolling a number of magistrates, savants, ecclesiastics and ministers of state as Illuminati... Illuminism took root in the bosom of the Saxon..."
The same year of the Wilhelmsbad congress, according to author Still, “the headquarters of Illuminated Freemasonry was moved to Frankfurt, the stronghold of German Finance, and controlled by the Rothschilds.” He added, “For the first time, Jews were admitted into the Order. Previously, Jews had only been admitted to a division of the Order called ‘the small and constant Sanhedrin of Europe.’”

Jacob Katz, in his Jews and Freemasonry in Europe, wrote that founder of the Frankfurt Lodge of Freemasonry included Frankfurt rabbi Zvi Hirsch, Rothschild chief clerk Sigismund Geisenheimer, and all of Frankfurt’s leading bankers, including the Rothschilds, who would later fund Cecil Rhodes and his societies.

Although the Order of Strict Observance officially disappeared after the Wilhelmsbad convention, authors Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince argued that the Rectified Scottish Rite accepted there was merely the Strict Observance under a different name. The idea that the Strict Observance, which obtained passage through the Knights Templar to the Ancient Mysteries, simply changed names to camouflage itself is well supported by the fact that the Wilhelmsbad chairman, the Duke of Brunswick, “one of the most active and influential Freemasons of the age,” was himself a member of the Strict Observance. Additionally, according to Masonic author Waite, “It would seem that we can trace [to the Order of Strict Observance]—practically without exception—every important personality in connection with French Freemasonry, not to speak of Germany itself.”

Waite admitted that, following the Wilhelmsbad convention, Strict Observance was “transformed into various rites and Hidden Crades.”

With divisive issues settled and the Illuminati safely hidden away within the Freemasons, the Count de Virieu later wrote in a biography, “The conspiracy which is being woven is so well thought out that it will be... impossible for the Monarchy and the Church to escape it.”

“From the Frankfurt Lodge, the gigantic plan of world revolution was carried forward,” Still wrote. “The facts show that the Illuminati, and its lower house, Masonry, was a secret society within a secret society.”

Weishaupt’s Illuminism was the public manifestation of a centuries-old struggle between organized religious dogma and a humanism based on ancient esoteric knowledge both theological and secular. Such knowledge required great secrecy because of the unceasing attacks by both the
church and the monarchies. But whose many of the older Gnostic sects, excluding the Carbonari, advanced honest beliefs and values. Weishaupt had a more cynical and deceptive agenda at the root.

"Weishaupt . . . knew how to take from every association, past and present, the perils he required and to wield them all into a working system of terrible efficiency," wrote critic Webster, "... the disintegrating doctrines of the Gnostics and Manicheans, the methods of the Ismailis and Assassins, the discipline of the Jesuits and Templars, the organization and secrecy of the Freemasons, the philosophy of Machiavelli, the mystery of the Rosicrucians—he knew moreover, how to enlist the right elements in all existing associations as well as isolated individuals and turn them to his purpose."

Considering what this one German professor achieved in the eighteenth century, it is clear why recent conspiracy writers have expressed a concern over what a modern Illuminati, armed with technology and influence over the mass media, might accomplish.

Many researchers today believe the Illuminati still exist and that the order's goals are nothing less than the destruction of all governmental, private-property, inheritance, nationalism, the family unit, and organized religion. This belief partially comes from the stretching notion that the much-despised Protocols of the Elders of Zion—used widely since its publication in 1911 to justify anti-Semitism—was actually an Illuminati document with Jewish elements added for disinformation purposes.

"Even though the Illuminati faded from public view, the monolithic apparatus set in motion by Weishaupt may still exist today," Still commented. "Certainly, the goals and methods of operation still exist. Whether the name Illuminati still exists is really irrelevant."

FREEMASONRY

The ongoing connective tissue between the modern and ancient secret societies has been Freemasonry, which existed as a formidable force long before certain lodges became "Illuminized."

During the late Middle Ages when any opposition to the Holy Roman Universal (Catholic) church was forced deep underground, among the only organized groups able to move freely throughout Europe were the...
guilds of stone masons, who maintained meeting halls or "lodges" in every major city.

The masons, who traced their own secret knowledge of architecture and building back to Egypt and beyond, were essential in the construction of Europe’s churches and cathedrals. They were the direct descendants of early guilds of masons which existed both in Egypt and Greece and utilized esoteric construction techniques in their craft. These techniques had been passed down through the ages and mystery schools and are still in use today.

According to The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Freemasonry is the largest worldwide secret society and was spread largely by the advance of the British empire in the nineteenth century. There were even Masonic lodges established in China under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of England beginning in 1789. The infamous Chinese Triad Society began as a Masonic order, along with one called the Order of the Brothers according to the author of A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry. These Chinese Masons conducted identical rites, wore similar jeweled symbols and leather aprons. They referred to the deity as the "First Builder."

There are several organizations that, while not officially Masonic, draw from the Masons. These include such social or "fun" organizations as Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Orders of the Eastern Star, DeMolay, Bricklayers, and Rainbow. These groups are predominantly American as British Masons are expressly forbidden to join such affiliates.

According to journalist George Johnson, "Early on, Masonry developed an aura of mystique. Its members possessed a power based not on royal or ecclesiastical authority but on knowledge, not only of stonecutting and mortaring but of the mysteries of ancient Greek geometers [experts in geometry]." (ibid). Masons, like other societies, use symbols to convey their messages. The most famous of the Masonic symbols—the letter G inside a square and compass—is a symbol for geometry, according to Masonic historian Whitaker. Masons also believe that "Masonry and Geometry are synonymous terms" and "the geometrical symbols found in the ritual of modern Freemasonry may be considered as..."
the debris of the geometrical secrets of the Medieval Mason, which are
now admitted to be lost. "Sacred geometry," long has utilized geometrical symbols such as the circle, the triangle, the pentagram, etc., as symbols for metaphysical and philosophi-
cal concepts.
Authors Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas had an interesting
take on the well-known Masonic symbol of the square and compass.
They claimed it originated as a stylized form of the ancient symbol for
a king's power—a pyramid with its base at the bottom representing
earthly power—superimposed with a reversed pyramid representing the
heavenly power at the point. Together, these pyramids of power create
the symbol which has come to be known as the Star of David. "It first
came into popular use on a large number of Christian churches in the
Middle Ages," they wrote, "and the earliest examples were no more
ancient than that, or buildings erected by the Knights Templar. Its use in
synagogues came very much later."

One Masonic tradition claimed that Abraham, the patriarch of the
Hebrews, taught the Egyptians special knowledge predating the Great
Flood. Later, this knowledge—reported as the work of the legendary
Hermes Trismegistus—was collected by the Greek philosopher Euclid,
who studied the work under the name geometry. The Greeks and later
Romans called this discipline architecture.

Critics of Freemasonry have claimed the prominent G stands for
Gnosticism, a philosophy of Gnostic sects such as the Almsgivers,
which was rechristened by the early church.

Authorities disagree as to the actual origin of Freemasonry, but all
acknowledge that it predates ancient Egypt. Masonic lore traces its ori-
gins back to the construction of the biblical Tower of Babel and King
Solomon's Temple of Jerusalem.

Writing in the nineteenth century, Mackey stated that the Masons of
the Middle Ages derived their knowledge of building as well as organiza-
tions from the "Architects of Lombardy." This guild in northern Italy was
the first to assume the name "Freemasons," which has become the short-
ened name for the fraternal Order of Free and Accepted Masons. The
term "Accepted" applied to late members who were not connected to the
original stone masons. One paper on alchemy specifically mentioning
"Freemason" can be dated to the 1450s.

Other Masonic scholars claim to historically date the order to Ruwan's
Collegium Fabrorum or College of Workmen, a group of builders and architects that became a prototype of the later guilds. Most writers trace Masonic secrets through these master-builders of the Crusades, the Knights Templar. The eighteenth century writer Isaiah Edenson, editor of the Fortieth Degree, which captured imagination, and reportedly also the Symbols of the mysteries of Freemasonry.

The secrets of the origins of Freemasonry have been tightly held despite the publication of numerous books and literature on the subject. Walter Leslie Wilmshurst, a ranking Mason and author of The Meaning of Masonry, wrote, "The true, inner history of Masonry has never yet been given forth even to the Craft itself." Many researchers believe that even most Masons themselves have lost sight of the organization's true origins and purposes. "The whole picture is one of organization that has forgotten its original meaning," wrote the authors of The Templar Revelation. This allegation was echoed by the Masonic authors of The Hiram Key, Knight and Lomas, who wrote, "Not only are the origins of Freemasonry no longer known, but the true secrets of the Order are admitted to have been lost, with fabricated secrets being used in their place in Masonic ceremonies."

Yet, following an exhaustive study of the Knights Templar, they concluded, "We now could be certain, without any shadow of a doubt, that the starting place for Freemasonry was the construction of Rosslyn Chapel in the mid-fifteenth century." Rosslyn, near Edinburgh, Scotland, was built by the Saint-Clair family, who were members of the original Knights Templar. The Saint-Clairs were close to the original Templars and William Saint-Clair of Rosslyn became the first grand master of Scottish Freemasonry. Catherine de Saint-Clair was married to the first grand master of the Knights Templar.

Much of the confusion over Freemasonry's origins and growth dates from the rift between the Roman Catholic church and the Protestant Church of England when many Masonic records were lost. Wars and revolutions took their toll on Masonic libraries in all nations. King Henry VIII, in breaking with Rome, not only discontinued the church's building programs in England, causing widespread unemployment, but also the assets of the Masons under the guise of taxes and tribute. To survive, the lodges began opening their memberships to non-Masons. These outsider merchants, landowners, and others—many with Templar backgrounds—became known as "Speculative" Masons. They
embraced a mystical and esoteric doctrine based on traditions predating Freemasonry, and brought to the order by Knights Templar members fleeing persecution by the church. By the time four London lodges formed a United Grand Lodge in 1717, speculative Freemasonry completely dominated the original guild traditions in "operative" Masonry. It is primarily from speculative Masonry that the order derived its esoteric knowledge. Author Webster stated that the origins of Freemasonry cannot be traced to any one source, but that the order needed from a combination of traditions that evolved and merged over a period of time. "Thus operative Masonry may have descended from the Roman Colleges and through the operative masters of the Middle Ages, whilst speculative Masonry may have derived from the Hebrew patriarchs and the mysteries of the pagans. But the source of inspiration which allowed us to be known as the Scottish Catholics... The fact remains that when the ideal and esoterism of Masonry were drawn up in 1717, although certain fragments of the ancient Egyptian and Pythagorean doctrine were retained, the Indian version of this secret tradition was the one selected by the founders of the Grand Lodge on which to build up their system."

 Freemasonry continued to broaden its appeal. In 1720 Masonic lodges were established in France under the auspices of England's United Grand Lodge. They formed a Grand Lodge in Paris in 1735. These were distant from the Scottish lodges which had been formed after Charles Stuart I fled England. Tensions between the two branches of French Masonry were heightened in 1746 with the exile of Charles Edward "Bonnie Prince Charlie" Stuart, the "Young Pretender" and his followers, who encouraged political use of the order. It was during this time that the true lineage of Freemasonry became publicly known. In 1737 the father of Prince Charles Edward's sons and brother(fellow member Andrew Michael Ramsey delivered a speech in what became known as "Ramsey's Oration.") He clearly stated that "our Order formed an intimate union with the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem," an order already associated with the Knights Templar. Ramsey also said that Freemasonry was connected to the ancient mystery schools of the Greek goddess Dionysus and the Egyptian god Osiris.

German Mason Baron Karl Gottlieb von Hanau had joined the Frankfurt lodge and in 1754 he formed an extension of the Scottish Rite called...
the Order of the Strict Observance after its oath of unquestioning obedi-
ence to mysterious and unseen "superiors." As previously described, this
order ended with the fusion of the Illuminati and German Freemasonry
during the Wilhelmsbad Convention.
Von Hund admitted carrying on the traditions of Knights Templar
forced into exile in Scotland in the early 1300s. Order members pro-
claimed themselves "Knights of the Temple." He claimed to be carrying
out the orders of "unknown superiors" who were never identified or
located. While some claimed their "superiors" were not human, most
researchers believe they probably were Jacobite supporters of the Stuarts
who died in the failed rising of the "Young Pretender.
Three superiors did provide von Hund with a list of names reported to
have been ongoing grand masters of the Knights Templar, thought to have
become extinct as the mid-1300s. A nearly identical list discovered
recently was connected to the mysterious Priory of Sion headquartered in
Rennes-le-Chateau in southern France, through an Austrian historian
named Leo Schidlof, reportedly the author of genealogical lists entitled
"Dossiers secrets or secret files." Save for the spelling of a single surname,
the list Hund produced agreed precisely with the one in the Dossiers
secrets. In short, Hund had somehow obtained a list of Templar grand
masters more accurate than any other known at the time," write the
authors of Holy Blood, Holy Grail. They felt this provided strong support
for the belief that both the Priory and Freemason Hund were directly tied
to the Knights Templar.
After years of clashes with the Roman Catholic church, Freemasons
in England—now under the Church of England—announced in 1723
that the organization would accept persons from all religions. Today
there are an estimated six million Freemasons active in the world in
nearly one hundred thousand lodges.
Freemasonry is formed into three basic lodge: the Blue Lodge, the
York Rite, and the Scottish Rite. The York Rite is composed of ten degrees,
and the Scottish Rite with its total of thirty-two degrees of initiation. The
invitation-only thirty-third degree represents the human head atop the thirty-three vertebrae of the
spine, which is the highest publicly known degree.
The vast majority of members look upon their affiliation with
Freemasonry as little different from joining the Lion's Club, the Opti-
mists, or the chamber of commerce. And from their standpoint, this is
true. Even Masonic literature makes clear that only those initiates who progress beyond thirty-third-degree status are educated in the group's true goals and secrets.

This hierarchy is readily admitted by Masonic authors. "There has always existed an external, elementary, popular doctrine which has served for the instruction of the masses who are insufficiently prepared for deeper teaching," wrote Mason Wilmshurst. "There has been an interior, advanced doctrine, a more secret knowledge, which has been reserved for ripe minds and into which only proficient and properly prepared candidates, who voluntarily sought to participate in it, were initiated."

The thirty-third-degree Mason Manly P. Hall wrote, "Freemasonry is a fraternity within a fraternity—an outer organization concealing an inner brotherhood of the elect, the one visible and the other invisible. The visible society is a tilled land of men of free and accepted stones expropriated to depict themselves to others, educational, familial, patriotic and humanitarian concerns. The invisible society is a secret and vast opaque mystery whose members are dedicated to the service of an essentially unknown..."

Prominent nineteenth-century Mason Albert Pike admitted that Freemasonry has "two doctrines, one concealed and reserved for the Masons... the other public..." Past Provincial Grand Registrar Wilmshurst confirmed that the "first stage" or initial degrees of Masonry are "concerned merely with the surface-values of the doctrine" and that "beyond this stage the vast majority of Masons, it is to be feared, never pass."

Even many high-ranking Masons are never brought into the inner circle of knowledge. In his memoirs, the famous Freemason Casanova wrote, "That those even who have occupied the Chair of the Master are not informed of the laws of the Craft..."

Author Epperson made the interesting observation that every Mason will deny that there exists an inner and outer circle in the system because the "average Mason" is truly unaware of this system while the "Illuminated Mason" is pledged not to reveal it. "This second layer is protected by an oath of secrecy, which means that if you knew about its existence, you would be obligated by an oath to tell no one," he explained.

The power structure of the order also raised concerns among many researchers. "World Freemasonry is a massive pyramid of manipulation..."
tion," wrote conspiracy author Icke. "The pyramid structure allows the Elite, the few at the top of Freemasonry, to control the majority by mis-leading them and keeping them in the dark."

This deception has been accomplished by providing both initiate Masons and the inquiring public alike with such a mass of contradictory and confusing information, traditions, and history that even Masonic scholars cannot agree on many issues. Author Mackey acknowledges that Masonic records are "replete with historical inaccuracies, with anecdotes, and even with contradictions."

There was a reason for this obfuscation. "The growth of Freemasonry synchronizes with a corresponding diminution of interest in orthodox religion and public worship," noted Wilmshurst. "The simple principles of faith and the humanitarian ideals of Masonry are with some men taking the place of the teaching offered in the various Churches."

Though its leaders deny it to be a religion, Freemasonry nonetheless offered a substitute for religion. Its website had to be circumlocute in its teachings. Up to within living memory, anyone speaking concepts popularly believed to be sacrilegious or blasphemous risked serious community censure, bodily injury, or even death.

Wilmshurst explained that one seeking enlightenment "in the form of a new enhanced consciousness and enlarged perceptive faculty ... must be prepared to discard belief of all past preconceptions and fraught beliefs and, with childlike meekness and docility, surrender his mind to the reception of some perhaps novel and unexpected truths..."

Referring to the teachings of Masonry as "veiled" and "cryptic," he wrote, "The meaning of Masonry — in a subject usually left entirely unexplained and with a subject matter largely concealed by its members was ever much less visible or known by its private study..."

However, Wilmshurst draw some clues to the hidden history of Freemasonry when he wrote of a "Golden Age" when "men were once in conscious conversation with the unseen world and were shepherded, taught and guided by the gods..." He wrote that humanized but his view after a "fall" due to its attempt to gain the same knowledge as its creators, a concept compatible with the biblical "fall from grace."

This "fall" of mankind, according to Wilmshurst writing in 1927, was not due to any individual transgression but to "some weakness or defect in the collective or group-soul of the Adamic race" so that "within the Divine counsel... it was decided that humanity should be
redeemed and restored to its pristine state," a process which required "vast time-cycles for its achievement." He added that this restoration also required "skilled scientific assistance" from "those 'gods' and angelic guardians of the erring race of whom all the ancient traditions and sacred writings told.

Masonic author Manly P. Hall demonstrated that Wilmshurst was not merely speaking allegorically, explaining, "In the remote past the gods walked with men and ... they chose from among the sons of man the virtuous and the virtuous... They selected those sons of men who had not yet developed the eyes which permitted them to gaze into the face of Truth and live... These illumined ones are the men whom we call the 'Ancient Mysteries.'" So one inner Masonic secret has to do with their awareness of prehistoric "gods" who left their knowledge to certain individuals, thus illumining them. This knowledge was passed down through Masonic Order's Seals in the form of both the Jewish and Christian Religions, whose traditions were taught by the Knights Templar and brought to the inner core of modern Freemasonry.

The transition from ancient secret societies to more modern secret organizations was facilitated by the introduction of "Illuminized" Freemasonry in the late eighteenth century, itself a blending of older secret lore with Cabalistic traditions. These secrets continue to look at the inner core of Freemasonry even as its unknowing millions of members enjoy its outward philanthropy and fellowship.

The diligent researcher can begin to understand these ancient secrets only after the most laborious and serious study—much is still not being told to a select minority, as admitted by Masonic authors.

Another of the ancient secrets concerned the concept of reincarnation, which, apologized Wilmshurst, "will be novel and probably unacceptable to some readers." He added, "We are merely recording what the Secret Doctrine teaches.

It was this hidden and esoteric side of Freemasonry that prompted critics to charge the Order as antireligious. "Accusations that the Freemasons have cultivated the occult sciences—particularly alchemy,
astrology and ceremonial magic—have pursued the order throughout its history," acknowledged the modern editors of Mackey’s book.

Within only Freemasonry were men called magicians—not the stage illusions of today but men who took the name from the term Magi, or wise men. Until the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century, magi-
census merely venerated names for science. These magicians sincerely claimed to have the occult knowledge of alchemical transmutations, natural manipulations, and secret arts.

One of the most magical of these Masons was a person known as a “Wonderman,” who was thought to have lived for hundreds of years.

COUNT SAINT-GERMAIN AND OTHER MAGICIANS

People who knew the Count of Saint-Germain either characterized him as a charlatan or an immobilized enigma. The truth probably lay somewhere between, although there were definite strumous about the man.

No one ever learned his true origins, but rumors were thick. Some claimed he a brilliant man who spoke all European languages and noticed a deep knowledge in many fields was actually the third son of Leopold-Gustav, Duke of Tuscany and Charlotte Amalie of Hesse-Brunswick. Others said he was actually Prince Regent of Transylvania and had been educated by the last Duke of Meller. So Saint-Germain claimed to have discovered the secret of acent, perhaps memory of the secret passed down some of his ancestors Count D’Artagnan legend.

Others said the actual villain was the use of the Count of Portugal which, others said he was entirely the offspring of a mysterious For-

mum named Daniel Vell. One account even claimed he was the result of a liaison between an African princess and a pasha.

However, the Count of Saint-Germain, called a “Wonder-
man” due to his vast knowledge and social skills, proved to be one of the most mysterious agents of the secret societies in his time. He first appeared in London about 1743, two years later, he was arrested as a vampire spy but later released.
Leaving London, the count traveled through Germany and Austria. He met Marshal de Belle-Isle, France’s minister of war, who introduced Saint-Germain to the French court. He was immediately popular, claiming to have lived for centuries after discovering the “Elixir of Life,” a formula for physical immortality. As recounted by author Richard Cavendish, the count told courtiers he had been among the guests at Cana when Jesus turned water into wine and had known Egyptian Queen Cleopatra. His knowledge of history was extraordinary, as he described details of events that astounded the most scholarly historians. Considered one of the world’s greatest minds, French literary giant Francois-Marie Arouet, better known as Voltaire, once stated that Saint-Germain “is a man who knows everything.”

He obviously was quite a showman. Once he spoke of being friends with the legendary King Richard the Lion Heart “… turning to his manservant for confirmation ‘You forget, sir,’ the valet said solemnly, ‘I have been only 500 years in your service.’”

Saint-Germain also claimed to possess the secrets of removing flaws from diamonds and transmuting various metals. He was given a laboratory for his alchemical experiments by King Louis XV, who also employed the count on secret diplomatic and spying missions. Saint-Germain made it clear where he had received his extraordinary knowledge. “One needs to have studied in the pyramids as I have studied,” he once said.

In 1762 the count traveled to Saint Petersburg, where he assisted in placing the daughter of a friend, the Princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, on the Russian throne following the death of Peter III. His friend’s daughter became known as “Catherine the Great.” “St. Germain’s involvement in the overthrow of Peter of Russia was not a petty scam,” noted author Bramley, “it was a major coup which altered the political landscape of Europe.”

The significance of Saint-Germain lies in his close associations. After his travels, the count made connections with important Freemasons such as Campano and the future French revolutionary Cagliostro. It was in gentlemanly society, according to Cagliostro, that Saint-Germain held a clandestine Freemasonry and initiated him into the Order of the Strict Observance in an underground chamber near Frankfurt. Sharing leadership in this order were the Duke of Brunswick and Prince Karl of Hesse, “head of all German Freemasons” and brother of William IX, the patron of Mayer Rothschild. “One of Saint-Germain’s best friends and pupils was Prince Karl.
von Hesse-Kassel," noted Tomas, "who wrote Memories de Mon Temps [Memories of My Time], in which he calls the count 'one of the greatest philosophers who ever lived.'"

"Saint-Germain was the 'Grand Master of Freemasonry' and it was he who initiated Cagliostro into the mysteries of Egyptian masonry," confirmed author Webster, who added that Cagliostro was "no slouch in his arts." Cagliostro founded his own Egyptian branch of Freemasonry drawn from the teachings of Saint-Germain and his knowledge of the Egyptian Cabala. All of this laid the foundation for the Illuminati takeover of German Freemasonry.

While in Germany in 1774, Saint-Germain stayed for a time with William IX of Hesse. Perhaps during his stay, Saint-Germain exchanged secrets with William and his financial adviser Mayer Rothschild. Considering Rothschild's interest in antiquities as well as the Cabala, one can imagine his fascination with Saint-Germain's knowledge of the Egyptian Mysteries.

"St. Germain's activities are important because his movements provide a fascinating link between the wars going on in Europe, the deeper levels of the Brotherhood, and the clique of German princes—particularly the House of Hesse," wrote author Bramley.

Another connection between Rothschild, royal masonry, and occult Freemasonry was Saint-Hugues Willermoz, who, as a Mason since 1773 and a wealthy silk manufacturer from Lyons, undoubtedly entered into the same circles as Mayer Rothschild. Willermoz, who claimed to receive instruction from "unknown superiors," stayed for a time with the Prince of Hesse-Kassel. A member of the Masonic "Rite of Great Sovereign," Willermoz was a moving force during the 1782 Wilhelmsbad Conference and is considered by many to be a founder of modern spiritualism.

Rothschild may have had contact with Saint-Germain, as an old family friend. "The Illumination of Frankfurt" (The Illumination of Frankfurt in France), Vol. II, stated: "The Count of Hesse-Kassel, the Grand Master of the Illuminati, in his address at Wilhelmsbad—"the Holy Count," as the Illuminati called him, was a man of learning as well as a Mason and a member of the Illuminati."

Saint-Germain and Cagliostro may not have been the only connections between the House of Hesse and Freemasonry. Another contender was a mysterious and little-known person named Hayyim Samuel Jacob Falk. "While St. Germain and Cagliostro were in every..."
account of 18th century magicians, it is only in exclusively Judaic or Masonic works, not intended for the general public, that we shall find any reference to Falk,” noted author Webster.

The German poet Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, a close friend of Cabalist philosopher Moses Mendelssohn and librarian for the Duke of Brunswick, a ranking Masonic official, wrote several important Masonic tracts entitled Ernst and Falk: Gesprache fur Freimaurer (Ernst and Falk: Speak for Freemasonry). Although not documented, Lessing’s title would indicate a connection between Falk and German Freemasonry, which included the Rothschilds.

Falk fled Germany to avoid being burned at the stake as a sorcerer and arrived in London in 1742, apparently with only the shirt on his back. Yet, soon Falk had purchased a comfortable home containing much silver and gold as well as several private libraries.

Webster concludes Falk not only with the Cabala but with the French Revolution. “The Duke [of Orleans] was in touch with Falk when in London and Falk supported his scheme of usurpation,” wrote Webster wondering if “in Falk’s ‘chests of gold’ that we might find the source of some of those loans raised in London by the Duc d’Orleans to finance the riots of the Revolution…”

Webster saw in Falk the most likely person in the historic record—next to the Rothschild connection—who might have introduced Cabalist teachings into the higher degrees of Freemasonry. “Falk indeed was far more than a Mason,” she wrote, “he was a high initiate—the supreme oracle to which the secret societies applied for guidance.” Webster added that the “inaccessible” Falk may well have been one of the “real initiates whose identity has been so carefully kept dark…”

Whether Falk or Rothschild or both provided the connection, it is plain that both Freemasonry and the Knights Templar drew heavily from the Cabala for both concepts and rituals.

MASONIC PLOTS

Over the years there has been much concern—even outright paranoia—as in the anti-Masonic movement—regarding the role of the Masonic order in world affairs beginning with the American and French Revolutions and continuing up to today.
This mindset can be better understood by a listing of a mere handful of significant Masons, beginning with the American Presidents Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Garfield, Taft, Harding, Truman, Ford, and both Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt. Other famous American Masons include John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, John Adams, Henry Clay, John Benton, Dagonet Macdonald, J. Edgar Hoover, and Herbert Hoover. Historical foreign Masons include Benjamin Franklin, Cecil Rhodes, Hubert Humphrey, John Arthur Wellington, Sir John Moore, Simon Bolivar, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Ernest Joseph Sage (who provided the melody to Deutschland über Alles), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Voltaire (Francois-Marie Arouet), Giuseppe Mazzini, Nikolai Bukharin, Aleksandr Kerensky, Aleksandr Perovski, Hector Serres, and Jose de San Martin.

Such a wide divergence of personalities prompted authors Baigent and Leigh to argue "the impossibility of ascribing any political orientation, or even political consistency, to Freemasonry." However, in their detailed study of early Masonry and the Knights Templar, Baigent and Leigh took no notice of the infusion of Illuminati into Freemasonry in late eighteenth century. This infusion brought the philosophies of Hegel and Weishaupt which included "the end justifies the means" and "to achieve synthesis requires two opposing forces." Conspiracy researchers make it clear that Illuminized Freemasons have used any and every opportunity to advance their cause regardless of which side they may support at the moment.

The Masonic slogan Ordo ab Chao, or Order out of Chaos, generally is regarded as referring to the order's attempt to bring an order of knowledge to the chaos of the various human beliefs and philosophies in the world—a New World Order.

Conspiracy author Epperson explained that the slogan actually means the "order of Lucifer will replace the chaos of God." Author Texe Marrs placed his interpretation on a more mundane level, writing that Ordo ab Chao is a "Secret Doctrine of the Illuminati" based on the Hegelian concept that "crisis leads to opportunity." Marrs stated, "They work to invent chaos, to generate anger and frustration on the part of humans and thus take advantage of project Satanist needs for order." Author Bramley put the very mechanism to operation early on in England following the overthrow of Catholic King James II in 1688. Noting that the Mother Grand Lodge had conferred Masonic degrees on his Protestant successor, Bramley said, "The English Grand Lodge was
decidedly pro-Hanoverian and its proscription against political contro-
versy really amounted to a support of the Hanoverian status quo. in light
of the Machiavellian nature of Brotherhood activity, if we were to view
the Mother Grand Lodge as a Brotherhood (action designed to keep alive
a controversial political cause, i.e. Hanoverian rule in Britain, we would
expect the Brotherhood network to be the source of a faction supporting
the opposition. That is precisely what happened. Shortly after the found-
ing of the Mother Grand Lodge, another system of Freemasonry was
launched [Freemason Jacobites] that directly opposed the Hanoverians!

Clyde—all relevant political history is found in voluminous publications
and even hardly to prove—was not restricted to deeply recalled history.
One partly unreported story during the Ronald Reagan presidency
clearly indicated that at least one Freemason lodge was conspiring to
overthrow the government of Italy.

This scandal also involved a little-known group connected to the
Freemasons called the Knights of Malta, which inherited the military
order of the old Knights Templar.

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and even harder to prove—are not restricted to dimly recalled history.
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John J. Raskob, one of the thirteen founders of the American Order
of the Knights of Malta, was involved in the abortive coup against Pres-
ident Roosevelt in the early 1930s, foiled only after Marine major gen-
eral Smedley Butler blew the whistle on the scheme.

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CIA contact and an honored guest at Ronald Reagan's 1980 inaugu-
ration"—created what an Italian court indictment called a "secret structure
that had the incredible capacity to control a state's institutions to the
point of virtually becoming a state-within-a-state." Gelli also claimed to
be on friendly terms with former CIA director and president George Bush,
who some claimed was an "honorary" P2 Lodge member.

By 1981 Italian authorities had discovered the P2 plot. In searching
Gelli's home, they found a list of the Masonic conspirators' names, which
included three cabinet ministers, forty members of Parliament, forty-three
military generals, eight admirals, security service chiefs, the police chiefs
of four major cities, industrialists, financiers, entertainment celebrities,
crime family patriarchs, and hundreds of diplomats and civil servants.

They also found a document entitled "The Strategy of Tension," a
carefully designed plan to fabricate so much leftist terrorism that the
Italians would demand an authoritarian or even fascist government.
This plan evolved from an operation named "Vulca" conducted just after
World War II by CIA officials from an Anglo-American team as an effort to pre-
vent a communist takeover in Italy. Gladio tactics involved creating
alliances between the Mafia and Vatican officials as well as the CIA
and the Kingdom of Italy.

Several investigators have claimed that a major force behind the P2
Lodge was the highly secret Freemason Grand Alpine Lodge of Switzer-
lnd, whose membership includes almost everyone of any importance
in that nation of banks. Former British prime minister and Bilderberger
Harold Wilson called Alpine Lodge members "the Gnomes of Zurich," claiming they had more power than any govern-
ment.

P2 was implicated in several acts of terrorism beginning with the
1980 bombing of the Bologna train station which killed eighty-five per-
tsons and possibly even the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight
103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. According to a little-publicized report by
investigators for the airline's insurance company, the Pan Am flight's
victims included a CIA team which was on its way to Washington to
report its discovery of CIA drug smuggling and gun running activities
in the Middle East with financing through P2 members. These extrale-
gal activities were being run from Washington in the same manner as
the Iran-Contra activities and reportedly involved high-ranking offi-
cials. Other CIA agents quickly arrived at the crash site and reportedly
made off with vital evidence.

Conspiracy author Jonathan Vankin reported Italian media alleg-

tions that the P2 Lodge was funded through the Panamanian company Amitalia and that President Bush’s invasion of Panama in 1989 was partially a cover for the destruction of records linking him, the P2 Lodge, and the CIA to the Pan Am 103 bombing. Vankin disparaged this allegation as “another demon raised from conspiratorial hell,” yet provided many intriguing bits of evidence in support of this thesis.

During subsequent trials in Italy involving P2 members, one prominent American name kept cropping up—a name with close connections to secret societies in the United States. Italian prime minister Giulio Andreotti, a close friend of Gelli who was tried for Mafia involvement, named Henry Kissinger as a character witness. In addition, both a close associate and the widow of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro—kidnapped and murdered supposedly by the leftist Red Brigade in 1978—testified that Moro had been told by Kissinger to halt his stabilizing policies in “you will pay dearly for it.”

A London Independent article stated that Moro’s murder may have been contrived by the CIA through P2 members in the Italian government. Others even claimed the entire P2 scandal may have been orchestrated by the filtrations and most secret Priory of Sion.

The P2 story caused a major scandal in Europe but received scant attention in the American media, even when it grew to implicate top Vatican officials, American bishop Paul Marcinkus, and Kissinger. Michele Sindona and Roberto Calvi, two prominent members of the notorious P2 Lodge, were involved in numerous questionable business deals with Mitrione, the American Catholic bishop in charge of the Vatican Bank. In the late 1970s, Sindona later was accused of laundering money for both the Sicilian and American Mafia and Calvi used Vatican money for investments in banks and enterprises all over the world, including Washington’s infamous Watergate complex.

The murder of former prime minister Aldo Moro in Rome in 1978 and the suicide of Calvi in London later that year brought the operations of the P2 Lodge and its connections to the highest levels of government and organized crime to the surface. These connections included dealings in Banco Ambrosiano, owned by Sindona’s partner Calvi (called “God’s banker” due to his Vatican connections). In mid-1982, a Bank of America—Bancomerri scandal-Vatican scheme began to unravel, and the convoluted Calvi-Jeff Kin sheek scandal, with its Masonic connotations, began to unfold. Only a few hours later, Calvi’s secretary, Gabriella Cordero, who also happened to be the P2 Lodge bookkeeper—Calvi’s

was pushed through a fourth floor window of the Ambrosiano bank building.
In 1986 Sindona and an accomplice were convicted of ordering the death of Giorgio Ambrosoli. An estate liquidator, Ambrosoli was fatally shot in 1979 after he found evidence of criminal activity in Sindona’s papers while working in Sindona’s home. Just two days after being sentenced to life in prison, Ambrosoli was found dead of cyanide poisoning in his cell. While it is still debated (whether Ambrosoli’s death was suicide or homicide), just before his trial, he said, “They are afraid I could reveal some very incriminating information that they don’t want divulged.”

Mark Cinkus, after assurances he would not be prosecuted by the Italian authorities, left the Vatican in disgrace and returned to the United States to settle into semiretirement. Ironically enough, it was St. Ambrose (Ambrosio’s namesake—Saint Ambrose of Milan—who in the fourth century denounced any interest on loans as “against nature.”

“New York DA Frank Hogan, who prosecuted several local Mafia fat [the P2] cases, attempted to extradite and prosecute Marcinkus also, but was blocked by White House intervention,” noted author Wilson. Gelli, under several indictments in Italy, apparently remains free and in hiding.

These Masons “engineered frauds that led to the largest bank failures in American and Italian history,” reported Vankin and Whalen, yet coverage of this billion-dollar disaster was almost nonexistent in the American mainstream.

British conspiracy author Kekel echoed the fears of many conspiracy writers when he wrote, “I believe strongly that something similar is happening in the United Kingdom and many other countries [the United States?], which mirrors the methods and aims of P2.”

FREEMASONRY VS. CHRISTIANITY

Any attempt at an in-depth discussion of the inner workings and philosophies of Freemasonry would bog down in endless details and unresolved controversies. They are, after all, a secret fraternity and require some secrets.

Suffice it to say that Freemasonry has provided an overt bridge to the modern era for the covert teachings of the Ancient Mysteries, incurring the wrath of both church and state along the way.
This was stated clearly by Masonic author Hall, who wrote, "Freemasonry is therefore more than a mere social organization a few centuries old, and can be regarded as a perpetuation of the philosophic sublime and traditions of the ancients."

Whistlermost was even more to the point. He wrote, "When Christianity became a state religion and the church a worldly power, the sublimation of its function proceeded apace and has only increased with the centuries. Instead of becoming the unifying force it had meant it to be, its association with worldly possessions has resulted in making it a disintegrative one. Hence led to schisms and sectarism... whilst the Protestant communities and recurred Free churches have unhappily become self-severed altogether from the original traditions and have degenerated chiefly in independence and liberty but a captively to ideas of their own, having no relation to the primitive gnosms and no understanding of these Mysteries which must always for deeper than the current popular religions of a given period... Since the suppression of these Mysteries in the sixth century, civic tradition and teaching have been continued in secret and under various concealments and by that continuation our present Masonic system is due."

So another secret is out. Freemasonry and its progenitors have passed along knowledge inimical and dangerous to organized religion. While espousing the Christian ideals of brotherly love, charity, and truth, even Masonic authors make it clear that Freemasonry is not an adjunct to the Christian religion. The ancient secrets of the order, some of which appear to be the antithesis of Christianity, have raised considerable suspicion and concern over the years, including an early church prohibition.

On April 28, 1738, just one year after the Mason Ramsey publicly connected Freemasonry to the outlawed Knights Templar, Pope Clement XII issued his famous bull, In Eminenti. He condemned Freemasonry as pagan and unlawful and threatened any Catholic who joined with excommunication.

Modern Christian authors have continued this condemnation of the order. "The Masons have but one purpose": concluded author Epperison, "They exist to utterly destroy Christianity...."

