

The OCCULT REICH

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"It has been ordained by the Karma of the Germanic world that he (Hitler) should wage war against the East and save the Germanic peoples — a figure of the greatest brilliance has become incarnate in his person...whom men would regard in centuries to come with the same reverence that they had accorded to Christ." — Heinrich Himmler

Ordained, Karma, Incarnate, Christ. Words of a priest who would pretend to be a prophet. The words of Heinrich Himmler regarding his Messiah, the dark soul of Adolf Hitler. This is not poetic license, or sentimental prose, but words of devotion, ideology, an apostle's creed, of the hidden, better be forgotten, occult mythology behind the Nazi movement.

Ariosophistry and the Rise of Adolf Hitler

The German Workers Party (Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, DAP) was founded at Munich in January 1919 by Anton Drexler. Drexler was employed at the nearby locomotive factory and an associate of Baron Rudolph von Sebottendorf. The purpose of the Party was to promote German militarism, anti-Semitism, and the doctrine of racial superiority, known as ariosophistry.

It is because of Drexler's association with v. Sebottendorf, that it is believed that the German Worker's Party served as the outer political wing of the Thule Society (Thule Gesellschaft), founded by v. Sebottendorf.

The Thule Society was a secret society operating in Germany which mixed right wing politics, occultism, and Teutonic paganism into a single belief system. Sebottendorf was a self-styled aristocrat who added 'von' to his name to hide his more average origins as the son of a railway worker. Sebottendorf traveled extensively by working on a steamship and while visiting Egypt became interested in occultism, and may have been initiated into Islamic mystical practices while in Turkey. It was in Turkey that he began studying astrology, alchemy, and Rosicrucianism. In 1901 he was initiated into a Masonic lodge connected to the Grand Orient of France, a common feature among Masonic lodges in the Middle East. Nine years later,

Sebottendorf formed his own society in Istanbul, combining his previous studies, with right-wing politics and anti-Semitism.

In 1916, after returning to Germany, he contacted the Order of Germans (Germanenorden) and by the end of the war had moved to Munich and changed its name to the Thule Gesellschaft, or Thule Society. The Germanenorden was formed to oppose the perceived Jewish-Masonic conspiracy to dominate the world, a favorite theme in nationalist circles of the period.

Thule was believed to be the pre-historical homeland of the German people, a kind of Nordic Atlantis. The newly named Society continued to promote its brand of esotericism, including the return of the Hapsburg monarchy. By 1918 it had over 250 members in Munich, and almost 1,500 across Bavaria, with its headquarters consisting of several floors in the swank hotel Vierjahreszeiten.

As its symbol, the Society chose a swastika with a dagger enclosed in laurel leaves.

Thule members included the rich and the powerful from all areas of business, political, and military life. They were predominantly upper and middle class. Franz Gurtner, Bavarian Minister of Justice before and during the Nazi period was a member; as was the Munich police commissioner, and Wilhelm Frick, assistant police chief, future Minister of the Interior for Hitler.

Dietrich Eckart (1868-1923), a publisher of anti-Semitic materials, sponsored séances for prominent Society members and published the Thule Society's newspaper the "Völkischer Beobachter" or the "People's Observer." The VB was quickly absorbed and became the official organ of the Nazi Party. It was Eckart who introduced Hitler to the rich and powerful and taught him the etiquette needed for high society.

Unfortunately for v. Sebottendorf, his period of influence was over before Hitler's had even begun. By the time Hitler had obtained control of the German Workers Party Sebottendorf had resigned as head of the Thule Society. He attempted to revive the Society in 1933, and quickly fell into disfavor with Nazi authorities for claiming to be the forerun-

ner of National Socialism. After hearing of the German surrender, Rudolph v. Sebottendorf, self-made aristocrat, would be Grand Master of German occultism, and father of National Socialism, committed suicide in Turkey.

Protocols Of Zion, The Master Race And German Templars

While Hitler and Hess were in prison for the failed putsch, Alfred Rosenberg, the official Party Philosopher, lead the NSDAP from 1922-24. Rosenberg along with Eckart, were part of a plan to bring copies of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* into Germany to stir-up anti Jewish, Freemasonic, and Communist feelings.

Rosenberg believed that the Aryan race was the former priesthood of the anti-deluvian continent of Atlantis and had fled prior to its destruction; eventually settling in the Middle East, Mongolia, India, and Tibet. Rosenberg held to the earlier 19th century theosophical belief that the reason for Atlantis's destruction was that the gods were angry at the Atlanteans who were mating women with animals and creating half-breeds to use as slaves. Many of these half-breeds survived in the in the existing 'sub-human races' of the Jews, blacks, Slavs, and others. Like other Nazi and right wing Indiophiles, he saw the Hindu caste system as a shadow of the original racial divisions of pre-historical times.

