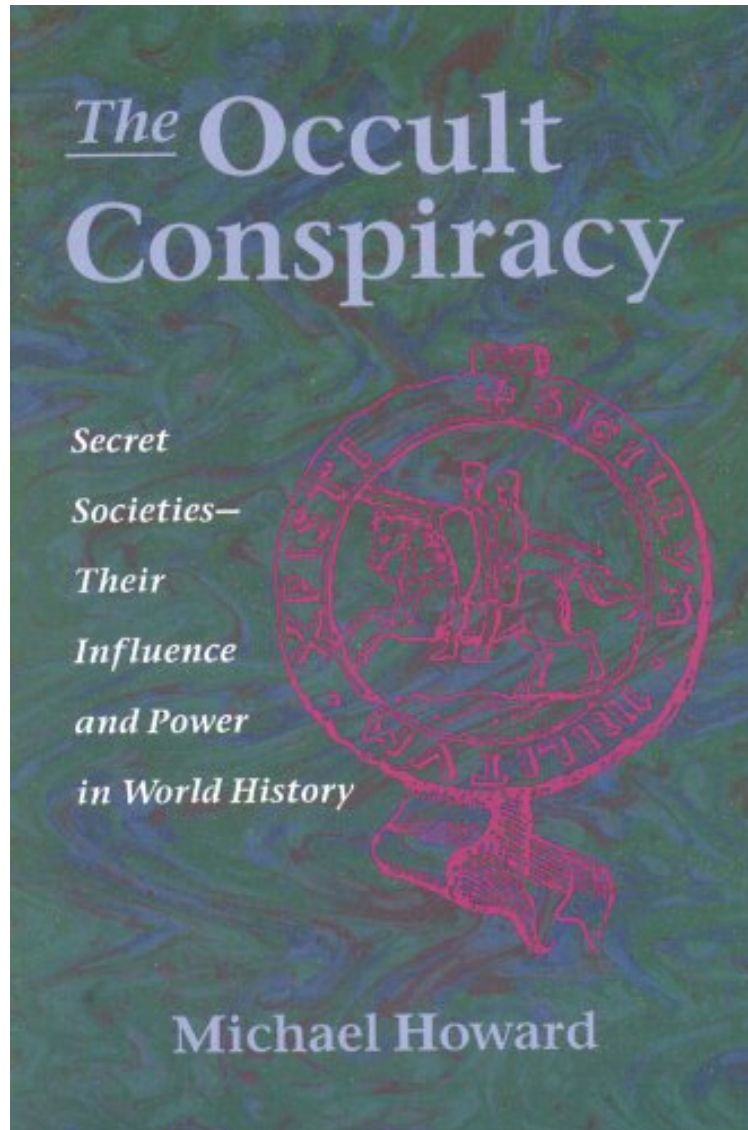


The Occult Conspiracy: Secret Societies--Their Influence and Power in World History

Michael Howard

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It is a little-known fact that for thousands of years secret societies and occult groups--guardians of ancient esoteric wisdom--have exercised a strong and often crucial influence on the destiny of nations. As Freemasons, Knights Templar, and Rosicrucians they affected the course of the French and American revolutions as well as the overthrow of the medieval order. Inevitably, the true ideals and esoteric practices of these societies have at times been perverted by self-serving individuals. The Nazis, of course, but also the British security forces, the founding fathers of America, and the Vatican have all had a part--for good or ill--in the occult conspiracy The author explores these connections, tracing occult influences in politics and statecraft from the time of ancient Egypt to the present. He sheds light on these influences in government and in the lives of many well-known figures, including Frederick the Great, John Dee, Francis Bacon, Benjamin Franklin, Comte Cagliostro, Helen Blavatsky, Rasputin, and Woodrow Wilson. Reading *The Occult Conspiracy*, we are left with little doubt that the secret societies--largely ignored by orthodox historians and persecuted throughout history--have survived and continue to operate powerfully in world affairs today.

From *Scientific American* A well-informed account. "The Occult Conspiracy's overriding virtue is its sheer comprehensiveness and sense of continuity from age to age. It offers those wonderful 'Aha!' experiences." (Gnosis)"A well-informed account." (The Book Reader)From the Back Cover OCCULT HISTORY It is a little-known fact that for thousands of years secret societies and occult groups--guardians of ancient esoteric wisdom--have exercised a strong and often crucial influence on the destiny of nations. As Freemasons, Knights Templar, and Rosicrucians they affected the course of the French and American revolutions as well as the overthrow of the medieval order. Inevitably, the true ideals and esoteric practices of these societies have at times been perverted by self-serving individuals. The Nazis, of course, but also the British security forces, the founding fathers of America, and the Vatican have all had a part--for good or ill--in the occult conspiracy The author explores these connections, tracing occult influences in politics and statecraft from the time of ancient Egypt to the present. He sheds light on these influences in government and in the lives of many well-known figures, including Frederick the Great, John Dee, Francis Bacon, Benjamin Franklin, Comte Cagliostro, Helen Blavatsky, Rasputin, and Woodrow Wilson. Reading *The Occult Conspiracy*, we are left with little doubt that the secret societies--largely ignored by orthodox historians and persecuted throughout history--have survived and continue to operate powerfully in world affairs today. MICHAEL HOWARD has been studying secret societies and the occult for the past 25 years. An expert in Anglo-Saxon runes, he has authored several books, including *Traditional Folk Remedies* and *The Wisdom of the Runes*. His home is in Wales, where he spends his free time exploring local prehistoric stone circles.