

the unknown hitler: nazi roots in the occult

on april 6, 1919, in bavaria, left wing socialists and anarchists proclaimed the bavarian soviet republic. the brains of the revolution were a group of writers who had little idea of administration. life in munich grew chaotic. the counter-revolutionary forces, the whites, composed of various groups of decommissioned soldiers known as "frei corps", equipped and financed by the mysterious thule society, defeated the bavarian soviet within a matter of weeks.

many other decommissioned soldiers waited out the turbulence in barracks, pfc adolph hitler among them. after the bavarian republic had been defeated by the whites, in may, hitler's superiors put him to work in the post revolution investigating commission. his indictments injected ruthless efficiency into the kangaroo courts as he fingered hundreds of noncommissioned officers and enlisted men who had sympathized with the communist and anarchists. he was subsequently sent to attend special anticommunist training courses and seminars at the university which were financed by the reichswehr administration and by private donors from the thule society. this led to an assignment in the intelligence division of the postwar german army, to infiltrate groups that could organize the working classes while the communists were weak. on a september evening, 1919, hitler turned up in the sternecker beer hall where members and friends of the budding german workers party had gathered. he quietly listened to the presentation by engineer gottfried feder, a thule society member, who talked about jewish control over lending capital. when one of the other group members called for bavaria to break away from the rest of germany, hitler sprang into action. the astonished audience stood by while his highly aggressive remarks and compelling oratory swept through the room. after hitler had finished his harangue, party chairman and founder, anton drexler, immediately asked him to a meeting of the party's steering committee held a few days later. he was asked to join the committee as its seventh member, responsible for advertising and propaganda.

back in 1912, several german occultists with radical anti-semitic inclinations decided to form a "magic" lodge, which they named the order of teutons. the main founders were theodor fritsch, a publisher of an anti-semitic journal; philipp stauff, pupil of the racist guido von list, and hermann pohl, the order's chancellor. (pohl would drop out three years later to found his own bizarre lodge, the walvater teutonic order of the holy grail.) the order of teutons was organized along the lines of the free masons or the rosicrucians, having differing degrees of initiation, only persons who could fully document that they were of pure "aryan" ancestry were allowed to join.

in 1915, pohl was joined by rudolf blauer, who held a turkish passport and practiced sufi meditation. he also dabbled in astrology and was an admirer of lanz von liebenfels and guido von list, both pathologically anti-semitic. blauer went by the name of rudolf freiherr von seboottendorf. he was very wealthy, although the origin of his fortune is unknown. he became the grand master of the bavarian order and he founded the thule society, with pohl's approval, in 1918.

after the bavarian communist revolution of 1918, the thule society became a center of the counterrevolutionary subculture. an espionage network and arms caches were organized. the thule club rooms became a nest of resistance to the revolution and the munich soviet republic.

journalist karl harrer was given the job of founding a political "worker circle". he realized that the workers would reject any program that was presented to them by a member of the conservative "privileged" class. harrer knew that the mechanic anton drexler, who was working for the railroads, was a well-known anti-semite, chauvinist and proletarian. with drexler as nominal chairman, harrer founded the german workers party in january 1919

the german workers party was only one of many associations founded and controlled by the thule society. the thule was the "mother" to the german socialist party, led by julius streicher, and the right-wing radical oberland free corps. it published the munich observer, which later became the national observer. hitler became the most prominent personality in the party. he caused harrer to drop out, and he pushed drexler, the nominal chairman, to the sidelines. he filled key positions with his own friends from the thule society and the army. during the summer of 1920, upon his suggestion, the party was renamed the national socialist german worker party (natsdap). the new name was intended to equally attract nationalists and proletarians.

to go along with the new name his mass movement also required a flag with a powerful symbol. among many designs under consideration, hitler picked the one suggested by thule member dr. krohn: a red cloth with a white circle in the middle containing a black swastika.

hitler wanted to turn the german workers party into a mass-conscious fighting party, but harrer and drexler were hesitant, due in part to their woeful financial situation. the thule society was not yet supplying very much money and no one seemed to know how to build up a mass party. hitler arranged two public meetings in obscure beer halls, and he drafted leaflets and posters, but there was no real breakthrough.

all of this changed dramatically at the end of the 1919 when hitler met dietrich eckart. most biographers have underestimated the influence that eckart exerted on hitler. he was the wealthy publisher and editor-in-chief of an anti-semitic journal which he called- in plain german. eckart was also a committed occultist and a master of magic. as an initiate, eckart belonged to the inner circle of the thule society as well as other esoteric orders.

briefly, the creed of the thule society inner circle is as follows: thule was a legendary island in the far north, similar to atlantis, supposedly the center of a lost, high-level civilization. but not all secrets of that civilization had been completely wiped out. those that remained were being guarded by ancient, highly intelligent beings (similar to the "masters" of theosophy or the white brotherhood). the truly initiated could establish contact with these beings by means of magic-mystical rituals. the "masters" or "ancients" allegedly would be able to endow the initiated with supernatural strength and energy. with the help of these energies the goal of the initiated was to create a race of supermen of "aryan" stock who would exterminate all "inferior" races.

there can be no doubt that eckart- who had been alerted to hitler by other thulists- trained hitler in techniques of self confidence, self projection, persuasive oratory, body language and discursive sophistry. with these tools, in a short period of time he was able to move the obscure workers party from the club and beer hall atmosphere to a mass movement. the emotion charged lay speaker became an expert orator, capable of mesmerizing a vast

audience.

