

The British monarchy's cultural warfare against the state of Israel

by Allen Douglas

Following the highly publicized visit of Britain's Queen to Jordan in March, the Queen and her consort entertained the President of Israel and his wife in a private luncheon at Windsor Castle in April, an intimate tête-à-tête unprecedented in Israeli-British relations. The stage is now set for a visit by the Queen to Israel some time in the future.

The Queen's projected visit to Israel will, in the ancient memories of the Royal Household and associated institutions like the Anglican Church, signal the return of the British monarchy to the Holy Land for the first time since the 1862 visit of Prince Edward of Wales. For the Sovereign of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, it signals a spiritual return to the seat of the gnostic heresies from which, as we shall show, she traces her history. Without understanding the belief structure of the British ruling families and the crucial role that the Knights of St. John and the London Grand Lodge of Freemasonry played in the establishment of the nation of Israel, one cannot grasp the full significance of the work of Yigael Yadin and the Israeli "orientalizers" or the true strength and capabilities of the circles behind Ariel Sharon and Ezer Weizman.

Certain facts are granted by all, such as that British evangelical mystic Orde Wingate was the trainer for key Israeli military figures like Menachem Begin, Moshe Dayan, Sharon, Weizman, and Yadin. It was Wingate who, when not out killing or torturing Arabs, used to sit naked on the floor in the throes of ecstatic visions. Wingate's heritage is felt and acknowledged today; yet the more subtle issues to which this points are overlooked.

The gnostic heresy

For over a century, the British monarchy and its associated freemasonic secret societies have looked to the Holy Land as the center for their cult-creation activities. A journalist who inquired last year at Buckingham Palace to find out who in the Royal Household was most knowledgeable about the fundamentalist drive to rebuild Solomon's Temple was promptly directed to Commander Sir Richard Buckley, chief aide to the head of the British Freemasons, the Duke of Kent.

The Royal Family traces its own ancestral roots to the Holy Land: The monarch is sprinkled with water brought from the Jordan River, crowned on an old stone reputed, by

some legends, to be the stone on which Jacob rested his head, and by others to be a stone from the original Solomon's Temple. These cult beliefs were outlined in the film *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* (later released as a best-selling book), a propaganda piece for the gnostic heresy.

The gnostic argument presented is that the Royal Family and associates today are the continuation of a bloodline begun by the marriage of Jesus Christ (who, according to this heresy, was never crucified) to Mary Magdalen! This secret bloodline allegedly continued unbroken throughout history, through the Merovingian Dynasty in Europe and the crusading orders such as the Templars and Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. (The Templars were said to have been headquartered at Solomon's Temple while in Jerusalem—hence their name.) Grouped around the bloodline are orders such as the Freemasons. The official Bible of the Freemasons in the United States begins with a full 20 pages of pictures of a reconstructed Solomon's Temple. In London, the Temple Church was built on a circular design, modeled on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

The monarchy's Palestine Exploration Fund

There were earlier stirrings, but the first major push for a Jewish presence in the Holy Land came as part of the issue dominating European politics during the second half of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th—the Eastern Question, or what to do with a crumbling Ottoman Empire. Though many players had their fingers in that game, orchestrated in large measure from Venice, the British viewed a Jewish presence in Palestine as crucial to staking a claim to the Ottoman territories, and more crucially, protecting the path to the Suez Canal and the jewel of the Empire, India.

The opening shots of the colonization plan were fired with the 1862 reconnaissance mission of Prince Edward of Wales to the Holy Land, accompanied by a huge entourage of churchmen, intelligence operatives, and military figures. The tour led to the establishment of the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF), the institution which was to become the colonial overseer of British interests, a key instrument of cultural warfare against the region—and against the world—for the next hundred years.

The official patron of the PEF was—and remains today—the British monarch. Founded on June 22, 1865 at a meeting



Investiture of the Knights of Malta at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

chaired by the Archbishop of York, the Fund included the very core of the British oligarchy: Lord John Russell (grandfather of Bertrand Russell) and Lord Shaftesbury, among others—the same crew who tried to destroy the United States by backing the South in the Civil War, and who launched the second major Opium War against China.

Today's Israel Exploration Society, as well as the Biblical Archaeology Congress, which concluded a high-profile 11-day meeting in Jerusalem in April, are direct spin-offs of the PEF. Until the Israelis captured East Jerusalem in 1967, the PEF under British intelligence figure Dame Kathleen Kenyon was the official organization running the Jerusalem digs. PEF members include leading figures in U.S. and Israeli archeology, among them Lambert Dolphin, a conspirator in the Jerusalem Temple Mount Foundation.

The goals of the PEF were described by the 20-year secretary to the Fund, Walter Besant, brother of Theosophist-kook Annie Besant:

The objects and intentions of the founders were the prosecution of systematic and scientific research in all the branches of inquiry connected with the Holy Land, and the principal reason alleged for conducting this inquiry was the illustration of the Bible which might be expected to follow such an investigation.

Or, as stated in the original Prospectus of the Fund:

Even to a casual traveller in the Holy Land, the Bible becomes in its form, and therefore to some extent in its substance, a new book. Many an illusion which

hitherto had no meaning, or had lain unnoticed, starts into prominence, and throws a light over a whole passage.

The nature of the "light" thrown on the Bible, of course, was determined by the cult beliefs of the centrally deployed archaeologists, surveyors, and freemasons who set out to excavate the ruins of the Holy Land, to discover minutiae about King Solomon's Temple and other sites, and to rename towns after their Biblical names. This British archaeology provided the weapons for that cultural warfare which continues against Israel today, and which is elaborated by Yigael Yadin, the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, et al.

The British monarchy viewed the PEF's activities as a military question as well, and the digging and surveying were overseen by the Royal Engineers under War Department direction. Funding came from the Royal Family and its entourage: The Queen put up £150 from the Royal Purse, the University of Oxford gave £500, Cambridge University £250, the Grand Lodge of Freemasons £105, and the Syria Improvement Committee £250.

The Quatuor Coronati Lodge

In 1884, after the PEF was well established and the whole face of Palestine altered, another institution was spun out of these same circles with the explicit purpose of myth-making and cult control: the Quatuor Coronati Lodge. The circumstances of the founding of the freemasonic lodge are instructive: Its two key figures were Sir Walter Besant and Sir Charles Warren, the kingpins, along with Claude Conder, of the PEF. The founding was put off some months so that Warren, regarded as the real "soul" of the Lodge, could return from South Africa to attend the ceremonies. There were nine founding members of the Lodge, because according to Templar legend the original Templars were nine in number and wandered for nine years before they were able to launch their Order. The Quatuor Coronati Lodge has rarely numbered more than 40 full members, as befitting its elite character, although there are 30,000 corresponding members all over the world.

The danger to Israel

Although the specific features of the British monarchy's belief structure would hardly sell in Israel today, certain core features are being pushed with a vengeance to become the organizing principles of the Israeli nation, including Kabbalism, with its associated myths of holy blood and holy soil. *Sometimes these beliefs, or aspects of them, are accepted devoutly by the very circles who genuinely think they hate British imperialism the most*, such as circles around former Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The solution is for Israeli leaders to go about the business of developing Israel as a modern, technology-proud nation-state committed to the development of its own people as well as its neighbors, leaving the "holy blood, holy soil" notions to those kooks who invented them in the first place.