

The Anti-Defamation League and the Dostoevsky Project

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The first two articles in this series documented the role of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in fostering the pagan New Age by attacking the Judeo-Christian traditions upon which the American Republic was founded. This, the final article in the series, probes the role of the ADL in a 70-year Communist International scheme to "Bolshevize" the West, and shows that the League's purported goal of "combating anti-Semitism" has quite a different underlying intent.

According to the Anti-Defamation League's own six-volume history, *Not The Work of a Day*, ADL Executive Director Ben Epstein launched an ambitious reorganization and expansion drive at the close of World War II. Throughout 1946, Epstein and a small group of ADL professional staffers who had been engaged in secret intelligence work for the British and American services during the war, conducted an internal study of how the league operated. This review came to be known among ADL activists as "The Inquisition." Working with Col. Melvin Schlesinger, an ADL national board member from Denver, Colorado, the Epstein group reorganized the national headquarters staff along military-intelligence lines, and more than doubled the number of ADL regional offices in the United States and Canada. By the time the reorganization was completed in 1947, Epstein stepped into the executive director's post; he remained there until 1979.

Those ADL do-gooders who fell prey to the Epstein-led reorganization could not possibly have realized how appropriate it was that they labeled the changing of the guard as "The Inquisition."

from its founding in 1913, set up as a protection arm of Jewish-surnamed organized crime in America, its early crimes would pale in comparison to the new project the league was prepared to embark on.

The ADL was about to become the covert action arm of a psychological warfare assault against the American people, first crafted at a secret meeting of the Communist International in Thuringia, Germany in 1922, and transported to American shores by the time Hitler's troops crossed into Poland. At that meeting, Cominternist Georg Lukacs dubbed the assault on the Judeo-Christian image of man "the Dostoevsky Project," rationalism.

In order to fit the prejudices of a postwar American audience, the ADL and its collaborators in the Frankfurt School referred to this project under the rubric of "the authoritarian personality."

study in *EIR*, Nov. 18-Dec. 2, 1988, "The 'authoritarian personality': an anti-Western hoax.")

to eradicate the commitment to scientific and technological progress then shared by the vast majority of Americans. By labeling such commitments to rationality "authoritarian,"

ADL systematically played a role over succeeding decades in ushering in the New Age cultural revolution of the 1960s and beyond. Any groups or individuals who attempted to stand in its way, were to be tarred as "anti-Semites."

'Studies in Prejudice'

In 1936, the ADL entered into a joint fundraising effort with the American Jewish Committee, in which the two organizations agreed to split all contributions and revenues 50-50. That arrangement, the Joint Defense Appeal, lasted until 1963, when the ADL went its separate way, under the national chairmanship of Hollywood movie mogul and reputed mob ally Dore Schary.

While there were bitter wartime disputes between AJC officials and the ADL over the issue of how to deal with Hitler's genocide against the Jews of Germany and Central Europe, on certain projects the two agencies appear to have worked out a tight division of labor. The principal project around which the AJC-ADL collusion revolved was the American Jewish Committee's "Studies in Prejudice."

In May 1944, the AJC held a two-day conference on religious and racial prejudice, out of which evolved a half-decade study led by the Frankfurt School Comintern sociologist Max Horkheimer. By 1949, under Horkheimer's supervision, a crew of Frankfurt School refugees had produced for publication by the AJC a five-volume series of works that would form the basis for all the ADL's postwar work to undermine the Judeo-Christian outlook. Not coincidentally, at the height of the counterculture ferment of the late 1960s, the series was reprinted with a new foreword by longtime Frankfurt School hand Herbert Marcuse, by then a guru of the New Left and the patron of terrorists Angela Davis, Susan Saxe, and Abbie Hoffman.

The original five volumes included the following elements:

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- Frankfurt School psychiatrists Bruno Bettelheim and Morris Janowitz published a psychological study titled *Dynamics of Prejudice*.

- Marie Jahoda and Nathan W. Ackerman, both later board members of the London Tavistock Institute, which pioneered the development of LSD-25 as a mind-altering psychedelic drug instrumental in launching the 1960s drug-rock-sex counterculture, penned a sociological study titled *Anti-Semitism and Economic Disorder*.

- Paul W. Massing, later implicated in the Noel Field and Alger Hiss Soviet espionage ring, wrote a study of anti-Semitism in pre-Hitler Weimar Germany titled *Rehearsal for Destruction*.

