

Ledeen's Beloved 'Universal Fascism': Venetian War Against the Nation-State

by Allen and Rachel Douglas

Seeing Michael Ledeen named, in *La Repubblica's* Oct. 25-27 "NigerGate, the Grand Deception" series, as a conduit of the now notorious fake documents used in launching the Iraq War, comes as no surprise. To anyone familiar with the career of neo-conservative propagandist and off-and-on U.S. government official Ledeen, and his campaigning for war with Iraq and, next, Iran, it would have been a shock had he *not* surfaced in that connection—especially since the venue of the forged documentation on Saddam Hussein's imagined search for yellowcake in Niger was Italy, Ledeen's old stomping ground.

As "Resident Scholar in the Freedom Chair" at the American Enterprise Institute, which is the neo-cons' Temple of Doom in Washington, D.C., Ledeen is well known for promoting the permanent war/permanent revolution policies of the recent period's "Cheney cabal."¹ Earlier, over the past quarter century, Ledeen was a protagonist of some of the most spectacular intelligence episodes of that era, including the Iran-Contra international gun- and drug-running cartel, and cover-ups on behalf of the perpetrators of the terrorism and assassinations that rocked Italy during the Strategy of Tension in the 1970s, including the 1978 assassination of Prime Minister Aldo Moro and the 1980 Bologna train station massacre.

All too often, the activities of Ledeen and the Cheney cabal are portrayed to the gullible as merely the expression of one among several factions within the U.S. government, or the intelligence community, or the Establishment as a whole. They profile themselves as super-patriots, or hard-liners against terrorism. And, since Project Democracy got going in the 1980s,² Ledeen talks in terms of worldwide "democratic revolution," language that likewise turns up in the scripts handed to George W. Bush to read.

But the writings and career of Michael Ledeen open the window onto what lies behind, and drives the Cheney clique. It is the Synarchy, exposed in the *Children of Satan* series of pamphlets, issued by the LaRouche in 2004 Presidential campaign committee last year.³ It is a desire to eliminate mod-

ern nation-states, and any vestige of the real American System, from the face of the Earth, in favor of a financier-run, fascist world empire. Its roots are in Venice, the Venice where the descendants and other heirs of ancient Rome's self-destroyed oligarchy set up their system of usury, manipulation, and betrayal, attempting to perpetuate their wealth and power.

Ledeen is famous for his 1972 book, *Universal Fascism*.⁴ By no means is he merely an academic who became enamored of an abstract notion, "universal fascism," and then "went into the field," so to speak, to implement it. Most everything in Ledeen's career and in his writings, from his early treatise on the Italian fascist Gabriele D'Annunzio to his ongoing conjured Ouija-board dialogues with deceased spy-master James Jesus Angleton, through which Ledeen presents his regime-change-for-Iran campaign and other schemes in *The National Review Online*, marks him as a classic *operative* of the Venetian type: a skinnier version of Parvus, a century later.⁵

An American patriotic intelligence officer in the first decades of our Republic—say, James Fenimore Cooper, whose 1831 novel *The Bravo* cut right to the heart of Venetian intelligence operations—would not have missed what we were dealing with in Ledeen. But the ability to discern a British or Venetian operation, alien to the heart and soul of the United States of America, was attenuated over time, as some of Britain's imperial operations to take back its former colonies by subversion from within, succeeded, especially after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.⁶ By the middle of the 20th Century, a Synarchist banker, Allen Dulles, was able to incorporate defeated fascists into NATO and related American intelligence networks in the post-World War II period.⁷ And in the late 20th Century, Roy Godson could organize a project called "Intelligence Requirements for the '80s," which launched an intensified campaign to revamp U.S. intelligence

1. "Cheney Revives Parvus 'Permanent War' Madness," *EIR*, Sept. 23, 2005.

2. *Project Democracy: The 'Parallel Government' Behind The Iran-Contra Affair* (*EIR* Special Report: April 1987).

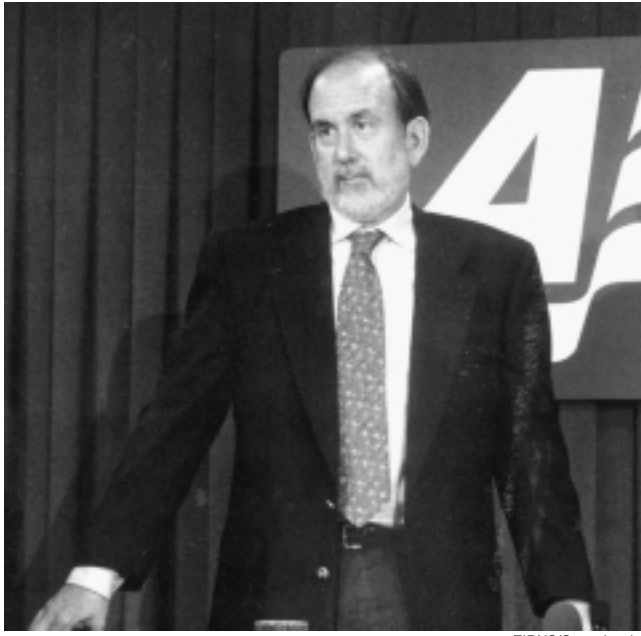
3. Issued in book form as *Children of Satan* (Lyndon LaRouche PAC: August 2004).

