

The paranoid world of the ADL merchants of hate

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Anti-Semitism in America

by Leonard Dinnerstein

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What do St. Augustine, John Quincy Adams, and Booker T. Washington have in common? According to Leonard Dinnerstein, a history professor at the University of Arizona and a darling of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), all three men were among history's leading anti-Semites.

On the other hand, in the topsy-turvy world of Professor Dinnerstein, the Ku Klux Klan often came to the defense of Jews, and was never especially anti-Semitic; and Hollywood producer D.W. Griffith, whose 1915 epic film "Birth of a Nation" helped relaunch the KKK, was one of the great fighters against anti-Semitism in the 20th century.

All of these fractured fairy tales are to be found in the pages of *Anti-Semitism in America*, Professor Dinnerstein's book-length elaboration on themes he first struck in a speech he delivered at an ADL conference in Montreal, Canada in November 1991.

Dinnerstein is not just any wacko academic. He is an important instrument in the ADL's latest deadly propaganda war, one that has already claimed one near-assassination, and which threatens to unleash a torrent of racial conflict and even social chaos on the United States.

In early November 1991, the ADL sponsored a conference in Montreal on the topic "Anti-Semitism Around the World." The two principal themes of the forum, which deliv-

ered dire warnings of a new wave of global anti-Semitism as the result of the fall of the Iron Curtain, were that: 1) the Roman Catholic Church was still a bastion of hatred of the Jews, especially in the former communist states of central Europe, where many Catholic resistance leaders held Jews who had been leading communists partly responsible for their persecution; and 2) that while such groups as the KKK posed little threat to the Jewish community in America, educated African-Americans were anti-Semitic to the core.

It was Dinnerstein who sounded the alarm bells in Montreal about alleged African-American anti-Semitism in the United States, and ever since that time, he has been a fixture at ADL forums across America. The post-Montreal campaign has opened a floodgate of propaganda against Nation of Islam (NOI) Minister Louis Farrakhan, culminating on May 29, 1994 in the near-fatal shooting of controversial NOI speaker Khalid Muhammad following a speech at the University of California in Riverside.

But the ADL's efforts against the NOI were not restricted to North America. During the course of a year-long 1993 investigation conducted by the San Francisco Police Department on ADL spying against nearly 1,000 political, religious, labor, and civil rights groups, evidence surfaced that the ADL's chief West Coast "fact finder," Roy Bullock, had sold confidential FBI files on the NOI to spies for the Republic of South Africa. Bullock's spying operations targeted other international black political figures, including African National Congress leader Chris Hani, who was subsequently assassinated.

As *EIR* reported last week, the ADL was directly involved in security stripping of the Khalid Muhammad Riverside event, even deploying the Jewish Defense League (JDL) into the campus event as a provocation. The shooting of

Khalid Muhammad could not have occurred without the security stripping done by the ADL and ADL-contaminated law enforcement officials.

Within moments of the shooting, police all across the country were placed on alert for possible riots. Police feared a replay of the 1968 riots that swept urban communities from coast to coast following the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The ADL figured prominently in FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's Cointelpro ("counterintelligence program") war against the great civil rights leader. Former ADL publicist Henry Schwarzschild resigned from his full-time job with the League in the mid-1960s in protest over the ADL's spying on Dr. King on behalf of Hoover. In a 1993 interview with *San Francisco Weekly*, Schwarzschild reported that the ADL considered Dr. King a "loose cannon" whose civil rights efforts threatened the Jewish community in the deep South.

Propaganda behind the deeds

Dinnerstein's book takes on special importance in this context of a renewed ADL hate-propaganda drive against the African-American community. His African-American anti-Semitism theme is subsumed under his primary demented thesis that Christianity is the root cause of anti-Semitism in the modern world, and that, wherever Christianity spreads, anti-Semitism cannot be far behind.