Others see in Freemasonry an ambivalent public view on religion at best. In 1949, Epperison wrote, "Every aspect of Masonry seems to have both a good and a bad side..."
to it—an evil interpretation and a benign interpretation. Those who wish
to find a Christian interpretation in its symbols can find ample published
Masonic justifications. Those who wish to show that Masonry is really a
form of Deism—built for all religions and faiths—can easily do so.”
Webster, that earlier Freemason researcher and author, concurred,
writing in 1918, “The truth is that Freemasonry in a generic sense is
simply a system of binding men together for any given purpose, since it
can receive that allegories and symbols, that has a mind of Algebra, can
be interpreted in a hundred different manners.”
Yet Masonic authors themselves reveal that the order is not without
metaphysical thought, rather it is very much devoted to Divine under-
standing. “Freed of limitations of creed and sect, [Freemasonry] reveals
the individual soul of all souls.” wrote Manly P. Hall. “Freemasonry ... is not a
 concessive or doctrine but a universal expression of Divine Wisdom ... 
revealing itself through a silent hierarchy of illumined minds.”
Hall saw Freemasonry as a “world-wide university, teaching the lib-
ceral arts and sciences of the soul to all who will humble to its teaching.”
He said the traditions of hundreds of religions and the knowledge of a
thousand ages inspired Masonic philosophy.
Wilmshurst stated clearly that Masonry “is a system of religious phi-
losophy in that it provides us a doctrine of the universe and of our
place in it.”
Though writing in the 1920s, Wilmshurst conceded like a consummate
New Ager. The term of “positive energy” or “concentration of the spirit,” as
well as a person’s “aura,” by which he explained the bib-
lical Joseph’s coat of many colors. He even went so far as to state that
“just as our Craft organization has its higher council and councils ... so in the mighty systems of the universal structure there are grades of
higher life. Associations of celestial beings existing and ministering ... In all this, Wilmshurst stated that the “secrets” of
Freemasonry deal with interpretation of the human soul but that
“beyond this brief reference to the subject it is unimportant here to say
more.” Obviously, all Masonic secrets are not publicly available despite
a wealth of published material.
One can readily see why authors Still, Epperson, Webster, and others
see Freemasonry as an insidious attempt to subvert Christianity. Still
claimed Masonic initiation rites “provide a system to gradually and
gently nudges a man's religious beliefs. Thus, a Christian is slowly encouraged to become a Deist (one who believes in no supernatural intervention by God in human affairs); a Deist becomes an Atheist; an Atheist becomes a Satanist.

At another point, journalist Bill backed away from the claim that Masons are Satanists. He stated the god of Masonry is actually Lucifer and explained that the difference is that "Luciferians think they are doing good [while] Satanists know they are evil."

Epperson concurred with this Luciferian interpretation, writing, "So the secret inside the Masonic Order is that Lucifer is their secret god." He quotes Masonic Pike as writing, "You may repeat it in the clue 33rd and 30th degree—The Masonic religion should be by all of us initiated in the purity of the Luciferian doctrine."

Wilmshurst explained with typical Masonic obscurity, "To clear vision, Christian and Masonic doctrine are identical in intention though different in method. The one says 'Via Crucis' [through the Cross]; the other 'Via Lucis' [through Lucifer]; the two ways are one way."

This belief in two separate but equal gods provides significant support to those connecting Freemasonry directly to the Cathars of France and the earlier Gnostics, both of which were mercilessly exterminated by the Catholic church. Both of these sects were known dualists, those that believe in the equal power of good and evil, light and dark.

It is illustrative to note that in the 1980s fundamentalist Christians were upset to learn that the Lucis Trust, a New York tax-exempt, non-profit "New Age" organization concerned with topics dear to the secret societies such as economics and environmentalism, originally had incorporated as a publishing house under the name the Lucifer Publishing Company. The firm published the works of Alice Bailey and Madame Blavatsky, both advocates of Theosophy. Trust officials explained "Lucifer as here used means 'bringer of light or the morning star' and has no connection whatsoever with Satan as conventional wisdom would have it."

Contrary to the idea that Pike and his fellow Masons were simply secret Satan worshipers, several Masons written demonstrations that less simplistic issues are involved. Even anti-Mason author Epperson demonstrates that Pike made a deeper examination of his subject by quoting...
Pike's book Magnum Opus as stating, "All have admitted two gods with different occupations; one making the good and the other the evil found in nature. The former has been styled 'Ormuzd,' and the latter 'Ahriman;' of whom they said one was of the nature of Light, and the other that of Darkness. The Persians called the former Ormuzd, and the latter Ahriman; the Egyptians called them Osiris and Typhon, his eternal enemy."

Author Still explained that to Luciferians, God has a dual nature—the loving side, Lucifer, and the evil side, Adonai, both equal in power and opposite in intent. "This idea is symbolized by the circular yin-yang symbol of the Buddhists or the black-and-white checkerboard patterns seen on the floor of Masonic lodges or buildings," he wrote.

Masonic Pike wrote that Adonai, one of the biblical names for God, was the rival of Ormuzd, the Egyptian sun god, a prominent figure in Masonic traditions.

Some anti-Masonic writers saw in the Masonic symbols of ancient Egypt a return to the worship of the pagan sun god. However, Pike, in his book Morals and Dogma, intended only for the inner core of Masonry, made it clear that worship of the sun was an adulteration of an earlier belief. "Thousands of years ago, man worshipped the sun. . . . Originally they looked beyond the red 'sun' to another symbol of the invisible God. . . . The worship of the sun [the invisible God] became the basis of all the religions of antiquity," he wrote. This secret becomes clearer when closer study reveals that this Great Architect of the Universe is a supreme creative being, while, according to Pike, "[Osiris] the Sun God . . . created nothing." Masonic authors draw a distinction between the celestial "sun" and the "sun" god, with which they say is the bringer of light. The gift of light—light usually being interpreted as knowledge—is greatly venerated in Masonic rituals. Interestingly enough, the epithet "Morning Star" or "Bringer of Light" was sometimes applied to Jesus.

So one inner Masonic secret echoes the belief of the ancient Gnostics and Cathars, namely that there are only two great cosmic cosmic divinities, referred to in Masonic literature as the Great Architect of the Universe, but that there may be two opposing aspects to this deity. A hidden aspect of this belief in the distant past as Earth born "gods" is powerful combinations beings of the future title.
and the even earlier Babylonian and Sumerian legends. According to
various traditions, it was these “gods” who brought humans civiliza-
tion and science.

That inner-core Freemasons understood scientific principles as well as
metaphysical ones is exemplified by their veneration of the collection of
Greek writings that Plato’s disciples called Hermes Trismegistus after the
Greek god Hermes, who established alchemy and geometry. Freemasons
also trace their philomathism to the Greek philosopher Pythagoras, who
greatly influenced Plato, the fall of Civil War, and philosophy.

Both Pythagoras, who stated the Earth moved around the sun, and the
Hermesian writings were said to have existed since “ancient” and
enlightened Hermes Trismegistus, called as Thoth by the Egyptians and
brought to have ancient knowledge of the gods and the stars, voiced the
principle “As above, so below.” This indicated a knowledge of universal
unity, comparing finely with what Einstein’s unified field theory. “From
the smallest cell to the largest organism of the galaxy, a repetitive geometric
law prevailed, and this was understood from the very first of theory,”
explained author Laurence Gardner. Wilmshurst said the person who reaches “the summit of the Mason’s
profession” will become “conscious of being one of the measures of the uni-
verse; he realizes that the earth, the heavens, and all their contents, are
externalizations, projected images, of corresponding realities present
within himself.”

Alchemy became known as the “Hermes science” and Freemasonry
contains both Hermetic branches and Hermes rituals. The mythical and
mystical practice of alchemy was passed down from the Egyptians. “It
was more than science,” explained authors Picknett and Prince. “The
practiced included the fine arts of alchemical activities and models of
thinking, from alchemy to chemistry, from philosophy and humanism to
 astral geometry and cosmology. It also encompassed mind with what psy-
chology today would call spiritual engineering and methods of altering the aging
process, as well as the search for immortality.”

“Hence can be no doubt that in some of what are called the [Masonic]
High Degrees there is a palpable infusion of a Hermetic element. This
cannot be denied,” wrote Masonic Historian Markley. This Hermetic In-
dication was focused in a companion secret society to Freemasonry—the
Rosicrucians.
Some researchers believe that Freemasonry grew out of the earlier mystical traditions of the Rosicrucians, a secret brotherhood with knowledge said to reach back into antiquity. Discourses available in France today contend that an Order of the Rosy Cross was founded in 1188 by a pre-Masonic Templar named Jean de Gisors, a vassal of English King Henry II and the first independent grand master of the Order of Sion.

Documents available today, however, believed that Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry were separate philosophies which only merged in the late eighteenth century as with the Illuminati influence. Whatever the truth, the fact remains, as acknowledged by Mackey, that "a Rosicrucian element was very largely diffused in the Hautes Grades or High Degrees [of Freemasonry] coming from the continent of Europe about the middle of the 18th century."

Although the Rosicrucians claim to trace a lineage back to ancient Egypt and beyond, the name only came to the fore between 1614 and 1615 with the publication of two tracts. One, entitled Fama Fraternitatis Rosae Crucis or Report of the Rosicrucian Brotherhood, was supposed to have been written by a Christian Rosencreutz (translated literally as Rosy Cross) and detailed his journeys through the Holy Land and the Mediterranean area gaining esoteric Eastern knowledge. After studying with the Illuminated Alumbrados of Spain, Rosencreutz returned to Germany, where he formed the Order of the Rosy Cross.

The fictional tracts, known as the "Rosicrucian Manifestos," disclosed the existence of this secret brotherhood and promised a coming age of enlightenment along with the revelation of ancient secrets. The most probably were written by Johann Valentin Andrea, a German Lutheran clergyman who traveled extensively through Europe before becoming acquainted...

According to Mackey, Andrea concocted the tracts in an effort to jump-start a society by which "the condition of his fellow-men might be ameliorated and the dry, lifeless theology of the church be converted into some more living, active, humanizing system."

A third Rosicrucian publication, the fantasy Chemiscbe Hochzeit or The Chemical Wedding by Christian Rosencruz, was so filled with symbolic references to the outlawed Knights Templar that the Catholic church condemned it along with the Rosicrucian Manifestos. One early German Rosicrucian society called the Order of the Gold and Rosy Cross became the basis of the Freemason Strict Observance Lodge which many years later led to the Illuminati.

Rosicrucians were seen by the church as Satanists and accused of making compacts with the devil and sacrificing children. Others saw them as the progenitors of today's scientific inquiry as well as the protectors of ancient secrets.

Prominent Rosicrucians included Dante Alighieri (author of The Divine Comedy), Dr. John Dee (scientist and "007" spy for Queen Elizabeth I), Robert Fludd (who participated in translating the Bible into English for King James I), and Sir Francis Bacon, whose writings inspired the colonization of America. Although he predated the order, authors Picknett and Prince found Rosicrucian ideals in Leonardo de Vinci, who they claimed created the famous Shroud of Turin through an early photographic technique, using his own features as a model.

Most researchers see the Rosicrucian movement as a major force in the ongoing struggle between scientific rationalism and church dogma that resulted in the breakup of the Holy Roman Empire, the creation of Protestantism and the resulting Church of England, as well as the Renaissance. According to Picknett and Prince, "It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that Rosicrucianism was the Renaissance." (emphasis in the original)

Gardner added, "Following the [Protestant] Reformation, the Rosicrucian Order was largely responsible for the establishment of a new scientifically aware environment. People discovered that the Apostolic history of the Roman bishops was an outright fraud, and that the Church had deliberately sabotaged the story of Jesus. It also became apparent that the Reformation was largely responsible for the establishment of a new scientifically aware environment. People discovered that the Apostolic history of the Roman bishops was an outright fraud, and that the Church had deliberately sabotaged the story of Jesus." (emphasis in the original)
crusaders—like the Cathars and Templars before them—had access to an ancient knowledge which held more substance than anything promulgated by Rome."

But the rise of the Protestant orders did little to decrease the violence aimed at anyone deviating from the public mindset of the day. Gardner reported that, ironically, "the Renaissance scientists, astronomers, mathematicians, navigators and architects became victims of the pernicious Protestant establishment. The English clergy called them pagans, occultists and heretics, just as the Roman Church had done before."

So the rational humanist Rosicrucians were forced underground by the church. By the time of the formation of the Grand Mother Lodge of Freemasonry in 1717, Rosicrucian leaders Christopher Wren and Elias Ashmole had firmly established Rosicrucian-based Speculative Masonry deep within the order. It was the accented Rosicrucian Ashmole, according to Webster, who drew up the three existing Masonic degrees adopted by the Grand Lodge. Nineteenth-century Masonic author E. M. Rogers asserted that the Renaissance and Freemasons existed during the same era, even meeting in the same room at Mason's Hall in London.

"After 1750 ... where once there were clear distinctions between Masons, Rosicrucians and organizations that claimed Templar origins, suddenly all such groups became so intimately entwined as to seem virtually one and the same," reported Picknett and Prince.

Two competing orders of Rosicrucians are still active in the United States today. Both claim to hold secrets handed down from ancient Egypt and both are the object of scorn and derision by religious fundamentalists.

Rosicrucian publications have revealed ancient knowledge from far beyond its borders. Author Gardner Daily noted that Rosicrucian philosophy could be traced through Plato and Pythagoras to the Egyptian Mystery School of Pharaoh Tuthmosis III, some 1,500 years before Christ. This linkage agreed with Webster's findings. She wrote, "Rosicrucianism was a combination of the ancient secret tradition handed down from the patriarchs through the philosophers of Greece and of the First Cabala of the Jews."
As with the wars and conflicts of the twentieth century, the traces of secret society agitation and manipulation are found in earlier affiliations and associations, including the War Between the States and the French and American Revolutions.

In the case of America's sectional conflict, it becomes clear that European agents incited violence in both the North and the South. This agitation found fertile ground in homegrown fanatics such as John Wilkes Booth, a member of the secret Knights of the Golden Circle. The bankers and lenders of Europe, led by the ubiquitous Rothschilds, financed both sides. Essentially, the War Between the States was a struggle for control between the European bankers and Abraham Lincoln—the one man in the United States who appeared to comprehend the forces at play.

Once open warfare broke out, Britain and France concentrated troops in Canada and Mexico, creating the right opportunity to exploit the situation. Only President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, elevating slavery as the cause celebre of the conflict and the quiet intervention of the Russian navy prevented this plan to break up the United States from succeeding.

It was a setback for the European secret societies, who had been so successful in destroying both the church and the monarchy in France between 1789 and 1799. First with agitation by the Jacobin societies and later using paid agents who led the mobs against the Bastille and aristocrats' homes, society members instigated the Revolution and subsequent Reign of Terror.

The role of the Freemasons, and particularly the newly "Illuminized" Lodges, was blatant in this French tragedy. Some Masonic publications proudly admit Freemason involvement. Many Masons, including President Thomas Jefferson, were supportive of the French Revolution as well as early rebellions in the young United States.

There was even documented involvement of Freemasons in the American Revolution, with many colonists recruited into the British "field lodges" prior to the break with Britain. It may well have been the brother-against-brother nature of the revolt that prevented the vastly superior English military from vigorously prosecuting the war against
the ragtag colonial rebels, thus securing their success in their rebellion.

Freemasonry, which grew in a prominent and powerful force following the Revolution, suffered a severe setback beginning with the kidnapping of Captain William Morgan in 1826. The suspicious members of the Anti-Masonic Movement caused a loss of membership and prestige in the order for many years.

This may have been just as well, since the documented history of the German Illuminati clearly indicated the existence of a secret society bent on subverting any and all government and religion. Despite laws against this order, the Illuminati members nearly hid themselves away within the ranks of Freemasonry. Their ideals were advanced right on through the secret Round Tables of Cecil Rhodes, backed by the might of the Frankfurt Lodge, which was under the control of Russian royalty, the Rothschilds, and their associates.

The Count of Saint-Germain and other "magicians" brought ancient knowledge from the Middle East to the inner core of Freemasonry. This knowledge involved secret traditions concerning the biblical account of Jesus' life as well as the origins and purposes of mankind. Much of this tradition was at variance with church dogma of the time. In fact, many critics of Freemasonry, then and now, accuse the order of being anti-Christian if not outright Satanists. Such accusations have necessitated extreme secrecy so dissidents from the church have long been subjected to community censure, and even physical violence.

Secrecy remained commonplace within the societies right up to the late twentieth century, when members of Italy's Propaganda Due lodge were found to be fomenting a fascist plot involving the Vatican, certain large banks, the Mafia, and the CIA.

The secrets of Freemasonry must be most profound and compelling to have caused members over the centuries to persevere in their effort to protect and propagate their knowledge against official and clerical censure and oppression. This knowledge was passed down largely through ritual allegory and symbols, predates the ancient Egyptians.

It is highly significant that so many esoteric beliefs are traced back to Egypt and, more specifically, the ancient culture of Poseid. But any discussion concerning philosophies, magic, and religion is quickly entangled in a web of deceptions, interpretations, and
personal beliefs. The uncontestable fact born is that there are significant prehistorical overtones to the doctrines of both Freemasonry and Rosicrucianism. These shall be inspected more closely in connection with the Ancient Mysteries.

However, consideration first must be given to how the several threads of such ancient knowledge were brought into Freemasonry. A major source of these ancient secrets seems to have been through the discovery of a group of Medieval knights: the legendary Knights Templar.
ELDER SECRET SOCIETIES

The knowledge of the Templars concerning the early history of Christianity was undoubtedly one of the main reasons for their persecution and final annihilation.

— Masonic Philosopher Manly P. Hall.
In the Dark Ages following the collapse of the Roman Empire, one religion gained absolute supremacy in the Western world: Christianity. While ostensibly based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, scholars today can trace Christianity's evolution back through the ideologies of ancient Greece, Egypt, and Babylon to the much older culture of Sumer.

The discovery in recent years of lost writings dating from before the time of Jesus has provided much-needed information to fill in the gaps of knowledge about both his time and his future. Due to a lack of first-hand accounts of Jesus, acrimonious debates over Christian beliefs and practices continued for centuries from the time the secular power of the Holy Roman Catholic "Universal" Church emerged during medieval times.

Until the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Roman church stood as the ultimate authority in the Western world. Through the lending of both its money and blessings, the Vatican dominated kings and queens and controlled the lives of ordinary citizens through fear of excommunication and its infamous Inquisition.

Europe's best and brightest men were exhorted by the clergy to battle for God and country, and Christian Europe launched Crusade after Crusade against the Muslims holding the Holy Land of the Middle East. The power of the church became further centralized and all-powerful.

Some of these men, particularly in southern France with its association to certain legends concerning Mary Magdalene and her descendants, had knowledge of secret traditions which ran counter to the teachings of the church. The Crusades presented a convenient excuse to take the Holy Land and search for verification of these traditions.

Some researchers even suggest that the Crusades may have been inspired by the search for hidden knowledge. According to French author Jean de Juzon, Peter the Hermit, who is generally considered to be instrumental in promoting the First Crusade along with Simon de Cantileno—was a pseu-
nual tutor to the Crusade’s leader, Geoffrey de Bouillon, a man later asso-
ciated with the Knights Templar.

Once in the Holy Land, the Crusaders apparently found some verifica-
tions of heretical ideas which supported elder traditions, principally those
circulating in southern France, and differed from the teachings of the
church. It was the conflict that led to the creation of societies which used
secrecy as protection from the Roman church, which, in turn, began to
guard its established theology with increasing vigor. As a result,

By many recent accounts, at least one group of Crusaders brought back
more than just heretical notions—they reportedly returned to Europe
with hard evidence of error and duplicity in church dogma. These Cru-
saders over time became known as heretics and infidels, and an
attempt was made by the church to subjugate them. They were the
Knights Templar, whose traditions live on today within Freemasonry.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

A religious-military knighthood called the Order of the Poor Knights of
Christ and of the Temple of Solomon was formed in 1118 when nine
French Crusaders appeared before King Baldwin of Jerusalem and
asked to be allowed to protect pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land.

They also asked permission to stay in the ruins of Solomon’s Temple.

Their requests were granted and the order became known as the
Knights of the Temple, soon shortened to Knights Templar.

Some attention has been paid to the Templars in traditional history
books, but their role in shaping future events has been mostly neglected
in history books. It is known that the order flourished, becoming extraordi-
narily wealthy and powerful, and in the year 1307 they were crushed
by an envious French king and a pope fearful of their secrets.

As with much of history, there was more to this story than has been
told to a general audience. While the destruction of the Templars, the
church embarked to wipe out all evidence of the order and their secrets,
which involved the innermost mysteries of Christianity—issues so
volatile that the Templars had to be destroyed by the very church that
ordained them.

Until recently, most of what is known about the origins of the Tem-
plars comes from the Frankish historian Guillaume de Tyr, writing more...
than fifty years after the events. His account is sketchy, incomplete, and perhaps even wrong in some instances. Today, thanks to the efforts of a number of scholars, the record is more complete and Templar contributions are being reevaluated.

The Middle East at the time was in turmoil. In 1099 the knights of the First Crusade, under Godfrey de Bouillon, had captured the Holy City of Jerusalem from the Muslims and created a Christian kingdom under that name. But the countryside was far from pacified and the journey from the eastern Mediterranean ports to the Holy City was perilous.

So nine knights petitioned Jerusalem's King Baldwin II of Le Bourg to be allowed to form a military order and to be quartered in the east wing of his palace which was adjacent to the recently captured Al-Aqsa Mosque, former site of King Solomon's Temple. Baldwin agreed and even paid the knights a small stipend. This act was thought by some researchers to indicate that Baldwin may have had ulterior knowledge of their activities.

These knights were led by Hugh de Payens—a nobleman in the service of his cousin, Hughes, Count of Champagne—and Andre de Montbard, the uncle of Bernard of Clairvaux, later known as the Cistercian Saint Bernard. Montbard also was a vassal of the Count of Champagne. At least two of the original knights, Rosal and Gondemare, were Cistercian monks prior to their departure for Jerusalem. In fact, the entire group was closely related both by family line and by connections to the Cistercian monks and Flemish royalty.

"Payens and his nine companions all came from either Champagne or the Languedoc, and included the Count of Provence, and it is quite apparent that they went to the Holy Land with a specific mission in mind," wrote Picknett and Prince. Provence lies adjacent to the Languedoc and includes Marseilles, where Mary Magdalene reportedly arrived in Europe after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

A letter to Champagne from the Bishop of Chartres dated 1114 congratulated the count on his intention to join La Milice du Christ (Soldiers of Christ), a prototype for the Knights Templar. Furthermore, author Graham Hancock wrote that he had established that both Payens and Champagne had journeyed together to the Holy Land in 1104 and were together back in France in 1113, indicating that plans for such an order had been underway for several years prior to the audience with King Baldwin.
One irony was that sometime later Champagne himself joined the Templars, in effect becoming a vassal to his own vassal. One explanation for this strange occurrence—and a significant point concerning the order itself—was that oath of allegiance was in reality being owed to their religious benefactor, Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, who continued to support the group as he rose to prominence. He was canonized in 1174.

During the first nine years of their existence, the unoficial order received no official sanction, an odd circumstance for a small group claiming to protect Jerusalem's pilgrims. Furthermore, the protection of pilgrims had already been undertaken by another order, the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem known as the Hospitallers.

The idea that a mere nine knights could effectively "patrol the roads leading to Jerusalem is preposterous. It is obvious that the Templars had another motive altogether for journeying to the Holy Land. They needed the effort to guard the roads, leaving such protection to the Hospitallers. Instead, the Templars kept close to their quarters and excavated for treasure deep under the ruins of the First permanent Hebrew Temple.

Salomons Temple, first constructed some three thousand years ago, was actually abandoned by its builders, the biblical King David. King Solomon constructed the temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. Prior to the temple's construction in Jerusalem, the Hebrew kingdom had been housed by the Pharaoh since the exodus from Egypt was a simple tent. Traditionally, this portable temple housed the Ark of the Covenant, said to be the means of communication with God. One Hebrew name for their temple was Solomon's Temple was almost a carbon copy of a Sumerian temple erected for the god Ninurta a thousand years earlier.

Solomon's Temple was destroyed during the Babylonian conquest about 586 B.C. It was rebuilt by King Zerubbabel after the Jews returned from captivity, but only the small altar remained. The prophet Ezekiel later in the Old Testament described his experiences with flying devices, in the vision of Jesus, Yahweh's temple was greatly reoriented to become the temple of Herod the Great. It was destroyed only four years after its completion in A.D. 70 during the Jewish revolt against the Romans. Today, remnants of the Jewish temple are enclosed within the Dome of the Rock mosque, an Islamic holy shrine second only to Mecca and Medina.
There is no question that Templar excavations were extensive. In 1894 a group of British Royal Engineers led by a Lieutenant Charles Wilson discovered evidence of the Templars while mapping vaults under Mount Moriah. They found vaulted passageways with keystone arches, typical of Templar handiwork. They also found artifacts consisting of a spur, parts of a sword and lance, and a small Templar cross, which are still on display in Scotland.

It was during their excavations, according to several accounts, that the Templars acquired scrolls of hidden knowledge, again most probably dealing with the life of Jesus and his associations with the Essenes and Gnostics. They also reportedly acquired the legendary Tablets of Testimony given to Moses as well as other holy relics—perhaps even the legendary Ark of the Covenant and the Spear of Longinus—which could have been used to validate their claims as an alternative religious authority to the Roman church.

Such reports were well supported by the discovery of a document etched on copper among the Dead Sea Scrolls found at Qumran on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea in 1947. This “Copper Scroll,” translated in the mid-1950s at Manchester University, not only mentioned a vast treasure of both gold and literature but actually described their hiding place—the site of the Templar excavations beneath Solomon’s Temple. It apparently was one of several copies, another of which may have come into the hands of the Templars. With its detailed directions (itself attributed to the legendary “Temple Key”) it literally was a treasure map.

Author Hancock thought the Templars’ search was only partially successful. “If the Templars had found the Ark, they would certainly have brought it back to Europe in triumph. Since that had not happened it seemed to me quite safe to conclude that they had not found it.” He theorized that the Ark had long since been transported to Ethiopia, where it remains to this day.

According to author Laurence Gardner, in addition to gold, the Templar excavators also recovered a wealth of ancient manuscript books in Hebrew and Syriac... many of these predated the Gospels, providing first-hand accounts that had not been edited by any ecclesiastical authority.

“It was widely accepted that the Knights possessed an insight which eclipsed orthodox Christianity, an insight that permitted them to see...
tantly, that the Church had misinterpreted both the Virgin Birth and the
Resurrection."

Their newfound wealth as well as their possession of lost documents
also could explain the rapid acceptance of the Templars by astounded
church leaders. According to Knight and Lomas, "The Templars clearly
had possession of the purest Christian documents possible—the more
important than the Synoptic Gospels!" With this knowledge, the Tem-
plar leaders, either directly or by implication, must have greatly asto-
nished church officials, leading to great growth and power.

Having accepted no new members, the order's fortunes suddenly soared.
For almost a decade and claiming to be poor even though most of their
members or connected to royal families—their original seal depicted
two knights sharing one horse—the order's fortunes suddenly soared.

Their leaders began traveling, recruiting members and gaining accep-
tance from both the church and European royalty.

On January 31, 1128, Templar grand master Payens and Montbard
travelled to Troyes about seventy-five miles southeast of Paris to plead
the case for official recognition by the church before a specially convened
council. This Council of Troyes was made up of Catholic archbishops,
bishops, and abbots, including Montbard's nephew, Saint Bernard, by
then head of the powerful Cistercian order. With the added endorsement
of King Baldwin, the council approved the Templars as an official military
and religious order. This resulted in Pope Honorius II approving a "Rule"
for the Knights Templar which sanctioned contributions to the order.

This Rule was prepared by Saint Bernard and copied the structure of
his Cistercian order. To support the religious side of the order, the Rule
among other things, ordered all new Templars to make a vow of chastity
and poverty, which included handing over all their property to the order.

On the military side, Templars were forbidden to retreat in combat unless
their opponents outnumbered them more than three to one and their com-
mander approved a withdrawal.

The structure of the order was a forerunner of Freemasonry. Each
local branch was called a "Temple" and its ruling commander reported
to and pledged obedience to the grand master.

Within the ranks there were four classifications: knights, sergeants,
chaplains, and servants. As in later Freemasonry, there was great
emphasis on keeping secrets from both the public and their fellow knights.
plains. Peelant and Prince note that with the order's rigid personal command structure, "it is likely that the majority of the Knights Templar were no more than the simple Christian soldiers they appeared to be, but the more elite were different."

The power and prestige of the order increased rapidly, and as the result of its successful control of the trade to and from the Holy Land, the order increased its wealth and influence. According to Picknett and Prince, "They [the Knights Templar] had gone west with nothing and came back with a Papal Rule, money, precious objects, landed wealth and no less than 300 recruited noblemen to follow Hugh de Payens' lead as Grand Master of a major order," noted Knight and Lomas.

"Within a decade, their possessions extended to Italy, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Constantinople. In 1131 the king of Aragon bequeathed to them a third of his domains. By the mid-twelfth century, the Temple had already begun to establish itself as the single most wealthy and powerful institution in Christendom, with the sole exception of the Papacy." Contributions from royalty and the nobles were not just in coin or land. Members received lordships, baronies, landlord status, and castles. Grand Master Payens had many high-level connections. He was married to Catherine de Saint-Clair, daughter of a prominent Scottish family that donated land south of Edinburgh where the first Templar study center or preceptory outside the Holy Land was built.

"Saint Bernard—who had supported the Templars so well at Troyes—now began to have reservations about the order. Leigh and Lomas report that the Cistercians were financially insolvent prior to the formation of the Templars, but then their order suddenly and rapidly grew. Within the next five years, a half dozen abbeys were established," they wrote. "By 1135 there were more than 300, of which Saint Bernard himself personally founded 69. This extraordinary growth directly paralleled that of the Order of the Temple."

In 1159 Pope Innocent III—a protege of Saint Bernard—proclaimed
that the Templars would henceforth answer to no other authority but the papacy. This license to operate outside any local control meant an exemption from taxes, which considerably increased the wealth of the order. The pope also granted the Templars the most unusual right to build their own churches. According to Baigent and Leigh, within Templar enclaves “the knights were a law unto themselves. They offered right of sanctuary, like any church. They convened their own courts to try cases of local crime. They ran their own markets and fairs. They were exempt from tolls on roads, bridges and oars.”

Obviously, whatever the Templars had unearthed beneath Solomon’s Temple brought them power and recognition from church and political leaders alike.

This power only increased after 1129 when King Baldwin II asked Payens and his Templars to aid in an ill-fated attack on the Muslim city of Damascus. This somewhat hasty and ill-conceived operation may have been instigated by Count Fulk V of Anjou. Fulk had rushed to Jerusalem near the end of the Templar excavations. Perhaps allegiance to the fledgling order, in addition to a desire to continue their operations, lured him to participate. His reward for such generosity may have come in 1128 when French king Louis VI selected Fulk to marry Baldwin’s daughter Melisende. Following Baldwin’s death in the aftermath of the failure to take Damascus, son-in-law Fulk, the Templar, became king of Jerusalem.

On his return to the Holy Land following a visit in Europe, Payens, along with three hundred knights, shepherded a large throng of pilgrims. The Templars then joined with the Christian forces in the attack on Damascus.

It was here that the Knights Templar had yet another opportunity to learn Holy Land secrets. During this action the Christians became allied with an Islamic secret society that also claimed to be privy to ancient knowledge: the notorious Assassins.

ASSASSINS

The Assassins, a fanatical Islamic sect that developed a dictatorial general command structure copied by all subsequent secret societies, were to influence the entire course of later events. Their name today is synonymous with terror and sudden death.
The name reportedly was derived from the cannabis drug hashish, which members smoked in preparation for killing. Sect killers, who were taught that murder was a religious duty, became known as “hashshasin,” Arabic for hashish smokery which over time became simply “assassin.” This is the popular origin of the name. However, author Daraul and others have suggested that it may well have stemmed from the Arabic word “Assasseen” meaning “guardians of the secrets.”

Assassin founder, Hasan bin Sabah, was a close confidante of the Persian poet laureate Omar Khayyam and Nizam ul Mulk, who later became the grand vizier of the Turkish sultan of Persia. He had his own secrets to guard. He had gained esoteric knowledge from the former and royal privileges from the latter. After being caught in a money-lending scandal, Hasan was forced to flee Persia for Egypt, where he was further indoctrinated in ancient secrets, to include an esoteric knowledge of the Hebrew Cabala.

While in Egypt Hasan may have laid his plans for the formation of his Assassin sect while studying the organizations and practices of the Deir el Hilmi (House of Knowledge) or Grand Lodge of Cairo. This lodge was a repository for ancient knowledge and wisdom brought forward from the days of Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses. According to author Webster, lodge members perfected the techniques used centuries later by Weishaupt to organize the Illuminati. Also stemming from this lodge was the cult of Roshaniya or the Illuminated Ones, which became the society of the Illuminati under the leadership of Franz Anton Mesmer in the sixteenth century.

Tracing their ties to the prophet Muhammad, the Assassins were an offshoot of the Bahai sect of Sabah, Fars, the Batinis, and Batinis. It was about A.D. 872 that the Bahai sect of Sabah created the Batinis sect, which set the tone for the development of the Assassins. A dedicated mystic, Abdullah bin Maymun, a Batinis sect member, became the maestro of the Assassins sect, which he founded. To achieve this end, Abdullah was forced to pose as a pious member of the Batinis. He believed that they were descended from Ishmael, the son of the Hebrew patriarch Abraham and his surrogate wife, Hagar, demonstrating again the intertwined histories of the Israelites and their Mideast neighbors.

Webster quoted an earlier researcher, Reinhart Dozy, who described...
Abdullah's program was one dedicated to forming a vast secret society filled with both freethinkers and bigots for the purpose of discrediting and destroying religion. After elaborate initiations, he would "unveil the final mystery, and reveal that Imams [spiritual leaders], religions and morality were nothing but impostures and absurdities." He also sought to overthrow the reigning regimes and take power for himself, first by subterfuge and then by force. Exhibiting disdain for the public, he won over the creditable with magic tricks passed off as miracles, the religious leaders by displays of piety, and the mystics by lengthy dissertations on the ancient mysteries. Through such duplicity, "a multitude of men of diverse beliefs were all working together for an object known only to a few of them."

After years of schisms within the Ismailis, the followers of Abdullah, and others joined in "societies of wisdom," which in 1004 became the Grand Lodge of Cairo, whose members were turned into fanatics. It was through the Denver-based Grand Lodge of Cairo that Hasan learned the techniques he employed within his own society.

Hasan's killer cult came into existence about 1094 when he and some Persian allies took the mountain fortress of Alamut on the Caspian Sea in Iran. He created his own Shiah Ismaili sect which came to be known as the Assassins. While proclaiming himself as a great spiritual leader, Hasan forged a personality cult centered on himself backed by lethal violence. According to Webster, "The final object was domination by a few men consumed with the lust of power under the cloak of religion and piety." Finally, Hasan's killer cult took the Assassin secret doctrine, one of which was that "Nothing is true and all is allowed." Another secret tenet was that there is only one God and everything is creating, including humankind, as part of a universal whole, a concept along the lines of Einstein's unified field theory, which continues to be seriously studied by modern scientists. Finally, the Assassin doctrine that the end justifies the
means may well have been a precursor of that same philosophy which
generated "Illuminated" Freemasonry.

Hasan's method of recruitment was extraordinary enough to be
taken as a myth. According to several sources, including the writings of
Marco Polo, who passed his way, Hasan found and developed a secret
valley that he filled with gracious palaces and landscaped gardens well
stocked with exotic animals and beautiful women. Local youths tended
to find themselves befriended by strangers in drinking places. They would
awake from a drug-induced stupor to find themselves surrounded by
such beauty and luxury that it could only have been the promised par-
adise. After a few days of living beyond all expectation, the recruits
would again be drugged and wake up back in their dull reality.

After a few such experiences, Hasan had no trouble in eliciting their
allegiance by promising to return them to "paradise" permanently in
exchange for their deadly work. Entranced by the promise of eternal
heaven, these brainwashed goatherders proved eager soldiers, even to
the point of sacrificing themselves when required.

Calling himself the Grand Master or Shaikh-al-Jabal, Hasan oper-
ated this early-day Murder, Incorporated, from his highland fortress,
gaining the title of "Old Man of the Mountain," a name that stuck
forever on the hearts of his neighbors.

The power of the Assassins increased until by the mid-twelfth cen-
tury the cult boasted a string of strongholds stretching throughout Per-
sia and Iraq. Their influence may have even reached to the secret soci-
ety of Thugs in India, who were known to use recognition signs similar
to the Assassins.

As Grand Master, Hasan created a system of apprentices, fellows of the
order, and masters, which has been compared with the later Masonic
degrees. Masonic historian Mackey admitted the Assassins "whose con-
nection with the Templars, as historically proved, may have had some
influence over that Order in molding, or at least in suggesting, some of its
esoteric dogmas and ceremonies."

Author Daraul quoted an Orientalist named Syed Ameer Ali as stat-
ting, "From the Ismailis the Crusaders borrowed the conception which
led to the formation of all secret societies, religious and secular, of
Europe . . . The Knights Templar especially, with their system of grand
masons, grand priors and religious devotions, and their degrees of initia-
tion, bore the strangest analogy to the secrets Ismailis."

...
Several accounts have connected the Templars with the Assassins in joint operations during the Crusades, including the attack on Damascus in 1129 led by King Baldwin of Jerusalem. One eighteenth-century author lamented the fact that the Templars would "ally themselves with that horrible and sanguinary prince named the Old Man of the Mountain, Prince of the Assassins."

"Those who think that the Assassins were fanatical Muslims, and therefore could not form any alliance with those whom to them were "infidels," should be reminded that to the followers of the Old Man of the Mountain only he was right, and the Saracens who were fighting the Holy War for Allah against the Crusaders were as bad as anyone else who did not accept the Assassin doctrine," commented Daraul.

Sometime prior to his attack on Damascus, Baldwin had entered into an agreement with the Assassins, who counted many members within the walls of the city. With the aid of this Fifth Column, the city would be taken. The Assassins had been promised the city of Tyre for their assistance. The plot, however, was discovered and all Assassins in Damascus were rounded up and lynched by the inhabitants.

