

# 23

## HITLER'S DESTRUCTION OF FRENCH FREEMASONRY

When World War II came, [the Axis Powers] attacked not Judaism nor Freemasonry but a hyphenated monstrosity which they called Judeo-Masonry; so that in spite of itself.. English Freemasonry was dragged into the very focus of world-affairs; and European Masonry, which was not clear of political involvement, was obliterated.'

*Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*

### The Axis Powers and Freemasonry

World War II was a Fascist war funded by English Masonic interests against French Freemasonry. In every nation the Nazis conquered, the continental Brotherhood was obliterated. The Axis powers - Germany, Italy and Japan - nearly destroyed the Templar Masonic conspiracy.

Mussolini was the first to rise to power and the first to outlaw Freemasonry. On February 13, 1923 the Grand Fascist Council resolved that since "Freemasons pursue a programme and employ methods contrary to those which inspire the whole activity of Fascism, the Council calls upon those Fascists who are Freemasons to choose between membership of the National Fascist Party and Freemasonry."<sup>2</sup> *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* records the hostility of Italian Fascism toward Masonry:

Late in 1923 young Fascist toughs began to burn, loot, and destroy lodge rooms and their furniture - even in Milan. On January 10, 1925, the Parliament outlawed the Fraternity. In a debate on the Bill, Mussolini thundered: "The Bill will demonstrate that Freemasonry is out of date and no longer has the right to exist in the present century.

On January 10, 1925, Masonic activity presumably ceased in Italy. The lodge, however, secretly plotted the assassination of Mussolini.

591

On November 5, 1926, General Luigi Capello, who refused to renounce Freemasonry, was arrested and accused of being the mastermind behind the plot. *Mackey's Encyclopedia* reports that Capello

was brought to trial in the Spring of 1927, and sentenced to an imprisonment of thirty years, the first six to be in solitary confinement. Almost immediately secret police arrested [Grand Orient] Grand Master Torrigiani, tried him in secret court, and banished him to starve to death on one of the Lipari islands, to be followed later by some hundreds of other Masons.... By the time Mussolini opened World War II with the rape of Abyssinia, Italian Freemasonry had become completely obliterated - for the time being.<sup>4</sup>

Hitler's war against the Lodge began four years after Mussolini's. *Mackey's Encyclopedia* reports that "[I]n 1927 Joseph Goebbels set up an exposition in Berlin to display regalia, furniture, books, etc., taken from Masonic Lodge rooms.... In 1933, and in almost one of his first utterances as Prime Minister of Prussia, Hermann Goering declared that 'in National Socialist Germany there is no place for Freemasonry.'<sup>5</sup> In the fall of 1935, Wilhelm Frick (1877-1946), Minister of Interior under Hitler from 1933-1943, acting on the decree issued by President von Hindenburg in August, which charged that the Masonic lodges had engaged in "subversive activities," called for the immediate disbandment of all lodges throughout Germany and ordered a confiscation of their property.<sup>6</sup>

During a Brown Shirt street parade in Berlin, Masons were hauled through the streets in a cage like animals. How many were mobbed, beaten to death, murdered, executed, or sent to concentration camps in Germany may never be known. On August 28, 1939, the Nazi newspaper, *Voelkischer Beobachter*,

reported a speech by Rudolph Hess made two days earlier at Graz, which included the statement "Jews and Freemasons want a war against this hated Germany, against the Germany in which they have lost their power." At the outbreak of World War II in 1939 about 700 lodges in Germany had been destroyed and 100,000 German Masons had disappeared.<sup>7</sup>

In March 1938, a year before World War II began, the storm troops marched into Austria. Upon entering Vienna, Hitler abolished Freemasonry and sent 90 percent of the Masons to the concentration camp at Dachau, or had them shot.<sup>8</sup> Many were Jews. The troops then looted the gold from Austrian banks and packed it into vaults controlled by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). From Vienna the gold was shipped to Switzerland.<sup>9</sup>

592

After the German occupation of Austria, Hitler made Artur von Seyss-Inquart the Minister of Defense, and later that year Governor of Austrian territory. (In 1918 Seyss-Inquart had formed an anti-Jewish and anti-Masonic secret society which resembled Freemasonry, having several degrees with secret vows.)<sup>10</sup>

Hitler chose Austria as his first conquest so that he could take possession of the legendary Spear of Destiny. Rev. Church says that with it Hitler believed "he could rule the world. On October 13, the Spear, along with the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, was taken to Nuremberg, the center for the Nazi movement, and placed in the Hall of St Katherine's Church."<sup>11</sup>

