

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): Main Page

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each volume of the CFR is updated once each calendar year and is issued on a quarterly basis. [More](#).



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A few volumes of the CFR at a law library (titles 12-26).

The **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)** is the codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations (sometimes called [administrative law](#)) published in the [Federal Register](#) by the executive departments and agencies of the [Federal Government of the United States](#).

The CFR is published by the [Office of the Federal Register](#), an agency of the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) (NARA).

The CFR is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation.

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[\[edit\]](#) Background

Every regulation in the CFR must have an "enabling statute," or [statutory authority](#). The [United States Code](#) (U.S. Code) precedes the CFR and contains statutes enacted by Congress. The CFR contains regulations, which spell out in further detail how the [executive branch](#) will interpret the law.^[1] The two documents represent different stages in the [legislative process](#). The U.S. Code is a [codification](#) of legislation, while the CFR serves as [administrative law](#). Administrative law exists because the Congress often [grants](#) broad authority to [executive branch](#) agencies to interpret the statutes in the U.S.Code (and in uncodified statutes) which the agencies are entrusted with enforcing. Congress may be too busy, congested, or [gridlocked](#) to micromanage the jurisdiction of those agencies by writing statutes that cover every possible detail, or Congress may determine that the technical specialists at the agency are best equipped to develop detailed applications of statutes to particular fact patterns as they arise.

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Under the [Administrative Procedure Act](#), the agencies are permitted to [promulgate](#) detailed rules and regulations through a public "[rulemaking](#)" process where the public is allowed to comment, known as [public information](#). After a period of time, the rules and regulations are usually published in the [Federal Register](#).

The Parallel Table of Authorities and Rules in the index to the CFR correlates laws with their regulations using U.S. Code citations, Statutes at Large citations and Public Law numbers.^[2]

[\[edit\]](#) Effect of administrative law

The rules are treated by the [courts](#) as being as legally binding as [statutory law](#), provided the regulations are a reasonable interpretation of the underlying [statutes](#). This "reasonable interpretation" test or [Chevron](#) doctrine was articulated by the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) in a unanimous decision (6 voting, 3 recused) involving a challenge to new [Clean Air Act](#) regulations promulgated by the [Reagan administration](#) in 1981. See [Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.](#)^[3]

For example, if Congress enacted a [law](#) that simply stated that there are not to be "excessive" levels of [mercury](#) in any significant body of water in the United States (but defined things no further), an entity designated, as part of the law, to enforce it (probably the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA)) could define in a scientific way what an excessive level of mercury is, as well as what constitutes a significant body of water. The Agency's definitions and its plan of enforcement for what Congress intended (along with listed [penalties](#) for [violation](#) coming from Congress unless Congress specified otherwise) will all go into the CFR.

Also, enabling legislation can be passed by Congress which gives a federal non-Congressional entity wide latitude in creating rules (law of bases). For example, the EPA could be designated by Congress to promulgate rules "that control harmful [pollutants](#)"; the Agency could then promulgate broad rules (including definitions and enforcement provisions), in the absence of existing specific laws, to control [lead](#) emissions, [radon](#) emissions, [pesticide](#) emissions, and so forth. Such rules, including any definitions and enforcement provisions created by Congress or the Agency, will all go into the CFR.

Despite the informality of such manuals, the U.S. Supreme Court has occasionally cited them as authority when confronted with situations not precisely addressed by the United States Code or the CFR.^[4]

[\[edit\]](#) Publication of administrative law

The rules and regulations are first promulgated or published in the *Federal Register*. Each is given a CFR citation, such as 42 CFR 260.11(a)(1), that can be cited immediately, without waiting for a page number from the physical copy. The aforementioned citation would be read, "title 42, part 260, section 11, paragraph (a)(1)."

NARA also keeps an online version of the CFR, the e-CFR, that is normally updated two days after changes to the regulations, that have been published in the *Federal Register*, become effective.

While new regulations are continually becoming effective, the printed volumes of the CFR are issued once each calendar year, on this schedule:

- Titles 1–16 are updated on January 1
- Titles 17–27 are updated on April 1

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- Titles 28–41 are updated on July 1
- Titles 42–50 are updated on October 1

[\[edit\]](#) List of regulation titles



Code of Federal Regulations, seen at the Mid-Manhattan Library. Editions of Title 3, on the President, are kept on archive. Notice that for the first year of each new presidency, the volume is thicker.

- [Title 1: General Provisions](#)
- Title 2: Grants and Agreements
- Title 3: The President
- Title 4: Accounts
- Title 5: Administrative Personnel
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- Title 19: Customs Duties
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- [Title 21: Food and Drugs](#) (administered by the US [Food and Drug Administration](#) and the US [Drug Enforcement Administration](#))
- Title 22: Foreign Relations
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- [Title 26: Internal Revenue](#)
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- Title 34: Education
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- Title 44: Emergency Management and Assistance
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- [Title 46: Shipping](#)
- [Title 47: Telecommunication](#) (also known as the "FCC Rules", administered by the [Federal Communications Commission](#))
- [Title 48: Federal Acquisition Regulations System](#)
- Title 49: Transportation
- Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

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1. [^ Government Publications - Frequently asked questions](#) University of Minnesota Libraries, accessed Oct 2011
2. [^ http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/parallel/parallel_table.html](#)
3. [^](#) 467 U.S. 837 (1984).
4. [^](#) See, e.g., *Wash. State Dept of Soc. & Health Servs. v. Guardianship Estate of Keffeler*, 537 [U.S. 371](#) (2003) (citing to [Social Security Administration's Programs Operations Manual System](#)).

[\[edit\]](#) External links

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Council on Foreign Relations

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Not to be confused with [Committee on Foreign Relations](#).



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COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS



CFR Headquarters located in the former

[Harold I. Pratt House](#) in [New York City](#)

Abbreviation	CFR
Formation	1921
Type	Public Policy Think Tank
Headquarters	58 East 68th Street
Location	New York, NY and Washington, DC
President	Richard N. Haass
Website	www.cfr.org

The **Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)** is an [American](#) nonprofit nonpartisan membership organization, publisher, and [think tank](#) specializing in U.S. [foreign policy](#) and [international affairs](#). Founded in 1921 and headquartered at 58 East 68th Street in [New York City](#), with an additional office in [Washington, D.C.](#), the CFR is considered to be the nation's 'most influential foreign-policy think tank.'^[1] It publishes a bi-monthly journal [Foreign Affairs](#).

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[\[edit\]](#) Mission

As stated on its website, the CFR's mission is to be "a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the [United States](#) and other countries."

The CFR aims to maintain a diverse membership, including special programs to promote interest and develop expertise in the next generation of foreign policy leaders. It convenes meetings at which government officials, global leaders and prominent members of the foreign policy community discuss major international issues. Its think tank, the [David Rockefeller Studies Program](#), is composed of about fifty adjunct and full-time scholars, as well as ten in-resident recipients of year-long fellowships, who cover the major regions and significant issues shaping today's international agenda. These scholars contribute to the foreign policy debate by making recommendations to the presidential administration, testifying before Congress, serving as a resource to the diplomatic community, interacting with the media, authoring books, reports, articles, and op-eds on foreign policy issues.

The council publishes *Foreign Affairs*, "the preeminent journal of international affairs and U.S. foreign policy." It also publishes Independent Task Forces which bring together experts with diverse backgrounds and expertise to work together to produce reports offering both findings and policy prescriptions on important foreign policy topics. To date, the CFR has sponsored more than fifty reports.^[2]

The CFR aims to provide up-to-date information and analysis about world events and U.S. foreign policy. In 2008, CFR.org's "Crisis Guide: Darfur" was awarded an Emmy Award by the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences, in the category of "New Approaches to News & Documentary Programming: Current News Coverage." In 2009, the Crisis Guide franchise won another Emmy for its "Crisis Guide: The Global Economy," in the category of business and financial reporting.