Rosenberg flirted with the idea of pre-Christian Germanic paganism, asserting that Christianity was not strong enough for the German volk. In an attempt to sway those Germans who might be turned off by the elimination of the Christian churches by the Nazis, plans were made for the establishment of a National Reich Church, and Jesus was Arylanized by making him blond. His book, *Mythus of the Twentieth Century*, which outlined his esoteric, neo-pagan, racist, anti-Christianity and its relationship to National Socialism was the second best selling book in the Third Reich next to *Mein Kampf*.

However, by 1940, Rosenberg had fallen out of influence, as he simply was not brutal enough to survive in Hitler's inner circle. While given several high sounding titles, he had little power. Only his *Einsatzstab Rosenberg* (Special Section) managed to exercise any practical impact. Through his minions, Rosenberg looted the archives of dozens of occult, fraternal, and esoteric societies, and orders across occupied Europe. The stolen goods

were then shipped back to Germany for inclusion in a special "Hohe Schule" which was to be the main intellectual center of National Socialism. Among those most seriously affected in these round-ups, were the Freemasons, various Rosicrucian groups, Martinists, members of the Theosophical Society, Anthroposophists, and any group, organization, or printing house thought to have occult connections that could be used against the Nazis.

Karl Haushofer, Professor of "Geopolitics" at the University of Munich, advocated expansion into Asia in order to reclaim the original homelands of the Aryan people. It was in these lost lands that the Master Race of Aryans would reestablish their rightful place of power in the world. While a student in Munich, Rudolph Hess, future Deputy Fuhrer, met Haushofer and became his assistant. How much influence Haushofer had on Hess's occult development is unknown.

However, Hess, like Himmler, and Rosenberg, was one of the few leading Nazi's who we know had a deep and lasting interest in the occult, wherever it may have come from. While Hess would fly to Scotland on an ill-fated, and still unknown mission, and Rosenberg would fade into obscurity left to loot the esoteric lodges and libraries of Europe, Himmler would remain true to his beliefs and retain power until the end.

Heinrich Himmler despised Christianity and renounced his Catholicism in 1936 to set an example for the SS rank and file. Like Hitler, Himmler believed that after the war, they could eliminate the churches altogether. However, he admired the church's organizational structure and began to model the SS after the Jesuit Order.

Incorporating ideas of Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, Teutonic Knights, the mythos of the Holy Grail and Round Table, Himmler began to create a secret society out of the SS. This society was to form the 'elect' (auserwählt) who would serve the Fuhrer in his mission. This 'elect' would consist of only those who believed in a supreme being, called "der Uralte or Altvater" and "...in the Fuhrer Adolf Hitler whom He sent to us."

Himmler believed that he was the reincarnation of Heinrich der Lowe, Duke of Saxony and Bavaria (1129-1195) and enjoyed being referred to as "King Henry." He read and esteemed highly Buddhist, Hindu, and Zoroastrian holy scriptures along with the Eddas, and astrological writings.

Every King must have his castle and Himmler was no different. Complete with Round Table,

monastic cells, and coats-of-arms for his chosen Gruppenführer, who were the spiritual elect of the elect, the castle at Wewelsburg, near Paderborn, was to be the capital of a future SS state.

In the North Tower they were to meet at planned ritualistic intervals, and in the tower crypt an eternal flame burned. Renovated by slave labour from a nearby concentration camp, esoteric symbolism was used throughout the structure. The entire town was to be rebuilt so that it radiated out in concentric circles, with the main road forming the shaft of a spear, and the triangular castle its point. Himmler believed that the castle lay on a mystical power grid, known as lay lines by dowsers, and was the 'center of the world' (Mittelpunkt der Welt), a theme in Nordic mythology.

This ideology of revived romantic Germanic paganism was not limited to the leadership alone, although they were seen as its best and most capable. For the officers of the SS, special training schools were established known as Ordensburgen. These Ordensburgen were under Himmler's direct supervision, and as such, even higher than the previous Junkerschulen led by Reichleiter Ley, and the later "SS-verfügungstruppen." Here, ideological training was given prime importance (and the reason for higher than average SS casualties early in the war), and equinox and solstice ceremonies were celebrated along with Hitler's birthday. SS weddings were pre-Christian in design, with the married couple being instructed to sire their offspring near the tombs of fallen Nordic heroes in order for them to reincarnate. To facilitate couples in their duty, listings of preferred cemeteries appeared in SS newspapers.

Actual membership in the SS was an important ceremony in which the ring and dagger was bestowed upon the candidate. The magical ring and ceremonial dagger are two of the most important magical items in occultism, and suggest strongly the notion and symbolism of the SS as a secret society. The ring was given to those who had great devotion to the organization and its mission, the dagger as a symbol of the candidates mission, and the sword, the highest symbol of all, was bestowed only on those who were members of the innermost circle.

While many of the SS leaders saw their task as political and military, and tolerated Himmler's idiosyncrasies, it was clear to Himmler and Hitler, as it had been to Hess, and the still hopeful Rosenberg, that National Socialism was a religious,

albeit, quasi-mystical movement drawing on the inherent mythological desires of the German people.