4. Michael Arthur Ledeen, *Universal Fascism* (New York: Howard Fertig, 1972).

5. On Alexander Helphand (Parvus), see Note 1.

6. Lyndon LaRouche, "A Strategic View of European History Today: Globalization, the New Imperialism," *EIR*, Oct. 28, 2005.

7. Allen Douglas, "Italy's Black Prince: Terror War Against the Nation-State," *EIR*, Feb. 4, 2005.



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Michael Ledeen, who saw the American Constitution as a betrayal of the American Revolution, expressed his fascination with fascism, which would “sweep away . . . the decadence of Western civilization in its nationalist and capitalist aspects, as well as in its most ancient and solemn one, Christianity.”

along the lines of imperial Venice.

Michael Ledeen was a contributor to one of the books that came out of Godson’s circles, *Hydra of Carnage*, in which Prof. Adda Bozeman wrote, “Since the mind of Venice seems reincarnated in the minds of the editors of this volume, and since the position of Venice in the world environment from the Thirteenth to about the Seventeenth Century is not unlike that of the United States today, I do not hesitate to follow some Venetian guidelines.”⁸ These currents in American intelligence and national policy, which Ledeen distills in their relatively purest form, are a noxious import, alien to the founding principles of our Republic!

We can look at them in more depth, through the writings of Michael Ledeen and “where he’s coming from”—Venice.

Fascismo Universale

From his student days at the University of Wisconsin in the early 1960s, Ledeen was picked up and sponsored by Anglo-Venetian financier circles, some of the very men, or their next-generation heirs, who had launched World War I and organized the fascist regimes that followed. Prof. George Mosse, who mentored Ledeen at Wisconsin (but later maintained that his pupil had gone overboard in his embrace

of the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini), directed him to Italy in 1965, where he was adopted by two senior figures. One was Renzo De Felice, dean of postwar “universal fascism” studies, and the other was Count Vittorio Cini, former Minister of Communications in Mussolini’s wartime cabinet. The fabulously wealthy Cini, a top-ranking Venetian oligarch (founder of the Cini Foundation), had been an intimate, a self-described “fraternal friend,” of Count Giuseppe Volpi di Misurata, head of the “Venetian group” in Italian politics and industry, who was Mussolini’s Finance Minister in 1925-27, and the real architect of the Mussolini regime.

To assist Ledeen in his studies of fascism, Cini and De Felice opened the doors for him to the freemasonic archives in Rome and Venice, archives that have a security-clearance system tighter than that of many governments.

Under this patronage and out of these studies, Ledeen authored or co-authored articles and books that promoted a revival of fascism, but in a new, improved form. “It does not seem unreasonable to argue that fascism contained potentialities and that it might well have developed in another direction” (than Mussolini’s “foreign adventures” and alliance with Hitler), Ledeen wrote in *Universal Fascism*. That book was named after a tendency in 1920s fascist Italy called *fascismo universale*, whose adherents made certain criticisms of Mussolini. Giuseppe Bottai and other of the “young fascist intellectuals,” lionized by Ledeen in his book, had been sponsored by Count Cini, like Ledeen himself, only several decades earlier; the Cini Foundation’s own glowing biography of its founder tells how in the 1930s “Cini established contacts with various elements oriented towards ‘dissidence’ within Fascism.”

The new, universal fascism would return to its revolutionary roots, shorn of the limiting, nationalistic elements of the Mussolini, Hitler, or Franco regimes. The essence of fascism, the creation of an entirely new man in a crucible of endless war and revolution, had been “betrayed” by these nationalist fascisms, but what the movement should have become, could be seen in earlier experiments, such as the French Revolution’s Terror. In this argument, readers of *Children of Satan* will recognize the Synarchists’ “Beast-man” project, rooted in the militarist Martinist freemasonic cult of the Jacobin Terror and Napoleon’s dictatorship.

In the introduction to *Fascism: An Informal Introduction to Its Theory and Practice*,⁹ a joint composition, consisting of an interview of De Felice by Ledeen, Ledeen wrote, “Renzo De Felice has been called everything from ‘soft on Mussolini’ to ‘depraved’ and has been accused of trying to ‘rehabilitate fascism.’ . . . De Felice claims that the Fascist movement was linked to a Western radical tradition going back to the days of the Terror of the French Revolution. Fascism, he argues,

8. Adda Bozeman, “Political Warfare in Totalitarian and Traditional Societies: A Comparison,” in Uri Ra’anan, et al., *Hydra of Carnage: International Linkages of Terrorism* (Lexington Books, 1986).

