

Wall Street Backed The Plot To Kill FDR

The history of the United States is dominated by the struggle to break free of the oligarchical system represented by the British Empire. From the Revolutionary War that created the nation, to the Civil War against the British-backed Confederacy, to the present day, this battle has been waged against the City of London and its partners on Wall Street. Several Presidents have been assassinated, other assassinations have been attempted, and the United States has been on the verge of an anti-republican coup d'état on more than one occasion.

The activation of a fascist movement against President Franklin D. Roosevelt is a case in point. We present the story here, drawn from *EIR* coverage by Jeffrey Steinberg (April 4, 2008) and John Hoefle (Feb. 13, 2009), with research contributed by Anton Chaitkin and L. Wolfe.

Fascism in the United States

While Italy, under Benito Mussolini, and Germany, under Adolf Hitler, are the most prominent fascist regimes in history, they were but creatures of a larger, global fascist drive. The fascist movement was active in the United States in the 1920s and '30s, and centered around Wall Street, as befitting a movement which could also be accurately termed bankers' socialism:

- Partners in **J.P. Morgan & Co.** funded both Hitler and Mussolini. Morgan partner Thomas Lamont, who described himself as “something like a missionary” for Italian Fascism, arranged a \$100 million loan for Mussolini in 1926. Lamont became chairman of Morgan in 1943.

- The Rockefellers' **Standard Oil of New Jersey** and **Chase Bank** had extensive ties with the Nazis, as did **International Telephone and Telegraph** (which built the German Focke-Wulf bombers). Standard Oil President Walter Teagle was a director of American IG Chemical Corp., a subsidiary of the infamous IG Farben of concentration-camp fame. In 1947, U.S. judge Charles Clark ruled that “Standard Oil can be considered an enemy national in view of its relationships with

IG Farben—after the United States and Germany had become active enemies.”

- The **du Pont family** was also hip-deep in the Nazi swamp. Irénée du Pont was “obsessed with Hitler’s principles” and a “keen follower of the career of the future Führer in the 1920s,” reported Charles Higham in his book *Trading With the Enemy: An Exposé of the Nazi-American Money-Plot 1933-1949* (New York: Delacorte Press, 1983). Higham cited a speech du Pont gave in 1926, in which he advocated a race of supermen, to be achieved by injecting children with drugs. By 1933, the du Ponts were financing fascist groups in the United States, such as the Liberty League.

- In 1942, ten months after the United States entered World War II, the U.S. seized the **Union Banking Corp.** under the Trading with the Enemy Act. One of the directors of Union was **Prescott Bush**, the father of President George H.W. Bush. Prescott Bush was a managing partner of **Brown Brothers Harriman**, whose E. Roland Harriman was chairman of Union, and which represented the interests of the German Thyssen family in the United States.

A U.S. government investigation showed that Union was heavily interlocked with Thyssen’s German Steel Trust, which produced a substantial portion of Nazi Germany’s steel and explosives. The Steel Trust, Germany’s largest industrial corporation, had been organized in 1926 by Wall Street banker Clarence Dillon, of **Dillon Read**. Dillon was a friend of Prescott Bush’s father, Sam Bush. The majority owner of the Steel Trust was Fritz Thyssen, a prime sponsor of Hitler.

Enter: FDR

On Jan. 22, 1932, Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination. The convention was scheduled for late June in Chicago. From the very outset, FDR was by far the favorite to win the nomination and the Presidency. However, the Morgan interests that owned the Democratic Party, through party chairman John Jakob Raskob and executive director Jouett Shouse, had other plans. They launched a “Stop Roosevelt” operation, employing a number of Morgan assets, and drawing upon party factions that had their own differences with FDR.

Morgan man Al Smith, the governor of New York, announced his candidacy on Feb. 6, creating a serious split in the New York Democratic Party. A number of “favorite son” candidates also entered the race, most

with the understanding that they would ultimately throw their support—at a price—behind either FDR or some rival, in the event that the convention was deadlocked. The Morgan strategy was to deny Roosevelt the nomination on the first series of ballots, and then draw support away from the New York governor, and toward their chosen “compromise” candidate, Newton D. Baker, Woodrow Wilson’s Secretary of War (1916-21), and later a lawyer for the Morgan interests in Cleveland, Ohio.

After several days of intense maneuvering by both sides, when the convention reconvened, on the evening of July 1, the Morgan-Raskob-Smith gang had been defeated, and Roosevelt became the nominee. The candidate took the unprecedented step of flying out to Chicago, to directly address the convention. His speech proclaimed his “New Deal” for America.

Attempted Assassination and Coup d’État

In the wake of FDR’s landslide victory over Herbert Hoover in the November 1932 general elections, the Morgan and City of London financier faction quickly regrouped. If they could not defeat Roosevelt by the manipulation of the ballot, they would use other means.

On Feb. 15, 1933, less than a month before Roosevelt’s March 4 inauguration as President, a “lone assassin” attempted to kill him, during a rally in Miami, Florida. An Italian immigrant unemployed laborer, Giuseppe Zangara, fired at the podium, just as Roosevelt was shaking hands with Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak. Cermak took the shot, and died several weeks later. While investigations into the shooting never developed evidence of a broader plot, interrogations of Zangara confirmed that he had intended to kill the President-elect, thus dispelling later claims that he had been sent by Chicago mobster Frank Nitti to kill Cermak, who had cracked down on his Capone mob rivals.



