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THE FIRST MASONIC WORLD WAR

The present conflict [World War I] is the continuation of that which began in 1789, and one of these two principles [monarchism or republicanism] must triumph or die. The very life of the world is at stake. Can humanity live in freedom; is it worthy of it? Or is it fated to live in slavery? That is the vital question in the present catastrophe... "

Grand Orient Supreme Council Paris, December 9, 1917

A Suspect Scheme

Albert Pike wrote to Giuseppe Mazzini on August 15, 1871, calling for world war to force all governments to submit to a one-world Masonic Republic. Cataloged, and on display in the British Museum Library at London, the letter reads in part:

We shall unleash the Nihilists and the Atheists and we shall provoke a formidable social cataclysm which, in all its horror, will show clearly to the nations the effect of absolute atheism, the origin of savagery and of the most bloody turmoil. Then everywhere, the citizens, forced to defend themselves against the world minority of revolutionaries, will exterminate those destroyers of civilization, and the multitude disillusioned with Christianity.. anxious for an ideal, but without knowledge where to render its adoration, will receive the pure light.. of Lucifer, brought finally out into public view, a manifestation which will result from a general reactionary movement which will follow the destruction of Christianity and atheism, both conquered and exterminated at the same time.²

An appendage to this letter surfaced in the Museum in 1949, alleging how Pike intended to soften the world, not by one world war, but by three. According to this latter document, the first war would enable Communism to destroy Czarist Russia and establish militant atheism

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in its place. The second war called for the rise of Fascism to pit Great Britain against Germany, after which Communist Russia would be in a position to destroy other governments and their religions. The third war would begin by exacerbating the conflict between Judaism and the Moslem world. This would be the final world war, and it would bring complete social, political and economic chaos. From the ashes would arise a universal Masonic dictatorship.

According to Salem Kirban, in *Satan's Angels Exposed*, Pike's three- world-war blueprint has mysteriously vanished from display in the British Museum, while his letter remains cataloged. Kirban says: "It is quite possible that these Illuminati schemes for three World Wars are more recent inventions, post-dated to give authenticity to those who seek to blame the sin and suffering of today's world on some secret few."³

Kirban's analysis is most likely correct, given the fact that two bits of information found in the appendage could not have been foreseen by Pike in 1871. First, Pike's alleged plan called for the exploitation of Fascism, a term not coined until 1921. Second, Pike mentioned capitalizing on the conflict between Jews and Arabs, a controversy that was nonexistent in his day. Not until after the Balfour Declaration of 1917, a Declaration guaranteeing the Jews a British mandated homeland in Palestine, did this modern conflict arise.

Many revisionist historians, not understanding the conflict between the two Masonic powers, have viewed the three-world-war theory as a single conspiracy. They argue that Pike and his successors have masterminded the events which led to two world wars, and that this coterie will see their program through to the third. It is true, as we shall see, that French and English Freemasonry (in that order) did cause two world wars, but the argument that these events were planned in 1871 is incredible. As Salem Kirban suggests, these "schemes for 3 World Wars are more recent inventions, post-dated to give authenticity

Hence, the alleged 1871 appendage to Pike's letter is suspect, especially since it was placed in the British Museum in 1949, after two world wars had already been fought. A post-World War II forger of a so- called preplanned three-world-war conspiracy could certainly profit from this Arab-Israeli conflict, a conflict nonexistent in Pike's day. And at that late date, the cause of a third world war was easy to predict by anyone who had knowledge of the Biblical Armageddon, which, according to Revelation 16:16-21, will, in fact, be the final battle - an enormous slaughter in the land of Palestine involving every nation in the world.

Pike's letter, however, is not in question. Using terminology of his day Pike did, in fact, forecast one world war, if not a lesser conflict, such as the Bolshevik Revolution.

Contemplating a world war would not be beneath Pike, given his bloodthirsty nature, such as when he encouraged Indians under his command to scalp live Union soldiers during our Civil War. Nor would world war be beneath his Grand Orient comrade, Joseph Mazzini, who founded the Mafia. Both were Scottish Rite Templars. Templarism was born in blood, having proven its barbarous nature during the French Revolution.

Pike and Mazzini had both reasoned that world war was necessary to overcome the tedious nation-by-nation process of revolution, a process becoming progressively difficult. Ever since the near catastrophe caused by the Napoleonic Wars, European monarchs had become aggressive in their military preparedness. Hence, a global conflict was necessary to break their might. Not only would such a war wear out their military machine, but Masonic intrigue could go unchallenged at home, since armies would be preoccupied outside their borders.

Conspiring with Pike and Mazzini was 33rd degree German Grand Orient Mason, Otto von Bismarck. (Palmerston, a co-conspirator, had died in 1865.) Their scheme was to entangle Europe in a web of "peace treaties," which in reality pitted monarchies against republics. A simple, yet strategically located crisis would activate the treaties resulting in global conflict.

