

**Warmongers, Newspapers and the Ruling Class (1891-1914)** <sup>1</sup>

People's actions are influenced by what they know. People act on their beliefs and perceptions. You can manipulate a person's actions by corrupting their knowledge base, warping historical truth, or ignoring it completely. Knowledge can make for independence and the truth can make us free. Elite groups seeking power over others have always recognised this fact and seek to prevent the spread of knowledge. Transparency frightens them.

The *British Ruling Class* has always had a handle on the press. Newspapers have immense power to influence how people think and act. Important events in public life, including appointments and elections, are swayed by them. They like to portray themselves as standard-bearers for morality, for loyalty, for what is for the public good. When they get it right, they promote themselves with unconscionable arrogance. When they get it wrong, they simply move on to the next opinion.



Viscount Milner (National Portrait Gallery)  
click on image above for Carroll Quigley on Money & Banking

Few newspapers have absolute loyalty to a political party. They smell the wind and change their allegiance accordingly, but their concerted attacks can bring down politicians or blacken the character of public figures. Newspapers serve their owners and always have. When their owners are part of the greater conspiracy, democracy itself becomes a fraud. <sup>2</sup>

Viscount Alfred Milner understood the role and the power of the press. From his earliest years in the *Pall Mall Gazette* in the 1880s, Milner's personal network of journalist friends included William T. Stead, editor of the *Review of Reviews*, George Buckle and later Geoffrey Dawson at *The Times*, Edmund Garrett at the *Westminster Gazette* and E.T. Cook at the *Daily News* and *Daily Chronicle*. All were members of the *Secret Elite*. <sup>3</sup>

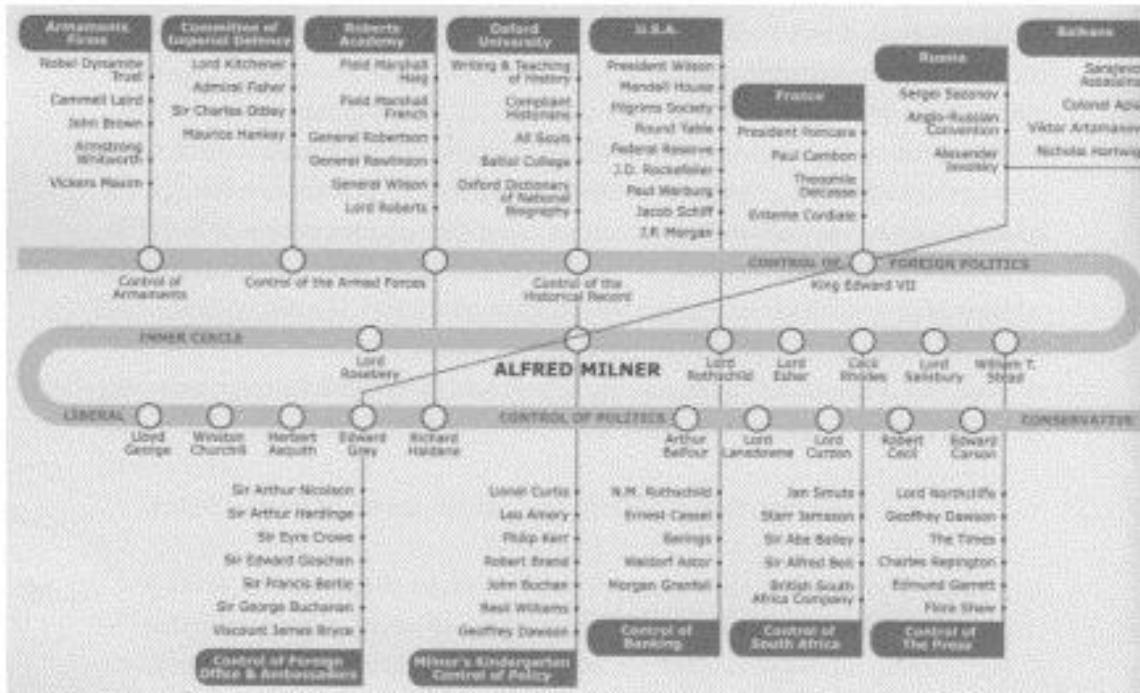
The combined impact of these newspapers and magazines gave the *Ruling Class* great influence over public opinion by directing editorial policies from behind the scenes, but it was the intimacy between *The Times* and the *Foreign Office*, the *Colonial Office* and the *War Office* that demonstrated just how deeply this symbiotic relationship ran.

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Chapter 10: Creating the Fear in Hidden History: the secret origins of the First World War* by Gerry Docherty & Jim Macgregor (Mainstream, Edinburgh, 2013, 463 pages, £20, ISBN 9781780576305). Docherty & Macgregor use the phrase 'The Secret Elite' throughout their book. I don't much like the word 'secret' as it has connotations of the intelligence services and top secret documents on the one hand, and of Harry Potter and neighbourhood gossip on the other. Instead I use phrases like establishment, ruling class and governing class combined with the word elite.

