

Gush Emunim (although Gush Emunim would not be formally constituted as an organization until 1974).

The Jewish Underground, Unravalled

Rabbi David Samson, a student of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook, is one of the leading biographers and promoters of the Cabbalistic teachings of Rabbi Kook the Elder. He confirmed to an interviewer that the Merkaz HaRav Yeshiva networks founded by the Kooks is at the heart of the Gush Emunim settlers movement and the Temple Mount Faithful. "The entire settlements of Judea and Samaria, and the Golan, is all Merkaz HaRav," he said. "Rabbi Kook decided that 'I am going to establish a settlement movement.' Gush Emunim is Merkaz HaRav. And the leaders of Gush Emunim are all the students of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda, and whenever they would make a major policy decision, it would be in his dining room, sitting at his table." He later added, "Definitely, Rabbi Kook's students are again at the forefront."

Rabbi Samson also confirmed that Sharon had developed a deep personal collaboration with Rabbi Kook, specifically around the launching of the illegal settlements in the West Bank and other parts of the territories occupied after the Six

Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. "Immediately after the Yom Kippur War," Samson said, "Sharon went, together with Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook, to the first illegal settlement, that was meant as a demonstration against the Army." He added, "His [Sharon's] connection with Merkaz HaRav was with Gush Emunim. . . . He was in the opposition together with Merkaz HaRav ideology."

Rabbi Samson also confirmed that the Merkaz HaRav networks have heavily penetrated the Israeli Defense Forces, through the hesder yeshivas, which are, in effect, military training institutes that also teach the Kooks' Cabbalistic fundamentalism. Students at the 22 hesder yeshivas, mostly in the occupied territories, spend their five years of study serving part-time in the Army, and spending the rest of their time in Cabbalistic studies. This apparatus has transformed the IDF into an evolving instrumentality for the Cabbalistic-fundamentalist holy war.

With Rabbi Kook the Younger's death in 1982, the leadership of Gush Emunim and the Temple Mount Faithful has been picked up by a group of even more violent and radical protégés, including Rabbi Moshe Levinger and Rabbi Eleazer Waldman. Waldman has asserted that Kook demanded a holy

The British Managed Riots in Palestine

When Britain and France carved up the fallen Ottoman Empire, the British took control over Palestine and what was then called Transjordan, and the mandates for Syria and Lebanon went to France.

British practice in Palestine, in the years between the world wars, fostered violence and dissension between Jews and Arabs, as a matter of policy. Whenever Arab and Jewish forces moved toward peaceful collaboration, the British sparked riots, putting a bloody end to the chances for peace.

The British colonial regime militarily trained both the Jews and the Arabs during this period. The British policy of divisiveness was such that even today, the histories written of the period, depending on the political outlook of the author, will say that the "British favored the Zionists," or that "the British favored the Arabs." In actuality, the British favored the Empire, and pursued a policy that ensured wars at other peoples' expense.

The Riots of April 1920

A case in point were the riots of April 1920. Col. Richard Meinertzhagen, the Chief Political Officer for British

Military Intelligence in Palestine, reported in his book, *Middle East Diary, 1917-1956*, that British Military Governor Ronald Storrs and Chief of Staff Bertie Harry Waters-Taylor, were encouraging anti-Jewish riots. On the day of the riot, he reports, the Arabs were told: "The Government [the British, that is] is with us; Allenby [the British General who captured Palestine from the Turks] is with us; kill the Jews; there is no punishment for killing Jews."

Waters-Taylor, according to Meinertzhagen, chewed out the Arab mayor of Jerusalem for not rioting more, and reportedly told the mayor: "I gave you a fine opportunity. For five hours Jerusalem was without military protection; I had hoped you would avail yourself of the opportunity, but you have failed."

Meinertzhagen later reported to the Palin commission of inquiry, set up by the British government, that the British officials in Palestine had taken the side of the Arabs, and that lives were lost because Governor Storrs had withdrawn British troops from Jerusalem at a critical point, to give the rioters free rein. He reported to the Foreign Office in April that the British Occupied Enemy Territory Administration head, Maj. Gen. Louis Bols, and his fellow officers had caused the riots. He wrote in his diary: "I find myself alone out here, among gentiles, in upholding Zionism. . . . And that is the irony of the whole situation, for I am also imbued with anti-Semitic feelings."

Meinertzhagen was fired after his report to the Foreign Office. — *Marjorie Mazel Hecht*