9. Renzo De Felice and Michael Arthur Ledeen, *Fascism: An Informal Introduction to Its Theory and Practice* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Books, 1976).



Count Vittorio Cini, a Venetian oligarch and former minister in Mussolini's Cabinet, opened the doors for Ledeen to the ultra-secret freemasonic archives in Rome and Venice.

contains both a well defined theory of human progress and a conception of the popular will that ties it to the extremist Rousseauvian themes of the Terror and the 'totalitarian democracy' that it spawned."

In *The Illuminati and Revolutionary Mysticism, 1789-1900*, De Felice had traced fascism to the freemasonic lodges that organized the Jacobins in the 1789 French Revolution. De Felice neglected to mention some essentials, such as British Lord Shelburne's sponsorship of those Martinist lodges, which was aimed at preventing the American Revolution from spreading to France, our ally during the just-concluded Revolutionary War. But he captured other essentials, saying that fascism was, and is, a "revolutionary phenomenon," aimed at overthrowing all nation-states. Therefore he called the fascist regimes of the mid-20th Century inter-war period a "betrayed revolution." In the interview book with Ledeen, De Felice argued for permanent revolution:

De Felice: "But all revolutions have been betrayed. . . . Trotsky wrote *The Revolution Betrayed*."

Ledeen: "Just as the American Constitution betrayed the American Revolution."

De Felice: "Exactly."

De Felice trumpeted his support for the truly Satanic Martinist credo of endless violence and terror, the credo of the Beast-man: "I have always had a certain taste, a psychological and human interest in a particular kind of personality that is both cold-blooded and Luciferian. There is something in common between my Jacobins and a certain kind of Fascism" (from *The Illuminati and Revolutionary Mysticism, 1789-1900*).

De Felice thought that while, "Twenty or thirty years ago, fascism was too recent an experience, it was still too hot a subject, and an objective, scientific analysis was impossible," now (in the 1970s) fascism could be appreciated as a "revolutionary phenomenon," which, if returned to its roots, could usher in "a new phase in the history of civilization." Elsewhere in the *Fascism* book, Ledeen expressed his fascination with "the act of destruction which would precede the flowering of the new fascist hegemony," and would "sweep away the . . . dross of Western civilization, . . . the decadence of Western civilization in its nationalist and capitalist aspects, as well as in its most ancient and solemn one, Christianity."

De Felice and Ledeen both harped on the need to study the early, revolutionary days of fascism, in order to comprehend the true, universal fascist spirit. In illustration, Ledeen wrote his 1975 book, *D'Annunzio, the First Duce*, a glorification of the first 20-Century experiment in fascist government, led by Italian poet and war hero Gabriele D'Annunzio, who took over the Adriatic Sea port city of Fiume (today Rijeka, Croatia) in 1919 and ruled it as a corporate state for a year and a half. Fiume served as a model and inspiration for Mussolini. Italian fascist trademarks like the raised-arm salute, black shirts and fezzes, and force-feeding of castor oil to torture or kill opponents, were pioneered in D'Annunzio's Fiume. The sponsors of D'Annunzio's Fiume adventure, such as Volpi and his associates, subsequently created the Mussolini regime, beginning with Mussolini's "march on Rome" in 1922.

Ledeen glowed with enthusiasm for D'Annunzio's attempt to create the "new man" of fascism, and for his Dionysian call to destroy the cultural and philosophical underpinnings of nation-states:

"The revolt headed by D'Annunzio was directed against the old European order, and was actualized on behalf of the creativity and virility of youth, which was supposed to give birth to a new world, modeled on the image of its creators. The essence of such a revolution was liberation of the human personality, what can be called the 'radicalization' of the masses. . . . It was the ability of D'Annunzio to convince his own followers that they belonged to a spiritually 'higher' reign that made him such a powerful and important political phenomenon."

D'Annunzio argued that the spirit of this Nietzschean superman was the ancient god Dionysus, and that the purpose of a Dionysian, fascist world order was to destroy the image of Prometheus, which had animated mankind since before Classical Greece. Thus, to appreciate what Ledeen and the Cheney cabal intend for civilization today, we begin with the Fiume experiment. The road from Fiume, in turn, leads deep into the bowels of Venice, where the Anglo-Dutch model of imperial financier rule, born there in opposition to the 15th-Century Golden Renaissance, continued to flourish in the period of the fascism so admired by Ledeen.



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Venice's imperial symbol of the winged lion has its origins in the cults of ancient Babylon. On the left is a Babylonian engraving; on the right, a statue in Venice.