Recasting a Plot

Following the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Austria became the most powerful nation on the Continent. Although Vienna was the headquarters of English Freemasonry in Europe, the British Brotherhood had little or no say in the government of Austria. More significant to London was the alliance between Austria and Russia which threatened British interests. Russia envied Great Britain's rich opium production in colonial India. Alliance with Austria gave the Russian Bear a military advantage. English concern turned to animosity, then to fear by the mid-19th century.⁴ Lord Palmerston, Grand Master of the British Brotherhood, was assigned the task of driving a wedge between the alliance. Dillon briefly describes Palmerston's plan:

The plan of Palmerston - or the plan of the deadly [Supreme] Council which plotted under him - was to separate the two great conservative empires of Russia and Austria, while, at the

same time, dealing a deadly blow at both. It was easy for Palmerston to make England see the utility of weakening Russia, which threatened her Indian possessions.

France could be made to join in the fray, by her ruler [Napoleon III], and the powerful Masonic influence at his command: Therefore, the Russian campaign of 1852 [Crimean War].... Palmerston succeeded with Austria, who withdrew from her alliance with Russia.⁵

Palmerston's success precipitated some unforeseen events. With Austria weakened, Napoleon III was able to liberate Italy from the fragile occupation army of Austria. Withdrawal of Austrian troops in 1852 gave Mazzini the opportunity to move forward with his revolution.

Meanwhile, King Victor Emmanuel II of the House of Savoy, king of the northern Italian region of Sardinia-Piedmont from 1849 to 1861, made the momentous decision in 1852 to turn his government over to the able, determined Count Cavour. Cavour, a Grand Lodge Mason, was opposed to Mazzini's Grand Orient republicanism, yet was able to come to terms with Mazzini to unite Italy under a Savoy constitutional monarchy.⁶ Conforming to the agreement, Mazzini in 1860, instructed Scottish Rite Freemason General Garibaldi to move against Sicily and Naples to expel the Bourbons. Cavour made sure of Garibaldi's success with Piedmontese gold, which bought the chief functionaries of the King of Naples. Southern Italy soon fell to Garibaldi.

In 1861 Cavour died. Immediately Mazzini's rebels, financed by British intelligence through Palmerston's Masonic connections, forced the abdication of King Victor Emmanuel II from his throne in the northern Italian region of Sardinia-Piedmont. Mazzini then established the Republic of Italy at Piedmont.

To counter Mazzini, King Victor Emmanuel II set up the Kingdom of Italy in Turin on March 17, 1861, and began a campaign to recapture Rome, succeeding on September 20, 1870.

With Rome in Savoy hands, Mazzini's revolution crumbled. He began to think of world war. His co-conspirator and comrade-at-arms, Lord Palmerston, had passed away in 1865. Mazzini looked to Germany, where, in 1862, Freemason Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898) had become Prime Minister. In 1870 Bismarck was the hero of Europe, having defeated Napoleon in the Franco-German war. In 1871 he was appointed Imperial Chancellor of a united Germany, with the created title of Prince. Mazzini, crazed and near death, contacted Pike to help plan a world war which would dethrone all European monarchs at once. Mazzini wanted

Bismarck, who was a diplomatic genius, included in the plot.

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The Chancellor's task would be to divide Europe into two warring camps through a web of so-called "peace" treaties. In 1872 Mazzini died. Adriano Lemmi became head of the Italian Masonic-Mafia.⁷

Peacemaker Bismarck

Whether Freemasonry in general, or individual Masons in particular planned World War I, is of no consequence. What is clear is that Masonic leadership divided Europe into two warring camps, triggering World War I. Freemason Bismarck was most responsible.

According to Miller and Webster, Bismarck was in constant communication with Mazzini and Lemmi. As Luciferians, all three hated the atheism of the lower degree initiates in the Templar Grand Orient, but continued the conspiracy in these Lodges in their respective countries to their own ends.⁸ Including Pike and Palmerston, who were Scottish Rite Masons, all five men were in the Templar camp.

Nesta Webster states that Bismarck surrounded himself with Freemasons and members of other secret societies, who assisted him in his task as "peacemaker."⁹ Following the death of Palmerston, the new Prime Minister, Freemason Benjamin Disraeli, brought the British House of Rothschild (whose male members were all in the hierarchy of English Freemasonry) into the plot. This move has caused some revisionist historians to erroneously implicate the Rothschilds as the real power behind the scheme.¹⁰ A different story, however, is told by Dr. Carroll Quigley, an historian who favored the Masonic conspiracy.