The Nazis then marched on Czechoslovakia. Grand Orient Mason Dr. Edvard Benes, president of that new republic from 1935 to 1938, naively welcomed Hitler as preferable to the Merovingian Habsburgs, the former rulers. On March 15, 1939, Hitler followed his storm troops into Prague, arrested the directors of the Czech National Bank and held them at gunpoint, demanding their \$48 million in gold reserves - gold that could not be found in the bank's vaults. Nervous bankers told Hitler that days earlier the BIS had instructed the Czech bank to forward the gold to the Bank of England. Montague Norman, governor of the Bank of England and a rabid supporter of Hitler, had already made a paper transfer of the gold to Berlin "for use in buying essential strategic materials toward a future war," reports Higham.<sup>12</sup>

After learning the Czech gold was secure, Hitler closed all Masonic lodges, confiscated their property, imprisoned their members, and shot their leaders, many of whom were Jews. Benes escaped to France, then to England.

The Fraternity was likewise obliterated in Greece. In April 1940 the Nazis closed the lodges in Holland and confiscated their real estate. The Masonic jewels and leather aprons gathered from the lodges were sent to Berlin and used for making military goods. The Nazis then "arrested hundreds of Masons, among whom a number of Grand [Lodge] Officers committed suicide under torture."<sup>13</sup>

That same month Freemasons suffered equal punishment in Belgium. Raoul Engel, Past Grand Master of the Belgium Grand Lodge, and Georges Petre, Grand Master of the Belgium Scottish Rite, were among eleven of twelve 33rd degree Masons murdered. A total of 112 Masons were shot during the Nazi occupation. Their properties were confiscated and the rest of their members imprisoned.<sup>14</sup> The Belgian gold reserve was shipped to the central bank in France, then transferred to the Reichsbank. From the Reichsbank it was shipped to the BIS at Basel.<sup>15</sup>

593

Norwegian Vidkun Quisling (1887-1945), who had founded his own political party, the National Union, with a platform calling for the suppression of communism and the freeing of Norwegian labor from unionism, was the chief collaborator in the Nazi conquest of Norway in 1940. The Nazis proclaimed him sole political head of Norway and head of the state council of 13 Nazi-dominated commissioners. In this capacity he took over the beautiful Masonic Temple in Oslo and converted it into an officers quarters, ruining it for Masonic use. He ordered all the library and belongings shipped to Germany. After the war he was tried by the Norwegian courts. Ironically, the trial, in order to seat more spectators, was held in a former Masonic lodge room. He was convicted and shot in 1945.<sup>16</sup>

In Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Denmark, the Germans carried out the same program of suppression, confiscation, imprisonment, torture, and execution of Masons. And the terrorism often was extended to the families of Masons as well.<sup>17</sup> Since many Masons were Jews, the world press began accusing Hitler of persecuting Jews alone. The press failed to distinguish them as Masons, and of course,

failed to mention the fact that Gentile Masons suffered the same fate. All told, the Nazis deliberately murdered eleven million persons, of whom six million were Jews.<sup>18</sup>

When the Germans entered France in 1940, they confiscated Masonic property, looted lodge funds, burned Masonic buildings, killed hundreds of Masons, imprisoned thousands more, and sent tens of thousands to labor camps in the Reich. Before the troops left Paris, they confiscated the city's great Masonic library which they carried to Berlin where it was burned.<sup>19</sup> As for the gold reserve of France, it went untouched, since her central bank was a member of the BIS.

Hitler established a puppet government in occupied France at Vichy. General Philippe Petain, Premier of Vichy France, announced that "no Masonic dignitary could hold office or retain army commissions."<sup>20</sup> Bernard Fay, French author in 1935 of *Revolution and Freemasonry, 1680-1800* and professor of American civilization at the College de France, published documents and lists of French Freemasons, which resulted in deportation, or death for thousands of them.<sup>21</sup> When the Ambassador to England, Joseph P. Kennedy, heard of the activity in Vichy, he asked for a meeting with Goering in that city. Kennedy, a Catholic, was anti-Masonic. After the meeting, the father of the 35th president of the United States donated a considerable amount of money to the German cause.<sup>22</sup>

In February 1942 Hitler published his official decree against Freemasonry:

594

Freemasons, and the ideological enemies of National Socialism who are allied with them, are the originators of the present war against the Reich. Spiritual struggle according to the plan against these powers is a measure necessitated by war. I have, therefore, ordered Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg to accomplish this task in cooperation with the Chief of the High Command of the armed forces. He has the right to explore libraries, archives, lodges, and other ideological and cultural establishments of all kinds for suitable material and to confiscate such material for the ideological tasks of N.S.D.A.P. for scientific research work. The regulations for the execution of this task will be issued by the Chief of the High Command of the armed forces in agreement with Reichsleiter Rosenberg.<sup>23</sup>

On March 1, 1942, Hider ordered Rosenberg to seize all libraries and materials found in Masonic lodges in occupied countries.<sup>24</sup> Years later the Nazis were accused of burning history and literature books in great bonfires in the streets of Berlin, when in reality they were burning the Masonic libraries and materials confiscated from occupied countries.

