

THE CONSPIRACY THEORY

KEY PLAYERS

According to the conspiracy theory, the governments of the major powers are in the control of wealthy bankers. Key conspirators are allegedly the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers. This theory appears to have biblical support because we are warned that in the last days, a man who is termed 'the beast' will arise and deceive the nations. His influence will be worldwide. The Bible says:

"He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world." (Rev. 13:7-8).

We are also told that this 'beast' (also known as the antiChrist) will "... give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name." (Rev. 13:15-17).

We are told that the number of the beast is 666 (13:18). Some believe that the mark of the beast refers to the current bank card system.

In response to the conspiracy theory, it must be stated that there *is* grounds for the fear that a future "cashless society" could leave people vulnerable to the control of a dictator who has the power to prevent his enemies from gaining access to their funds. That does not mean however, that there is now in existence, a secret group of bankers who will one day put the future anti-Christ into a place of world domination. We need to be careful to base our views on what the Bible says, and the Bible does not say that the anti-Christ will have the backing of a group of bankers. Furthermore, as will be seen, the world conspiracy theory has many problems.

INCONSISTENCIES

Wealthy bankers allegedly engineered the stock market crash of 1929. However, the banks actually poured money into the stock market in an effort to halt the fall and the loss of confidence.

There are many inconsistencies in the world conspiracy theory. For instance, the "green-house effect" is alleged to be a ploy by the conspirators to facilitate the coming of a "one world government". The United States government is alleged to be under the control of the conspirators, and yet, under the administration of president George Bush Snr, it did not support the "greenhouse effect" theory.

It is claimed that conspirators are planning to dominate the world, but the U.S. government has not made use of several opportunities to dominate other countries e.g. it has withdrawn its troops from Panama, and also from the middle east at the end of the Gulf War after Saddam Hussein's forces left Kuwait.

There is at least one instance where the U.S. government has acted to block a world domination plan. The United Nations is allegedly in the forefront in the push for a one

world government. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1980 passed a resolution to include the principles of a New World Information and Communication Order. Its aim was to bring all of the media in the world under one banner. It was suggested that all journalists should be licensed to ensure their freedom and protection. The U.S. government saw this to be a threat to the freedom of the press, so it withdrew its membership in December 1983. Quite clearly this is inconsistent with the claim that both the U.N. and the U.S. government are under the control of conspirators.

According to the conspiracy theory, behind the scenes, Russia and America are actually united, and the primary means of world dominion will be through the expansion of communism while the U.S. puts up a token resistance.

A difficulty for the theory is that communism has collapsed, beginning with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The U.S. was presented with an opportunity to form a close friendship with the U.S.S.R., but instead, adopted a 'wait and see' approach. In the face of pressure from some quarters at the time to give financial help to the new democracy in Russia, the US government decided that Russia had to prove herself before substantial financial help could be given.

NO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

The Weekend Australian said, "On April 25 [1995], the finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven major industrialised countries met in Washington to consider what might be done to end the currency war between the United States and Japan. The delegates decided that, in a regime of financial deregulation, international coordination of currencies was no longer possible which, in strict terms, means that an international financial system no longer exists."¹

An international financial system will probably come into existence in the future, but it certainly did not exist in May 1995.

ASSETS SOLD

According to the conspiracy theory, the international bankers have an almost endless supply of money, but the facts do not support the theory. In 1989, New York's Rockefeller Centre was sold to the Mitsubishi Estate Co. for \$846 million. In that year, foreign investment in America reached an all time high, but in 1992 foreigners took out nearly \$4 billion more than they put into the US²

LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT

I do not know of any reliable politician who supports the conspiracy theory. Back in the 1970's I asked Sir Charles Adaman about it, and he said there was no substance to the theory. I mentioned the book, "None Dare Call it Conspiracy", but he said, "In America the laws against libel are very weak."

CAN BANKS CREATE MONEY?

According to the book, "*The Green Hoax Effect*" by Peter Sawyer, the banks can create money through their borrowing

and lending practices. An example is given on page 141 where an imaginary millionaire deposits one million dollars into his account. Another person puts his estate up as collateral for the loan of \$1 million. The bank pays interest to the depositor and receives interest payments from the person who has borrowed the money. In the example, the bank is said to have created \$1 million when the depositor withdraws his money. In actual fact, the bank will be in a lot of trouble if 100% of its lendings are withdrawn. A "run on a bank" (particularly a small one) can cause it to close.

