

BOOKS

## British Crimes Against America

From 1938, through the entire Second World War, a consortium of British intelligence agencies, acting on behalf of the British Monarchy and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, committed a wide range of criminal acts inside the United States. Agents of the British intelligence services, including American citizens who were recruited to serve the British Empire as spies and agents provocateur inside the United States, interfered with American elections, planted disinformation in the American media, created phony front groups, and engaged in violence, up to, and including, murder. Their efforts were abetted by the F.B.I. and by high-ranking officials of the Department of Justice. Their dirty tricks were lionized by the Anglophile press, while their targets, including U.S. elected officials, were treated to a steady diet of media slanders.

In the case of British intelligence's targeting of one particularly powerful isolationist Congressman, Hamilton Fish, British intelligence agents waged a five-year "dirty tricks" campaign, which ultimately resulted in Fish losing his seat in Congress. Funds for the effort were provided by wealthy New York City Anglophiles and by front groups for MI-6.

In this painstakingly researched, yet highly readable account of British covert operations in the United States during the pre-war and World War II period, Tom Mahl has unraveled an important page of the history of British-American relations. Originally submitted as a doctoral dissertation in history at Kent State University, his book is based on newly released British and American wartime intelligence archives.

Mahl was confronted with a particularly difficult task in revisiting the activities of Sir William Stephenson, "the man called Intrepid," the legendary head of the British Special Operations Executive (S.O.E.) activities in the United States. Stephenson's principal mission, from the moment he set up shop in

Rockefeller Center in the spring of 1940, was to draw the United States into World War II on the side of Great Britain.

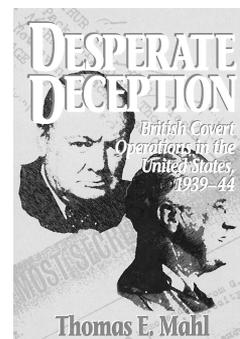
But, as the author notes in the opening paragraph of Chapter 2, "One thing is evident. Members of the American elite, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, were not tricked into the war; they were not victims. They were as eager as the British to fight Hitler."

Despite their surface convergence of interest to defeat Hitler and the Nazi menace, Mahl fails to explain to his readers that Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were driven by very different motives. As the war progressed, and the Allied leaders held a series of summit meetings, the chasm between FDR and Churchill widened, principally over the issue of how to shape the postwar peace.

### Churchill vs. Roosevelt

Roosevelt had a postwar vision of a world free of the tyranny of Hitler, but also free of the tyranny of the European colonial empires. For Churchill, the survival of Britain was synonymous with the postwar revival of the British Empire. And, many of the American Anglophiles who joined with Stephenson in running the war on the home front against the isolationists and other opponents of American support for Britain, shared Churchill's worldview—not Roosevelt's.

Once the United States entered the war, a majority of these Anglophiles, who had been involved in such S.O.E. front groups as Fight for Freedom, the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, the Friends of Democracy, and the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, were among the first to sign up with the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War Information. People like Whitney Shepardson and Allen Dulles, both top O.S.S. figures, would conspire against Roosevelt, and even against O.S.S. chief William



**Desperate Deception—  
British Covert Operations  
in the United States, 1939-44**  
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Donovan, throughout the war, thus manifesting their "British First" outlook.

This complex dimension of the so-called Anglo-American wartime alliance is not addressed by Mahl, and as a result, there is a danger that some readers might see the book as an apologia for the isolationist cause. However, this reviewer has discussed the issue directly with the author, and is fully satisfied that this was an error of omission on Mahl's part.

### A.D.L. and S.O.E.

A central figure in the Mahl account of the S.O.E.'s fifth column inside wartime America was Sandy Griffith. Griffith worked for British intelligence. S.O.E. archives unearthed by Tom Mahl identified him as "Lt. Commander Griffith," I.D. no. G.112. He had an affiliation with S.I.S. as well. Griffith's second wife confirmed to Mahl, that Sandy Griffith joined British intelligence "in the late 1930's."

From 1939, Griffith was the President of Market Analysts, Inc., a polling and public relations firm that provided fabricated polling data to all of Stephenson's British Security Control American front groups.