[\[edit\]](#) Early history

The earliest origin of the Council stemmed from a working fellowship of about 150 scholars, called "[The Inquiry](#)", tasked to brief President [Woodrow Wilson](#) about options for the postwar world when Germany was defeated. Through 1917–1918, this academic band, including Wilson's closest adviser and long-time friend "Colonel" [Edward M. House](#), as well as [Walter Lippmann](#), gathered at 155th Street and Broadway at the [Harold Pratt House](#) in New York City, to assemble the strategy for the postwar world. The team produced more than 2,000 documents detailing and analyzing the political, economic, and social facts globally that would be helpful for Wilson in the peace talks. Their reports formed the basis for the [Fourteen Points](#), which outlined Wilson's strategy for peace after war's end.^[3]

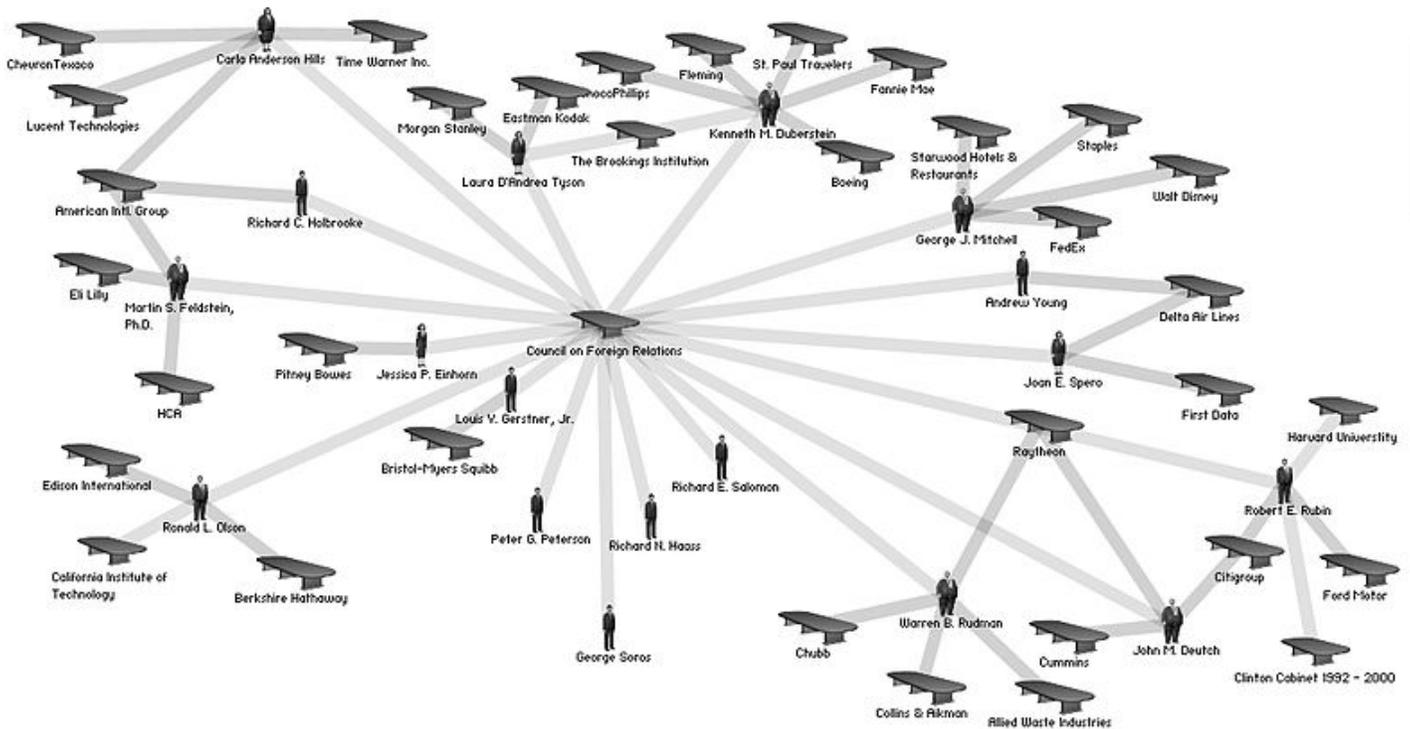
These scholars then traveled to the [Paris Peace Conference, 1919](#) that would end the war; it was at one of the meetings of a small group of British and American diplomats and scholars, on May 30, 1919, at the Hotel Majestic, that both the Council and its British counterpart, the [Chatham House](#) in [London](#), were born.^[4]

Some of the participants at that meeting, apart from Edward House, were [Paul Warburg](#), [Herbert Hoover](#), [Harold Temperley](#), [Lionel Curtis](#), [Lord Eustace Percy](#), [Christian Herter](#), and American academic historians

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[James Thomson Shotwell](#) of [Columbia University](#), [Archibald Cary Coolidge](#) of [Harvard](#), and [Charles Seymour](#) of [Yale](#).^[citation needed]

In 1938 they created various Committees on Foreign Relations throughout the country. These later became governed by the American Committees on Foreign Relations in [Washington, D.C.](#)^[citation needed]

File:CFR-Interlocks-2004.jpg <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CFR-Interlocks-2004.jpg>



Network diagram showing [interlocks](#) between various U.S. corporations and institutions and the Council on Foreign Relations, in 2004

The Council on Foreign Relations, a sister organization to the [Royal Institute of International Affairs](#) in London (now known as [Chatham House](#)), was formed in 1922 as a noncommercial, nonpolitical organization supporting American foreign relations.^[5] From its inception the Council was bipartisan, welcoming members of both [Democratic](#) and [Republican](#) parties. It also welcomed Jews and African Americans, although women were initially barred from membership. Its proceedings were almost universally private and confidential.^[6] A critical study found that of 502 government officials surveyed from 1945 to 1972, more than half were members of the Council.^[7]

Today it has about 5,000 members (including five-year term members^[8] between the ages of 30-41), which over its history have included senior serving politicians, more than a dozen [Secretaries of State](#), former national security officers, bankers, lawyers, professors, former [CIA](#) members and senior [media](#) figures.^[citation needed]

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In 1962, the group began a program of bringing select Air Force officers to the Harold Pratt House to study alongside its scholars. The Army, Navy and Marine Corps requested they start similar programs for their own officers.^[7]

Vietnam created a rift within the organization. When [Hamilton Fish Armstrong](#) announced in 1970 that he would be leaving the helm of *Foreign Affairs* after 45 years, new chairman [David Rockefeller](#) approached a family friend, [William Bundy](#), to take over the position. Anti-war advocates within the Council rose in protest against this appointment, claiming that Bundy's hawkish record in the State and Defense Departments and the CIA precluded him from taking over an independent journal. Some considered Bundy a war criminal for his prior actions.^[7]

Seven American presidents have addressed the Council, two while still in office – [Bill Clinton](#) and [George W. Bush](#).^[9]

The Council says that it has never sought to serve as a receptacle for government policy papers that cannot be shared with the public and does not encourage its members serving in government to do so. The Council says that discussions at its headquarters remain confidential, not because they share or discuss secret information, but because the system allows members to test new ideas with other members.^[10]

[Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.](#), in his book on the Kennedy presidency, *A Thousand Days*, wrote that Kennedy was not part of what he called the "New York establishment":

"In particular, he was little acquainted with the New York financial and legal community-- that arsenal of talent which had so long furnished a steady supply of always orthodox and often able people to Democratic as well as Republican administrations. This community was the heart of the American Establishment. Its household deities were Henry Stimson and Elihu Root; its present leaders, Robert Lovett and John J. McCloy; its front organizations, the Rockefeller, Ford and Carnegie foundations and the Council on Foreign Relations; its organs, the *New York Times* and *Foreign Affairs*."^[11]

[\[edit\]](#) Website

It has an extensive website, www.cfr.org, featuring links to its history, fellows' biographical information, think tank, the [David Rockefeller](#) Studies Program, Independent Task Force reports^[12] and other reports, CFR books, expert interviews, meeting transcripts, audio, and videos, Emmy award-winning multimedia Crisis Guides and timelines, [Foreign Affairs](#), and many other publications, biographies of notable directors and other board members, corporate members, and press releases.^[2]

[\[edit\]](#) Influence on foreign policy

Beginning in 1939 and lasting for five years, the Council achieved much greater prominence within the government and the State Department when it established the strictly confidential [War and Peace Studies](#), funded entirely by the Rockefeller Foundation.^[13] The secrecy surrounding this group was such that the Council members who were not involved in its deliberations were completely unaware of the study group's existence.^[13]

It was divided into four functional topic groups: economic and financial, security and armaments, territorial, and political. The security and armaments group was headed by [Allen Welsh Dulles](#) who later became a pivotal figure in the CIA's predecessor, the [OSS](#). It ultimately produced 682 memoranda for the State Department,

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marked classified and circulated among the appropriate government departments. As a historical judgment, its overall influence on actual government planning at the time is still said to remain unclear.^[13]

In an anonymous piece called "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" that appeared in *Foreign Affairs* in 1947, CFR study group member [George Kennan](#) coined the term "containment." The essay would prove to be highly influential in US foreign policy for seven upcoming presidential administrations. 40 years later, Kennan explained that he had never suspected the Russians of any desire to launch an attack on America; he thought that was obvious enough he didn't need to explain it in his essay. [William Bundy](#) credited the CFR's study groups with helping to lay the framework of thinking that led to the [Marshall Plan](#) and [NATO](#). Due to new interest in the group, membership grew towards 1,000.^[14]