The view presented by the book would have some credibility if money was just paper, but money is more than paper; it represents energy or power. It is a vehicle for transferring energy or power from one situation to the next. When a person borrows \$1 million, he doesn't want just paper, he wants the power or energy which the paper represents so that he can do what needs to be done. If a depositor withdraws \$1 million from the bank, a lot of energy is withdrawn from the control of the bank. During periods of hyperinflation, money quickly loses its value as the government prints money at a rapid rate, as was the case in Germany in the 1930s. If banks doubled the amount of money in their possession, inflation would be very high, but the inflation rate in Australia for 1996 for instance was much less than 10%.

IS EVERYONE IN DEBT?

Conspiracy theorists are masters at twisting data to fit their theory. Take for instance the claim that the world is in debt to the banks. To use the Australian situation, they take the total amount of debt owing, then average it out to \$10,000 for every person living in Australia in 1995. The claim is then made that Australia is hopelessly in debt. The same scenario is carried on with a few more illustrations to include the whole world.

If we look at what happens when a person takes out a debt, it can be seen that it is virtually impossible for the whole world to go into debt. When you take out a loan, you need to offer something as collateral to cover the amount of the loan, e.g. land, possessions, steady and certain income etc. If the bank accepts land as collateral that is not equal to the amount of the loan, then it is the bank that is in trouble, not the borrower. The bank in that instance has a bad deal. The situation will never arise where the whole world becomes mortgaged to the banks. There will always be wealthy people in the world who will own everything they have.

I do not know the situation in Australia, but in America, one person in two thousand is a millionaire. That is a lot of millionaires. To that large number we can add the much larger group which is half-way there, those with \$500,000 plus. To this group we will add the very small number of billionaires and we soon end up with a large group of very wealthy people.

Now lets work the figures to paint another picture, lets average this wealth out to every man woman and child in America. I do not know what the sum would come to, but it would possibly mean that every American is worth tens of thousands of dollars. So what are we to believe, is every American fabulously wealthy, or is every American hopelessly in debt? I like the saying, "There are lies, there are damn lies, and then there are statistics."

THE UNITED STATES DEBT

The government has the debt because the expenses often exceed the income from taxes. Warfare is the main reason for increases in the national debt in most countries. Governments borrow from institutions such as banks and insurance companies, and directly from their own people; for instance, by selling government bonds.

According to the conspiracy theory, the conspirators want countries to be heavily in debt so that they can be under their control. However, if governments were under the control of the conspirators, then the debt (in real terms) should show a steady increase, but that is not the case.

In 1950, the national debt in the United States amounted to \$1,697 per person. In 1972 it equalled \$2,094 per person; an increase of only 23.4% over the twenty-two year period. When inflation is taken into consideration, that amounts to a decrease in debt. Also, it is a much smaller proportion of the Gross National Product (GNP), only 38% in 1972, whereas in 1950 it represented a whopping 90% of GNP.

In some years, the Gross National Debt (GND) has decreased (not just in real terms), for instance, in 1920 the GND was \$24,299,321,000. In 1930 it was only \$16,185,310,000. A significant decrease (32%) in the amount of debt in 1920.³

EGYPT'S DEBT

A charge which is sometimes quite rightly levelled at those who promote the conspiracy theory is that they are very selective with the history which they present. Gary Allen, in his book, "*None Dare Call it Conspiracy*" presents the view that a few wealthy individuals are seeking to bring the whole world under their control through:

- a. Socialism.
- b. National debt.

Regarding socialism, the back cover of Gary Allen's book says, "... communism is socialism and socialism (a plot to enslave the world) is not a movement of the downtrodden but a scheme supported and directed by the wealthiest of people." Gary Allen says, "In reality, Communism is a tyranny planned by power seekers whose most effective weapon is the big lie." (p. 24). The collapse of communism has seriously weakened this argument.

Regarding national debt, Gary Allen says, "But while wars and revolutions have been useful to international bankers in gaining or increasing control over governments, the key to such control has always been control of money. You can control a government if you have it in your debt." (p. 41).

Having made this point, he fails to mention the fact that Egypt slid backwards financially until it was in debt in 1876. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says, "... in 1876 the Caisse de la Dette Publique (Commission of the Public Debt) was established for the service of the Egyptian debt. ... By the law of Liquidation (July 1880), the annual revenues were divided into two approximately equal portions..."⁴ Officials from England and France (primarily France) worked on bringing Egypt out of its debt. They succeeded in their objective by the end of 1889 and Egypt regained control of its own financial affairs.