<sup>2</sup> A good example is Sir George Fison in *A Very British Coup* by Chris Mullin, former *Labour MP* for Sunderland South; (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1982, ISBN 978-1846687402). The book (with some plot changes) was a huge success as a *Channel 4 TV* series starring Ray McNally in the 1980s. *A Very British Coup* was reissued (unaltered) in 2012 under the title *Secret State* to accompany a second television re-adaptation (Serpent's Tale, London, 2012, £7.99, ISBN 978-1846689130).

<sup>3</sup> See Carroll Quigley's other book: *The Anglo-American Establishment* (California, GSC & Associates, 1981), written in 1945 but not released into the public domain until 1981 for fear of the personal consequences.

Milner's good friend, *The Times* correspondent Flora Shaw, had been a welcome guest at the *Colonial Office* and was in the confidence of all concerned with *British Imperial Policy*. Her task in justifying war in South Africa had been to insist day after day in *The Times* that President Kruger was refusing to address legitimate grievances in the Transvaal.<sup>4</sup>



*The Governing Elite's Hidden Control and Connections 1891-1914*  
 click on the diagram for a larger image

The connections between *The Times* and the *Foreign Office* continued through another known member of the *Ruling Elite*, Valentine Chirol. Formerly a *Foreign Office* clerk, Chirol moved to Berlin as *The Times* correspondent before returning to London to take control of their foreign department.

From this powerful position, Chirol promoted *Ruling Elite* policies for fifteen years up to 1912. What he supported through his editorials became the policies that the government followed. With unerring certainty he promoted the *Boer War*, the *Anglo-Japanese Alliance*, the *Entente Cordiale*, the *1907 Agreement with Czarist Russia* and ever-increasing *Antagonism towards Germany*.

Another *Times* correspondent, Charles Repington, was involved in secret inter-government agreements that belied his journalist role. His access to *Foreign Office* and *War Office* civil servants, diplomats and secret papers went far beyond propriety.<sup>5</sup>

*The Times* was taken over and controlled by Milner's men, in much the same way as they took control of *All Souls College* in Oxford, quietly and without a struggle. Others might own the newspaper, but he ensured that its editorial leadership came from within the trusted ranks of the *Governing Elite*. Members of the innermost circle swarmed all over *The Times*, writing editorials and articles, submitting news and views in line with their agenda.

Professor Quigley stated that up to 1912 the old order inside the *Governing Elite*, those initially associate with Lord Salisbury, were in charge. After that point, control passed seamlessly to Milner's close and trusted friend Geoffrey Dawson. Dawson had been personally recruited by Alfred Milner, originally for work in South Africa. Milner enticed him away from the *Colonial Office* in 1901 and had him appointed editor of the *Johannesburg Star* before he left Africa in 1905.

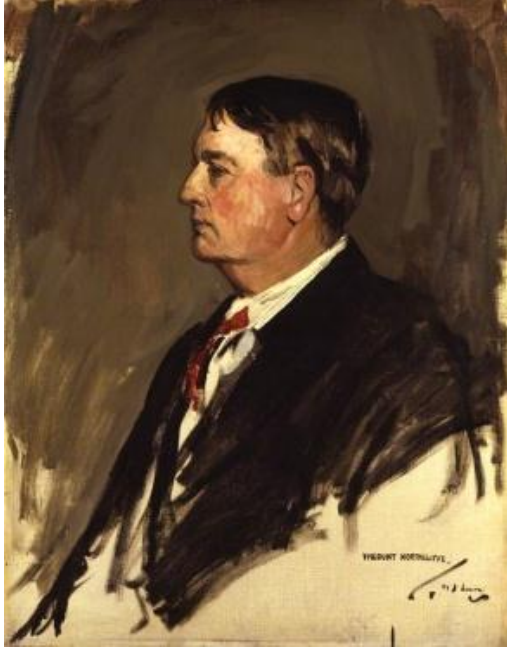
When George Buckle was approaching the end of his tenure as editor of *The Times*, Dawson was sent for, spent a year hanging about the offices and was duly appointed editor-in-chief in 1912. That was how the *Ruling Elite* worked: always one step ahead of the rest, sometimes two.

<sup>4</sup> See *Flora Shaw* by her boss E. Moberly Bell (London, Constable, 1947). Flora Shaw was also given the opportunity to rewrite history. *The Times* sponsored an updated *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and she was invited to revise the imperial sections, a task that involved rewriting a great many articles.

<sup>5</sup> See *The Enigmatic Edwardian: The Life of Reginald, Second Viscount Esher* by James Lee-Milne (London, Sidgwick & Jackson, 1986).