one should not underestimate occultism's influence on hitler. his subsequent rejection of free masons and esoteric movements, of theosophy, of anthroposophy, does not necessarily mean otherwise. occult circles have long been known as covers for espionage and influence peddling. hitler's spy apparatus under canaris and heydrich were well aware of these conduits, particularly from the direction of britain which had within its mi5 intelligence agency a department known as the occult bureau. that these potential sources of trouble were purged from nazi life should not be taken to mean that hitler and the nazi secret societies were not influenced by mystical and occult writers such as madame blavatsky, houston stewart chamberlain, guido von list, lanz von liebenfels, rudolf steiner, george gurdjieff, karl haushofer and theodor fritsch. although hitler later denounced and ridiculed many of them, he did dedicate his book mein kampf to his teacher dietrich eckart.

a frequent visitor to landsberg prison where hitler was writing mein kampf with the help of rudolf hess, was general karl haushofer, a university professor and director of the munich institute of geopolitics. haushofer, hitler, and hess had long conversations together. hess also kept records of these conversations. hitler's demands for german "living space" in the east at the expense of the slavic nations were based on the geopolitical theories of the learned professor. haushofer was also inclined toward the esoteric. as military attache in japan, he had studied zen-buddhism. he had also gone through initiations at the hands of tibetan lamas. he became hitler's second "esoteric mentor", replacing dietrich eckart. in berlin, haushofer had founded the luminous lodge or the vril society. the lodge's objective was to explore the origins of the aryan race and to perform exercises in concentration to awaken the forces of "vril". haushofer was a student of the russian magician and metaphysician gregor ivanovich gurdyev (george gurdjieff). both gurdjeiff and haushofer maintained that they had contacts with secret tibetan lodges that possessed the secret of the "superman". the lodge included hitler, alfred rosenberg, himmler, goring, and hitler's subsequent personal physician dr. morell. it is also known that aleister crowley and gurdjieff sought contact with hitler. hitler's unusual powers of suggestion become more understandable if one keeps in mind that he had access to the "secret" psychological techniques of the esoteric lodges. haushofer taught him the techniques of gurdjieff which, in turn, were based on the teachings of the sufis and the tibetan lamas- and familiarized him with the zen teaching of the japanese society of the green dragon.

from "the unknown hitler" by wulf schwartzwaller, berkeley books, 1990

the men behind hitler- excerpts from the book by bernard schreiber

thomas robert malthus (1766-1834) was an english political economist and historian who in 1796 published a book called "an essay on the principle of population" in which he said that poverty, and thereby vice and misery, are unavoidable because population growth always exceeds food production. checks on population growth were wars, famine, and diseases.

malthus's ideas had great impact, only a few asked on what his claims were actually based. yet neither malthus nor his later disciples ever managed to put forward any scientific proof for his theory. many scientists have

disproved malthus' theory and the ideology resulting from it.

however, with the book, malthus created an atmosphere which moved his adherents in 1834 to pass a new law providing for the institution of work-houses for the poor, in which the sexes were strictly separated to curb the otherwise inevitable overbreeding. this kind of philosophy urged the calling forth of drastic measures. the full title of charles darwin's famous book is not so famous: "the origin of species by means of natural selection or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life". in it he explains the development of life-forms as a struggle for existence. the result of this struggle would be a natural selection of those species and races who were to triumph over those weaker ones who would perish.

francis galton (1822-1911) was an english psychologist and a half-cousin of darwin. galton extended darwin's theory into a concept of deliberate social intervention, which he said was a logical application of evolution to the human race. he called his theory "eugenics", the principle of which was that by encouraging better human stock to breed and discouraging the reproduction of less desirable stock, the whole race could be improved.

modern racism really began with arthur count de gabon (1816-1882) who published his "essay on the inequality of human races". he wrote in of a fair-haired aryan race that was superior to all the others whose remnants constituted a tiny racial aristocracy decaying under the overwhelming weight of inferior races. a revival of his work in germany began ten years after his death by the pan-germans, an extremely nationalistic and anti-jewish group.

in 1899, gabon's disciple, houston stewart chamberlain (1844-1927), an englishman, published "the foundations of the nineteenth century", in germany. he upheld the german race to be the purest and damned the inferior races, the jews and negroes, as degenerate. from this point on, eugenics, social darwinism and racial hygiene fused into a single concept.

in 1904 the first chairs in eugenics were instituted at university college, london, followed by the establishment of the galton laboratory for national eugenics in 1907. in 1910 the eugenic record office was founded in the united states, both institutes used the research results of the galton laboratory of national eugenics to propose practical applications. eugenics was used as the "scientific" basis upon which racism was fused to politics.

eugenicists believed that the child of a mentally-ill person and a mentally healthy person would be a mentally-ill offspring. this led to a series of escalating regimens: separation from society, restraint, separation of the sexes in defective's colonies, and sterilizations. in great britain one of the leaders of the mental hygiene movement was miss evelyn fox. she had been an active member of the eugenics society before the foundation of the national council for mental hygiene, of which she was an officer and founder. among the board members was sir cyril burt, who later founded mensa, a high i.q. group which espoused eugenic principles. the mental hygiene movement drew strongly from the eugenic movements of whatever country they were in.

shortly after the turn of the century eugenic organizations were set up throughout the world. while the whole world was being prepared by propaganda for the sterilization of the insane, the adherents of mental hygiene and eugenics were preparing their next step, euthanasia. in the u.s.a., dr. alexis carrel, a nobel prize winner who had been on the staff of the rockefeller institute since its inception, published his book "man the

unknown" in 1935. in it he suggests the removal of the mentally ill and the criminal by small euthanasia institutions equipped with suitable gases.

