The Jesuits on both sides of the butchery in the region

by Timothy Rush and Michelle Steinberg

The Society of Jesus is a paramilitary order nominally inside the Catholic Church but traditionally operating outside papal control. For a 40-year period beginning in 1763, it was officially condemned by the Papacy. Throughout its history, since its founding as a branch of the Inquisition, its hallmark has been a process of indoctrination which has been compared to brainwashing, and the sophisticated creation, penetration, and deployment of religious cults, with emphasis on recruitment of assassins. For most of their history, the Jesuits have been associated with the practice of regicide. The induction oaths into the order place each Jesuit’s loyalty to the order above loyalty to the Pope or to any temporal power.

The Jesuits, of both “left” and “right,” are the most important single force controlling the Central American conflicts. Since the growth of the “anti-Somoza” movement in Nicaragua in the 1970s, the Jesuit order has controlled the Sandinista revolutionary forces there, and now seeks to reproduce the phenomenon in El Salvador. The Jesuits also control the so-called “opposition” to the Sandinistas through their U.S.-based institution, Georgetown University—the institution that produced some of the leading figures in the U.S. side of the Central American fiasco. These individuals include former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick’s key aide is Michael Novak, a graduate of a Jesuit flagship institution in Rome, Gregorian University.

The Jesuits, pulling along certain currents in other Catholic orders—the Maryknolls, the Order of the Holy Cross, and liberal Protestant layers associated with the World Council of Churches—forged the doctrine of Theology of Liberation, and its sub-component, the “Christian-Marxist Dialogue,” beginning in the late 1960s. The “Theology of Liberation” was designed to pull into a schismatic movement the masses of impoverished Catholics of the region. This movement could then be thrown against the Pope and Papal authority, as is now occurring.

On the ground in Central America

Nicaragua: The Jesuits have long-standing control of education, including the Jesuit-run cursillo movement, and the Managua branch of the Jesuit University of Central America. Virtually every current Sandinista leader went through the cursillo movement—with more specialized training provided during the Somoza period at Solentiname, a “Christian utopian commune” run by Father Ernesto Cardenal, a Trappist monk, on an island in the middle of Lake Nicaragua. The “People’s Church” phenomenon, which defied the Pope in early March, is a creation of the Jesuits.

Key personnel include:

Fernando Cardenal, S.J.: Fernando is Ernesto’s more-powerful brother. Immediately after the revolution, Ferna­ndo moved into the sensitive post of designing the first Sandinista literacy drive, indoctrinating Cuban teachers in using the texts of Brazilian “de-schooler” Paulo Freire. Cardenal now controls the Juventud Sandinista (Sandinista youth). Reliable sources say that Cardenal and the secretary of the Junta, also a Jesuit, report nightly to the head of the Jesuit order in Nicaragua. Fernando Cardenal also coordinates with the Jesuit seminary in Panama, and travels there frequently.

Xabier Gorostiaga, S.J.: Deputy Planning Minister in the Sandinista government and is a member of the Rockefeller-created “Inter-American Dialogue,” chaired by Sol Linowitz.

Father Alvaro Arguello, S.J.: Alvaro Arguello is head of the Institute of Historical Research at the Managua branch of the Jesuit University of Central America. Arguello reportedly centralized all Sandinista communications in his university offices throughout the years of clandestine guerrilla operations.

Ernesto Cardenal, Trappist: Currently the minister of culture in the Sandinista government. In April 1979, Ernesto traveled to Iran where he met privately with Ayatollah Khomeini. After these meetings, the culture minister proclaimed on Iranian radio that the Sandinista and Iranian fundamentalist causes were identical.

Miguel d’Escotto, Maryknoll: D’Escotto is foreign minister in the Sandinista government.

