

Profile of Central Europe's oligarchy: the Wittgenstein family

by Vivian Freyre Zoakos, European Editor

The *Executive Intelligence Review* has been informing its readers for some time that, appearances notwithstanding, the world is run by an international oligarchy composed at the highest levels of families who trace their noble or semi-noble identity back through generations. These families, who share in common a racist, feudal outlook, control enormous financial and cultural (ideological) power which affords them a level of leverage over international affairs that is a substantial multiple of the actual, concrete power they can call their own.

I recently had the opportunity, while on a trip to West Germany, to meet with representatives of the peculiar species known as "the hereditary oligarchy". Among them were the two Princes zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, a family of the South-Central State of Hesse that is one of the powers behind the German non-ferrous metals market. The Wittgenstein brothers, Franz and Casimir, are conveniently paradigmatic of the unsavory, not to say criminal, world view that uniquely distinguishes that race apart, the Black Guelphs.

Casimir zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, president of the Frankfurt-based Metallgesellschaft metals empire, who drips with contempt for all those "mealy-mouthed politicians" who feel constrained to talk only of the "developing" sector and the present "recession", proudly eschews such euphemisms. He speaks instead of his plans for the "underdeveloped" sector in this period of unabated "depression," once the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt would be replaced by the more oligarchically controlled regime of Chancellor Helmut Kohl. With self-satisfaction, the Prince explained that he was very sorry but "the little brown and yellow" people are going to have to cut their consumption drastically, and go through some very rough times. "It's an objective problem," he explained, as he happily ran through a list of countries on his hit list. "Our little brown and yellow brothers are taking loans—often in bad faith—without any intention of paying them back. We can't keep supporting them forever. Even some of our white brothers are going to have to suffer."

Perhaps even more telling are the endless anecdotes which identify the Sayn-Wittgensteins' conviction that only mem-

bers of their own class are actual members of the human species, separate from those not "of family," who occupy a rung on the evolutionary ladder somewhat higher than a monkey's but distinctly lower than their own.

One of my first questions to Prince Franz, the elder brother, was whether his family were related to that of the famous philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, the protégé of Bertrand Russell. Prince Franz, who currently lives in Munich as a consultant to the British auction house and intelligence operation Sotheby's, sipped his champagne and offhandedly responded: "Of course not. That Wittgenstein fellow was a Jew."

He explained: the Emperor once had the practice of honoring the great noble houses by giving them "little Jews" as gifts. At a certain point, a decree was passed forcing these Jews to exchange their offensive Jewish names for Christian ones. Most of them responded by adopting the family names of their noble masters as their own. Such was the case of the family of the philosopher Wittgenstein; they were the Sayn-Wittgenstein family Jews.

Prince Franz, a tall, aging, polished, and graceful man in his early seventies, sprinkles his conversation with comments of this type. Typical was his characterization of one of the oligarchy's most faithful instruments, the governor of Bavaria, Franz-Josef Strauss, who is also the "power behind the throne" behind the new Kohl government of West Germany. The Prince warmly praised Strauss as "a brilliant man, my dear. So educated." Then, leaning over wickedly: "A little butcher's boy, though, you know. He looks like it, too!"

The Hapsburgs *redux*

By this time I was not surprised when Franz proudly stated that his family had strongly backed Hjalmar Schacht, the 1930s German Reichsbank chief whose fascist economic policies set the pace for the Hitler regime. Of Hitler himself, the oligarchy's instrument, Franz was predictably contemptuous—not unlike his attitude toward Franz-Josef Strauss. The foundation of his politics also came through in his description of the loyally monarchical Bavarian people, who

“wept openly in the streets” when Queen Elizabeth last paid a visit, “from sheer sadness that they too could not have their own monarch.” His hopes for Europe’s future were unambiguously feudal. “Otto von Hapsburg would make a great regent of Germany, or a great president of a United Europe.”

Brother Casimir, who appears the more active manipulator of the two, had himself elected to the European Parliament (alongside von Hapsburg) to work toward just this aim. He is also president of the International Red Cross, which far from its “helping hand” image, is a long-established oligarchical intelligence service. Casimir, now 65 years old, will retire from the powerful Metallgesellschaft corporation this year to devote himself to such endeavors.