[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) chaired a CFR study group while he served as President of [Columbia University](#). One member later said, "whatever General Eisenhower knows about economics, he has learned at the study group meetings."^[14] The CFR study group devised an expanded study group called "Americans for Eisenhower" to increase his chances for the presidency. Eisenhower would later draw many Cabinet members from CFR ranks and become a CFR member himself. His primary CFR appointment was Secretary of State [John Foster Dulles](#). Dulles gave a public address at the Harold Pratt House in which he announced a new direction for Eisenhower's foreign policy: "There is no local defense which alone will contain the mighty land power of the communist world. Local defenses must be reinforced by the further deterrent of massive retaliatory power." After this speech, the council convened a session on "Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy" and chose [Henry Kissinger](#) to head it. Kissinger spent the following academic year working on the project at Council headquarters. The book of the same name that he published from his research in 1957 gave him national recognition, topping the national bestseller lists.^[14]

On 24 November 1953, a study group heard a report from political scientist William Henderson regarding the ongoing conflict between [France](#) and Vietnamese Communist leader [Ho Chi Minh](#)'s [Viet Minh](#) forces, a struggle that would later become known as the [First Indochina War](#). Henderson argued that Ho's cause was primarily [nationalist](#) in nature and that Marxism had "little to do with the current revolution." Further, the report said, the United States could work with Ho to guide his movement away from Communism. State Department officials, however, expressed skepticism about direct American intervention in Vietnam and the idea was tabled. Over the next twenty years, the United States would find itself allied with anti-Communist [South Vietnam](#) and against Ho and his supporters in the [Vietnam War](#).^[14]

The Council served as a "breeding ground" for important American policies such as mutual deterrence, arms control, and nuclear non-proliferation.^[14]

A four-year long study of relations between America and China was conducted by the Council between 1964 and 1968. One study published in 1966 concluded that American citizens were more open to talks with China than their elected leaders. Kissinger had continued to publish in *Foreign Affairs* and was appointed by [President Nixon](#) to serve as National Security Adviser in 1969. In 1971, he embarked on a secret trip to Beijing to broach talks with Chinese leaders. Nixon went to China in 1972, and diplomatic relations were completely normalized by [President Carter](#)'s Secretary of State, another Council member, [Cyrus Vance](#).^[14]

In November 1979, while chairman of the CFR, David Rockefeller became embroiled in an international incident when he and Henry Kissinger, along with [John J. McCloy](#) and Rockefeller aides, persuaded President Jimmy Carter through the State Department to admit the Shah of Iran, [Mohammad Reza Pahlavi](#), into the US for hospital treatment for [lymphoma](#). This action directly precipitated what is known as the [Iran hostage crisis](#)

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information and placed Rockefeller under intense media scrutiny (particularly from [The New York Times](#)) for the first time in his public life.^{[15][16]}

[\[edit\]](#) Current policy initiatives

The CFR started a program in 2008 to last for 5 years and funded by a grant from the Robina Foundation called "International Institutions and Global Governance" which aims to identify the institutional requirements for effective multilateral cooperation in the 21st century.^[17]

The CFR's Maurice C. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies, directed by scholar and author Sebastian Mallaby works to promote a better understanding among policymakers, academic specialists, and the interested public of how economic and political forces interact to influence world affairs.^[18]

The CFR's Center for Preventive Action (CPA) seeks to help prevent, defuse, or resolve deadly conflicts around the world and to expand the body of knowledge on conflict prevention. It does so by creating a forum in which representatives of governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and civil society can gather to develop operational and timely strategies for promoting peace in specific conflict situations.

[\[edit\]](#) Membership

Main article: [Members of the Council on Foreign Relations](#)

There are two types of membership: life, and term membership, which lasts for 5 years and is available to those between 30 and 36. Only U.S. citizens (native born or naturalized) and permanent residents who have applied for U.S. citizenship are eligible. A candidate for life membership must be nominated in writing by one Council member and seconded by a minimum of three others.^[19]

Corporate membership (250 in total) is divided into "Basic", "Premium" (\$25,000+) and "President's Circle" (\$50,000+). All corporate executive members have opportunities to hear distinguished speakers, such as overseas presidents and prime ministers, chairmen and CEOs of multinational corporations, and U.S. officials and Congressmen. President and premium members are also entitled to other benefits, including attendance at small, private dinners or receptions with senior American officials and world leaders.^[20]

[\[edit\]](#) Controversy

The Council has been the subject of debate, as shown in the 1969 film [The Capitalist Conspiracy](#) by [G. Edward Griffin](#), the 2006 film by [Aaron Russo](#), [America: Freedom to Fascism](#) and a 2007 documentary [Zeitgeist: The Movie](#), as well as the book [The Naked Capitalist](#) which reviewed [Carroll Quigley's](#) book [Tragedy and Hope](#) from a less supportive standpoint.

This is partly due to the number of high-ranking government officials (along with world business leaders and prominent media figures) in its membership, its secrecy clauses, and the large number of aspects of American foreign policy that its members have been involved with, beginning with Wilson's [Fourteen Points](#). Wilson's Fourteen Points speech was the first in which he suggested a worldwide security organization to prevent future world wars.^[3]

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The [John Birch Society](#) believes that the CFR is "Guilty of conspiring with others to build a one world government...".^[21] Conservative Democratic congressman from Georgia [Larry McDonald](#), the second head of the John Birch Society, introduced American Legion National Convention Resolution 773 to the House of Representatives calling for a congressional investigation into the Council on Foreign Relations, but nothing came from it.^[22]

Carroll Quigley claimed it "became well known among those who believe that there is an international conspiracy to bring about a one-[world government](#)." In *Tragedy and Hope*, he based his analysis on his unsourced research in the papers of an Anglo-American elite organization that, he held, secretly controlled the U.S. and UK governments through a series of Round Table Groups. Critics assailed Quigley for his approval of the goals (not the tactics) of the Anglo-American elite while selectively using his information and analysis as evidence for their views.^[23] Speaking of Carroll Quigley, Rep. [Larry McDonald](#) said, "He says, sure we've been working it, sure we've been collaborating with communism, yes we're working with global accommodation, yes, we're working for world government. But the only thing I object to is that we've kept it a secret."^[24] CFR publications discuss multilateralism and global governance as well.^[25]

In response to the allegations, the CFR's website contains a [FAQ](#) section about its affairs.^[26]

[\[edit\]](#) References

- ¹ [^] "The nation's most influential foreign-policy think tank" Realists Rule? - Inter Press Service - Aug 22, 2005
- ² [^] ^a ^b "[President's Welcome](#)". Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved 2007-02-24.
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- ⁵ [^] "[Council on Foreign Relations](#)". *U.S. Department of Justice*. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Retrieved 30 November 2009.
- ⁶ [^] "[Continuing the Inquiry: Basic Assumptions](#)".
- ⁷ [^] ^a ^b ^c "[Consensus Endangered](#)". *History of CFR*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved 2007-02-24.
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- ⁹ [^] "[American Presidents at the Council on Foreign Relations](#)". Barack Obama spoke at the CFR as a U.S. Senator in 2005 on the issue of nuclear proliferation.
- ¹⁰ [^] "[The Second Transformation](#)". *History of CFR*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved 2007-02-24.
- ¹¹ [^] "[A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House](#)"
- ¹² [^] "[Independent Task Force reports](#)". Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved 2009-10-08.
- ¹³ [^] ^a ^b ^c ^e "[Continuing the Inquiry: War and Peace](#)"
- ¹⁴ [^] ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e ^f "[Continuing the Inquiry: "X" Leads the Way](#)"
- ¹⁵ [^] [Rothbard, Murray, Why the War? The Kuwait Connection](#) (May 1991)
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- ¹⁸ [^] "[Maurice C. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies](#)". Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved 2010-06-01.
- ¹⁹ [^] "[Membership](#)".
- ²⁰ [^] "[Corporate Program](#)"PDF (330 KiB).
- ²¹ [^] [Letting the CFR Cat Out of the Bag](#)
- ²² [^] [Marrs, Jim](#) (2001). *Rule by Secrecy: The Hidden History That Connects the Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, and the Great Pyramids*. New York: HarperCollins. p. 30. [ISBN 978-0-06-093184-1](#). Retrieved 2010-05-05.
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25. [^ CFR: International Institutions and Global Governance](#)

26. [^ Frequently Asked Questions about the CFR](#)

[\[edit\]](#) Further reading

[\[edit\]](#) Books

- Grose, Peter. *Continuing the Inquiry: The Council on Foreign Relations from 1921 to 1996*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations: 1996. [ISBN 0-87609-192-3](#).
- Schulzinger, Robert D. *The Wise Men of Foreign Affairs*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984. [ISBN 0-231-05528-5](#).
- Wala, Michael. *The Council on Foreign Relations and American Foreign Policy in the Early Cold War*. Providence, RI: Berghann Books, 1994. [ISBN 1-57181-003-X](#)

[\[edit\]](#) Miscellaneous articles

- Kassenaar, Lisa. ["Wall Street's New Prize: Park Avenue Club House With World View"](#).^[1] *Bloomberg* December 15, 2005. [Profile of the Council and its new members.]
- Sanger, David E. ["Iran's Leader Relishes 2nd Chance to Make Waves"](#). *The New York Times* September 21, 2006, Foreign Desk: A1, col. 2 (Late ed.-Final). Accessed February 23, 2007. (TimesSelect subscription access). ("Over the objections of the administration and Jewish groups that boycotted the event, Mr. [Ahmadinejad](#), the man who has become the defiant face of Iran, squared off with the nation's foreign policy establishment, parrying questions for an hour and three-quarters with two dozen members of the Council on Foreign Relations, then ending the evening by asking whether they were simply shells for the Bush administration.")