William Shire writes, "He (Hitler) is restoring pageantry and colour and mysticism to the drab lives of twentieth century Germans." In his description of the seven-day long Nuremberg rallies, Shire states that the Nazi's were successful because they offered not only a political ideology, but a philosophical one, complete with cosmology, as well.

Blood became the rallying point of the movement. "Blood and Honour" was engraved upon the daggers and minds of the Hitler Youth. "Sieg Heil" and "Heil Hitler" were the mantras and prayers of a nation. They were sacred rituals allowing the German people to touch the supernatural. Even the Mayor of Hamburg proclaimed, "We need no priests. We can communicate direct with God through Adolf Hitler."

The most sacred relic of the movement however was the Blood Flag, carried during the ill-fated putsch in Munich. Exhibited only twice a year after 1933, it was elevated to icon status, and with its unveiling, was read the roll call of martyrs. Those initiated into the fold, were done so using the 'blutfahne' and each banner passing in succession was brought into contact with it. Like a perverse form of apostolic succession, or esoteric initiation, contact with the relic, this blood talisman, was the means of linking each member and each banner with the great stream of National Socialism.

Although used by other groups, and rooted deep in western and eastern symbolism, the swastika was picked by the Thule Society because it represented the solar myths of pre-Christian Europe. Hitler adopted it as the symbol of the Nazi Party, and a leading member of both organizations, Dr. Fredrick Kohn, presented the final version of the flag to Hitler. While sticking to the original design, Hitler turned the swastika counter-clockwise, in turn, making it the traditional symbol of death.

Even those who did not believe in the metaphysical rationale given as the force behind National Socialism, men such as Bormann, and even rank and file Party and SS men confessed to believing in a superior being, or "Gottglaublich." This "Belief in God" was required for admittance into the SS, even if its more bizarre beliefs were not adhered to, with atheism being a worse offense than receiving Christian sacraments, and cause for denial of membership or dismissal.

The Crackdowns

For those who belonged to esoteric organizations, fraternal orders with esoteric overtones, such as Freemasonry, even if the teachings were absent, or simply practiced astrology, psychics, or parapsychology on their own, life inside the Third Reich was even harsher than usual.

If Hitler was god incarnate, Himmler his priest, Hess his scribe, and the SS its disciples, then there could be no alternatives.

The first crackdowns against what were officially viewed as competing forces began in Germany itself. In 1933, the Fraternity of Saturn, a three-hundred year old occult order was shut down. In 1934, official actions against Freemasons began, and the enforcing of the so-called "witchcraft laws" against "occult manifestations" (stopped by Rudolph Hess) followed by the banning of the Anthroposophical Society in 1935, and its sister sect, the Christian League in 1941. In 1937 several of the leading occult and mystical organizations in Germany were closed down, including many smaller ones who had even helped the Nazis in their seizure of power.

One month after Hess's flight to Great Britain, in June 1941 "Aktion Hess" was undertaken across all of occupied Europe. The action was so named as it was thought that somehow occultists had influenced or tricked Hess into flying to Great Britain, resulting in his subsequent capture. Thousands of affiliated and independent occultists, publishers, and astrologers were arrested and interrogated. Special, poorly worded questions were even sent from Berlin to assist in the questioning. Many of those arrested were even forced to participate in Nazi sponsored parapsychology experiments, although morale was poor, and results negligible.

Not to be outdone by their German occupiers, Vichy French authorities were among the first to independently crack down on secret societies, particularly in Southern France, a historical center of occult activity. Here, even the Catholic Church joined in the blood letting, supporting the elimination what it has always considered heretics and undesirables.

Conclusion

Prior to the war, particularly in France, and for decades after it, much has been written and said about the occult influences behind the Nazi movement. Most of it is sensationalized fiction passed as second and third hand research and not worth

reading.

However, occult ideas did shape the formation of the National Socialist ideology, that is clear. Fortunately, they did little else, and what activity was carried out during the war, Himmler's castle, Rosenberg's *Hohe Schule*, etc., was to be of use "after a successful conclusion of hostilities." Within the Nazi movement the emphasis on ideology slid increasingly into the background, limited to research centers such as the SS-Ahnenerbe, or the persecution of non-Nazi esoteric societies, through Gestapo Section IV-B, as the war dragged on.

The failure to stop or even prevent National Socialism prior to the military conflict was a result of the inability to understand its deeper roots. National Socialism, by the admission of its creators, and denied by its prosecutors and historians alike, never was simply a political movement. It was, and continues to be, primarily a metaphysical one, with deep roots in the human psyche. Yearnings for a "Golden Age"; messiahs and saviors who free us from responsibility; promises of becoming one of the chosen, the elect who rule, and commune with the ancestral spirits and forces of the race; the need to control and be controlled, all are what lead us down the path of doom, of which National Socialism is the leading example. ●

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