*The Times* could not boast a mass circulation. It never pretended to be a vehicle for mass propaganda. What Milner and his *Ruling Elite* associates understood clearly was that *The Times* influenced that small number of important people who had the capacity to influence others. It represented the governing class, that elite of political, diplomatic, financial, wealth-bearing favoured few who made and approved choices for themselves and for others. It was part of the whole process through which the *Ruling Elite* directed policy, by endorsing those elements that met their approval and deriding contrary opinion.

When, for example, a member of the *Ruling Elite* announced a policy on national defence, it would be backed up in an 'independent' study by an eminent Oxford don or former military 'expert', analysed and approved in a *Times* leader and legitimized by some publication favourably reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Everyone involved in the process would in some way be associated with or approved by the *Ruling Elite*, including the writer of the anonymous review.



The revolution in newspaper circulation, with its popular daily papers, magazines and pamphlets, bypassed *The Times* in the first years of the twentieth century but did not alter its focus. The paper was, however, ailing and in danger of running at an unsustainable loss. Its saviour, Alfred Harmsworth, was, on first consideration, an unlikely guardian of the *Governing Elite's* public voice.<sup>6</sup>

*National Portrait Gallery image of Alfred Harmsworth*

As leader of the *Yellow Press*, a term of utter contempt derived from the sensationalist journalism developed in New York at the turn of the twentieth century, Harmsworth did not naturally belong inside the *Elite*, but, as his extensive stable proved, sensationalism sold newspapers and they wielded immense influence.

He bought up a very large section of the London-based press, including the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Mirror*, the *Daily Graphic*, *Evening News* and *Weekly Dispatch*. If he was not from the natural

constituencies that bred Britain's elite, he was close to them.

Harmsworth had been very supportive of Alfred Milner during the *Boer War*, and his *Daily Mail* gave great prominence to Percy Fitzpatrick's *The Transvaal from Within*, which helped promote the need for war.<sup>7</sup> It brought him great profit.

He spent large sums of money on stories that helped the circulation of the *Daily Mail* rise to over a million. Kipling's poem *The Absent-Minded Beggar* was bought by his *Daily Mail*, set to music and sold to raise tens of thousands of pounds for ambulances and provisions for the troops. Harmsworth was an innovator. He convinced Cecil Rhodes to give him an exclusive and entirely favourable interview which he published throughout the civilized world.

*John Bull walks off with France : German view of the 1904 Entente Cordiale*

Having been forewarned by his *Ruling Elite* contacts that Arthur Balfour was about to resign in 1905, he scooped the story in an in-depth interview with the prime minister that included his plans for a general election.<sup>8</sup> Harmsworth was ennobled by King Edward that same year, took the title of Lord Northcliffe and was increasingly drawn into the circles of the *Governing Elite*.

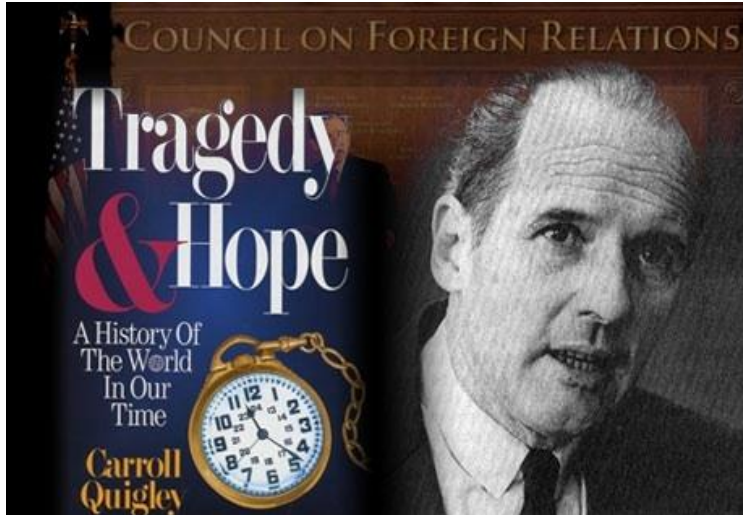


<sup>6</sup> Gaining control of *The Times* was not straightforward. Northcliffe had a serious rival in Sir Arthur Pearson, proprietor of the *Daily Express*, and both bought up stock from the 68 major shareholders. Northcliffe was the chosen man of the *Ruling Elite*. His loyalty to the *Empire*, Milner and the king shone through. Lord Esher was sent to vet him on their behalf, since it was vital that the policy of *The Times* remained unchanged. Aided by the general manager, Moberly Bell, to whom he also had to make promises that *The Times* of the future would be conducted on the same lines as *The Times* of the past, Northcliffe gathered 51 percent of the company stock and announced his ownership on 27 June 1908. Any fears that the editors, journalists, correspondents and readers might have expressed before his acquisition were quickly dispelled, for the only noticeable change he introduced was to the price. It fell from three pence to one penny.