Fiume: Dionysius vs. Prometheus

For an understanding of Fiume, we must raise the curtain on the stage where Synarchist financial and industrial circles operated in turn-of-the-century (19th to 20th) Europe. Walter Rathenau, chairman of Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft (AEG) and a business partner of Volpi, put it this way in 1909: “Three hundred men, all of whom know one another, direct the economic destiny of Europe and choose their successors among themselves.”¹⁰

The Synarchist syndicate included a group of Venetian financiers, centered around Count Piero Foscari, member of an old dogal family (one of those from which, in earlier times, Venice's top oligarch, the Doge, used to be drawn). The Venetian group's chief public figure was Giuseppe Volpi—financier, industrial magnate and freemasonic leader.¹¹

By 1905, Volpi held a commanding position in Italy's electricity industry, among many other endeavors. With financing from Giuseppe Toeplitz, head of the Venice branch of the Synarchist Banca Commerciale Italiana (BCI), Volpi and his associate Dannie Heinemann attempted to create a worldwide electricity cartel. Heinemann controlled the most powerful South American electricity trust, as well as the famous Barcelona Traction, Light and Power (later taken over by Juan March, model for the “shepherd boy” assassin character in Robert Ludlum's novel *The Matarese Circle*). Later, in 1922, Heinemann would be the single largest funder of Count

Coudenhove-Kalergi's fascist Pan-Europa Union at its founding. BCI itself had been created under agreements struck by Italian Prime Minister and freemasonic grandmaster Francesco Crispi with other of Europe's most powerful banks.

This Europe-wide financier cartel sponsored freemasonic lodges all across the continent, and in the Balkans and the Ottoman Empire, following the tradition of financier-sponsored freemasonry, established in 16th-Century Venice. The official international head of freemasonry in the last decades of the Nineteenth Century, until his death in 1910, was the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, who was also the chief architect of World War I. He oversaw a theosophical, Luciferian turn in established Masonry and related societies, typified by the 1884 founding of the Quatuor Coronati lodge, which sponsored the Satanist Aleister Crowley, and by the activities of Madame Blavatsky, Bertrand Russell, and H.G. Wells.

Volpi's group, too, was directed by Edward VII, and was in the middle of all the freemasonic revolutions and assassinations in the Balkans and Istanbul, which were crucial in igniting World War I. Another top leader in Italian freemasonry was BCI's Toeplitz, the major financier to back D'Annunzio's Fiume project. Toeplitz's son described his father's bank: “By the time of World War I, Papa had brought the bank to a solid position in Italy, with the creation of a vast network of branches in the Balkans, Turkey, Egypt, France, London, South America and the U.S., and had put it on a level with the outstanding banks of the world.” From the turn of the century, BCI took control of most of the Italian electrical, steel, shipbuilding, and chemicals industries. Toeplitz hosted a famous salon in Venice, which was frequented by Contessa Anna Morosini, the “uncrowned Queen of Venice,” at whose palazzo the yacht of Kaiser Wilhelm II was often moored.

Through Toeplitz, in particular, BCI was synonymous with Martinist freemasonry. (Later, after World War II, the infamous Propaganda Due, or P-2, lodge would be founded on its premises.) Before converting to Catholicism, Toeplitz had been associated with the Donmeh cult, whose members

10. The industrialist Rathenau, an architect of the April 10, 1922 Rapallo Treaty between Germany and Russia, was assassinated on July 24, 1922. The banking oligarchy feared the Rapallo Treaty for its potential to undercut their own Treaty of Versailles, which had set the stage for the looting of Germany, the emergence of fascist regimes in Europe, and, ultimately, World War II. Rathenau was in the middle of the Synarchy, but not “of it.” The Synarchy does not forgive those, like President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whom they view as traitors to their class. See Lyndon LaRouche, “Remember Walter Rathenau,” *EIR*, June 17, 2005.

11. Allen and Rachel Douglas, *The Roots of the Trust* (unpublished research report, *EIR*: 1987).

were followers of Sabbatai Zvi, the Venetian Levant company's Jewish agent in the Ottoman Empire, notorious as a "false messiah" at the time of his death in 1676. Zvi's associates were given a choice: convert to Islam, or be put to the sword. Among those who converted, many took on "Turkish/Islamic" coloring on the outside, but remained "Jewish" on the inside. In reality they were neither Islamic nor Jewish, but constituted a gnostic cult that believed salvation could only be obtained through the most heinous of sins. The freemasonic Donmehs were at the core of the Young Turk movement, which seized power in the Ottoman Empire in 1908, and they were closely associated with D'Annunzio and his Fiume project.

As a freemason, a hero of World War I, and a Classically trained, but Satanic poet, D'Annunzio was chosen by the Venetian group to lead the first fascist experiment after the war. He was a member of a Martinist Masonic lodge, with the pseudonym "Ariel" and the Masonic degree of *Superiore Incognito* ("Higher Unknown").¹² The Martinist rites are founded upon "magic violence" and a belief in "progress" through torture, death, and destruction, as specified by the leading early 19th-Century Martinist, Count Joseph de Maistre, and otherwise exemplified by the Martinist-led French Terror and Napoleon.

The titles of D'Annunzio's works exude the Martinist death cult: *Triumph of Death*, *Contemplation of Death*, and *The Innocent*, which glorifies a man who kills his wife. D'Annunzio had received a Jesuit education, early on revealing the philosophical bent of his later years, according to a report from one of his priests: "When somebody speaks of God with him he goes mad. . . . He said that God created man to make him suffer." Already as a young poet, he wrote that he aimed to exalt the senses of man, and to "destroy the ancient Classicism." The cultural circles in which D'Annunzio travelled worshipped Nature, Love, Blood, and the Earth.