The collapse of communism and the recovery of Egypt from its financial woes is an embarrassment to the theory that major events in the world do not occur without the approval of an elite group of wealthy men who allegedly control governments; not only the United States government, but Australia's as well among many others. Furthermore the theory fails to account for the fact that the private sector has a major effect on the economy, and the Government often has to act in reaction to this effect.

AUSTRALIA'S PRIVATE SECTOR DEBT

In Australia at the end of the 1980s we had what Paul Keating called, "An overheated economy". Wealthy businessmen were borrowing large sums of money to fund their various schemes and take-overs. When Paul Keating looked at the sums, it was found that the level of debt in Australia was too high, **largely due to the private sector, not the government**. The treasurer could not allow the level of debt to continue to climb, so he applied the brakes to cut back the borrowing through higher interest rates. **Both sides of parliament** were in agreement that the level of borrowing had to decline. Both sides agreed that interest rates had to go up, they only differed about the level.

The high lending rates in the 1980s came about through bank deregulation. Foreign banks entered the Australian market and the Australian banks were told to become competitive on the world-stage, or face the consequences. The Australian banks, in an effort to maintain a good share of the market started to lend money to businessmen at lower rates, and at greater risks than they would normally. This strategy was successful in maintaining a large share of the banking market, but it was very harmful for the Australian economy.

If the Government was in the control of the banks, it would borrow more heavily than the private sector. In fact the level of borrowing by the Government is relatively low. Furthermore, the Government would not increase interest rates to curb the level of borrowing by the private sector if a high amount of debt was desirable.

According to Arch Bevis, the breakdown of who owes the foreign debt which in October 1995 stood at \$180.5 billion is as follows. **Private sector 60%**, State Governments 27%, Public Financial and Trading Enterprises 9%, and the Federal Government just 4% which is \$7.2 billion. "...the Federal Government has not borrowed one cent overseas since 1987!"⁵

Terry Black, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Business, Queensland University of Technology, says regarding the benefits of foreign debt. "Business firms have a choice of borrowing within Australia or from overseas. When the cost of foreign debt is lower than domestic debt, firms borrow from overseas. Because Australian interest rates in the past decade have been some of the highest in the world, firms have borrowed from low interest rate countries. Not only do shareholders benefit from this lower cost finance, but so too do consumers."

In addition, there are benefits for those who must borrow within Australia. "When Australian firms choose to borrow from overseas, their demand for Australian finance thereby decreases. This reduction in demand causes a downward

pressure on Australian interest rates."⁶

FAILED THEORIES

Some proponents of the theory make wild claims, but when the claims do not come to fruition, they conveniently forget the former claim and move on to another. Take for instance the claim made in the 1970s that Henry Kissinger (US secretary of state, 1973-76) is the 'antiChrist', and there is a computer in Brussels called, 'the beast'. The existence of the computer has since been denied, and Mr. Kissinger has slowly faded from the limelight as a possible candidate for the position of 'antiChrist'.

There was a suggestion in Australia in 1989 that the automatic teller machines housed a small camera which photographed the eyes of people while they use the machines. Each person's iris (coloured portion of the eye) is unique, like a fingerprint. It was alleged that this information would be added to a large database of information on people which would be used in some sinister way at a future date. This rumour has since lost credibility.

Nelson Rockefeller (1908-79)

According to the conspiracy theory, the political system in America is corrupted by the conspirators, chiefly, the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers. Nelson is the brother of David, chief executive officer of Chase Manhattan Bank (1969-80).

A difficulty with this view is the fact that Nelson Rockefeller - in spite of his wealth etc. - failed to achieve his political ambition to become president. He campaigned for the Republican presidential nomination in 1964 and 1968. In 1974 he became vice-president after nomination to that office by President Gerald Ford. He retired from that position in 1977.⁷

If the Rockefellers had enormous political power and were seeking more, it is hard to explain why Ford did not stand down leaving the way open for Nelson. Nelson could then have elevated his brother David, consequently gaining the power they allegedly seek.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

There is no evidence that an elite group is a hidden power behind the great powers of the world seeking to bring the world under its control. British/American relations during World War II were strained at times because Britain was keen to maintain its empire intact, while America was wanting a break-up of British control over major areas of the world so that she could extend her own influence. It was because of America's dislike of British imperialism that she planned a strategy for the defeat of Germany which would not favour British imperialism. Because of fears of British imperialism America tended to side with, and overly trust Stalin at the Yalta peace-talks.