<sup>7</sup> See *The Transvaal from Within* by J. Percy Fitzpatrick (Charlestown, Bibliobazaar, 2009) and *Forgotten Patriot* by J. Lee Thompson (New Jersey, Rosemount Publishing, 2007).

Northcliffe was a valuable contributor to the *Ruling Elite* in their drive to vilify the German Kaiser. His papers constantly repeated the warning that Germany was the enemy. In story after story, the message of the German danger to the British Empire, to British products, to British national security was constantly repeated. Not every newspaper followed suit, but the right-wing press was particularly virulent. In addition, Northcliffe had by 1908 bought up *The Observer* and the *Sunday Times*.

According to Professor Quigley, the assurances given by Northcliffe to the *Ruling Elite* that their policies would be willingly supported brought him into their confidence. What made Northcliffe and his newspapers so valuable was that the long-term plan to alienate public opinion against Germany could progress on two levels. *The Times* manipulated the elite opinion in Britain, moulding policy and poisoning the climate, while the *Daily Mail* and its sister newspapers created sensational stories against Germany that excited the gullible of all classes.



The *Morning Post*, whose unquestioning support for the myth of Winston Churchill's 'great escape' in the *Boer War* propelled him into politics, always promoted traditionally conservative views. It was even more committed to *Elite Causes* after 1905 when one of its own, Fabian Ware, became editor. A friend and trusted colleague of Milner himself, Ware ensured the *Morning Post*'s unstinting support against Germany.

Photo (left) Carroll Quigley

A large and influential section of the British press was working to the rabid agenda of the *Ruling Elite* in poisoning the minds of a whole nation. It was part of a propaganda drive that was sustained right up to, and

throughout, the *First World War*. If *The Times* was their intellectual base, the popular dailies spread the gospel of anti-German hatred to the working classes.

In the years prior to the *Entente Cordiale*, the villain in scare stories and invasion claims had been France. In 1893, Lord Northcliffe (or Harmsworth, as he was then) commissioned a magazine serial called *The Poison Bullet* in which Britain was attacked one evening by the combined forces of Russia and France. His aim was to stir public concern and underline the need for a larger fleet. But from 1905 to 1914, anti-German articles were invented by the press and the truth distorted out of all recognition.<sup>9</sup>

The complete about-face in foreign policy at the start of the twentieth century was mirrored by an about-turn in popular story-lines. It was Germany who was now spying on Britain, not France. It was Germany who was now plotting the downfall of the *British Empire*. It was Germany who was now the villain. The author of *The Poison Bullet* was the Walter Mitty of spy scare stories, William Le Queux.

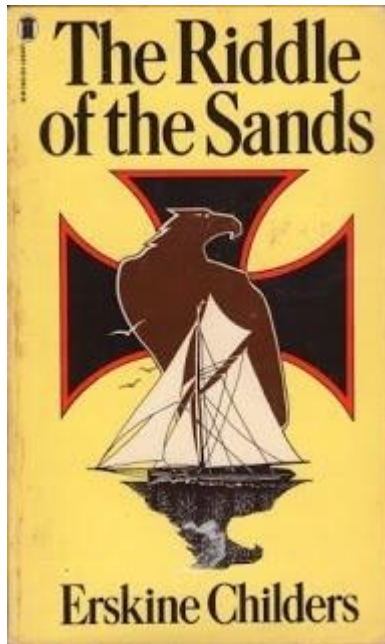
Le Queux was a man who found an extremely popular niche in cheap novels and scare stories, and made a fortune from them. His patron was none other than Lord Northcliffe. While *The Times* took a more high-brow approach to

<sup>8</sup> See *The Remarkable Career of Northcliffe*, (*New York Times*, 15 August 1922) and *The House of Northcliffe: A Biography of an Empire* by Paul Ferris (New York, World Publishing, 1972).