Dr. Quigley (1911-1977) was former Professor of History at the Foreign Service School at Georgetown University.¹¹ For twenty years Quigley had researched a portion of the Masonic conspiracy housed within the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), claiming he was "permitted for two years, in the early 1960s, to examine its papers and secret records."¹² Quigley compiled his discoveries in a tedious 1,348 page book, *Tragedy and Hope*, which was suppressed after its first printing.¹³ According to Cleon Skousen (sixteen years an FBI agent, and author of *The Naked Capitalist, a digest of Tragedy and Hope*), Dr. Quigley was in favor of the conspiracy. "All through his book," wrote Skousen, "Dr. Quigley assures us that we can trust these benevolent, well-meaning men who are secretly operating behind the scenes. THEY are the *hope* of the world. All who resist them represent *tragedy*. Hence, the title for his book."¹⁴

Tragedy and Hope, subtitled *A History of THE WORLD in Our Time*, traces Bismarck's diplomacy from 1871 to 1890, which ended in a treaty

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called The Triple Alliance. The signatories of the treaty were Germany, Austria, and Italy, collectively called the Central Powers. According to Quigley, Bismarck then went to work to construct an alliance of the opposing states. Before his death the stage was set for Great Britain, Russia, and France, collectively called the Allied Powers, to sign a treaty of alliance. In 1907 The Triple Entente was ratified and battle lines drawn.¹⁵ A manufactured crisis, strategically located, would trigger world war.

Socialism, Democracy and Monarchy

Why should Zionist English Freemasonry, a Brotherhood formed to protect British and European nobility, permit Great Britain to wage war on its own Central Powers kings?

To answer this question, we must examine the complex decisions which faced the British Masonic aristocracy during the half century leading up to World War I. Historians have said the sole cause of the War was an economic battle between Great Britain and Germany. Stephen Knight, a British journalist, presents another viewpoint: "For a mass of reasons England was in turmoil, revolution seemed only a step away and the monarchy was already unpopular."¹⁶

Queen Victoria, who reigned in England from 1837-1901, was not well-liked. In her earlier years she was hissed at by her subjects, and seven attempts were made on her life. In Ireland uprisings accompanied demands for Home Rule. Catholicism was making strong inroads in society, and socialistic republicanism was knocking at her door. Victoria had political problems.

In addition, her heir apparent, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, whom she nicknamed Bertie, was despised for his odious reputation. Every intelligent person in the land, yea, in the entire world knew of his debauchery.

It was customary for the Prince of Wales to join English Freemasonry. On April 28, 1875, Albert Edward (Bertie) was installed as Grand Master. He did not, however, uphold the royal virtues demanded of him by society, and this reflected negatively on Freemasonry. He was an embarrassment both to the Brotherhood and the Crown. His sole purpose in life appeared to be pleasure seeking. In *Clarence*, a biography of Eddy (Bertie's son), Michael Harrison writes of Bertie:

It was the indiscreet practice of the Prince of Wales to pay social calls on young married women, and to spend considerable time with them alone, after the footman had been instructed

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not to disturb the *tête-à-tête*. What made the indiscretion even more noticeable was that His Royal Highness neglected to cultivate the acquaintance of the ladies' husbands - or even to express a wish to meet them.¹⁷

Not only was Bertie a disgrace to Queen Victoria and a burden to her authority, but the political pressures during her reign were even more immense. The Templar Grand Orient had penetrated British society with socialist and communist doctrines. The infiltration began in 1849 when Grand Orient Freemason Karl Marx settled in London, living and writing there until his death in 1883. Thereafter, his daughter Eleanor and Marx's mentor, Friedrich Engels, expanded and propagated his work. Consequently, during the latter thirty years of Victoria's reign, the tide of socialism began to spread across England.

In 1885 socialism received a boost with the publication of the second volume of Marx's *Capital*. By 1886 ten percent of the working population in England was unemployed, and on February 8th of that year, after listening to inflammatory speeches from the socialists, angry crowds rioted, waving their communist red banners.¹⁸

The press began to seriously discuss the possibility of a working-class uprising. On November 13, 1887, it happened and is known in history as Bloody Sunday. Nearly a hundred thousand unemployed converged on Trafalgar Square from all sides. Among them were Eleanor Marx and members of the socialist Fabian Society, including Freemason and Marxist George Bernard Shaw, the brilliant speaker and female Freemason Annie Besant, and the artist and poet William Morris, who had declared himself a socialist and a revolutionary. The unfortunate clash caused irreparable damage to relations between police and public, feeding the fires, not only of socialism, but of anarchy as well.¹⁹

Prince Edward was not ignorant of the political upheaval in his country. He was aware that the greatest threat to the established order, and hence to English Freemasonry, was the working men. Yet, he constantly alienated the laborer by his anti-social behavior. Consequently, the perhaps normal resentment felt by his subjects turned into bitter hatred when Grand Orient Communists whipped up the sentiments of the working class.²⁰