Buoyed by the return from Europe of Grand Master Payens and his Templars, Baldwin decided to make an outright attack on the city but was repulsed with heavy losses.

This battle along with other later combined operations could have provided the opportunity for the Templars and Assassins to share esoteric ancient knowledge as well as important military intelligence, since it is recorded that the Assassins had deeply penetrated the Muslim hierarchy.

"The Templars entered at various times into amicable arrangements and treaty stipulations with the Assassins," confirmed Mackey, "... we may therefore readily believe that at those periods, when war was not raging, there might have been a mutual interchange of courtesies, of visits and of conferences."

The murderous nature of the Assassins proved their downfall. Hasan, the Old Man of the Mountain, was assassinated by his son, Mohammed, who in turn was poisoned by his son, who had learned of Mohammed’s plan to kill him. By 1250 invading Mongol hordes had captured the last Assassin stronghold, effectively eliminating the order. Although, according to some researchers, pockets of Assassins still exist in the Middle East today.

It must be noted that there were only slight differences between the...
average fighting man of both the Templars and the Assassins. Both groups were filled with brutal, ignorant, and bloodthirsty men who merely did what they were told. Only their leaders knew the underlying truths of their orders.

Brutish as the rank and file knights may have been, the Templar leadership was brilliant and rapidly built up one of the most powerful nongovernment organizations ever seen. Payen died in 1136 and was succeeded as Templar grand master by a Lord Robert, northerly of the Archdiocese of Canterbury, another indication of the aristocratic nature of the Templar hierarchy.

By the thirteenth century, the Templars owned about nine thousand castles and manors throughout Europe, as well as a religious order paid no taxes. Their investments included basic industries, particularly in the building trades. Their wealth was not as vast as that possessed by the Hospitallers in Flanders and Wales alone. Their empire stretched from Denmark to Palestine. Of their own accord and not with external pressure, they could not have organized themselves better, or planned their aristocratic hierarchy more thoroughly,” commented Daraul.

They used the revenue from these holdings to build a huge fleet of ships and underwrite a vast banking system. This concept of using money to produce more money was coming into focus.

TEMPLAR BANKERS AND BUILDERS

Although conventional history traces the development of modern banking to early Jewish and Italian lending institutions, it was the Knights Templar who predated the Rothschilds and the Medicis.

“They pioneered the concept of credit facilities, as well as the allocation of credit for commercial development and expansion. They performed, in fact, virtually all the functions of a 20th century merchant bank,” wrote Baigent and Leigh, noting, “At the peak of their power, the Templars handled much, if not most, of the available capital in Western Europe.”

Christians were prohibited from the practice of usury, which meant charging any interest on loans, but the Templars managed to avoid this restriction, probably by emphasizing the military rather than the religious aspects of their order. In one case, old documents revealed...
that the Templars charged as much as 60 percent interest per year, a rate much higher than the compound interest of the time.

In a practice which continues today in Swiss banks, the Templars held long-term private trust funds, accessible only by the originators of the account.

It can also be argued that the Templars first introduced the credit card and packaged tours as they developed fund transfers by note, a Muslim technique most probably obtained from the Assassins and other contacts in the Middle East.

Hajjpar, merchants, officials, and the clergy faced many hazards and obstacles traveling in Europe and the Holy Land. They were prey to highwaymen, toll collectors, bandits, and even church authorities demanding alms, not to mention highway robbery and thieves.

To protect against such mishaps, the Templars developed a system whereby the traveler could deposit funds to cover travel expenses with the commander of the local Temple and receive a specially coded receipt. This receipt or chit was issued in the form of a letter of credit, redeemable from any Temple. At the end of his journey, the traveler would receive either a cash refund of his account balance or a bill to cover any overdraft. It was a system which closely resembled both a bank check and the modern credit card.

"In England, the Templars also acted as tax collectors," Baigent and Leigh noted. "Not only did they collect papal taxes, tithes and donations, they collected taxes and revenues for the crown as well—and seemed to have been even more successful in that capacity than [Britain’s] Inland Revenue [or the U.S. Internal Revenue Service]. In 1294, they organized the conversion of old to new money. They frequently acted as trustees of funds or property placed in their custody, as brokers and as debt collectors, they mediated in disputes involving monetary payments, deeds, leases, guarantees and a multitude of other transactions."

Along with banking practices, the Templars brought to Europe their acquired knowledge of architecture, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and medical techniques. In less than one hundred years after formation of the order, the Knights Templar had evolved into the medieval equivalent of today’s multinational corporation.

The Templars were not content to simply acquire existing castles and other structures. They went on to build, constructing immense fortresses and other structures that stand to this day.
fief estates, particularly in southern France and the Holy Land. Many were built on peninsulas or mountain tops, making them practically impregnable. Granted the privilege to build their own churches, the Templars became the prime movers behind the construction of the great medieval cathedrals of Europe.

One of the best-known Templar works is the famous Chartres Cathedral located southwest of Paris on the Eure River. Chartres was built on the site of an ancient Druid center and, in fact, is named after one of the Celtic tribes, the Carnutes. "It was a pagan site," wrote author Laurence Gardner, "dedicated to the traditional Mother Goddess—a site to which pilgrims trekked long before the time of Jesus."

Completed in 1134, a remarkably short thirty years after it was begun, the cathedral at Chartres is said to be the first of the Gothic style of architecture. Many believe such innovation was brought from the Middle East to Europe by the Templars, especially since Chartres was greatly inspired by the Templar-connected Saint Bernard, who held elaborate daily conferences with the builders. Considering the history of the Templars, author Hancock said he was "satisfied that they could indeed have unearthed on the Temple Mount some repository of ancient knowledge concerning the science of building and that they could have passed on what they had learned to Saint Bernard in return for his support."

The name Gothic is believed to have been derived from the Germanic tribes of Goths that overran the Roman Empire. However, Gardner and others argue that, at least when pertaining to architecture, the name may have come from the Greek goetik, meaning something magical. And the Goths certainly had nothing to do with the original construction of an amazing number of cathedrals constructed during the twelfth century—just after the Templars brought their secrets back to Europe.

Prior to this time, European buildings had been squat, thick block structures built for expediency and defense. Suddenly, people were amazed by the impossibly high vaulted ceilings and flying buttresses of the new cathedrals. Pointed arches and vaulting coupled with magnificent stained glass windows reflected new techniques inspired by Templar knowledge of sacred geometry and metallurgy techniques. It was the Templars who instigated the first stonemason guilds. According to Picknert and Prince, the Templars "were behind the for-
mation of builders’ guilds, including that of the stonemasons—who became lay members of the Templar Order and who had all their advantages, such as exemption from paying tax.”

The stained glass in Chartres has evoked much comment. “Nothing like it had ever been seen before, and nothing like it has been seen since,” commented Gardner. “Even in daylight, the glass remains in brilliance very beyond that of any other. Gardner stated that both the colors and the texture of its manufacture was never revealed... No modern scientific process or chemical analysis has yet managed to penetrate its mystery.” Gardner also noted that among those perfecting the Gothic stained glass was Omar Khayyam, whose secrets tied the Templar builders to the Eastern knowledge of the Assassins.

Author Hancock noted that the power and grandeur of Egypt’s Karnak Temple, the Zoser “step” pyramid and the Great Pyramid were unmatched until the time of the Templar cathedrals. He added that he became even more convinced of some connection between the Ancient Mysteries and the cathedrals when he recalled that Saint Bernard once defined God as “length, width, height and depth,” a clear evocation of the knowledge of Pythagoras, Plato, and the ancient Egyptians.

There is also physical evidence within Chartres Cathedral that lends strong support to the idea that the Templars had acquired hidden knowledge regarding the story of Jesus. At the north door of Chartres above a small column is a carving of the Ark of the Covenant being carried on a wheeled wagon. Since the Ark had been missing since the destruction of the Jewish Temple in A.D. 70 and since prior to that time all accounts depicted the Ark being carried by hand, many researchers believe this engraving offers proof that the Templars found the ark and transported it to Europe. This carving is tied conclusively to the Ark as a Lathi inscription just below it reads, “In this place, the Ark is loved and obeyed.” In another part of Chartres Cathedral is a stone carving believed to represent the Virgin Mary connected to an inscription reading arch foederis, or Ark of the Covenant.

While it is true that various Christian traditions depicted the Virgin Mary as a “living” Ark of the Covenant for bearing Jesus, the carving of the Ark on a wheeled wagon clearly indicates that this carving may well refer to the tangible Old Testament Ark.
All this concern with a Mary and the Ark greatly supports the idea that many learned men in the Middle Ages knew of a tradition which claimed that both at one time may have resided in Europe. The true fate of the legendary Ark remains a great mystery. Some researchers believe it was destroyed, while others believe it still exists in some secret society vaulting place or perhaps stored away in the catacombs beneath the Vatican for safekeeping. Author Graham Hancock, former East Africa correspondent for The Economist, made an in-depth study of the Ark and concluded that it was secreted away to Ethiopia where it remains today. At least one modern researcher believes this sacred object may still be hidden beneath Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.

Another clear connection between the Templars and their work within Solomon's Temple can be found in Rosslyn Chapel, a miniature cathedral in the small Scottish town of Roslin south of Edinburgh. William Sinclair, a descendant of the prominent Scots Clan family connected by marriage to Grand Master Payens, founded the chapel in 1446, but it was finished in 1486 by his son, Oliver. It was intended to be the first part of a larger church which was never completed.

Ostensibly a Christian place of worship, questions have arisen regarding Rosslyn. "It is actually a strange combination of Nordic, Celtic and Gothic styles," noted Gardner. "Upon checking with the official history we found that Rosslyn had to be reconsecrated in 1862," wrote authors Knight and Lomas. "Prior to that date there is uncertainty about its consecrated status....[Rosslyn's] symbolism is Egyptian, Celtic, Jewish, Templar and Masonic in profusion; a star-studded ceiling, vegetative growth and clouds coming from the mouths of the Celtic Green Men, entangled pyramids, images of Hermes, towers of the Heavenly Jerusalem, encaustic crosses as well as squares and compasses. The only certain Christian imagery was the late Victorian altar..."

"Rosslyn was not a simple chapel," Knight and Lomas concluded. "It was a post-Templar shrine built to house the scrolls found by Hugh de Payens and his team under the Holy of Holies of the last temple at Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, even including two important columns at the entrance. These columns are called Jachin and Boaz, names tied to the Ancient Mysteries, and which still carry mythical and mystical significance for both Jews and Freemasons."
Jerusalem! Rosslyn Chapel was a deliberate replication of the burial place of the secret scrolls!* These authors wrote that the scrolls hidden beneath the Jerusalem temple were the most highly prized writings of the Jews, particularly of the more devout sects, and represented the "most priceless treasure in Christendom," perhaps to include the long lost "Q" document said to be the basis for the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. "More mundane material, such as the Community Rule, was deposited around Judea in places as humble as the caves of Qumran," they added.

It should also be noted that at the time the Templars built their Gothic cathedrals, not one carried a depiction of the Crucifixion, a most strange anomaly for a Christian order but strong evidence that the Templars indeed denied the orthodox view of this event.

Yet another factor connecting the Templars to heresies of the day was the romanticized writings of Wolfram von Eschenbach, whose hero Parzival became the Parsifal of Wagner's famous opera. Parsifal, said to be one of Wagner's most visionary and esoteric works, connects Wagner's melodic to Templar traditions. A poor Bavarian knight, Wolfram was believed by many to have been a Templar himself, as he certainly demonstrated a very personal knowledge of the Templars as well as their equipment and fighting techniques. He described a brotherhood of knights dressed in white mantles decorated with red crosses guarding some great sacred secret and even called them Templars.

It was Wolfram who was among the first to popularize the legend of the Holy Grail, that elusive goal of many medieval quests. Grail mythology—King Arthur, Merlin, the Round Table—actually began with a poem by Chretien de Troyes written in the late twelfth century. It was Christian who first named Arthur's residence as Camelot. Since Christian lived in Toulouse, site of the official sanctioning of the order, he may have had access to the Templar knowledge brought from the Holy Land which he incorporated into his writing. In Wolfram's Parsival, the Grail is a magical stone which bestows youth on those who possess it. This stone was guarded by Knights of the Temple at a great temple on Munsalvaesche, or Mountain of Salvation, believed to be connected to the mountain fortress of Montsegur in southern France, the last bastion of the Cathars.
Wolfram tied himself even closer to the Templars when he related that his source for Parsival came from an old Arabic manuscript which had been kept by the House of Anjou. Recall that it was Count Fulk of Anjou, then king of Jerusalem, who had worked closely with and funded the original Knights Templar. Interestingly enough, Wolfram began writing Parsival about the time work on the Chartres Cathedral was completing.

Beginning with the Templars, then working its way through the Cistercians of Saint Bernard on into the symbolic architecture of the Gothic cathedrals, the seeds of their heresy spread far and wide. The Templars internalized the technologies and philosophies discovered in Jerusalem, while the church became more and more antagonistic, gradually seeking the forest pass by its knowledge. The Templars, in their turn, grew antagonistic toward the church. Researcher and author David Hatcher Childress observed, "To the Templars, the true church, one that taught asceticism, reincarnation and good works, was being suppressed by a dark power that called itself the one true faith."

Through the centuries of its power, the church—then an irresistible attraction to corrupt officials, scalawags, and commoners as well as the prince—siphoned illegal少量金 against its enemies, which eventually came to mean anyone who failed to acquiesce to its authority. For example, between the years 1208 and 1244 ten-thousand people were killed by a papal army sent by the Vatican to the province of Languedoc in southwestern France, the long-standing home of the Knights Templar—as well as home to some very unorthodox ideas.

**CATHARS**

The object of this papal attack was a people known as the Cathars, forerunners of the Italian and Scottish Carbonari, who so influenced the Illuminati. They were followers of the earlier Gnostics, who were committed to matters of the spirit rather than material wealth. The Cathars, whose name meant Pure Ones as they believed their religious views were more "pure" than those of the Catholic church, were ideally situated for acquiring unorthodox beliefs. The Languedoc, formerly known as Occitania, encompassed the Mediterranean coast west of Marseilles, the Black, and Caroban Mountains and the Pyrenees.
ness, which separated the area from Spain. An independent state, the region was more closely tied to the Spanish frontier and the vestiges of the old Septimania kingdom than to the newly forming French nation. Languedoc was a remnant where interests pointed to and from the Middle East via Muslim Iberia and the sea.

With the breakup of the Carolingian empire created by Charlemagne following his hard-won conquest of the area in A.D. 801, this corner of the old Roman Empire fell under the control of various kings of Francia or France, the name of which soon would be applied to the entire nation. France.

Languedoc was home to a number of ancient terms, many of which traced their origin to the Greeks and early Romans. It had its own traditions, culture, and its own language. The language of Occitania or Langue d'Oc gave the area both its identification and its name.

Perhaps due to this convergence of ideas and traditions, the Languedoc was more cultural and prosperous than its neighbors. "Prejudice against Jews was common, but...persecution was not," noted Michael Costen, Senior Lecturer in Adult Education at the University of Bristol and author. "Organized and official persecution of the Jews became a normal feature of life in the south only after the Crusade because it was only then that the Church became powerful enough to insist on...discrimination." The Cathars also got along reasonably well with the Cistercian monks, the predominant church representa-

According to Costen, Catharism was "the most serious and wide-spread of all the heretical movements which challenged the Catholic Church in the 12th century." Until very recently, little was known of the Cathars other than that they were considered heretics. This was because the only available information on them came from their implacable enemy, the Roman church, which saw that any material supporting the Cathars was destroyed.

The Cathars were known widely as banois or good men who led simple, religion-centered lives. They preferred to meet in nature rather than in elaborate churches. Cathar priests, known as parfait or...
the perfect ones, dressed in long dark robes and wore very assets, hav-
ing pledged to long worldly possessions. “There is a very considerable
similarity between Catharism and Buddhism,” wrote Dr. Arthur Guird-
ham, a psychiatrist who made a close study of that group. “Both
believe in reincarnation, in abstraction from flesh foods—though fish
was allowed in Catharism—non-violence, and that it was sinful to take
the life of any living creature, even an animal.”

“One way of life was an attempt to obey the teachings of Jesus,”
explained Fedorcik and Prince. “All ascetic movements were spiritually
equal and superior to priests. Perhaps more surprising for those days was
their emphasis on equality of the sexes... They were also tolerant
preachers, traveling in pairs, living in the utmost poverty and simplicity,
stepping to help and to heal wherever they could. In many ways the Good
Men would have appeared in your day to be more—except the
Church.”

Costen said it would be wrong to simply accept the official view that
the Cathars were dangerous heretics. “Rather it should be seen as a posi-
tive choice made by people who were given a very unusual opportunity to
be a new theology (as accounts of Jesus and Mary Magdalene circulat-
ing in southern France at this time) and to choose for themselves a result
of the uncoupling of the powers of Church and secular authority,” said
Costen, adding “it was impossible for the Medieval church... to ignore
the challenge presented to it in its territories.”

Dr. Guirdham explained that Catharism was a form of dualism, a
belief which “has existed from time immemorial” and connected to the
ancient sects of Mithras and the Manicheans. The Cathars also viewed
Jesus as the spiritual Son of God. “To them Christ did not exist in a
human but in a spirit body. The Inquisition wrongly translated this as
meaning that to the Cathars, Christ was a kind of phantom. The
Cathar view was in accordance with that expressed by modern spirituality
and by the adherents of [Rudolf] Steiner [who was to influence
the Nazi cult],” said Dr. Guirdham.

In their dualist theology, the Cathars believed that good and evil are
opposites of the same cosmic energy. Since faith that a good god created
and rules the heavens while an evil god created man and the material
worlds “became of the belief, it is obvious that the God of the Old Tes-
tament was Satan,” said Costen, who said the Cathars believed that
when people died, “... they would either live in their true home [in
Heaven] or stay where they were... where they would have to suffer... seven reincarnations... other writers quoted nine. Thereafter the soul was irretrievably lost.”

“I saw how there had been a thread throughout all time” commented Dr. Guirdham, “the Manicheans, the cult of Mithras, the Cathars, all completely assimilated, very, very completely, and among other things because of its reincarnation business.”

Other researchers thought the Cathars’ only problem was a lack of proper obedience to the church. Picknett and Prince wrote, “The overwhelming reason why the Cathars fell afoul of the Church was that they refused to acknowledge the Pope’s authority.”

Author Gardner agreed, writing, “The Cathars were not heretics: they were simply non-conformists, preaching without license, and having no requirement for appointed priests, or for the richly adorned churches of their Catholic neighbors.” However, Gardner also saw a connection between the Cathars and the Knights Templar potentially dangerous to the church, “The Cathars too knew also to be adept of the occult symbology of the Cabala, an expertise that would have been of significant use to the Knights Templar who were thought to have transported the Ark and finer furniture bound to the Ark.”

Something about the peaceful, if unorthodox, Cathars was certainly upsetting to the Vatican. Interestingly enough, in 1145, Pope Eugenius III sent none other than that Templar patron Saint Bernard to preach against Catharism in Languedoc. According to Gardner, Bernard instead reported, “No sermons are more Christian than theirs, and their morals are pure.” Did this mean Saint Bernard was oblivious, to their teaching? Or did he deliver his words with subterfuge to the Albigenso and the Templars secretly held Cathar beliefs?

The interest in supernatural events, justified or not, the Vatican began keeping plans to eradicate the Cathars. And it is more than likely that some of those plans were already in their pocketbooks or scrolls.

The beginning of the Cathar heresy is hard to pin down. Some of the Languedoc clergy traced their predecessors back to the earliest days of Christianity, which may have resulted in their belief of a new post-crisis interpretation of Jewish origins. Others believed the Knights Templar had passed along knowledge they gained while excavating in Jerusalem. Then there is the fact that even today, in that area of France one may still hear traces of a remarkable belief—that Mary Magdalene, revered as either the...
wife or consort of Jesus, migrated to the area following the crucifixion. It was said that the Cult had knowledge of a tradition that spoke of Jesus as a husband and father.

The concept of Mary Magdalene and Jesus as a couple is one supported by the Gnostic writings discovered at Nag Hammadi, Egypt, in 1945. In the Gospel of Philip named for the apostle Philip and believed written in the second half of the third century, it is written: "And the companions of the Master of Mary Magdalene, the Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him, 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' Jesus answered them with a lengthy discourse on love and the secrecy of marriage" and how it was "a great power necessary to the existence of the world."

There is an important connection between the gospels only discovered in 1945 and a tract published in the 1330s reportedly by the German mystic Meister Eckehart under the name Schwester Katrei or Sister Catherine. According to authors Picknett and Prince, "This uncued and outspoken tract... contains ideas regarding Mary Magdalene that are only otherwise found in the Nag Hammadi Gospels... She is portrayed as being superior to Peter because of her greater understanding of Jesus, and there is the same tension between Mary and Peter [found in the Nag Hammadi Gospels]. Moreover, actual incidents that are described in the Nag Hammadi texts are mentioned in Sister Catherine's tract." (emphasis in the original)

Picknett and Prince see this text as evidence that documents similar to the recently discovered texts were known to the Cathars, most probably through the discoveries of the Knights Templars.

Another possibility is that the Cult already had an oral tradition of an intimate relationship between Jesus and Mary before the return of the Templars to southern France. In this scenario, the knowledge may have been transmitted orally and then confirmed by written documents. Another factor may be a connection made by authors Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln in Holy Blood, Holy Grail, between the Jesus bloodline and the Merovingian kings of Southern France.

"If our hypothesis is correct," they write, "Jesus' wife and offspring—possibly and possibly fathered a number of children between the ages of 16 or 17 and his supposed death—after fleeing the Holy Land,
found refuge in the south of France, and in a Jewish community there preserved their lineage. During the 5th century this lineage appears to have intermarried with the royal line of the Franks, thus engendering the Merovingian dynasty. In 496 A.D., the church made a pact with this dynasty, pledging itself in perpetuity to the Merovingian bloodline—presumably in the full knowledge of that bloodline's true identity. When the Church colluded in the subsequent betrayal of the Merovingian bloodline, it rendered itself guilty of a crime that could neither be rationalized nor expunged, it could only be suppressed.

Author Laurence Gardner, as an internationally recognized expert on sovereign and chivalric genealogy, was permitted to study the private records of thirty-three European royal families. He confirmed that the Merovingians were related to Jesus, but through his brother James, who Gardner claimed was the same person as Joseph of Arimathea. Gardner also made a persuasive argument for Mary Magdalene as the spouse of Jesus in his 1996 book Bloodline of the Holy Grail.

"It was never any secret, for the majority of these people (European royalty), that Jesus was married and that Jesus had heirs, because it is written in so many family archives... The published papers of Mary, Queen of Scots talk about it at length. The papers of James II of England, who reigned from 1685 to 1688, talk of it at length. I was actually in a position where I was presented with some very old, very old documentation, not only held in secretaries wherever, but actually documented and written down hundreds of years before that," he explained, adding, "I also had access to Templar documents, to the very documents that the Knights Templar brought out in Europe in 1128 and confronted the Church establishment with, and frightened the life out of them, because these documents talk about bloodline and genealogy... The early Christian Church leaders adopted explanations and teachings that would obscure the truth about the royal bloodline of Jesus." The early church was fearful not only of Jesus' descendants but of women in general. Women were prohibited from teaching or becoming priests—a prohibition only now being relaxed. Clergymen were required to be celibate and never marry, despite the clear admonition by Paul in I Timothy 3:2 that a bishop or church leader should have a wife.

According to Gardner and other recent authors, women were denigrated by the early church in order to preserve the power and authority..."
of its insider "old boy" network of cardinals and bishops. Today many
diverse Bible scholars are taking a second look at the role of women, as
defined by the early church. "Most Christian movements we know to
have been characterized by the prominence of women were ultimately
judged heretical," observed University of Pennsylvania scholar Ross S.
Kraemer.

To discourage any attention toward Mary Magdalene, Gardner said
catholic church fathers made much of New Testament scriptures which described
Mary as a "sinner," the original word being a mistranslation of the word
almah, actually meaning a virgin undergoing a ritual prior to marriage.
"The duplicitous bishops decided, therefore, that a virginal woman must be
a whore," commented Gardner, "and Mary was forever branded as a
harlot!" Other scholars, such as Jane Schaberg of the University of
Detroit-Mercy, concluded that the persona of Mary Magdalene may even
be a composite of other biblical women and that such confabulation was
deliberate.

According to the traditions of southern France as well as William Cax-
ton's 1483 work Legends Aurea or Golden Legend, one of the first pub-
llications of England's Westminster, Mary Magdalene, her brother Lazarus
and sister Martha, went by boat to Marseille and the children of Jesus, jour-
ned by ship to Marseilles, France, after the crucifixion. The party then
'moved farther westward where "they converted the inhabitants in the
Galilee."'

Gardner wrote that Mary was "nine years younger than Jesus...Mary was aged 30 at her first marriage, during which year—13 A.D.—she bore her daughter Tamar. Four years later she gave
birth to her second son, Joseph, in 17 A.D., when she was 35 years old, but
by Greek custom reports, Mary died at what is now Saint Baume in southern
France in A.D. 63.

Returning from the Seventh Crusade with King Louis IX, one Jean
Gardiner wrote that Mary was "nine years younger than Jesus...Mary was aged 30 at her first marriage, during which year—13 A.D.—she bore her daughter Tamar. Four years later she gave
birth to her second son, Joseph, in 17 A.D., when she was 35 years old, but
by Greek custom reports, Mary died at what is now Saint Baume in southern
France in A.D. 63.

For centuries after her death, Mary's legacy remained the greatest of
all threats to a fearful church that had bypassed Messianic descent in

favor of Apostolic succession," wrote Gardner, noting, "The most active
Magdalene cult was eventually based in Rome in Campania in the Langue-
doc region."

There is a tantalizing hint that perhaps in that same region were evi-
dences more tangible than stories about the Magdalene. According to
Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln, the very same Joinville wrote that his friend
Louis IX once told him of a time when Cathar heretics had approached the
commander of the papal army and cryptically asked if he would "come
and look at the body of Our Lord, which had become flesh and blood in
the hands of their priests."

In addition to the traditions regarding Mary and incarnation, the
Cathars were greatly persuaded by the beliefs of an itinerant
preacher named Peter Valdes of Lyon. His followers, or Waldensians as
they were known, read from scriptures translated into their own vernac-
lar Occitan and believed that a personal calling to preach was more
important than church training. They also disdained violence, even that
inspired by the church or state. When the Waldensians refused to stop preaching openly, they were (re)commissaried and expelled from Lyon by local church officials.

Many people believed the Cathars originated with a Bulgarian priest
named Bogomil, whose Bogomilism sect was widely spread through the
Byzantine Empire. Bogomils rejected many aspects of the orthodox
church, such as veneration of the Eucharist, Old Testament miracles and proph-
ecy, baptism, marriage, and the priesthood. "They believed that the physi-
cal world was the work of the Devil and intrinsically evil," wrote Costen.
"They developed for themselves a rich mythology of the Creation and Fall
which acted as a substitute for much of the Bible which they rejected.
However, authors Picknett and Prince argued that all of the Cathar
beliefs could not have come from the Bogomils. They quoted the
research of Yuri Stoyanov, who wrote, "The teaching of Mary Magde-
line as the 'wife' or 'concubine' of Christ appears, moreover, an origi-
nal Cathar tradition which does not have any counterpart in the
Bogomil doctrines."

Whatever the truth of their origins, these Cathar beliefs had evolved.
over a long period of time, as did the decision to move against them. Despite whatever agreements might have been made, papal authorities must have finally decided that something had to be done about whatever relics, treasure, or writings might be concealed in the Languedoc.

THE ALBIGENSIAN CRUSADE

Proclaimed heretics by King Philip II of France at the insistence of Pope Innocent III, beginning in 1209, the Cathars were hunted down and exterminated during what became known as the Albigensian Crusade. The Cathars were sometimes called Albigenses for their large presence in the central Languedoc city of Albi. This was an operation in which the much vaunted Knights Templar were conspicuously absent.

It was a long, bitter, and bloody affair, which ended in 1229, but was not fully concluded until the fall of the fortress of Monsegur in 1244. Even then, the church did not entirely extirpate the Cathar heresy. In Languedoc today there remains some instinctive wariness and distrust of both church and state, according to several authors.

For some time after becoming pope, Innocent III had tried to bring ecclesiastical pressure to bear on the Cathars with notable lack of success. A man whose fondest dream was spearheading a great Crusade to capture the Holy Land, this pope had to settle for a Crusade in Languedoc, where the nobles as well as the general population saw little to be concerned about in the simple and gentle Cathars.

In an effort to subdue the power of the Crusader knights, the church had long instituted a policy known as the “Peace of God.” Based on an alliance between the church and the military powers, the “Peace” was intended to place church authorities in firm control of any military activities.

“In the agency which was supposed to oversee the enforcement of the Peace in the Languedoc was the Hall of the Temple and to that end they were able to collect a small tax on each ox used by the peasants,” wrote Costen. “There is little evidence that the Templars ever did anything effective to enforce the Peace.”

Proving unsuccessful in the use of anti-Cathar preaching and Tem- plar suppression, Pope Innocent III by 1238 decided it was time to act. He began writing to King Philippe-Auguste of France urging a series
against the southern heretics. He also reinstated Raymond VI, Count of Toulouse, who had been excommunicated by a predecessor, after Raymond rather reluctantly agreed to support his Crusade. Despite Raymond's agreement, little action was taken.

Raymond was again excommunicated for failing to act against the Cathars, and when a representative of the pope met with him over Christmas 1207 in an attempt to revive the issue, he was murdered by one of Raymond's men. Thoroughly fed up with the situation, Pope Innocent III led his Crusade into motion.

Although seen today as a war by Christians against Christians, at the time, many people, particularly outside the Languedoc region, supported the war as one against a deadly enemy in their own midst. To Pope Innocent, the Crusade was necessary not only to subdue heresy but to demonstrate the power of the church over recalcitrant secular leaders like Raymond.

Innocent promised the status of a Crusade to anyone joining his army. This meant both absolution of any sins committed in the process as well as a share in any loot. "Many saw an opportunity for plunder and profit and came not to be entirely disappointed," said Costen. "On the whole, though, the Crusaders were primarily motivated by religious zeal."

Soon the pope's array, "the biggest ever to assemble in the Christian world," gathered at Lyon under the leadership of Arnald-Amalric along with a number of noblemen and bishops.

As this massive force—about thirty thousand strong—moved down the Rhone valley, Raymond had second thoughts and decided to join. After pledging to join the Crusade, Raymond was reconciled with the church and promised immunity from attack.

The first major attack came at the city of Beziers. "Here, despite their bishops and to their horror, the townspeople decided to resist. According to Costen, the army's berserkers caused Earnest (the city's garrison) and townsmen joined by the inhabitant acting without orders. "Death and destruction ensued. "All the women and children were killed in the churches," he wrote. "When the leader of the army (whipped) broke from the camp (the term was ended) and burnt down," According to the official report, twenty thousand inhabitants were slain.

A view at Beziers that Arnald-Amalric, when asked how his troops (plus the heretics) were treated, replied, "I'm sorry, but God knows his own."
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The first major attack came at the city of Beziers. Soon, despite their numbers, the town was surrounded, the townpeople decided to surrender. According to Costen, the army, after taking the city, "sacked the city's gates and soon was joined by the soldiers acting without orders. With the city's population of about six thousand, including women and children, the army was particularly vicious in the sack. "Both church and town were looted and the inhabitants massacred, with clerics, women and children being killed inside the churches," he wrote. "When the leaders of the army refused to allow any of the monks and friars to save any of the innocents, the leaders were forced to order the burning of the city, along with all the monks and friars." According to the official report, twenty thousand inhabitants were slain.

It was at Beziers that Arnald-Amalric, when asked how his troops should distinguish between Catholics and heretics, replied, "Kill them all. God will know his own."
In view of the massacre at Beziers, town after town throughout the Languedoc fell to the papal army without a fight. Local warlords were sent out as substitutes and in each other in breaking even leisure and suspected heretics. At the town of Castres, Cathars handed over to the army were burnt at the stake, a practice which was to continue throughout the Crusade.

By 1229 the campaign was effectively ended by a Treaty of Paris. Though the treaty ended the independent of southern French royalty, it did not stop the heresy. Cathar perfects retreated to the mountainous redoubt at Montsegur in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Beginning in the spring of 1243, the papal army besieged the fortress for more than ten months. According to Picknett and Prince, here “a curious phenomenon took place. Several of the besieging soldiers deserted to the Cathars despite the certain knowledge of how it would end for them” (emphasis in the original). The Cathars certainly must have possessed something to convince their fellow soldiers to make this decision.

Finally, in March 1244, the siege of Montsegur was ended by the Cathar surrender. Picknett and Prince related several “mysteries” connected to the fall of Montsegur. One was “for reasons that have never been explained [the Cathars] were given permission to remain in the citadel for another 15 days—after which time they gave themselves up to be burned. Some accounts go farther and describe those so having actually ran down the escarpment and jumped into the waiting bonfires in the field below.” Costen supported this story somewhat, noting, “There is no suggestion that the Cathars of Montsegur resisted the massacre.”

“The most persistent mystery of all concerns the so-called Treasure of the Cathars,” commented Picknett and Prince, “which four of them are supposed to have carried away from the fortress at the last possible moment.” The Cathars, many of whom were wealthy, did indeed have a considerable cache of gold and silver. But, according to Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln, this precious treasure was smuggled out of Montsegur and lost to history three months before the massacre of the fortress’s Cathars.

No one knows for certain what sacred knowledge or “treasure” the Cathars might have felt needed to be sent from Montsegur at the last
minute, but it is generally believed that it was writings concerning the perpetuation of the Jesus bloodline after Mary's arrival to southern France, a topic closely connected with the Knights Templar.

“The Templars were hungry for knowledge, and their search for it was their main driving force,” wrote Picknett and Prince. “They seized knowledge wherever they found it—from the Arabs they took the principles of sacred geometry, and their apparent close contacts with the Cathars added an extra Gnostic gloss to their already heterodox religious ideas.”

“From its earliest years the [Templars] had maintained a certain warm rapport with the Cathars, especially in the Languedoc,” wrote Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln. “Many wealthy landowners—Cathars themselves or sympathetic to the Cathars—had donated vast tracts of land to the Order. … It is recorded that Bertrand de Blanchefort, fourth Grand Master of the Order, came from a Cathar family…. In the Languedoc, Temple officials were more frequently Cathar than Catholic.”

There is evidence that many other Templars were themselves Cathars, and it has been established that the Templars hid many Cathars within their order and buried them in sacred ground. Along with other Templar participants in the Albigensian Crusade, Picknett and Prince found the fact that the close connections between the Templars and the Cathars were not brought up or subsequently charged against the order, evidence that such connections were an embarrassment to a church hierarchy wanting nothing more than to bury both the Cathars and their beliefs.

“Following the Albigensian Crusade, some Cathars fled southward to the Rhone valley, eventually settling near Montpellier. There they were joined by refugees from the ‘dark’ Cathar sects—Cathars from the Razes, the Hexafrancs, and the Albigensians.”

“Blanchefort, who headed the Templars from 1153 to 1170, was the most significant of all Templar grand masters,” according to these three authors. “It was Bertrand who transformed the Knights Templar into the superbly efficient, well-organized, and magnificently disciplined hierarchical institution they then became.”

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“This character trait was caused by the methodological penchant of the Church to its use of new weapons, the Inquisition.”

“The Languedoc saw the first act of European genocide, when over
100,000 members of the Cathar heresy were massacred on the orders of the Pope during the Albigensian Crusade, noted Picknett and Prince. "It was specifically for the interrogation and extermination of the Cathars that the Inquisition was first created." As the result of the Crusade, "The Church retained its monopoly of religious activity, its control of belief and strengthened its control over the private lives of individuals. The new French State joined the Church as an ally in strengthening control over towns and nobility," wrote Costen, noting that as recently as the 1920s, much like suppression of Native American languages during the past century, children in the region were punished for speaking the old Occitan language on public school playgrounds.

The extermination of the peaceful Cathars was also a foretaste of what church leaders had in mind for their rivals in power, the Knights Templar.

THE TEMPLARS’ DEMISE

For sixty-two years after the fall of the Cathar stronghold at Montsegur, the Knights Templar empire stood against the growing power of the Vatican and the nation states. Their control over industry and finance was tremendous, and they had grown into a fearsome military power, complete with their own naval fleet based at the French Atlantic port of La Rochelle. It was the Languedoc that connected La Rochelle to Mediterranean ports, allowing commerce with Portugal and the British Isles without passing through the Muslim-held Strait of Gibraltar. Templar vessels, among the first to use magnetic compasses, carried weapons and supplies to the Holy Land as well as an estimated six thousand pilgrims a year.

But as their power and wealth grew, so did their pride and arrogance, as evidenced in 1252, when a Templar master threatened England’s King Henry III with these words, “So long as thou dost exercise justice, thou wilt reign. But if thou infringe it, thou wilt cease to be king.”

That the Templar order was closely connected to the royalty of England is clearly demonstrated by the fact that King John was residing...
part-time in the London Temple in 1215 when an alliance of noblemen—many of them Templars—forced him to sign the Magna Carta or Great Charter creating a constitutional monarchy in that nation.

While the Templar order flourished in Europe, things went badly in the Holy Land. Less than a century after its capture, Jerusalem again fell into the hands of the Muslims. From only the city of Acre remained under Christian control. In 1291 this fortress fell and the order, along with the Hospitalers, was forced to relocate to the island of Cyprus, which the Templars had purchased from Richard the Lionheart during an earlier Crusade. With the loss of the Holy Land, so too was lost the principal justification for the existence of the Templars.

Near the end of the twelfth century, the Templars had aided in the creation of another military order—the formidable Teutonic Knights, those childhood heroes of Adolf Hitler. The Teutonic Knights had overseen a gigantic principality of their own—called the Ordensstaat—which extended from Prussia through the Baltic to the Gulf of Finland. This Teutonic independent state may have inspired dreams within the Templar leadership of a similar autonomous empire in the Languedoc.

