

a condominium arrangement with Gorbachov, one need merely look at the alliance between openly Nazi drug traffickers and Communist terrorists that comprises what we know as “narco-terrorism.”

The assassins of President Kennedy must still be brought to justice. These same networks have tried to kill Lyndon LaRouche, who best represents the American System policies which the Kennedy assassination coup d'état aimed to stop. LaRouche has battled this secret government, not from a defensive standpoint, but by rallying his fellow citizens to reclaim their government and implement American System policies with projects such as a 40-year program to create a colony on Mars. Freeing LaRouche, who is currently jailed by the secret government, is the best blow any citizen can strike to bring JFK's assassins to justice.

Jim Garrison's book, despite its flawed concept of the “grand conspiracy” behind the assassination of John F. Kennedy, is still very much worth reading. Garrison was an able prosecutor and today is a highly respected state Supreme Court judge in Louisiana. The book's strength is its devastating and painstaking picking apart of the Warren Commission coverup. Though written 25 years after the fact, it stands as one of the most precise and useful exposés of the method of political coverup and how to dissect such a scheme. If Garrison's theories about the motives behind the assassination of JFK are a bit skewed, it would appear that this is for want of in-depth background on the major players, including those, like Lord Bertrand Russell, who rushed to Garrison's “defense” when he came under attack from NBC and others.

## British witchcraft in the Age of Thatcher

by Mark Burdman

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### **Persuasions of the Witch's Craft: Ritual Magic in Contemporary England**

by T.M. Luhrmann

Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts 1989

382 pages hardbound, with index, \$25

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There has been no conclusive evidence that Margaret Thatcher is a practicing witch, although there is a substantial element of witchcraft in what is called “Thatcherism.” T.M. Luhrmann's *Persuasions of the Witch's Craft* gives evidence that, underlying the veneer of materialism and desire for gain that characterizes Mrs. Thatcher's middle-class base and the free-

market ideologies of “Thatcherism,” there is a maelstrom of fantasy life and irrationalism, channeled into membership in a wide range of oddball cults. Luhrmann's book is a “participant anthropologist” report on the British species which engages in worship of Pan, Isis, Thoth, Demeter, Ishtar, Astarte, the Kabbala, and other forms of paganism. “We invoked Thoth and Isis, visited Demeter's temple, watched Hephaestus at his forge, danced with the lords of light at the beginning of creation,” writes Luhrmann, in a book published in the year A.D. 1989.

With some notable exceptions, the subjects of her study are well-educated, middle-class individuals, exactly of the kind that the reader would suppose have benefited from the services-and-consumer boom of the Thatcher years.

One of Luhrmann's interlocutors, a certain “Peter,” is described as a “reasonably senior civil servant.” Among his “fantasies,” is to become “a sort of Merlin to a contemporary Arthur.” He tells Luhrmann: “Not perhaps to this one [Margaret Thatcher]. But a later one.” Luhrmann comments: “This is a striking fantasy.”

Margaret Thatcher, watch out!

Luhrmann takes on the task of explaining, from an anthropological-psychological standpoint, the process by which apparently normal, pedestrian individuals become witches, pagans, and magicians. Objectively, she is doing nothing more than trying to analyze how people are brainwashed, but subjectively, since she is so sympathetic to her witch and magician friends, the book could be read as an academic's “how-to” manual for creating witches.

Insofar as her explanations have any substance, they amount to little more than that grown-ups who become witches are regressing to their infantile selves. In a chapter entitled, “The ‘child within’: a portrait of the practitioners,” she confesses: “I felt that magical practice taught me to read again the way I had read books at the age of ten, with an uncritical absorption in the characters.”

Luhrmann is one of a growing breed of academic defenders of the occult. She explicitly whitewashes the Satanic, or Satanist, component of the groups and belief-structures she is reporting on. Satanic murders are “rare,” she says, echoing the prevailing line of the FBI. That might be more than coincidence; evidently, Luhrmann has become a consultant of sorts to investigative agencies.

