
Book Reviews

Some ugly truths about the ADL of B'nai B'rith are revealed

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The New Crowd; the Changing of the Jewish Guard on Wall Street

by Judith Ramsey Ehrlich and Barry J. Rehfeld
Little Brown and Co., Boston, 1989
444 pages, hardbound, \$19.95

By Way of Deception; the Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer

by Victor Ostrovsky and Claire Hoy
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1990
371 pages, hardbound, \$22.95

Two recently released books offer some valuable information and insights about the activities of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a hub of corruption and political subversion for decades.

The New Crowd by Judy Ramsey Ehrlich and Barry J. Rehfeld, provides an in-depth profile of some of the major Jewish players on Wall Street today. *By Way of Deception* by Victor Ostrovsky and Claire Hoy purports to be the saga of corruption and dirty dealing by the Mossad, Israel's vaunted secret intelligence agency.

The books are both worthwhile reading, provided that the reader takes into account certain inherent flaws in the authors' approaches to the subject matter.

To begin with, certain outstanding facts should be underscored. First, the nominally Jewish component of the Anglo-American financial establishment is not an entity unto itself, a matter wholly ignored by the authors of *The New Crowd*. As in earlier historic periods, a *Hofjuden* apparatus has attached itself to the leading oligarchical structures of the day—in this current case, to the London- and New York-centered Anglo-American oligarchy typified by the Scottish Rite Freemasonic crowd ultimately responsible for the current crisis in the Persian Gulf that threatens to trigger a new Thirty Years

War. Any talk of Jewish Wall Street interests that does not begin with this reality will inevitably convey a skewed impression.

Second, on a broader level, Israel today is itself a satrap of the same Anglo-American interests, and all the institutions of the presently configured Israeli state—including the Mossad—are controlled or manipulated from outside of Israel by forces that have historically manipulated the Zionist movement and the Jewish state for its own interests. Thus, ex-Mossad operative Victor Ostrovsky, the principal author of *By Way of Deception*, is at best commenting from inside a fishbowl—whether his story represents a piece of Mossad-engineered fiction or a true dissident's view of the Israeli secret service. That latter question is not fundamental to the book's usefulness, since, even if the author himself intended to deceive, he had to provide a large enough bodyguard of truth to make credible the lies. So long as the reader bears in mind that the Mossad is an operational arm of this Anglo-American cabal, he or she can garner some valuable insights into the dirty world of Mossad.

The New Crowd, written by a duo of freelance writers, explores the almost cartel control the new generation of Jewish Wall Streeters exert over America's corporate and financial world. It is a staggering picture, updating the now-classic *Our Crowd* study of the original generation of German-Jewish immigrants who carved out a powerful place in American finance beginning in the late 19th century, earning themselves a prominent role within the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant Establishment, and eventually, according to the authors, becoming so much a part of WASP America that they ceased to exist as an independent force shaping events on Wall Street or in Washington.

The authors draw a sharp line of distinction between the earlier, highly cultured *Our Crowd* and the "shtetl" Jews who comprise the *New Crowd*. Through a detailed look at some of the power-hungry street-scrappers like Felix Rohatyn, Sandy Weill, and Saul Steinberg, who carved their niche in American finance between the 1960s and 1980s, authors Ehrlich and Rehfeld provide a wealth of information, much of it in the form of highly personal tales of intrigue, back-stabbing,

and power-plays set against a backdrop of staggering riches and the constant, nearly obsessive fear of imminent disaster. One particularly telling episode reveals that Lazard Frères powerhouse Felix Rohatyn got his initial “break” at the firm from Sam Bronfman, the Prohibition Era bootlegger and killer, whose son Edgar is today a cornerstone of New Crowd finance and political clout and who typifies the kind of rascals who run the ADL. “Mr. Sam” it seems, was one of the powerful influences on Lazard founder André Meyer, a little-known fact with enormous implications.

Without coming right out and saying it in so many words, the authors suggest that the New Crowd has become far more integral to Israel’s well-being and influence in America than the earlier Our Crowd had been, especially during its waning years when many of the legendary families—Lehman, Loeb—“went Episcopal.”