in 1933 the nazi party rapidly consolidated its power. in june of that year, minister of the interior wilhelm frick put in motion the passage of the "law for the prevention of hereditary diseases in posterity"- the sterilization law. architect of the law was ernst rudin, professor of psychiatry at the munich university, director of the kaiser-wilhelm institute for genealog, and of the research institute for psychiatry. a separate legal system was set up consisting of "hereditary health courts", which could decree sterilization against a person's will. by 1935 the "nuremburg laws" intended to insure the racial purity of the nation and was aimed specifically at the jews.

in 1934 the institute for heredity, biology and racial research was founded at frankfurt university by professor ernst rudin's colleague at the kaiser wilhelm institute, dr. otmar freiherr von verscheur. von verscheur's assistant there was dr. joseph mengele.

in england, dr. charles killick millard, president of the society of medical officers of health, brought up in 1931 the question of voluntary euthanasia and proposed a suitable law. later he became fellow founder of the voluntary euthanasia legislation society. in 1935 lord moynihan, president of the royal college of surgeons, founded the euthanasia society .

sterilization and euthanasia were not the ideas of the nazis and never had been. they were ideas which were supported and promoted throughout the world by groups with an interest in the development of mental hygiene. germany, however, was the only country in which the political climate allowed materialization of the final goal of sterilization and euthanasia.

there is not a great deal known about "t4" compared to other aspects of nazi germany. t4 was the fuhrer chancellery and the initials came from the full address which was tiergartenstrasse 4, berlin. "project t4" was fully integrated into the organizational structure of the reich and fell under section 11b. ("mercy-death") of the chancellery of the fuhrer. four cover organizations safeguarded the project t4: the realms work committee in charge of collecting information on candidates for euthanasia from questionnaires sent to hospitals, the realms committee for scientific approach to severe illness due to heredity set up exclusively to apply euthanasia to children, the charitable company for the transport of the sick which transported patients to the killing centers, and the charitable foundation for institutional care, in charge of final disposition of the victims' remains.

at the time the questionnaires went out a number of mental hospitals were being converted for use as killing centers and schools for murder. death chambers were built disguised as shower-baths and crematoriums, which were identical to those later to be established in the death camps in poland.

schooling of the personnel at hadamar mental institution produced perfect murderers who were used to the smell of burnt flesh, had been taught to trick people being led to their death and to steel themselves against the crying and pleading of the victims. on arrival, the victims were stripped, dressed in paper shirts and forthwith taken to a gas chamber where they were murdered with hydrocyanic acid gas, and the bodies moved to crematoriums by conveyer belts, six bodies to a furnace. the psychiatrist in charge at hadamar was dr. adolf wahlmann, an active member of the german mental hygiene movement.

after the state had been relieved of the burden of these undesireables, the operation, still under the direction of eminent mental health psychiatrists in t4, was expanded under the code of 14f13. from being limited to mental hospitals and institutions, it now embraced german and austrian inmates and jews in concentration camps who were sick or invalid. at dachau at the end of 1941 a commission composed of 4 psychiatrists under professor dr. werner heyde, ss standartenfuhrer and lecturer in neurology and psychiatry at wurzburg university, arrived at the camp and selected hundred of patients incapable of work who were transported to the gas chambers and disposed of.

the extermination camps had followed a separate evolution from the concentration camps that were opened a few months after the nazi rise to power. these death camps had their headquarters, not in himmler's ss organization, but in the fuhrer's chancellory (t4). franz stangl (austrian gestapo) said at the nuremberg trials that his progression to builder and commander of the sobibor extermination camp went through the hartheim and bernberg euthanasia centers. the original staff at sobibor was taken from hartheim.

during the war eugenics became associated with the nazis and afterwards a global whitewashing began. the first step was the reconstitution of the many national councils of mental hygiene. the first was the british association for mental health. lady prescilla norman, wife of montagu norman, governor of the bank of england, had been working in the mental hygiene movement since the 20's. in 1944 they sponsored a congress held at the ministry of health in london where they established the world federation of mental health- wfmh.

the first elected president of the wfmh was dr. john rawlings rees, a british psychiatrist associated with the tavistock institute. in 1948 the wfmh was formally inaugurated at the third international congress of mental health. a vice-president of the congress was dr. carl g. jung who was described by fellow vice-president dr. conti as "representing german psychiatry under the nazis". dr. jung had been co-editor of the journal for psychotherapy with dr. m. h. goering, the cousin of marshal hermann goering.
george ivonovitch gurdjieff: proto nazi

it may be that the real key to the third reich lies buried in the history of tibet, for it was here that karl haushofer, the initiate who taught the youthful hitler, first met in literal fact the superman of nazi legend.

origins of the swastika

by 1945 the thousand year reich had become a smoking ruin. russian soldiers pressed through the rubble, fighting from house to house, from street to street in order to link up with their british and american allies who also pressed in inexorably on the heart of the dying capital. before they overran the eastern sector of berlin, these russian troops came across something very strange: vast numbers of tibetan corpses. the fact is mentioned by maurice bessy and again by pauwels and bergier, who set the actual number of bodies at a thousand. they wore german uniform, but without the usual insignia of rank.

the religion of tibet is buddhism, but like the zen of japan, it is a brand of buddhism far divorced from the indian original. many scholars prefer the term "lamaism" to distinguish between tibetan buddhism and its parent root.