Prince Casimir expressed strong agreement with the policies of the Bank for International Settlements (the oligarchic central bank of European central banks) on the issue of establishing a unified European currency. Once again railing against “those damned politicians” (he is fond of well-mannered curses), he said, “My stepfather, the son of the founder of the Metallgesellschaft, told them when the European Economic Community was first established that if they didn’t fight for the principle of a European currency, the fight for European unity would be lost from the outset. But they didn’t listen to him. If we could get a unified currency, the rest would be easy. . . .”

The Metallgesellschaft story

Prince Casimir’s step-father was Richard Merton, son of Wilhelm Merton, who founded the Metallgesellschaft in Frankfurt in 1881. It rapidly became Germany’s largest metals manufacturing company and a world-scale giant; as of 1980, it was estimated to be a \$3 billion company.

Merton, the stepfather, was a Jew. He had, however, the saving grace from the oligarchs’ point of view of also being a multimillionaire, and so, like the Warburgs and Rothschilds, was allowed entrée into the upper echelons of the nobility.

Metallgesellschaft was founded at about the same time that the firm of M. M. Warburg had decided to enter the metals market with the creation of the Hamburg Metals Exchange. The Warburgs, who entered the metals business in conjunction with the Oppenheims’ diamond interests and the Rothschilds, had an interest in Metallgesellschaft from the first. Max Warburg (b. 1867), who was trained by the London Rothschilds, claimed in his biography that he had been the hand behind the post-World War I reorganization of Metallgesellschaft. Warburg, together with the notorious von Siemens, had been among the top advisers of Hjalmar Schacht. Siemens is a 10 percent shareholder of Metallgesellschaft, while the Warburgs owned a “significant portion” by at least the post World War I period.

James Warburg, who worked under British agent Allen Dulles as one of his Office of Strategic Services assistants during World War II, was instrumental in the 1963 founding of the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Policy Studies

(IPS), and a close collaborator of Aldous Huxley. The IPS has been the central U.S. think tank and laboratory for the “New Left” terrorist movement, while Huxley, working with U.S. naval intelligence, designed the first LSD experiments that developed the techniques for mass subversion of youth populations who were then funneled into the New Left terrorist apparatus. The von Siemens family, working through the Siemens Foundation, has performed similar functions in Germany, although not limited to the left-wing side of the spectrum. The entire lot is one big happy family.

The I. G. Farben connection

Metallgesellschaft can also be credited as being among the founders of one German corporation that gained justifiable notoriety during the Hitler period: I. G. Farben. Originally, the German chemicals industry was the world pacesetter in the development of new technologies, such as synthetic fibers and other products, which rendered it as one of the best expressions of true capitalism. It went through a process of cartelization, however, in the course of which it was taken over at the top by oligarchic instruments to culminate in the I. G. Farben cartel around 1924.

It was in fact I. G. Farben which built Auschwitz, on the basis of a deal to provide cheap labor for the Hitler regime, whose Schachtian economic policies necessitated a process of self-cannibalization of its labor force in order to survive. At the time that I. G. Farben built Auschwitz, its president was Hermann Schmitz, who from 1906 had been picked up and trained in the offices of the Metallgesellschaft. It was Schmitz who negotiated the Auschwitz arrangements with the SS, including the kickbacks to top SS officers in exchange for their service of delivering the slave laborers to Auschwitz.

Schmitz began his career in 1906 as a clerk at Metallgesellschaft, where he caught the eye of founder Wilhelm Merton. Before he was 30 years old, he was put in charge of the company’s foreign operations, launching in 1929 the American I. G. Chemical Company, a U.S. subsidiary of Metallgesellschaft, with Paul M. Warburg on its board.

Schmitz joined I. G. Farben as part of a consolidation deal arranged by Richard Merton (stepfather of the Princes Wittgenstein) and the then President of BASF, Bosch. BASF was the chemicals firm that was to become the largest component of I. G. Farben after the process of cartelization of the chemicals industry was completed. The deal following on the heels of the Versailles Peace Conference at the end of World War I. Merton and Bosch had both attended to defend the interests of the metals and chemicals industries. Merton joined the board of BASF, and Bosch that of Metallgesellschaft. Schmitz was switched by Merton to be a financial officer for BASF. When I. G. Farben was created, Bosch became its first president, turning the job over to Schmitz in 1938.

After World War II, a portion of the I. G. Farben board was put on trial at Nuremberg and later hanged. Metallgesellschaft was left untouched.