[\[edit\]](#) External links

- [Council on Foreign Relations](#) – Organization website
- [Council on Foreign Relations Papers at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University](#)
 - ["Multimedia Crisis Guides"](#)
 - ["For Educators"](#) – "Academic Outreach Initiative": Resources for educators and students; links to selected CFR publications
 - ["For the Media"](#) – Resources for the media, concerning requests for press materials, transcripts of meetings, and annual reports; contact information
 - [Informational CFR video](#), featuring [Fareed Zakaria](#), [Brent Scowcroft](#), [Angelina Jolie](#), [Brian Williams](#), and [Erin Burnett](#).
- [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [Federal Bureau of Investigation\(FBI\)](#) [Freedom of Information Act\(FOIA\)](#)

This page was last modified on **13 December 2011** at 06:43.

http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp

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The Codex Alimentarius Commission was created in 1963 by FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The main purposes of this Programme are protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade, and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

NEWS

New Codex website

The new Codex website is available at the following link:

www.codexalimentarius.org

Update of the Procedural Manual 20th edition

The update to the 20th edition of the Procedural Manual of Codex Alimentarius Commission is available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

Milk and Milk product 2nd edition.

A new edition of the Milk and Milk Product booklet is available [here](#) in English, French and Spanish.

CAC34 report

The report of the 34th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in English is available [here](#).

Note to the press issued by WHO on the results of the CAC34

For the note to the press issued by WHO on the results of the 34th CAC click [here](#).

CCEXEC65 and CAC34 AUDIO RECORDINGS

Audio recordings of the 65th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and recordings of the 34th Session of the Codex Commission are available [here](#) in all languages.

Codex videos on Youtube

Codex official videos have been posted on Youtube and are available at the following link:

www.youtube.com/CodexAlim

Warning: This is the only official website of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Unofficial websites using similar domain names (URLs) exist. The information contained in unofficial websites is not guaranteed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission nor by FAO or WHO and in no way commits the Commission, FAO or WHO.

Some publications appear in PDF format. These should be read with Adobe Acrobat Reader®. Click the icon to download, install and use this software.



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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_Alimentarius

Codex Alimentarius

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Food safety](#)



Terms

[Foodborne illness](#)

[Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points \(HACCP\)](#)

[Critical control point](#)

Critical factors

[Food, acidity, time, temperature, oxygen and moisture](#)

[pH](#)

[Water activity \(\$a_w\$ \)](#)

Pathogens

[Clostridium botulinum](#)

[E. coli](#)

[Hepatitis A](#)

[Norovirus](#)

Parasitic infections

[Blastocystis](#)

[Cryptosporidiosis](#)

[Trichinosis](#)

- [v](#)
- [d](#)
- [e](#)

The **Codex Alimentarius** (Latin for "Book of Food") is a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations relating to [foods](#), food production and [food safety](#). Its name derives from the [Codex Alimentarius Austriacus](#).^[1] Its texts are developed and maintained by the **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, a body that was established in 1963 by the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) of the [United Nations](#) (FAO) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO). The Commission's main aims are stated as being to [protect the health of consumers](#) and ensure fair practices in the international food trade. The Codex Alimentarius is recognized by the [World Trade Organization](#) as an international reference point for the resolution of [disputes](#) concerning food safety and consumer protection.^{[2][3]}

Contents

[\[show\]](#)

[\[edit\]](#) Scope

The Codex Alimentarius officially covers all foods, whether processed, semi-processed or [raw](#), but far more attention has been given to foods that are marketed directly to consumers.^[citation needed] In addition to standards for specific foods, the Codex Alimentarius contains general standards covering matters such as [food labeling](#), food [hygiene](#), [food additives](#) and [pesticide](#) residues, and procedures for assessing the safety of foods derived

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from modern [biotechnology](#). It also contains guidelines for the management of official (i.e., governmental) [import](#) and [export](#) inspection and [certification](#) systems for foods.

The Codex Alimentarius is published in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). Not all texts are available in all languages.

[\[edit\]](#) General texts

- [Food labelling](#) (general standard, guidelines on [nutrition](#) labelling, guidelines on labelling claims)
- [Food additives](#) (general standard including authorized uses, specifications for food grade chemicals)
- [Contaminants](#) in foods (general standard, tolerances for specific contaminants including [radionuclides](#), [aflatoxins](#) and other [mycotoxins](#))
- [Pesticide](#) and veterinary chemical residues in foods (maximum residue limits)
- [Risk assessment](#) procedures for determining the safety of foods derived from biotechnology ([DNA](#)-modified plants, DNA-modified [micro-organisms](#), [allergens](#))
- Food [hygiene](#) (general principles, codes of hygienic practice in specific industries or food handling establishments, guidelines for the use of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point or “[HACCP](#)” system)
- Methods of analysis and sampling

[\[edit\]](#) Specific standards

- [Meat](#) products (fresh, frozen, processed meats and [poultry](#))
- [Fish](#) and [fishery](#) products (marine, fresh water and [aquaculture](#))
- [Milk](#) and milk products
- Foods for special [dietary](#) uses (including [infant formula](#) and [baby foods](#))
- Fresh and processed [vegetables](#), [fruits](#), and [fruit juices](#)
- [Cereals](#) and derived products, dried [legumes](#)
- Fats, oils and derived products such as [margarine](#)
- Miscellaneous food products ([chocolate](#), [sugar](#), [honey](#), [mineral water](#))

[\[edit\]](#) Controversy

The controversy over the Codex Alimentarius relates to a perception that it is a mandatory [standard](#) for the safety of food, including vitamin and mineral supplements. Supporters of the Codex Alimentarius say that it is a voluntary reference standard for food and that there is no obligation on countries to adopt Codex standards as a member of either Codex or any other international trade organization. From the point of view of its opponents, however, one of the main causes of concern is that the Codex Alimentarius is recognized by the [World Trade Organization](#) as an international reference standard for the resolution of disputes concerning food safety and consumer protection.^{[2][3]} Proponents argue that the use of Codex Alimentarius during international disputes does not exclude the use of other references or scientific studies as evidence of food safety and consumer protection.

It is reported that in 1996 the German delegation put forward a proposal that no herb, vitamin or mineral should be sold for preventive or therapeutic reasons, and that supplements should be reclassified as drugs.^[4] The proposal was agreed, but protests halted its implementation.^[4] The 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was subsequently held July 4–9, 2005.^[5] Among the many issues discussed were the "Guidelines for [Vitamin](#) and Mineral [Food Supplements](#)",^[6] which were adopted during the meeting as new global safety

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guidelines.^[7] This text has been the subject of considerable controversy among proponents of [dietary supplements](#), because many countries regulate such substances as therapeutic goods or [pharmaceuticals](#) or by some other category, without actually requiring them to be shown to be at all medically useful. The text does not seek to ban supplements, but subjects them to labeling and packaging requirements, sets criteria for the setting of maximum and minimum dosage levels, and requires that safety and efficacy are considered when determining ingredient sources. The [United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) and [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) have stated that the guidelines are "to stop consumers overdosing on vitamin and mineral food supplements." The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) has said that the guidelines call "for labelling that contains information on maximum consumption levels of vitamin and mineral food supplements." The WHO has also said that the Guidelines "ensure that consumers receive beneficial health effects from vitamins and minerals."^[8]

Similarities have been noted between the EU's [Food Supplements Directive](#) and the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements.^[9]

[Texas Republican](#) Rep. [Ron Paul](#) has said that the [Central American Free Trade Agreement](#) "increases the possibility that Codex regulations will be imposed on the American public."^[10]

Additional controversy has been expressed by proponents of ecologically and socially sustainable agriculture and food systems, such as the [Slow Food](#) movement,^[11] who view the Codex Alimentarius as antithetical to this goal. According to the Manifesto on the Future of Food, the Codex Alimentarius has "codified policies designed to serve the interest of global agribusiness above all others, while actively undermining the rights of farmers and consumers".^[12]

[\[edit\]](#) See also

- [FDA Food Safety Modernization Act](#)

[\[edit\]](#) References

1. [^](#) [Codex Alimentarius: how it all began](#) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations website. Accessed 1 January 2009.
2. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#) World Trade Organization. Accessed 3 September 2008.
3. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [Understanding the Codex Alimentarius](#) Preface. Third Edition. Published in 2006 by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Accessed 3 September 2008.
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6. [^](#) [Codex Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements](#)
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10. [^](#) ['The vitamin police', by ALAN BOCK, Sr. editorial writer, The Orange County Register.](#) Published 14 August 2005. Accessed 2 September 2008.