The chief characters in his Nietzschean books were always modelled on himself. In a work called "Praise Be to the Heaven, to the Sea, to the Earth and to the Heroes," D'Annunzio developed a theme that would run through all his efforts, namely that technology and progress are evil, while the ancient values associated with Zeus must be revived. In poetic form, he told of a young poet who goes to Greece to discover the "ancient values." On a peak during a thunderstorm, he invokes Zeus, who tells him to be an apostle for the truth. Confused, the poet asks Zeus what he means. Zeus replies that he must celebrate the cult of Dionysus in all



Gabriel D'Annunzio, glorified by Ledeen, led the first 20th-Century experiment in fascism, avowing that the purpose of a Dionysian, fascist world order was to destroy the image of Prometheus.

his poetry, and that only through the submission of man to Dionysus, will Zeus again become Lord of the Earth. This will mean the end of history, and, specifically, the obliteration of even the very notion of a Platonic "idea."

This was the D'Annunzio, whose takeover of Fiume in 1919-1920 Ledeen hailed as "in many ways a great success."

Mussolini, Volpi, and Martinist Corporativism

Michael Ledeen's books do not stress economics, opting rather for an emphasis on the "new," the "heroic," and the "virile" in the fascist political ideologies. Let it never be forgotten, however, that these agendas were attached to an underlying one, according to which corporatist social organization should serve the ultimate interests of an oligarchical bankers' dictatorship.

Working primarily through Volpi, the London-centered international Synarchist cartel financed Mussolini's seizure of power, once again under the ideology of Martinism. As outlined by the late 19th-Century French Martinist Saint-Yves d'Alveydre, the organization of society must be corporatist, in order to prevent the relationship of employer and employee from being that of "oppressor and oppressed." Saint Yves proposed to set up corporatist councils to represent the people and advise governments, as the kernel of Martinism. Under Volpi's direction, from his position in the ruling Grand Council of Fascism, then as Finance Minister, and finally as head of the Fascist Confederation of Industrialists, this is precisely what Mussolini did. For good measure, he adopted the fasces, the Roman axe, as the symbol to signify his regime as a rebirth of the Roman Empire in the new, fascist form.

Volpi, in a typical speech from 1937, when he was head

12. Gastone Ventura, *Tutti gli uomini del martinismo (All the Men of Martinism)* (Edizioni Atenor, 1978).

of the Fascist Confederation of Industrialists, repeated the Martinist credo:

“Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen:

“. . . We must nevertheless refer briefly to the foundations on which our economic growth is based. Of these the most important is the corporative organization now universally recognized at the most characteristic achievement of the Fascist regime.

“ ‘Corporatio’ is an old Latin word, but the Fascist ‘corporation’ is something radically different from that known to the ancients, which was a trade society formed for strengthening and protecting its members, quite regardless of any collective interest. The Fascist corporation is profoundly different, for it brings together all the factors engaged in production, conciliating class interests within each branch of industry and the interests of the several branches within the nation. . . . Thus, side by side with the activities assigned them by law, the corporations perform a most valuable work of persuasion and education among the producing classes, they create a moral atmosphere, and form and strengthen in each and all that corporative mentality which is essential to make regulations effective. . . .

“The reform of the Chamber of Deputies and the formation of the Chamber of the Fasci and the Corporations, as approved by the Grand Fascist Council, will insert the corporations in the legislative machinery of the State, increasing their legislative powers and heightening their political and constitutional prestige.”

The Fiume and Mussolini experiments give some sense of what Ledeen is promoting. Their sponsors also launched Europe into its bloodiest wars, World War I and World War II.

Volpi Helps Prepare World War I

In the first two decades of the 20th Century, the BCI-centered Venetian group around Volpi and Foscarini was most active in the Balkan powder keg, which would detonate World War I. These Balkan-centered Venetian activities are usually left out of the history books, which is like omitting Michael Ledeen from the story of how the Cheney cabal unleashed its “permanent war” policy at the outset of the 21st Century.

A vignette reported by the British Labour Party figure, C.H. Norman, testifies that the British, French, and Venetian freemasons’ agenda was world war. “Somewhere about the year 1906,” Norman wrote, “I was invited to attend a meeting of Englishmen for the purpose of discussing a proposal to form an English Lodge of the Grand Orient. . . . The Lodge was ‘to be engaged in propaganda on behalf of the Entente Cordiale.’ . . . With this apparently innocent object I found myself in sympathy. But, nevertheless, I decided to discover whether it was all its benevolent programme intended. To my astonishment I found the Grand Orient was about to embark upon a vast political scheme in alliance with the Russian Okhrana, which could only be brought to fruition