As in Italy and Germany, so in Japan. *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* confirms that "in Japan, China, Philippine Islands, Singapore, Malaya, Burma, Thailand, and Indo-China they [the Japanese] destroyed Masons and Masonic buildings with the same ferocity as their Teutonic allies."<sup>25</sup>

The Japanese government first became alarmed with Freemasonry after an Imperial investigation in 1936. It called Freemasonry a "mysterious world organization." The 65-year-old Kobe Masonic Club was viewed as "a secret society of Judea which has been picturing a phantasm of a mysterious world."<sup>26</sup> Investigative journalist Paul Fisher describes the organization of the Japanese Masonic lodges:

The Kobe Masonic Club came into existence in strict privacy. The Club was made up of several lodges, such as the Rising Sun Lodge, and the Lodge Hyogo and Osake (Scottish). Most of the leading foreign residents from England, America, France, Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark "secretly affiliated themselves with the club," which had as a principal object, to "bring about a world revolution."<sup>27</sup>

Before the United States Congress declared war on Japan on December 7, 1941, ten American Masons were forced to leave Japan.

595

In October 1942 the Scottish Rite *New Age* magazine ran an article by one of the ten. Fisher says, "The anonymous author of the article told of the thoroughness with which the Japanese Government investigated Freemasonry. 'Nothing has been left undone or unseen by them within the capabilities of those in charge.'"<sup>28</sup>

As in Italy, Germany and Japan, so in Spain. The Spanish Civil War of 1937 to 1939 was in retaliation

for the bloody Masonic Spanish Revolution of 1930. In 1930 Stalin sent communists to Spain as technicians to assist the faltering revolution. All were Grand Orient Freemasons. Among them was Bela Kun, the bloodthirsty leader of the Hungarian Grand Orient Revolution. These Bolsheviks planned their strategy within the protected walls of the Spanish lodges.<sup>29</sup> The method used by these communist revolutionists to strengthen the Spanish Revolution was identical to that of the Bolshevik Revolution - the mass slaughter of Spaniards. In addition, they destroyed masterpiece works of art and architecture, which all the gold in the world could not reconstruct, while large numbers of intellectual achievements were also destroyed.<sup>30</sup> Through these brutal means, the beleaguered Grand Orient Spanish Masons were strengthened.

On December 10, 1931, the *Official Bulletin of the Spanish Grand Orient* announced that, "After a Jesuit Monarchy it is only natural that a Masonic Republic should act as a liberator... Today the Masons are in power, and it was high time that they should be."<sup>31</sup> By 1932, however, the new Masonic politicians began to splinter into various political factions. The September *Grand Orient Bulletin* attempted to unite them by explaining that political debates "should be carried out in a spirit of absolute respect for the political views of Masonic brothers, without the slightest trace of partisan spirit but solely for the defense of the great principles of our August Order." <sup>32</sup> Count de Poncins tells why the Grand Orient Spanish Revolution turned into a civil war:

Like most of the European revolutions since 1917, this one began under the slogan of liberalism and democracy. It soon brought about disorder, social conflicts, chaos, and finally left all the other left-wing parties in the grip of Communism. Yet under the Popular Front, the alliance of the Freemasons and the left-wing parties, including Communism, held fast throughout the revolution until it was finally obliterated by the Spanish Nationalist uprising.<sup>33</sup>

The Spanish Nationalist Front, which broke the back of the revolution, was led by General Francisco Franco. When Franco took power

596

away from the Grand Orient Communists, anti-Masonic laws were passed and "membership in a lodge automatically called for imprisonment for ten years, later changed to twelve years. In one town.. .80 men were garroted on six scaffolds for being Masons; in another 50 were made to dig a trench and then were shot and buried in it." <sup>34</sup>

Franco was a staunch monarchist, planning to return King Alfonso XIII to the throne. But the king died in 1941, just after abdicating his rights to his third son, Don Juan.<sup>35</sup> As for Franco's participation in the Second World War, he remained neutral after he gained control of Spain, but showed sympathy toward the Nazi cause by opening his borders to Hitler's troops for rest and relaxation.