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11. [^ Our campaigns](#), *Slowfood.com*

12. [^](#) The International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture (July 15, 2003). "[Manifesto on the Future of Food](#)".

[\[edit\]](#) External links

- [Codex Alimentarius Commission - official website](#)
- ['Understanding the Codex Alimentarius'](#) Published in 2005 by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Accessed 4 May 2007.
- ["Authority and Legitimacy in Global Governance: Deliberation, Institutional Differentiation, and the Codex Alimentarius"](#) Michael Livermore, 81 NYU Law Review 766 (2006)
- [Organic Standards](#) Database to compare the EU regulation on organic farming, the National Organic Program (NOP) of the US and the guidelines for the production, processing, labeling and marketing of organically produced food of the Codex Alimentarius

This page was last modified on **29 December 2011** at 03:27.

<http://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/index.php>

Bilderberg Meetings Brief history

Bilderberg takes its name from the hotel in Holland, where the first meeting took place in May 1954. That pioneering meeting grew out of the concern expressed by leading citizens on both sides of the Atlantic that Western Europe and North America were not working together as closely as they should on common problems of critical importance. It was felt that regular, off-the-record discussions would help create a better understanding of the complex forces and major trends affecting Western nations in the difficult post-war period. The Cold War has now ended. But in practically all respects there are more, not fewer, common problems - from trade to jobs, from monetary policy to investment, from ecological challenges to the task of promoting international security. It is hard to think of any major issue in either Europe or North America whose unilateral solution would not have repercussions for the other.

Thus the concept of a European-American forum has not been overtaken by time. The dialogue between these two regions is still - even increasingly - critical.

Character of meetings

What is unique about Bilderberg as a forum is

- the broad cross-section of leading citizens that are assembled for nearly three days of informal and off-the-record discussion about topics of current concern especially in the fields of foreign affairs and the international economy;
- the strong feeling among participants that in view of the differing attitudes and experiences of the Western nations, there remains a clear need to further develop an understanding in which these concerns can be accommodated;
- the privacy of the meetings, which has no purpose other than to allow participants to speak their minds openly and freely.

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In short, Bilderberg is a small, flexible, informal and off-the-record international forum in which different viewpoints can be expressed and mutual understanding enhanced. Bilderberg's only activity is its annual Conference. At the meetings, no resolutions are proposed, no votes taken, and no policy statements issued. Since 1954, fifty-nine conferences have been held. For each meeting, the names of the participants as well as the agenda are made Public and available to the press.

Participants

Invitations to Bilderberg conferences are extended by the Chairman following consultation with the Steering Committee members. Participants are chosen for their experience, their knowledge, their standing and their contribution to the selected agenda.

There usually are about 120 participants of whom about two-thirds come from Europe and the balance from North America. About one-third is from government and politics, and two-thirds from finance, industry, labour, education and communications. Participants attend Bilderberg in a private and not an official capacity.

Governance and Funding

Bilderberg is governed by a Steering Committee which designates a Chairman; members are elected for a term of four years and can be re-elected. There are no other members of the Bilderberg conference. The Chair's main responsibilities are to chair the Steering Committee and to prepare with the Steering Committee the conference program, the selection of participants. He also makes suggestions to the Steering Committee regarding its composition. The Executive Secretary reports to the Chairman.

The expenses of maintaining the small Secretariat of the Bilderberg meetings are covered wholly by private subscription. The hospitality costs of the annual meeting are the responsibility of the Steering Committee member(s) of the host country.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_Group

Bilderberg Group

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Bilderberg Group

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[Hotel de Bilderberg](#) (2007), name-giving location of the first conference in 1954

Formation 29 May 1954 (57 years ago)

Membership ~150 invitees, smaller core group

Chairmen of the Steering Committee [Henri de Castries](#)

Website www.bilderbergmeetings.org

The **Bilderberg Group**, **Bilderberg conference**, or **Bilderberg Club** is an annual, unofficial, invitation-only conference of approximately 120 to 140 guests from [North America](#) and [Western Europe](#), most of whom are people of influence.^[1] About one-third are from government and politics, and two-thirds from finance, industry, labour, education and communications. Meetings are closed to the public.

Contents

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[\[edit\]](#) Origin

The original conference was held at the [Hotel de Bilderberg](#), near [Arnhem](#) in the [Netherlands](#), from 29 May to 31 May 1954. It was initiated by several people, including [Polish](#) politician [Józef Retinger](#), concerned about the growth of [anti-Americanism](#) in [Western Europe](#), who proposed an international conference at which leaders from [European](#) countries and the [United States](#) would be brought together with the aim of promoting [Atlanticism](#) – better understanding between the cultures of the [United States](#) and [Western Europe](#) to foster cooperation on political, economic, and defense issues.^[2] Retinger approached [Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands](#) who agreed to promote the idea, together with former [Belgian Prime Minister Paul Van Zeeland](#), and the head of [Unilever](#) at that time, Dutchman Paul Rijkens. Bernhard in turn contacted [Walter Bedell Smith](#), then head of the [CIA](#), who asked [Eisenhower](#) adviser [Charles Douglas Jackson](#) to deal with the suggestion.^[3]

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The guest list was to be drawn up by inviting two attendees from each nation, one of each to represent [conservative](#) and [liberal](#) points of view.^[2] Fifty delegates from 11 countries in Western Europe attended the first conference, along with 11 Americans.^[4]

The success of the meeting led the organizers to arrange an annual conference. A permanent Steering Committee was established, with Retinger appointed as permanent secretary. As well as organizing the conference, the steering committee also maintained a register of attendee names and contact details, with the aim of creating an informal network of individuals who could call upon one another in a private capacity.^[citation needed] Conferences were held in [France](#), [Germany](#), and [Denmark](#) over the following three years. In 1957, the first US conference was held in [St. Simons, Georgia](#), with \$30,000 from the [Ford Foundation](#). The foundation supplied further funding for the 1959 and 1963 conferences.^[3]

[\[edit\]](#) Role

The role of the Bilderberg meetings in the flow of events since its founding in 1954 is a matter of debate among scholars and journalists, such as [G. William Domhoff](#) and [Caroline Moorehead](#). In his 1980 essay *The Bilderberg and the West*, researcher Peter Thompson argues that the Bilderberg group is a meeting ground for top executives from the world's leading [multinational corporations](#) and top national political figures to consider jointly the immediate and long-term problems facing the West. According to Thompson, Bilderberg itself is not an executive agency. However, when Bilderberg participants reach a form of [consensus](#) about what is to be done, they have at their disposal powerful transnational and national instruments for bringing about what it is they want to come to pass. That their consensus design is not always achieved is a reflection of the strength of competing resisting forces outside the capitalist [ruling class](#) and within it.^[5]

[\[edit\]](#) Organizational structure



[Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld](#) in 1942

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Meetings are organized by a steering committee with two members from each of approximately 18 nations.^[6] Official posts, in addition to a chairman, include an Honorary Secretary General.^[7] There is no such category in the group's rules as a "member of the group". The only category that exists is "member of the Steering Committee".^[8] In addition to the committee, there also exists a separate advisory group, though membership overlaps.^[9]

Dutch economist [Ernst van der Beugel](#) became permanent secretary in 1960, upon Retinger's death. Prince Bernhard continued to serve as the meeting's chairman until 1976, the year of his involvement in the [Lockheed affair](#). The position of Honorary American Secretary General has been held successively by [Joseph E. Johnson](#) of the [Carnegie Endowment](#), [William Bundy](#) of [Princeton](#), [Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.](#), former [U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan](#), and [Casimir A. Yost](#) of [Georgetown's](#) Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.^[10]

A 2008 press release from the 'American Friends of Bilderberg' stated that "Bilderberg's only activity is its annual Conference. At the meetings, no resolutions are proposed, no votes taken, and no policy statements issued" and noted that the names of attendees were available to the press.^[11] The Bilderberg group's unofficial headquarters is the [University of Leiden](#) in the [Netherlands](#).^[12]

According to the 'American Friends of Bilderberg', the 2008 agenda dealt "mainly with a [nuclear](#) free world, [cyber terrorism](#), [Africa](#), [Russia](#), finance, [protectionism](#), US-[EU](#) relations, [Afghanistan](#) and [Pakistan](#), [Islam](#) and [Iran](#)".^[11]

[edit] Chairmen of the Steering Committee

- [Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld](#) (1954–1975)^[13]
- [Walter Scheel](#) (1975–1977)^[4]
- [Alec Douglas-Home](#) (1977–1980)^[13]
- [Eric Roll, Baron Roll of Ipsden](#) (1986–1989)^[14]
- [Peter Carrington, 6th Baron Carrington](#) (1990–1998)^[4]
- [Étienne Davignon](#) (1998-2001)^[6]
- [Henri de Castries](#) (since 2001)