the religious life of the country is concentrated in a multitude of monasteries, many of them built in almost inaccessible mountain regions. side by side with the state religion of lamaism, and flourishing particularly in the rural districts, is tibet's aboriginal religion of bon. the bon-pas follow a primitive, animistic creed, full of dark rituals and spells. if the holy lamas of the buddhist sects were looked on as personifications of spiritual wisdom, the priests of bon had a potent reputation with the common people as magicians.

the nazi leaders were attracted to tibet by those of its secret doctrines which filtered through to the west. they believed, those members of the thule group, the luminous lodge, and the various other occult organizations which helped shape the third reich, in an esoteric history of mankind. and it was in the archives of tibetan monasteries that this history was preserved in its purest form.

already, in the latter half of the previous century, intriguing hints about tibetan secret teachings had been carried to the west by helena blavatsky, who claimed initiation at the hands of the holy lamas themselves. blavatsky taught that her "hidden masters" and "secret chiefs" had their earthly residence in the himalayan region. as soon as the nazi movement had sufficient funds, it began to organize a number of expeditions to tibet and these succeeded one another practically without interruption until 1943. one of the most tangible expressions of nazi interest in tibet was the party's adoption of its deepest and most mystical of symbols- the swastika.

the swastika is one of mankind's oldest symbols, and apart from the cross and the circle, probably the most widely distributed. it is shown on pottery fragments from greece dating back to the eighth century b.c. it was used in ancient egypt, india and china. the navaho indians of north america have a traditional swastika pattern. arab-islamic sorcerers used it. in more recent times, it was incorporated in the flags of certain baltic states.

the idea for the use of the swastika by the nazis came from a dentist named dr. friedrich krohn who was a member of the secret germanen order. krohn produced the design for the actual form in which the nazis came to use the symbol, that is reversed, spinning in an anti-clockwise direction. as a solar symbol, the swastika is properly thought of as spinning, and the buddhists have always believed the symbol attracted luck. the sanskrit word "svastika" means good fortune and well being. according to cabbalistic lore and occult theory, chaotic force can be evoked by reversing the symbol. and so the symbol appeared as the flag of nazi germany and the insignia of the nazi party, an indication for those who had eyes to see, as to the occult nature of the third reich.

THE CONTROVERSY OF THE OCCULT REICH
By John Roemer

This article is transcribed from an issue of Gnosis Magazine.
One hundred years after Adolf Hitler's birth near Linz in Austria on April 20 1889, and decades after his malign empire metastasized in Bavaria in Bavaria, the Hitler phenomenon remains to mainstream

historians largely inexplicable, or at least unexplained. The man and his awful work seem to stand outside history looking in. Perhaps our human fear of the irrational is so great that we instinctively hold Hitler at a great remove in order that we need not admit him to our company.

In light of this it isn't very surprising that an extensive literature exists seeking an occult rationale for the otherwise baffling catastrophe Hitler represents. As Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier point out in the *MORNING OF THE MAGICIANS* (1960), the Nazi era simply defies conventional analysis:

A self taught madman, surrounded by a handful of megalomaniacs, rejects Descartes, spurns the whole humanist culture, tramples on reason, invokes Lucifer, conquers Europe, and nearly conquers the world... The historian begins to feel anxious and to wonder whether his art is viable.¹

Pauwels and Bergier were among the first postwar proponents of a black magical explanation for the Third Reich.^{1a} About a quarter of their book is devoted to a region they call "The Absolute Elsewhere," a neverland where Nazi pseudosciences and occult methodology held official sway. They quote a Hitlerian pronouncement to demonstrate that the Fuhrer's intellectual development was on a level wholly different from that understood by the Western tradition: "there is a Nordic and National Socialist science which is opposed to Jewish-Liberal science".² Reality was defined by politics.

Nazi "science" has brought hoots of derision from those who hold to the Cartesian model. In place of psychology there was an occult frappe composed of the mysticism of Gurdijeff, the theosophy of Madame Blavatsky and the archetypes of Nordic mythology.³ In place of Newtonian physics stood the cosmic force called vril, the bizarre geology known as the hollow earth theory, and the frigid cosmology of Hans Horbiger's *Welteislehre*, the doctrine of eternal ice.

Nazi thought excluded psychoanalysis, which has in fact been not very helpful in explaining the etiology of great evil, although Robert G.L. Waite's effort, quoted above and published in 1977 by Basic Books, is good on several provocative subjects: Hitler's sadomasochistic sex life; the possibility he had a Jewish grandfather; and his Viennese mentors, who are described at greater length by the authors about to be mentioned.

Nazism officially rejected the theory of relativity as "Jewish science". Not only Freud but Einstein too was forced to flee Hitler's Europe. He and other physicists eventually were able to ensure that atomic secrets remained in the hands of the allies until they could be used spectacularly to climax the Pacific war.

Horbiger's physics derived from an intuitive flash he experienced late in the nineteenth century. "... As a young engineer," he wrote, "I was watching one day some molten steel poured on wet ground covered with snow: the ground exploded after some delay and with great violence."⁴

This conflict of opposites, of fire and ice, is a theme that inspired Horbiger and resonated for German nationalists because it recurs in the Icelandic Eddas, the sourcebooks of Teutonic mythology. It all makes good sense in Iceland, since that island's

peculiar geology feature numerous volcanic rifts in the permafrost; fire and ice are commonly juxtaposed all over the landscape. As grounds for a cosmology- the word implies universality- it is at best dubious. It would be a hard sell in Hawaii. Nevertheless, Nazi science was influential out of all proportion to its objective validity. Hoerbiger was immensely influential in the Third Reich. His followers numbered in the tens of thousands. There were scores of Horbigerian books, hundreds of Welteislehre pamphlets, and a monthly magazine called THE KEY TO WORLD EVENTS. As one tract put it,

