
Book Review

The Bank for International Fascism

by John Hoefle

Tower of Basel: The Shadowy History of the Secret Bank that Runs the World

by Adam LeBor

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In the aftermath of World War I, fascist movements sprang up all over Europe, and also in the United States. Considerable effort has been spent to portray these fascist movements as outgrowths of rampant nationalism, but that is a deliberate lie. The truth is that fascism is a political movement created and financed by the rentier/financier oligarchs of the Anglo-Dutch Liberal Empire, for the purpose of replacing the nation-state system with a global technocratic dictatorship.

Adam LeBor's *Tower of Basel* sheds a useful light on how this process works, by telling the story of the Bank for International Settlements, known more commonly by its acronym, BIS. His book presents a detailed picture of the relationships between the Nazis and top international financiers, and the intelligence agencies. Along the way, we meet the leaders of the Bank of England, the titans of Wall Street, British and American spooks, and other financiers and industrialists, all of whom collectively made Hitler and Mussolini possible, and unleashed horror upon the world.

Some readers may be puzzled why such seemingly respectable institutions and individuals would work so closely with the Hitler regime, and wonder if they were somehow secret Nazis or Nazi sympathizers. But it is actually the inverse that is true. The Nazis were agents of the Empire!

A Bank Above Nations

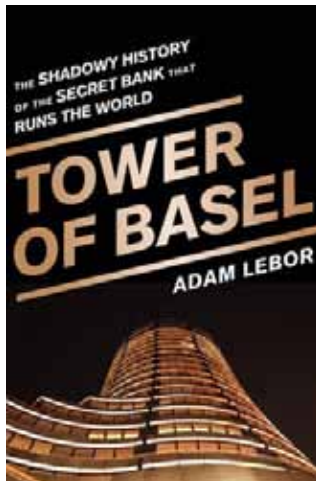
The BIS was founded in 1930, nominally for the purpose of handling the reparations payments imposed upon Germany after World War I. The founding members of the bank were the central banks of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium, with Japan and the United States each represented by a consortium of domestic banks. In the U.S., the consortium consisted of three banks: J.P. Morgan & Co., the First National Bank of New York, and the First National Bank of Chicago.¹

The driving forces behind the founding were Montagu Norman, the Governor of the Bank of England, and Hjalmar Schacht, the head of the German central bank, the Reichsbank. While Schacht liked to refer to the BIS as “my bank,” the Dutch banker Johan Willem Beyen—himself a president of the BIS—put it more clearly: “Norman’s prestige was overwhelming. As the apostle of central bank cooperation, he made the central

banker into a kind of archpriest of monetary religion. The BIS was, in fact, his creation.”

Beyen’s quote goes to the deeper motive behind the founding of the BIS, the creation of the bank as a base from which to create a new form of what was euphemistically called “transnational finance.” The archpriests of the Empire were laying the foundation for what became the globalized financial system of today, a system of financier-run corporate cartels and markets which is essentially a rerun of the methods of the British East India Company, combined with modern technology.

1. J.P. Morgan and First National Bank of Chicago are today part of JPMorgan Chase, while First National Bank of New York is part of Citigroup.



Under the treaty which founded the BIS, the bank was granted virtual sovereignty—although under the circumstances, it might be more accurate to say that it was granted immunity from the sovereignty of others. No nation was to have any say over how the bank conducted its affairs, nor would their laws apply. Although the BIS is located in Switzerland, it is exempt from Swiss laws, and Swiss authorities cannot enter its premises without permission.

According to LeBor, “[T]he BIS enjoys similar protections to those granted to the headquarters of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and diplomatic embassies.... The BIS has the right to communicate in code and send and receive correspondence in bags covered by the same protection as embassies, meaning they cannot be opened.”

“The bank’s extraordinary legal privileges also extend to its staff and directors,” LeBor writes. “Senior managers enjoy a special status, similar to that of diplomats, while carrying out their duties in Switzerland, which means that their bags (unless there is evidence of a criminal act), and their papers are inviolable. The central bank governors traveling to Basel for the bimonthly meetings enjoy the same status while in Switzerland. All bank officials are immune under Swiss law, for life, for all the acts carried out during the discharge of their duties.”

This protected position was carefully crafted. If your goal were to take control of nations and incorporate them into a new corporatist dictatorship, you would take steps to protect against counterattack by the targets.