Griffith also happened to be a leading figure in the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, finding the time to run a string of A.D.L.-sponsored private investigative firms that maintained

illegal files on millions of American citizens, some of which had been obtained from the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Griffith's operation was later absorbed into the Fact Finding Division of the A.D.L.

One of Griffith's front groups, established to counter the influence of Father Charles Coughlin, was the Committee for American-Irish Defense. It was headquartered in the New York City offices of Market Analysts, Inc., but its base of operation was the Boston office

of the A.D.L. In fact, some historians of the S.O.E. operations in America made the mistake of assuming that the Committee for American-Irish Defense was one of the few S.O.E. failures, because almost the entirety of the group's members were prominent figures in the American Jewish community, all affiliated with the A.D.L.

Reading Mahl's account of Britain's World War II-era intelligence penetration of the U.S., prompted this reviewer to reflect on the present prosecutorial

reign of terror on the part of the U.S. Department of Justice, the F.B.I., I.R.S., etc. The methods fine-tuned during the war years by British intelligence assets and outright agents—while nominally in the interest of a just cause—have left a legacy that is today one of the great wellsprings of national disaster. Anyone seriously committed to understanding the roots of today's judicial tyranny, would do well to read this book.

—Jeffrey Steinberg

## It's Time To End the Death Penalty

When five of my friends went to prison for their political views more than four years ago, I swore that we in the LaRouche political movement would do everything we could to end the death penalty—against which they had all fought—before they were released. Today, they are still in prison, and the death penalty is still very much in force.

It is now time—indeed, it was time long ago—for America to end this barbaric relic of the past, and to join the rest of what purports to be the civilized world, in renouncing the use of murder to avenge ourselves on murderers. It is now time for America to blot out this last vestige of "frontier justice." Perhaps then, we might have the morality to address the much tougher problem in our criminal justice system: the corruption in the Department of Justice itself, which is most clearly seen in the LaRouche case.

*Frontiers of Justice* makes available, in personal and highly readable accounts, every argument that has been made for the abolition of the death penalty. In addition to the stories told by those whose lives have been deeply touched by the death penalty, *Frontiers of Justice* also marshals accounts by some of the nation's leading experts in this field, to document the racist and fundamentally unfair nature of the application of capital punishment in America today.

Included are contributions from former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), former U.S. Rep. Harley O. Staggers (D-W.V.), several legal experts in the death penalty, two former state Commissioners of Corrections, and Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religious leaders. Woven together with these more scholarly and documented papers opposing the death penalty, are very intimate accounts of the suffering which capital punishment causes among the *three* groups of victims—as Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, has put it: the death-row inmate, his relatives, and the relatives of his victim.

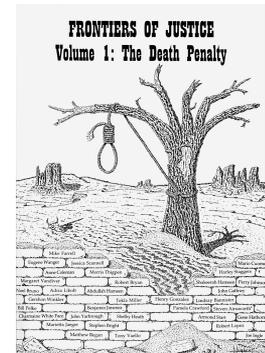
### Fundamentally Unfair

On the most elementary level of basic justice, the death penalty is blatantly unfair. Of the approximately 24,000 murders committed each year in America, one percent are selected to be prosecuted for the death penalty. The U.S. government's General Accounting Office has found the correlation of race to be a factor present at all stages of the criminal justice process, in the prosecution of capital crimes. This includes the prosecutor's decision to charge the defendant with a capital offense, or to go to trial rather than plea-bargain. In the end, although half of all murder victims are Black, 85 percent of those executed or awaiting execution, since the death

penalty was reinstated in 1976, were charged with killing whites. A Black who murders a white is more likely to get the death penalty, than anyone, white or Black, who murders a Black.

In addition, since 1976, at least 40 percent of the death penalty convictions have been reversed. It is fairly estimated that at least five percent of the inmates on death row are innocent of the crime for which they were charged. A recent *Stanford Law Review* study revealed, that during this century in the United States, at least 417 people were wrongly convicted of capital offenses, and of these, 23 were executed. Since the 1970's, at least 46 people have been released after many years on Death Row, because they were discovered to be innocent.

Finally, the overwhelming majority



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