Our Nordic ancestors grew strong amidst the ice and snow, and this is why a belief in a world of ice is the natural heritage of Nordic men. It was Austrian, Hitler, who drove out the Jewish politicians, and another Austrian, Horbiger, (who) will drive out the Jewish scientists. By his own example Hitler has shown that an amateur can give us a thorough understanding of the Universe.⁵

Hitler's fatal confidence in the success of his troops on the Russian front during the 1941 - 2 winter is generally believed to have been a result of his misplaced faith in Horbiger's weather forecasts. Despite such setbacks, the Welteislehre managed to thrive even after the war. The popular speculations of Immanuel Velikovsky derive in part from Horbiger. In 1953 a survey conducted by Martin Gardner showed that more than a million people in Germany, England, and the U.S. believed that Horbiger was right⁶. The Horbigerian cosmology posited an early epoch, some fifteen million years ago, during which a huge moon moved across the sky very near the earth. Its gravitational attraction gave rise to a race of our ancestors, the giants. These giants, which appear in the ancient Norse and Icelandic sagas, sleep, yet they are alive. To the Nazis, they were Supermen. In one set of myths, contained in the Nibelungenlied, they lived beneath Teutonic mountains. In another they were prototype Aryans from the East, inhabiting vast Tibetan caverns.

Three other books that investigate hidden influences on Gerald Suster's HITLER: THE OCCULT MESSIAH; Jean-Michel Angebert's THE OCCULT AND THE THIRD REICH; and Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke's THE OCCULT ROOTS OF NAZISM⁷.

Suster's book largely rehashes Pauwels and Bergier. Angebert (actually a pen name for two French writers) interestingly links Hitler to an ancient dualist tradition he traces from Manichaenism in Persia through the Essenes, Jesus's Palestinian forebears, to the Cathars in the south of France in the Middle Ages. It's philosophy in which, in its Nazi incarnation, solar forces of light represented by blond, fair-skinned Aryans strive against the evil forces of darkness, who are of course dark skinned Semites. Both books, but especially Suster's are written in prose that stops just this side of tabloid journalese. This is too bad for two reasons. One, the authors diminish some important material by this kind of presentation. Two, the lessons we have to learn about mass psychopathology and about the history of fascism are too important to be trivialized in this way.

Goodrick-Clarke's is a serious and compelling historical look at ariosophy, a dangerous amalgam of Aryan racism, pan-German nationalism, and occultism that flourished in Austria and Germany

from around 1890 well into the era when Himmler's Death's Head SS was organized. Himmler is said by Pauwels and Bergier to have taken the Jesuits for his model, and to have installed a regular hierarchy ranging from lay brothers to father superior, and to have used this Black Order in horrific rites.⁸

THE OCCULT ROOTS OF NAZISM identifies wide circle of proto-Nazi philosophers, previously almost unknown, who saw in the chaos that beset Germany after the Treaty of Versailles the working out of ancient Aryan prophecies. Among them was Rudolf John Gorsleben, whose interesting career Goodrick-Clarke sums up in a sentence: "on the basis of the runes, occultism, and the Edda, Gorsleben created an original racist mystery-religion which illuminated the priceless magical heritage of the Aryans and justified their spiritual and political world-supremacy."⁹

Gorsleben was active in right-wing politics in Bavaria in the years Hitler was forming his political convictions there, and he lectured to the Thule Society, a Munich club thought to have greatly influenced Nazism in its infancy (see below). He also edited a weekly newspaper called German Freedom; in 1927 he changed the name to Aryan Freedom.

He derived the word 'race' from rata, an Old Norse term meaning 'root', in order to conclude that God and race were identical.... He maintained that racial mixing was always detrimental for the racially superior partner, since his purity was debased in the progeny, and he repeated the common volkisch [folkish] conviction that woman could be 'impregnated' by intercourse, even when no conception occurred, so that her subsequent offspring bore the characteristics of her first lover. Given these overwhelming pressures towards the increasing bastardization of the German descendants of the Aryan race, only the strict practice of segregation and eugenics could guarantee the reversal of racial contamination in the world.¹⁰

Another book which holds that Hitler learned many of his occult lessons from avatars in Vienna and Munich may well be the best known black magical explanation of Nazism to have been put forth so far. Trevor Ravenscroft's THE SPEAR OF DESTINY was published by that famous British house of occultism, the aptly named Neville Spearman Ltd., in 1972, and has since gone through many editions.¹¹

Ravenscroft is intriguing because instead of reporting historical influences on Hitler, he presents secret history in a narrative form that purports to be factual and that-if true maybe even if only poetically "true"-goes a long way toward finding a convincing occult explanation for the Nazi phenomenon.

Two challenges to Ravenscroft's facts, discussed below, have led some readers to conclude his book is more nearly a novel than strict history. Nonetheless, its provocative premise and fluent synthesis of black magical thematics will keep it on occult booklists until a better effort at explaining Hitler comes along. Ravenscroft, a British journalist, historian, and World War II commando officer, spent four years in Nazi prison camps after he was captured attempting to assassinate General Erwin Rommel in North Africa in 1941. His personal perspective on the Hitler era is based on material he says he got in a state of transcendent consciousness while imprisoned. He introduces his methodology by speaking of

my own experience of higher levels of consciousness

whilst in a Nazi Concentration Camp during the war, and how the nature of this transcendent experience had guided me to a study of the Spear of Longinus and the legend of world destiny which had grown up around it.¹²

Later, in London, his intuitive suspicions about certain grail relics and their importance in occult Hitlerian history were confirmed by a Viennese exile called Dr. Walter Johannes Stein who died in 1957.

