



THE PROPAGANDA OF THE DEED

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"Rebellion is a duty when the nation is being led to destruction."

~ADOLF HITLER, "Mein Kampf"

Out of Chaos came The Order. Before Oklahoma City, before Waco, The Order undertook to start the revolution to remake boisterous, heterogeneous and perverse America into an early Nazi Germany. Its members regarded themselves as Aryan warriors, dragons of God, and they practiced what they called the propaganda of the deed. They robbed, burned and murdered until they were killed or captured by agents of the government they aspired to overthrow, which they named ZOG, the Zionist Occupation Government because, they claimed, it was controlled along with the nation's wealth and commerce by communist Jews. They were in their own comic book mythology spearheads of the White Revolutionary Army which would eliminate Jews, Negroes and homosexuals, and their brief bloody rampage was a definitive if premature revelation of a new strategy of domestic violence by the extreme right wing. The Order, which considered itself a nativist SS corps, showed what a small group of terrorists can do to a society laid open to their violence. In particular, it raised the specter of a fanatical group armed with a nuclear weapon.

As the diverse populations of the world move increasingly toward a global civilization, elements in every society resist and clamor violently for separation and for racial and cultural purification. In country after country, fanatically reactionary individuals and groups have assumed the power that brutality and terrorism bestow. The Order dramatically reflected the resurgence of anti-Semitism, racial hatred and religious fratricide that is troubling most of the world.

The ancient and atrocious issue of white supremacy and dominance, the persecution of other races and of religions that are not puritanically Christian, is once more a theme of American politics. Radical racist and ultranationalist groups are receiving attention far out of proportion to their numbers as a result of the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19. It is the far right that now talks of revolution, sets up paramilitary and wilderness survival training camps, and patterns its concepts and plans for white revolt on a fictional account of Aryan revolution in the 1990s that was written by a disaffected Oregon State University physics teacher.

It might appear contradictory for adherents of the far right to plan the overthrow of a generally conservative and white male dominated government that it accuses of seizing power from the people. But these people are serious. Rightwing militia groups that are dedicated to overthrowing ZOG have sprung up in as many as 47 states in the past few years.

The common thread that unites right wing hate groups "is an extreme hatred for the federal government," according to Klanwatch director Danny Welch. "Members of the radical right see a historic juncture in which their agenda -- grounded in a hatred for the federal government and vehement opposition to taxes and gun control, with race as an important but less conspicuous thread -- has the potential to resonate with a large portion of the American public," Peter Applebome wrote for the N.Y. Times: "To a degree unusual in the recent history of the radical right, the obsessions of these extremists are overlapping with elements of the nation's mainstream culture." Welch agrees. He thinks white supremacists are "heartened by how much mainstream citizens seem to be voicing the same thing. They feel this is their time. It's their time to make hay." "The real danger is the cross fertilization going on between groups that are not racist and anti-Semitic and those that are," Steve Gardiner of the Portland based Coalition for Human Dignity said.

Tom Metzger, head of the White Aryan Resistance, said a few days after the Oklahoma bombing, "I have told people for years, at least since 1984 when The Order declared war on the central government of the United States that the government of this country -- what we call the criminals -- had better start listening to the dispossessed white people, the dispossessed majority."

The rabid right fixates on Waco. Two years to the day federal officers obliterated the Branch Dividian religious sect, killing more than 80, many of them children, two rightwing militia members (according to the FBI which has arrested one and not identified the other) bombed the Alfred Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, which killed 167, many of them children. Metzger, who thinks the federal building was a strategic military target ("These are the kind of things that happen at war," he says) said that it was "regrettable" that the ATF (Bureau of Tobacco & Firearms), which he says is "one of the most hated organizations in the United States," was "crazy" to have a children's daycare center in the same building as its regional office.

The day of the Oklahoma bombing white supremacist Richard Wayne Snell was executed for murder in Arkansas. "Look over your shoulder; justice is coming," he said before he died.

The date of the Oklahoma City bombing, April 19, has been much discussed for its Waco connection, but it was also the 220th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution in 1775, which might also have inspired the bomb heard around the world.