Franco appeared to be an agent of the Priory of Sion. In 1954, Don Juan and Franco came to an agreement that Don Juan would relinquish to Juan Carlos, his eldest son, the position of pretender to the Spanish throne. In July 1969 Franco designated Juan Carlos as his legal heir and Spain's future king.<sup>36</sup> When Franco died in 1975, King Juan Carlos I ascended the throne and on November 22, 1975 founded a constitutional monarchy. Carlos, a Merovingian, claims title to "King of Jerusalem!"

Franco, Hitler and Mussolini took the reigns of government away from Templar Grand Orient Freemasonry in their respective countries and then obliterated the Brotherhood throughout Europe. Only Franco and Mussolini planned to return rule to their Merovingian sovereigns. Franco was successful in his goal of protecting the Grail bloodline of Spain, mainly because he avoided war with Great Britain's Masonic oligarchy.

*Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* concludes: "The Masonic Fraternity has a long memory.. .but it has nowhere in its memory any martyrdom such as that of those years; and it is hoped it never will have again: but it will carry a long memory into the future also, and a thousand years from now it will not have forgotten Spain, and Greece, and Holland, and France, and Italy of 1940 A.D."<sup>37</sup>

### **The "Hitler Project" Failed**

We can determine how the "Hider Project" failed by examining certain evidence from the Nuremberg Trials following World War II. The Nazi banker and closet Grand Lodge Freemason Hjalmar Schacht

testified that he had attempted to unite the oligarchy bankers "to join with the Greater German Reich in a war against the Soviet Union."<sup>38</sup> The plan involved a continental anti-Bolshevik crusade, but Hider would have

597

no part in this conspiracy. He saw it as directed against German supremacy and raged against those who dared to describe his war against the Soviet Union as Europe's war. In an effort to make his Masonic adversaries understand his intent, Hitler used their own terminology when explaining, "We are not fighting for a new European order, but for the defense and security of our vital interests."<sup>39</sup>

Instead of Germany going to war with Russia, as English Freemasonry's Round Tablers had hoped, on August 23, 1939, von Ribbentrop signed a non-aggression pact with Stalin and Vyacheslav Molotov, Commissar of Foreign Affairs. Stalin's reward was half of Poland. It appeared that the Cliveden Set had been double-crossed. When Hitler and Stalin invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, like it or not, Great Britain was plunged into World War II. A treaty with Poland obligated her, with France, to declare war on Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939.<sup>40</sup>

In early October Stalin gloated over the fact that Russia had thwarted English Freemasonry's anti-Bolshevik plans with the Hitler-Stalin Pact.<sup>41</sup> At the end of the month Molotov said of London and France's declaration of war on Germany: "it is not only senseless but also criminal to wage a war to wipe out Hitlerism and disguise this as a fight for democracy."<sup>42</sup>

On May 10, 1940 Hitler opened seven weeks of Blitzkrieg (lightning war), which encompassed the fall of the Netherlands and Belgium by the end of May and of France by the 22nd of June.

The British were horrified by the collapse of France. Hitler declared publicly, however, that he did not want war with Britain. Desmond Seward in *Napoleon and Hitler* (1989) informs us that Hitler wanted to make peace with England, guaranteeing "the survival of the British Empire which accorded with his own racial and historical philosophy."<sup>43</sup>

By this time the Hitler-Stalin Pact was in serious trouble. While Hitler was invading western Europe, Stalin saw his chance to expand his territory and seized Bessarabia and the northern Bukovina from Romania, which seriously alarmed the Fuehrer, since it threatened his oil supplies. On December 18, 1940, Hitler began planning Operation Barbarossa, the code-name given the planned attack on Russia. Via the American Embassy at Berlin, closet Grand Lodge Freemason Hjalmar Schacht, president of the Reichsbank and economics minister, kept his English Masonic friends informed of Germany's imminent attack on Russia. When the war started on June 23, 1941, England was forced to ally with Russia for show, but delayed assisting the Soviet Union for three months, anticipating Germany could conquer Russia within six weeks.<sup>44</sup>

As you recall from the previous chapter, Mason Winston Churchill warned the Cliveden Set that if England was to be successful in pushing

598

Hitler east, she would be forced to enter the war to contain Germany on the western front. When Churchill's analysis proved correct, he said, "This time there must be no mistake. Russia must be crushed."<sup>45</sup> The Russian Bear, however, was too powerful for Hitler, and English Freemasonry had to settle at Yalta.