[edit] Participants

Main article: [List of Bilderberg participants](#)



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Federal Reserve Chairman [Ben Bernanke](#) leaving the 2008 Bilderberg Conference

Historically, attendee lists have been weighted towards bankers, politicians, and directors of large businesses.^[15]

Heads of state, including [Juan Carlos I of Spain](#) and [Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands](#), have attended meetings.^{[7][16]} Prominent politicians from [North America](#) and Europe are past attendees. In past years, board members from many large publicly-traded corporations have attended, including [IBM](#), [Xerox](#), [Royal Dutch Shell](#), [Nokia](#) and [Daimler](#).^[7]

The 2009 meeting participants in [Greece](#) included: [Greek prime minister Kostas Karamanlis](#); [Finnish prime minister Matti Vanhanen](#),^[17] Sweden foreign minister [Carl Bildt](#); United States [Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg](#); [U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner](#); [World Bank](#) president [Robert Zoellick](#); [European Commission](#) head José [Manuel Barroso](#); [Queen Sofia of Spain](#); and [Queen Beatrix](#) of the Netherlands.^[18]

In 2009 the group hosted a dinner meeting at [Castle of the Valley of the Duchess](#) in Brussels on 12 November to promote the candidacy of [Herman Van Rompuy](#) for President of the European Council.^[19]

The membership of the Bilderberg group is drawn largely from West European and North American countries.^[20] Writing in 1980, policy analyst [Holly Sklar](#) noted that, from the 1950s, elites in the West became concerned that the [United Nations](#) was no longer controlled by Western powers, and that this concern was expressed in the participant selection process of the Bilderberg group.^[20] Sklar also quoted observations from human rights journalist [Caroline Moorehead](#) in a 1977 article critical of the Bilderberg group's membership, who in turn quoted an unnamed member of the group: "No invitations go out to representatives of the developing countries. 'Otherwise you simply turn us into a mini-United-Nations, said one person [a Bilderberger] with scorn. And more revealingly, 'we are looking for like-thinking people and compatible people. It would be worse to have a club of dopes.'"^{[20][15]} In her article, Moorehead characterized the group as "heavily biased towards politics of moderate conservatism and big business" and claims that the "furthest left is represented by a scattering of central social democrats".^[15]

[\[edit\]](#) Recent meetings

Main article: [List of Bilderberg meetings](#)

Recent meetings:

- 2005 (5–8 May) at the Dorint Sofitel Seehotel Überfahrt in [Rottach-Egern](#), Germany^[21]
- 2006 (8–11 June) at the [Brookstreet Hotel](#) in [Kanata](#), [Ottawa](#), [Ontario](#), Canada^[22]
- 2007 (31 May–3 June) at the [Ritz-Carlton](#) Hotel,^[23] in [Şişli](#), [Istanbul](#), [Turkey](#).
- 2008 (5–8 June) at the Westfields Marriott in [Chantilly](#), [Virginia](#), United States^{[11][24]}
- 2009 (14–16 May) at the Astir Palace resort in [Athens](#), Greece^{[25][26]}
- 2010 (3–7 June) at the Hotel Dolce in [Sitges](#), Spain^[27]
- 2011 (9–12 June) at the Suvretta House in [St. Moritz](#), [Switzerland](#)

[\[edit\]](#) Privacy

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The meeting hotels are inaccessible for any other guest for the full period of the conferences and sentinelled by private security staffs as well as by local police authorities and secret services. Journalists attempting to cover news of the conferences have reported being subjected to reprisals. During the Bilderberg Meeting at [Vouliagmeni \(Greece\)](#) in 2009, for instance, the British [The Guardian](#) reporter [Charlie Skelton](#) was arrested twice after having taken pictures of vehicles.^[28] On June 9, 2011 the Italian [Lega Nord](#) member of the European Parliament [Mario Borghezio](#) was arrested by the police, remanded for some hours and then banished from the Canton of [Graubünden](#) for the full period of the conference. Thereupon the Italian embassy at [Berne](#) appealed to the Swiss government and demanded investigations on that subject.^[29]

[[edit](#)] Conspiracy theories

According to chairman [Étienne Davignon](#), a major attraction of Bilderberg group meetings is that they provide an opportunity for participants to speak and debate candidly and to find out what major figures really think, without the risk of off-the-cuff comments becoming fodder for controversy in the media.^[30] However, partly because of its working methods to ensure strict privacy, the Bilderberg group is accused of conspiracies.^{[31][30][32][33][34]} This outlook has been popular on both extremes of the [political spectrum](#), even if they disagree on what the group wants to do. Some on the left accuse the Bilderberg group of conspiring to impose [capitalist](#) domination,^[35] while some on the right have accused the group of conspiring to impose a [world government](#) and [planned economy](#).^[36]

Politico journalist Kenneth P. Vogel reports that it is the "exclusive roster of globally influential figures that has captured the interest of an international network of conspiracists," who for decades have seen the Bilderberg meetings as a "corporate-globalist scheme", and are convinced [powerful elites](#) are moving the planet toward an oligarchic "[new world order](#)".^[37] He goes on to state that these conspiracist's "[populist](#) paranoid worldview", characterized by a suspicion of the [ruling class](#) rather than any prevailing partisan or ideological affiliation, is widely articulated on overnight AM radio shows and numerous Internet websites.^[37] Proponents of Bilderberg [conspiracy theories](#) in the United States include individuals and groups such as the [John Birch Society](#),^{[36][38]} political activist [Phyllis Schlafly](#),^[38] writer [Jim Tucker](#),^[39] political activist [Lyndon LaRouche](#),^[40] radio host [Alex Jones](#),^[11] and politician [Jesse Ventura](#), who made the Bilderberg group a topic of a 2009 episode of his [TruTV](#) series [Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura](#).^[41] Non-American proponents include [Russian-Canadian](#) writer [Daniel Estulin](#).^[42]

In 2001, [Denis Healey](#), a Bilderberg group founder and, for 30 years, a steering committee member, said: "To say we were striving for a one-world government is exaggerated, but not wholly unfair. Those of us in Bilderberg felt we couldn't go on forever fighting one another for nothing and killing people and rendering millions homeless. So we felt that a single community throughout the world would be a good thing."^[43] In 2005 Davignon discussed these accusations with the [BBC](#): "It is unavoidable and it doesn't matter. There will always be people who believe in conspiracies but things happen in a much more incoherent fashion... When people say this is a secret government of the world I say that if we were a secret government of the world we should be bloody ashamed of ourselves."^[34]

In a 1994 report *Right Woos Left*, published by the [Political Research Associates](#), investigative journalist [Chip Berlet](#) argued that [right-wing populist](#) conspiracy theories about the Bilderberg group date back as early as 1964 and can be found in Schlafly's self-published book *A Choice, Not an Echo*,^[44] which promoted a conspiracy theory in which the [Republican Party](#) was secretly controlled by elitist intellectuals dominated by members of the Bilderberger group, whose [internationalist](#) policies would pave the way for [world communism](#).^[45] Paradoxically, in August 2010 former Cuban president [Fidel Castro](#) wrote an article for the Cuban Communist

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Party newspaper *Granma* in which he cited Estulin's 2006 book *The Secrets of the Bilderberg Club* ^[46], which, as quoted by Castro, describes "sinister cliques and the Bilderberg lobbyists" manipulating the public "to install a world government that knows no borders and is not accountable to anyone but its own self."^[35]

[G. William Domhoff](#), a research professor in [psychology](#) and [sociology](#) who studies theories of [power](#),^[47] sees the role of [international relations](#) forums and [social clubs](#) such as the Bilderberg group as a place to share ideas, reach [consensus](#), and create [social cohesion](#) within a [power elite](#).^[48] He adds that this understanding of forums and clubs such as the Bilderberg group fits with the perceptions of the members of the elite. Domhoff warns [progressives](#) against getting distracted by conspiracy theories which [demonize](#) and [scapegoat](#) such forums and clubs.^[48] He argues that the opponents of progressivism in the United States are [conservatives](#) within the [corporate elite](#) and the [Republican Party](#).^[48] It is more or less the same people who belong to forums and clubs such as the Bilderberg group, but it puts them in their most important roles, as [capitalists](#) and political leaders, which are visible and therefore easier to fight.^[48]

Author James McConnachie comments that conspiracy theorists have a point, but that they fail to communicate it effectively.^[49] He argues that the Bilderberg group acts in a manner consistent with a global conspiracy, but does so without the same "degree of nefariousness", a difference not appreciated by conspiracy theorists, who "tend to see this cabal as outright evil."^[1] McConnachie concludes: "Occasionally you have to give credit to conspiracy theorists who raise issues that the mainstream press has ignored. It's only recently that the media has picked up on the Bilderbergers. Would the media be running stories if there weren't these wild allegations flying around?"^[1]