Completely missing from Dinnerstein's book is any mention of the common heritage of Judaism and Christianity in the shared belief in the sanctity of human life as expressed in Genesis 1:26-28 ("God created man in his own image"). Embracing the ADL's tried and tested method of fallacy of composition, Dinnerstein instead devoted great effort to assembling a collection of out-of-context quotes to advance the argument that all of the Church Fathers, including St. Augustine, were unrepentant anti-Semites.

Dinnerstein's book proceeds to use the same fraudulent method to trash the American Founding Fathers as a collection of Jew-hating Christian fundamentalists, singling out John Quincy Adams as the worst of the lot.

In what at times reads like an attempted point-by-point refutation of *EIR's* short history of the ADL and B'nai B'rith, *The Ugly Truth About the ADL*, Dinnerstein dismisses the role of B'nai B'rith in the Confederacy's espionage service as anti-Semitic drivel conjured up by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Dinnerstein defends Confederate Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin as a courageous victim of anti-Semitism on the part of other leaders of the Southern secession, and dismisses, as exaggerated, the role of the leading B'nai B'rith families of Charleston, South Carolina in the black slave trade.

Praise for the Klan

Dinnerstein's review of 20th-century American anti-Semitism suffers from the same fallacy of composition. In this regard, Dinnerstein makes a point of giving the Ku Klux

Klan a clean bill of health: "The revived Klan of the 1920s promoted the interests of 'Nordic' Americans and focused its hatred primarily on Roman Catholics whom they regarded as the primary enemy in undermining Protestant America. . . . To be sure, Klansmen also wanted African-Americans to know their place and restricted their organizational membership to Gentiles (although one Indiana Klansman indicate that 'any Jew can belong if he believes in the divinity of Jesus Christ') but, except in parts of the West, Jews were not the prime targets of the group. In states like Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma, moral and political reform dominated the Klan agenda, Jewish and Catholic stores were not generally boycotted, and the social standing and economic well-being of some of the most prominent Jewish families in the region were scarcely affected. . . . Then in the 1980s, when folklorist Carolyn Lipson-Walker interviewed Southern Jews about their recollections of Klan activities, she was surprised that instead of hearing tales about persecution and hostility, she heard primarily narratives about 'Klan cordiality toward Jews.'

"Examining the countless activities of the Klan during the decade elicits isolated examples to buttress . . . Lipson-Walker's findings. In a 1925 local election in Detroit, Klansmen tried to recruit Jews to support their candidate for mayor on the grounds that Henry Ford favored the reelection of the Catholic, John W. Smith. Twice the Klan in Monroe, Louisiana refused to campaign openly against Mayor Arnold Bernstein, and in 1924, Klansmen in Fairfield, Illinois, dressed in full regalia before 15,000 well-wishers, tendered local storekeeper Emanuel Steiner with a wreath of American beauty roses."

No such "sympathetic" spin is rendered by Dinnerstein when it comes to African-Americans. In Dinnerstein's world, every educated African-American is a ticking time bomb of anti-Semitism, probably rooted, he claims, in the slavery era when the black population was infected with the particular brand of Protestant fundamentalism of the deep South. Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founder James Weldon Johnson were all dyed-in-the-wool anti-Semites, by Dinnerstein's account.

The threat of African-American anti-Semitism is in Dinnerstein's eyes all the more serious today, because, alas, anti-Semitism in every other community in America is on the decline. Why? Because in the post-World War II period, fueled by the horrors of the Holocaust, Jewish "self-defense" organizations such as the ADL went on the offensive. Dinnerstein pays brief homage to the Frankfurt School of radical sociologists Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, whose *Studies in Prejudice*, financed by the American Jewish Committee in the late 1940s, diagnosed most Americans as suffering from an "authoritarian personality."

The disease of "authoritarianism" was, by Dinnerstein's account, gradually rooted out of much of American culture

by such efforts as the ADL's campaign to remove God from the public schools and from public life in general. A new, allegedly more tolerant American society is now allegedly shedding its Christian anti-Semitism.

