

THE ILLUMINATI IN THE WORDS OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHERS

The “Ordo Illuminati” (Order of the Illuminated) was a Bavarian society of revolutionary bourgeois intellectuals formed by Adam Weishaupt in 1776, as the American Revolution was just beginning to progress in secession from the British Crown. The Order was based on principles outlined in Weishaupt’s preserved works, which advocate a “universal brotherhood of nations”, population control, abolition of the state, and complete freedom of the individual. The Order was very strictly disciplined, and recruited only young intellectuals who came from the higher ranks of the bourgeois intelligentsia.

Eventually, the Order was banned by the German Crown in 1784, then again in '85, '87, and '90, implying that it continued to escape repression. When the French Revolution broke out, Weishaupt and his Order were accused of manufacturing the event through their connections to Freemasonry; this accusation was made not only by the Church, but by a rationalist liberal thinker named John Robinson, who published *Proofs of a Conspiracy*, considered the “origin” of the modern “Illuminati conspiracy theory” – that the Order was never suppressed and continued to operate through discrete political connections in the realm of banking and

business, which were impossible for even bourgeois authorities to regulate (a dynamic which is the essence to Lenin's theory on the "Financial Oligarchy" explained in *Imperialism*). Indeed, Weishaupt continued to publish works as late as the 1800s, persisting in his calls for revolutionary upheaval of the decrepit European nobility.

That is just a very brief rundown of the Bavarian Illuminati, touching only the subjects which are broad consensus among historians – obviously, this subject is controversial, and there is much more to explore, but that is for another time.

What we wish to study are the writings of the American Founding Fathers – most of whom were Freemasons, as the reader can confirm with an easy Google search. George Washington, for instance, was the Grand Master of the Alexandria Lodge No. 22, today called the "George Washington Masonic National Memorial", which has its own Egyptian-style throne, replica Ark of the Covenant, and Templar shrine.

What did these men, the American Founding Fathers – among the first liberals to put theory into action – think of the infamous conspiratorial society, the Illuminati? We may find out by looking at a few letters which the reader might be surprised to learn are preserved in the Library of Congress, and can be accessed online.

The first of the two letters we should look at is from George Washington, first President, who needs no introduction to the reader. It was sent to Reverend G.W. Snyder on the 25th of September, 1798. It is preserved by the Library of Congress, who explain that Rev. Snyder had sent Washington a copy of *Proofs of a Conspiracy*, with a note reading:

“This book gives a full account of a Society of Freemasons that distinguishes itself by the name of ‘Illuminati’, whose plan is to overturn all Government and all Religion, even natural.”

Responding to Rev. Snyder, Washington wrote:

I have heard much of the nefarious and dangerous plan and doctrines of the Illuminati, but never saw the book until you sent it to me. The same causes which have prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your letter have prevented my reading the book yet... This allows me to add little more now, except to correct an error you have run into about my Presiding over the English lodges in this Country. The fact is, I preside over none, nor have I been in one more than once or twice, within the last thirty years.

I believe that none of the Lodges in this Country are contaminated with the principles ascribed to the Society of the Illuminati.

With respect, George Washington.¹

This is certainly curious because, at this time, Washington was the Grand Master of the Alexandria Lodge No. 22, responsible for leading its weekly meetings. The Capitol of the United States was opened in a Masonic cornerstone ceremony led by Washington, who wore his Masonic apparel. In other words, Washington *lied* to Rev. Snyder about his relationship with the Freemasons. Is he telling the truth about his relationship with the Illuminati?

The second letter is by Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd President of the United States who also needs no introduction to the reader. This letter was sent to Bishop James Madison on the 31st of January in 1800, and is preserved by the US National Archives – a link is included for the reader. In it, Jefferson appears to pretend he has never heard of the Illuminati before, and then eagerly extols the virtue of the Illuminati's values while repeatedly denouncing its critics as "raving" (insane).

¹<https://www.loc.gov/resource/mgw2.021/?q=Illuminati&sp=182&st=text>

I have lately got a sight of a single volume of the Abbé Barruel's 'Antisocial Conspiracy', which gives me the first idea I have ever had of 'Illuminatism', against which Morse and his ecclesiastical and monarchical associates have been making such a cry. Barruel's own parts of the book are the ravings of a Bedlamite. But he quotes largely from [Adam] Weishaupt, whom he considers the founder of the Order.

As you may not have had an opportunity of forming a judgment of this cry which has been raised against his doctrines, I will give you the idea I have formed from only an hour of reading quotations... Weishaupt seems to be an enthusiastic philanthropist. He is among those who believe in the indefinite perfectibility of man. He thinks he may be rendered so perfect that he leaves government no occasion to exercise their powers over him.

This is what Robinson, Barruel, and Morse have called a 'conspiracy against all government'. Weishaupt believes that to promote this perfection of the human character was the object of Jesus Christ. He believes the Freemasons were originally possessed of the true principles and object of Christianity.

As Weishaupt lived under the tyranny of a despot and priests, he knew that caution was necessary even in spreading information. He proposed therefore to lead the Freemasons to adopt this object... he proposed to initiate new members into this body by grades proportioned to his fears of tyranny.

This has given an air of mystery to his views, and was the foundation of his banishment and the subversion of the Masonic order, and it is the basis of the ravings against him by Robinson, Barruel and Morse, whose real fears are that the Craft [Freemasonry] would be endangered by the spreading of information, reason, and natural morality among men

Your affectionate friend and servant,
Thomas Jefferson.²

That is *gleaming* praise for the founder of the Illuminati from Thomas Jefferson, one of the most important men in early bourgeois politics. Yet, if the reader tries to explain this letter to someone, they will certainly be called a “conspiracy theorist” until they pull up the page and show them – and even then, maybe still. Isn’t that strange? How come we are never taught

²<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-31-02-0297>

about these things in school – and why is the topic so stigmatized?

In truth, the essence of the “Illuminati conspiracy theory” is as follows. Lenin, in his *Imperialism*, described the economic principles that lead to the formation of a well-organized cabal of bourgeois elites, termed “the Financial Oligarchy”, which very obviously directs the world imperialist economy from the sanctity of reclusive board rooms, tracing their origin to the early development of the imperialist bourgeoisie in the later 19th century, which was itself a product of the expansion of the various national bourgeoisies of the 18th century.

The “Illuminati theory” stipulates that this Financial Oligarchy calls itself the “Illuminati” and traces its roots to Adam Weishaupt. That is the essence of the “Illuminati theory”.

J. VOLKER



If a MAC line is expressed, then it will be clarified. If not, the reader should consider the work expressing the views of the writer.