An objective look at history shows that nations tend to act out of self-interest. There is no clear evidence that the major nations have acted in the interest of an outside group as suggested by the conspiracy theory. There was considerable hostility between the British and the Americans when the Americans took steps to break the British hold on world trade. The first major victory for the Americans was the rubber plantation set up by "Firestone" to break the

British monopoly on rubber.

THE GOLD STANDARD

Many conspiracy theorists believe Britain went off the gold standard because of a plot by the international bankers. The truth of the matter is that Montague Norman, the governor of the British reserve bank actually urged the government to go back to the gold standard after the war had finished (WWI, 1918). The government went off the gold standard during the war because it did not have enough gold to pay for its debts. He urged the government to go back to the standard at the pre-war rates. His argument was that this would maintain the credibility of the British pound (£), this in turn would help to maintain Britain's lead as an international banker; he got his way.

The problem was, the pound was not worth the pre-war (WWI) rate. People who were awake to this fact brought the pound, then used it to buy gold. Because of this practice, gold was leaving the country at the rate of £2.5 million per day. Also, because the value of the pound was set too high, it was difficult for industry in England to export its goods, especially coal. France went onto the gold standard for a while, but 80% below her pre-war rate. Eventually, the great depression forced England to abandon the gold standard and the pound fell to its true value, 30% below its set rate while on the gold standard.

Going back to the gold standard - especially at the pre-war rate - was clearly a big mistake for England, it meant that she became a late starter in the rush for world trade at the finish of the war. She therefore lost the big lead that she had in pre-war years.

INTELLECTUAL SUPERIORITY

According to many conspiracy theorists, if it is found that Russia is superior in some area of technology, then it is assumed that Russia must have stolen the relevant piece of intellectual property. However, it was the Russians who began the space age when they put a satellite into orbit around the earth in 1957. The US had to work at catching up to the Russians in that field.

THE MORGAN TRIAL

Up to the end of World War II, the prevailing view in America was that America should maintain the Washington doctrine (the view that America should stay out of conflicts in Europe). When America was drawn into WW I, many people were furious. Some looked for a reason for America's involvement, and believed the reason was found when it was discovered that John P. Morgan (1867-1943) - a very wealthy banker - gave considerable financial support to the allies during the conflict. It was alleged that Morgan encouraged America's involvement in the war for financial gain. He was brought to trial and was finally exonerated, but the conspiracy suspicions lingered, so a law was passed to forbid any bank or company giving aid to a country which was at war. The law caused some minor problems when America decided to sell some aircraft to Britain during the early stages of WW II.

I suspect the conspiracy theory is primarily pushed by those in America who are unable to accept America's legitimate involvement in two World Wars, and are therefore

continuing to look for a connection which involves big banking interests in spite of the result of the Morgan trial after WW I.

HATE

A close examination of some of the policies pushed by many who promote the theory reveals that it is racist. It is particularly anti-Semitic.

A concern which I have is the hatred on the one hand, and the fear on the other which it tends to inspire within people. I might add that the theory is usually pushed by the radical 'right wing' which should not surprise anyone when their policies are closely examined.

GOD IS IN CONTROL

This conspiracy theory puts man in control of the world, but God is in control. God declares through the prophet Isaiah.

"Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread," (Isaiah 8:12-13).

END NOTES

- (1) B.A. Santamaria, *The Weekend Australian*, 06 May 95, p. 26.
- (2) Mark Frankell, "*The Bulletin*", Australian Consolidated Press, 27 April 93, p. 75.
- (3) National Debt, "*World Book Encyclopedia*", Chicago, 1974, Vol. 14, p. 29.
- (4) "*Encyclopedia Britannica*", Chicago, 1985, Vol. 18, p. 180.
- (5) Hon Arch Bevis, *The Bevis Report*, Oct. 95, p. 1.
- (6) Terry Black, "*The Courier Mail*", 30 September 1995.
- (7) (Rockefeller, "*Colliers Encyclopedia*", New York, 1994, Vol. 20, p. 119).

David Holden
(July 1997)

ALETHEIA PUBLISHING
Box 641
Albany Creek 4035
AUSTRALIA

www.defenceofthefaith.org