Knight informs us of the stress the political resentments of the working class placed on English Freemasonry: "As the years passed and the political situation in England grew more dangerous to the established order, there is evidence to show that the Masonic brothers were becoming deeply concerned..."²¹

To preserve their heritage, and to save their beloved Brotherhood from a coup by the working man's Grand Orient Lodges, aristocratic

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English Freemasonry made plans to re-exert control over the monarchy. In 1881 Prince Edward received an anonymous letter from the British Grand Lodge, chastising him for his debauchery, and warning him of the consequence to Great Britain should he not repent. Following is a portion of that lengthy letter:

You have joined yourself to the Freemasons at the right moment, for true Freemasonry is about to be more powerful than Royalty.... In England, even at this hour, we are - if the organs of blood and culture speak truly - very near forgetting the use of a Queen.. -22

Knight continues, "The anonymous writers went on to draw the future king's attention to the Royal Families of Europe so recently overthrown, and to warn him against a similar fate. Throughout the letter, cloaked in the transparent guise of gushing *bonhomie*, one feeling comes through clearly: the Prince of Wales must cease his dissipated life or the throne will topple, *and that poses a threat to the Masons which cannot be countenanced*" [emphasis in the original].²³

Bertie did not heed the warning of his Masonic brothers. Hence, when he visited Cork with his wife Princess Alexandra in 1885, the crowd hissed and booed the royal couple, pelting them with onions. In 1888 the name of the Prince of Wales had become so reviled that even his own nephew, the German Kaiser, threatened to cancel a visit to Austria unless the Prince, who was staying in Vienna, departed first. Then, in 1898, just three years before he ascended the throne as King Edward VII, Bertie was hissed and mercilessly

caricatured during a visit to Paris.²⁴

The working class, having no respect for the Throne, was poised to topple the existing order, and replace it with communism. English Freemasonry had no choice but to overrule the Monarchy. In doing so it appeased the working-class with socialism.

English Freemasonry had already accepted socialism as a corn promise at the 1889 Masonic Congress held at Paris and had since established socialist "think tanks" as political outlets for Masonic thought. The dual problem facing the aristocratic Brotherhood was how to control state socialism in a capitalistic society, and at the same time preserve the Protestant monarchy. The "think tanks" went into session and quickly proposed a simple solution to the first problem:

Freemasonry already controlled business and finance, which in a sense could be termed "corporate socialism"; state socialism could do business with corporate socialism, so long as the Brotherhood dominated politics, which it did.²⁵

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The second task of preserving the Protestant monarchy was accomplished through a little Masonic arm-twisting. The Protector of the Throne forced the British Crown to submit to a socialistic democracy, but allowed it to maintain its position as royal figurehead. The Monarchy really had no choice.

Thereafter, Great Britain as a nation went the way of the Grand Orient socialistic democracies on the Continent, with one exception - English Masonic aristocrats, while remaining loyal to the Monarchy, controlled the new social politics. Hence, Great Britain was included in the Democratic Allied Powers, and fought against the Monarchic Central Powers of Europe during World War I. As for the monarchy in Russia, also included in the Allied Powers, French Freemasonry had long ago been at work to republicanize that great nation, planning to topple its monarchy before the global conflict was scheduled to begin. (Chapter 19 discusses this Masonic intrigue.)

In this centuries-old struggle between the two Freemasonries, the British Brotherhood had long anticipated a global conflict, preparing itself for dominance in post-war commerce and finance. Win or lose, the Sionist Brotherhood certainly would include the aristocracy of Europe in its future plan. English royalty could only remain sympathetic toward her European cousins, consoling itself with the fact that neutral Switzerland was created for such a time as this. Meanwhile, the Central Powers must fight a war for survival against the Allied Powers.

The Trigger for World War I

With the Central Powers pitted against the Allied Powers by a network of treaties, Europe was poised for a crisis to trigger world war. Quigley lists eight crises, which occurred in rapid succession following the signing of The Triple Entente, any one of which could have done the job. They were:

- 1.1908- The Bosnian Crisis
- 2.1911 - Agadir and the Second Moroccan Crisis
- 3.1911 - The Tripolitan War
- 4.1912 - The First Balkan War
- 5.1913- The Second Balkan War
- 6.1913 - The Albanian Crisis
- 7.1913- The Liman von Sanders Affair
- 8.1914 - Sarajevo!²⁶

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Ample evidence exists to implicate Freemasonry in all the above. For brevity, however, we will deal only with the Masonic intrigues which led up to Sarajevo, for it was this crisis that historians claim triggered World War I. At Sarajevo, Archduke Ferdinand of the House of Habsburg, heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne, was assassinated on June 28, 1914. Five weeks later World War I began.