- Leo Lowenthal and Norbert Guterman co-authored a study on the agitational methods of pre-World War II American right-wing groups titled *Prophets of Deceit*. This study was later used by the ADL to train its own undercover agents to penetrate right-wing groups, and in some cases, to create their own sects.

The seminal work in the study was *The Authoritarian Personality*, written by Frankfurt School founder Theodor Adorno, Else Frenkel Brunswik, Daniel J. Levinson, and R. Nevitt Sanford. It set out the basic line of the entire project: that the average American's belief in a rational world, governed by the Old Testament's injunction to "be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the Earth," defined him or her as a crypto-fascist.

What the study concluded, and what the ADL subsequently put into practice, was the notion that the most clear-cut expression of this crypto-fascist tendency deep within the American psyche was anti-Semitism. The fight against anti-Semitism became the buzzword for the Frankfurt School's assault against rationalism—an assault which expressed itself concretely in the growth of the counterculture and the more recent and virulent New Age paganism.

The Thuringia meeting

The ADL's efforts to whip up "anti-Semitism" scares have always been rooted in the Frankfurt School project, first launched in the mid-1930s and then brought to fruition with the AJC Horkheimer studies. The deeper roots of that effort trace back to the Thuringia Communist International session of 1922. Chaired by Georg Lukacs, the Deputy Commissar of Culture and Education of the short-lived Hungarian Soviet Republic, the meeting's participants also included: Karl Korsch, Frankfurt University professor and German Communist Party leader; Richard Sorge, assistant director of the Frankfurt University social science department under Korsch, head of the Communist Party's secret spy cell in Frankfurt and later the head of Red Army intelligence in the Far East (where he recruited heavily from the Shanghai Jewish community); Heide Eisler, wife of the German Communist Party newspaper editor and later the wife of Paul Massing; and Karl August Witfogel, later the head of the

Institute for Pacific Relations.

Lukacs set the agenda of the secret session by pointing to the success of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the failure of every attempted communist putsch in the West. He told the group that it was Russia's cultural affinity for a "messianic" collectivist identity that made it ripe for revolution. The problem with Western culture, he charged, was the image of Jesus Christ and the Old Testament belief in man's mastery over nature. Lukacs cited Fyodor Dostoevsky as the ideal revolutionary, and defined the long-term objectives of the Bolsheviks in the destruction of these Western Judeo-Christian values. Without their destruction, he correctly asserted, communist revolution is impossible.

The participants in that session went on to found the Frankfurt School, and later launched the AJC-ADL "authoritarian personality" sham.

Action projects for the New Age

As one of the ADL's first "action projects" in this context, National Director Ben Epstein launched a nasty campaign against the Catholic Church in New York City. When anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on the walls of several Jewish synagogues and Protestant churches in New York City, Epstein and the ADL staff rallied a number of leading Jewish and Protestant clergy to demand action from Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. The thinly veiled message behind the protest was that the Catholic Church was dominated by anti-Semites like Father Coughlin of Detroit. Cardinal Spellman, the head of the New York archdiocese, fired off an angry protest, when the Schiff family-owned *New York Post* featured the ADL accusations in banner headlines.

In a number of instances, police files revealed that it was ADL officials themselves who were responsible for synagogue desecrations. According to usually reliable sources, Arnold Forster, who later served for years as the ADL's general counsel, was arrested in New York State in the early 1950s for painting swastikas on a synagogue. In another instance, during the same period, a longtime Soviet intelligence agent, Vladimir Stepankovsky, was deployed by ADL spy chief Mitchell Solomon to infiltrate the National Renaissance Party, a neo-Nazi group founded in New York City by James Madole. To the extent that Madole's group recruited any membership, it was because an ADL-linked mob figure, Mike Jelke, provided prostitutes for purposes of attracting young men to his "meetings."

Years later, the ADL played a seminal, albeit behind-the-scenes role in the fostering of the very counterculture that embodied the Dostoevsky Project. The sponsorship by the ADL of such lowlife as Dennis King and Chip Berlet, both of whom cut their teeth as "journalists" writing for the official organ of the drug lobby, *High Times* magazine, was no mere indiscretion. Rather, it typified the ADL's commitment to the spread of what Lukacs called "cultural pessimism," the very pessimism that fueled recruitment to the Nazi Party.