Dr. Stein spent much of the war as a British secret agent, but before that time he was a scholar who employed white magical means to clairvoyantly investigate historical events. It was his book on the grail mythos published in Stuttgart in 1928 and titled THE NINTH CENTURY: WORLD HISTORY IN THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY GRAIL¹³ that attracted Ravenscroft to him.

THE SPEAR OF DESTINY focuses first on Hitler's lost years in Vienna from 1909 to 1913. During that time, Ravenscroft writes, Dr. Stein was pursuing his occult researches as a student at the University of Vienna and getting to know Hitler, then a dropout living in a flophouse.

Vienna was during Hitler's years there a vortex of modern thinking. Freud was in practice at Berggasse 19; Ludwig Wittgenstein was in residence pondering avant garde philosophy and metaphysics; Gustav Mahler had returned home to die and to name his protege, Arnold Schonberg. In contrast there persisted the deep anti-Semitic currents that had caused Mahler to convert to Catholicism, that forced Freud eventually to flee to London and that informed the ancient pan-German folkoric nostalgia espoused by Guido von List.

This old black magician, whose occult lodge Ravenscroft says substituted the swastika for the cross in perversion and the practice of medieval thaumaturgy, looked like a wizard in floppy cap and long white beard. His link to Hitler was allegedly through an occult bookseller, Ernst Pretzche, in whose shop the future Fuhrer found a second home.

In the shop Dr. Stein found a copy of Wolfram von Eschenbach's PARZIVAL, the medieval grail romance that Dr. Stein was himself researching for his work on the ninth century. In the book's margins were handwritten annotations; looking them over Dr. Stein was fascinated and repelled:

This was no ordinary commentary but the work of somebody who had achieved more than a working knowledge of the black arts! The unknown commentator had found the key to unveiling many of the deepest secrets of the Grail, yet obviously spurned the Christian ideals of the Knights and delighted in the devious machinations of the Anti-Christ. It suddenly dawned on him that he was reading the footnotes of Satan!¹⁴

The footnotes, of course, proved to have been Hitler's. Soon afterward, Dr. Stein and Hitler saw the Reich's lance together in the Imperial Museum at the Hofburg. Dr. Stein had been there before and had never failed to be moved by the sight of the old relic, supposed to have been moved by the original spear with

which the Roman centurion, Longinus, pierced the side of Christ during the crucifixion. Longinus was a German, and his "spear of destiny" was fated to play a magical role in the careers of German leaders like Charlemagne, Otto the Great, and Frederick Barbarossa. Dr. Stein said the spear inspired in him the emotion expressed in the motto of the knights of the holy grail: Durch Mitleid wissen, "through compassion to self knowledge."

Then he glanced at Hitler:

Walter Stein found he was not the only one moved by the sight of this historic spearhead. Adolf Hitler stood beside him, like a man in a trance, a man over whom some dreadful magic spell had been cast... The very space around him seemed enlivened with some subtle irradiation, a kind of ghostly ectoplasmic light. His whole physiognomy and stance appeared transformed as if some might Spirit now inhabited his very soul, creating within and around him a kind of evil transfiguration of its own nature and power.¹⁵

Latter Hitler took Dr. Stein up the Danube to visit his mystic teacher, a rustic woodcutter and herbalist named Hans Lodz "who retained in his peasant's blood the last traces of the atavistic clairvoyance of the ancient Germanic tribes" and who "resembled a mischievous yet malevolent dwarf from the pages of Grimm's Fairy Tales or an illustration from a book on ancient Germanic folklore".¹⁶ The men took a swim in the river at which Dr. Stein noticed that Hitler had only one testicle.

It was Lodz, Dr. Stein learned, who had prepared for Hitler a peyote concoction that afforded him psychedelic insight into his past lives. The peyote itself had come from Pretzche, who had lived for a time in the German colony in Mexico. Hitler had hoped that his former existences, viewed in his drug trance, would include an early incarnation as a powerful Teutonic ruler, but it was not to be.

Instead his psychedelic perception revealed non Eschenbach's Parzival to have been prophetic of events that would take place a thousand years after it was written, i.e. in the present. And it showed Hitler to have been the historical personage behind the evil sorcerer Klingsor, the very spirit of the anti-Christ and the villain of Parzival.

According to Dr. Stein's work Klingsor was in fact Landulf II of Capua, the traitorous confidant of the Holy Roman Emperor who betrayed Christianity to the Moslem invaders of Italy and Spain. Armed with the knowledge of his black spiritual ancestry, Ravenscroft writes, Hitler moved to Germany, joined the Bavarian Army, survived the hellish trench warfare on the western front, won the Iron Cross, second class, and got discharged in Munich where he encountered the men who were to invent National Socialism. Virtually every study of Hitler's time in Munich mentions the Thule Society as superficially a kind of Elk's Club of German mythology which met often and openly at a fancy metropolitan hotel and for a time counted Hitler as a member. Behind the scenes, however the society seems to have been considerably more sinister. Robert Payne whose excellent Hitler biography contains no occult explanations, describes the Thule Society as the center of the right wing opposition to the brief Bavarian postwar socialist coup under the Jewish intellectual Kurt Eisner.