<sup>9</sup> The 1906 *Algecirras Act*, part of the *Entente Cordiale Strategy* to provoke Germany into going to war with Britain, had placed the Moroccan tribes under the joint jurisdiction of French and Spanish police forces, who proved very willing to crush any resistance. French brutality was relentless. In July 2007, local tribesmen in Casablanca reacted violently when European workmen removed gravestones from their native cemeteries to build a new harbour. French battleships retaliated by bombarding the town. Nearly every inhabitant was killed or wounded and the death toll numbered thousands. It was an episode of spiteful revenge and a gross overreaction to the killing of three Frenchmen and six other Europeans. France took the opportunity to assert its 'imperial' control by sending in 15,000 troops with an order to enforce prompt and vigorous repression. An indemnity of two and a half million francs was imposed on the Chaouyas tribes because they had 'made war' against France by killing three French workmen. It was a fearsome reprisal. French troops occupied Casablanca and a wide area round it. Typically, after the bombardment of the city, the French extracted \$12,000,000 from the Moroccan government to cover the cost of their retribution. Lies about the incident were spread across the globe. The killing of nine foreign workers who had desecrated a Muslim burial ground was reported as a 'Massacre in Morocco'. The *Daily Mail* raised the spectre of a *Holy War* and claimed that the 'massacre' had been 'premeditated and organized'. Within three weeks, the French claim was that the Moorish ports 'must stay in the hands of civilization'. Little mention was ever made of the excessive brutality of the French response. The *New York Times* reported that impartial observers believed that the French had gone to Casablanca to stay. "They are repeating the history of the Americans in Cuba and the Philippines, of the French in Indo-China, and of the English in Egypt. They all started by fighting the natives and ended by keeping the country." The impartial observers were correct.

diplomacy and foreign policy, Northcliffe indulged his baser anti-German vitriol through the *Daily Mail*, where the editor, Kennedy Jones, operated on the basis of 'writing for the meanest intelligence'.<sup>10</sup>

Northcliffe knew what that entailed and was convinced the British liked a good hate. It was the perfect combination. By targeting Germany as the font of evil, the hate and the irrational spy and invasion stories gave the Northcliffe stables rich material to boost circulation and promote the war to which the *Ruling Elite* were committed.<sup>11</sup>



The literary war began in earnest in 1903 with the publication of Erskine Childers' <sup>12</sup> bestselling novel *The Riddle of the Sands*, which sounded the warning of a forthcoming German seaborne invasion of England. Written from a 'patriot's sense of duty', *The Riddle of the Sands* was an epic of its time, with secret plans that had 'seven ordered fleets from seven shallow outlets' carrying an invasion army across the North Sea, protected by the *Imperial German Navy*. He claimed it was written to stir public opinion so that slumbering statesmen would take action against the German 'menace'.

His novel galvanized the *Admiralty* to station a fleet permanently in the North Sea and brought greater popular support for Richard Haldane's plans to create a general staff for the army. As his biographer later claimed, Childers' book remained the most powerful contribution to the debate on Britain's alleged unpreparedness for war for a decade. His was the single literary contribution that had merit and was the forerunner to John Buchan, John le Carré and Ian Fleming.<sup>13</sup>

In March 1906, Northcliffe commissioned William Le Queux to write *The Invasion of 1910*,<sup>14</sup> another scare serial, published in the *Daily Mail*. The chosen route included too many rural communities where circulation would never amount to much, so, in the interest of maximum profit and maximum upset, Northcliffe altered the route to allow 'the invaders' to terrorise every

major town from Sheffield to Chelmsford. The *Daily Mail* even printed special maps to accompany each edition to show where the invading Huns would strike the next day.

It was an outrageous attempt to generate fear and resentment toward Germany. The personal involvement of Lord Northcliffe... Lord Roberts, who had been commander-in-chief of the army and a member of the *Committee of Imperial Defence*... and the naval historian Herbert Wrigley Wilson gave the impression that this was a work based on reality not fiction.

In an act of mutual self-admiration, Lord Roberts publicly commended the novel to all who had the *British Empire* at heart, and Le Queux endorsed Lord Roberts' call for conscription to the armed forces. *The Invasion of 1910* was

<sup>10</sup> See *Secret Service: The Making of the British Intelligence Community* by Christopher Andrew.