Tomás Borge: Borge, the Sandinista Interior Minister, is often cited as an example of Cuban control of the Sandinistas. However, Borge more accurately exemplifies the Jesuit side. In the later years of the Sandinista struggle, Borge was captured and tortured by “right” Jesuit torturers under Somoza, and then released into the hands of “left” Jesuit Fernando Cardenel. In a late 1980 interview, he reported that his favorite reading was “erotic poetry and the Bible, on the recommendation of Fernando Cardenal, the Jesuit. He is the
Eden Pastora (“Commander Zero”) is being touted as the replacement for the Jesuit-run Sandinista leadership in Nicaragua. He came out of the Tercerista faction which based itself in the Socialist International resources of Pepe Figueres in Costa Rica. He also keeps close ties to the Libyans, the CIA, and the Israelis. But what is less known is the implication of his comment that “the only thing I share with Fidel Castro is being educated by the Jesuits.” His Jesuit schooling went from grade school through continuing Jesuit oversight of his medical studies in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1969. He was deployed into the Sandinista movement from Guadalajara. Pastora’s current representative in Mexico, Constantino Lacayo, is a similar product of Jesuit education.

El Salvador: Since at least the mid-1960s a similar testing ground for the Jesuits has been El Salvador. At that time the order took a 180-degree turn and, ostensibly abandoning its long-standing alliance with the ruling local oligarchy, embraced radical Liberation Theology. Raising the banner of “land reform,” scores of Jesuits and Jesuit-trained Maryknolls, Capuchins, Diocesans, and members of other religious orders were deployed to organize or take over existing peasant groupings; the Christian Democratic Party; the social-democratic National Revolutionary Movement (MNR); and the student groups that spawned the guerrillas.

The takeover of the mass institutions was facilitated by the Jesuit lock on the leading educational institutions. The Jesuits control the leaders of both “left” and “right” in El Salvador, “since most of them come from our own universities,” according to Father Zweifelhofer, S.J., Director of Third World Policy Coordination for the Society of Jesus in Munich, West Germany (December 1980). The San Salvador branch of the Jesuit University of Central America included Guillermo Ungo on its faculty—before his brief entrance into the governing “moderate right-wing” junta and subsequent exit to head the negotiating arm of the guerrillas, the FDR. A fellow junta member at the time, Ramón Mayorga, was head of the UCA. The entirety of the program of the October 1979 government junta came from Jesuit documents.

A Jesuit relative of Fernando and Ernesto Cardenal is a guerrilla leader on the central directorate of the FMLN. He was recently reported to be active in Morazan province.  

Mexico: The Theology of Liberation apparatus is based on the networks of the just-retired bishop of Cuernavaca, Sergio Méndez Arceo. Méndez Arceo led anti-communist street marches in Monterrey in the late 1950s, before being deployed by the local Jesuit infrastructure into “left” schismatic activity, early in the 1960s. In the mid-1960s, he threw Cuernavaca open to the activities of Ivan Illich’s CIDOC center, a training ground for terrorists and linguistic brainwashers that exported its products to at least a dozen other Latin America nations.

A founder of “Theology of Liberation” ideology in the late 1960s, Méndez Arceo was caught in 1981 providing money to guerrilla operations in Guatemala. He has sponsored and continues to sponsor innumerable schismatic activities in both Latin America and Europe, in close coordination with the pro-terrorist networks of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal and the Lelio Basso Foundation. A large circle of radical Jesuits in Mexico, grouped around the official Jesuit magazine of the country, Christus, carry on Méndez Arceo’s work, along with the Liberationist bishop of the southern state of Chiapas, Samuel Ruiz.

European Jesuit support networks

Key individuals include:

François Houtart, S.J.: Based at Louvain University, Belgium, Houtart indoctrinated two generations of “dissident” Latin American priests in terrorism, including Colomb-
bian Camilo Torres, killed by anti-guerrilla security forces in 1969. His protégés later helped shape the M-19 terrorist movement in Colombia.

Johann Baptist Metz, S.J.: Based at the University of Münster. Baptist Metz is a ringleader of European support networks for Nicaragua, as well as a close friend of Sergio Méndez Arceo in Mexico, and Ernesto Cardenal (Trappist) in Nicaragua. He arranged publication of a full-page April 23 advertisement in the Frankfurter Rundschau supporting Nicaragua which was signed by members of both the German Green Party and the Willy Brandt wing of the Social Democratic Party.

