
Guest Commentary

1914 to 1986: the road to terminal disaster

by a British Watcher on the Threshold

The story of 1914 has been written thousands of times. But it has never been written in a prophetic context (even in 1938-39), still less in 1986. I believe it should now be so written.

At 9 o'clock on a splendid May morning of 1910 there set out from Buckingham Palace a procession of nine Kings, five heirs apparent, forty princes, and seven Queens. That procession was so gorgeous that the London crowds gasped. What few, if any, realized, was that it represented not only the funeral ceremony of Edward VII but of an entire era. Not only were almost all the dynasties represented to fall, but the Empires of Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, and Turkey were all to expire.

Amongst that glittering muster of royals only one man was never to run, betray, or behave disgracefully. That one man was Albert of the Belgians. He alone of all of them never ran or betrayed. Nor in fact did his son Leopold III. He was just sold down the river by his allies and then blamed by Churchill (who lied).

That gilded procession preceded by only four years the mobilization of 70 million men and the death within eight years of probably 9 million. It was the last ceremony of its kind ever to take place and was preliminary to two vast world conflicts and the threat of a third, nuclear war and of a physical scourge without precedent in recorded history (AIDS).

Behind the incompetent puppets dressed up in their gorgeous state outfits was an entire body of political fools, a frivolous society, and a dying religion—the most publicized of which is, in 1986, in its final death throes while filling its churches with a mass of false idols in a hopeless attempt to retain a few customers.

As a result of Crown Prince Rudolph's murder of Baroness Marie Vetsera and his own suicide at Mayerling on Jan. 29-30, 1889, the heir to the Crown of Austria-Hungary in 1914 was Archduke Franz Ferdinand, an overweight nonentity whose hatred of Hungary, evil temper, bad health, and exaggerated love of bird slaughter made him unsuitable for any position of trust whatsoever. His death on June 28, 1914, was to be the fatal occurrence that cost the lives of the flower of the world's youth—fine, clean lads, most of whom would have been disgusted even to drink a glass of beer with Franz Ferdinand if they had known the truth. But the Hapsburgs were nonetheless to be the cause of indescribable ca-

tastrophe not yet completed—but soon to reach its terrible finale.

In Russia, the fate of the world was in the hands of that incompetent fool Nicholas II. In Germany it was in those of a bombastic idiot Wilhelm II. In Constantinople, of a degenerate Sultan. In Bulgaria, of a fool who had bought a Byzantine outfit from a show-business supplier. In England, of a smug Liberal administration drawn from a wealthy merchant class mixed up with a pretend aristocracy, mostly derived from former political party subscribers. The English king was inexperienced, a tool of ministers, lacking any serious education, and stubbornly Establishment. He was, no doubt, well-meaning, but he comprehended only the technicalities of seamanship, shooting birds, and the futile social customs of a snobbish sort.

Pasic, the Serbian prime minister, learned in May 1914 that there was a plot to assassinate the archduke on the occasion of his visit to Sarajevo. Pasic was not strong enough to deal with the Black Hand secret society openly, notwithstanding the fact that the Russian ambassador in Belgrade had officially withdrawn support from it. Nevertheless he ordered the Serbian ambassador in Vienna to warn the Austrian authorities. Jovanovic in fact did so. In Vienna, he saw Bilinski who was responsible for the administration of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He saw Bilinski because the frivolous Berchtold evaded contact with Jovanovic as much as possible, whereas he ought to have seen him whenever possible. Jovanovic expressly told Bilinski that the archduke's life would be in danger. Bilinski ignored the warning. He told neither the archduke nor Berchtold.

So the archduke and his wife set out, unwarned by a minister who had expressly been told that an assassination attempt was likely. Three conspirators were in place: Princip, Cabrinovic, and Grabez. They had been in or near Sarajevo for two weeks. All through May they had practiced shooting. On May 27, they were issued with the final weapons and poison—four Belgian automatics of the latest type and six bombs. On May 28, they left Belgrade and were passed by the secret Black Hand route across the frontier. On June 3, they arrived in Sarajevo and were seen around quite openly, albeit not together.

The Austrian security precautions were virtually nil. Not

the slightest notice had been taken of the official Serbian warning. The degenerate and idiotic so-called aristocratic government—in fact a system and administration typified by the lunatic Prince Montenuovo, a man wholly devoted to how many quarterings a man could claim upon his coat of arms—an emblem several centuries out-of-date in terms of its proper origin. Moreover, when a coat of arms really did serve an effective purpose, most of the families so dear to Prince Montenuovo were totally unknown and did not possess any such badge. The man was a dangerous fool.