Count Giuseppe Volpi di Misurata, head of the “Venetian group” in Italian politics and industry, was Mussolini’s Finance Minister. He emphasized that corporatist economic organization was “the most characteristic achievement of the Fascist regime.”

by a terrible European War.”¹³

Giuseppe Volpi established his main base of operations in the Balkans in the tiny principality of Montenegro, which had for centuries had been a Venetian fiefdom on the eastern shore of the Adriatic. In the words of one of Volpi’s biographers, “. . . in a few years, from 1903 to 1909, he transformed Montenegro into a real Venetian colony, with all the characteristics of the epoch in which the procurators of the Republic used to recruit crews for the ships and groups for the garrisons on *terra firma*.”¹⁴

From Montenegro, Volpi oversaw the 1903 coup in Serbia, in which King Alexander and Queen Draga of the Obrenovic Dynasty were assassinated, and the pan-Slavist, anti-Austrian Karageorgovic Dynasty came to power. Volpi even went to work in the new Serbian regime, becoming Serbia’s vice-consul in Venice. With good reason, “Vienna

13. M. Edith Durham, *The Sarajevo Crime* (London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.: 1925).

14. Fabrizio Sarazani, *L’Ultimo Doge: Vita di Giuseppe Volpi di Misurata* (Milan: Edizioni del Borghese: 1972), p. 40.

followed the Venetian's actions with suspicion."¹⁵ Aside from the 1908 Young Turks' coup, the 1903 coup in Serbia was the single most important event in the Balkans before World War I. It set the stage for the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 and the June 1914 assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. The Serbian intelligence operative Col. Dragutin Dmitrievich-Apis was effectively Volpi's agent in the 1903 assassination. In 1914, Apis coordinated the assassination at Sarajevo.

The Young Turks' coup was recounted in our recent article.¹⁶ Most important, in the present context, is that the core "Young Turks" came from the Venice-generated Donmeh cult, as did Volpi's financial wizard, Toeplitz. This Donmeh lineage of the Young Turks was captured by one British intelligence operative, who complained, "Every time I go to meet with the Young Turks, I get fobbed off on an old Jew." The "old Jew" was the business partner of a freemasonic co-conspirator of both Volpi and Parvus, grain trader Emmanuel Carasso. Volpi himself was present at the Ottoman Bank in Istanbul, when the Young Turks' coup took place, opening wide new avenues for his business and political intrigues in the Balkans. His representative in Istanbul, Bernardino Nogara, would later become the top controller of Vatican finances, in the wake of the 1929 Concordat between the Vatican and Mussolini; later, some of Nogara's protégés were leading figures in the P-2 lodge.

Volpi's Montenegro operations gave him leverage into Russia. The Venetians owned Montenegro's King Nicholas and debt-encumbered playboy Crown Prince Danilo, lock, stock and barrel, having extended numerous loans to them when their credit with other lenders was in ruins. King Nicholas was called "the father-in-law of Europe." One of his daughters had married King Emmanuel III of Italy, while two others married Russian grand dukes. These were the "Montenegrin princesses," who became notorious at the Russian court, for their role in the fall of the Tsar. As confidantes of Tsarina Alexandra, the Montenegrin princesses orchestrated an endless parade of freemasonic weirdoes, mystics, and holy rollers through the palace. Among the latter was the notorious Martinist leader and spiritist, Papus, whom the Montenegrins then supplanted with Rasputin. Montenegrin Princess Anastasia's husband, the Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolayevich, was a leading figure in the "war party" within Russia: he promoted the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, okayed the Sarajevo assassination of 1914, commanded Russian forces during the first, disastrous year of World War I, and then went on to head the exile wing of the British/Soviet intelligence operation called the Trust, after the war and revolutions he had done so much to unleash.

15. *Ibid.*

16. See Note 1.

Another of Volpi's interlocutors in Montenegro was General N.M. Potapov, the Russian military attaché there in 1903-14. Potapov trained the Montenegrin Army, which had a role to play in the Balkan Wars, and then provided financing and training for the freemasonic assassins of Archduke Ferdinand. When World War I broke out, Potapov was promoted from the apparent backwater posting in Montenegro, to become Quartermaster of the Russian Army and then chief of Russian military intelligence. After the Bolshevik Revolution, he led purges of the Tsarist military apparatus, then became the first Soviet Red Army Chief of Staff, and military head of the Trust.

Rounding out the Balkans picture, Volpi and the Venetian/Sicilian mafia that dominated Italian foreign policy fueled the Italo-Turkish War of 1911, which fed into the Balkan Wars the next year.

Ledeem and SISMI

The faked "Niger yellowcake" documents came through SISMI, the Italian military intelligence agency, where Michael Ledeem's ties go way back.

World War II, the climax of London's and the Volpi group's war and fascism projects, had not even ended, when Allen and John Foster Dulles and their operatives in the U.S. intelligence and the military—people like Ledeem's future séance interlocutor James Jesus Angleton—started to revive fascism, in its non-nationalist, "universal" form.