But this was not to be. Beginning in the early fourteenth century, the Templars were doomed to the same fate as that of the Cathars. A key instigator of the Templar demise was France's King Philip IV, a ruler envious of the Templars' wealth and fearful of their military-strength. At one time, Philip sought refuge in the Paris Temple to escape a rebellious mob. He knew from personal experience the wealth of the Templars and was heavily in debt to them. Adding to his rage against the Templars was the fact that he had been turned down as a member of the order.

In 1305 Philip portrayed to Rome and convinced Pope Clement V that the Templars were actually planning the destruction of the Roman church. The pope accepted Philip's word, and the French king had them arrested and imprisoned. In 1307 the French king and his ministers engineered the kidnapping and death of one Pope—Boniface VIII—and quite possibly the murder by poison of another—Benedict XI. In 1305, Philip managed to secure the election of his own candidate, the archbishop of Bordeaux, to the vacant papal throne. The new Pontiff took the name Clement V, explained Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln.

According to Masonic author Albert Mackey, Philip had agreed to
support Clement's bid for the papacy in return for a secret commitment to crush the Knights Templar.

Furthermore, since it was widely whispered that the Templars were attempting to restore the ancient Merovingian kings both in France and other states, Philip's charges fell on receptive ears. The Merovingians were said to have their lineages back to Jesus, which presented a grave challenge to Rome's authority and supported the idea that the Templars had gained secret knowledge of the true life of Christ.

With the blessing of Pope Clement V, King Philip returned to France and began to move against the Templars. Drawing up a list of charges that ranged from subversion to heresy, Philip issued secret orders to officers throughout the country that were not to be opened until a predetermined time. This was dawn of Friday, October 13, 1307, a date which bears a sinister connotation to this day. The authorities spread out over France and quickly rounded up all the Templars at hand.

"Captured knights were imprisoned, interrogated, tortured and burned," said Gardner. "Paid witnesses were called to give evidence against the Templars and some truly bizarre statements were elicited. The Templars were accused of a number of secret practices deemed immoral, including necromancy, homosexuality, abortion, blasphemy, and (one of) the black arts. Once they had given their evidence, under whatever circumstances of bribery or duress, the witnesses disappeared without trace."

It is still a matter of controversy as to whether the Templars were truly guilty of such accusations. It is apparent that many of the charges against this ostensible Christian order were spurious and contrived. But there is also evidence that the most exalted of the Templates were sympathetic to, if not adherents of, the heresies dealing with Mary Magdalene, John the Baptist, and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Some researchers have even speculated that the Templar skull and crossbones flag may have been inspired by the remains of Mary, the Baptist, or both. Vestigial memory of this Templar symbol may have inspired the pirate flags of later centuries as well as the Skull and Bones order.

"We strongly feel that while the highest-ranking knights may have had medically abnormal issues in the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Templars were, throughout their entire existence, a faithful Catholic Order.... The
Knights Templar were betrayed by a Church and a Pope that they had served well,” commented the Masonic authors Knight and Lomas in defense of the order.

It was apparent that, despite the audacity of the arrests and the secrecy of the orders, many Templars were forewarned. “Shortly before the arrests, for example, the Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, called in many of the Order’s best and most reliable men and had them burned,” noted Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln.

Many French Templars were arrested without a fight apparently hoping the situation would turn around, but many others fled the country. The biggest mystery was the disappearance of both the Templar fleet and the accumulated treasure at the Paris Temple. Most researchers have connected the disappearance of the Templar fleet with the missing treasure.

Author Gardner claimed the Templar treasure remained in France at the time of the arrests. “[Philip’s] minions had scoured the length and breadth of Champagne and Languedoc—but all the while the hoard was hidden away in the Treasury vaults of Paris,” he wrote.

Later, according to Gardner, Grand Master Molay had the treasure transferred to La Rochelle, where a fleet of eighteen galleys transported the hoard safely to Scotland.

Authors Baigent and Leigh generally agreed with this, pointing out that there were “five years of legal wrangling, negotiation, intrigue, horse-trading and general dodging before the Order was officially dissolved,” plenty enough time to disperse the treasure.

Knight and Lomas added a fascinating addition to the story of the Templar escape—that a segment of the Templar fleet may have made its way to America 185 years before Christopher Columbus set sail.

This claim begins with the Mandaeans sect, those who believed that John the Baptist was the true messiah and that Jesus perverted his teachings. The Mandaeans have been connected to Nazareans thought to be part of the Qumran community whose scrolls were found in 1945. Muslims forced the Mandaeans from the banks of the Jordan River into Persia where remnants of the sect still exist.

The Mandaeans, like the Essenes, believed that the souls of good people would go to a wonderful and peaceful land across the sea when they died, a land they believed was marked by a star called “Medea.” Since ir is likely the documents discovered by the Templars in Jerusalem were duplicates of those found at the Qumran community, the Templars may
have found a reference in the new lands as well as the name “Merica.”

Knight and Lomas conjectured that at least one part of the Templar fleet provisioned in Portugal then sailed west for “la Merica.” They said these intrepid sailors, flying their well-known ‘skull and crossbones’ battle flag, arrived in New England in the year 1308.

Compelling evidence of such a landing can be found in Westford, Massachusetts, where today a punched-holes engraving of a knight can be found on a rock. This figure, dressed in the style of a thirteenth century knight, carries a shield containing a picture of a sailing ship following a single star. In Newport, Rhode Island, a landmark tower matches the rounded architecture of the Templars and is dated back to the thirteenth century. There is no doubt that the building is extremely old, said Knight and Lomas, “because on a map of 1524 recording the European discovery of this coastline, Italian navigator Giovanni da Verrazano marked the location of the Newport Tower as marking ‘New Atlantis’.”

Recently discovered ruins in Patagonia, thought to be the lost La ciudad de los Cesares (the City of the Caesars), revealed an ancient pier and docks along with a slab of dressed stone marked with a Templar cross, which prompted investigator Flugberto Ramos to speculate that Templars may have ventured there in pre-Columbian times.

More persuasive evidence of previously unknown Templar exploration can be found in Scotland’s Rosslyn Chapel, where clear depictions of ears of corn and aloe cactus are found on archways and ceiling. “According to official history, seed grains of Indian maize were first brought to Europe and Africa by 16th century explorers,” Knight and Lomas wrote. “Today Knight and Lomas note, the Rosslyn Chapel was completed in 1486, six years before Columbus ventured over the Atlantic, and the carvings are an integral part of construction. ‘We have certain evidence that the men that instructed the masons of Rosslyn’s Chapel must have visited America, probably during the second quarter of a century before Columbus,’ commented Knight and Lomas.

While these authors admit that indications of a Templar presence in the pre-Columbian New World are not conclusive, they do add to the suspicion that the late Templar-inspired Freemasons Bacon and Raleigh knew more about the “New Atlantis” than previously imagined.

They also explained that a sixteenth-century German monk named Waldseemüller, who first wrote that America was named for explorer
Amerigo Vespucci, knew nothing about the Templar-Mandaean legend of "Merica." The monk had heard about the new land of "Nova Terra" and also of the voyages of Vespucci and simply put the two together. "Waldseemüller got the name right but the explanation wrong," said Knight and Lomas. "Very shortly after he had written these words, he realized his mistake and publicly admitted his error, but Amerigo Vespucci was the discoverer of the New World—but by then it was too late..."

"The standard historical line that is routinely trotted out for the origin of the name of the New World, comes entirely from a silly misunderstanding by an obscure cleric who never ventured more than a few miles from [his] monastery... on the French/German border," they commented.

Whether or not there was a Templar landing in "la Merica" in the early fourteenth century, there could still have been a Templar connection to its discovery. According to Baigent and Leigh, Templar connections to Portugal were traced by an inquiry and then changed their name to Knights of Christ, devoting themselves chiefly to sea exploration. "Vasco da Gama was a Knight of Christ and Prince Henry the Navigator was a grand master of the Order," they noted. "Ships of the Knights of Christ sailed under the familiar red cross. And it was under the same cross that Christopher Columbus's three caravels crossed the Atlantic to the New World. Columbus himself was a Knight of Christ and had access to his father-in-law's charts and diaries."

While Templar connections to America will be debated for some time, there seems little doubt that many members of the order—as well as their treasure of both gold and documents—made their way to Scotland. Scotland, then being fought over by England and Robert the Bruce, was the perfect refuge from the persecution of the order, which soon spread outside France. At the urging of Pope Clement V, other countries also rounded up Templars and attached their property. England's King Edward II was initially slow to move against the Templars, but, as King Philip's son-in-law, he was finally spurred to halfhearted action. A few Templars were arrested but generally given light sentences such as penance in a monastery or abbey. Templar property was handed over to the Hospitallers order.

It was two years after the attack against the order began that Edward finally ordered the arrest of all Templars remaining under his control in
English-occupied Scotland. His men managed to secure exactly two men, one of them Walter de Clifton, the Templar master. Under interrogation, Clifton revealed that his fellow Templar had fled “across the sea,” more evidence that Templars may have set out for America.

Robert the Bruce’s Scotland was a different story, with its long history of involvement with the Templars. According to Gardner, Grand Master Lazure had met with the Scottish king just after the Council of Troyes, and Robert himself had guided the Templars with his own Cistercian order. The Knights Templar had been encouraged and supported by a succession of Scottish kings beginning with King David and had gained a considerable amount of property there.

During the time of the Templar persecution, King Robert had every reason not to prosecute the Templars—his own by birth based on the support of his ancestors, he was at war with Edward II, and he had been excommunicated by the Roman church for warring with Edward, Philip’s son-in-law. Cut off from both the church and his neighbors, Robert welcomed any help he could get.

English blockades closed off most of the normal routes from the continent to Scotland. “But one important route was open,” stated Baigent and Leigh, “from the north coast of Ireland, including the mouth of the Foyle at Londonderry, to Bruce’s domains in Argyll, Kintyre and the Sound of Jura... Thus Templar ships, Templar arms and material, Templar fighting men, just possibly, the Templar treasure would have found their way to Scotland, providing vital reinforcements and resources for Bruce’s cause.”

While official history does not credit the Templars with Bruce’s victory against the English, researchers have found considerable reason to believe that was the case.

The Battle of Bannockburn, which secured Scottish independence, was fought on June 24, 1314. Intriguingly enough, this was Saint John’s Day, one of the most significant days of the year for Templars, who venerated the saint.

Ostensibly to relieve a besieged garrison at Stirling Castle, gateway to the Highlands, King Edward mobilized an army of more than twenty thousand in addition to the nearly ten thousand in the Stirling garrison. It was planned that he might have devoted these forces to the ruins of Stirling, where Edward could have made a decisive invasion of his own.
than ten thousand, so outnumbered nearly three to one, his chances for victory appeared dim.

The two forces clashed in the vicinity of Stirling Castle and fought viciously all day. Although particulars of the battle are vague, it appeared that a "fresh force" arrived just as the battle hung in the balance. This new force was enough to cause King Edward and five hundred of his best knights to leave the field, which caused a panic among the remaining English forces. "This intrepid band assembled quietly into a hillside vale, the entire English army abandoning their supplies, their baggage, their money, their gold and silver plate, their arms, armor and equipment," reported Baigent and Leigh.

These authors believed that this contingent of Templars, with their distinctive flowing beards and red-cross banners, was the "fresh force" that struck fear in the hearts of Edward and his men. Other authors contend that a member of the Saint-Oak family commanded Knights Templar at the Battle of Bannockburn. MacKee wrote that Masonic historians mentioned orders "first conferred on the field of Bannockburn, as a reward for the valor that had been displayed by a body of Templars who aided Bruce in that memorable victory."

By the time of the battle, the Templars supposedly no longer existed. In 1312 the order had been officially dissolved by the pope at the insistence of King Philip, and in 1314, the order's last official grand master, Jacques Molay, was burned at the stake in Paris.

Molay, according to nineteenth century author Eliphas Levi, had organized "Occult Masonry," namely adding the Johannite heresy to the Templar's secret knowledge concerning Mary Magdalene's journey to Europe with the children of Jesus.

"The Johannite sect recognized that the title 'Christ' was not unique to Jesus," explained Picknett and Prince. "The original Greek Christos merely meant 'anointed'—a term that could have been applied to many, including kings and Roman officials. Consequently, the Johannite leaders..."
always took the title of "Chief mathematician." Significantly, the Nag Ham- 
man Gospel of Philip applies the term "Christ" to all Gnostic initiates."

Levi even claimed that Grand Master Payens had been initiated into
the ideas of the Johannite sect prior to heading the Knights Templar. This idea
was supported by the claim of the Masonic leader Baron von Hund, who
claimed he had been presented by "true history" of Freemasonry. Recall
that von Hund created the "Strict Observance" lodge in Germany. It was
certainly known as the Brotherhood of John the Baptist. It has also been sug-
gested that the Masonic ritual involving the death of a Hiram Abif actu-
ally contrived the martyrdom of Templar master Molay.

If indeed the Templar elite were infused with the teachings of the
Johannites passed through Grand Master Molay, it is clear why church
authorities persisted in his death sentence. Another reason may have been
from that Molay received an earlier confession. A not so great deal of the charges
against the Knights Templar were true.

Molay, after entering the Templar order in 1254, had fought in Syria
and later was stationed at the Templar house on Cyprus. He was elected
grand master about 1298. In late 1306 or early 1307 Molay was con-
vened to appear before Pope Clement V, supposedly to discuss regain-
ing the Holy Land. Instead he was questioned about the charges against
the order being leveled by King Philip. On that fateful Friday the
ninth, Molay was tortured and made his final confession, most prob-
ably under torture.

Molay also was coerced into writing to his brother Templars and
urging them to turn themselves in and confess. Appendix Four Molay for
a personal judgment by the pope pursuant death. And in March 1314,
after those cardinals condemned him to life imprisonment, Molay
rejected his confessions. As a reluctant sentence, he was handed over to
Philip's officers, who burned him at the stake near the Templar-inspired
Notre-Dame cathedral.

Legend has it that, as the flames licked around him, Molay called
out for both Pope Clement and King Philip to join him before God
within a year. Both men were indeed dead before a year had passed.
Some believed that secret Templars poisoned these while others
believed their death was due to Molay's curse.

Authors Knight and Lomas claimed to have connected Molay's death
to a modern controversy. "The Qumranian/Masonic style shroud that
was taken from the Paris temple of the Knights Templar and used to wrap

the damaged Figure of the Grand Master traveled with de Molay to the home of Geoffrey de Charney, where it was washed, folded up and placed in a drawer. Exactly 50 years later, in 1357, the 14-foot long piece of cloth was taken out of hiding and put on public display at Lyons. . . . That length of cloth is today called the Shroud of Turin,” they wrote.

In other parts of Europe, most Templars shaved their conspicuous beards and blended into the general population. A few were tried, found not guilty, and released. In Germany, intimidated judges released Templars, who promptly joined other orders such as the Knights of Christ, the Teutonic Knights, or the Hospitallers.

The Hospitallers began about 1119—before the First Crusade—when a group of Italian merchants established a hospital dedicated to Saint John in Jerusalem. After Crusaders took the city in 1099, the Hospitallers organized as an order and a grand master was elected. While not initially a military order, the Knights of Saint John, known simply as Hospitallers, became more militaristic as Templars rose to prominence.

With the loss of the Holy Land, the Hospitallers fell back to Cyprus along with the Templars. After the destruction of the Templars, the Hospitallers gained much of their property, which led to increased their already prosperous and powerful order. Later they were forced to retreat to Rhodes. When a third siege by the Turks finally took the island in 1522, the order relocated to the island of Malta, where they would become the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta or simply the Knights of Malta.

Today, the Knights of Malta are headquartered in Rome under the direct supervision of the pope and are recognized by more than forty countries as a sovereign nation. A British offshoot, known as the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem, is a Protestant order headquartered in London and headed by the king or queen. According to author David Icke, “The Catholic and the Protestant wings are in fact the same organization at the highest level. Both were the same force, as were, and are, the Teutonic Knights. All were involved in the same dealings, including banking, and used the same methods to get their way.”

Modern Americans connected to the Knights of Malta include the late CIA directors William Casey and John McCone, Christopher Musgrave, colonial William F. Buckley, Joseph P. Kennedy, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican William Wilson, Carl Bradlew Lewis, and former U.S. secretary of state Alexander Haig. Dr. Luigi Gedda, the head of Catholic
Action, was decorated by the Knights of Malta for his liaison work between the Vatican, the CIA, and the European Movement of Joseph Retinger, the "Father of the Bilderbergers." "Today, the Order of Malta is believed to be one of the primary channels of communication between the Vatican and the CIA," wrote Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln.

"Today, there are no fewer than five organizations in existence alleging one or another species of direct descent from the [Templars]," noted Baigent and Leigh. The Hospitallers, Knights of Malta, Knights of St. John, Freemasonry, and the Rosicrucians, and perhaps others, all trace their lineage to the Knights Templar with their esoteric knowledge recovered from under Solomon's Temple.

As these groups became more and more intertwined, the lines of membership blurred. Retinger and Leigh noted that the disposition of Templar property in Scotland involved something quite extraordinary—something which has been almost entirely neglected by historians. . . . For more than two centuries in Scotland—from the beginning of the 14th to the middle of the 16th—the Templars, it appears, were actually merged with the Hospitallers. Thus, during the period in question, there are frequent references to a single joint order—the Order of the Knights of St. John and the Temple.* (emphasis in the original)

The Knights of Malta survived the Medieval persecution by allying themselves with the Vatican and even participating in the persecution of its enemies. Likewise, many of Europe's royal families, themselves usurpers of the thrones of the Merovingians and others, turned in partnership with the Vatican to maintain the status quo. These royal connections were referred to as the "Black Nobility."

Yet another order which was created specifically to combat the Vatican's enemies and to protect the secrets of the church was the Jesuits. This order, officially known as the Society of Jesus, was founded in 1540 by Ignatius of Loyola, a soldier turned priest, who swiftly turned the organization into an aggressive militant force against both heretics and Protestants alike. It was the structure of the Jesuits that Adam Weishaupt used as a template for his Illuminati.

But even the militant Jesuits were susceptible to the lure of the secret knowledge of the Templars. Over time, many Jesuits may have gotten too close to the heresies of the period. They began to resist the authority of the Roman church and its power over governments, resulting in a ban against the order by Pope Clement XIV in 1773. But the imperative...
of protecting the church, issued a restitution of the assets, including all former rights and privileges, by Pope Pius V in 1517.

Since King Philip’s move against the Templars had failed to entirely exterminate adherents of the order, and even the militant Jesuits were not entirely reliable, the effort to reinsert all members of the church was taken up by the Inquisition, which came close to completing the task even by mid-fifteenth century.

Operating on behalf of a succession of popes, the Dominican, Francis Xavier and the Dominican Black Friars conducted unspeakable tortures during the Catholic Inquisition. In 1480 the Inquisition recovered lost momentum when the grand Inquisitor, the Dominican Thomas de Torquemada, initiated the Spanish Inquisition, aimed primarily at Muslims and Jews. By 1492 the list of ecclesiastical crimes had grown to include those who disagreed with church dogma, heretics, witches, and those who disapproved with church doctrine or local social values.

The dreaded Inquisition, first initiated to control the Cathars during the Albigensian Crusade, was not entirely dissolved until 1820. Meanwhile, those of the privileged class who possessed true esoteric skills and Hermetic knowledge were obliged to conduct their business in the secrecy of their lodges and underground clubs,” noted Gardner.

“The once revered knowledge of the Templars caused their persecution by the savage Dominicans of the 14th century Inquisition. It was at that point in the history of Christianity that the last vestige of free thinking disappeared,” he added.

While Molay’s death ended the overt power of the Knights Templar, there seems to be no question that the order survived and was found in other secret societies "These days, hidden lodges and secret societies are almost ubiquitous in declaring that the Knights Templar became extinct in the 1300s. They are quite wrong," Archdruid Liam. "The Chivalric Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem is still flourishing in continental Europe and Scotland.”

"After the sinister events surrounding the official suppression of the Templars, the Order must underground until to this day to inferences on many other organizations, such as the Rosicrucians and Freemasonry, and the knowledge they had acquired passed into these societies.”
Behind the Knights Templar lurked one of the most mysterious secret societies of all: the little-known Priory of Sion, another group obsessed not only with politics but with esoteric religious views.

**THE PRIORY OF SION**

If the claims of several recent authors are correct, the Prieure de Sion or Priory of Sion, may be one of the oldest and most powerful secret societies in history.

It reportedly was the moving force behind the creation of the mighty Knights Templar and reportedly later that same Priory, leadership involved such names as Leonardo da Vinci, Robert Fludd, Sir Isaac Newton, Victor Hugo and artist Jean Cocteau. It lists twenty-six past grand masters going back through seven hundred years of history. Yet the public had no knowledge of this group until mid-twentieth century, which has fueled charges that the whole issue is a hoax.

It was in the mid-1950s that the public—mostly in France—first learned of the Priory, which means a religious house, something like an abbey.

Scattered newspaper and magazine articles beginning in 1956 spoke of a “mystery” surrounding the small Languedoc town of Rennes-le-Chateau. At first this story appeared little different from other stories of local hidden treasure found almost anywhere. But, as the years passed and more information came to light, the story of the Priory took on much greater significance.

The “mystery” of Rennes-le-Chateau involved a Catholic priest named Francois Berenger Sauniere, who was assigned to the town’s parish in 1885. Young and self-educated, Sauniere was given this backwater assignment after apparently evoking the ire of some superior. Yet, the thirty-three year old priest decided to make the best of it.

Sauniere, working closely with an eighteen-year-old housekeeper named Marie Denarnaud, cared for his parish and still found time to hunt and fish. "He read voraciously, perfected his Latin, learned Greek and embarked on the study of Hebrew," noted authors Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln. He also decided to restore the town church, which had been consecrated to Mary Magdalene in 1059 and stood on Visigoth ruins dating to the sixth century.
In 1891, while working in the church, Sauniere uncovered the altar stone and discovered that one of its supports was hollow and contained four parchment documents—two genealogies dating from 1244 and 1644 along with two missives written in the 1780s by a former parish priest, Abbot Antoine Bigou.

The Bigou texts were unusual and appeared to be written in different codes. "Some of them are fantastically complex, differing even from a computer, and almost indiscernible without a magnifying lens," stated Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln.

Sauniere took his discovery to his superior, the bishop of nearby Carcassonne, who sent him to Paris to meet with the director general of the Saint Sulpice Seminary. Later it was found that in earlier years, this seminary had been the center for an underground society called the Compagnie du Saint-Sacrement, thought to be a front for the Priory of Sion. If this was the case, it would explain how Priory members learned of Sauniere's discovery.

Whatever was in the documents (if Sauniere's life is an entirely true version) "for during his short stay in Paris, Sauniere began to mix with the city's cultural elite, many of whom had dabbled in the occult arts," noted authors Vankin and Whalen. "Contemporary gossip had it that the convent's priest had an affair with Emma Calve, the famous opera diva, who was also the high priestess of the Parisian esoteric underground. She would later visit him frequently in Rennes-le-Chateau."

Not only did Sauniere's reported Paris visit gain him new friends in high places, he also came into great wealth. Before his sudden death in 1917, researchers estimated he had spent several million dollars on construction and renovation in the town. During his work upon returning from Paris, Sauniere made yet another discovery—a small crypt beneath the church reportedly containing skeletons.

His behavior became quite odd. Ramires accused of a Latin inscrip-
tion on the headstone of a member of the prominent local Blanchefort family, not realizing that copies had already been made. Translated, the inscription read, "To Dagobert II King and to Sion belongs this treasure and he is there dead." He began collecting worthless postage stamps and valuable rocks along with costly rare china and fabrics.

But he also had the town's water and waste supplies upgraded, constructed a massive library, and built a zoological garden, a lavish country house named Villa Bethania and a round tower named Tour Magdala.
or Tower of Magdalene, all of which indicated sudden wealth. Within the renovated church, Sauniere erected a strange statue of the demon Asmodeas—"custodian of secrets, guardian of hidden treasures, and, according to ancient Judaic legend, builder of Solomon's temple." He filled the renovated church with unusual painted panels, one depicting Jesus' body being carried to his tomb. But a full moon in this panel caused authors Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln to suspect that the body was slipped out of the tomb in the dead of night. Over the church entrance, he had inscribed the Latin words Terribilis Est Locus Sini, meaning "This place is terrible." Perhaps Sauniere was echoing the words of Jesus in Genesis 28:17, who said "This is a terrible place!" upon seeing the "Gate of Heaven."

Unusual visitors came to the town, including Archduke Johann von Habsburg, cousin to the Austrian emperor Franz Joseph. "Bank statements subsequently revealed that Sauniere and the archduke had opened consecutive accounts on the same day," noted the author trio, "and that the latter had transferred a substantial sum over to the former. Sauniere began to exhibit a defiant independence toward his church superiors, refusing to disclose the source of his new-found wealth or accept a transfer from Rennes-le-Chateau, where he and his housekeeper were now digging incessantly in the graveyard around the church. When push came to shove, the Vatican supported Sauniere, a good indication of the significance of his discoveries.

On January 17, 1917—the official Feast Day of the Saint Sulpice Seminary where he first consulted experts on his discovered documents as well as the day that was on the Blanchefort tombstone he obliterated and just five days after his housekeeper had inexplicably ordered a coffin—Sauniere suffered a sudden stroke. A nearby priest was called to administer Last Rites but, "visibly shaken" refused to do so after hearing Sauniere's confession, which has never been made public.

Thus began the mystery of Rennes-le-Chateau. "Speculation has varied over the years as to the true nature of Sauniere's discovery" wrote Picknett and Prince, "most prosaically it has been suggested that he
found a hoard of treasure, while others believe it was something considerably more stupendous, such as the Ark of the Covenant, the treasures of the Jerusalem Temple, the Holy Grail—or even the tomb of Christ. The Priory claims that what Sauniere had discovered were parchments containing genealogical information that prove the survival of the Merovingian dynasty.

Two things seem certain about this story—that Sauniere obviously found something of vital importance or group of people were willing to pay him large sums of money and that he continued looking for something else his entire life. It seems equally clear that hissuperiors in the church acquiesced in whatever Sauniere was up to; that Priory officials suggested that Sauniere was being well paid by seeking church officials for both his efforts and his silence.

According to one account, another clergyman named Anatole Oulta was close to Sauniere and also came into a considerable amount of money. Whatever Oulta knew about the situation died with him in November 1897, when the elderly priest was found beaten to death in his home. Details of his murder disappeared from police and court reports.

In 1969, British BBC television documentary producer Henry Lincoln read of the mystery while vacationing in France. He soon joined forces with novelist Richard Leigh and photojournalist Michael Baigent to research the story that ultimately provided them several TV programs as well as the best-selling 1982 book, Holy Blood, Holy Grail. This book brought the story of the Priory to an international audience.

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Their research led them from Rennes-le-Chateau and the Blanchefort family to the Knights Templar and the Cathars to the order called Priory of Sion. A Bertrand de Blanchefort was the fourth grand master of the Knights Templar and operated from a preceptory in the vicinity of Rennes-le-Chateau. It has been established that the Blancheforts fought on the side of the Cathars and that Bertrand was a protege of Templar founder Andre de Montbard.

Bertrand, Leigh, and Baigent discovered that during the time Blanchefort guided the order, Templars were dispatched to the vicinity of Rennes-le-Chateau, where they engaged in extensive excavations. They theorized this may have been a mission to bury and safeguard the treasures recovered from under their Jerusalem quarters. Their suspicions were heightened when they learned that as King Philip launched his nationwide excess of
In 1307, only some Templars near Rennes-le-Château remained un molested. It should be noted that during World War II, German troops reportedly excavated extensively around Rennes-le-Château, apparently hunting Holy relics as dramatized in two Indiana Jones films by director Steven Spielberg.

The three British researchers gathered an assortment of material on the Priory, including a number of hooks by French author Gerard de Sede, who was found to be connected to one Pierre Plantard de Saint-Clair, an official of the modern Priory of Sion. Researching in the National Library of Rome, they studied microfilms of documents called Dossiers secrets or Secret Files that purported to trace the Priory of Sion back to the time of the Crusades and clearly had the society in the Knights Templar. These files named the grand master of the Priory, presented detailed history, and even stated that Sauniere was working for the order while in Rennes-le-Château. Since these papers were dated to the 1950s, yet placed in the archives until the mid-1960s, controversy over the legitimacy of these documents has raged with no final proof forthcoming on either side, much like the MJ-12 documents in the United States.

"One curious feature of the dossiers is the constant and underlying implication that the authors had access to official government and police files," noted authors Picknett and Prince, who were generally more cynical of Priory information than other writers. They reported that critics of the Priory story claimed the group was nonexistent until the name first appeared publicly in the 1950s and that the whole idea is a scheme of "royalists with unlimited delusions of grandeur."

Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln countered this by stating that at least one charter for the Ordre de Sion at Orleans from King Louis VII along with a papal bull confirming the order's possessions and dated 1178 still exist. They explained that many documents pertaining to the order had disappeared when Orleans was bombed by the Germans in 1940. Names connected to the Templars and Freemasonry cropped up in their investigation: Marie de Saint-Clair, a descendant of Henry Saint Clair of the Rosslyn Chapel connection, reportedly was married to Jean de Gisors, reportedly the first independent grand master of the Priory of Sion; Rene d'Anjou, who, among others, carried the title "King of Jerusalem" which indicated a descendency from the Templar Count of Anjou, was listed as Grand Master of Sion from 1131 to 1149; the
great Leonardo da Vinci was listed as Priory grand master from 1510 to 1519; Robert Fludd, that friend of Sir Francis Bacon and English kings, was listed as Priory grand master from 1519 to 1575. Johann Valentin Andrea, the cleric connected to Hessian Freemasonry and credited as the author of the Rosicrucian Manifestos, was listed as Sion grand master from 1575 to 1585. Robert Boyle, member of Bacon’s “Invisible College” who reportedly taught alchemy to Sir Isaac Newton, served between 1654 and 1691. While the Sion Freemason Victor Hugo reportedly replaced Boyle as Grand Master of Sion from 1898 to 1925.

Other grand masters of Sion listed in the Dossiers secrets give good indications of the depth and reach of the Priory. They include Charles Radclyffe, a cousin to Bonnie Prince Charlie; Charles de Lorraine, who also served as grand master of the Templar-inspired Teutonic order; Maximilian de Lorraine, son of Charles and mentor to musicians Franz Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven; Victor Hugo, a Lorraine aristocrat and author of The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Les Miserables; the composer Claude Debussy, whose associates included writer Oscar Wilde, poet W. B. Yeats; novelist Marcel Proust; opera diva Emma Calve; and the young priest from Rennes-le-Chateau, Berenger Sauniere.

Based on their research, Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln, came to accept as “indisputable historical fact” that the Priory of Sion, under different names at different times, was the secret society behind the Knights Templar and survived the destruction of the Templars in the fourteenth century. At the very least, the Dossiers secret state that members of the Priory—members of the Gisors, Anjou, and Saint-Gait families to include Hugh de Payens and Godfrey de Bouillon—were among the founders of the Templars.

They also believed that the Priory exists today and “acting in the shadows, behind the scenes, it has orchestrated certain of the critical events in Western history.” Unstated was the implication that Priory members were involved with the nucleus of Freemasonry, the Illuminati, and the Round Tables.

“The avowed and declared objective of the Prieuré de Sion,” according to the trio, “is the restoration of the Merovingian dynasty and bloodline—not only to the throne of France, but to the thrones of other European nations as well.”
They said Priory members worked through Freemasonry in the nine-
teenth century to revive the Holy Roman Empire, to be ruled jointly by
the Habsburg family and a reformed Roman church. This scheme
apparently was only thwarted by World War I and the fall of Europe's
royal dynasties.

Throughout the years, the Priory—which apparently inherited, if not
initiated, the Temple discoveries in Jerusalem—had been preoccupied
not only with royal bloodlines but with the heretical knowledge of the
Cathars and earlier sects.

"Suddenly, the meandering history of Europe develops a dramatic,
cohesive plot line," noted Vankin and Whalen. "The persecution of the
Cathars by the church, the relinquishment of Rome to the consecration of
[Merovingian] King Dagobert, the successful conspiracy of the Pope
[Clement V] and Philip IV of France to suppress the powerful Templars—
all were efforts to eradicate—Jesus' bloodline. For [it] constituted
nothing less than a rival church with a more direct link to J.C.'s legacy
than the Vatican could ever claim."

As previously mentioned, Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln came to
believe that the notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion actually per-
tained to the Priory. After much research, the trio concluded that the
protocols were based on a real document which had nothing to do with
a Jewish or Masonic organization but instead was issued through
"some Masonic organization or Masonically oriented secret society
that incorporated the word 'Sion'—[and] may very well have
included a program for gaining power, for infiltrating Freemasonry, for
controlling social, political and economic institutions."

Whatever the Priory is today, according to the Dossiers secrets it was
founded in 1090 by Godfrey de Bouillon, Duke of Lower Lorraine and
the handsome descendent of Charlemagne, who led the First Crusade.
to capture Jerusalem. However, other Priory documents state the order was not founded until 1099, the year Jerusalem was taken and its inhabitants massacred. This text also said that Bouillon’s youngest brother evaded the Massacre in the Priory and, indeed, his brother Bohemond II of Le Bourg became king of Jerusalem. Baldwin I, who authorized the Knights Templar order, followed.

Whatever year the Priory was founded, once Jerusalem was taken, some knights were housed in an abbey built by Bouillon over the ruins of a Roman church on Mount Zion just south of the city. This became the Abbey of Notre Dame du Mont Sion, from which the order took the name Knights of the Order of Notre Dame de Sion. The word Sion was believed to be a transliteration of Zion, itself a transliteration of the ancient Hebrew name for Jerusalem.

Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln claimed to have found an original charter for the Priory, dated 1125, with Temple grand master Hugh de Payens’ name on it which would definitely tie the two orders together.

Picknett and Prince said the Priory and the Templars were “virtually the same organization, presided over by the same Grand Master, until they split off as separate entities in 1188.”

Gardner generally concurred, but wrote that the Order of Sion had been founded by the Knights Templar to serve Jews and Muslims within their Christian order and that both shared the same grand master, although the early Templars had a Christian affiliation, they were noted exponents of religious toleration, which enabled them to be influential diplomats in both Jewish and Islamic communities. However, their liberal association with Jews and Muslims was denounced as “heresy” by the Catholic bishops and was instrumental in the Knights’ excommunication by the Church of Rome in 1306,” he added.

Apparently, the Order of Sion was restructured in 1188, a year after Jerusalem was retaken by the Muslims and all involved had returned to France. Here there was some sort of rupture between the order and the Templars at a town called Gisors. Afterward, the order became more associated with the French Merovingian bloodline, while the Templars, as previously noted, fell back to Cyprus and Rhodes and became more associated with England and Scotland and their royal bloodlines.

Jean de Gisors, according to the Priory documents, was the first grand master of the order after its separation from the Templars, which they called the “Cutting of the Elm.” The order was already established
to the Rosicrucians through Johan Andrea. According to a priest writ-
ing in 1629, Gisors in fact founded the Rose-Croix order in 1188. This
same contention is found in the Dossiers secret, according to Baigent,
Leigh, and Lincoln. The idea that both Gisors and Andrea were offi-
cials of Sion, added much credence to the claim that they were involved
in the creation of Rosicrucianism.

It is clear that shortly after the First Crusade, there was a blending of
ideas, theology, and ancient secrets from which came the Rosicrucians,
the Knights Templar and the Priory of Sion.

Following the break with the Templars, a large priory of the Ordre
de Sion was established in the mid-twelfth century at Orleans by a
charter from King Louis VII. The original of this charter is still in municipal
archives.

The history of the Priory from that time until the present is veiled in
mystery. The first definite public notice of the Priory's existence came in
July 1956 when a Prieure de Sion, with the professed goal of "studies
and mutual aid to members," was registered with French authorities.

Even then the address listed was untraceable and little could be learned
about the group. About that time, the Priory claimed a membership of
almost ten thousand divided into "grades" starting with a grand mas-
ter, although this information is considered highly questionable. It also
claimed not to be a secret society, yet efforts to gain solid information
on the order are still met with denials, circumvention, and dissembling.

One of the Priory officers was listed as Pierre Plantard, the same
man connected to de Sede, the French journalist who wrote about the
order in later years. Plantard was said to be secretary-general of the
Department of Documentation, implying there were other departments
within the order.

Meanwhile, some Priory documents came into public knowledge only in
small private editions and quantities. "Whatever the motivations behind
these releases," Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln wrote, "the final disclosure
by Pierre Plantard, who came to believe that the paced and deliberate release of Priory
information was 'calculated to pave the way' for some astonishing dis-

The three authors claimed that a 1981 notice in the French press
reported that none other than Pierre Plantard had been elected grand mas-
ter of the Priory of Sion, his election being "a decisive step in the evolu-
tion of the order's concepts and goals to relevance in the world." Yet the 1981
notice was never verified.
The late Plantard was indeed connected with the Prieuré throughout his life. Not only was he the apparent source of Priory information to selected researchers, but he owned property in the vicinity of Rennes-le-Château, and his father reportedly knew the priest Saunière. He reportedly worked with the French Resistance during World War II and was held by the German Gestapo for more than a year toward the end of the war. Interestingly enough, the code name for one of the plotters against Hitler toward the end of the war was “Gray Eminence.” In 1938, along with French minister André Malraux, he helped organize the movement that returned Charles de Gaulle to power in France. Clearly Plantard was not just some nobody off the street.

After much arduous work, authors Leigh, Baigent, and Lincoln managed a series of interviews with Plantard beginning in 1979. They found him aristocratic and courtly, eloquent with a dry sense of humor. Although for the most part vague and evasive about the order, Plantard did claim that the Priory does in fact have the lost “treasure” of Solomon’s Temple and plans to return it to Israel “when the time is right.” He also indicated that in the near future, a monarchy would be reestablished in France and perhaps other countries.

“Again, we considered dismissing the Prieuré de Sion as a minor ‘lunatic fringe’ sect, if not an outright hoax,” stated the authors. “And yet all our own research had indicated that the Order, in the past, had had real power and been involved in matters of high-level international import.

Other authors also questioned the statements of Plantard as well as the Dossiers secret. “On the evidence given in the secret dossiers, the case for the survival of the [Merovingian] dynasty beyond King Dagobert II, not to mention the continuation of a clear line of descent down to the late 20th century, is at best fragile and at worst demonstrably fictitious,” commented Picknett and Prince.