Herr Schultz: The head of the Nicaraguan Information Bureau in West Germany. Schultz is a close associate of Johann Baptist Metz, S.J. “There is no way the U.S. administration can overthrow the Sandinista government,” Schultz recently declared. “As soon as they start deploying troops, we will send 5,000 youngsters to fight in Central America. The Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Mexican [sic] guerrillas will all join in a region-wide war.” Schultz’s information office will begin a pro-Sandinista mobilization in 30 European cities at the end of April.

Institutions:

Misereor and Adveniat are giant overseas missionary organizations funded by the German Catholic Church and controlled by left-wing Jesuit networks. In the words of a “right-wing” Jesuit analyst close to Buckley family circles in Europe, “If you withdrew the backing of Misereor and Adveniat, the Theology of Liberation activity in Central America would collapse overnight.” The work of these institutions overlaps the circle of schismatic gnostic Hans Kung.

German Lutheran Church. A large fraction of the German Lutheran Church, together with broader elements in the World Council of Churches, functions as the Protestant wing of the Theology of Liberation. In a mid-April interview, Warner Rostan, head of Latin American affairs for the Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen (Lutheran) Kirche in West Germany, reported that he is compiling a special study on the spread of Christian fundamentalist cults in Central America in collaboration with the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA); José Alvarez e Icaza, a close Méndez Arceo associate in Mexico who runs a terrorist and environmentalist clearing house called CENCOS; and Xabier Gorostiaga S.J., of Nicaragua.

Rostan lamented that the Pope’s crackdown on the People’s Church might interfere with the “beautiful ecumenical work” between Catholic and Protestant Liberationists in the Centro Valdivieso in Nicaragua, and in refugee relief work in El Salvador.

Medico International is a group founded in West Germany during the Biafran war of 1966 to run medical supplies and arms to insurgent groups. Its major sponsors include the “ecumenical” liberationist forces outlined above and portions of the Brandt Socialist International groups in Germany. The group, which ostensibly mobilizes only “food and medical aid,” operates with an annual budget of 3 million DM, of which 1 million comes from the foreign ministry of Hans-Dietrich Genscher. In Central America, Medico International works with the Nicaraguan government and with insurgents in El Salvador and Guatemala. A number of its personnel have been killed in guerrilla fighting.

Longo Mai. Longo Mai is a series of terrorist safehouses and brainwashing centers housed in farmhouses on France’s borders with Spain, Italy, and Switzerland. It maintains an elaborate computer bank in Basel, Switzerland, to track its supporters. Both “Liberationist” elements and Socialist International figures (e.g. Bruno Kreisky and the late Sicco Mansholt of the Club of Rome and European Community) have a share in control of thesafehouses. Longo Mai has maintained two farmhouses in Costa Rica since 1973, when

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Edén Pastora

Guillermo Ungo

Michael Novak
it began recruitment there under cover of refugee work.

U.S. Jesuit networks

Leading “left Jesuit” institutions:

Center for Concern. This is an institution founded in Washington in 1971 by “invitation of the United States Catholic Bishops to the international Jesuit order.” Headed through 1982 by Peter J. Henriot, S.J., a member of the Club of Rome. The Center for Concern was the moving force in the “Theology of the Americas” Liberationist project, together with the Woodstock Theological Seminary; it directed preparations for the “Detroit I and II” (1975, 1980) summits of Western Hemisphere “Theology of Liberation” figures, with heavy emphasis on Nicaragua and Central America.

The Center for Concern cosponsored a groundbreaking 1974 conference on how to use religious covers for a Club of Rome program of world population reduction. Co-sponsor of this conference at Bellagio, Italy, was the Interreligious Peace Colloquium of Cyrus Vance and “left” Islamic fundamentalist controller, Richard Falk.