At 10:15 a.m. on June 28, 1914 Franz Ferdinand and his nice wife (she was worth 20 of him, but did not come up to Prince Montenuovo's social standards—the lady being no more than a mere countess: quite shocking), made quite a target in Count Harrach's car. Cabrinovic hurled a bomb. The archduke and his wife escaped injury. One might have thought it something of a warning. But not one bit of it. First the archduke sent a characteristic telegram to the emperor. The attempt should not be taken too seriously. Nothing except quartering was taken seriously at the Austrian Court. There would be no harm in driving down Appel Way for luncheon at the governor's house. It would be a mistake to bring in security forces to line the route—they would not be correctly dressed (Potriorek). But the route was changed without telling the driver (!!!). The archduke's car therefore took the wrong road. Potriorek yelled out that it was the wrong way. The chauffeur therefore stopped to reverse under the very eyes of the incredulous Princip, who fired point blank at the archduke. That was that.

On July 5, the Austrian ambassador to Germany told the Kaiser that the assassination had been proved to be the work of the Serbian government. The Kaiser thereupon offered Austria a blank check. In fact, Baron Wiesner (the official sent by Vienna to Sarajevo to investigate) did not even start on his work until July 11, and, in fact, totally cleared the Serbian government. The Austrian ambassador to Germany had lied. It was a fateful lie. It was to cost millions of lives.

On July 6, the German ambassador to London, Prince Lichowsky, warned Sir Edward Grey of the danger. Grey did nothing of importance. Prince Lichowsky begged Grey to smooth down Russia. Grey only mildly reported to the Russian ambassador in London.

On July 23, Austria delivered the fatal ultimatum to Serbia. Lichowsky implored Grey to intervene in Paris and St. Petersburg. Instead, Grey went off on a fishing holiday on July 25, 1914 and therefore doomed the whole world to catastrophe.

On the morning of July 25, the Serbian government drafted an unconditional acceptance of the Austrian demands. Later on the same day, the reply was amended with fatal consequences—because Grey, busy fishing, had not intervened in St. Petersburg. The Kaiser was on a holiday. All English society was busy with holiday plans. The weather was perfect. No one even dreamt of disaster.

On July 28, Austria declared war on Serbia. On July 29, Russia ordered general mobilization. On Aug. 2, Germany sent an ultimatum to Belgium. On Aug. 3, Germany declared war on France and at 2 p.m. on Aug. 4, Grey telegraphed an ultimatum to Germany. His fishing holiday had not been a success. Nine million of the flower of the world's youth died among 29 million casualties.

What then? In 1939 the British government refused to believe that Poland would collapse in a few days. It refused to take any notice of repeated warnings from France (see the *Secret Chamberlain Papers* published by Kilbrittain Newspapers). It accepted false Russian assurances at Yalta, notwithstanding one warning after the other.

Today's leaders no better

Lately, and even more seriously, Mrs. Thatcher has refused to be warned and President Reagan has so acted that the one vital and essential asset—credibility—has been thrown away without his Secretary of State even knowing what was afoot. We have tolerated Russian agents at the head of government. We have quarreled with South Africa (a crucial source of defense supplies without which we cannot survive).

If the so-called leaders of 1914 and 1939 were irresponsibly crazy, those of today are no better. They will lead us in a Third World War even though this time the danger is recognized. They are inept and stupid. This time it could be not only catastrophic, but terminal. We have learnt nothing from 1914 or 1939. We drift to disaster notwithstanding one disaster after another. Each warning makes our inept politicians more inept. They have learnt nothing and they refuse to learn. They scorn warnings just as the Austrian government scorned the explicit warning of the Serbian envoy in 1914 and as Sir Edward Grey went fishing to Ichen Abbas.

By far the gravest factor in the period 1945 to 1986 has been the deep penetration of the United Kingdom by Russian agents. Unlike Mr. Chapman Pincher, this writer has never received any information from British official sources. If he had, he would not have believed it, because he has so vast a file of official British lies (from the highest to the least) that he would not believe a word. All this writer's information comes from an excellent source altogether external to the United States, but one which above all wishes to see Britain redeemed and saved.

Whether former officials should or should not blow secrets to such as Mr. Pincher, the writer prefers not to discuss. Even Mr. Peter Wright has been less than frank in certain highly sensitive matters and it is this writer's opinion that only part of the truth will not provide a cure. It is the whole truth we need and it is not a pleasant story. Judges, high officials, ministers, and even service chiefs have played a part in lies and deceptions. The consequences are already partly evident. But far graver occurrences have yet to take place unless, before it is too late, Britain at last sees the

necessity of clean, honest leadership.