Robert Richardson, writing in the Spring 1999 issue of Gnosis Magazine, was more to the point when he stated unequivocally that the whole Priory story was a “fraud.” He loosely connected Plantard to prewar esoteric organizations and concluded, “The last word on the Priory story was a ‘fraud.’”
of the ‘Priory of Sion’ and its false bloodline was created by utilizing the vast amount of esoteric documents publicly available in French libraries and by depositing its own documents among them.”

While confirming that a real Catholic monastic order named Priory of Sion existed in Crusades-era Jerusalem, Richardson said it was absorbed into the Jesuits and disappeared in 1617. He claimed Plantard and other right-wing members of a group called Alpha Galates concocted the Priory story by placing fabricated histories in libraries, by falsely associating itself with ancient esoteric groups, and by usurping the heritage of prewar esoteric groups.”

“The group ‘the ‘Priory’ has plagiarized most from is the Order of the Rose-Croix of the Temple and the Grail, founded by Josephin Peladan in 1891,” wrote Richardson. “This group is intimately connected with the real Order of Rosicrucian Chemists. He and Plantard’s secretary, the Scottish Elite Mason George Count Israel (Monti), was denounced by the French Masonic Grand Lodge as a false element in society. His book Plancher with the same charge by editing. It is highly likely that Alpha Galates (and James Blumenthal) was a front for Monti’s group and that Monti’s group continued an, subsequently implementing a plan which would be concealed under the guise of the ‘Priory of Sion’.”

Richardson, while certainly entitled to his opinions, also made questionable statements. For example, he disputed a description by authors Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln regarding Bertrand de Blanchefort. “Blanchefort was the home of a Cathar noble by that name,” he noted, “not a Templar Grand Master. Few researchers have bothered to investigate this innumerable other fictions.”

Yet Masonic author Charles G. Addison, writing in 1842, a century before the times of Plantard and Alpha Galates and citing even older sources, wrote at length on Bertrand de Blanchefort and listed him as Templar grand master between the years of 1158 and 1169. There is every reason to believe that the truth of this story is a greater farce, although truth appears to be elusive.

While also disbelieving the story of trying to preserve the Merovingian bloodline, Picknett and Prince concluded that behind this “smoke-screen of full-scale nonsense, presentation and obfuscation, there lies, a very serious, very single-minded intent.”

An attempt to discern this intent requires a study of the Merovingian dynasty.
The Merovingian dynasty of Franks has been traditionally considered the first race of kings in what is now France. France was named for the Franks and their first ruler, Francio, was said to be a descendant of Noah.

Francio's race migrated from the legendary city of Troy in northwest Turkey, bringing their royal bloodline to Gaul. They named their settlement Troyes after their hometown. Paris was named for the Greek hero Paris whose elopement with Helen to Troy precipitated the Trojan War.

The name Merovingia refers to Meroveus, the father of Childeric I, ruler of the Salian Franks. According to genealogist Gardner, Meroveus traced his lineage through his father, Clodion, back through Joseph of Arimathea to Jesus. “Despite the carefully listed genealogies of his time, the heritage of Meroveus was strangely obscured in the monastic annals,” noted Gardner. “Although the rightful son of Clodion, he was nevertheless said by the historian Priscus to have been raised by an unseen mother (tome), the Bista Neptunis [sea beast].”

There was evidently something very special about King Meroveus and his priestly successors, for they were accorded special veneration and were widely known for their esoteric knowledge and occult skills.

Authors Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln saw the legend of the sea creature fathering Meroveus as alluding to, or concealing, the idea of some sort of dynastic alliance or intermarriage. Some authors have suggested that the “sea beast” story was a misinterpretation of the idea that Meroveus was half-fish, the fish being a long-standing symbol of Christ.

French author Gerard de Sede raised eyebrows by declaring that the Merovingians were, in fact, descended from extraterrestrials who interbred with selected ancient Israelites. This allegation was echoed by author David Wood, who wrote that this royal line, as well as all humans, were descendants of an extraterrestrial “super-race.”

Meroveus’s grandson, Clovis I, took control in about A.D. 482 (about ten years after the fall of the Roman Empire) and eventually extended his rule to include most of Gaul. Paris was his capital, a status which the city retained when Hugh Capet became king of France in 987.

According to the Priory of Sion’s Dossiers secret, the Merovingian race of Jewish origin. “They were the last of the Israelites, this tradition in France and, from 10 in Germany, where they became the...
Sicambrians (Franks)," reported Picknett and Prince. Others pointed out these two races intermarried in the region that the term "Goth" and "Jew" became interchangeable.

The Dossiers secret declared that the descendants of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, living in southern France, intermarried with the Sicambrian Franks and founded the Merovingian royal lineage. Priory members claimed that the parchments discovered by the priest Sauniere at Rennes-le-Chateau were genealogical lists tracing the Merovingian lineage right up to descendants living in Europe today—inclusion the elusive Pierre Plantard.

Some support for this idea can be found in the Jewish principality of Septimania, created in the mid-eighth century after the Jewish inhabitants of Narbonne aided King Pepin in taking the city from the Muslims. The first king of Septimania was a Frankish noble named Theodore (the Grail romances refer to him as Aymery), a man "recognized by both Pepin and the caliph of Baghdad as the seed of the royal house of David." Theodore is thought by many to have also been a Merovingian. His son, Guillem de Gellone, rose to prominence as both a Merovingian and king of royal blood.

"Jesus was of the Tribe of Judah and the royal house of David. The Magdalene is said to have carried the Grail—the Sangraal or 'royal blood'—into France," noted Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln. "And in the 8th century there was, in the south of France, a potentate (Guillem] of the Tribe of Judah and the royal house of David, who was acknowledged as king of the Jews. He was not only a practicing Jew, however, he was also a Merovingian."

Clovis converted to Christianity after evoking the name of Jesus, at the urging of his Catholic wife, Clotilde, during a crucial and ultimately successful battle in 496. This came at a time of decline for the Roman church, then locked in a continuous battle against Arianism.

Arianism, named after the Alexandrian priest Arius, taught that God created everything including Jesus and therefore, Jesus was not himself God, but rather a heavenly teacher, a messiah. This concept, perhaps strengthened by the Magdalene tradition in southern France, gained considerable popularity at the time.

To counter Arianism, Roman emperor Constantine had convened the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. When Arius rose to argue his views, he was punched in the face. This council, under firm control of the Roman Church, condemned Arianism.
church, declared that God was a Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Arius and his followers were banished. "There were now only two official objects of worship," commented Gardner. "The Holy Trinity of God and the Emperor himself—the newly designated Savior of the World. Anyone who disputed this in any way was at once declared a heretic. Christians who attempted to retain loyalty to Jesus as the Messianic Christ were discredited by the Imperial Church as heretics."

Despite edicts from Rome, Arianism remained strong in western Europe. If the early Merovingians, prior to Clovis, were at all receptive to Christianity, it would have been the Arian Christianity of their immediate neighbors, the Visigoths and Burgundians," commented Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln.

When Clovis was baptized into Catholicism, nearly half of his troops followed his example. "A great wave of conversions followed, and the Roman church was effectively saved from almost inevitable collapse," noted Gardner. "In fact, were it not for the baptism of King Clovis, the ultimate Christian religion of Western Europe might well have been Arian rather than Catholic." The Roman authorities, in turn, proclaimed Clovis the "new Constantine" and pledged allegiance in both law and lineages to a bridge they then esteemed.

Upon the death of Clovis in 511, his power was shared by his four sons—Theuderic, Chodomir, Childebert, and Lothar. The emblems of the Merovingian kings were the fish (still a symbol of Jesus), the Lion of Judah (further indication of their Hebraic heritage), and the fleur-de-lis (which became the symbol of French royalty). Despite rivalry between the brothers, Merovingian rule grew to include Septimania along the Mediterranean coast between Provence and Spain to Saxony in the north and eastward to Bavaria.

By 561 the realm had been divided between Clovis's grandsons, Chilperic I, Guntram, Sigebert, and Chlothar. These brothers also intrigued against each other, causing weakness within the kingdom, which was quickly exploited by their neighbors. By 613 Chlothar I—son of Chilperic I—and regained some unity within the kingdom.

His son, Dagobert, was abducted at the age of five and taken to a monastery near Dublin, Ireland, where he was educated and later married the Celtic princess Mhairé. After his empire returned to France, Dagobert proved even more effective in consolidating the Merovingian sovereignty,
but in 679, while hunting, he was murdered by a retainer of Pepin the Fat, one of his own officials and close to the Roman church.

According to Gardner, papal authorities deliberately obscured the history of the Merovingians to secure their own power and prominence. "The inevitable result was that accounts of Dagobert's life were suppressed to the point of his non-existence in the chronicles," he wrote. "Not for another thousand years were the true facts of his existence to be known. Even now, after all these years, not only was the King murdered, but his son was also removed from the throne. His name was forgotten, his existence masked by the darkness of the age. Only in recent years, when the true facts of his existence are being revealed, have we come to understand the full extent of his power and influence."

Here again can be found the connections between the Priory of Sion, the Knights Templar, and elder traditions involving Jesus' bloodline. Although, as pointed out by Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln, "while the Metovingian royal blood was credited with a sacred, miraculous, and divine nature, it was not explicitly stated anywhere that this blood was in fact Jesus' blood."

Yet the connection was there as evidenced by the linkage of the French Franks to the Merovingian Dagobert and Godescalch through a Hugh de Plantard to Eustache, first count of Boulogne and the grandfather of the Crusader leader Godfrey de Bouillon. "And from Godfrey there issued a dynasty and a 'royal tradition' that, by virtue of being founded on the 'rock of Jesus,' was equal to those providing the blood of France, England, and Germany," they added.

"By dint of dynastic alliances and marriages, this line came to include Godfrey de Bouillon — and various other noble and royal families, past and present — and to hold 'Blanchefort, Gisors, and Saint-Clair, in England,' along with 'a number of other places in France.'" They added.

Following the death of Dagobert there was again division in the land. The surviving Merovingians were forced to yield power to court officials known as "Mayors of the Palace," known to be under the control of the Catholic church.

In 750 the last Merovingian king, Childeric III, was deposed by one of these officials — Pepin II, the Mayor — who established the Carolingian dynasty in the name of his father, Charles the Great. The
Merovingian monarchy had been strictly dynastic,” explained Gardner.

The Merovingians had declared that the promotion of Rome grasped the opportunity to assert kingship by papal authority... The Church’s long-estranged ideal had come to fruition—and from that time onwards kings were crowned only by self-styled Roman princes.” (emphasis in the original)

“The Merovingian kings did not rule the land nor were they politically active,” wrote Gardner. “They were avid students of proper kingly practice in the ancient tradition and their model was King Solomon, the son of David. Their discipline was largely based on Old Testament scripture—but the Roman Church nevertheless proclaimed them enlightened.”

Herron asserts that it is clear why the early church was fearful of the Merovingians. “If indeed their heritage connected to the ‘royal house of David’ and specifically to Jesus, they represented a distinct threat to the theology being formulated by the church at the time and later by European dynasties.

“The Thule Society’s early mission was to put a member of Jesus’ family—a Merovingian—on the throne of Europe,” wrote author Henry. “When Hitler came along he dismantled this operation.”

According to several modern writers, the picture that is becoming clear in light of recent research and literature is this: Mary Magdalene, as the wife of Jesus, arrived in the south of France following the crucifixion, along with Jesus’ children. They preserved their bloodline while living in the large Jewish community of the region and, in the fifth century, intermarried with Frankish royalty to create the Merovingian dynasty. The Roman Church pledged allegiance to this dynasty, in full knowledge of its messianic lineage.

But church authorities, fearful and jealous of this dynasty born of both priestly and political bloodlines, fomented the assassination of Dagobert and the usurpation of Childeric III to gain complete control over what was to become the nation of France. And throughout this intrigue wound the threads of the Plantards, the Bouillons, the Knights Templar, and the Priory of Sion.

By the twelfth century, these families, knowing full well their heritage of both purity and political bloodlines, formed the organization of Knights Templar and its companion group of Hospitaller. This organization ventured into the Holy Land to recover family genealogies from beneath Solomon’s Temple.

They also created the secret Priory of Sion, and the Knights Templar as a front organization, to achieve this purpose. At the point restoration of the Merovingian monarchy may indeed have been a primary goal.
As discussed, the Templars apparently were successful in their attempt to gain the Temple treasure, whether it was merely historical records or something more substantive, such as the Ark of the Covenant or even the mummified body of Jesus. Whatever it may have been was transported back to the area of Rennes-le-Chateau and so strengthened the beliefs of the Cathars that they were quite willing to die for them. The Templars, being less willing to sacrifice themselves, simply melded their beliefs into other secret societies.

Over the years there were repeated attempts to take the throne of France or the realm of Merovingian lineage, but only one in the eighteenth century came close to success. According to Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln, "By virtue of its intermarriage with the Habsburgs, the House of Lorraine [a family descended from the Merovingians] had actually acquired the throne of Austria, the Holy Roman Empire [which finally ceased to exist in 1806]. When Marie Antoinette, daughter of Francois de Lorraine, became Queen of France, the throne of France, too, was only a generation or so away. Had not the French Revolution intervened, the throne of Habsburg-Lorraine might well, by the early 1800s, have been on its way to establishing dominion over all Europe."

The Habsburg dynasty was believed to be an integral part of the Priory of Sion and even related to the Redknapps through Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa's second son, Archibald II. The family origins go back to a Swiss estate owned Habichtsburg (Hawk Castle), or Habsburg, built in 1020 by the Bishop of Strasbourg. Through strategic marriages, the Habsburgs grew to be the most powerful of the European royal houses. Emperor Maximilian I, whose French troops were poised in Mexico during the War Between the States, was a Habsburg, as was Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

There may have been another attempt to recreate the Holy Roman Empire in the late nineteenth century. According to French author Jean-Luc Chaumeil, several of the characters involved in the Rennes-le-Chateau mystery—including the priest Sauniere—were members of an ultra-secret group of Scottish Rite Freemasons who, just as the Illuminati before them, sought to create a European union based on Theosophy and Gnosticism. Called the Micron du Val d'Or, this society's objectives were much the same as the CFR or Trilateral Commission's—to create a global God-ordained system "wherein nations would be no more than provinces, their leaders but proconsuls in the
service of a worldwide occult government consisting of an elite.” To most
researchers, this sounds like an early-day New World Order.

As Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln see it, “During the 19th century the
Prieure de Sion, working through Freemasonry and the Masons of Val
d’Isère, attempted to establish a revived and updated Holy Roman
Empire—a kind of democratic United States of Europe, ruled simulta-
neously by the Habsburgs and by a radically reformed Church.” Appear-
antly this effort was frustrated by events early in the twentieth century.
The Habsburgs’ power gradually was restricted to the Austrian
Empire, which collapsed following the assassination of Habsburg Arch-
duke Francis Ferdinand and the end of World War I. Today, the Habs-
burgs appear to be making a comeback, with Karl Habsburg-Lothringen
representing Austria in the European Parliament, his sisters politically
active in both Spain and Sweden and Gyorgy von Habsburg an influential
executive in the largest film producer and distributor in central Europe.
Evidence that Priory members may still have direct connections to
Freemasons seeking political change was developed when Baigent,
Leigh, and Lincoln studied privately published tracts dealing with the
Priory in the French National Library. One of these was supposedly
written by one Madeleine Blancassal, a phony name concocted from
the Priory’s interest in the Magdalene and two Languedoc rivers. Of
particular interest was that this work, according to its title page, was
published by the Grand Alpine Lodge of Switzerland—a Masonic lodge
comparable to Britain’s Grand Lodge or France’s Grand Orient Lodge
and connected to the P2 Lodge scandal.

Although Alpine Lodge officials denied any knowledge of the tract,
the lodge issued a statement that “it is involved at a very high level in the
global manipulation.” This includes Henry Kissinger’s name cropped up in the official investigation
of the P2 Lodge scandal in Italy in the 1980s. Kissinger’s allegations obliquely

A FAR-REACHING WEB

Icke claimed that Henry Kissinger is a member of the Grand Alpine Lodge
and that “it is involved at a very high level in the global manipulation.”
Recall that Kissinger’s name cropped up in the official investigation
of the P2 Lodge scandal in Italy in the 1980s. Kissinger’s allegations obliquely
connects Kissinger to the Priory, which Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln dis-
cussed has an "American Contingent."

This author trio worked to trace the missing parchments said to have been found by the priest Sauniere at Rennes-le-Chateau in the late nine-
teenth century. Piecing together confusing, sometimes deceitful, informa-
tion, they concluded that at least three of Sauniere’s documents had been purchased from the prior’s niece and taken to England in the mid-1950s by three men, at least one of whom was a member of British Intelligence. According to official papers authorizing the transfer, "These genealogies contain proof of the direct descent, through the male line of [Meroving-
gian] Sigibert IV, son of Dagobert II -- through the House of Plantard, Counts of Rhedae [an older name for Rennes-le-Chateau]."

The papers were held by Lloyds International of London until 1979, when they apparently were returned to a Paris bank after Lloyds dis-
continued the use of deposit boxes.

In checking on the English connections to the Priory papers, Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln found all the names traced back to a large insurance company named Guardian Assurance, today called Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance. They also found that all of the men named were prominent figures with aristocratic titles or standing in the banking and business community. Some had connections with Winston Churchill and intelligence services.

In January 1984 the plot thickened when the authors received a two-
page letter from Plantard under the Prieure de Sion logo and a crest
containing the letter R and C, thought to refer to the Order of the Rosy
Cross. This Mise en Garde or Cautionary Notice warned of legal action
against anyone suspected of taking or faking Priory documents. The
letter carried four signatures—Pierre Plantard, John F. Drick, Gaylord
Freeman, and A. Robert Abboud. Although Freeman has been previously men-
tioned as an insurance executive, Plantard, John F. Drick, Gaylord
Freeman, and A. Robert Abboud all have connections to First National Bank of Chicago.

Significantly, all the names on the Mise en Garde document, with the excep-
tion of Plantard, were connected to First National Bank of Chicago. 
Freeman became the bank’s president in 1960, eventually becoming board chairman. He sat on the board of the Atlantic Richfield oil com-
pany and was associated with the Rockefeller Foundations and the Aspen Institute. Attributed to Freeman as the bank’s board chair-
man and also served as president of Oriental Petroleum Corporation.

Similarly, Warren Kimball, the bank’s executive vice president and board chairman, sat on the board of other large American firms.
According to Professor Donald Gibson, "The First National Bank of Chicago was interconnected with Rockefeller financial interests." Furthermore, prior to 1983, the London branch of First National Bank of Chicago had shared office space with none other than Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance.

Buoyed by this seemingly strong connection between the Priory and an "American Contingent," Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln were chagrined to discover that Drick had died in 1982, two years before the Priory documents were produced. To compound the mystery, it was determined that the three American signatures on the letter were exact copies—even to the order presented—at their signatures on the 1974 annual report of the First National Bank of Chicago. Furthermore, Freeman denied any knowledge of the Priory. Confronted with deceit and falsified documents emanating from England, the trio wrote, "One thing seemed evident—someone with an interest in the [Priory of Sion] was active in London."

In an interview with the trio, Plantard explained everything away—he said Drick's name was still being used on Priory documents even after his death with the use of a stamp, like that carrying the other two signatures. Asked why such men as Freeman, Abboud, and Drick would concern themselves with a society whose aim was the restoration of the Merovingian royalty, Plantard told the authors that these men's primary objective was a united Europe.

Another fascinating tidbit concerning these authors' work gave an indication of the intricate interconnectedness of today's secret societies. In their book Holy Blood, Holy Grail, several times the authors cite Sir Steven Runciman as an expert historian with particular knowledge of the Crusaders, the Knights Templar, and even the Priory of Sion. Runciman's name was one of those listed in the personal address book of Clay Shaw, the New Orleans Trade Mart director put on trial for complicity in the Kennedy assassination, along with Karl relaxing, Dutchess, and others. Along with Sir Steven, other prominent European names in Shaw's book included the Marquis Giuseppe Rey of Italy, Baron Rafael de Barbadillo of Italy, Princess Jacqueline of France, and Lady Margaret D'Arcy, Lady Hulce, and Sir Michael Duff of England.

Plantard also sent the trio of authors a copy of his letter to the Priory resigning his position as grand master, which became effective in mid-1984. This communication also announced the instigation of a Priory...
statute which prohibited members from revealing anything about the order, including their membership. Plantard said he was resigning for reasons of health, "personal and family independence" and due to his disapproval of "certain maneuvers" of "our English and American brethren." Following M. Plantard’s resignation, the Prieure de Sion became, in effect, invisible, commented the authors.

A short time later, Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln received an anonymous tract accusing the Priory of involvement with Lucio Gelli and his Italian P2 Lodge and Vatican activities concerning Banco Ambrosiano. Author Vankin also raised the possibility that the Priory was the real power behind the Italian P2 Lodge. In their search for confirmation of this allegation, the authors discovered tenuous connections between the Priory and other largely unknown European secret societies.

One of these was Alpha Galates, whose members were interested in the chivalry of medieval knights. Members of this group apparently were connected to a wartime French publication entitled Vaincre, which has been accused of both supporting and working against the collaborationist Vichy government. This publication was edited by Plantard, and contributors included men linked to both the Priory and the Swiss Alpine Masonic Lodge.

Another secret society was known as the Kreisau Circle, formed in 1933 by a small group of career military officers and professionals who opposed Hitler. The circle met at the Kreisau estate of its leader Helmout von Moltke and plotted to overthrow the Nazi regime. Many circle members, including Count Claus von Stauffenberg, who plotted a bomb near Hitler in July 1944, were arrested and executed for their role in the Gestapo plot.

It was Hans Adolf von Moltke who offered praise to Plantard upon his becoming grand master of Alpha Galates. Toward the end of the war, members of the Kreisau Circle were sending peace feelers to members of British and American Intelligence, including Allen Dulles, then with OSS in Switzerland. The von Moltkes were also heavily involved in the European unity movement, one facet of which was Retinger’s American Committee on a United Europe. Recall that Retinger, “father of the Bilderbergers,” was connected to Dulles and other CIA officials, CFR officials, Averell Harriman, and David and Nelson Rockefeller. A close working relationship was developed between the CIA and the Vatican, chiefly
through the Knights of Malta and Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York, spiritual adviser to the Knights and the man who first brought Vatic- 
en attention to banker Bishop Paul Marcinkus of P2 scandal notoriety. 

As previously mentioned, in the 1950s Plantard helped create the 

Comites de Salut Public or Public Safety Committees which were 

instrumental in returning De Gaulle to power in France. 

Obviously, this cloudy mixture of conspiracies pointed to some level 
of a reality not addressed by the daily media. Baigent, Leigh, and Lin- 

coln cited. “We found indisputable evidence attestin
g to the involve-

ment of an organized and coherent cadre, working in concert behind the 

scenes, sometimes using other institutions as a facade. This cadre was 

not named specifically, but everything indicated that it was indeed the 

Prieure de Sion.” 

They pondered over the Priory’s activities in the “shadowy underworld 
of European affairs—where the Mafia overlaps with secret societies 

and intelligence agencies, where big business overlaps hands with the 

Vatican, where immense sums of money are deployed for clandestine purposes, 

where the demarcation lines between politics, religion, espionage, high 

finance and organized crime begins to dissolve . . . [into] a somewhat 

murkier sphere . . . where Christian Democratic parties of Europe, various 

movements dedicated to European unity, espionage circles, American 

interests, Freemasons, the CIA, the Knights of Malta and the Vatican 

swirled together, pooled themselves temporarily for one purpose or 

another . . .” 

But no one—least of all those hardworking researchers Baigent, 

Leigh, and Lincoln—has been able to get a firm handle on the Priory 

and its surrounding secret groups with their phony documents, contra-

dictory statements, and obscure backgrounds. 

“The Prieure de Sion business is so complex it’s like a holographic image, 

sticking presently according to the light and the angle from which it 

is viewed. “It can be an alluring, pseudosecret and wealthy international secret society whose 

members included eminent figures in the arts, in politics, in high finance. From another perspective, it seems a dazzlingly ingenious hoax devised 

by a small group of individuals for obscure purposes of their own. Per-

haps, in some fashion, it’s both.” 

Lincoln eventually gave up on trying to sort out the tangled mess. In 

the mid-1990s when asked for an update on the Priory, he replied dis-
hearteningly, "In my old age, I've decided to stick to that which can be verified." Lack of absolute proof and documentation, of course, is the hallmark of any good secret society.

Some researchers believe the Priory of Sion represents the pinnacle of today's power pyramid, that the Priory recruits receptive Freemasons through Rosicrucianism on into the Priory. Whether planned that way or not, the new European Union appears to be a close copy of the united Europe envisioned by New World Order leaders and the Priory of Sion.

COMMENTARY

It would appear that the links to conspiratorial secret societies have come full circle—from the CIA, CFR, and Bilderbergers back through the Round Tables and Freemasonry, on back through the Illuminati and the Knights Templar to the Knights of Malta and the Priory of Sion and their recent connections to the CIA, CFR, and Bilderbergers.

And always there has been an agenda of discrediting both national and church authorities as well as an attempt to unify first Europe, then the rest of the world.

This assault has been particularly aimed at the Roman Catholic church, which has stood as the predominant religion of the Western world since the time of the Roman Empire. Every Protestant denomination—whether Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, fundamentalist, Unitarian, etc.—has drawn its traditions from the Catholic church.

Yet many people—formally declared heretics by the church in the past—believe the only authentic history of the stories of Jesus' immaculate conception, spiritual leadership, and resurrection is wrong. Even today there are alternative traditions concerning Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and John the Baptist which conflict with official church dogma.

Rather than participating in ecumenical studies to determine which traditions have the more factual basis, the church instead attempted to eradicate any challenge to its authority by the most violent and murderous means.

One of the most prominent and powerful threats to church dogma came through the Knights Templar. Originally a small and secretive group of knights formed to protect pilgrims after the First Crusade's
success in capturing the city of Jerusalem, the order actually spent little time patrolling the highways.

Instead, this group of knights—well-connected to powerful European families—excavated deep under the site of Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem. Whatever they found was transported back to Europe and apparently hidden in the south of France near a small village named Rennes-le-Château.

While no one seems to have absolute proof of the specifics of this Temple “treasure,” most researchers here concluded that in addition to a literal treasure of gold and silver, they found ancient scrolls and artifacts which could have been used to destroy church tradition at the very time they were being established.

One group which may have been these religious beliefs strengthened by the Temple find was the Cathars, located primarily in the Languedoc region of what was to become modern France. This group of highly spiritual people already had a tradition concerning the arrival at Marseilles of Mary Magdalene with the children of Jesus and their subsequent intermarriage with Frankish Jews resulting in a line of priest-kings called the Merovingians.

Threatened by the power of the Merovingian lineage, church officials arranged the assassination of King Dagobert and, through their control over the Merovingian “mayors” or court officials, set up their own royalty. When the peace-loving Cathars preached against such abuses by the church, Pope Innocent III in 1209 began to move against them militarily.

In a campaign known as the Albigensian Crusade, a large papal army swept through southern France and eliminated scores of people suspected of believing in the Cathar heresy. The Cathars were virtually wiped out, with only a few escaping to other countries or into the protective ranks of the Knights Templar.

Meanwhile, the Knights Templar apparently were able to intimidate the church into granting exceptional rights and favors to the order,
which quickly became one of the most powerful multinational organi-
izations in the world.

While fighting in the Crusades, the Templars had gained much esoteric
knowledge dealing with architecture, construction, metallurgy, astron-
omy, and geography. Much of this knowledge came from their association
with an Ismaili sect called the Assassins, headed by a ruthless tyrant
known as the Old Man of the Mountain. The Assassins and their leader
claimed to possess ancient knowledge dating back to the time of Noah
and beyond.

In 1307 it was the Templars' turn to feel the wrath of the Vatican and
King Philip IV of France, who had been turned down as a member and
was heavily in debt to the order. In that year, Philip had all Templars in
France arrested and tortured. Most fled the country by means of a large
Templar fleet of ships headquartered at La Rochelle on the Atlantic coast.
It was believed that they took a “treasure” with them which consisted not
only of valuables but also papers containing the “secrets” discovered in
Jerusalem.

Some Templars were thought to have crossed the Atlantic, arriving in
what was later to be called New England 185 years before Chris-
ton Columbus set sail.

Others Templars fled to Scotland where they were welcomed by King
Robert the Bruce, who was fighting both neighboring England and the
Vatican at the time. This Templar contingent may have contributed to
the independence of Scotland by participating in the defeat of the Eng-
glish at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. It was in Scotland that the
Temple traditions survived and became interwoven with the Scottish
Rite of Freemasonry.

In other nations, the Templars were simply absorbed into other secret
societies and orders such as the Knights of Christ, the Knights Hospitaller,
and the Teutonic Knights. In some countries, their traditions were
saved by forming a new organization called the Strict Observance
lodges of Freemasonry. These lodges were called “Illuminated” or “Renaissed”
Freemasonry.

In recent years, several authors have discovered that a previously
unknown French secret society may have been the masterminds behind
the Knights Templar. This group, known as the Priory of Sion, is now
viewed by many as the apex of a pyramid of secret societies exerting
proportionately greater control over even the most powerful modern societies.
Although it only became known to the public in the past thirty years, existent documents reveal that the Priory was in existence no later than 1178 and, according to questionable Priory documents, the order was formed about the time knights of the First Crusade took Jerusalem. They also state that the Priory and the Templars were the same organization, even with the same grand master.

A schism came about in 1188 and the Templars went their own way while the Priory became dedicated to restoring the Merovingian royal dynasty, and largely dropped from sight.

Recent Priory notoriety came about as the result of publicity over a “mystery” tied to the Languedoc village of Rennes-le-Château, where a priest named François Béenger Saunière discovered hidden documents in the late nineteenth century. After taking his find to church authorities, Saunière came into sudden wealth and received several high-ranking visitors.

It is believed that his discovery involved buried treasure and/or clandestine funding. The documents were most likely a genealogy linking descendants of Jesus through the Merovingian royalty to persons living today. It may be those displaced royals who have been behind a movement to create a unified Europe and restore the Holy Roman Empire. This group is thought to include members of the Habsburg dynasty as well as individuals connected to intelligence services both in Britain and America.

Investigations into the European unity movement, as well as the Priory of Sion, uncovered clandestine connections between many of the modern secret societies, Freemasonry, intelligence agencies, and the Vatican. This underworld of intrigue became briefly public when the P2 Lodge scandal broke in Italy during the 1980s. Even then, the news media of the United States failed to take much notice of this startling, if complex, plot without explanation.

Evidence concerning the legitimacy of the modern Priory, evidence gone indicating a certainly computed reality behind the shifting announcements and papers of the group.

It is clear that secret societies—both then and now—were concerned not only with political issues but with matters pertaining to royal bloodlines, religion, and spirituality.

Yet individuals within these societies both support and bastardize “Outlier” Conspiracism. While this support could be simply another
application of the Hegelian dialectic process of backing both sides of a conflict, it also points to members' knowledge of and intense interest in the elder secret society traditions studied so closely by Marx, Trotsky, and Lenin.

This hidden knowledge involved secrets from the distant past which have provided a basis for secret society theologies. These secrets continue to attract the attention of high-level society members and even intelligence agencies.

It is these secrets which connect modern conspiratorial societies to the Ancient Mysteries.
Nothing is truly new; it has all been done or said before.

What have you found to be good to eat? Have you known it
didn’t exist long ago, or not? We don’t remember what hap-
pened to those former times, and in the future generations no
one will remember what we have done back here.

— ECCLESIASTES 1:9-11, LIVING BIBLE
he Bible—without question the most influential book ever pro-
duced—was written by men who sought to conceal both their own
andábbed activities and those of others competing sects.
Archaeological advances beginning in the nineteenth century, vir-
tually everything humans know about their origins comes from the Bible
filtered through the church priesthood. Individuals were both canonized
and executed, cultures built and destroyed, and wars fought—all based on
this one book.

Today it is clear that the Bible—implied as it may be—is a hodge-
podge of myths, legends, and parables from various cultures cobbled
together with bits of history and philosophy.

Many passages were originally written using code words whose mean-
ings were lost over time, causing misinterpretations. In other instances
they were just plain tampered in advance more for current dogma or
political agenda.

Bible scholar and former intelligence analyst Pat Eddy wrote, "One of
the most important purposes [of this tampering] was to support the aims
of those who sought to make Christianity more attractive to potential
Jewish converts by proving that the events of Jesus' life fulfilled prophecy
from the Old Testament ... Christians have all been told, from their ear-
stliest trips to Sunday School, that the birth, death, and important events in
the life of Jesus were all foretold in the Old Testament. Few have ever
questioned this assertion."

What Bible scholars euphemistically term "redactions" are nothing
less than editing. Such editing of the Bible has contributed to misinter-
standings and erroneous translations, keeping many of its messages a
secrect from the uninitiated. Often such secrets were suppressed by the
Roman church because they contradicted its dogma.

Within the New Testament, there are tantalizing hints that even Jesus
kept some secrets. Matthew 13:10 (Revised Standard) states, "Then the
disciples came to him [Jesus] and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them
[the public] in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you [they have been
given..."
to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been 
given. For to those who have [knowledge], it will seem to be given; and he 
his will have abundance. But from men who have not, even what he has 
will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing 
they do not see, and hearing, they do not hear, nor do they understand.” 
Mark 4:33 added, “With many such parables he spoke the word to 
them, so that they may be able to hear it, he did not speak to them without a 
parable, but privately to his own disciples did he explain everything.” 
Explained everything? What did Jesus explain? Since only the parables are 
presented in the New Testament, it is clear that not all his secrets were 
given to the public.

Many secret societies and sects existed in biblical times that claimed to 
govern ancient knowledge. Like the religions of today, these groups vied 
with one another for control over these ancient secrets. Much like the 
later “Invisible College,” these sects collectively interested in Mys-
ter-y Schools, reservoirs of esoteric knowledge that was largely incompre-
hensible and thus fear-inspiring to the general public. Their literature was 
carefully constructed to both conceal and reveal some of their knowledge.

“In the ancient world, nearly all the secret societies were philosop-
phic and religious. During the medieval centuries, they were chiefly religious 
and political, although a few philosophical schools remained. In modern 
times, secret societies, in the Occidental countries, are largely political 
or fraternal, although in a few of them, as in Masonry, the ancient reli-
gious and philosophical principles still survive,” explained Hall.

Eddy wrote, “In order to completely understand the dynamic of 
tampering with Jesus’ pronouncements, the reader must understand 
how the minds of the first-century religious protagonists worked. The 
tamperings were not random events like some forms of intellectual graf-
fiti. There was a pattern, and therein lies the story.”

THE ROAD TO ROME

The road leading back from the fully established Roman church of the 
second millennium to the time of Jesus was a rocky one, filled with 
controversies, schisms and contentions.

Even before the crucifixion there was an intense rivalry between the 
Disciples of Jesus and those of John the Baptist. The seed conflict was the
Johannite heresy—the idea that John was the true messiah rather than Jesus. Although largely exterminated by the early church, this concept continued up to modern times within certain elements of Freemasonry as well as the Mandaeans of Iraq.

Following the crucifixion, the rivalries between the Jewish community and the early Christians—and even within Jesus’ own followers—intensified. There was a growing schism between the fundamentalist Jewish Christians belonging to the Essene sect and the Greek or Hellenized Christians in first century Jerusalem. Sounding much like the fundamentalists in America today, pious Jews attacked these foreigners for abandoning religious services for a Greek-style sports arena filled with wrestlers and discus throwers.

James and Mary Magdalene, as leaders of the Jerusalem church, were even at odds with Paul, who was bringing his Christian message to the gentiles in the north. There were immense squabbles over the most minute issues. In Galatians 5:12, Paul had become so exasperated with a continuing argument over circumcision that he expressed the hope that those initiating the controversy would emasculate themselves!

"The first Jewish Christians believed that obeying all of the stringent Jewish religious laws, including circumcision and eating only Kosher food, was necessary for salvation," noted Eddy. "Paul preached that salvation could be attained through faith and that the Jewish religious laws should not be allowed to impede people from becoming Christians. Paul’s view eventually won out, as more and more gentiles converted to Christianity. By the third century they outnumbered the Jewish Christians by a large margin, defined Christianity according to Paul’s theology, and began convulsing the original Jewish Christians as heretics."

Irenaeus, the Bishop of Lyon, by the middle of the second century condemned as heretics the followers of Jesus and James known as Nazarenes or the "poor." "They, like Jesus himself, as well as the Essenes and Zadokites [followers of King Solomon’s chief priest Zadok] of two centuries before, expound upon the prophetic books of the Old Testament," Irenaeus complained. "They reject the Pauline epistles and they reject the specific Paul, calling him an apostate [rejecter] of the Law," Gardner noted. "The Nazarenes... denounced Paul as a 'heretic' and a 'false apostle,' claiming that his 'idolatrous writings' should be rejected altogether."
Dr. Elaine Pagels, who chaired the Department of Religion at Barnard College at Columbia University, reported, "Diverse forms of Christianity flourished in the early years of the Christian movement. Hundreds of rival claimants to teach the true doctrine of Christ and denounced one another as false. Christians in churches scattered from Asia Minor to France, Britain, and Rome split into factions, arguing over church leadership. All claimed to represent the authentic tradition."

"Far above the wrangling in the local churches sat the Roman church, unconcerned, untroubled, and probably, uncomprehending," Eddy wrote, adding that the church at this time was primarily concentrating on missionary work in Europe, an activity which paid unexpected benefits. "Interestingly, the Christianization of these heathens ultimately saved the Roman church because the barbarians and their priests regarded the Roman church as the authority for their religious beliefs. When the barbarians overran Rome, the Roman Church was spared."

Though spared by the barbarians, the church still had to contend with a variety of sects, each with its own version of Christianity. One such group was the Gnostics, who claimed to have an intuitive understanding of the mysteries of God and Earth. It was an understanding derived from rigorous training, initiation, and intuitive experiences, not simply intellectual study. The church found Gnostics particularly dangerous, for they disdained the need for a hierarchy of priestly officials to interpret the word of God.