[\[edit\]](#) See also

- [Trilateral Commission](#), established by [David Rockefeller](#) in 1972 after the Bilderberg Group refused to include Japan.^[50]
- [Them: Adventures with Extremists](#) & [The Secret Rulers of the World](#) (2001 book and film)
- [List of Bilderberg Group participants](#)

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- ² ^a ^b Hatch, Alden (1962). "The Hôtel de Bilderberg". *H.R.H.Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands: An authorized biography*. London: Harrap. ISBN B000CLLN4. "The idea was to get two people from each country who would give the conservative and liberal slant"
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- ⁶ ^a ^b "[Inside the secretive Bilderberg Group](#)". *BBC News*. 29 September 2005. Retrieved 5 August 2008.
- ⁷ ^a ^b ^c "[Bilderberg Meeting of 1997 Assembles](#)". *PR Newswire*. 13 June 1997.
- ⁸ ^a "[Parliamentary questions: Answer given by Mr Prodi on behalf of the Commission](#)". *European Parliament*. 15 May 2003.
- ⁹ ^a Entry for [Conrad Black](#), *The International Who's Who*. Europa Publications. 2000.
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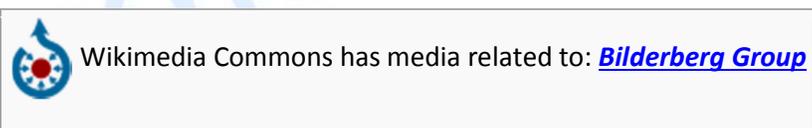
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- [Official website](#)
- "[Bilderberg mystery: Why do people believe in cabals?](#)". BBC News. 8 June 2011.
- "[Elite power brokers meet in secret](#)". BBC News. 15 May 2003.
- [Guardian article on the group – an excerpt from Jon Ronson's book Them](#)
- [Iain Hollingshead, The Bilderberg Group: fact and fantasy Daily Telegraph](#) 4 June 2010

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Bilderberg_participants

List of Bilderberg participants

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The following is a list of prominent persons who have attended one or more conferences organized by the [Bilderberg Group](#). The list is currently organized by category. It is not a complete list and it includes both living and deceased people. Where known, the year(s) they attended are denoted in brackets.

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- [Frank McKenna](#) (2006, 2010),^[27] Deputy Chair of [TD Bank Financial Group](#), Canadian Ambassador to the United States 2005-2006, [Premier of New Brunswick](#) 1987-1997
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- [Heather Reisman](#) 2000–Present, CEO of Chapters/Indigo, Co-Founder of the Heseq Foundation, Bilderburg Steering Committee member

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- [Fu Ying](#) (2011)^[28], Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador to the UK and Australia

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- [Eero Heinäluoma](#) (2006),^[29] former chairman of the [Social Democratic Party](#) and he was the [Minister of Finance](#) between 2005 and 2007
- [Jyrki Katainen](#) (2007, 2009),^{[30][31][32]} chairman of the [National Coalition Party](#) and the current [Minister of Finance](#) and [Deputy Prime Minister](#)
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- Einar Benediktsson^[36] (ca. 1970), ambassador: [OECD](#) 1956-60, [UK](#) 1982-1986, [European Union](#) et al. 1986-1991, [NATO](#) 1986-1990, [United States](#) et al. 1993-1997, etc.^[39]
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- [Geir Hallgrímsson](#)^[36] (ca. 1974-1977,^{[38][41]} 1980^[42]), Mayor of [Reykjavík](#) 1959-72, [Prime Minister](#) 1974-78, Foreign Minister 1983-1986, [Central Bank](#) governor 1986-1990
- Hörður Sigurgestsson,^[36] former CEO of shipping line [Eimskip](#), former chairman and CFO of [Icelandair](#)^[43]
- Jón Sigurðsson^[36] (1993), [IMF](#) Board of Directors 1974-1987, [Minister of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs](#) 1987-88, [Industry](#) and Commerce 1988-93, Central Bank governor 1993-94, [Nordic Investment Bank](#) governor 1994-2005^[44]

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- [Garret FitzGerald](#), former [Taoiseach](#) ^[45]
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[\[edit\]](#) Norway

- [Siv Jensen](#) (2006) Leader for The Norwegian political party, "Fremskrittspartiet". ([Progress Party \(Norway\)](#))
- [Jens Stoltenberg](#) (2002), current Prime Minister of Norway. ^[13]
- [Kristin Clemet](#) ^[13] (1999, 2008 ^[48]) Managing Director of the liberal and conservative think tank Civita, Former Minister of Education and Science.
- [Geir Lundestad](#) (2005) ^[49] Director of the Norwegian Nobel institute and Secretary to The Nobel Peace Prize Committee.

[\[edit\]](#) Portugal

- [Francisco Pinto Balsemão](#) (1981, 1983–1985, 1987–2008), ^[9] former [Prime Minister of Portugal](#), 1981–1983 and CEO of [Impresa](#) media group
- [Manuel Pinho](#) (2009), ^{[50][51]} former [Minister of Economy and Innovation](#)
- [José Sócrates](#) (2004), ^{[50][51][52]} former [Prime Minister of Portugal](#)
- [José Pedro Aguiar-Branco](#), ^{[50][51][52]} former [Minister of Justice](#)
- [Santana Lopes](#) (2004), ^{[50][51][52]} former [Prime Minister of Portugal](#)
- [José Manuel Durão Barroso](#) (1994, 2003, 2005), ^{[50][53][54]} former [Prime Minister of Portugal](#) and [Minister of Foreign Affairs](#), and current [President of the European Commission](#)
- [Nuno Morais Sarmento](#), ^{[51][52]} former Minister of Presidency and Minister of Parliament Affairs
- [António Costa](#) (2008), ^{[51][52]} former [Minister of Interior](#) and current [Mayor of Lisbon](#)
- [Rui Rio](#) (2008), ^{[51][52]} current [Mayor](#) of [Porto](#)
- [Manuela Ferreira Leite](#) (2009), ^{[51][55]} former [Minister of Education](#) and [Minister of Finance and Public Administration](#)
- [Augusto Santos Silva](#), ^[51] former [Minister of Education](#), [Minister of Culture](#), Minister of Parliament Affairs, and current [Minister of National Defence](#)
- [Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa](#) (1998), ^[51] former Minister of Parliament Affairs
- [António Guterres](#) (1994), ^{[51][53][54]} former [Prime Minister of Portugal](#), former President of the [Socialist International](#) and current [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#)
- [Ferro Rodrigues](#), ^[53] former [Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) and [Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications](#)
- [Jorge Sampaio](#), ^{[53][54]} former [President of Portugal](#)

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- [Luís Mira Amaral](#) (1995),^{[54][56]} former [Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity](#), chairman of [Caixa Geral de Depósitos](#) and CEO of [Banco Português de Investimento](#)
- [Vítor Constâncio](#) (1988),^{[54][56]} governor of the [Banco de Portugal](#)
- [Manuel Ferreira de Oliveira](#),^[54] CEO of [Galp Energia](#)
- [Ricardo Salgado](#),^{[54][57]} CEO of [Banco Espírito Santo](#)
- [Fernando Teixeira dos Santos](#) (2010),^[56] former [Minister of Finance](#)
- [José Medeiros Ferreira](#) (1977, 1980),^[56] former [Minister of Foreign Affairs](#)
- [Joaquim Ferreira do Amaral](#) (1999),^[56] former [Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications](#)
- [António Miguel Morais Barreto](#) (1992),^[56] former [Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries](#)
- [João Cravinho](#),^[57] former [Minister for Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development](#)
- [Artur Santos Silva](#),^[57] former vice-governor of the [Banco de Portugal](#), chairman of [Banco Português de Investimento](#) and current non-executive chairman of [Jerónimo Martins](#)
- [Francisco Luís Murteira Nabo](#),^[57] former chairman of [Portugal Telecom](#), [Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications](#), and current chairman of [Galp Energia](#) and president of the [Portuguese Economists Association](#)

[\[edit\]](#) Poland

- [Józef Retinger](#) (1954 to 1960), Founder and secretary of Bilderberg Group^{[51][58]} (deceased)

[\[edit\]](#) Spain

[\[edit\]](#) Sweden

- [Carl Bildt](#) (2006),^[59] (2008),^[59] (2009), Minister of Foreign Affairs 2006–
- [Anders Borg](#) (2007),^[59] Minister of Finance 2006–
- [Thorbjörn Fälldin](#) (1978),^[60] Prime Minister 1976–1978
- [Maud Olofsson](#) (2008),^[59] Minister of Industry 2006–2011
- [Fredrik Reinfeldt](#) (2006),^[59] Prime Minister 2006–
- [Mona Sahlin](#) (1996),^[59] Head of the Swedish social democratic party 2007–2011