Dinnerstein adds one caveat: "This conclusion has to be modified, however, in terms of one well-defined American group: African-American. . . . [R]espected black leaders have often targeted Jews for opprobrium in a manner that would have ended the public careers of white persons who articulated identical words or sentiments."

There is no question that in the history of western civilization, and the history of the United States, there have been many tragic instances of genuine anti-Semitism, in some cases violent anti-Semitism. But the Dinnerstein account, based on historical fraud and doctored data, is a recipe for disaster.

Dinnerstein is no well-meaning quack. His book is a hate-filled piece of ADL propaganda which should be roundly denounced by serious historians and theologians committed to a truly ecumenical dialogue during these trying times. But for purposes of that kind of critique, there is no good reason to read this book.

Some facts but not the truth

by Linda de Hoyos

Assassination of a Prime Minister—As It Happened

by S. Anandaram

Vision Books, New Delhi, 1994

255 pages, hardbound, 260 rupees

Assassination of a Prime Minister was written by the head of the Special Investigative Team charged with probing the conspiracy that led to the Oct. 31, 1984, gunning down of Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi by her own bodyguards. According to the author, the book was prompted by the failure of the Indian government to put forth its own definitive version of the assassination, and by Rajiv Gandhi's withdrawal of the charge-sheet against alleged co-conspirators of the two actual assassins in 1988, when Gandhi himself was ousted from government. When Anandaram complained to Rajiv Gandhi on this point, Mr. Gandhi, who would himself be murdered in May 1990, suggested that Anandaram write a book on the results of the special investigative team's

work and "let the public know the true facts of the case." Hence *As It Happened*.

The title is, however, a misnomer. It is impossible, as an outsider, to say whether Anandaram's effort is a deliberate part of the coverup of the true conspiracy that killed Mrs. Indira Gandhi, or whether it accurately reflects the thinking of those involved in the investigation. One thing is certain: The method used by the investigation could never uncover the truth. As a result, the actual assassins of Mrs. Gandhi have never been brought to account.

The methods, as reported, are police methods—that is, empirical methods, used to construct a picture of the actual physical act of the assassination and to work outward to the possibility of a broader conspiracy. As former superintendent of police for the state of Andhra Pradesh, and director general of the Central Industrial Security Force, these are the methods the author was presumably trained in.

Given the presence of five eyewitnesses, there was never any doubt that Mrs. Gandhi was murdered when two of her bodyguards, Constable Satwant Singh and Sub-Inspector Beant Singh, stepped in front of the prime minister as she was walking through her garden in the morning to meet an Irish TV news crew headed by Briton Peter Ustinov. She was killed at close range by 30 bullets entering her body, dying on the operating table several hours later.

The ostensible motivation for the murder was revenge for the June 6, 1984 entry by the Indian Army into the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, and the cleaning out of the nest of Sikh terrorists holding the temple hostage, resulting in the murder of many inside, including the Sikh separatist leader Sant Bindranwale. Both Beant Singh and Satwant Singh were Sikhs. Beant Singh was killed later that day in the guard-house, but Satwant Singh lived to stand trial and be hanged in June 1989 with another convicted co-conspirator Kehar Singh, uncle of Beant, who was charged with inciting Beant to use his access as security guard to murder the prime minister as a religious act of retribution.

But even so, it becomes apparent that the actual murderers were close to being mere patsies for a higher-level conspiracy. Satwant Singh, the author reports, was a "rather late entrant into the conspiracy and got into it without much thought, and was now full of remorse. . . . One also got the impression that his knowledge was limited to the part he had directly played in it and that he did not know much about the origin and organizers of the conspiracy."

Efforts to probe higher-level conspiracies were thwarted by the Supreme Court, which threw out the charge-sheets against friends and associates of Kehar Singh who were apparently anxious for revenge on the prime minister. The Thakkar Commission, charged with carrying out an independent investigation of the murder, concluded that "regarding the involvement of foreign agency so far no agency was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate the late PM has been placed before the commission. . . . There is material to