An Oligarchic Cabal

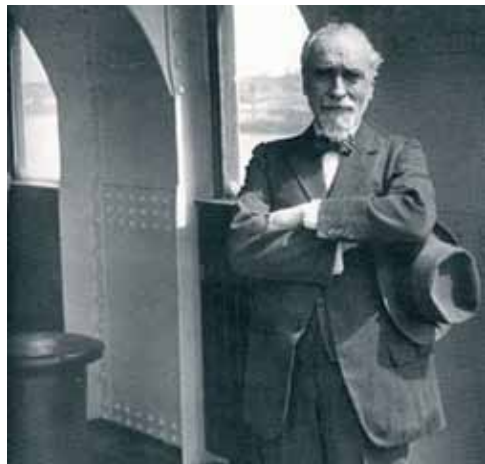
As a conduit for war reparations payments, the BIS was explicitly set up to work with Germany, as the Nazis were coming to power. But the Nazis were themselves a tool of the people behind the bank, led by Montagu Norman and the Bank of England, the mother lodge of fascism. The Brits and the Dutch provided financial and political aid to the Nazi Party, as did their allies on Wall Street. The Wall Street crowd, led, as always, by J.P. Morgan, had organized its own fascist movement in the U.S., under the banner of the American Liberty League. The Morgan networks pumped money into Germany and Italy, aided by the Rockefeller interests, the Warburgs’ Kuhn Loeb, the Brown Brothers Harriman crowd, and Prescott Bush, whose son and grandson each became President of the United States.

Having launched this fascist movement, it was to be expected that the bankers would support it—and they did. The BIS served as a conduit to the banking and corporate interests on both sides of the war. The giant German industrial cartel, IG Farben—notorious for providing the Zyklon B gas used in the concentration camps—had a seat on the BIS board. IG Farben’s U.S. subsidiary, General Aniline and Film (GAF), was a major business partner with the Rockefellers’ Standard Oil. Standard Oil President Walter Teagle, Ford Motor Co. President Edsel Ford, National City Bank of New York Chairman Charles Mitchell, and Paul Warburg all sat on GAF’s founding board of directors. Sosthenes Behn, the head of ITT—which had substantial holdings in Germany—also sat on the National City Bank board, National City being a successor to the First National Bank of New York, one of the original BIS shareholders. New York banks led the way in raising money for Germany in the 1920s, as did the City of London. *Time* put the Morgan-sponsored Il Duce on its cover eight times between 1923 and 1943, presenting Mussolini and his corporatist policies as worthy of emulation in the U.S.

This is just a sample of the interlocking financial and business arrangements. Right in the middle of this nest were the Dulles brothers of the Wall Street law firm Sullivan & Cromwell, which represented a Who’s Who of Wall Street, including J.P. Morgan, Kuhn Loeb, Brown Brothers, the Harriman interests, Goldman Sachs, and GAF. John Foster Dulles was a fixture at the international conferences which established the post-World War I order. His brother Allen Dulles was the OSS station chief in Switzerland during the war, and later became head of the CIA, while John Foster became Secretary of State under President Eisenhower. Their sister, Eleanor Dulles, was also part of the family treason, involved in international diplomacy, and writing a book promoting the BIS.

Foremost among the British banks aiding the Nazis in the City of London was J. Henry Schröder & Co., which set up a trust to invest in German firms, including IG Farben, Siemens, and Deutsche Bank. Schröder partner Frank Tiarks—a director of the Bank of England—set up a subsidiary in New York, Schrobanco, in 1923. Schrobanco was run by a friend of John Foster Dulles, and its board would include not only Allen Dulles, but Gates McGarrah, a director of the New York Fed, a Rockefeller banker, and the first president of the BIS. Another American (and Rockefeller banker),

The Economic Hit-Men of the Bank for International Fascism



Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England: "He made the central banker into a kind of archpriest of monetary religion."



Hjalmar Schacht (with Hitler), head of the Reichsbank: referred to the BIS as "my bank."



J.P. Morgan, czar of Wall Street: organized a fascist movement in the U.S.



German Historical Museum

John Foster Dulles: The family law firm represented a Who's Who of Wall Street bankers.



Prescott Bush: helped to finance Hitler; his son George H.W. (shown here with Prescott), and grandson, George W. became U.S. Presidents.

Thomas McKittrick, was president of the BIS when the U.S. entered World War II.