The Lodge and Ferdinand's Assassination

Conspiracy researchers have more than Albert Pike's letter to confirm that world war was Templar Freemasonry's plan, yea, even its expressed desire. The minutes of that famous 1889 International Masonic Congress at Paris record the words of Freemason A. Francolin, orator of the Grand Orient. De Poncins quotes

him:

The day will come when among the peoples who have not had an 18th century [political turmoil], nor a 1789 [French Revolution], monarchies and religions will collapse. That day is not far off, and we are expecting it.... That day will bring about the masonic [sic] universal fraternity of peoples, the ideal which we set up for ourselves. It is our business to hasten its coming.²⁷

In September 1902, Brother J. Desmons, representing the Grand Orient of France, proclaimed at a Masonic Congress held in Geneva, Switzerland: "The dream of my life has always been that all democracies should meet and understand one another in such a way as one day soon to form the Universal Republic."²⁸

On September 15, 1912, two years before the Archduke's murder, the following words were spoken in Paris by a high Swiss Grand Orient Mason on the subject of the heir to the throne of Austria: "He is a remarkable man; it is a pity that he is condemned; he will die on the steps of the throne."²⁹

The plotting began sometime in 1910 in Swiss, French, Hungarian, Serbian and Italian Grand Orient Lodges. A traveling peddler, Karl Kothner of the Grand Lodge of Berlin, heard parts of the conspiracy in Lodges he frequented throughout Europe. Greatly disturbed, he returned to Berlin and delivered the information to Count Dohna Schlodien, his Grand Master. Kothner recorded in his diary the words he uttered to the Count on October 28, 1911 at 11:15 A.M.:

Being, at first, frank and credulous I made some discoveries during the year in the lodges of other towns abroad, which

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disturbed me greatly. I came by chance upon proofs that Free-masonry was preparing something terrible against Germany. I overheard certain imprudent remarks which gave me a glimpse of a plan to assassinate the Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, of starting a world war to cause the fall of thrones and altars.³⁰

Count Schlodien, the Grand Master, seemed not to hear Kothner's words. Schlodien's thoughts pondered the accusation. Wanting to believe there was no division in the Brotherhood, he slowly replied, "There is only one Freemasonry."

In 1926 Kothner repeated his story, this time in a letter to the same Grand Lodge under the new Grand Master Dr. Mullendorf. Kothner stressed to Mullendorf that he had "made a communication to Count Dolina [Schlodien], which ought to have given him clear proof that the Freemasons of the Grand Hungarian lodge had exercised criminal activity against Germany and against all the peoples."³¹ Mullendorf tried by every means to force Kothner to retract the admission of this conversation, but failed.

Franz Ferdinand's "Crime"

What did Franz Ferdinand do to prompt Freemasonry to select him for assassination? De Poncins supplies the answer: "Freemasonry urged the assassination of Franz Ferdinand not because he was an Austrian-German, but because he was an obstacle to the international revolutionary aim of Freemasonry." ³²

The obstacle Ferdinand presented to Continental Freemasonry was three-fold. First, as a Merovingian, he was destined to be the future Priory of Sion "King of Jerusalem." Second, he was a practicing Catholic. Third, he had committed a crime in the eyes of Masonry, a crime punishable only by death. (Neal Wilgus, in *The Illuminoids*, informs us that the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria was by Masonic agents.)³³

What was Ferdinand's terrible crime? The Scottish Rite *New Age* magazine, September 1952, these many years later, revealed that information in an editorial from which we quote:

[The First World] War was precipitated by a "secret treaty" between the Vatican and Serbia, which would have annexed Serbia to the Vatican State and imposed canon law on that non-Catholic country. When the treaty became known, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, "Roman Catholic heir to the Austro-Hungarian

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throne, known to be a secret party to the policy embodied in the treaty," was assassinated by Gavrilo Princep.³⁴

Archduke Ferdinand had committed - to the Masons - the unpardonable sin of turning a non-Catholic country into a Catholic domain. Not mentioned in the *New Age* editorial is that the eight plotters involved in the assassination were Masons, members of the "Black Hand" Masonic Lodge, also known as the "Union of Death Brother-hood." The Black Hand was the Serbian counterpart of the Masonic Mafia in Italy.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* confirms the nefarious means and ends of the Black Hand. It "used terroristic methods to liberate Serbs subjected to Habsburg or Ottoman rule and was instrumental in planning the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand.... The society was formed [1911] and led by Col. Dragutin Dimitrijevic [chief of intelligence for the Serbian general staff]; its membership was primarily made up of army officers with some government officials.... Within Serbia it dominated the army and wielded tremendous influence over the government." ³⁵