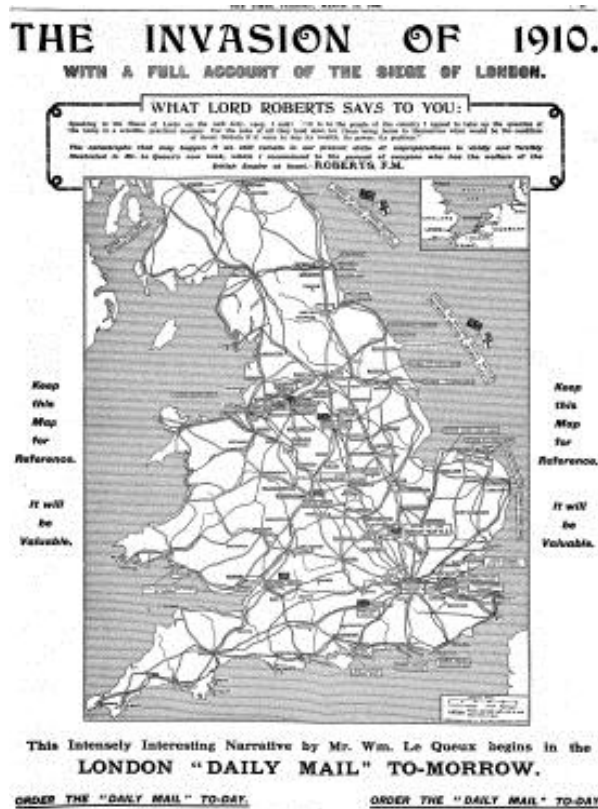
<sup>11</sup> A. A. Milne had four highly successful careers after surviving the war to end wars. He was editor of Punch and then a very successful playwright before he won world-wide acclaim with Christopher Robin. But after creating Pooh he spent a year writing *Peace with Honour* a book which vied with *Mein Kampf* in the best seller lists of the 1930s. Here in the tenth chapter he tells us of a letter from a woman in *The Morning Post*. It said: 'I notice that Mr Rudyard Kipling lays a great deal of blame for war at the door of the women. Does not the real blame lie at the door of our leading public men, who have for a period of years headed an intensive peace propaganda?' How times change! In his previous chapter, *Ten Million-And Forty*, A. A. Milne had explored the war convention... 'both wrong and silly'... by asking what would happen were 'certain people assured that, if there were another war in Europe on the scale of the last war, they themselves would be the first victims of it.' He then selected his victims... and he was writing in 1934. Mussolini, Hitler, Goering and Goebbels head the list. But turning to England for the next batch, he selected four politicians... Ramsay MacDonald, Baldwin, Simon and Churchill; two unnamed generals and two unnamed directors of armament firms... chosen by lot; and four media moguls... Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Rothermere, and the editors of *The Times* and *The Morning Post*. France meanwhile would furnish a corresponding equality of victims with England. 'Now here are forty people who are all going to die as a preliminary to the next war,' writes Milne. 'Are the chances of another war lessened?' Included as *Roo's Tale* by William Shepherd; Chapter 158 in Book Ten of *The Private Papers of Crocodile Uppsala* (1993).

<sup>12</sup> Docherty and Macgregor in a footnote (number 21 to Chapter Ten) remark that "Erskine Childers is a most amazing character. Here in 1905 he played the role of patriot to the British national cause. In 1914, Childers was gun-running for the Irish volunteers."

<sup>13</sup> See *The Riddle of Erskine Childers* by Andrew Boyle (Hutchinson, London, 1977). *The Riddle of the Sands* remained a popular Penguin Classic, and in 2003 was voted number 37 in the *Observer's* best 100 books over the last 300 years.

<sup>14</sup> The full title is *The Invasion of 1910: With a full account of the Siege of London* by William Le Queux with naval chapters by H. W. Wilson. Docherty & Macgregor remark that 'it was utter drivel, badly written but meticulously researched. Le Queux spent several months touring an imaginary invasion route in the south-east of England assisted by the ageing former military legend and favoured son of the *Governing Elite*, Lord Roberts of Kandahar, and the *Daily Mail's* naval correspondent, H. W. Wilson'. This anecdote is referenced to a book by Ignatius Frederick Clarke entitled *The Great War with Germany 1890-1914*.

translated into 27 languages and sold over a million copies, though Le Queux was upset about a pirated and abridged German version where the ending had been changed.<sup>15</sup>



Northcliffe was offensive and meant to be so. He explained his ‘philosophy’ in an interview with the French newspaper *Le Matin*: “We detest the Germans cordially. They make themselves odious to the whole of Europe. I will not allow my papers to publish anything which might in any way hurt the feelings of the French, but I would not like to print anything which might be agreeable to the Germans.”

He was, as the Belgian ambassador in London noted to his superiors in 1907, ‘poisoning at pleasure the minds of an entire nation.’<sup>16</sup> He was indeed, but it was with the approval of the *Ruling Elite*, whose ultimate success required fear and loathing to stir a hatred of Germany.

These poorly written and outrageous stories raised the fear factor. People really believed that a German invasion was likely to take place...and the subtext was the very worrying additional threat that grew in the wake of this manipulation of public opinion, the spy menace.

Suddenly, the nation had been secretly infiltrated by hundreds of thousands of spies.

Success breeds imitation, and Le Queux soon found his spy plots and story-lines about the German menace being pirated by other authors. Philips Oppenheimer<sup>17</sup>



Photo (right): Richard Haldane - Royal Portrait Gallery

began his own crusade against German militarism, writing 116 barely readable and justifiably forgotten novels that made him a fortune.

These included the ‘revelation’ that the Kaiser intended to rule the German empire from London. Oppenheimer claimed that 290,000 young men, all trained soldiers, were in place, posing as clerks, waiters and hairdressers, with orders to strike at the heart of Britain when the moment came.

The spy mania sparked a forest fire whose heat generated genuine politician concern. Even level-headed editors had trouble keeping the issue of spies and spying in perspective. By 1909, the net effect of Le Queux, and fellow charlatans who had jumped on this bandwagon to arouse a sleeping nation to a non-existent peril was national paranoia. The combination of the so-called ‘naval race’<sup>18</sup> and the spectre of spies around every corner bred a rampant fear of Germany.