J. Henry Schröder & Co., in turn, was the British arm of the Schröder banking dynasty in Germany, where Kurt Freiherr von Schröder was one of the most powerful and influential bankers, and a staunch Hitler

supporter. Von Schröder hosted the infamous meeting between Chancellor Fritz von Papen and Adolf Hitler, which led to Hitler's appointment as Chancellor of Germany in 1932. Kurt von Schröder was a partner in J.H. Stein in Cologne, which held the slush funds for Heinrich Himmler, the head of the Nazi SS. Schacht person-

ally appointed Schröder to the board of the BIS.

One could go on almost endlessly, but this is sufficient to show how the international bankers see themselves as part of an elite. As LeBor put it: “Nationalities were irrelevant. The overriding loyalty was to international finance.”

Globalization

The founding of the BIS, LeBor wrote, “was the culmination of the central bankers’ decades-old dream, to have their own bank—powerful, independent, and free from interfering politicians and nosy journalists. Most felicitous of all, the BIS was self-financing and would be in perpetuity.”

The BIS became a linchpin of the Empire’s plan to establish an economic and political dictatorship over all of Europe, and use it as a base from which to attack the United States. This scheme, which would produce the European Union and the single-currency Eurozone, would be augmented by the announcement, at the Bilderberger meeting in 1968, of a “world company” project to replace the “outmoded” nation-states with corporate management, as the vehicle to rule the world; and by the 1971 formation of the Inter-Alpha Group of Banks, to push “transnational” finance.

The BIS helped create the European Central Bank (ECB), as well. The ECB grew out of the European Monetary Institute, whose president, Alexandre Lamfalusy, had been general manager at the BIS.

Today, the BIS is heavily involved in the battle over financial regulation. The overriding line is that global problems require global solutions, and that the best way to provide those global solutions is with supranational agreements under which national regulations give way to global ones. Global solutions which, it should be obvious at this point, work for the benefit of the international banking crowd, not the general public. Once again, this small interlocking cabal of imperial financiers and elitists is protecting their own interests, and hanging the rest of us out to die.

The Police State

One of the peripheral themes in *Tower of Babel* is the involvement of the spooks, leading with Allen Dulles of the OSS, with mention also of Sir Frank Nelson, the British consul in Bern who later became chief of the Special Operations Executive. In addition to Dulles, at least two other men with direct connections to this BIS/fascist operation became head of the

CIA. One was George H.W. Bush, whose father Prescott Bush helped to finance Hitler. The other was Richard McGarrah Helms, the son-in-law of Gates McGarrah, the first president of the BIS.

This collusion between the bankers and the spooks represents what used to be called the “Bankers’ CIA,” reflecting the way the Empire’s financial and intelligence arms work together. Most people have heard the story of the Rothschilds’ intelligence network, which provided the bank with information on events large and small before it was generally known.

Reflect on that, as you consider the NSA surveillance operations, in which, under the thin guise of hunting for “terrorists,” the spy apparatus has been turned against the public. We have seen many cases where this surveillance/police-state apparatus has been used to catch drug dealers and other small-time crooks, but there is a void when it comes to catching the crooks of Wall Street.

Now consider the fact that the Federal Reserve is spying on you, too. In late 2011, the Fed stated its intent to monitor, collect, and aggregate data from social network sites such as Facebook, and media sites. It solicited corporate assistance to set up a system to “monitor billions of conversations” and “determine the sentiment of a speaker or writer.” The Fed wanted the ability to “Handle crisis situations, Continuously monitor conversations, and Identify and reach out to key bloggers and influencers.” Add to this a CNET report from 2012 on a bill proposed by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) which would allow more than 22 agencies—including the Federal Reserve—to access Americans’ e-mails and other online communications and files without a warrant. That particular bill was scuttled, but the desire of the Fed to track Americans, and its possible receipt of the fruits of unconstitutional surveillance, raise some disturbing questions. What, exactly, does the Fed do with the information it collects? How does it intervene in the discussions? Does it do so surreptitiously?

The Fed is, after all, the U.S. arm of the apparatus represented by the Bank of England and the BIS. It is the chief protector and co-conspirator of the imperial bankers who are imposing fascist austerity upon the people, replacing government with corporate-style governance, and stealing us blind to save the oligarchic system.

Come to think of it, it’s not hard at all to figure out why the Fed is spying on us!