
Lies of the Reader's Digest

Kitschy, kitschy, koo

by Nancy Spannaus

In millions of bathrooms across the United States, you will find a small monthly magazine, with lots of jokes. It's not the jokes that are the problem, but the so-called human interest stories and investigative news reporting which are ingested by unsuspecting readers. In the guise of bite-sized entertainment, Americans are being fed pure Anglophilic propaganda.

Reader's Digest, the apparently innocuous piece of light reading, is the largest circulation magazine in the United States, once you discount the publications of the American Association of Retired Persons. It has a circulation of 15.1 million in the United States alone, and an estimated readership of 100 million here. This is the core of an even farther-flung media empire, which was established by Dewitt and Lila Wallace in 1922, and now publishes 48 editions in 19 languages, as well as providing "news" *ad nauseam* for National Public Radio.

Where does *Reader's Digest* get its "information," you might ask? Well, at least one substantial portion of it comes straight from British intelligence.

This is more than evident in recent years, when the monthly magazine has been featuring regular "stories" based on British intelligence lies about Sudan and China, both nations which have been targeted for dismemberment by the British Empire-Commonwealth. The stories do not purport to rigorously prove the claims of slavery or oppression by these governments, but select an individual's, or family's, story which asserts that the government is oppressive, and pulls on the heart-strings of the reader, who is then set up to support the rantings of various ideologues in Congress, and elsewhere, to impose sanctions, or other measures, on these nations.

Today, these lies are particularly dangerous, since the prospects for world prosperity and peace depend heavily upon the creation of a strategic partnership between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Anglophile, and more

But *Reader's Digest* did not begin serving its disinformation function in the 1990s. From its inception, it has been an intelligence operation of a highly sophisticated, and destructive, nature.

The magazine's founder, Dewitt Wallace, was a *bonafide* World Federalist, as well as an avowed Anglophile. Interestingly enough, the *Digest*—which today has a very "conservative" profile—was a nesting place for a good number of avowed "left-wingers," notably Eugene Lyons and Max Eastman. Both men eventually professed to go through "conversions" to virulent anti-communism. It would be more accurate to say that they were always British materialist-atheists, who simply changed their "ism" after a while.

By the 1940s, the *Digest* was a leading promoter of British Tory policies, notably free trade. From their book division, the company published a condensed version of Mont Pelerin Society founder Friedrich von Hayek's anti-nation-state manifesto, *The Road to Serfdom*. Increasingly, it was reported that *Digest* offices were full of former Anglo-American intelligence operatives.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the *Digest's* Washington bureau served as a public relations firm for Dewitt Wallace's good friend "Gay" Edgar Hoover and the FBI. One of the leading stringers for the FBI and the Anglophile networks within the CIA, was *Digest* Washington bureau staffer Eugene Methvin, who routinely published intelligence community "research" under his byline.

The lying continues

Methvin is still active with the *Reader's Digest*, and just as filthy in his activities. He was part of the John Train salon which came together in the spring of 1983, at the home of the investment banker, as part of a secret government project called "Public Diplomacy." Along with journalists from NBC-TV, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, and the *New Republic*—as well the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and the National Security Council—Methvin received instructions on how to smear the secret government's major opponent, Lyndon LaRouche.

Methvin's contribution to the journalistic smear campaign that led up to the first raid and indictments against LaRouche associates in October 1986, came in the August 1986 edition of the *Reader's Digest*. Under the title "Lyndon LaRouche's Raid on Democracy," Methvin retreaded the slanders which were put into currency by the ADL, the *New York Times*, and the Heritage Foundation, under the theme of exposing "the man who has convinced his cult of fringe fanatics that they are destined to rule the U.S."

The best thing that could be said for Methvin's piece, is that it was a loyal repeat of the dominant line in the secret government-controlled portion of the intelligence community. Otherwise, it had no integrity in the least.

The same has to be said for the *Digest's* "reporting" on international issues, which is a retread of the prevailing line of the Anglo-American financial establishment on various matters. It's British intelligence lies transformed into *kitsch*, and should be treated as such.



The construction of the Gezhou Dam in China.

Out-of-work Americans apply for unemployment benefits in Front Royal, Va.

China plans 10,000 major infrastructure projects in the next decade.



Will the United States adopt this approach to make its way out of the new Great Depression?

READ

The Eurasian Land-Bridge

The “New Silk Road” —
locomotive for worldwide economic development

**A new
special report from
Executive
Intelligence
Review**

including studies of:

- High-technology infrastructure development corridors
- China and Europe as Eurasia’s development poles
- Crucial infrastructure projects in China
- The Eurasian Land-Bridge and development around the great ocean basins
- Financing an economic miracle: Hamiltonian credit generation
- The Eurasian Land-Bridge and the economic reconstruction of the United States

260 pages **\$200**

Available from:

EIR News Service P.O. Box 17390 Washington, D.C. 20041-0390