Far from dangerous heretics, these passive Christians claimed to be the keepers of secret knowledge as indicated by the Gnostic papyrus books discovered at Nag Hammadi in 1945. It was this discovery which first afforded any view of Gnosticism other than the damning rhetoric of the church.

Gnostics, deriving from the Greek word gnosis or knowledge, reportedly was founded in the 1st century by Simon the Magician, a contemporary of Jesus known as "the Father of All Heretics." He absorbed the ideas of the Greek philosophers, such as Heracleitus, who taught that the human soul exists outside the physical body and therefore has access to spiritual knowledge. This wisdom (Gnosis) was brought down to Earth from the heavens. Another important Gnostic was Basilides, an early Egyptian Christian who through his Alexandria cult sought to blend into Christianity the ancient mysteries of Memphis. These Alexandrians believed...
that strange extraterrestrial beings called "aeons" acted as messengers between the heavens and Earth. The Persian Zoroaster began his own form of Gnosticism about five hundred years before the time of Jesus.

Known as Zoroastrianism, this movement spread widely until pushed out by invading Muslims in the seventh century.

Occult author Andre Nataf stated that Gnosticism originated in Mesopotamia, first in the area of Iran then spreading into Asia Minor, Syria, and Babylon, where it was picked up by the Hebrew captives and carried back to Palestine and Egypt. "Certain details prove that the Gnostic holy books [like Quermon and Nag Hammadi] must be assigned such an early date that Christianity itself may be seen as no more than a branch of Gnosticism," wrote Nataf. "But Gnosticism could equally be compared to any religion at all. All religious knowledge develops, after all, from an ancestor-producing urge, just as the nurse of woman." According to the Hebrew Cabala, Gnostics seek to know the "secrets" of God, seeking the answers within the sacred texts of whatever religion they accept. They seek the understanding of existence through interpretations of what they perceive as deeper meaning within the symbolism of religious literature. "Gnostics is religious mysticism," commented Nataf. Gnosticism flourished until declared a heresy by a council of bishops of the Roman church in A.D. 325.

Gnosticism was an integral part of the Ancient Mysteries since both involved the belief that only personal inner enlightenment could bring understanding. According to the Masonic philosopher Manly P. Hall, "This knowledge of how man's manifold constitution could be most quickly and most completely regenerated to the point of spiritual illumination constituted the secret, or secretum, of alchemy." Hall said such enlightenment and statements had to be jealously guarded from "profane" persons who might abuse or misuse such knowledge. He taught periods of initiation were established and the most esoteric information was revealed. "The eye of a Mason who has not undergone the necessary process of human regeneration should not be looked on by the human family itself may be cited as an example," he wrote. "The whole New Testament is in fact an ingeniously concealed exposition of the secret processes of human regeneration."

Gardner wrote that such regeneration, specifically of the human spirit or energy, involved elevated consciousness which took place by degrees through the thirty-three vertebrae of the spinal column. "This initiation of the regeneration is one of the Lost Keys of Freemasonry."
he explained, "and it is the reason why ancient Freemasonry was
founded upon 33 degrees."

In the process of knowing, the Gnostic felt a sense of superiority and
self-satisfaction. "This meant that they could subscribe to the neutral
doctrines of any religion, and could continue to operate under many dif-
ferent philosophic systems," explained Daraul. "Gnostics, pro-
foundly influenced itself exists even in Europe up to and after the Mod-
ern Age, and its basic idea of thinking is probably an underlying factor in
other secret societies whose members would be surprised to learn it.

Gnostics also played an important role in an early Jewish sect, and
known as the Essenes. The Essenes provided much conflict with religious
leaders of the other major Jewish sects, the Pharisees and Sadducees. They
even argued that the Essenes were right to reject the established Hebrew
lunar year and established a monastery at Qumran on the north end of the Dead Sea which they called "the Wilderness." The Essene community was divided into two parts—married and
unmarried members. All property was communal. In fact, the animosity
of many modern Christians toward the Essenes ultimately came as a result of
this early communistic lifestyle. These ideas apparently brought that
early Essenes lived in a much more severe manner.

Members spent their days working and their nights in prayer. They
taught the immortality of the soul and also tended toward a dualist out-
look, believing in a spirit of goodness or light and one of evil or darkness.
The Essenes may have carried on the hermetic traditions of the Greeks. In
the early twentieth century, a Russian-born train engineer named
George Ivanovich Gurdjieff claimed to have found the intact manuscript
of an Essene master in an Indian monastery which explained the relation-
ship of musical rhythms to the human body as taught by the sixth-century
B.C. Greek philosopher Pythagoras. A pupil of Plato—
the guiding light of Freemasonry, the Hermetic, Ab Initio, and Coll.
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secret or esoteric, and assumed, indicating healing or physician. According to Gardner, the Essenes were connected to various healing traditions as a late branch of the Egyptian mystic school called the Great White Brotherhood of the Therapeutae. It was this White Brotherhood of wise therapeutae—the original Rosicrucians—that Jesus was later initiated to progress through the degrees and to rise to his high standing in this order, which gained him the so-called designation of ‘Master’,” added Gardner. Other authors also state that Jesus was an Essene and Hall added that so were his parents, Mary and Joseph, along with his brother James. Most modern fundamentalists tend to dismiss this connection because tying Jesus to Gnosticism and the Essenes disturbs their rigid dogma.

It would further disturb them to hear Gardner’s claim that, despite the interpretation of Bible translators, Jesus did not come from Nazareth. He used the word “Nazarene” and its variants came from the Hebrew word Nazir, “a plucked-one, stemming from the term Nazir berit ‘Keepers of the Covenant’.” He was actually a point of contention whether the term of Nazareth existed at all during Jesus’ lifetime, for it does not appear on contemporary maps, in any books, documents, chronicles or military records of the period.

“It is generally supposed that the Essenes were the custodians of esoteric knowledge and also the initiates and abode of Jesus,” wrote Hall. “As in Jesus, we see undoubtedly indelibly in the same theme of Melchizedek, whom Pythagoras had studied six centuries before.” The Bible tends to confirm this in Hebrews 6:20 stating, “...where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Gardner claimed the name Melchizedek—acknowledged as one of the most mysterious persons in the Bible—to be an Essene composite of the archangel Michael and the Hebrew high priest Zadok, hence Michael-Zadok. At least one scholar on the subject believed Melchizedek actually was the Semitic deity Elkab.

The Essenes were regarded as among the better educated class of Jews, said Hall. “The fact that so many artisans [craftsmen] were listed among their number is responsible for the order’s being considered a progenitor of modern Freemasonry.”

As with both Freemasons and the followers of Pythagoras, a preor...
The Essene symbol was the mason's trowel. And like the Freemasons, the Essenes produced literature involving intricate codes and allegories to protect their knowledge from the uninitiated as well as from the Roman authorities.

For example, when writing about the Romans, they used the term Kittim, thought to refer to the ancient Chaldeans of Mesopotamia. "The Essenes resurrected the old term for use in their own time and mythologized certain facts that Kittim always revered for its wisdom," explained Gardner, adding: "Most of the Scrolls . . . reveal a number of such coded definitions and procedures that were previously misunderstood or considered of no particular importance." Another example was the use of the term "the poor," which most people consider a term of poverty or meanness. The Scrolls make it clear that the early Christian church in Jerusalem referred to their members as "the poor," indicating their humble status.

According to Gardner and others, the terms "typum" and the "blind" were used to signify persons not initiated into the Essene traditions or "Way." "The term typum (standing for 'blind') or 'leading a typum' refers specifically to the process of conversion to the Way," Gardner explained. "Release from excommunication (by the community) was described in being 'raised from the dead.' The definition 'lame' referred mostly to those excommunicated from the community, and the term 'blind' denoted those excommunicated (possibly with religious designations) by the community.

Several modern researchers, following in the steps of the Essenes and Cabalists, agree the Bible is a coded message. Michael Drosnin, formerly a reporter with the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal, caused a stir in 1997 with the publication of his book The Bible Code. Drosnin wrote that Israeli mathematician Dr. Eliahu Rips believed he had found a hidden crossword-like code within the Bible, which accurately forecasted both Kennedy assassinations, World War II, the cease-firing of Hiroshima and the Oklahoma City federal building bombings, and the election of President Bill Clinton. He wrote that a skeptical senior code breaker for the U.S. National Security Agency, Harold Gans, was shocked when he verified this Bible code using his own computer program.

C. L. Turnage, a diligent student of this concept, wrote: "Whether to be the obvious person literal interpretation, gematria, cryptic, or a hidden computer code, the Bible appears to be a book unlike any other. People down through the ages have interpreted its pages according to
their degree of technological advancement and their limited understanding of the Mesopotamian origins of the Hebrew religion. According to Turnage, the Bible's code involved symbolic references to multiple deities. "These coded references pointed the way toward an understanding that such beings were the gods, or Elohim, of the Bible, whose worship began in Sumer," she noted, "and who ultimately originated on another world."

It is easy to see how the many translators and interpreters of the Bible went astray. Down through the years, interpretations of the Bible were made by men and women unfamiliar with either modern technology such as flight or with the allegories and codes employed by the original authors.

The Essenes also serve one of the most effective of the ancient secret societies. Although hardly known to their neighbors, their presence was noted at least in the New Testament to Luke's account. Some researchers have referred to the Essenes as the protectors of "Mystic Christianity," the earliest form of Christianity which was based on the Ancient Mysteries. Little is known concerning the Essenes until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, just two years after a Gnostic library was found in mountain caves near the upper Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi. Between 1947 and 1956, eleven caves eventually yielded about 900 manuscripts, 170 of them fragments of Old Testament texts.

Apparently, as the Roman armies advanced during the Jewish Revolt of A.D. 70, the Essenes fled from Qumran after hiding their sacred texts in earthen jars buried in nearby caves. This literary treasure was discovered by two Bedouin shepherds who sold a few parchments to an antiquities dealer.

Eventually opened by Hebrew University archaeologist Yigael Yadin, who excavated his home and translated the Dead Sea Scrolls, he managed to secure seven of them for his university, which promptly published them.

"Not so for the remaining scrolls," reported Eddy. "The Rockefeller Archaeological Museum of Palestine soon became involved and managed to acquire the rest of the scrolls from the government of Jordan... who stipulated that no Jewish scholar be allowed access to the ancient Jewish texts. Today, Israel controls the scrolls in a vault of everlasting the place where they were stored during the Six Day War of 1967..."
are largely unpublished today [and] no one knows if all of them have been obtained. There is the possibility that others are in the possession of, or have been destroyed by, the Bedouins.”

The Essene authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls had a profound effect on the first Christians in Jerusalem, who soon were differing in theology from Paul and his followers outside Palestine. This is evidenced by the fact that the interpretations of the Old Testament found in the scrolls are similar to the interpretations of James and the Jerusalem Christians.

The conflicts both within and without Christianity were settled by the Roman emperor Constantine in what Gardner described as “a strategic buy-out by the enemy.” “Apart from various cultic beliefs, the Romans had worshipped the Emperors in their capacity as gods descended from others like Neptune and Jupiter,” he explained. “At the Council of Constance in 314, Constantine retained his own divine status by introducing the conceptual God of the Christians as his personal sponsor. He then dealt with the anomalies of doctrine by replacing certain aspects of Christian ritual with the familiar pagan traditions of sun worship, together with other benefactions of Status and Persian origin. In short, the new religion of the Roman church was constructed as a hybrid to appease all influential factions. By this means, Constantine looked towards a common and unified ‘world religion’—Catholic meaning universal—with himself at its head.”

This attempt to co-opt Christianity was sealed at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, the same council at which Arius was punched and tossed out. It was here that the emperor vouched and sealed the Nicene Creed established, which broadly defined Christ as a deity of three equal and coexisting parts—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—of one God.

“One must insist on Christian orthodoxy in order to understand the destruction of all texts which questioned the newly established dogma.” And so it was that 137 Christian libraries were closed and 22,500 Christian manuscripts were destroyed in A.D. 393. In the emperor ordered new copies made of Christian texts, some of which had been lost or destroyed during the previous persecutions. “At this point that most of the crucial alterations in the New Testament were probably made and Jesus assumed the unique status he has enjoyed ever since,” noted Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln.

Based on the recent discoveries which made available such ancient texts as the Gospel of Truth, the Gospel of Thomas, the Testament of Truth, the Gospel of Mary, and the Interpretation of Knowledge,
researchers today have a much broader and more complete knowledge of biblical times than ever before in history, despite the fact that much of this new information has still not reached a general audience. 

Author Nesta Webster, a passionate Christian writing in 1924, long before the recent finds, deplored the connection between Jesus and the Essenes as well as their source of knowledge. "The Essenes were Buddhists and Christians, but a secret society . . . bound by terrible oaths not to divulge the sacred mysteries confided to them," she declared. "And what were those mysteries but some of the hinted secret traditions which we now know as the Cabala? . . . The truth is clearly that the Essenes were Cabalists, though destined Cabalists of a superior kind. . . . The Essenes are of importance . . . as the link of the secret societies from which a certain line of traditions can be traced up to the present day." 

Some of today's recently acquired knowledge in astronomy and philosophy may have been commonplace to the Gnostic Essenes of Jesus' time. Gardner observed, "Entirely divorced from the fabricated Christianity of the Roman Empire, their faith was closer to the original teachings of Jesus than any other. . . ."

Of all the Christian factions, the Essenes may indeed have had the purest of the ancient traditions at that time, thanks to the ancient Hebrew writings known as the Cabala.

THE CABALA

Predominately of Jewish origins, the Cabala, also written as Kabbalah or Qabbalah, means "tradition" and, like recent claims about the Bible, was supposed to contain hidden meanings. Such cleverly coded knowledge was thought to be found within the Torah and other Hebrew texts such as the Talmud, a compilation of elder Jewish laws and traditions first written in the fifth century A.D., and the Tosefta and the Mishnah, written in the years following the time of Jesus. According to the Book of Light, "Mysteries of wisdom" were given to Adam by God while he still in the Garden of Eden. These elder secrets were then passed on through Adam's son to Noah on to Abraham long before the Hebrews arrived as a distinct people.
According to Nataf, “The mysterious Cabala is a form of Gnosti-
cism [in which) man seeks to find divinity within himself.”

The author of the HaZohar wrote that “the human dimension contains
all things, and all that exists in accordance with that . . . Man contains all
that is in heaven above and on earth, below . . . Here the Cabala exhibits
an obvious connection to the celebrated proclamation of Hermes Tri-
smegisms, also known as the Egyptian god Thoth, who proclaimed, “As
above, so below.”

The connection between Hebrew traditions and Egyptian mysticism
may be even stronger than previously believed, as many authors,
including Jewish scholars, now believe the Cabala was an oral tradition
concerning ancient Egyptian “mysteries” handed down from Hermes
through the leadership level of the hierophants.

The idea of ancient secrets being passed down to Moses from the earli-
est times was strongly supported by Eliphas Levi, a pen name of the nine-
teenth century French Bible scholar Alphonse Louis Constant. “There is a
transmission secret which has already turned the world upside down, as
demonstrated by the original traditions of Egypt, which were symbolically
recreated by Moses in the early chapters of Genesis,” wrote Levi, who
claimed that the Cabala contained knowledge carried out of Sumer by
Abraham, “in the time of the secrets of Enoch and the father of astral
science.”

The biblical patriarch Abraham, a native of Sumer known early on as
Abram, by some traditions was said to possess a tablet of symbols rep-
resenting all of the knowledge of humanity handed down from the dawn of
Noah, known to the Sumerians as the “Table of Destiny.” It was this tablet
of knowledge—known to the early Jews as the Book of Babel—which,
when interpreted correctly, enabled the leaders to unlock the spiritual capes of the Table became known as the Cabala [light and
knowledge].” reported Gardner, “but it was said that he who possessed
Abraham also possessed Balam, the highest expression of cosmic know-
ning. The early name Balam—derived from the Hurrian [Assyrian] word
Balam—refers to the expansion to exist in India, Tibet, Egypt and in the Celtic
world of the Druids to denote a high degree of esoteric knowledge.”

The Sumerian “Table of Destiny” is thought to be the same as the
“Table of Testament” mentioned in Exodus 31:18. Other Bible
verses—Exodus 24:12 and 25:18—make it clear that these tables are
not the Ten Commandments. “This ancient archive is directly source—

ated with the Emerald Table of Thoth-Hermes and, as detailed in archeological records of Egypt, the author of the preserved writings was the biblical Him... He was the essentialfactor of the esoteric and esoteric underground stream which passed through the ages and his Greek name, Hermes, was directly related to the esoteric and esoteric underground stream, deriving from the word Hermes, which relates to a pile of stones... Chaldean Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Table was known to Greek and Roman masters such as Homer, Pythagoras, Plato, and Ovid, while in much later times the 17th century Stuart Royal Society of Britain was deeply concerned with the analysis and application of the sacred knowledge in conjunction with the Knights Templar and the Rosicrucian movement explained Gardner.

Much like our understanding of history and religions today, the information within the Cabala became garbled over the centuries through both misinterpretations as well as foreign influence. "The speculative side of the Hebrew Cabala borrowed from the philosophy of the Persian Magi (magicians in the occult sense) of the neo-Pythagoreans, of the neo-Platonists," noted Webster. "There is, thus, some justification for the anti-Cabalists' contention that what we know today as the Cabala is not of purely Jewish origin."

Pure or tainted, the mystical knowledge of the Cabala passed from Mesopotamia through Palestine into medieval Europe where it first appeared as writing at the end of the thirteenth century. It was followed by a Spanish Jew named Moses de Leon, who may have derived the Hebraic Cabala, who expanded as a result of his stay in Egypt and created the literary creation which caused critics to accuse him of fabricating the entire work. Today, most scholars—both Jewish and gentile—agree that the content of the Cabala legitimately predates the Christian era.

"We are looking at a point in history which was to define and control the world for four and a half centuries," noted Salzman. "The knowledge the Hebrews learned from Egypt and expanded as a result of their stay in Babylon, became known as the Cabala... The Cabala in the sacred knowledge hidden in codes within the Old Testament and other texts."

It has been stated how the Knights Templar brought Cabalistic knowledge back to Europe from the Holy Land at the time of the Crusades and that this knowledge was passed along through the alliance of the...
Masonic historians have acknowledged that the first evidence of "Judeo-Christian mysteries" introduced into Freemasonry came during this very time. It has also been documented that the hidden knowledge within the Cabala has been utilized through the centuries by nearly all secret societies, including Freemasonry, the Rosicrucians, and through the Illuminati into modern groups. Masonic historian Wilmshurst confirmed this, stating, "Since the suppression of the Mysteries... their tradition and teachings have been transmitted to secret and esoteric versions throughout the ages, under various names in various mysteries up to this day."

According to Picknett and Prince, Cabalistic thought was also introduced to Europe within the banker/ruler court of the de Medicis in Florence, Italy, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, notably through a Cabalist named Pico della Mirandola.

Author Webster cites nineteenth-century literature claiming that Moses Mendelssohn, the noted Jewish philosopher and Bible translator who did so much to liberate Jews from oppressive German laws, not only was a Jewish Cabalist but one of those men who inspired and mentored Illuminati leader Adam Weishaupt. Mendelssohn, who came to be known as "the German Socrates" after being favorably portrayed in a drama by his Masonic friend Gotthold Lessing, may also have been a link between Weishaupt and banker Mayer Rothschild. Another may have been Michael Hess, a tutor of Rothschild's children and a "follower of Moses Mendelssohn," who later headed the "Philanthropin School" (a Jewish charity) founded by Rothschild.

This blending of Cabalistic teachings with later secret societies was further confirmed in 1984 when over 500 papers of a John Byrom were discovered in England. Byrom, who lived from 1691 to 1763, was a Freemason, a fellow of the Royal Society, and a leader of the Jacobite movement to restore the Stuart monarchy. He was a member of a group called the "Sun Club" or the "Cabala Club." According to Picknett and Prince, these papers, according to Picknett and Prince, were "chiefly concerned with sacred geometry and architecture, and cabalistic, Masonic, hermetic, and alchemical symbols."

All of the early societies—including the Mystery Schools of Greece and Egypt—sought to penetrate the secrets of the past. The industrial revolution as well as the evolution theories of Charles
Darwin have led most people to believe in the "progress of man"—that humankind evolved from tree-climbing primates to moderns with high technology. Today, recent discoveries and new interpretations of ancient literature and artifacts are leading many to believe the opposite—that humankind "fell" from a golden age into barbarity and is only now regaining lost knowledge.

Even world population figures suggest an early decline rather than growth in the human species. "Global population figures between 6000 B.C. and the beginning of our era are extremely significant," wrote Tomas. "There were about 250 million people on earth 2,000 years ago. The population of the planet in 5000 B.C. was 20 million. In the year 3800 B.C. there were 15 million on all the continents. One thousand years earlier—in 6000 B.C.—only 3 million people inhabited the earth. On the basis of these figures, the populations of the globe were still under 1 million about 10,000 B.C.—an extraordinary low figure. Why was man such a rare creature if he had a continuous existence as a primate and then in a civilizing state for at least 2 million years?"

According to the records of the ancient Sumerians and Egyptians, civilized humankind has been on Earth for more than 500,000 years. Yet the archeological record indicates that man may have actually regressed in knowledge and abilities until beginning a slow advancement some 13,000 years ago—clearly, a new model of history is necessary.

Masonic philosopher Hall wrote that the Mystery Schools were created as secret societies to prevent outside interference as initiates attempted to bridge the gap between the material and spiritual worlds. He explained that "when our solar system began its labor, spirits of wise beings from other solar systems came to us and taught us ways of understanding the birthright of knowledge which led progress to all the civilizations. It was these minds which we are in her time known the Mystery Schools of the Ancient World... Gradually a separation took place between the initiates and the later generation. The result was that these initiated minds, slowly gaining positions of authority, because of rest desirous of maintaining the institution... So the Mystery Schools vanished... while the colossal material organizations, having no longer any contact with their divine sources, numbered as antiquity, slowly becoming more involved in the rituals and symbols which they had lost the power of interpreting."
If the religious institutions could not correctly interpret their own theology, the same could be said of their scientific counterparts, who even today cannot explain artifacts still in existence. Recently, open-minded members of both the public and the sciences are taking a second look at some of the planet’s most intriguing anomalies and mysteries.

ANCIENT SECRETS AND MYSTERIES

The world’s first secrets dealt with the true origins of mankind. Neither of the two most prevalent theories of today—Darwinism and Creationism—satisfactorily account for human origins and development. Darwin’s theory of survival of the fittest fails to explain how humans overcame the thousands of deficiencies within the human DNA structure; while Creationism overlooks an impressive fossil record. Clearly a new model is required.

Recently, the theories regarding the origins of modern humans were further confused by the discovery of fossils indicating that Neanderthal, a primitive man, lived side-by-side with Cro-Magnon, modern man, in what is now Israel. Yet mysteriously, these two races apparently did not interbreed. “Only one solution to the mystery is left,” reported James Shreeve, author of The Neanderthal Enigma: Solving the Mystery of Modern Human Origins. “Neanderthals and moderns did not interbreed in the Levant because they could not. They were reproductively incompatible, separate species...” (emphasis in the original)

Furthermore, scientific testing showed that modern human remains in prehistoric Israel predated Neanderthal remains by as much as forty thousand years, presenting a severe blow to the theory of continuous evolution.

These findings also may have resolved the question of the infamous “missing link” between primitive and modern mankind: namely, that there is no such link. There appear to have been two separate species. Again, this requires a new model for human origins.

New models are today being expounded by a growing number of archeological, theological, and historical revisionists who are contesting the pat answers offered by conventional science over the past several decades.
Human nature being what it is, mainstream scientists and theologians are reacting the same way they did when Galileo announced the Earth was round. With the same intransigence of those who once proclaimed the Earth was flat, they are determined to defend their positions to the end despite a growing body of evidence to the contrary.

Such evidence is not a recent phenomenon. Many of the planet's deepest mysteries involve artifacts dating back thousands of years. They include:

— A number of technically small ancient Chinese porcelain "seals" discovered all over Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a time when there was no known commerce between the Emerald Isle and China.

— Mysterious African royal skulls dated to at least 3,000 years ago found in South America. According to the staff of the British Museum Laboratory, the skulls give indications of being made with some sort of powered cutter.

— Numerous giant stone balls found in Costa Rica in the 1700s were found, gravel not found in the area, and their symmetry was explained as a daily exploration of the stone they've been here.

— Throughout England, France, and Germany today stand many massive stone forts—build which of some point now "valid" reached from each level to become fused and glassy. The heat necessary to produce such an effect—up to 1,000 degrees Celsius—ruled out the possibility that the stones were melted by conventional heat.

— What all purposes appeared to be a computer dated about one hundred years before Jesus discovered in 1900 off the island of Antikythera near Crete. Known as the "Antikythera Mechanism," the device contained a system of differential gears not known to have been used until the sixteenth century.

— Small vessel containing a copper cylinder with an iron rod inside, discovered in an Iraqi village and dated from at least 220 years B.C., turned out to be something less than a battery. When alkaline grape juice was added to the strange object, it produced a half volt of electricity.

— Unexplained manufactured sites such as Stonehenge and Silbury Hill.
—Former NASA official Maurice Chateiain wrote of thirteen mystical sites within a 450-mile radius of the long-venerated Greek island of Delos which, connected by straight lines, produce a perfect Maltese cross. Advocates of the Crusader Knights, Chateiain said such a gigantic pattern could only have been created from a vantage point in space.

—According to Chateiain, coins of exactly the same weight have been found in geographic locations thousands of miles apart and in different cultures separated by thousands of years.

—In 1996 Han Ping Chen, an authority on the ancient Chinese Shang dynasty, confirmed that markings found on Central American Olmec figures dated to more than three thousand years ago were clearly archaic Chinese characters. Puzzled archeologists admitted that similar writing systems cannot be independently invented.

—Carvings located twenty-five feet above the floor in the ancient Temple of Seti I in Abydos, Egypt, resemble nothing less than two jet airplanes and an Apache attack helicopter. Their presence has been noted by recent travelers and reportedly were mentioned in an 1842 report, yet no one knows what they truly represent.

—Cuneiform Babylonian tablets in the British Museum described the phases of Venus, the four moons of Jupiter, and the seven satellites of Saturn, none of which could have been seen in ancient Babylon without the aid of modern telescopes.

—The maps of Turkish admiral Piri Reis, dated from the early sixteenth century and said to be based on earlier maps predating Alexander the Great, accurately depict the Amazon basin of South America and the northern coastline of Antarctica, neither of which was surveyed until after the advent of aircraft in the twentieth century. The accurateness of these maps regarding Antarctica are especially puzzling since it has been under an ice cap for at least four thousand years.

—A rectangular structure built before 8,000 B.C., recently noted near...
Okinawa, points to people with advanced technologies living long before the generally accepted date of the first civilizations.

Why don't we know more about our past and such artifacts as those mentioned above? The answer lies in the destructive nature of humans. Only a few of Homer's poems survived the destruction of his works by the Greek tyrant Peisistratus in Athens. Nothing survived the destruction of the Egyptian Library in the Temple of Ptah in Memphis. Likewise, an estimated three hundred thousand volumes of precious texts disappeared with the destruction of the Library of Alexandria. When the Romans leveled the city of Carthage, they destroyed a library said to have contained more than six hundred thousand volumes. Then came Julian Caesar, whose war against Egypt resulted in the loss of the great library at Alexandria, considered the greatest collection of books in antiquity. With the loss of the Smithsonian and the British Branch of that library, a half of over seven hundred thousand volumes of accumulated knowledge went up in flames. What little survived was destroyed by Christians in A.D. 391. European libraries also suffered under the Romes and later from the zeal of the Christians. Likewise, the burning of Constantinople and the Cathedrals in Rome, an inestimable number of ancient texts were irretrievably lost. Collections in Asia fared little better, as Chinese emperor Ch'in Shih Huang Ti ordered wholesale book burning in 213 B.C.

"Because of these tragedies we have to depend on disconnected fragments, casual passages and meager accounts," lamented Australian author Andrew Tomas. "Our distant past is a vacuum filled at random with tablets, parchments, statues, paintings, and various artifacts. The history of science would appear totally different were the book collection of Alexandria intact today."
civilization came on the scene. Maverick Egyptologist John Anthony West, who two decades ago took the lead in publicizing the prehistoric origins of the Sphinx, has been supported in recent years by the work of Boston University geologist Dr. Robert Schoch. Following scientific study in the early 1990s, West, Schoch, and other experts concluded that the Sphinx was constructed no more recently than 7,000 to 5,000 years ago—well this was contradicted by some a very conservative figure. West remained convinced that the Sphinx must predate the breakup of the last ice age—"If technology of that order had been available in Egypt, I think we'd see evidence of it elsewhere in the ancient world," wrote West.

Despite recent scientific work on the Sphinx that supports West's theories and the popularity of a 1993 NBC special on the subject, Egyptian authorities—apparently at the behest of traditional Egyptologists or more secret groups—continue to deny researchers like West access to the antiquities they study.

The famous psychic Edgar Cayce in 1934 stated that the ancient Egyptians were the descendants of a previous civilization who constructed the Great Pyramid and Sphinx as a "Hall of Records"—their version of a time capsule for the purpose of imparting scientific knowledge to future generations. Cayce even said that this library of knowledge would be found beneath the paws of the Sphinx. Oddly enough, no one has been authorized to excavate the site.

If the Sphinx was built before the end of the last ice age, it would date completion of the structure to some time prior to 15,000 years ago, which certainly excludes the Egyptians as its creators. Others are now admitting that a much older and even more sophisticated civilization once existed.

"The workmanship level of jewelry as well as architecture in ancient Egypt rose higher in the earlier periods," noted Evans. Clearly, the Egyptian civilization didn't spontaneously appear. It was the legacy of a predecessor.

The famous Egyptian Book of the Dead, in a passage containing a confession to the "Lord of Righteousness," reveals a remarkable correlation to the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament:
This comparison provided compelling support for those who claim that the biblical Israelites drew heavily from the ancient Egyptian texts. The Egyptians, in turn, gained their knowledge and beliefs from the older cultures of Babylonia and Sumer.

Many authors in recent years have detailed a widely disparate number of archeological anomalies reaching from Tibet and India to South and Central America on into the Middle East. A reconstructed human called "Kennewick Man," whose remains were found in Washington State in 1996, was once described as being similar to that which would be found in India. An archeological dig in 1977 in Tierra del Fuego, Chile, uncovered skeletons of individuals who lived at least 12,500 years ago—1,000 years prior to when the original Americans were supposed to have crossed the Bering Strait ice bridge.

The emerging answer suggests that "prehistoric Americans" were not of Mongoloid stock, as the textbooks say, but of various ethnic groups, some of whom crossed a land bridge into Alaska 11,500 years ago, as the textbooks say, but others who traveled to the Americas in prehistoric times.

Recent discoveries and new interpretations of available data both add to and explain the growing body of evidence indicating that civilizations with advanced technology existed long before written history.
In a book little known in America, Gods of the New Millennium: Scientific Proof of Flesh and Blood Gods, British author Alan F. Alford wrote, "A shadowy pre-history seems to exist as a legacy in the form of stone, maps and mythology, which our 20th century technology has only just allowed us to recognize."

Who were these people and where did they get their technology? Could such a prehistoric advanced civilization be the basis for the legends of Atlantis and Mu?

Many blame the fact that these issues have been ignored far too long on the specialization of fields of study. Both science and religion rarely give any serious consideration to each other. Archaeologists study stone images or texts without considering the entire context. Hence much of mankind's history has been left to those who present it from their own limited perspectives. The more suspicious see it as a conspiracy by the wealthy elite to maintain power and control by keeping the public ignorant of their true origins.

The idea that the origins of man are still largely hidden from us by both time and design is normally quite disturbing to those who have spent lifelong careers presenting mankind's history as one long evolution from caveman to civilized man. Yet it is apparent from the available evidence that modern man may yet now be requiring knowledge lost millennia ago.

It is apparent that bits and pieces of prehistoric knowledge survived in various societies through secret societies such as the Mystery Schools of Egypt and the schools of Pythagoras. These little understood groups passed along not only religious concepts such as reincarnation or the transmigration of souls, but also real knowledge in architectural design, construction, astronomy, agronomy, and history. One of the underlying and underlying concepts of these early groups was monothelism, the belief in only one universal creative god.

The Hebrews are among the most well-documented peoples of the ancient world, yet there is no mention of working on the Great Pyramid in the otherwise detailed records of their time as Egyptian slaves. By all traditions, Hebrew knowledge stemmed from their patriarchs, Abraham and Moses. Yet the latter not only led them from Egyptian bondage but preserved them with a lengthy list of laws and strict customs.
WAS THERE MORE TO MURSES?

Considering the material covered thus far, it is clear that the knowledge hidden within the secret societies, both ancient and modern, can be traced back to ancient Egypt.

According to the Bible, it was Moses and his people born in Egypt with the Hebrews that set the course of history. The knowledge that we all hold today can be traced back to ancient Egypt. There were ancient Egyptian Mystery Schools, which handed down oral traditions through subsequent students. Many modern day practices that we know today were passed along to the Western world through cryptic passages in the Talmud, the Jewish Cabala, and the Old Testament along with an oral tradition handed down through the secret societies.

Many thoughtful people have questioned both the origins and accounts of Moses. Sigmund Freud, in his 1939 book Moses and Monotheism, proposed that Moses was not a Jew but a ranking Egyptian connected to the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten. One argument used by Freud was that many of the laws Moses presented to his people were of Egyptian origin. The similarity between the Ten Commandments and the Egyptian Book of the Dead has already been noted. Freud also questioned why any Jew would have wanted to retain any Egyptian customs once free of slavery.

Freud was not the first to suggest Moses' Hebraic lineage. The author of the Old Testament book of Exodus (2:19) describes Moses as an Egyptian. Moreover, a priest and advisor to Pharaoh Ptolemy I wrote several hundred years before the birth of Jesus, that Moses was a ranking Egyptian priest educated in the Ancient Mysteries at the lower Egyptian city of Heliopolis.

Gardner offered an even more startling suggestion. He was puzzled that, considering Moses' high position in Egypt as stated in the Old Testament, there appears to be no mention of him in the vast quantity of Egyptian literature available. After careful study, he made a compelling argument that Moses and the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaten, or Amenhotep IV as he was officially known, were the same person. This was not an entirely new concept, as it was advanced by the Rosicrucians as far back as the eighteenth century.

Moreover, the most influential and influential of the pharaohs, assumed the title of the Egyptian religious administrator when he traveled...
the various Egyptian temples and built new ones to the vague and faceless god Aten. The omniscient Aten appears very close to the Mystery School's view of one universal god. Furthermore, according to Gardner, Aten is the equivalent of the Hebrew Adam. Aten may have transliterated into the Hebrews' Amun, meaning "so be it," a term still used in churches today, which evolved from the name of the supreme Sumerian god Anu.

Akhnaten's childhood parallels that of Moses. When Pharaoh Amenhotep III's second wife Tiye became pregnant, it was decreed that if the child was a son and hence a pretender to the throne, he should be killed. The first child was indeed a son. Taharqa, the Pharaoh, died prematurely, and a second son was saved when "the royal midwives conspired with Tiye to float the child downstream in a reed basket to the house of her father's half-brother Levi." Here the child wasNamed by Tiye, of the house of Levi. The young Akhenaten, named Amenhotep, was then raised by these Hebrews. He received a religious education at Heliopolis and later married his half sister Nefertiti, which placed him in line for the throne.

The story of a child being saved by a basket of bull rushes in fact can be traced back to the Sumerian Sargon the Great who claimed, "My changling mother ... set me in a basket of tushes, and with pitch she sealed my lid. She cast me into the river, which ... carried me to Akki, the drawer of water."

When the old Pharaoh Amenhotep III died, he was succeeded by his son Amenhotep IV. Amenhotep meant "Amen is pleased" and Amenhotep, who had been taught of the Hebrew's one god, soon changed his name to Akhenaten, meaning "Glorious Spirit of the Aten."

Akhenaten's support of Aten was unpopular with the people, particularly the powerful priesthood, and he was forced to abdicate the throne. His successor, Smenkhkare, was declared pharaoh but died young. His successor, Tutankhmen, was forced to change his name to Tutankhamen to reflect the return to the worship of Amen rather than Aten.

Linking Akhenaten to the biblical account, he and a "brother," Aaron, the Levite, returned to Egypt on orders of the "God of Abra-
Evidence from Egypt indicates that Moses/Akhenaten led his people from Pi-Rameses—near modern Kantra—southward, through Sinai, to Lake Timash. This was extremely marshy territory and, although manageable on foot with some difficulty, any pursuing horses and chariots would have founded disastrously,” Gardner observed. He also noted that Akhenaten’s supporters still believed him the rightful heir to the throne and called him Menes, Mosis, or Moses, meaning “born or born of.” Thus, Moses might denote a tide or ebb rather than a name.

Even in the Middle Ages, scholars pondered over the similarities of Moses, Hermes, and Thoth, all of whom were great leaders who obtained their knowledge directly from God. The work in the Sienna Cathedral in Italy bears an inscription reading, “Hermes Mercury Trismegistus, Contemporary Moses.”

Further support for the Moses/Akhenaten theory may be found in Miriam, the woman most closely associated with the prophet and who accompanied the Exodus from Egypt and subsequent events. In her no one may find further support for the “Moses as Pharaoh” theory. “All records indicate that toward the end of Akhenaten’s reign, Mery-kiya—Beloved of Khiba—had become the dominant queen (under the name) Mery-amon—Beloved of Amon—carrying a dual legacy from the kings of Egypt and Mesopotamia,” stated Gardner. “It was the who moved into exile with Akhenaten/Moses to become known to the Israelites as Miriam . . . and it was her royal blood which, through her daughter—the sister of Tutankhamen—cemented the succession for the eventual Royal House of Judah.”

If Moses was Akhenaten, this makes the connection between the ancient Egyptians and Hebrews much stronger than previously suspected, and adds considerably to explaining the diversas blending of Egyptian beliefs and customs into the Hebrew theological structure. It is documented that Moses was well schooled in ancient knowledge and gained high status while living in Egypt. The New Testament book of Acts (7:22) stated, “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

Moses, by the Biblical account, became the patriarch of the Hebrews after receiving messages and commandments from God while residing Mount Sinai. While he met with Jehovah, his followers watched from a distance while he received messages and commandments from God.
safe distance. What they saw was described in Exodus 19:18 (New International), "Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently."

