

Is There An Illuminati Society?

by

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Persons who want to believe in conspiracies will eventually mention the 'Illuminati Society.' That person will say the society is ultra-secret and infer it has immense wealth and power. Further, that only Freemasons having the very highest degree belong to the organization, and that the objective of the society is control of the world.

Yet, they cannot give the name of a person, country, city, street address, phone number, fax number, email address or any other verifiable proof the organization exists. The usual excuse for not having proof is because the society is so secret. Baloney!

An ordinary uninterested person can find out about the Illuminati Society simply by going to a library or bookstore. There, one can borrow, or purchase the book: *The Truth About MASONS*, by Robert Morey, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR 97402, 1993 (formerly *The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry*, 1946) pp.139. In 1999 the book cost \$6.99.

Dr. Robert Morey is director of the Research and Education Foundation and author of more than twenty books on Western Culture.

There are other reference books on this subject and one can also go on the Internet.

The following is quoted from the aforementioned book, "**Chapter 6: Conspiracy Theories -**

The Illuminati Conspiracy

We have been told on several occasions by well-meaning individuals that Freemasonry is actually run by a secret conspiracy called the Illuminati. This led us to investigate the history of the Illuminati Society.

The facts concerning this political conspiracy are not hard to uncover. It was a secret society started by Adam Weishaupt in 1776 in Bavaria. Its aims included the destruction of all national governments, patriotism, all established religions, private property, and the family unit in order to bring about a one-world government and one-world religion where peace and goodwill would reign over all people.

Of course, the aims of the society meant the destruction of the Christian church. As a former Catholic now into the occult, Weishaupt had a particular hatred of Catholicism. His plan to destroy the Church of Rome brought many to understand that the Protestant church was next on Weishaupt's hit list.

It had a particular appeal to military leaders in Bavaria, Germany, Holland, France, and Italy. More than 2000 rich and powerful members were initiated into the society. Most of them were not told the real goals of the society but were fed the "one-world peace" idea as a trick to get their money.

From the very beginning, Weishaupt saw Freemasonry as the means whereby he could reach his political goals. Through his followers, Weishaupt took over hundreds of Lodges in several different countries. Mackey comments.

To give [the society] influence it was connected with Freemasonry, whose symbolic degrees formed the substratum of its esoteric instructions.¹

Its seditious character was uncovered when a Grand Master was struck dead by lightning while acting as a messenger

for the Society. When his body was searched, secret papers telling of the Illuminati's plan to overthrow all governments and religions was discovered. This resulted in mass arrests and the eventual destruction of the Society.

The French and German Lodges were already deeply involved in the occult and were filled with anticlerics who saw in the Illuminati a way to crush Christianity.

The teachings of the Illuminati even reached all the way across the Atlantic and gained a small following in America. In 1798, Reverend Snyder sent a copy of Robison's book *Proofs of a Conspiracy*, which "gives a full Account of a Society of Free-masons, that distinguishes itself by the name Illuminati, whose Plan is to overturn all Government and all Religion" to President George Washington.

His first response which is dated September 25, 1798, dismissed the idea that the Illuminati had any influence on American Freemasonry. It is apparent from his letter that Washington had not read the book when he sent his response.

Sir: Many apologies are due to you, for my not acknowledging the receipt of your obliging favour of the 22nd. I have heard much of the nefarious, and dangerous plan, and doctrines of the Illuminati, but never saw the Book until you were pleased to send it to me. I believe notwithstanding, that none of the Lodges in this country ascribed to the Society of the Illuminati.²

Washington's second response is dated October 24, 1798. It would seem that Washington finally got around to reading the book after Snyder wrote him again. What he read obviously alarmed him.

Revd Sir: I have your favor of the 17th instant before me; and my only motive to trouble you with the receipt of this letter, is to explain, and correct a mistake which I perceive the hurry in which I am obliged, often, to write letters, have you into.

It was not my intention to doubt, the Doctrines of the Illuminati, and principles of Jacobism had spread in the United States. On the contrary, no one is more truly satisfied of this fact than I am.

The idea that I meant to convey, was, that I did not believe that the Lodges of Free Masons in this County had, as Societies, endeavored to propagate the diabolical tenets of the first, or pernicious principles of the latter (if they be susceptible of separation). That Individuals of them may have done it, or that the founder, or instrument employed to found, the Democratic Societies in the United States, may have had these objects; and actually had a separation of the People from their Government in view, is too evident to be questioned.³

Washington, like most American Masons, viewed the Illuminati as "diabolical" and "nefarious." Although the Illuminati had a few followers in America, their influence was small because, as in England, the members of the American Lodge were not occultists or anti-Christian bigots.

As would be expected, Albert Pike's view of the Illuminati was quite different from Washington's view. Pike had a positive opinion of the Illuminati. He even claimed that they had recovered the "lost" Masonic word!⁴

The claim that Freemasonry is ruled today by the mysterious and secretive Illuminati Society is erroneous because the Illuminati no longer exists except in the minds of conspiracy theorists."

Some people like to expound on conspiracy theories to appear knowledgeable. They readily accept such theories as real without doing even the simplest research which would cause them to qualify their statements, or at least to present a balanced opinion. Not doing so could cause innocent listeners to worry unnecessarily about unproven allegations.

Why tolerate any conspiracy theory without asking for hard proof?

Paragraph note reference from: *The Truth About MASONS*, Chapter 6, Conspiracy Theories -

1. Albert Mackey, *History of Freemasonry*, (New York: Masonic History Co.,1898), II:289.
2. John Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of Washington* (DC: U.S. Printing Office, 1941),vol. 36, p. 453.
3. *Ibid.*, pp. 518-519.
4. Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, (Charleston, 1871), p. 849.
5. Albert Mackey, *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, (New York: Masonic History Co.,1921), II:639ff.