Library of Congress

J.P. Morgan, Jr., London’s principal operative on Wall Street, was among those who plotted the coup against President Franklin Roosevelt.

Starting in early 1933, leading operatives of the du Ponts, the Morgans, and the du Pont/Morgan-controlled General Motors, including the recently deposed Democratic Party honchos Raskob and Shouse, conspired to organize a military coup d’état against the President, claiming that Roosevelt was a “Jew Communist,” who would destroy the United States through New Deal hyperinflation.

Conspirators first contacted Maj. Gen. Smedley Darlington Butler (USMC-ret.) in July 1933, in an effort to recruit him to the plot. As he reported later to the McCormack-Dickstein Committee of the House of Representatives, they asked him to recruit an army of 500,000 World War I veterans to march on Washington and force Roosevelt’s resignation, then to impose a regime modeled on those of Mussolini and Hitler.

In September 1934, the plotters established the American Liberty League, with Al Smith, Raskob, and Morgan lawyer

John W. Davis joining the ranks of the Grayson Mallet-Prevost Murphy, Pew, Pitcairn, Rockefeller, and Lamont interests. To set the stage for the pro-fascist bankers putsch, Henry Luce’s *Fortune* magazine devoted its July 1934 issue to praise of Mussolini. Anglophile editor Laird Goldsborough penned a signed editorial, which proclaimed, “Fascism is achieving in a few years or decades such a conquest of the spirit of man as Christianity achieved only in ten centuries. . . .”

General Butler told Congress that he had been repeatedly approached by one of the Morgan operatives, Gerald MacGuire, who had spent seven months in Europe, at the start of 1934, making contacts with leading Synarchists¹ in Italy, France, and Germany.

1. Synarchism is a name adopted during the Twentieth Century for an occult freemasonic sect, known as the Martinists, based on worship of the tradition of Napoleon Bonaparte. From the early 1920s through

Hesitant to signal to that the Morgan gang was plotting a fascist takeover of America, MacGuire told Butler that the new movement, to save America from FDR, was modeled on the French secret military organization, Croix de Feu (Fiery Cross), which, he lied, was like America's Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion. In fact, the Croix de Feu was a hard-core pro-Fascist, pro-Nazi apparatus, which had failed in coup plots in France, and ultimately became part of the collaborationist Vichy regime.

Butler smelled the rat and took his story to the news media and Congress, resulting in a tremendous scandal. Working with *Philadelphia Record* journalist Paul Comley French, Butler substantiated every detail of the plot. In one meeting with French, MacGuire openly declared, "We need a fascist government to save the nation from the Communists." He explicitly endorsed Hitler's forced labor camps as the "solution" to unemployment in America.

When the American Liberty League formally announced its founding, the press was called in to the office of none other than "Stop-FDR" leader, Jouett Shouse, at the National Press Building in Washington. Shouse, who had headed Morgan's Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, had merely changed the masthead of the old AAPA.

FDR vs. the 'Economic Royalists'

Franklin Delano Roosevelt took a nation that had been devastated by the looting policies of the imperial bankers—the "economic royalists," as he called them—and restored the concept of national sovereignty. He saved the nation from the fascists, and still today, they have neither forgotten nor forgiven him for doing so. FDR whipped the bankers into line, using the hearings of the Senate Banking Committee con-



Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler (ret.) spilled the beans to Congress on the conspiracy to organize a military coup.

ducted by prosecutor Ferdinand Pecora, to expose the corruption and arrogance of Wall Street, thereby gaining public support to ram through a series of regulations and reforms.

A particular target was J.P. Morgan & Co., the bank which controlled a vast swath of America industry, from railroads to steel to raw materials and electricity generation. J.P. "Jack" Morgan, Jr., reputedly the richest man in the world, had shown his contempt for the government during the Pecora hearings in 1933, when he posed during testimony with a midget circus performer on his lap, a display of arro-

gance which cost him dearly.

Morgan was essentially a British bank, having begun as the New York branch of J.S. Morgan & Co. of London, a bank with close ties to the Venetian Rothschild banking interests. With a steady supply of European money, Morgan had led the fight to bankrupt the American System entrepreneurs and take over their operations. In this way, Morgan gobbled up railroads and industrial interests, combining them into trusts like U.S. Steel and General Motors. The Morgan partners viewed themselves as international bankers, above the laws of mere nations. They were not the only ones who did so, but they were the most powerful of the American branch.

Morgan, as we have seen, was instrumental in the plot to overthrow FDR in 1934. While the treasonous plotters were never prosecuted for their crime, for political reasons, the ramifications of their actions were not overlooked, and the Administration set out to break their power.

One way this was done was the passage of the Glass-Steagall Act, which prohibited commercial banks from engaging in the securities business. This Act forced the Morgan bank to split into two separate companies, the commercial bank J.P. Morgan and the investment bank Morgan Stanley.

FDR's actions were not punishment per se, but demonstrations that the law applied to the imperial financiers as much as it did to anyone else; that they were subject to the law, not above it. For that, he is hated to this day by the British empire.

1945, it was officially classed by U.S. and other nations' intelligence services under the file name of "Synarchism: Nazi/Communist," because of its deploying simultaneously both ostensibly opposing communist and extreme right-wing forces for encirclement of a targeted government. Twentieth-Century and later fascist movements, like most terrorist movements, are all Synarchist creations.