This description is quite compatible with the prophet Elijah's later account of a meeting with Yahweh in 1 Kings 19:9-13. Elijah recounted that as he stood on the holy mountain, the Lord passed by him with a great wind, flying dust and rocks and trembling earth. "There was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire," said Elijah. "And after the fire, there was the sound of a gentle whisper." The prophet proceeded to hold a conversation with his god.

When Moses returned from his mountaintop experience, he covered with him tablets of stone. Once again there is a question of translation. Since all this occurred prior to the advent of the written Hebrew language, authors Knight and Lomas explained, "These tablets could only have been written in Egyptian hieroglyphics as Moses would not have understood any other script [as Hebrew did not become a written language for another 1,000 years]. The idea of messages materializing out of marks on stones amazed ordinary people and the scribes who could make 'stone talk' were considered to be holders of great magic. This is easily appreciated when one realizes that the Egyptians called hieroglyphics 'the Words of the God,' a term that would often be repeated throughout the Bible."

Jehovah is an English transliteration of the Hebrew Yahweh or Lord, a word which itself was early on expressed only by the consonants YHWH to prevent verbal misuse of the name. YHWH is an acronym of the famous Hebrew words in response to Moses' question regarding how he was supposed to name his Lord: "I am that I am." (Exodus 3:14) The Canaanite term for Yahweh was El, a plural noun derived from El or Elo, meaning "Lofty One." Yet the Bible continued to spell the plural Elohim for the one God, another Hebrew word for "Lord," meaning the one God, as well as a different Canaanite word for the one God, El-Shaddai, meaning "El, Lord of the Mountain." These two words continued in the Bible to mean the same thing, but El-Shaddai is now commonly translated as "El, the Almighty." Yet the Bible is clear that there was only one God, as is shown by the single Hebrew word Adonai, meaning the one true God. Another Hebrew word for Lord, Adon, used biblically as a synonym for Yahweh, derives from the ancient Sumerian Enlil or Great Mountain Lord. It is clear that the original biblical writers were referring to a definitive single male personality rather than some vague and hypothetical god.

From the dawn of the subsequent Hebrew culture, however, every
thing changed as Jehovah became ever more rationalized as an individ-
ual 'absolute'—a unilateral overlord of all things," noted Gardner.
"The Hebrew perception of Jehovah also became totally abstract, so
that all physical connection with humankind was lost."

"In Hebrew religion—and in Hebrew religion alone—the ancient
bond between man and nature was destroyed," explained Middle East
expert Henri Frankfort. "Those who served Jehovah must forego the
riches, the fulfillment, and the consolation of a life which moves in
tune with the great rhythms of the earth and sky."

Moses displayed to his people eighteen containing a set of laws
given by Jehovah, many of which were promptly broken on orders of
this same Lord. After acknowledging Moses and his people to be fully
equal, as warranting their prosperity, Jehovah ordered them to the lands of
the Amorites, Hittites, Canaanites, and others to kill men, women,
and children and take their lands and possessions. This leads curious
skepticism of a loving and merciful god and may be explained by the
Egyptian priest Manetho, who wrote, "The teachers which Moses sar-
nates are having taken place upon the mountains of Sinai, in part a
sibilant account of the Egyptian initiation which [Moses] transmitted to
his people when he established a branch of the Egyptian Brother-
hood..."

In other words, these orders came from a physical person
rather than from some spirit.

An even more controversial interpretation was made by author Dr.
Joe Lewels, former chairman of the Department of Journalism at the
University of Texas at El Paso, who opined in his 1997 book The God
Hypothesis that Jehovah was indeed a being of flesh and blood who
flew in a craft that created fire, wind, and noise. This vehicle was used
to transport Moses to the summit of Mount Sinai as stated in Exodus
19:4, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you
[as] on eagle's wings and brought you to myself."

Lewels also noted that Moses and the Israelites were never allowed
to see Jehovah's face and wondered if his countenance was so nonhu-
man as to provoke fear and loathing. "It should be pointed out that
this is not in the least an original idea," wrote Lewels, who mentioned
the Mandaeans, an early Jewish sect who believed in a dualistic uni-
verse, divided equally into the worlds of light and darkness. "To them,
the physical world, including the Earth, was created and ruled over by
The Lord of Darkness, a reptilian being . . . variously called Snake, Dragon, Monster and Gian . . . thought to be the true creator of humanity," noted Lewels.

This same concept was also advanced by researcher and author R. A. Boulay, who noted that from all cultures of the world have come stories of dragons or reptilians who coexisted with men—were created men—and were associated with powerful gems or crystals, walked on two legs, flew on wings, fought each other over territory, and were revered by humans as "gods." "The worldwide depictions of flying reptiles makes it abundantly clear that men-created and ancient ones were of identical origin but were an alien cosmic force," concluded Boulay in his 1997 book Flying Serpents and Dragons: The Story of mankind's Reptilian Past.

Recent writers such as Lewels and Boulay concluded that the biblical Jehovah was actually one of the ancient Sumerian "gods" who took a special interest in the descendants of the Mesopotamian patriarch Abraham.

"From the beginning of his relationship with the Hebrew people, Jehovah used every means at his command to exert authority and control over his flock," said Lewels. In referring to the Genesis 17 covenant between Jehovah and Abraham, Lewels saw the command that all males be circumcised as a marking system, much as ranchers today notch the ears of their cattle.

Needless to say, it is extremely difficult to attempt to interpret concepts dating back thousands of years. One of the biggest problems is trying to sort out the truth behind the old stories and legends from the fact that many different names were used by different people at different times for the same person, place, or concept in symbolic stories called allegories or parables.

Such allegories, usually passing as myths, are the foundations of the Western world's early religious and philosophical beliefs. Pseudohistory is a layering of culture on culture that has added and subtracted from the original meaning of the "gods" of major cultures. Careful study of the earliest texts from the human culture we've traced indicates that all seem to come from a common source. Indeed, when the earliest texts from the human culture were translated, it was found to contain a Semitic dialect from Mesopotamia. It has been established that the Greek culture—the foundation of Western civilization—descended from the early Minoans on Crete.

No one will agree on these specific connections between the "gods" because of the large amount of other symbolic material that grew up around them.
A general comparison of mythologies indicates common features which appear to go beyond coincidence and reveal the striking similarities between the ancient "gods":

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMERIAN</th>
<th>EGYPTIAN</th>
<th>GREEK</th>
<th>ROMAN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heavenly Father</td>
<td>Amen</td>
<td>Zeus</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavenly Mother</td>
<td>Antu</td>
<td>Helia</td>
<td>Juno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Lord</td>
<td>Enlil</td>
<td>Set</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Mother</td>
<td>Ninhursag</td>
<td>Isis</td>
<td>Hera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Brother/Builder</td>
<td>Enki</td>
<td>Osiris</td>
<td>Apollo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrior King</td>
<td>Marduk</td>
<td>Horus</td>
<td>Ares</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underworld Lord</td>
<td>Nergal</td>
<td>Anubis</td>
<td>Hades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider of Love</td>
<td>Asherah</td>
<td>Hathor</td>
<td>Venus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitator of the Gods</td>
<td>Ninurta</td>
<td>Thoth</td>
<td>Hermes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The real question is how did Moses, and hence the Egyptians obtain knowledge of the Ancient Mysteries? Much of it apparently was passed down from the biblical patriarchs Isaac and Abraham.

In a family intrigue worthy of a soap opera, Abraham's first son, Ishmael, was born to an Egyptian servant named Hagar because Abraham's wife, Sarai, was barren. Even though it was her own scheme, Sarai mistreated Hagar, who fled.

According to Genesis 17, it was about this time we are told that Jehovah changed his follower's name from Abram (Exalted Father) to Abraham (Father of Nations) and ordered all male children circumcised. Abraham was promised a lineage that would rule over many nations, including Egypt and those of Mesopotamia. Sarah's son was to be Abraham, who was one hundred years old at the time, according to Genesis 17:15. In Genesis 17:19, Abraham is told that Jehovah's covenant will be established through Isaac. Apparently Isaac carried genetic traits gained through Sarah that were thought superior to those of Ishmael.

Abraham's ancestors are all named in the Bible and, through his father Terah, can be traced back almost two thousand years to Shem's son, Noah, and then back to Adam.

It is significant that Abraham lived (point E) of the Chaldeans near the northern end of the Persian Gulf, a principal Sumerian city. In early
Genesis, Abraham is only described as a Hebrew with a 318-man army of trained troops who were blessed by the mysterious Melchizedek. Later, in Genesis 24, Abraham has become “great,” with many flocks and herds, silver and gold, camels and a large household filled with servants. He obviously was not small-time nomad but a wealthy and powerful citizen of Sumeria.

Following the destruction of U, during a war about 2000 B.C., Abraham’s family moved northward to the city of Haran, named for Abraham’s brother, who was the father of Lot of Sodom and Gomorrah fame. Early in the twentieth century, archaeologists discovered several northern Mesopotamian cities named after relatives of Abraham, including Ur, Erech, Lahah, and Pekah. “Clearly, the patriarchs represented no ordinary family, but constituted a very powerful dynasty,” commented Gardner. It was this dynasty that passed the ancient traditions of the Sumerians from Abraham to Moses.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO SUMER

The world’s deepest secrets all lead back to Sumer in Mesopotamia, the first known great civilization, located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers at the headwaters of the Persian Gulf. In biblical times, it was called Chaldea or Shinar. Today, it is known as Iraq.

The Sumerian culture seemed to appear from nowhere more than six thousand years ago and, before it strangely vanished, it had greatly influenced life as far east as the Indus River, which flows from the Himalayas through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea, and as far west as the Nile of the later Egyptian kingdoms.

About 2400 B.C. Sumer was invaded from the west and north by Semitic tribes and by about 2350 B.C. was captive to the warrior leader Sargon the Great, who founded the Semite Akkadian dynasty which stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean. After years of further war and perpetual displacement, the land of Sumer was united under Hammurabi of Babylon, whose famous “Code” of laws may have been instituted to discipline the mass migrations of people in the wake of catastrophes at the time.

Alan Alford noted that the devastating eruption of the Greek island of Santorin and the mysterious destruction on Crete as well as at Mohenjo-
Daro, capital of an Indus Valley culture, took place about the time of Hammurabi’s rule. Alford saw a connection between these events and the removal of the Easter Island population, the emergence of Andean civilizations, and the arrival of the Mayas in Central America—all of which occurred about the same time. It is also now clear that the Code of Hammurabi was derived from laws set down by the Sumerians centuries earlier, particularly the earliest law code yet discovered, issued by the Sumerian king En-Mannu.

Virtually nothing was known about the Sumerians until about 150 years ago when archeologists, spurred on by the writings of Italian traveler Pietro della Valle in the early seventeenth century, began to dig into the strange mounds dotting the countryside in southern Iraq. Beginning with the discovery of Sargon II’s palace near modern-day Khorsabad by the Frenchman Paul Emile Botta in 1843, archeologists found buried cities, broken palaces, artifacts, and thousands of clay tablets detailing every facet of Sumerian life. By the late-nineteenth century, Sumerian had been recognized as an original language and was being translated. Despite today’s knowledge, the general public still has been taught little about this first great human civilization that suddenly materialized in Mesopotamia.

It is fascinating to realize that it may be possible to learn more about this six-thousand-year-old civilization than we may ever know about the more recent Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. The explanation lies in the Sumerian cuneiform writing. Whereas the papyri of other elder empires disintegrated over time or were destroyed by the fires of war, cuneiform was inscribed onto wet clay tablets with a stylus, creating a wedge-shaped script. These tablets were then dried, baked, and kept in large libraries. About five hundred thousand of these clay tablets have now been discovered and have provided modern researchers with invaluable knowledge of the Sumerians.

Today many tablets are largely undeciphered and a German high school teacher named George Grotefend began the systematic translation of cuneiform in 1802. Today, many tablets still have not yet been translated into English because the sheer quantity has overwhelmed the world’s handful of translators.

It must be understood that the Sumerian alphabet was essentially shorthand for a much older original language made up of logograms (symbols representing concepts rather than sounds) resembling nothing.
less than antique Chinese characters. Since it was not a detailed language like English, there has been wide latitude in its translation. When these translations began in the eighteenth century, the symbol for the Sumerian's creators was simply thought to mean mythical "gods" and everything associated with that point.

Archaeological studies have shown that shortly after 4000 B.C., within the Tigris-Euphrates Valley, marshes had been drained, canals dug, dams and dikes constructed, a large-scale irrigation system initiated, and large, gleaming cities built.

The first twelve major city-states—with exotic names like Ur, Nippur, Uruk, Lagash, Akkad, and Kish—were all centered around towering, stair-stepped temples called ziggurats (Holy Mountains) and each was ruled by its own "god." Speckled curdled from the original tree-predicate, buildings, markets, and homes. Surrounding each city were large tracts of land also controlled by the local ans. As these cities grew, they came under the leadership of a king, called a ruler also associated with the local "god." Despite our superficial knowledge of the Sumerians, we have already been able to credit them with many world "firsts." Professor Samuel Noah Kramer, author of History Begins at Sumer and The Sumerians, noted that these people developed the first writing system (cuneiform), the wheel, schools, rational science, the first written records, the first coinage and concussion, the first animal husbandry, and the first coinage (a weighed silver shekel).

Many of the records left to us are of mundane daily affairs such as tax records, court hearings, and market quotations. In fact, these ancient people were little different than today's societies. They laughed, loved, and hated, squabbled and conspired, plotted against one another and, inevitably, fought each other.

Author Tamar described the bust of the Sumerian queen Shub-ad, on display in the British Museum: "The lovely young lady wears an amusingly modern wig, large earrings, and necklace. The sophisticated girl, who used cosmetics, a wig, and expensive jewelry, died in a ritual suicide in 2900 B.C.—2,150 years before the foundation of Rome and 2,000 years before Moses started his writing." Sumerians traveled frequently and widely and are thought to have brought their advanced technology of shipbuilding and mapping to the...
early Phoenicians, who settled along the eastern Mediterranean coast in what is now Lebanon.

Their knowledge of the heavens was both amazing and puzzling. "The whole concept of spherical astronomy, including the 360-degree circle, the zenith, the horizon, the ecliptic, the equinoxes, etc., all arose suddenly in Sumer," noted Alford. Sumerian knowledge of the movements of the sun and moon resulted in the world's first calendar, used for centuries afterward by the Semites, Egyptians, and Greeks.

As Alford pointed out, few people realize that we owe not only our geometry but also our modern timekeeping systems to the Sumerian base-sixty mathematical system. "The origin of 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute is not arbitrary, but designates a regular [based on the number 60] system," Alford reported, adding that the modern zodiac was a Sumerian creation based on their twelve gods. "This is the reason for our twelve-month calendar, or twelve signs of the zodiac.

Taking into account the slight wobble in the Earth's orbit, movement through this complete cycle takes 25,920 years, an event known as the Platonian Year, named for the Greek scholar Plato who inspired the Knights Templar, Illuminati, and Rhodes's Round Tables.

"The uncomfortable question which the scientists have avoided is this: how could the Sumerians, whose civilization only lasted 2,000 years, possibly have observed and recorded a celestial cycle that took 25,920 years to complete? And why did our civilization begin in the middle of a zodiac period? Is this a clue that their astronomy was a legacy from the gods?"

His question could be enlarged to ask how did the early primitive humans of almost six thousand years ago suddenly transform from small packs of hunter-gatherers into the full-blown—advanced even by today's standards—civilization? Even the compilers of The New Encyclopaedia Britannica acknowledged that serious questions remain concerning the Sumerian histories and cautiously explained that such questions "are posed from the standpoint of 20th century civilization and are unsupported by available evidence, so that answers can only be relative."
Since we now have thousands of translated Sumerian tablets along with their inscribed cylinder seals, perhaps we should allow the Sumerians themselves to explain.

The answer is that they claimed everything they achieved came from their gods.

"All the ancient peoples believed in gods who had descended to Earth from the heavens and who could at will soar heavenwards," explained Middle Eastern scholar Zecharia Sitchin in the preface to the first book of a series detailing his translations and interpretations of Sumerian accounts of their origin and history. "But these tales were never given credibility, having been branded by scholars from the very beginning as myths."

Recognizing that even the most learned intellectual before the turn of the twentieth century could not possibly have begun to think in terms of concepts we accept as commonplace today, Sitchin reasoned, "Now that astronomers have landed on the Moon, and unmanned spacecraft explore other planets, it is no longer impossible to believe that a civilization on another planet more advanced than ours was capable of landing its astronauts on the planet Earth some time in the past."

It is significant to learn that the Sumerians never considered, or referred to, the beings who brought them knowledge as "gods." This was a later interpretation by the Romans and Greeks, who fashioned their own "gods" after the earlier oral traditions.

The Sumerians called them the Anunnaki or Those Who Came to Earth from Heaven.

THE ANUNNAKI

To understand the Sumerian version of the origin of humanity requires only a slight shift in mindset.

Sitchin, who has done so much to synthesize the vast amount of Sumerian knowledge into a consistent—if extraordinary—hypothesis, often has told how his shift of mindset occurred. As a schoolboy studying Hebrew in Palestine, Sitchin had the audacity to question why the Old Testament term Nefilim was translated as "giants" when the original word meant "Those Who Were Cast Down." Predictably, instead of being praised for his initiative and attention to accuracy, young Sitchin was chastised for
questioning the Bible. But the incident set him on a lifetime quest for the truth behind the inconsistencies and puzzles of the ancient texts.

Sitchin's question was well founded. Rather than simply "giants," the Holman Bible Dictionary defines the Old Testament Nefilim as "ancient heroes who, according to most interpreters, are the products of sexual union of heavenly beings and human women" as stated in Genesis 6:4 (New International): "The Nefilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown."

A native of Russia, Sitchin was educated in Palestine and London, where he graduated with a degree in economic history from the University of London following studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. After a stint as a writer and editor for economic and historical journals, Sitchin relocated to New York City in 1948 and soon became a U.S. citizen. During his years of study, Sitchin became fluent in a number of languages, including ancient Egyptian, Hebrew, and Akkadian, a later form of Sumerian.

Sitchin and others have simply taken the attitude that perhaps the ancient Sumerians were putting down on their clay tablets history as they understood it rather than mere myths. After all, the Sumerian descriptions of many ancient cities were believed fanciful stories until their ruins were discovered and excavated. Why not also consider their written history as a reality?

After years of dedicated translation and study, Sitchin concluded that the Sumerian Nefilim and the Sumerian Anunnaki represented the same concept—that in the Earth's most distant past, beings came down from the stars and founded the earliest civilizations, a theme which has run through nearly all ancient societies, from Freemasonry to the Thule Society, and presently prepares the ground for the occasional new understanding of the Sumerian story. Based on Sitchin's work, as well as others including Alan E. Alford, R. A. Butler, Neil Pye, Dr. Arthur David Hays, Dr. The Lovelock, C. L. Tomberg, Lloyd Pye, Laurence Gardner, and William Branly, the account of the Anunnaki went something like this:

About 450,000 years ago, a group of space travel interstellar extraterrestrial visitors arrived at planet Earth. They came from a planet about three times the size of Earth, which the Sumerians called Nibiru. Nibiru was...
depicted in the ancient Sumerian literature as the twelfth planet of our solar system.

As early as 1981, American scientists were theorizing the existence of a tenth planet in our system based on sightings by an orbiting telescope and studies of irregularities in the orbit of Pluto indicating an additional solar body. "If new evidence from the U.S. Naval Observatory of a 10th planet in the solar system is correct, it could prove that the Sumerians ... were far ahead of modern man in astronomy," commented a writer for the Detroit News. There is no inconsistency here, as the Sumerians counted the moon and the sun as planetary bodies, thus arriving at the number twelve, the same number as their pantheon of Anunnaki overlords.

Truly amazing is the fact that these ancient Sumerians, whom we are told were just developing writing, accurately described and diagrammed the planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, even though these three worlds cannot be seen without the aid of a telescope. Uranus was not known to modern man until discovered in 1781, Neptune in 1846, and Pluto in 1930.

Long considered fanciful myths, recent interpretations of Sumerian texts, particularly one entitled Enuma Elish now known as the Creation Epic, provided a most plausible explanation for the present composition of our solar system. "Why not take the Epic at face value, as nothing more nor less than the statement of cosmological facts as known to the Sumerians, as told to them by the Nefilim?" concluded Sitchin.

The texts described how more than four billion years ago, Nibiru, a massive planet, entered our system, narrowly missing a large planet called Tiamat, which exploded due to the gravitational stresses. In a subsequent pass by Nibiru, its moons struck the planet and then discarded by Nibiru's attendant moons. Venus and Jupiter, of course, were massive enough to avoid the collision, though the orbit of each was changed by the impact. Other parts of Tiamat became the asteroid belt, while the other half of the planet was knocked into a new orbit closer to the sun. This fragment would later coalesce into Earth. It was accompanied by one of Nibiru's moons (Kingu) which became our own satellite.

Interestingly enough, this theory could explain why the Earth is missing much of its crust, particularly on the half encompassing the Pacific Ocean, as well as the origins of the asteroid belt. This theory also offered an explanation for comets, which have caused much speculation.
among scientists. The idea is that when Nibiru and Tiamat collided, many tons of seawater from both worlds were mixed into space—termed "mingling of the waters" by the Sumerian scribes—along with dirt and debris which became called "flying balls of dirt." This concept was strengthened by the recent discovery of meteorites in Antarctica containing the same gases known to compose the atmosphere of Mars, as well as by the discovery by NASA scientists in 1996 of what appeared to be the remains of microorganisms in a Martian meteorite thought to be four billion years old.

Nibiru, called the "Planet of the Crossing" because its orbit around the solar system between Mars and Jupiter, resembled its elliptical orbit, which took it far outside the solar system before being pulled back by gravitational force. Nibiru has been symbolized in numerous societies—particularly Egyptian—as a "winged disc," a circle with wings stretching to either side.

Life on Earth evolved based on its one-year orbit around the sun, the solar year. Life on Nibiru developed based on its one-year orbit around the sun—3,600 years to Earthlings. It then stands to reason that life on Nibiru would have evolved somewhat earlier than on Earth. This disparity of time may also be illustrated as how an insect with a ten-week-long life might perceive a human with a normal lifespan as immortal.

About 450,000 years ago, during Earth's second ice age, the highly-developed inhabitants of Nibiru—the Anunnaki of the Sumerian texts—journeyed to Earth as the two planets came into proximity. According to the Sumerians, their initial landings were made in water, just as our own astronauts at first splashed down in the ocean.

Logically, these ancient astronauts would have sought a base camp which provided moderate weather and a good source of water and fuel. Only one location met all these criteria—Mesopotamia. The Indus River valley and the Nile were two other good choices, but did not offer the same atmosphere of moderate weather and water as Mesopotamia. Some researchers view with suspicion the fact that the sites of these first Anunnaki settlements in the southern part of present-day Iraq remain one of the few locations in the world where First World visitors cannot easily visit, thanks to the continued confrontation with Saddam Hussein with its attendant boycott and bombardments.

With the supreme Nibirian ruler, Anu—or An or El, depending on the source—supervising their effort from the home planet, the Anunnaki...
began a systematic colonization of Earth under the leadership of Anu's two sons, Enlil and Enki. All of the Anunnaki leaders were later to assume the role of “gods,” or Nefilim, to their human subjects. Amazingly enough, one of these Nefilim was named Nazi; one must wonder if the twentieth century German occultists knew of this connection.

Enlil was the mission commander, while Enki served as executive and science officer. There was immediate and long-standing antagonism between the two half brothers due to Nibirian protocol. As in later Earth dynasties, the second-born Enki was relegated to secondary status because his mother was not the official wife of Anu. This removed him from the royal line of succession. Yet it was Enki who led the first expedition to Earth.

In one well-preserved text, Enki described his landing at the Persian Gulf, “When I approached Earth, there was much flooding. When I approached its green meadows, heaps and mounds [dams and dikes] were piled up at my command. I built my home in a pure place. . . .”

Enki was both scientist and engineer. Under his leadership, the marshes on the northern shore of the Persian Gulf were drained, dikes along with irrigation systems were built as well as canals connecting the Tigris with the Euphrates. Reinforcements arrived under the leadership of Enki’s first-born son, Marduk. Over thousands of Earth years—but only a few years to the Anunnaki—a thriving colony of these visitors was put in place and their attention turned to their primary objective—gold.

Several researchers have composed elaborate metaphysical explanations for Anunnaki activities on Earth, many having to do with energy fields and spiritual planes disrupted by the passing of Nibiru and the creation of Earth. One theory was that the higher-evolved Anunnaki were attempting to rescue “lost souls” left behind after the planetary collision. But more documented and acceptable is the idea suggested by Sitchin and others that these colonists were after Earth’s mineral wealth—particularly gold. The Anunnaki sought gold to save their atmosphere, which had apparently sprung leaks similar to those we have created in ours by damaging the Earth’s ozone layer with hydrofluorocarbons. The Anunnaki solution was to disperse extremely tiny flakes of gold into their upper atmosphere to form a “seed.”

Ironically, modern scientists contend that if we are ever forced to repair any damaged ozone layer, tiny particles of gold dust into the upper atmosphere would be the best way to go.
Apparently an initial effort to retrieve gold from the Persian Gulf by a water-treatment system proved inadequate for their needs. Anu, along with his heir Enlil, visited the colony and assigned Enki to find more gold. Enlil was placed in overall command of the Earth colony while Enki led a foray to Africa and, eventually, to South America, where gold mining operations were set up. Proof of such early gold mining has come from scientific studies conducted for the Anglo-American Corporation, a leading South African mining corporation, in the 1970s. Company scientists discovered evidence of ancient mining operations which were dated as far back as 100,000 B.C. Similar ancient mining operations have been found in Central and South America. This indicated the Anunnaki mining efforts were worldwide and may go far in explaining the early diffusion of humans.

Further substantiation of such wide-ranging travel may be found by comparing the names of ancient Mesopotamian cities as recorded by the second century A.D. geographer Ptolemy to counterparts in Central America:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MESOPOTAMIAN NAME</th>
<th>CENTRAL AMERICAN LOCALITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colua</td>
<td>Colua-can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zuivana</td>
<td>Zuivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholima</td>
<td>Colima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zalissa</td>
<td>Xalisco</td>
</tr>
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The raw mined ore was then carried from the far-flung mines by cargo craft back to Mesopotamia for smelting and processing into hourglass-shaped ingots called ZAG or "purified precious." Engravings of such ingots are numerous and some of the actual ingots have been found in archaeological excavations.

In an effort to ease the increasing rivalry between the half brothers Enlil and Enki, their father Anu placed Enlil in charge of the Mesopotamian colony E.DIN—perhaps the basis for the biblical Eden—while assigning Enki to AB.ZU or Africa, the "land of the mines." Further problems for these extraterrestrial colonists arose due to climate changes, which caused hardships among the Anunnaki, and the unrelenting drudgery of the mining operations. One Sumerian text reported, "When the gods [Anunnaki], like men, bore the work and suf-..."
Obviously, such revisionism of ancient history has—and will continue to—have profound impact on conventional science. Dr. Arthur David Horn resigned as a professor of biological anthropology at Colorado State University in 1990 after he concluded that the conventional explanations for man's origins he taught were "nonsense." After much study, he too came to believe that extraterrestrials were intimately involved in the origin and development of humans.

"The Anunnaki had been mining gold on Earth for more than 100,000 years when the rank-and-file Anunnaki, who were doing the back-breaking work in the mines, rebelled about 300,000 years ago," Horn explained, elaborating on Sitchin's work. "Enlil, their commander-in-chief, wanted to punish them severely and he called an Assembly of the Great Anunnaki, which included his father Anu. Anu was more sympathetic to the plight of the Anunnaki miners. He realized that the work of the mine was very hard and that their diet was too considerable. He suggested that he travel to Earth—where we call Homo erectus—at a closely related humanoid—where we call Homo erectus—at a closely related humanoid—where we call Homo erectus. Anu agreed that Enki's plan was sound. He then went about creating a new race. As Sitchin explained, "Enki's plan to create a worker race was approved by the Assembly, and was the starting point for humanity's origin, based on the Sumerian account. This explanation also clarifies one of the most puzzling verses in the Bible. After being assured in the Bible that there is only one true God, Genesis 1:26 quoted the singular God as saying, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....'. This verse may carry two explanations—first, that the plural Elohim of the Old Testament, interpreted as 'Gods' by the monothetaulists who wrote Genesis, implied may have referred to the Anunnaki Assembly, which approved the creation of man, or second, that the idea of creating man 'in our image' meant simply genetic manipulation of an existing species, not the creation of a new one. As Sitchin explained, 'As both Orientalists and Bible scholars now know—so do we know that the idea of creating man in our image of man, not the creation of a new one.'"
The Anunnaki Earth mission's medical officer was a female named Ninharsag, also known as Ninti, who had already been working with Enki in genetic experimentation. On at least one Sumerian cylinder seal an illustration of Enki and Ninharsag depicted them surrounded by vials or vessels, a table, shelves, a plant, and a helper, the scene looking very much like a laboratory. According to the Sumerian accounts, they produced many mutated creatures including animals such as bulls and lions with human heads, winged animals, and apes and humans made with the head and feet of goats. If true, it is obvious such experiments may have been the source for the many legends of "mythological" creatures and superhumans, such as Atlas, Cadmus, Gargantua, Polyphemus, and Typhon.

In the nineteenth century, huge sphinxlike statues were excavated in what once was the palace of the Assyrian King Sargon II, who ruled Mesopotamia from 721 to 705 B.C. These statues included a winged bull and a lion with human heads. Much of this art was purchased by John D. Rockefeller and transported to New York.

The Sumerian account of the creation of the first man—written in Sumerian or in Hebrew, Adama, literally translated as Man of Earth or simply Earthling—is quite clear in light of today's knowledge concerning cloning. But up to twenty-five years ago or so, the whole concept would have been incomprehensible to even the most learned scholar. Enki and Ninharsag took the reproductive cell or egg from a primitive African hominoid and fertilized it with the sperm of a young Anunnaki male. The fertilized ovum was then placed inside an Anunnaki woman—reportedly Enid's own wife Ninki—who carried the child to term.

Although a cesarean section was required at birth, a healthy young male Adama hybrid was produced for the first time on Earth, bypassing natural evolution by millions of years. According to the ancient Sumerian reporters, "When Mankind was first created, they knew not the eating of bread, knew not the dressing with garments, ate plants with their mouth like sheep drank water from the ditch."

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Enki and Ninharsag went on to produce a number of Adamas, both male and female, although at the time they were incapable of reproduction and lived very short lives compared to the Anunnaki. This was apparently done in a conscious effort to prevent any competition from the new human race. It is interesting to note that...
according to the Genesis 3:5, the very first order of the Elohim was that man—in the allegorical form of Adam and Eve—was to remain ignorant less "ye shall be as gods" (King James).

Several connections between the Sumerian version of man's creation and the Bible are apparent. The Bible speaks of woman being created from Adam's rib. "The great Sumerologist, Samuel N. Kramer, pointed out near the middle of this century that the tale of Eve's origin from Adam's rib probably stemmed from the double meaning of the Sumerian word Ti, which means both 'rib' and 'life,'" explained Horn. In, Eve may have received her "life" from Adam without any bone being involved, or genetic material may have been extracted from bone marrow.

The laboratory which produced the first Adam was called SHI.IM.TI or "the house where the wind of life is breathed in" by the Sumerians. Compare this phrase with Genesis 2:7 in which God, after forming man from "the dust of the ground" or Adamu meaning earth, "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life."

"Adam was the first test-tube baby," proclaimed Sitchin after the birth of the first modern test-tube baby in 1978. He saw this modern birth as support for his Sumerian translations, especially in light of the fact that modern science only began to conceptualize manipulating one's genetic makeup within the twentieth century.

That the ancient Sumerians passed along symbols representing the long-forgotten science of cloning is suggested by the caduceus, the logo of physicians even today. This ancient symbol of life-giving medical treatment represented by intertwined snakes along a twisted staff bears a striking resemblance to the double spiral structure of DNA molecules. DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), only discovered in 1953, is composed of the same spiral within the human cell that bears that individual's genetic blueprint. It is the manipulation of DNA which can produce a clone (duplicate) or a hybrid.

Evidence that the first primitive humans originated in Africa has grown since the 1970s when some of the oldest prehuman remains were found there. The bones of "Lucy" and other australopithecines clearly indicated that early primates lived in that area of Earth more than three million years ago but were not as evolved as even the Neanderthal. Contrary to popular belief, scholars C. P. Jones, Charles E. Oxnard, and Louis Leakey have agreed that Australopithecus was totally different in morphology from humans. Groves commented that...
"non-Darwinian" principles would be required to explain any connection between "Lucy" and modern humans.

But woe to those who attempt to argue against conventional thinking. According to many independent researchers, there appears to be a conspiracy against any discovery which conflicts with prevailing wisdom. One example was the film of Thomas E. Lee of the National Museum of Canada, who in the early 1950s discovered advanced stone tools in ice on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron. These tools were shown to be at least 65,000 years old and perhaps as old as 125,000 years, totally contradicting conventional theories. Lee claimed he was "harassed" from his position, his work was misinterpreted, and no one would publish his findings. Most of the artifacts "vanished" into storage bins, and the museum director was forced to resign to discharge Lee.

"The treatment of Lee was not an isolated case," noted the authors of Forbidden Archeology. "There exists in the scientific community a knowledge filter that screens out unwelcome evidence. This process of knowledge filtration has been going on for well over a century and continues right up to the present day." (p. 12) A particularly exasperated researcher recently wrote, "Realize, that scientific institutions, such as the Smithsonian and the National Geographic Society, are set up by the world's elite factions in the first place to either debunk, distort or simply ignore any scientific data that might enlighten people about their true origins.

As bluntly stated in the Bible, Adam and his progeny were not blessed for a life of ease, but one of hard work and survival at the hands of their "lords." "The term that is commonly translated as 'worship' was in fact 'work,'" stated Sitchin. "Ancient and biblical man instead worshiped his god, to instead worship these 'lords.'"

Horn stated that study of the Sumerian texts made it clear that "the Sumerians treated their created slaves poorly, much like we treat domestic animals we are simply exploiting—like cattle. Slavery in human societies was common from the first known civilizations until quite recently. Perhaps it shouldn't surprise us to hear that the Sumerians were cruel, petty, cruel, materialistic, hateful—any negative adjective one can think of. The evidence indicates that they worked their slaves very hard and had little compassion for the plight of humans. Yet, the Sumerians eventually decided to grant humankind their first civilization, the Sumerian civilization."

"The term that is commonly translated as 'worship' was in fact 'work,'" stated Sitchin. "Ancient and biblical man instead worshiped his god, to instead worship these 'lords.'"
But such civilization did not come before further tweaking of the human genetic code and finally an attempt to exterminate all human life. Since the first human workers were like mules and could not procreate, the Anunnaki had to constantly create new batches, a time-consuming procedure considering the span of time between in vitro fertilization and birth. So Ebel and Ninhursag set about to create an Adamas race which could reproduce itself.

Genesis 2:8-15 states that the Anunnaki were discontented and moved the first Adamas out of the Garden of Eden to the area of the original Anunnaki colony called E.DIN, accurately described as the plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The Sumerian texts related how an envious Enlil forcibly took humans from Enki's African lab and returned with them to E.DIN where they were put to work producing food and serving the Anunnaki. But Enlil needed even more workers and turned to his brother Enki for help.

Alford theorized that in retaliation for Enlil's raid on his African lab, Enki traveled to Eden, where he created a human reproduction lab for Enlil but secretly manipulated the genetic code to allow sexual reproduction.

Although the Sumerian texts describing the details of this process have been either lost or understood as yet, researchers have determined that the procedure again involved obtaining life-producing Adamas DNA, possibly by extracting it while the subject was under anesthetics. This time the mate Adamas DNA was combined with a female Adamas rather than an Anunnaki, with possibly some accompanying DNA sequence cutting and splicing, a procedure within today's technology.

The result was a male Adam with the ability to reproduce through sex with an Adamas female, or to "know" a female as the Bible euphemistically puts it. The male Adam then joined the "knowledge" of reproduction, a fact that many scientists agree, including Enki, deplored. They comlained that "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil," reported Genesis 3:22 (New International), "He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." Therefore, DNA manipulation drastically reduced the human life span along with the ability to make full use of human brain capacity.

As the human population grew, both in the far-flung Anunnaki mining operations and in Mesopotamia, many Adamas were taken to work.
in the other cities that were growing up along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Some were returned to mining chores, and others may have escaped into the wilds or were sent away for population control. In any case, the Adama were sent out of Eden.

The result of this human population growth and their increasingly close contact with the Annunaki was predictable. Genesis 6:1-4 related, "When man began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God [the Nefilim/Annunaki] saw that the daughters of man were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. . . . The Nefilim were on the earth in those days—and afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of man and had children by them."

Over the centuries, the Adama race, in addition to such interbreeding, was the object of continued experimentation, which eventually resulted in changing Neanderthal to Cro-Magnon.

But some specific deficiencies remained, including a progressive decline in the human life span. Descendants of the early Adama lived for centuries, thanks to their Annunaki genes. This time frame closely matched an interbreeding continued and the effects of life on earth took their toll. But the extreme life span of the pure Annunaki rulers made them appear as immortal. The Epic of Gilgamesh stated, "Only the gods live forever under the sun, as for mankind, numbered are their days, whatever they achieve is but wind."

Authors Gardner and Alford and others believed that the longevity of the Annunaki was further increased by chemicals and/or enzymes which retarded the aging process. Gardner stated the oft-mentioned "Star Fire" of the ancient gods may have been an antiaging compound of the enzymes melatonin and serotonin found in menstrual blood. Longevity is well reported in the Bible, which describes lifespans ranging into the hundreds of years. Despite human lore like Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Enoc, and Methuselah, the majority of early civilizations sought the "Fountain of Youth" or some form of immortality. Alford saw this obsession remains ever since by the ancient scribes, but argued that their dating system was deficient.