The reaction set in swiftly, as the extreme right gathered its forces. The headquarters of the reaction was the Hotel

Vierjahreszeiten, where several floors were given over to the Thule Society, ostensibly a literary club devoted to the study of Nordic culture but in fact a secret political organization devoted to violent anti-Semitism and rule by an aristocratic elite. The name of the organization derived from Ultima Thule, the unknown northern land believed to be the original home of the German race... The symbol of the Thule Society was a swastika with a dagger enclosed in laurel leaves.¹⁷

Most of the occult historians of the era believe the Thule Society operated on a deeper level still, a level headed by a mysterious figure called Dietrich Eckart. Goodrick-Clarke calls Eckart Hitler's mentor in the early days of the Nazi Party, along with Rudolf Hess and Alfred Rosenberg.¹⁸

According to Ravenscroft, Eckart, like Hitler, first achieved transcendence through psychedelic drugs. Research on peyote by the German pharmacologist Ludwig Lewin had been published in 1886, leading to widespread popular experimentation. Later a heroin

addict, in earlier days Eckart used peyote in the practice of neo-pagan magic in Berlin. He came to believe that he, too was the reincarnation of ninth century character. In his case it was Bernard of Barcelona, a notorious betrayer of Christianity to the Arabs and a black magician who used thaumaturgy to hold off Carolingian armies in Spain.

Eckart assertedly organized Kurt Eisner's assassination and personally chose Hitler-by then a battle-scarred veteran of the horrors of trench warfare and a fervent critic of the armistice-to lead the Aryan race back to supremacy.

Ravenscroft writes that Hitler had been prepared for satanic initiation by his experiences in Vienna with peyote and with the spear and by his mustard gassing in 1918, which left him blind and in a state of enforced trance for several days.

He also says that the techniques Dietrich Eckart used were in part derived from the sexual magic of Aleister Crowley. In 1912 this famed British magician was named IX British head of a secret Berlin lodge called Ordo Templi Orientis which practiced various forms of sexual magic.¹⁹

Ravenscroft writes "there can be little doubt" that both Crowley and Eckart conducted deep studies of the Arabian astrological magic performed by Klingsor's real life counterpart, Landulf II. It was to Sicily-then a Moslem stronghold-that Landulf fled after his traitorous links to Islam were disclosed. And it was in a dark tower in the mountains of the southwest corner of that island that his evil soul festered with additional bitterness over his castration by the relatives of a noblewoman he had raped. There he practiced sadistic satanism of a nature that foreshadowed the horrors of Nazi concentration camps.

If the legends that have come down from these dark centuries of European history are true, these rituals carried out at Kalot Enbolot included terrible tortures such as the slitting open of the stomach of sacrificial victims and the slow drawing open of the stomach of sacrificial victims and the slow drawing of their entrails, the driving of stakes through the orifices of their bodies before disembowelling

them, and the invoking of Spirits of Darkness (incubi) to rape young virgins kidnapped from their families.²⁰

It was from his studies of the power available to practitioners of such perversities that Eckart devised the rituals he used when he "opened the centers of Adolf Hitler to give him a vision of and a means of communication with the Powers." Ravenscroft concludes, though he declines to furnish the full details: "Suffice it to say that they were indescribably sadistic and ghastly." ²¹ Having done his worst, Eckart soon died, proudly advising those around him:

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 of 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.²²

Not unnaturally the question rises whether any of THE SPEAR OF DESTINY is true. It's certainly a great story, one which Ravenscroft elaborates with a lengthy investigation of Hitler's sex life, in which he makes a case for associating the reports of the Fuehrer's missing testis to the perversities resulting from Landulf's castration.

The problem lies with Ravenscroft's primary source, Dr. Walter Johannes Stein. And the problem with Dr. Stein is really two problems: one his method of historical research: and two, the fact that he is dead and unable to speak for himself.

Given his method, of course, this second problem should not be insurmountable. Had we the technique, Dr. Stein could presumably verify each of Ravenscroft's assertion for us from beyond the grave. For Dr. Stein is alleged to have studied history not in the libraries and archives that are the usual haunt of the historian but in an arena called the Cosmic Chronicle where, according to Ravenscroft, past present and future were united in a higher dimension of time.

What's more Ravenscroft reveals in his introduction, Dr. Stein taught the same techniques to him.

It is, however, undeniably difficult, if not unprecedented, to footnote clairvoyance. We have to take on faith that the SPEAR OF DESTINY is what Dr. Stein told Ravenscroft. This is not to say that all of his information came from the Cosmic Chronicle; Dr. Stein as we have seen is purported to have been present in Vienna during Hitler's lost years there. Nor did their close association end in Austria. Ravenscroft says Dr. Stein "watched at close quarters" the founding of the Nazi party and Hitler's association with Eckart and other sinister mentors.

When Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler ordered Dr. Stein's arrest in Stuttgart in 1933 in order to press him into service with the SS Occult Bureau, he escaped from Germany and brought with him to Britain the most authoritative knowledge of the occultism of the Nazi Party.²³

Nowhere does Ravenscroft made it clear whether he's talking

about eyewitness knowledge on Dr. Stein's part or about the sort of information to be gleaned from the Cosmic Chronicle. But two critics of the SPEAR OF DESTINY do cast doubt on several of the factual assertions upon which Ravenscroft's argument is built.