Many of the most prominent New Crowd names—Saul Steinberg, Michael Milken, Ivan Boesky, Rohatyn, Bronfman—have been identified by this magazine as major players in a multibillion-dollar Anglo-Israeli war chest effort, using insider trading, leveraged buyouts, and other dubious or outright criminal techniques to amass enough liquid assets to finance a Mideast War. What authors Ehrlich and Rehfeld catalogue is the concentration of financial power in a handful of investment houses and law firms that makes such a cash grab not only seem feasible, but an almost daily occurrence.

The heart of the ‘sayanim’?

While the *New Crowd* authors provide a highly documented, objective, and, at times laudatory account of the generation shift among the Jews of Wall Street, former Mossad officer Victor Ostrovsky, the co-author and subject of *By Way of Deception*, provides a damning indictment of the methods employed by the Israeli intelligence service—methods as often as not directed against the United States. A few of Ostrovsky’s specific charges briefly grabbed the headlines in the American press, such as his claim that Israel knew in advance and withheld the information that there was a planned Arab bomb attack on the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut. The 1983 attack caused hundreds of deaths and forced the United States into an ignoble pullout from the Eastern Mediterranean.

However, one feature of the book clearly stands out as fundamental to the whole issue under investigation here: Ostrovsky’s detailed description of the Mossad’s *sayanim* system. *Sayanim* literally means “volunteer Jewish helpers,” and refers to a veritable army of secret agents recruited by Mossad from among the Jewish communities of every country in the world. (By Ostrovsky’s account, Mossad has between 50,000 and 60,000 such “helpers” working on its behalf today.) These volunteer helpers constitute an agent-of-influence and logistics capability second to none, enabling Mossad to both pluck secrets from and covertly shape the

policies of friends and foes alike. It has, if Ostrovsky is correct, allowed Mossad to run a “false flag” intelligence apparatus that carries out Israel’s national mission inside the secret services of many nations (bearing in mind the already stated fact that Israel’s national mission has been manipulated by Anglo-American and other interests to be anything but the true interest of the citizens of the state of Israel). Apparently, the United States has been a prime target of the Mossad’s “false flag” intelligence war. According to Ostrovsky, Mossad maintains between 25 and 30 case officers in the United States alone, operating principally out of New York City and Washington, D.C. (two cities Mossad seniors refer to as their “sandboxes”), directing the activities of the *sayanim*.

By Ostrovsky’s account, Mossad case officers prioritize the recruiting of *sayanim* from the international business community and from the intelligence world. The preference is for American and Canadian businessmen managing companies that have major operational bases in Western Europe.

According to one American intelligence specialist familiar with his background, Ostrovsky—a Canadian-Israeli citizen—was himself used as a courier in some of the large money-laundering operations that were involved in amassing the Israeli war chest. (Ostrovsky was recruited as a Mossad agent-in-training, not as one of the *sayanim*. He worked for the Israeli service for four years in the mid-1980s spanning the period of Pollard and the slush fund program.)

Reading the two books, this reviewer was struck by the extent to which both pairs of authors provided critical information bearing on the role of the Anti-Defamation League as a force for subversion inside the United States. In both the Pollard affair and the earlier Saul Joftus affair, in which the ADL and its parent organization B’nai B’rith were caught fronting for Mossad spying and recruiting efforts, the League’s ties to the Israeli secret service were partially exposed. *The New Crowd* and *By Way of Deception* help to fill out the picture and provide the reader with an insight into the internal workings of an extremely small group of powerful and corrupted individuals, who have not only betrayed their country’s interests, but have also betrayed the very moral foundations of Mosaic Judaism and the interests of Israel as a sovereign state.

On the eve of its scheduled release, the Israeli government attempted to block the appearance of the Ostrovsky book in Canada and in the United States. It is still not clear to this reviewer whether the eleventh-hour effort was an elaborate public relations ploy intended to draw attention to a book that might have otherwise gone largely unnoticed, or whether the Israelis were genuinely out to block its release. In either case, it is noteworthy how the Mossad went about the effort, and who were the assets called upon. The most prominent New Crowd law firm, Skadden Arps, was called upon to handle the case, and the New York judge who signed an initial temporary restraining order against the book’s release had a long record of playing ball with the ADL.