The Black Hand was the terrorist arm of a more powerful Masonic Lodge, Narodna Odbrana, founded earlier in 1911 by Freemason Dr. Karl Kramarsch, organizer of the Pan Slavic movement. This lodge claimed to be a patriotic Serbian organization pledged to free Serbia from Austrian influence and to achieve specifically the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Narodna Odbrana had set up a group of physical culture clubs as fronts for its wider activities. ³⁶

The aim of Narodna Odbrana was to unite all the Slav southern states into one federation, which could only be achieved through the death of Archduke Ferdinand. Assigned the task to mastermind the Arch-duke's assassination was Freemason Radoslav Kazimirovitch (or Casimirovic). Kazimirovitch had travelled abroad extensively, visiting several Continental Lodges and returning with a cache of revolvers and bombs.

The actual murderer of the Archduke was Gavrilo Princep, who received his arms through Freemason Major Tankosich (or Tankosic). Documents concerning the assassination plot were discovered in a diary in the town of Locznka, a diary belonging to Serbian Freemason Major Todorovitch. The Major's diary was made available to the military court that tried the assassins in the fall of 1914. ³⁷

In June 1917 the German *Badische Observer* exposed an even larger conspiracy that supported both the Narodna Odbrana and the Black Hand assassins. The *Observer* accused International Scottish Rite

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Freemasonry, the same international branch founded by Pike and Mazzini, of printing propaganda against Germany and Austria, propaganda that triggered the Masonic uprisings in Serbia. ³⁸

The primary leader of the Serbian uprising was Black Hand founder Col. Dimitrijevic. Dimitrijevic was code-named Apis. He was the political opponent of the Serbian premier Nikola Pasic. Pasic, not known to be a member of the Black Hand, was, nonetheless, influenced by the Russian Grand Orient Mason Mikhail Bakunin, a self-proclaimed Satanist. When the Premier heard a rumor that Apis had plotted Ferdinand's assassination, he saw his chance of ridding himself of his political rival. Pasic warned the Austrian government of the plot, but his message was too cautiously worded to be understood. ³⁹

Subsequent events, however, suggest it was understood, but ignored. Count de Poncins quotes a personal report from Count Czernin in his book *Im Welt-Knege (In the World War)* that the Archduke was well aware of the Freemason plot against his life:

The Archduke knew quite well that the risk of an attempt on his life was imminent. A year before the war, he informed me that the Freemasons had resolved his death. He also told me the town where that decision was said to have been taken, and mentioned the names of several Hungarian and Austrian politicians who probably knew something about it. ⁴⁰

Sarajevo: June 28, 1914

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his pregnant wife, Archduchess Sophie, were coming to Sarajevo for an official tour. The royal couple were riding in the back of a black 1910 Graef und Stift limousine, which had been borrowed for the occasion. The rear half of the roof was folded back exposing the couple. Sophie was wearing a huge hat. The Archduke wore a blue tunic and plumed hat.

An eye-witness to the assassination was Helena Navratilova, a 21-year-old seamstress, who had prepared for the high-spirited holiday from dressmaking chores. As she wandered through the crowds to catch a glimpse of the royal couple, she stopped near the end of the Cumurja Bridge. Next to her was a young man she later learned was of Jewish ancestry, a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip.

"The car was going this way, coming across the bridge," Helena said. "They had to stop because they were going to turn around. Someone in the crowd almost broke my nose throwing flowers at the royal couple."

When the car slowed down at the end of the bridge (now known as Gavril Princip Bridge in honor of the assassin), Helena said, "Suddenly the young man next to me jumped up and started shooting. At first people just stared.... It only took a few seconds.... He ran away."⁴¹

Neither the Archduke nor his wife moved, but an instant after the attack, the Archduchess collapsed quietly on her husband's shoulder. Count Harrach heard the latter say softly: "Sophie, Sophie, do not die. Live for the sake of our children." Franz remained quietly seated supporting the Archduchess. A trickle of blood appeared on his lips. To Count Harrach's questioning Franz repeated several times in a weakening voice, "It is nothing, it is nothing." Then he lost consciousness. When the palace of the governor was reached, the two bodies were quickly carried to a bed on the first floor. The doctors in attendance could only declare that death had already taken place.⁴²

De Poncins provides more detail of the assassination. From his description of Count Harrach's action after the first attempt on the Archduke's life, it appears as if the Count knew from what direction the second attempt would be made:

On the 28th June 1914 the Archduke, heir to the crown of the Austrian monarchy, and his wife succumbed to the bullets of Serbian freemasons [sic].... Distributed among the crowd were eight assassins armed with bombs and revolvers, of whom the most resolute were Cabrinovic, Princip, and Grabez.