On pages 96-97, she writes of “chaos magic,” a practice derived from the ideas of Aleister Crowley. A description of “chaos magic” belief is taken from a pamphlet circulated by the Sorcerer's Apprentice Press in Leeds, U.K.: “Energy is liberated when an individual breaks through rules of conditioning with some glorious act of disobedience or blasphemy. This energy strengthens the spirit and gives courage for further acts of insurrection. Put a brick through your television, explore sexualities which are unusual to you. Do something you normally feel to be revolting.” There are reportedly 6-10,000 “chaos magicians” in the U.K., she says, comment-

ing in a footnote: "In 1987, I was called on to advise on a murder in which the murderer seemed to have been influenced by chaos magic. He did perform a premeditated ritual, but it is probably true that if he had not been reading these books, the murder would not have occurred. The books did not cause the murder: they simply gave a somewhat unstable psyche a sense of power in which murder became a reasonable type of action."

Luhmann's concept of a "reasonable type of action" and her academic background combine to produce some inimitable prose. For example, take the autobiographical account of witch "Margaret" talking of her acquisition of "witch power": "Before, it had been a few nights spent quietly in my room. But after I read Nietzsche I was trying out everything I hadn't tried before. Getting drunk, smoking dope, really myself into dope in a big way. . . . And it was after that that I came across some of the books on Greek religion. . . . And I suddenly realized that this was very much to do with being a woman. Which was rather nice. . . . You see, it's easier for women to be in touch with that physical, animal power, and that animal power keeps the world going. . . . Nature is the power. It's the common ground that you have with other women and with the earth itself. And with the heavens. . . . And the whole rhythm of the cosmos. Women are very rhythmic. . . . And it all fits in with the periodicity of the earth. And the blood mysteries of women, the menstrual mysteries, and the birth mysteries. . . . We're nearer the earth, we're nearer the heavens as well. . . . So I went from teaching symbolic logic and Wagner criticism and writing poetry—I'd made contact with some witches by then. The Pagan Front. Liked these people. Seemed really sincere, good, white witches. Also with a thing called the Fellowship of Ishtar. Ishtar is the Babylonian goddess of love and war, which sounded exactly like my themes."

For \$25, you can read more prose like this, the same for women and men, witches and non-witches, pagans and believers, and for people over ten years of age and under.

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—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

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## Books Received

**City of Lingering Splendour: A Frank Account of Old Peking's Exotic Pleasures**, by John Blofeld, Shambhala Publications, Inc., New York, 1989, 255 pages, paperbound, \$9.95.

**One Long Day in a Long War: May 10, 1972, Air War, North Vietnam**, by Jeffrey Ethell and Alfred Price, Random House, New York, 1989, 217 pages, illus., with index, hardbound, \$18.95.

**Unnatural Death: Confessions of a Medical Examiner**, by Michael Baden with Judith Adler Hennessee, Random House, New York, 1989, 209 pages, hardbound, \$17.95.

**A Cup of Coffee with My Interrogator: The Prague Chronicles of Ludvik Vaculik**, trans. by George Theiner, Readers International, Inc., London, 1988, 127 pages, hardbound, \$14.95.

**The Hunger of Eve**, by Barbara Marx Hubbard, Island Pacific Northwest, Eastsound, Wash., 1989, 246 pages, paperbound, \$11.95.

**The Sikhs, History, Religion, and Society**, by W.H. McLeod, Columbia University Press, New York, 1989, 161 pages, hardbound, \$25.

**The Gilded Leaf**, by Patrick Reynolds and Tom Schachtman, Little, Brown, New York, 1989, 353 pages, with index, hardbound, \$19.95.

**Survival in Space**, by Richard Harding, Routledge, Chapman and Hall, New York, 1989, 227 pages, illus., with index, hardbound, \$22.

**Right v. Might: International Law and the Use of Force**, by the Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations Press, New York, 1989, 124 pages, paperbound, \$12.95.

**China In Search of Its Future: Years of Great Reform, 1982-87**, by John Woodruff, foreword by Michel Oksenberg, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1989, 218 pages, hardbound, \$19.95.

**Have You Forgotten? A Memoir of Poland: 1939-1945**, by Christine Zamoyska-Panek with Fred Benton Homberg Doubleday, New York, 1989, 250 pages, hardbound, \$19.95.