Angleton inherited the contacts of his father, Hugh Angleton, a businessman based in Italy in the 1920s and 1930s, and an intimate of the Mussolini regime. James Jesus Angleton was in charge of most U.S. intelligence operations in Italy, from the second half of World War II, through his sacking as CIA counterintelligence chief by Director of Central Intelligence William Colby in 1974. He was involved in the implantation of an extensive fascist network within Italy's military and intelligence organizations, an apparatus later subsumed into the P-2 freemasonic lodge, which was reinvigorated around 1970. These Angleton people, with backing from Synarchist networks inside NATO, were to be instrumental in launching the terrorism of the Strategy of Tension in Italy, from the late 1960s through 1980, and then in cover-ups to conceal its mechanisms.¹⁷

One of Angleton's key operatives, already during World War II, was Valerio Borghese, the "Black Prince," who was to lead a pro-fascist coup in 1970. Angleton reportedly travelled to Italy for the occasion. The biographers of Borghese describe his concept of universal fascism, entailing plans for a Europe free of nation-states, but unified under NATO or

17. Claudio Celani, "Strategy of Tension: The Case of Italy," in *The Synarchist Resurgence Behind the Madrid Train Bombing of March 11, 2004* (LaRouche in 2004: June 2004), provides an overview of the terrorism and cover-ups in Italy's Strategy of Tension.

other pan-European bodies: “Fascism in the postwar era was different from its pre-war variety. Although it had splintered into many different factions, it had two powerful drives. One was that it was anti-communist. It was this element that made Borghese acceptable to the mainstream parties and national secret services. He was ultimately pro-NATO, as was the rest of this wing of fascism. The other one was the realization that in the postwar environment no single European nation could stand up to the two superpowers, and hence, that *Europe* would be a third force. That is, Europe would be ‘opposed to the twin imperialisms of international communism and international finance capitalism, both of which were perceived as being materialistic, exploitative, dehumanizing.’ . . . It was from this faction, too, that many of the acts of terrorism of the ‘Black International’ sprung.”¹⁸ (Emphasis in original.)

Federico D’Amato, head of the secret UAR section of the Italian Interior Ministry, was another of Angleton’s recruits. He let Borghese’s men into Interior Ministry buildings to seize weapons, on the night of the 1970 coup attempt.

It was into these Angleton networks, and not only into the boardroom/drawing room circuit of Count Cini, that Michael Ledeen stepped in 1965. Two decades later, Italian intelligence insiders would give testimony that points to Ledeen as the inheritor of Angleton’s machine.

D’Amato testified in 1986 that, as of 1980, he had already known Ledeen “for many years.” Available evidence shows Ledeen as highly active in Italy between the mid-1970s and at least 1982. Among his top contacts in that period, according to their own testimony, were D’Amato and businessman Francesco Pazienza, a P-2 member. According to many accounts, P-2 boss Licio Gelli was another.

That was the time period that saw the kidnapping of Aldo Moro on March 16, 1978 (and his subsequent murder), just as his long-standing goal of a broad-based, stable government with the support of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) was about to be achieved; the Aug. 2, 1980 “Bologna Massacre” train station bombing, in which 85 people died; the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981; and the demise of P-2 banker Roberto Calvi, who turned up dead, hanging from the Blackfriar Bridge in London on June 17, 1982, evidently the victim of attempts to cover up P-2’s financial activities.

Again and again, Italian magistrates, and the witnesses testifying before them, mentioned Ledeen as on the scene to “spin” these events.

Pazienza testified to a hands-on role of Ledeen. The two had worked together since 1978. Magistrates who judged the Bologna train station bombing case, and the role therein of P-2 and its SISMI and other assets, found that Ledeen had

18. Jack Greene and Alessandro Massignani, *The Black Price and The Sea Devils: The Story of Valerio Borghese and the Elite Units of the Decima Mas* (Cambridge, Mass.: Da Capo Press: 2004).

first introduced Pazienza into SISMI, where he rose to a top leadership position. P-2, meanwhile, controlled much of SISMI itself, but also operated what Italian officials called a Supersismi, or sometimes “the parallel SISMI,” which went beyond the formal organs of the SISMI proper. On trial in 1986-88 for spreading false versions to conceal the real authors of the Bologna massacre, Pazienza testified:

“The Supersismi was not a structure, but a kind of organization. I was called to collaborate with SISMI in January 1980. . . . I cannot name the names of my collaborators [in the Supersismi], but given that one name has already come out, I have no problem in saying that among them was Michael Ledeen, who was there even before I arrived, and continues to collaborate with the service—so much so, that I came to know with absolute certainty that, in 1985, he was receiving all the investigative-judicial material concerning the investigation for the attempt against the Pope.”¹⁹

The Italian investigations found that the cover-up of the Bologna massacre’s authorship was orchestrated through P-2 and its assets in SISMI (and elsewhere). P-2 boss Gelli and Ledeen’s agent Pazienza were both sentenced for their roles. Magistrates at the Bologna trial stated that “Pazienza’s position inside SISMI was of absolute prominence. . . . He was in charge of contact with agents. Among them was the American agent Michael Ledeen..”