Opposite the Cumurja bridge Cabrinovic threw his bomb. It fell on the car and then rolled to the ground where it exploded, wounding several persons including the occupants of the car immediately following. The Archduke had his car stopped in order to inquire about the wounded, and then the programme arranged upon was continued. When the reception at the town hall was ended, Count Harrach placed himself for the return journey standing on the left hand step of the car, so as to protect their Highnesses from an attempt upon them from that side. But on this occasion it came from the right. At the corner of Francis-Joseph Street, the car stopped just in front of one of the assassins, Princip, who fired at close range several shots from an automatic.⁴³

On October 12, 1914, the assassins were tried, and Freemason Cabrinovic unconcernedly told the judges of the military court: "'In Freemasonry it is allowed to kill.'"⁴⁴ Excerpts from the Pharos Shorthand Transcript of their trial reads as follows:

The President - Did you believe that Slavs of southern Austria-Hungary would gain any advantage from your act?

Princip - We were agreed upon the choice of means for helping the southern Slavs.

The President - What were those means?

Princip - Murder; the disappearance of all those who were opposed to the realization of Pan-Slavia and who are unjust [sic] to the people.

Certain passages of the interrogations during the trial confirm the influence and involvement of international Freemasonry in the plan to kill the Archduke Franz Ferdinand:

Cabrinovic - He [Casimirovic] is a Freemason, even in some degree one of their chiefs. He travelled abroad immediately [after the men had offered themselves to carry out the assassination]. He went to Russia, France and Buda-Pesth. Every time when I asked ciganovic how far our projects had advanced, he replied that I should know when Casimirovic should return. About this time Ciganovic also told me that the Freemasons had already condemned to death the heir to the throne two years ago, but that they had not found men to carry out their judgment.

Premusic - Have you read the books of Rosic?

Cabrinovic - I have read his treatise on Freemasonry.

Premusic - Were these books distributed in Belgrade?

Cabrinovic - I set them in type as a printer.

Premusic - Tell me, do you believe in God or anything?

Cabrinovic - No.

Premusic - Are you a Mason?

Cabrinovic - Why do you ask me that? I cannot answer you on that subject.

Premusic - Is Tankosic a Mason?

Cabrinovic - Yes, and Ciganovic also.

The President - From which it follows that you also are a Mason, for a Freemason never admits to anyone but another Mason that he belongs to that society.

Cabrinovic - Please do not ask me about that subject for I shall not reply.

The President - Tell me something more about the motives. Did you know before deciding to attempt the assassination that Tankosic and Ciganovic were Freemasons? Had the fact of you and they being Freemasons an influence on your resolve?

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Cabrinovic - Yes.

The President - Did you receive from them the mission to carry out the assassination?

Cabrinovic - I received from no one the mission to carry out the assassination. Freemasonry had to do with it because it strengthened me in my intention. In Freemasonry it is permitted to kill. Ciganovic told me that the Freemasons had condemned to death the Archduke Franz Ferdinand more than a year before.

The President - Did he tell you that from the very beginning or only after you spoke to him of your wish to carry out the assassination?

Cabrinovic - We had already spoken about Freemasonry but he said nothing to me of the condemnation to death before we had quite decided to carry out the assassination.

The following passage is from the interrogation of Princip, who fired the fatal shots at the Archduke and who also confirms the origin of the assassination plot in the Lodge:

The President - Did you speak about Freemasonry with Ciganovic?

Princip (insolently) - Why ask me that?

The President - I ask because I must know. Did you speak to him about it or not?

Princip - Yes, Ciganovic told me that he was a Freemason.

The President - When did he tell you that?

Princip - He told me when I was asking about the means of carrying out the assassination. He added that he would speak with a certain person and that he would receive the necessary means. On another occasion, he told me that the heir to the throne had been condemned to death in a Masonic Lodge.

The President - And are you also a Freemason?

Princip - Why that question? I shall not reply. (After a short silence): No.

The President - Is Cabrinovic a Mason?

Princip - I do not know. Perhaps he is. He told me once that he was going to join a lodge.⁴⁵

De Poncins reports that "Twenty accused persons appeared on the 12th October 1914 before the military court at Sarajevo. All were Masons. Eight were directly concerned in the murder. The four most

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active participants were Princip, Cabrinovic, Grabez and hue. All were young men from 18 to 20 years old, mostly students."⁴⁶

Illic and two other accused were condemned to death and hanged on February 2, 1915. Princip, Cabrinovic and Grabez were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, but all died in prison before World War I ended.

World War I Begins

Five weeks following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, World War I began. The signatories of the two international treaties of alliance Freemasonry had spent 50 years constructing took action. On the night of August 3-4, 1914, German forces invaded Belgium. Great Britain, which had no concern with Serbia and no express obligation to fight either for Russia or for France, was committed to defend Belgium. On August 4 England declared war on Germany.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia on August 5; Serbia against Germany on August 6; Montenegro against Austria-Hungary on August 7 and against Germany on August 12; France and Great Britain against Austria-Hungary on August 10 and on August 12, respectively; Japan against Germany on August 23; Austria-Hungary against Japan on August 25 and against Belgium on August 28.