One is Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, whose book on the occult roots of Nazism is quoted above. In an appendix called "THE MODERN MYTHOLOGY OF NAZI OCCULTISM", Goodrick-Clarke takes Ravenscroft to task for the story about Hitler's relations with the occult

bookseller in Vienna and for his claim that Guido Von List was forced to flee from outraged Viennese Catholics in 1909 after the sexual rites of his blood brotherhood were exposed. he writes flatly,

There is not a shred of evidence for such rituals. List was never obliged to leave Vienna and he enjoyed the patronage of prominent Vienna figures...The fictional nature of the whole episode surrounding the annotated copy of copy of Parzival is suggested by the similarity of Pretzsche's obscure bookshop to the one described by Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton in ZANONI (1842), which probably served Ravenscroft as a literary model.²⁴

Goodrick-Clarke also criticizes Jean Michael Angebert's book, THE OCCULT AND THE THIRD REICH, cited above. He brands as imaginary Angebert's account of the young Hitler's association with Lanz von Lebenfels.

As noted earlier, Goodrick-Clarke's book is an important and serious piece of research on Guido von List and Lanz von Lievenfels. But the author seems a little over-sensitive toward other writers who invoke his two subjects. Nevertheless, his critique of Angebert and Ravenscroft, though brief, does offer a glimpse of the misgivings that professional historians feel regarding such material.

More extensive criticisms have been offered by Christoph Lindenberg in his review of THE SPEAR OF DESTINY in the German journal Die Drie. Lindenberg has done some effective digging at the Vienna Records office. Ravenscroft has Hitler sitting high up in the cheap seats of the Vienna Opera House in the winter of 1910 - 1 watching Wagner's Parzifal and sympathizing with Klingsor. This proves to have been impossible, because Lindenberg learned that the first performance of Wagner's opera took place three years later, on January 14, 1914.

Ravenscroft's second mistake was to name the Viennese bookseller who introduced Hitler to drugs. "No better name occurred to him than Pretsche, popular among English writers of fiction for German malefactors," Lindenberg writes scornfully before revealing that extensive checks of Vienna city and business directories and police records for the years 1892 through 1920 were negative for the name in question.²⁵

Next, Lindenberg takes issue with Ravenscroft's description of the Danube trip Hitler and Dr. Stein took in May 1913, to visit the mystic woodcutter, Hands Lodz:

We can overlook Ravenscroft's mistake of speaking of "Wachau" as a place and not of the region which really it is. But the details do not fit: the snow melting in May, the

steamer running in spite of the floods, bathing in the river- it makes no sense. Certainly wrong is the statement that Hitler had only one testicle... all this has been completely refuted by [Werner] Maser.²⁶

Ravenscroft's account of Hitler's circumstances in Vienna also come in for some heavy criticism. Dr. Stein reportedly sat in a window seat in Demel's Cafe, reading the anonymous marginalia in the copy of Parzival he'd found and concluding they were "the footnotes of Satan" when he looked through the glass and beheld "the most arrogant face and demonical eyes he had ever seen". This was of course the future Fuehrer in his legendary guise as an impoverished pavement artist, selling homemade postcards, dressed in a big black "sleazy" coat, his toes visible through the cracks in his shoes. When in August, 1912, he sought Hitler out at the "flophouse" he lived in , in Meldemannstrasse, he was told Hitler was away at Spittal-an-der-Drau collecting a legacy left him by an aunt. Thereafter, Hitler dressed well.²⁷

Hitler did receive a legacy from his aunt, Johanna Poelzl, Lindenberg reports. But this happens in March, 1911, and the aunt lived in Spital-with-one-t, not on the Drau but in southern Austria. Furthermore,

At no time of life did Hitler live in impoverished conditions, rather he had always sufficient money. In the Meldemannstrasse, a kind of large hotel, Hitler paid a rent of 15 Kronen a month. So he could afford a fairly expensive room and had no need to sell his pictures, which in any case were no postcards. So this scene too, that impoverished Hitler dressed in an oversized black coat selling water colors in front of the Cafe Dehmel does not agree with the facts either (cf. the two works by Werner Maser who with incredible care collected all ascertained facts of Hitler's youth).²⁸

In his discussion of the holy lance's power to evoke transcendent experience, Ravenscroft has a scene in which the chief of the German general staff, Helmut von Moltke, visited the relic in the company of Conrad von Hoetzendorf, an Austrian general, shortly before the outbreak of World War I. The spear's presence led von Moltke to have a trance vision of himself incarnated as Pope Nicolas I, a ninth century pontiff concerned, like von Moltke, with the balance of geopolitical power between east and west.²⁹ Untrue protests Lindenberg. "For Moltke visited Vienna neither in 1913 nor in 1914. Conrad and Moltke met on May 12, 1914 at Karlsbad, from September 7 - 10, 1913, in Silesia, and at Leipzig on October 18 at the Centenary of the Battle of Leipzig. They had no other meeting."³⁰

Lindenberg has several other criticisms to make, such as the assertion that "A number of people who intimately knew Walter Johannes Stein in the last years of his life state that Stein never met Hitler." Unfortunately Ravenscroft's aversion to footnotes has also afflicted his critic, and Lindenberg nowhere names these people nor does he document his other assertions.

Lindenberg doesn't like Ravenscroft's book; he calls it " a pollution of our spiritual environment." And it is manifestly difficult for him or anyone to rebut research done on the cosmic

level.

What, in the end, was Hitler all about? Perhaps no better explanation can be found than W.H. Auden's suggestions, made in his poem "September 1, 1939" and printed as an epigram to Robert G.L. Waite's book. The date is the beginning of Hitler's Blitzkrieg against Poland:

Accurate scholarship can
Unearth the whole offence
From Luther until now
That has driven a culture mad,
Find what occurred at Linz,
What huge imago made
A psychopathic god:
I and the public know
What all schoolchildren learn,
Those to whom evil is done
Do evil in return.