The Center is funded by the Society of Jesus, the Maryknoll Fathers, the United Auto Workers, and the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, through which it has direct connection to leaders of the Socialist International-controlled Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR) in El Salvador. While maintaining these connections to the FDR, a group which supports the El Salvador guerrillas, the Center enjoys the support of Monsignor George Higgins, a close associate to U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the reputed architect of the “anti-Communist” policy in Central America.

Jesuit Conference, Washington Office. This is the home base of Simon Smith, S.J., the Jesuit Chief of Mission for the Third World who in 1980 claimed that the Jesuit order would trap Ronald Reagan in an El Salvador intervention that would “make him the laughingstock of the world.”

St. Mary’s Seminary, San Antonio. With money from the Jesuit Order, Bishop Patrick Flores established a special schooling program in Liberationist Theology, 1980. This is an center for Central American “left” support networks.

Loyola Center, New Orleans. With funding from United Brands, this center has trained more than 1,700 labor leaders from Central America, many of whom have since shown up as leaders in terrorist gangs on both sides upon their return.

The “American Heresy” forces of former Notre Dame president Father Theodore Hesburgh. Though nominally Catholic, like the Jesuits, Holy Cross Father Hesburgh has for four decades attempted to establish “independence of action” for the Church in the United States, on a sophisticated Malthusian program. Maintaining an image as an “anti-war liberal,” he served on the boards of Chase Manhattan bank and the Council on Foreign Relations, served as chairman of the board of the Rockefeller Foundation (heavily involved in birth control programs throughout Latin America), and for a decade directed the joint project of the CFR and the Rockefeller Foundation called the Overseas Development Council.

Under Hesburgh’s long presidency (1954-82), Notre Dame vastly expanded its programs for Latin American students; among those who studied with Hesburgh and have maintained intimate contact are Panamanian archbishop Marcos McGrath and former Salvadoran president Napoleon Duarte. Hesburgh’s top aide on the Mexican and Central American Church, Claude Pomerleau, has stated that the Jesuits in the region are “superb people” who “far and away know more than anyone else about what’s going on.”

Pomerleau recently accompanied his father-in-law, Sen. Leahy of Vermont, on a human rights tour of El Salvador. A book by Pomerleau on the Mexican Church is due to be published later this year. Fellow priests of the Holy Cross, trained under Hesburgh, and now deployed to sensitive regions of Mexico, include Jim Ervin, a powerful behind-the-scenes figure in Sonora, Mexico, and Al Mahoney, stationed in the early 1980s in El Bosque, Chiapas. Ervin is a controller of the PAN party in Ciudad Obregon and helped engineer the fall of the local bishop in late 1981, in order to install a bishop who has now come out publicly in support of the solidarist-fascist PAN candidates of the region.

Principal ‘right Jesuit’ institutions:

Georgetown University. America’s leading Jesuit university is an institution which has been the seat of “cold war” ideologues since the reign of geopolitician Father Edmund A. Walsh, the mentor of Sen. Joe McCarthy. Georgetown represents the key interface between the “left Jesuits” and “right Jesuits.” Among sub-sectors exerting considerable control over U.S. policy is the Georgetown School of Foreign Service (closely allied with London’s International Institute for International Studies) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Key institutions created by Georgetown cadre include the Committee on the Present Danger, Committee for the Free World, Freedom House, the Heritage Foundation, and Social Democrats-U.S.A., a member-organization of the Socialist International.

Former president of the University until his recent retirement, Robert Henle, S.J., is also a close personal friend of Simon Smith, the head of the Jesuit Conference in Washington.

Institute for Religion and Democracy. This new institution was created over the last two years by a combination of Georgetown Jesuits and members of the Socialist International’s SDUSA such as Penn Kemble. Ostensibly created to counter the political activities of the left-oriented Liberation Theologians, the leading force behind this operation is Michael Novak, a top advisor to Jeane Kirkpatrick. While attacking the Theology of Liberation, Novak has described himself ideologically as a follower of “solidarism,” the 19th-century anti-capitalist economic theory developed by leading Jesuits. Many of the Jesuits involved in controlling sections of the labor movement with active presence in Central America are also solidarists.