Italy had confirmed the Triple Alliance on December 7, 1912, but submitted formal arguments for disregarding it. Its reasons were twofold. First, Italy was not obliged to support its allies in a war of aggression. Second, the original treaty had stated expressly that the alliance was not against England. Italy,

having a constitutional monarchy, eventually sided with England.

On September 5, 1914, Russia, France, and Great Britain concluded the Treaty of London, each promising not to make a separate peace with the Central Powers. This alliance was called the Allied or Entente Powers or simply the Allies.⁴⁷

When World War I began, American Freemasonry immediately went into action. The May 1917 issue of *The Freemason*, a British Masonic monthly, confirmed American Masonic activity: "Already during the first weeks of the war a great masonic [sic] meeting held in the United States passed a resolution to give to Great Britain and her allies all possible support in the present war."⁴⁸

That support came by way of favorable propaganda created by journalists who were Masons and from 33rd degree Col. E.M. House, personal advisor to President Woodrow Wilson. While Wilson was crisscrossing the nation campaigning for re-election on the slogan,

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"He Kept Us Out of War!," Col. House was making behind-the-scenes agreements with England which committed America to entering the war.⁴⁹

The Freemason stated further: "Freemasonry comprises more than two millions members. Every American mason [sic] knows very well what that means for the safety and duration of the Republic. The world war is the struggle of democracy against autocracy, and the future of the world will be democratic, whether the German Kaiser knows it or not."⁵⁰

When President Woodrow Wilson (not a Mason, but favorable to the Craft) stood before Congress in 1917 and declared war on Germany, he solemnly announced that "the war was against the German government only and not against the German people."⁵²

At the International Congress of Freemasonry at Paris in April 1917, one of the subjects of deliberation was how to provoke Germans against the monarchy, since the basis of peace must be the deposition of William II of Germany and Charles I of Austria.⁵³ It was determined that Masonic journalists should create propaganda against the monarchies in Germany and Austria to send to newspapers in their respective countries.⁵⁴ Immediately following the Masonic congress, all major newspapers around the world parroted Masonic thought: "Peace cannot be concluded before William II and Charles I are deposed."⁵⁵

A communication from the Masonic Supreme Council at Paris dated December 9, 1917, and written by Freemason A. Lebey, was entitled *Dans l'atelier maconique*. Lebey not surprisingly cast the struggle in predictable revolutionary terms: "The question is to know which is right, good faith or falsehood, good or evil, liberty or autocracy. The present struggle is the continuation of that which began in 1789; one of the two principles must triumph or perish. The very life of the world is at stake."⁵⁶

In an obvious attempt to direct his message to German Freemasons, Lebey scolded them for defending their motherland. He then offered them the following instruction: "Motherland, republic, the revolutionary spirit and socialism are indissolubly joined."⁵⁷

In response to overwhelming Masonic support of the Allies throughout the democratic nations, Freemasons in Germany began to prepare the defeat of their own nation. Freemason Vater, the German social democrat, spoke at Magdeburg during a meeting of a workman's and soldier's council in 1919, making clear the manner in which that preparation was effected:

Since 25th January 1918 we have methodically prepared the revolution. It was a difficult task and full of danger; we paid for

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it by many years of prison. The social democratic party had seen that great strikes do not lead to revolution and that it is necessary to use other means to that end. The labour has brought its fruit. We organized desertions at the front; we provided the deserters with false papers, money and propaganda leaflets inciting to desertion. We sent our agents in all directions, principally to the front, in order that they might work upon the soldiers and disintegrate the army. They advised soldiers to desert to the enemy and it is thus that the downfall was brought about, little by little, but with certainty.⁵⁸

In summation, the true aim of the first Masonic world war was the overthrow of monarchies, the degradation of the Catholic powers, and the triumph of the world republic. President Coolidge publicly recognized this in a speech reported by Reuter-London on June 14, 1927:

"The chief question at stake in this formidable conflict [World War I] was to decide which form of government was to predominate among the great nations of the world: the autocratic form or the republican form. Victory

remained finally on the side of the people."⁵⁹

Continental Freemasonry was in total control of the events which led to World War I. As such it took advantage of the global conflict to cast down thrones. That which was attempted following the French Revolution of 1789 (i.e., the republicanizing of Europe by the Napoleonic Wars) was perfected by World War I. Following this conflict, Masonic republicanism, whether democratic, socialistic, or communistic, replaced what had previously been monarchies and kingdoms. Pike and Mazzini's plan was fulfilled.