<sup>15</sup> *Die Invasion von 1910: Einfall der Deutschen in England* by William Le Queux, translated by Traugott Tamm. Le Queux was not amused by the novel ending with a negotiated peace instead of a German defeat making it more acceptable to the sensibilities of German readers...but causing outrage To the Ruling British Elite who always demanded total surrender.

<sup>16</sup> Source: *Diplomacy Revealed* by E. D. Morel (London, Independent Labour Party, 1919). See also the following four titles by E. D. Morel: *Ten Years of Secret Diplomacy* (1915); *Truth and the War* (1918); *Pre-War Diplomacy: Fresh Revelations* (1919); and *The Secret History of a Great Betrayal* (1923).

<sup>17</sup> See *A Maker of History* by E. Philips Oppenheimer (Boston, IndyPublish.com, 2007).

<sup>18</sup> In 1906, the *British Electorate* had voiced an overwhelming desire for peace and substantial reductions in spending on armaments, but the *Governing Elite* would have none of it and turned pacifism on its head through an age-old weapon: fear. Fear was required to stir the complacency of *Edwardian England* and counter the anger of workers on poverty wages evidenced in strikes and walkouts in mines, factories and shipyards across the country. Fear generates doubt and suspicion. Fear is the spur that has the masses demanding more and more weapons to defend home and families, towns and cities. From the beginning of the twentieth century, the *Ruling Elite* indulged in a frenzy of rumour and half-truth, of raw propaganda and lies, to create the myth of a *Great Naval Race*. The story widely accepted, even by many anti-war *Liberals*, was that Germany was preparing a massive fleet of warships to attack and destroy the *British Navy* before unleashing a military invasion on the east coast of England or the Firth of Forth in Scotland. It was the stuff of the spy novels and the British people swallowed the lie that militarism had run amok in Germany and the fact that Germany was seeking world domination through naval & military

The fiction was peddled as truth in the *Nation*, the *National Review*, the *Quarterly Review* and a whole host of editorials in the national press. These fantasies were swallowed whole by a readership far beyond what Winston Churchill called ‘the inmates of Bedlam and the writers in the *National Review*’.

*Ruling Elite* approval was reflected in Lord Esher’s warning: “A nation that believes itself secure, all history teaches, is doomed. Anxiety, not a sense of security, lies with the readiness for war. An invasion scare is the will of God which grinds you a navy of dreadnoughts and keeps the British people in war-like spirit.”

The will of God, or the *Ruling Elite* and their cheer-leaders in the armaments industry?

By the autumn of 1907, Balfour and the *Conservative* opposition, bolstered by the press campaign, persuaded the government to appoint a further sub-committee of the *Committee of Imperial Defence (CID)* to consider the invasion threat. The inmates were taking over the asylum.



The sub-committee met sixteen times between November 1907 and July 1908, and their report, published in October 1908, rejected all of the ‘invasion-theories’ and ‘surprise-attack-scenarios’.

Such a message did not suit the *Establishment* and the warmongers closely associated with them promoting increased spending on the navy so the report was portrayed by Balfour, Lansdowne and the Conservatives as a whitewash.

A further sub-committee of the *CID* was set upon March 1909 by Richard Haldane to examine the nature and extent of foreign espionage in Britain. It recommended the creation of the *British Secret Intelligence Bureau*, a national intelligence service to operate both at home and abroad.

Haldane, who had been elevated to the *House of Lords*, moved the second reading of the *Official Secrets Act* in July 1911, stressing that his bill emanated from the deliberations of the *Committee of Imperial Defence*. The first noble lord who rose to approve *Haldane’s Bill* was both his and Lord Milner’s friend, Viscount Midleton, previously known as St John Brodrick, former *Secretary of State for War*.

Such was the pressure ‘to meet public expectation’ that the bill was rushed through its second and third readings in the *House of Commons* in a single afternoon with no detailed scrutiny and minimal debate. Thus Asquith’s *Liberal* government approved the setting up of what was to become the *British Secret Service* through an *Act of Parliament*

that was little more than a crisis reaction to public hysteria.<sup>19</sup>

The deliberate undermining of public confidence by the press, and the excessive claims of imminent danger to the nation’s survival voiced in *Parliament* and newspapers alike, slowly but surely eroded tolerance and trust. Liberal England was made to feel vulnerable. The influx of Polish and Russian refugees from the Jewish pogroms in the early years of the twentieth century had placed great social pressure on the East End of London, and a *Royal Commission* recommended the introduction of controls on their entry.