Whatever its sympathies or intentions, whether ZOG or Magog, the government so bitterly hated by the radical right would have serious problems mounting either an armed coup or holy war against its society despite the claims of extremists, and although many top officials openly and often vigorously sympathize with the white supremacists, a great many other officials of the large pluralistic government apparatus are blacks and Jews, not to mention women, liberals, homosexuals and other undesirables who are on the far right's menu of removal. Purging all of these people would entail the largest bloodbath since the Civil War and would rival Stalin's massive pogroms of the 1930s and



NORTH COAST TIMES EAGLE

A JOURNAL OF ART AND OPINION
PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN ASTORIA,
OREGON, 955 24TH STREET 97103
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late '40s. The fanatical fringe has no patience with such subtleties. Its purpose is to "cleanse" the society in the same manner the Nazis accomplished in Germany and much of Europe.

The far right feels betrayed by the conservatives in power. Their wild expectations of mass and swift removal of Jews, blacks and homosexuals that were inspired by the Reagan era and rekindled with the so-called Republican revolution, has not occurred and they feel identical contempt for the New Right that the New Left once felt for old liberals. In somewhat the manner that the radical left punished vacillating liberals during the Vietnam era, the far right flails at conventional conservatives with religious exhortation and genocidal rhetoric.

White supremacist groups are yet a fringe minority and remain diffuse but, as Time magazine said in 1977, although "the whole Nazi cult is politically impotent...its capacity for stirring hatred and creating violence is high." The Order was a volatile collection of impatient individuals from several white supremacy groups who were tired of inactive dogma -- they wanted to ignite the race/religious war their peers only talked about: *the propaganda of the deed*. "Terrorism is a function of weakness, frustration and fervor," Irwin Sull of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith said of the chaos committed by The Order: "And our friends in the Klans and the neo-Nazi groups were very weak, very frustrated and very very fervid. We anticipated the country would take a hit, perhaps several hits." By the time The Order was brought to ground in late 1984 with its leader dead and the rest imprisoned or hiding, its "Aryan warriors" and associated sympathizers from other white supremacist groups had murdered blacks, Jews and policemen in several states, attacked synagogues and churches, robbed banks and armored cars -- and a large supply of cyanide was discovered at one of The Order's hideouts, enough to poison a city. The only complaint the far right had about The Order was that it started too soon.

It might not be altogether surprising that these groups who wish to seize control of the country are thinking of beginning with the Pacific Northwest, a direct contrast to a vision of the region as an "Ecotopia" of political, multicultural and environmental harmony. Fostered by the leader of the Idaho-based Aryan Nations, the plan is to make the Northwest an "Aryan Homeland." This would roughly encompass an area stretching from the Tehachapi Mountains of central California, north to Homer, Alaska (although Canada might be allowed to keep British Columbia), and from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains.

The Pacific Northwest is an attractive area for a whites only civilization for a number of reasons, among them its underdevelopment and relatively sparse and scattered population, which is overwhelmingly white and with notable exceptions, generally conservative. Eastern Washington and northern Idaho in particular are "one of the corners of the nation where the nuts roll," L.J. Davis wrote in a Harper's magazine story about The Order's founder, Robert Mathews, who died in a celebrated shootout with federal agents on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound in December, 1984. "Here a tolerance for the more baroque forms of extremist politics is not merely commonplace, it is a hallowed tradition," Davis wrote.

The Aryan Nations has its headquarters in a 20 acre fortress compound near Hayden Lake, Idaho. Its leader Richard Butler, an evangelical minister and former aeronautical engineer, has drawn up plans and strategies for assuming power in the Northwest, which he and others call the "Northwest Imperative." "Every species has to have a territorial imperative to survive," Butler told a Daily Astorian reporter in 1986, nine years after he was the first white supremacist to migrate to the chosen Aryan homeland. "All we're doing is taking advantage of a natural force." David Duke, former Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon and founder of a group he calls the National Association for the Advancement of White People (NAAWP), predicts that by the year 2020 the United States will be a nonwhite country. "When white people become a minority, how are we going to maintain