Since both the fossil record and the Sumerian texts place the advent of humans at more than 450,000 years ago, some adjustment must be made with the biblical numbers. Alford reasoned, He found that by multiplying the biblical ages by 100, he arrived at 45,000 years.
between the birth of Adam's son Seth and Noah at the time of the Flood. This number is consistent with the Sumerian accounts.

“The Jewish people spent an extremely long exile in Egypt for 400 years prior to the Exodus. Later they spent around 60 years exile in Babylonia,” explained Alford. “The Jews were not a long way from the Sumerian origin of their patriarch Abraham, and had lost the knowledge of the sexagesimal system in which their ancestry through to Abraham was recorded.”

According to Sitchin’s time line, the first human—the Adama—was produced about three hundred thousand years ago. After further genetic manipulation, Anunnaki males began interbreeding with human women about one hundred thousand years ago. Not long after this, a new ice age began decimating the human populations outside Anunnaki control. Nibiru had appeared in the Middle East. By fifty thousand years ago, humans formed by Anunnaki were given a voice in the decisions of the gods. Further interbreeding had produced a race that could no longer be identified with any of the genetic lines. By fifty thousand years ago, humans fathered by Anunnaki were permitted to rule in selected cities, further angering Enlil, already incensed that some Anunnaki would mate with human women. He even complained that the sound of mating humans kept him awake at night. Enlil became determined to do something about the irritating humans.

FLOODS AND WARS

Accordingly, about twelve thousand years ago, when the Anunnaki leadership realized that severe climate changes would occur with the imminent return of the planet Nibiru, Enlil made his move. In their Great Assembly, Enlil convinced the majority to allow nature to take its course—to wipe out the humans while the Anunnaki waited events out in evacuation ships orbiting the Earth.

Although Enlil’s plan was accepted, brother Enki had a plan of his own. Whether out of some affection for humans or simply to thwart Enlil’s plan, he passed along the murderous “secret of the gods” to one of his most trusted human assistants, identified as the Sumerian Ziusudra or Utnapishtim.

“The Akkadian version of the Flood refers to Noah as Utnapishtim, the son of Ubar-Tutu, and locates both of them in Shuruppak [the seventh city built by the Anunnaki],” Alford reported. “Shuruppak has been firmly identified as the medical center of the gods. It was also referred to as the
city of Sud, who has been identified as Ninharsag—the same goddess who had assisted Enki with the genetic creation of the UDU.LU. The same Flood story was reported in a Babylonian legend featuring Alalakh as the flood.

Utnapishtim has been called the "Sumerian Noah" and the parallels between the biblical account of Noah and the Gilgamesh account of the Great Flood are both striking and obvious. Believing to the story of Noah, Heimel stated, "This biblical account is an abridged version of the original Sumerian account. As in the other instances, the monothestic Bible has compressed into one deity the roles played by several gods who were not always in accord."

According to the Sumerian texts, it was Enki's rival brother Enlil who instructed Utnapishtim/Noah how to construct a boat and included the act of culturally preserving humans to make it sustainable. The Gilgamesh version gives some interesting details deleted from the biblical account. Sitchin provided Utnapishtim with an excuse to capture his neighbors why he was building a boat—he told them that as a future link of God he was forced to leave the Enlil-controlled area and needed the boat to journey to Enki's territory in Africa.

Utnapishtim/Noah, "Aboard ship take thou the seed of all living things..." This instruction is most fascinating because, since Enki had been the science officer involved in the genetic engineering of humans, it would seem plausible that Utnapishtim/Noah took DNA samples of all living things rather than a boatload of animals, insects, and plants. A ship's cabin filled with sample vials would be much more reasonable than a floating zoological park.

Alford advanced the theory that Enki, genetically working through Utnapishtim/Noah and three ethnically different surrogate wives, produced three sons who represented the three races of the world. Thus, after the Flood, the races of humankind were represented. Other writers theorized that the different races of humankind represent genetic experiments by extraterrestrial races other than the Anunnaki.

The Akkadian account also stated that the Great Flood was not the result of heavy rain. It described a darkness accompanied by colossal winds which increased in intensity, destroying buildings and rupturing dikes. Such conditions would be expected by the near passage of a large planetary body. Scattered archeological excavations over many years indicate that what is reported as the Great Flood was a prior...
et wide catastrophe, though not every portion of the world was under water. One theory of the Flood was that the gravitational forces caused by the passing of Nibiru caused the Antarctic ice sheet, already unsta-
ble due to the end of the last ice age, to slip into the ocean, raising sea
levels all over the planet. Even today, most of the original Anunnaki
cities in Mesopotamia remain deep under water and sit near the
mouths of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

After six days and nights, according to the Akkadian version, the ele-
ments went calm but no land was seen. Finally, as in the biblical account,
the ark came to rest on a mountain, identified as Mount Ararat. After
sending a dove, a raven, and a raven from the ark, only the raven-stayed
gone, indicating that more dry land was nearby. Utnapishtim/Noah and
his family then left the ark and offered a burnt sacrifice, which drew the
attention of the returning Anunnaki. An ancient text stated the "gods
crowded like flies" around the cooking flesh. Apparently, they had devel-
oped a hunger for fresh food during their long confinement in the orbiting
ships.

Confronted by the fear of human survival, and perhaps accompanied
by some remorse over his actions, Enlil had little choice but to relent
and permit further cohabitation by the humans.

This scenario could certainly explain the sudden absence of a sizable
portion of the human population about ten thousand years ago—most
were lost in the Great Flood.

With flood waters subsiding and Nibiru moving out of the solar sys-
tem, the Anunnaki and the handful of surviving humans set about
reconstructing the world. But this post Flood world was to prove less
peaceful than the previous one.

Prior to the Flood, any humans not working directly for the Anunnaki
were roaming hunter-gatherers. Virtually overnight they suddenly became
farmers. "Farming may be more work than hunting, judging by the avail-
able ethnographic data, and (result) in an unstable man-modified ecosys-
tem with low diversity index results," noted archeologist Kent Flannery.
"Since early farming represents a decision to work harder and eat more
third-choice food, I suspect that people did it because they felt they had
to, not because they wanted to. Why they felt they had to, we may
never know. In spite of the fact that these decisions reshaped all the rest of
human history."

The Anunnaki which explained why humans began to cultivate the
land and domesticate animals—because their gods ordered them to do so. And with farming came the concentration of people in cities, larger and grander than before the Flood. Each was ruled by one of the Anunnaki rulers, now beginning to be considered “gods” by the humans. As further evidence of the Flood, the earliest efforts at agriculture were found not in the rich soil of the river valleys but in the mountain highlands of Mesopotamia and Palestine.

Again, this is explained in a Sumerian text fragment, which stated, “Enlil went up to the peak and lifted his eyes; He looked down; there the waters filled as a sea. He looked up: there was the mountain of the aromatic cedars. He hauled up the barley, terraced it on the mountain. That which vegetates he hauled up, terraced the grain cereals on the mountain.”

Like humans, certain food crops appeared to have an antecedent in the Earth’s evolutionary chain. They just suddenly appeared—fully cultivated—about fifteen thousand years ago according to archeological finds. “There is no explanation for this hortogenetic miracle, unless the process was not one of natural selection but of artificial manipulation,” commented Sitchin, noting that three critical phases of human development—farming (circa 11,000 B.C.), predynastic culture (circa 7000 B.C.), and civilizations (circa 3000 B.C.)—occurred at intervals of 3600 years, the same period of time for a complete orbit by Nibiru.

In addition to “kingship” over crops and animals, the Anunnaki began to foster leadership in selected humans. As humans grew ever more populous, the Anunnaki realized they had to take steps to maintain control over their creation. They also desired intermediaries between themselves and the humans, whom they still considered little better than animals.

During a post-Flood assembly of the Anunnaki, it was decided to divide the Earth into four regions, with the human populations split up within these four areas: lower Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley, and the Indus Valley. The Anunnaki reserved the Sinai Peninsula—their new spaceflight center following the Flood—as their private, or “holy,” sanctuary.

Obviously, this divide-and-rule strategy for the scattered human communities required separate leaders. These were born the concept of “kingship”—human rulers especially chosen by the Anunnaki as “god” to represent them. The practice of divine kingship based on a royal lineage.
traceable to the gods is one that has impacted countries and governments up to the present day. This practice began in the Sumerian city of Kish, which Sitchin equates with the biblical Cush. Garner agreed, locating the biblical Gush east of Babylon, not in Egypt. Genesis 10:8-12 relates that Cush was a grandson of Noah and father of the legendary Nimrod, who ruled and built cities in all parts of the world. It may have been Nimrod’s attempt to thwart Enlil’s dispersion plan that led to the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel. This narrative began at Baalbek, believed a post-flood tenter for Anunnaki space shuttle operations, located in what is now Lebanon. Massive granite blocks there, called “the Trilithon” and weighing more than three hundred tons each, hint at the idea that this may have been a landing or launch pad. “The textual evidence, the geographical evidence and the physical evidence all support such a scenario that Baalbek was designed as a landing platform of the rockets of the gods,” offered Alford. An Arabic text found at Baalbek stated it was there that Nimrod and his followers tried to construct a tower, translated in Genesis 11:4 as, “... let us make a name for ourselves.” Skein, inadvertently misunderstood, was rendered by most translators as a sign for the word ‘name.’ However, it originally signified ‘that which goes up’: “Skein designates the origin of them as Anunnaki operation, originating from the word mu or the Semitic derivative shu-mu, or sham ... that by which one is remembered, evolving into ‘name.’ The original meaning of the word therefore, was originally connected with the concept of something that flies.” His explanation for the trouble at Babel was that the humans there attempted to construct their own launch tower, apparently hoping to produce their own shem or flying vehicle. “Come, let us build ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens,” they were quoted in Genesis 11:4 (New International), “so that we may
make a [shem] for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the
whole earth."

This activity only added to Enlil’s fear of human competition and made
him even more determined to break up the humans. His reaction may
have been reflected in Genesis 11:5-8 (Revised Standard), “And the Lord
came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built.
And the Lord said, ‘Whereby are these, which have all one lan-
guage, and wherein in the beginning was the word...’ So the Lord scattered
them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off
building the city.”

Soon the three branches of humankind—all descendants of Shem, Ham,
and Japheth, the three sons of Utnapishtim/Noah—were trans-
ported to the preordained locations, where different languages indeed
developed over time.

Alford theorized that Utnapishtim/Noah may have had wives repre-
senting separate racial groups. The offspring of these wives would have
been of different races, offering an explanation for the presence of the
Negroid race in Africa, Mongoloid in Asia, and Caucasoid in the Near
East.

Both the Sumerian texts and the Bible agree that Shem and his descen-
dants remained in the area encompassing Mesopotamia, Ham and his kin-
ners taken to Africa—to include parts of Arabia—while Japheth’s people
were transported to the Indus Valley, possibly becoming the mysterious
“Aryans” who suddenly appeared there in prehistoric times.

A congenial peace should have come with this dispersion, accompanied
by the growth of new cities with their newly installed kings and increased
food production. But, unfortunately, it appeared that the ancient “gods”
were no more able to produce lasting peace than were humans.

Trouble began even as the Anunnaki began to relocate their spaceflight
facilities from Sumer—now mostly underwater—to the Sinai peninsula at
a site which came to be called El Paran (God’s Glorious Place). As before
the Flood, Mount Ararat—in what is now eastern Turkey and reportedly
where the ark finally grounded—provided the northernmost landmark
for a glide path to the Sinai landing facility. This base was located on the
Thirtieth Parallel in the geographic center of Sinai, while the southern...
landmark was the two highest peaks of Mount Sinai, known respectively as Mount Catherine (8,652 feet above sea level) and the lower Mount Moses (7,500 feet). What was lacking for this glide path was a matching landmark to the west.

“There the Terrain is too flat to offer natural landmarks,” explained Sitchin, “and it was thus, we are certain, that the Anunnaki proceeded to build the artificial twin peaks of the two great pyramids of Giza.”

“The Great Pyramid of Khufu was also a space beacon,” agreed NASA scientist Maurice Chatelain, who developed the Apollo space missions communication and data-processing systems. “From high above, the pyramid is visible at a very great distance to the naked eye, and in space it shows on the radar screen much farther out because of its slanted sides that reflect radar beams perpendicularly if the approach angle is 38 degrees above the horizon. It is easy to calculate that the polished stone surface . . . is a solar reflector . . . Such a powerful reflector could have served as a beacon for the approach of a space ship and possibly has been serving for this purpose for a long time. We know that the pyramid had been painted in various colors, which could have been established to increase the reflectivity to lasers or radar beams.”

The editors of the Holman Bible Dictionary reported that “Sinai” probably came from the word meaning “shining” and was likely derived from the Babylonian god Sin. Sin was simply the Semitic name for Nannar, the Babylonian lord of the moon and sorceror of Ur, the home city of Abraham. Some researchers theorize that perhaps at some distant time the peaks of Mount Sinai also may have supported giant reflectors to aid in the triangulation of landing pilots.

Sin also was the Chaldean name for the moon, where the Sumerians claimed Enki first obtained living organisms or “seed” for his human hybrid experiments from that left over from the clash between Nibiru and the planet Tiamat. “The enormity of this single name change on human history is beyond comprehension,” declared Henry. “When the Christian interpreters came along, they repeated the story that we were born in sin. They were entirely accurate in their statement. However, they omitted the fact that this referred to the Moon, the source of our genetic material!”

Due to the destruction of the Anunnaki Mission Control Center at the Sumerian city of Nippur during the Flood and the need for a location equidistant from the glide path lines, a new control center was built at
Mount Moriah, translated as “Mount of Directing.” It was the site of the future holy city of Jerusalem, long considered a most sacred place by all major Western religions.

By the time their space-related work was completed, new generations of the Anunnaki had been born on Earth. Appearing like a script from some ancient soap opera was that which be replaced from recorded history—there are accounts of intrigues, conspiracies, and outright wars raging before and after that event. These conflicts, rebellions, and wars would eventually touch humankind, providing their first exposure to armed combat, which continues even today.

According to the Sumerian texts, Enki’s firstborn son, Marduk, gained sovereignty over the lands of Egypt and became known as Ra. It was his children, who set an example for future pharaohs by vying with each other. Their offspring, Geb and Nut, also married and were the next royal couple as well as the parents of some of Egypt’s most famous god-kings—Cher, the nearest Lo, Seth, and Nephtys, sister of Isis. As this interfamily marriage led to a succession problem solved by dividing the country. Osiris was given Lower Egypt and Seth the mountainous Upper Egypt. Unsatisfied with his apportionment, Seth began to maneuver against Osiris and thus began the legendary wars of ancient Egypt.

Following the death of Osiris, his son Horus sought revenge on Seth, who then succumbed, capturing the Sinai spaceport. Fomented that the descendants of Enki had control of the space facilities, the followers of Enlil attacked Seth’s forces. This family rivalry had been passed down through the earliest times.

Led by Ninurta, a son of Enlil, the Sinai facility was retaken. Rulership fell to the new kings of Babylon, Assyria, and Caanan, who themselves engaged in mutual conflicts. Many of these conflicts were faithfully recorded in the Old Testament, complete with obscure names and unpronounceable places which have been difficult for historians to fully understand due to the ever-changing names from one language to another.

Armed conflict, which had begun with rivalries and intrigues between the Anunnaki overlords, now was being carried on by their human followers and has turned into a conscious control mechanism along with the religious veneration of the Anunnaki, already proven to be successful in keeping the unsophisticated humans in line.
But, as is usually the case in so many wars, things got out of hand for the Anunnaki.

In a story reminiscent of Romeo and Juliet, a granddaughter of Enlil named Inanna married the youngest son of Enki, Dumuzi, with the wary blessing of both feuding families. But when Dumuzi was killed after being taken into custody by Marduk/Ra for violating the Anunnaki moral code, Inanna attacked Marduk/Ra.

To stop this conflict, Marduk/Ra was tried for Dumuzi’s death. As it could not be proven whether the death had been deliberate or accidental, it was decided to sentence Marduk/Ra to life imprisonment in a huge, impenetrable place whose walls reached the skies. Sitchin identified Marduk’s prison as none other than the Great Pyramid.

He wrote that his translations of the Sumerian texts explained that the massive well shaft within the Great Pyramid—a puzzling hand-hewed tunnel connecting the pyramid’s descending passage to its ascending passage—was dug to bypass the large granite stone which plugs the ascending passage in order to rescue Marduk/Ra after he was granted a reprieve but ordered into exile. This capture, imprisonment, and supposed death of an Egyptian god is well recorded in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Inanna, far from satisfied with this turn of events and desirous of power for herself, could only be sidetracked by being given control over another area, possibly the population in the Indus Valley. Mounded ruins representing Mohenjo-Daro, the largest city of a civilization dated back to before 2500 B.C., were first recognized on the Indus River in southern Pakistan in 1922. Although thoroughly—and strangely—decorated in some prehistoric era, the baked-brick construction of buildings and the preplanned layout of the city indicated to some researchers an obvious connection with Sumer. Alfred said the city was inhabited by a people called the Harappans, who “cultivated a sole female deity, whose depictions are stunningly similar to other images of the goddess Ishtar.”

Whether this Indus goddess was Inanna or not, she continued her quest for power, according to the Sumerian texts, eventually replacing Ninharsag among the major Anunnaki leaders. She also found a human hybrid that she used to carve out a new empire. This man was Sharru-Kin, better known as Sargon the Great. Believed to be the offspring of a human mother and an Anunnaki father, Sargon founded the Semite Akkadian dynasty about 2200 B.C., which briefly encompassed all of Mesopotamia. Recall that Sargon claimed to be, like the later Moses, “placed in a
The fall of Sargon and the Akkadian empire, Marduk/Ra slipped from exile and attempted to regain his sovereignty over Babylonia. This led to changing alliances as the forces of Nergal and Inanna lined up against those of Marduk and Nannar. Even a son of Marduk named Nergal or Enlil, joined the forces of Nannar arrayed against them, making the conflict a true civil war.

Fearing Marduk’s ambitions, the Annunaki persuaded Anu to allow the use of seven mighty weapons, now believed by many to have been tactical nuclear missiles, against Marduk/Ra. This all occurred some time before the year 2000 B.C.

It is at this point that the biblical patriarch Abraham joined the narrative. According to Sitchin, Abraham was far from just a wandering Hebrew as often popularly believed. He said that careful study of a variety of texts clearly indicated that Abraham of Ur was a ranking Sumerian. “Coming to Egypt, Abraham and Sarah were taken to the Pharaoh’s court; in Canaan, Abraham made treaties with the local rulers,” he noted. “This is not the image of a nomad pillaging others’ settlements; it is the image of a personage of high standing skilled in negotiation and diplomacy.”

Abraham also commanded armed troops, as evidenced by Genesis 14:14-16, which recorded how he took 318 “trained men” to rescue his nephew Lot and family from an invading coalition of almost 100,000

Moving with the apparent intention of striking the Sinai spaceport, these armies from the north had turned back before reaching the border of Canaan. The Israelites were then given a second chance to attack the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Siddim Valley on the southern edge of the Dead Sea after defeating the kings of the cities. It was here that Abraham’s warriors had stopped Marduk’s forces shortly before moving back south and back east. Lot was returned after his rescue by Abraham.

And it has also been suggested that the world may well have felt the first blast of a nuclear explosion.
El Paran. This feat brought praise and blessing from Melchizedek as well as a covenant with Yahweh, identified as Enlil. Alford argued that Abraham's god Yahweh, originally El Shaddai or God of the Mountains, may have been a son of Enlil named Adad, also known as Adak. According to Alford, it was this Anunnaki who later kept in communication with the chosen people through a radio transmitter-receiver named in the Bible as the Ark of the Covenant.

Boulay also saw the ark as a radio device and thought it significant that the ark had to be completed according to very precise instructions before the tablets containing the Ten Commandments were placed inside. "The tablets presumably contained the power source necessary to activate the receiver-transmitter," he wrote.

A verse in the Old Testament (Numbers 7:89) may even have described the location of the device's speaker: "When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the testimony. And he spoke with it there" (New International).

Since their Enlilite "gods" had failed to protect them from the invading coalition army, the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah may have switched their allegiances to Marduk. Whatever the reasons, Enlil and his sons, Ninurta and Adad, years later prepared to launch the nuclear missiles as an act of revenge.

But in honor of Abraham's past service, they decided to give him warning. As also described in Genesis 18, Yahweh came to Abraham and warned him that the cities would be destroyed because they had turned away from him. Evidence that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was a planned event can be found in this warning coupled with Abraham's bargaining with Yahweh, reducing the number of righteous persons for which the cities might be spared down from fifty to ten.

This foreknowledge is also evidenced by the warning of two "angels," although the original Hebrew word Mal'akhim actually only meant "emissaries." Following some trouble with the neighbors over the visitors, as quoted in Genesis 19:12-13, the pair told Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-laws, sons, daughters, or any one you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it." (Revised Standard)

Lot and his kindred fled to the mountains as instructed, but the Sory...
cataclysm reached out to his own family. According to Genesis 19:26, Lot’s wife, who had lagged behind, was turned to “a pillar of salt.” Sitchin noted that the original Sumerian word interpreted by Hebrew scribes as “salt” also meant “vapor.” Lot’s wife then was vaporized by the explosion which consumed Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot and the rest of his family may have been shielded by the crest of a hill or the like. The Sumerian text鄂ra stated one of those behind the destruction as saying, “This people I will make sudden, their souls shall turn to vapor.” In the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was common for some victims shielded from the initial blast to survive while unprotected people standing next to them were vaporized.

In the meantime, Abraham, standing miles away in the mountains, looked down and saw a column of douse smoke rising as if from a furnace. Another result of the attack may have been a breach in the wall of the Dead Sea, which not only covered the flooded cities with saltwater but created the shallow southern section of the sea below the Lisan peninsula.

Ironically, it may have been Marduk’s own son who triggered the nuclear attack, as one Babylonian text stated, “But when the son of Marduk in the land of the coast was, He-of-the-Evil-Wind [Nergal] with heat burnt the plain-land.” Evidence for the nuclear aspect of this destruction came from archaeological reports that surrounding settlements were suddenly abandoned for several centuries about 2040 B.C., and that spring water near the Dead Sea had been detected with certain harmful amounts of radiation.

Concurrent with the devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah, the Sinai spaceport also was targeted for nuclear destruction, apparently in payment for the desert spaceport’s role in working with the Babylonians against the Israelites. Other targets, unrecorded and as yet undiscovered, may have experienced nuclear detonations.

According to Sitchin, Alford, and others, the Sinai detonation produced an unnatural scarring of the peninsula, which can still be seen from space, as well as a multitude of scorched rocks and stones.

“In the eastern Sinai, millions of blackened stones are found scattered for miles of land. These stones are, without any doubt, artificial,” reported Alford. “Photographs clearly demonstrate that the rocks are blackened only on the surfaces.”
The nuclear blasts also created an unexpected and tragic aftermath. A radioactive cyclone was created, which moved northeastward through Mesopotamia, obliterating all life and ending the Sumerian civilization.

Conventional history states that mighty Sumer, which suddenly appeared about 6,000 years ago, simply vanished just as suddenly, absorbed by the new empires of Babylon and Assyria. The Sumerian texts tell a much more terrible story.

According to various "lamentations" translated by the Sumerian scholar Kramer, they reported, "On the land [Sumer] fell a calamity... one that had never been seen before, one which could not be withstood. A great storm from heaven... A land-annihilating storm... An evil wind, like a roaring torrent... A crushing storm caused by something unseen... The people, terrified, could hardly breathe; the evil wind shattered them, did not grant them another day. Minutes were measured by blood, hours wrenched in blood... The fire was made great by the Evil Wind. It caused them to be destroyed, houses to become desolate, cities to become desolate, the inhabitants to be exterminated... Sumer's rivers it made flow with water that is bitter; its cultivated fields grow weeds, its pastures grow withered plants... Thus all its gods evacuated Uruk; they kept away from it; they hid in the mountains, they escaped to the distant plains." This one great storm of radioactive fallout annihilated the world's first great civilization, leaving the bodies of the population "stacked up in heaps."

It was at this time that the detailed narratives of Sumer and its gods ceased. It would be centuries before civilization and writing once more flourished in Mesopotamia as memory of the great catastrophe faded into vague stories of the nightmare.

"What actually transpired," explained Gardner, "was that the original Mesopotamian writings were rewritten to form a base for foreign religious cults—first Judaism and then Christianity. The corrupt dogma—the new approved history—was so different from the original writings, the early Sumerian reports were labeled 'mythology.'"

It was the Anunnaki's nuclear Armageddon, with their millennia-old colony of Eden blown away. One theory was that the Anunnaki, shocked by what they had wrought, retreated to an enclave in the Sinai where most...
of them made the decision to return home, perhaps leaving behind only a caretaker force.

To humans, all this occurred in ancient times, more than four thousand years ago. To the Anunnaki, it would be just a little over a year of their time. Human survivors feel an Anunnaki rescue mission may still be on the way to earth; their time is still.

Survivors of this early holocaust faced a period of regression and barbarism. The remaining humans made the best of things and began rebuilding their civilizations; a slow process without the aid of their "gods."

Abraham and his people moved away from the devastation to the south, where he fathered Isaac at the age of one hundred years, thanks to his hybrid genes. Isaac's son, Jacob, became known as Israel; a name soon applied to his entire people. Some believe that the name Israel is nothing less than a combination of the Egyptian gods Osiris and RA and the Mesopotamian god EL.

After about thirty-five generations of Israelites had passed along oral accounts of the events above, it was finally written down in Hebrew. What happened next, as they say, is history.

COMMENTARY

It must be stressed that the preceding only begins to scratch the surface of the wealth of data now available—both archeological and in the cuneiform tablets—that supports this incredible narrative with its far-reaching implications. And none of the authors and researchers studying this subject feel they have all the facts.

Dr. Horn may have spoken for most when he wrote, "Let us make clear, once again, that we do not believe the ancient Sumerian and other Mesopotamian stories are "absolutely true" history. These stories that have come to us through thousands of years of oral tradition and writing, are bound to be somewhat distorted—probably in some cases deliberately distorted by the Anunnaki. But, I feel these ancient stories are probably as close as we'll come to the truth today."

Also understand that all of the above narrative is recounted, in one form or another, in the Sumerian texts uncovered only in the last 150 years.
years, all of which predate the Bible by at least two thousand years.

Just consider what current event will sound like two thousand years from now—the greatest nation on Earth bombing some of the smallest and weakest for no clear reasons, people starving in parts of the world while farmers are paid not to plant crops in others, businesspeople sitting at home playing electronic golf while they eat real food, and police forces ordered to arrest people who simply desire to ingest a psychoactive weed. People of that future era will also likely laugh it all off as fantastic stuff.

Yet researchers for truth cannot afford to laugh off the accounts of the Sumerian reporters who have been proven so accurate in much of their records, just as the overwhelming evidence of conspiratorial control exists.

Yet researchers for truth cannot afford to laugh off the accounts of the Sumerian reporters who have been proven so accurate in much of their records. Just as the overwhelming evidence of conspiratorial control in government, business, and the media cannot be ignored.

It is amazing that we have as much information today as we do. Sitchin expressed admiration for the conditions causing present size, shape, or something, preserved the elder knowledge as well as they did. Hearing recorded that these ancient events come to us across a bridge of time extending back for millennia, one must admire the ancient writers who recorded, copied, and transmitted the oral texts—so often as not, probably, without really knowing what they or that expression or technical term originally meant but always adhering instantly to the traditions that required a word or phrase and preserved wisdom of the copied texts. He acknowledged:

He also pointed to the internal consistency of their accounts, stating, “The statement that the first to establish settlements on Earth were siders—humans from another planet not lightly made by the Sumerians. In text after text, whenever the starting point has moved, it was always the 432,000 years before the Deluge [the Great Hood], the DIN.GIR—‘Righteous Ones of the Rocketships’—came down to Earth from their home planet.”

Outlandish as these concepts may appear to some, many people today believe strongly that in the not future the version of history will become both popular and acceptable, eventually studied and taught in universities, anthropology, and science centers. Already, humanities in university, anthropology, archology, and other subjects have only tended to support the stories of Sitchin and others.

None of this is meant to deny the existence of a universal creative force—God—the absolute All or Oneness of all energy and matter. This
modern UFO contactees and abductees uniformly tell us that even the "aliens" they have experienced claim awareness of a Supreme Being. The knowledge of this one God, who must have created the universe, also opens the way to the understanding that there is more to life than this material plane of existence. It has been secretly nurtured within all of the secret societies. Beyond any doubt, there are metaphysical—spiritual—aspects of this whole issue, but that is not within the purview of this work.

The Sumerian explanation for creation, and the origin of man, is most compelling. It is not only internally consistent but well supported by evidence from all around the world. Likewise it provides plausible explanations for some of Earth's most puzzling anomalies and enigmas. It just makes more sense than many of the theories of rationalization by past societies.

So we have arrived at the Secret of Secrets, the hidden knowledge passed down through the ages by the Mystery Schools and secret societies—not only is humankind not alone in the universe but nonhuman intelligences most probably had a hand in our creation. See Alien Agenda (HarperCollins, 1997) for an overview of the UFO phenomenon and its connections with both extraterrestrial and secret societies.

The idea of ancient advanced civilizations is really not a new one. In 1882, during a time of ignorance and total disbelief in things extraterrestrial, scholar Ignatius Donnelly in Atlantis: The Antediluvian World wrote that the gods and goddesses of ancient mythologies were actually the kings and queens of Atlantis, a pre-Flood high-tech civilization from which sprang all subsequent human societies.

Frederick Soddy, the British Nobel Prize-winning chemist who established isotopes as a geologic age determinate, in 1909 wrote, "I believe that there have been civilizations in the past that were familiar with atomic energy, and that we may see the results in the debris of the destroyed cities."

Subsequent discourses in astronomy and archeology have only reinforced our belief. For example, in 1978, Swiss author Erich von Daniken wrote immensely popular books on early extraterrestrial visitors, or Ancient Astronauts, beginning in 1969. Subsequent discoveries in archeology and anthropology have only reinforced our belief. As recently as 1994 he wrote: "The giant mother-ships of the extraterrestrials contained forty solar systems, the USA around ... discovered a wealth of alien forms of life, amongst which were our primitive ancestors. . . . The aliens themselves took one of the
creatures and altered it genetically—no longer, these days, such an unthinkable idea."

Some authors, such as Charles Fort, William Bramley, David Icke, and R. A. Boulay see humanity as little more than a herd of animals under the control of alien masters.

"Human beings appear to be a slave race languishing on an isolated planet in a small galaxy," resolved Bramley in 1989. "As such, the human race was once a source of labor for an extraterrestrial civilization and still remains a possession today. To keep control over its possession and to maintain Earth as something of a prison, that other civilization ['Custodians'] has maintained human spiritual decay, and has ensured on Earth conditions of unending physical hardship. This situation has lasted for thousands of years and continues today."

"In summary," wrote Icke in 1999, "a race of interbreeding [reptile-human hybrid] bloodlines . . . were centered in the Middle East and Near East in the ancient world and, over the thousands of years since, have expanded their power across the globe . . . creating institutions like religions to mentally and emotionally imprison the masses and sustain their control over each other."

Author Boulay opined, "Man has been conditioned for centuries to deny the truth of his ancestry and as a palliative we have developed a convenient form of amnesia. We have accepted the interpretation of history propagated by a self-perpetuating priesthood and academia."

Journalist Charles Fort in 1941 concluded, "I think we are property. I should say we belong to something: that once upon a time, this Earth was No-Man's Land, that other worlds explored and colonized here, and fought amongst themselves for possession, but that now it's owned by . . ."

Alan K. blondes argued over how the older gods might try to maintain control today. "Anyone could turn up claiming to be Jesus or Yahweh," he wrote. "On the contrary, there might be little advantage to the gods immediately announcing themselves to the masses. Sexes of their gods might be disseminated on a need-to-know basis, with only a few of the world leaders permitted to approach them. Life might appear to carry on as normal, but with a new political agenda. We might detect their presence in inexplicable events, changes in government policy, or acts of war that don't quite make sense, and perhaps an increase in government secrecy."
Other authors, such as Masons Hall and Mackey along with the Christian Webster, also traced the secret knowledge back to Mesopotamia, but they saw the division between humans and nonhumans as a metaphysical struggle between light and darkness.

In the 1920s, Webster asked, "How is it possible to ignore the existence of an Occult Power at work in the world? Individuals, sects, or races fired with the desire of world domination, have provided the fighting forces of destruction, but behind them are the veritable powers of darkness in eternal conflict with the powers of light."

Mackey stated ancient knowledge was composed of "two great religious truths"—the unity of God and the immortality of the soul. He noted that older Masonic "Constitutions" traced this hidden knowledge as "Aztec," but it is always called, from the pre-Flood father of Noah, Lantech to the legendary Sumerian leader, Nimrod, then Yosed or Naram-Sin, the Craft of Masonry at the building of the Tower of Babel, and then to the Greek geometrist, Euclid, who established it in Egypt, whence it was brought by the Hebrews into India, and there again established by David and Solomon, at the building of the Temple... it was brought into France... from France it was carried to England..."

Hall said this knowledge can be used to "step across the line which divides the true from the false, the spiritual from the material, the eternal from the temporal." He said the ancient knowledge was given to early men by "their progenitors, the Serpent Kings, who reigned over the Earth. It was these Serpent Kings who founded the Mystery Schools... and other forms of ancient societies."

It is the immense and ancient power of the knowing elite—traceable through both blood and philosophy—that has sought to usurp and control virtually every major movement toward the development of full human potential, from long before early Christianity to the New Age. Since it has been clearly demonstrated that this knowledge is very of our Earth, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City has acquired the Enfield Unearthings. From this work, there appears to be but three possibilities: The small inner elite continues to accumulate wealth and power in the hope of continuing our ancient creation (mankind's intelligence) or they have already achieved such contact and are being guided or controlled, or they are the ancient creators, the Anunnaki, the Serpent Kings.

If the Sumerian version of our history is correct, then the Anunnaki may still be here, under a variety of guises based on advanced technology...
After all, while the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah would be more than four thousand years ago to us, it would only be just a little more than a century to the Anunnaki.

Whatever the truth may be, we must be wary of leaders who attempt—whether by force, manipulation, or deceit—to move whole populations in directions they may not wish to go and might not be beneficial to all.

We must acknowledge that while many “leaders” are not in government, they may control us just as much as any petty bureaucrat because of the inordinate power they have over what we see and hear.

In the past, war and religion were successfully used as control mechanisms. Today, with nuclear weapons making large-scale war unthinkable and organized religion on the wane, economics—the power of money—has become the method of choice for control of the masses by the inner elite of the secret societies.

The bad news is that most of what has been presented in this book is true. The good news is that you are reading this, which means the centuries-old plot to control human destiny has not yet achieved total success, though the warning signs are everywhere. From the cuneiform of 3500 B.C., author George Orwell described a person at the future as “a boot stamping on a human face—forever.” Is this to be our future?

As we enter the third millennium, new thoughts, new ideas and new knowledge seem to be pushing us forward at an ever-increasing pace. We find our worldview and mindset constantly evolving into whole new patterns of understanding what are obviously extraordinary times.

In just the first few months of 1999, a national television audience was presented a variety of programming devoted to government conspiracies, UFOs, alien contact, new rooms and tunnels discovered within the Great Pyramid, and the distinct possibility of a prehistoric highly advanced civilization on Earth, with the promise of more revelations to come.

Many of us look the other way, hoping we won’t have to deal with the mind-expanding questions that new knowledge brings. We avoid those TV shows and books which are liable to upset our traditional mindset.

But it’s no use. We hear about them in office conversations, on talk shows, and even occasionally on half pages in the mainstream media. The discussion takes place whether or not prohibited or not considered socially acceptable.

So what’s to be done in this era of spiritual poverty in the midst of material wealth?
Knowledge is indeed power. It is time for those who desire true freedom to assert themselves to fight back against the forces who desire domination through fear and disunity.

This does not have to involve violence. It can be done in small, simple ways, like not financing that new Sport Utility Vehicle, cutting up all but one credit card, not opting for a second mortgage, turning off that TV channel for a good book, asking questions and speaking out in churches or synagogues, attending school board and city council meetings, voting for the candidate who has the least money, learning about the Fully Informed Jury movement and seeing it when called for, taking responsibility for one's own actions. Despite the omnipresent advertising for the so-called "legitimate government gambling"—there is no free lunch. Giving up one's individual power for the hope of comfort and security has proven to lead only to tyranny.

It is a time for truth—about our past and present, about who really rules and about what's being done to this planet in the name of progress and profit. Love your country so much that you will look past the jingoism and sound bites to starkly view the fear-inspiring depravations and corruption within the national government and oligarchy. Such truths must be made available to everyone, not just to the manipulative elitists of the secret societies.

The time for secrecy is at an end.

Don't wait for the corporate-controlled media to inform and explain. Read and listen to everything within reach and search for sources of alternative information on the Internet, in documentaries, in old library books and unconventional bookstores. Read and listen to things you normally wouldn't. Then quietly contemplate. Use that God-given supercomputer called your "brain." Perhaps more important, feel what's right within your heart, your seat, your unspoken being.

And remember: There is never one lost great idea. This one is within you and it is one of many that we are more of us than there are of them. And to keep growing knowledge daily.

This knowledge, which forms individual and collective wakefulness, must form government committees on the so-called "Supervision" If one truly desires to be free, there must first be a search for truth, without the aid of paid experts, academic snobs, media pundits, clerics, gurus, or government leaders—all of whom have their own agendas to press.

True innovators like Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and
Bill Gates did not conform their drinking to conventional wisdom. Like these men, and many more like them, each individual makes his or her own destiny. We are creative beings and would like to create the best possible world for ourselves, but this is impossible when the creative process is based on incomplete or erroneous information designed to instill fear and dissension.

There are more people today who sincerely desire peace and brotherly love than ever before. Unfortunately, those who strive for power and control actually achieve it. And they want to keep it. But the time for brute force has passed. Today, they can control the six billion members of the human community only through deceit and secrecy.

Once you have found your own heartfelt truth, that truth must be shared, so as to lift the curtain of secrecy which contributes to the ignorance, fear, and confusion of our time and create a new spirit of human tolerance and togetherness.

As recorded in John 8:32, “You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”
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