The Temple Mount Plot

The ongoing plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque atop Haram Al Sharif (Temple Mount) in Jerusalem, if it came to fruition, would trigger religious warfare on an incalculable worldwide scale. The footprints of old Venice and its associated highest, Satanic levels of international freemasonry are all over the project. So it was fitting that a very close associate of Michael Ledeen, his wife, figured in this picture.

EIR investigators of the Temple Mount plot discovered three principal protagonists in 1982-83, aside from the Christian and Jewish fundamentalist networks who hoped to trigger the Battle of Armageddon and usher in the Messianic age. The three were Edoardo Recanati, who was buying up land for the purpose of resettling Palestinian East Jerusalem with Jewish fundamentalists; Barbara Ledeen, working as an editor at the *Biblical Archeology Review* (*BAR*), who exclaimed about the plan to rebuild Solomon’s Temple (right where the mosque now stands), “That’s my baby!”; and Dr. Asher Kaufman of the elite Quatuor Coronati Lodge in London, the “research lodge” of world freemasonry. As the investigation unfolded, a source close to Recanati confirmed that Eduardo “was from an old Venetian banking family, but he doesn’t want to talk about it.” (Members of the Recanati family were

19. See Note 2.



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest shrines. Michael Ledeen and his wife, Barbara, have been propagandists for the ongoing "Temple Mount" plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock and trigger religious warfare throughout the Muslim world.

leading freemasons in Volpi's Salonica circles before World War I.) The physicist Kaufman, it emerged, had been sent to Jerusalem on behalf of Quatuor Coronati, by one of Quatuor Coronati's top figures, Dr. T.E. Allibone, a senior figure in the Royal Society and one of Britain's preeminent nuclear physicists, who served for 30 years as the "Lord of the Manor" of Britain's top-secret Aldermaston nuclear-weapons lab.

Soon after *EIR* blew the whistle on the plot, *BAR* fired Barbara Ledeen. Michael co-authored a *New Republic* article with her, to justify their involvement in the plot.²⁰

In the mid-1990s, *EIR* received warnings of a reinvigorated plot to rebuild Solomon's Temple. New investigations led to two men: Spencer "Spenny" Douglas David Compton, Seventh Marquess of Northampton and day-to-day head of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE, world freemasonry's "mother lodge") on behalf of its Grand Master, the Royal Family's Duke of Kent, and Prof. Giuliano di Bernardo, whom the UGLE and Northampton sponsored to found a new Italian grand lodge after the P-2 debacle. Di Bernardo, who socializes with Northampton on the canals of Venice, published his book *Rebuilding the Temple* (in Italian) in 1996. He has proclaimed that "the rebuilding of the Temple is at the center of our studies," while his lodge has held freemasonic

20. Barbara and Michael Ledeen, "What Do Christian and Jewish Fundamentalists Have in Common? The Temple Mount plot," *The New Republic*, June 18, 1984.

ceremonies in the Grotto of King Solomon, adjacent to the Temple Mount.²¹

Venice and the Neo-Cons

Adda Bozeman's eagerness "to follow some Venetian guidelines," quoted at the beginning of this article, dramatizes how alive the Venetian imperial tradition is in the minds of Michael Ledeen and his neo-con friends.

In her writings in favor of introducing Venetian methods into U.S. practice, Bozeman went on to advocate the use of "other agencies" than nation-states, because in a post nation-state era, these would be more relevant for effective intelligence warfare, just as they were for the Byzantine, Venetian, or other empires. These "other agencies" were to include certain Shiite brotherhoods, religious cults of all kinds, and other formations typical of the "pre-Western culture of major sections of the world, particularly the Middle East and Asia."

Ledeen agrees with her on those Venetian methods. There was a scandal in

1986, when William Phillips chose Ledeen to write a manifesto-like article on "the meaning of National Interests" for *Partisan Review*. Even that publication's communists-turned-right-wingers revolted against Ledeen's naked arguments that democracy was passé, that there was a need for "breaking the law from time to time," and that changes were needed in the law that "prohibits American officials from working with murderers" and in the "executive order, dating from 1975, prohibiting any official of the American government to conduct, order, encourage, or facilitate assassinations." Ledeen said that Congress could not be trusted on such matters, since Congressional oversight would inhibit "those few persons who are seeking to advance the national interest of the United States." Thus Ledeen foreshadowed the Cheney cabal's more recent attempt to twist Sen. John McCain's arm to exempt the CIA from McCain's amendment, drafted after Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, to forbid the United States from conducting torture.

Warned Ledeen, "One cannot conduct foreign policy with more than 500 secretaries of state." Clearly an un-American system of rule by "those few persons," closed oligarchical committees running policy in secret behind the scenes, like the Venetian Council of Ten, would suit Ledeen better.

21. *Who Is Sparking a Religious War In the Middle East?* (*EIR* Special Report: December 2000).