Britain needs and must have a new Constable of England. Only one candidate exists. Let us hope that he will be drafted before it is too late.

It has often been argued that of all the irresponsible fools around in 1914, the Emperor Franz Josef was the least guilty. That is not so. On July 5, 1914 he wrote an extremely bellicose letter to the Kaiser. On July 7, Tisza voted at the Council of Ministers against war. He followed that by an urgent memorandum to the emperor who rejected it with a strong and determined voice. He said: "No . . . if they [the Serbians] do not knuckle under we will go to war." Franz Josef was not a weak old man who, almost without knowing it, with trembling hand signed the proclamation of war. He knew exactly what the risks and issues were. He had read and rejected Count Tisza's memorandum. He was for war and urged war from his holiday retreat at Ischl. No one person bore more responsibility for the mismanagement of the consequences than Karl and Zita. No Hapsburg ever behaved with greater subsequent disloyalty to old friends than Karl's son Otto. The Hapsburgs were a historic disaster of the first magnitude. They are now, of course, quite meaningless and it would be suitable if they so remain.

Author's Note: The Black Hand of Serbia was headed by Dimitrijevic who was shot for treason by the Serbs in 1917. The Russian agent who continued to support the Black Hand after Baron Hartwig (Russian ambassador in Belgrade) had withdrawn official Russian support from that terrorist society, was Captain Artomanov (perhaps a sort of Colonel North of 1986). Hartwig died of a heart attack in the Austrian embassy (Belgrade) while giving assurances to the Austrian Ambassador, Baron Giesl, in July 1914. Artomanov represented the Russian ultras who were influential in 1914 exactly as they again are in 1986. The issue is again use of terrorism in 1986 as in 1914. No one yet knows why Dimitrijevic was shot for treason, but it is speculated that the Serbian authorities considered him guilty of organizing the assassination of the archduke without official approval. The fact that the Serbian ambassador in Vienna warned the Austrian government supports that hypothesis.

This author has consulted Edward Crankshaw's excellent work of reference *The Fall of the House of Hapsburg*, and *The Eagles Die* by George R. Marek. In the latter book Marek states that he cannot believe that the Austrian authorities did not warn the archduke. However, no document has ever been found to evidence that the archduke was told by Bilinski of Jovanovic's warning. It is a fact that the visit took place without security precautions. So deeply fond of his wife was the archduke, that it is incredible he would have risked her life if warned. Moreover, the emperor did not like his nephew and in the draft letter from the emperor to Prince Montenuovo he (the emperor) struck out the words "a death painful to me."

Witchcraft cults promoted in Spain

by Leonardo Servadio

Well-meaning people in Spain, if belonging to the right-wing variety, usually think that the biggest danger of destabilization for the country comes from the Marxists. Well-meaning people of a left-wing variety, now the majority in Spain, think that there might still be some danger of a military coup. If these people had seriously studied the history of the Russian revolution, the most oligarchical of all revolutions recorded in history, and the not-secondary role of the many Rasputins who were around in its preparation, they would worry more about a different phenomenon: the growing spread of witchcraft, superstition, and astrology, which is propagated by media campaigns and finds fertile ground in the backward Spanish cultural environment. According to informed sources, the spread of this magic cultism in Spain is second only to the extent of its penetration into Lutheran German society.

In the past months, witchcraft propaganda has massively increased. Perhaps not by chance, it has coincided with the influx of drug money, the arrival of the Cisneros family, linked to drug-money launderers, and big investments by the gnostic sect of the Unification Church (Moonies). The Moon sect, through Heron International, one of their financial holdings, bought the biggest real estate investment in Madrid, the Jerez skyscraper which once belonged to the Rumasa holding company.

In November, Pamplona, the capital city of Navarra, officially hosted a big international congress on "witchology." At the same time, the wax museum of Barcelona put on an exhibition of statues of pagan goddesses Ashtarte, Shiva, Kali, Cybele, etc., a show which will be sent around the country, in an obvious effort to destroy the Catholic orientation of the Spanish population.

The Pamplona congress on "witchology" was opened by one "Francis of Assisi" Rovatti, who teaches at Galileo Galilei University in Pescara, Italy, with a "cosmic invocation," at midnight on Halloween. It was a ritualistic invocation for universal peace to the "cosmic Christ": the typical syncretic operation to paganize Christianity, which is so fashionable today with the pacifist and ecologist movements.

The star of the show was one Prof. Julio Caro Baroja, an anthropologist at Basque University, who belongs to the group of academicians who, more than anyone else, worked to