These were not spies. They were desperate refugees, but fear of the foreigner now lurked deep in the national psyche. They became victims of Britain’s first *Aliens Act*.<sup>20</sup> A long-held tradition of succour for distressed peoples

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superiority. Militarism in Great Britain was of God but in Germany, militarism was of the Devil, and had to be crushed before Evil crushed Good. When the *Great War* ended in 1918 and all the plans and events that had taken place were analysed and dissected, were there any naval records of secret German plans to invade England or for the secret building of more dreadnoughts? No. Not one.

<sup>19</sup> Docherty and Macgregor remark: "How ironic that the imaginary spies and outrageous scare stories from Le Queux and his ilk were responsible for the *Secret Service Bureau*. From these green shoots, planted in a flowerbed of fear and suspicion, both *MI5* and *MI6* were to grow into huge departments of national insecurity.

was the first casualty of the paranoia. The mounting fiction of bogus spy stories broke the resolve of Britain's traditional freedoms.

The foreigner might not be what he seemed. The immigrant became a cause for concern where previously the proud



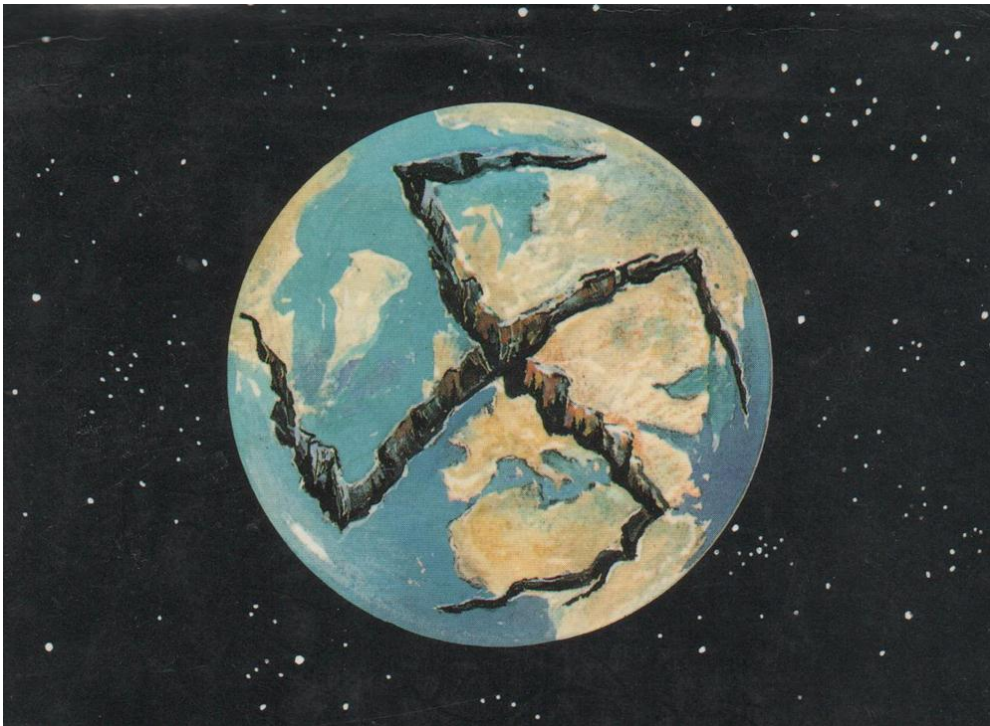
tradition of liberalism made Britain a safe haven for the oppressed. The *Official Secrets Act* went much further than any before by empowering the authorities to arrest without warrant. Freedoms eroded are rarely freedoms restored.

What the *Official Secrets Act* and the *Secret Service Bureau* achieved was greater protection for the establishment and their *Governing Elite*.

The ordinary man or woman on the streets of London, Birmingham or Glasgow had no need to be safeguarded against imaginary bogeymen. Nor had they anything to hide.

Photo (left): the secret elite at prayer

The invisible *British Race Zealots*, however, with their implausible dream of *White Protestant Anglo-Saxon* world domination, had much they needed to keep from the public eye: illicit agreements, illegal commercial deals, secret international treaties, preparations for war. This was what the *Official Secrets Act* was really about. The *Ruling Elite* had made a crucial move to protect its own secrets and to further its own interests, not those of the British people.



It would not be long before Germany's secret societies would be claiming that their ancient Teutonic civilization and culture...shorn of its Judaic and neo-Judaic (Christian) baggage...could do a much better job of global domination, although the *German National Socialists* tried very hard to form an [Anglo-German Alliance](#) with the *British Empire* in 1939 and 1940, but neither had reckoned with [American Perfidy](#).<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> The 1905 *Aliens Act* described some groups of immigrants as 'undesirable', thereby making entry to Britain 'discretionary' rather than 'automatic'. Thirty years later in German-occupied Europe, the word 'undesirable' would be extended to make human life 'discretionary' for some groups.

<sup>21</sup> See [Cryptic Germany](#) by William Shepherd.