[\[edit\]](#) Switzerland

- [Rolf Schweizer](#) (2011) (German)^[61]

[\[edit\]](#) United Kingdom

- Rt Hon the Baroness [Shirley Williams](#) (at least 2010), stateswoman and member, House of Lords; Harvard University Professor; Past President, Chatham House; int'l member, Council on Foreign Relations.
- [Paddy Ashdown](#) (1989),^[62] former leader of [Liberal Democrats](#), [High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Ed Balls](#) (2006),^[63] former [Economic Secretary to the Treasury](#) and advisor to [British Prime Minister Gordon Brown](#) and was [Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families](#) (2007–2010)
- [Peter Carington, 6th Baron Carrington](#) (Steering Committee member),^[64] former [Foreign Secretary](#)
- [Kenneth Clarke](#) (1993,^[65] 1998,^[66] 1999,^[67] 2003,^[68] 2004,^[69] 2006,^[70] 2007,^[70] 2008,^{[71][72]} [Chancellor of the Exchequer](#) 1993-1997, [Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform](#) 2008-2010, [Lord Chancellor](#), Secretary of State for Justice 2010-current
- [Robert Gascoyne-Cecil \(Viscount Cranborne\)](#) (1997),^[1] [Leader of the House of Lords](#) 94-97
- [Denis Arthur Greenhill](#), Lord Greenhill of Harrow (deceased) (1974),^[73] former Head of [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#)

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- [Denis Healey](#) (founder and Steering Committee member),^[64] former [Chancellor of the Exchequer](#)
- [Peter Mandelson](#) (1999,^[74] 2009^[75] Business Secretary (2008–2010)
- [John Monks](#) (1996),^[26] former TUC General Secretary
- [George Osborne](#) (2006,^[76] 2007,^[76] 2008^[77] 2009^[78]) [Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer](#) (2004–2010), [Chancellor of the Exchequer](#) 2010-current
- [David Owen](#) (1982),^[79] former British Foreign Secretary and leader of the Social Democratic Party
- [Enoch Powell](#), (deceased) (1968),^[80] MP and Ulster Unionist
- [Malcolm Rifkind](#) (1996),^[26] former Foreign Secretary
- [Eric Roll](#) (1964, 1966, 1967, 1973–1975, 1977–1999) (Bilderberg Steering Committee),^[81] [Department of Economic Affairs](#), 1964, later Bilderberg Group Chairman
- [David Hannay, Baron Hannay of Chiswick](#) (1995),^[82] Diplomatic posts at European Union and United Nations.
- [John Smith](#) (1989) (deceased),^[83] Labour Party leader

[\[edit\]](#) Prime Ministers

- [Tony Blair](#) (1993),^{[84][65]} Prime Minister 1997-2007
- [Gordon Brown](#) (1991),^[85] Prime Minister 2007- 2010
- [Edward Heath](#),^[4] Prime Minister 1970-1974
- [Alec Douglas-Home](#) (1977–1980),^[86] Chairman of the Bilderberg Group, Prime Minister 1963-1964
- [Margaret Thatcher](#) (1975),^[87] Prime Minister 1979-1990

[\[edit\]](#) United States

- [Roger Altman](#) (2009),^[88] Deputy Treasury Secretary from 1993–1994, Founder and Chairman of [Evercore Partners](#)
- [George W. Ball](#) (1954, 1993),^[89] Under Secretary of State 1961-1968, Ambassador to U.N. 1968
- [Sandy Berger](#) (1999),^[90] [National Security Advisor](#), 1997–2001
- [Timothy Geithner](#)(2009),^[88] [Treasury Secretary](#)
- [Lee H. Hamilton](#) (1997),^[1] former [US Congressman](#)
- [Christian Herter](#),^[91] (1961, 1963, 1964, 1966), 53rd United States Secretary of State
- [Charles Douglas Jackson](#) (1957, 1958, 1960),^[92] Special Assistant to the President
- [Joseph E. Johnson](#)^[93] (1954), President [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)
- [Henry Kissinger](#) (1957, 1964, 1966, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1977, 2008, 2009, 2011)^{[94][60]}, 56th United States Secretary of State
- [Richard Perle](#) (2011), Chairman of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee 2001–2003, United States Assistant Secretary of Defense 1981–1987^[95]
- [Colin Powell](#) (1997),^[1] 65th United States Secretary of State
- [Lawrence Summers](#),^[88] Director of the [National Economic Council](#)
- [Paul Volcker](#)^[when?],^[88] Chair of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board and Chairman of the Federal Reserve from 1979–1987

[\[edit\]](#) Presidents

- [Bill Clinton](#) (1991),^{[84][85]} President 1993-2001
- [Gerald Ford](#) (1964, 1966),^{[4][96]} President 1974-1977

[\[edit\]](#) Senators

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- [John Edwards](#) (2004),^{[97][98]} Senator from [North Carolina](#) 1999-2005
- [Chuck Hagel](#) (1999, 2000),^[99] Senator from Nebraska 1997-2009
- [Sam Nunn](#) (1996, 1997),^[1] Senator from Georgia 1972-1997

[[edit](#)] Governors

- [Rick Perry](#) (2007),^[100] [Governor of Texas](#) 2000-current
- [Mark Sanford](#) (2008),^[101] [Governor of South Carolina](#)

[[edit](#)] EU Commissioners

European Union Commissioners who have attended include:

- [Frederik Bolkestein](#) (1996, 2003),^[102] former European Commissioner
- [Neelie Kroes](#) (2011), EU Commissioner ^[103]
- [Pascal Lamy](#) (2003,^[102] 2010^[3]), former European Commissioner for Trade, Director-General of the World Trade Organization 2005–present
- [Peter Mandelson](#) (1999),^[74] (2009),^[75] former European Commissioner for Trade 2004-2008
- [Pedro Solbes](#) (2010),^[3] former European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, former Second Vice President of Spain, former Minister of Economy and Finance

[[edit](#)] Military

- [Colin Gubbins](#)^[104] (1955, 1957, 1958, 1963, 1964, 1966), head of the British SOE (deceased)
- [Lyman Lemnitzer](#) (1963),^[23] Supreme Allied Commander NATO 1963-1969 (deceased)
- [Alexander Haig](#) (1978),^[60] [NATO](#) Commander 1974-1979 ([US Secretary of State](#) 1981-1982) (deceased)
- [Jaap de Hoop Scheffer](#)^[3] (2010), former Secretary General of NATO

[[edit](#)] Financial institutions

- [Ben Bernanke](#) (2008,^[101] 2009),^[75] Chairman of the Board of Governors of the United States Federal Reserve
- [Wim Duisenberg](#), former European Central Bank President^[34] (deceased)
- [Gordon Richardson](#),^[105] (1966, 1975) former [Governor of the Bank of England](#)
- [William J McDonough](#) (1997),^[1] former President, [Federal Reserve Bank of New York](#)
- [Antonio Nogueira Leite](#) (**Portuguese**) (2011), Economist ^[95]
- [Jean-Claude Trichet](#) (2009,^[106] 2010^[3]) President of the [European Central Bank](#) 2003-2011
- [Paul Volcker](#) (1982, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1992, 1997),^[1] former [Chairman of the Federal Reserve](#)
- [Siegmond Warburg](#) (1977)^[105] (deceased)
- [Andreas Treichl](#) (2009),^[107] CEO of [Erste Bank](#)
- [Rudolf Scholten](#) (2010),^[19] Member of the Board of Executive Directors, Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG
- [David Rockefeller, Sr.](#) Former Chairman, Chase Manhattan Bank ^[108]

[[edit](#)] Major corporations

- [Josef Ackermann](#) (2009–2011), CEO of [Deutsche Bank](#)^[47]
- [Marcus Agius](#), Chairman of [Barclays](#) (2011) ^[95]

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- [Giovanni Agnelli](#) (1997), Honorary Chairman of [Fiat Automobiles](#) ^[109]
- [Umberto Agnelli](#) (1997), Chairman of [IFIL](#) ^[109]
- [Percy Barnevik](#) (1992–1996, 1997, ^[1] 2001), former CEO of [ASEA](#)
- [Franco Bernabè](#) (2011), CEO of [Telecom Italia](#) ^[103]
- [Jeff Bezos](#) (2011), ^[110] Founder and CEO of [Amazon.com](#)
- [Michel Bon](#), ^[111] former CEO of [France Telecom](#)
- [Lord Browne of Madingley](#) (1995, 1997, ^[1] 2004), Chief Executive [BP](#)
- [Thomas Enders](#) (2011), CEO of [Airbus](#) ^[95]
- [Bill Gates](#) (2010), ^[112] Chairman of [Microsoft](#)
- [Donald E. Graham](#) (2008–2010), ^[46] CEO and Chairman of [The Washington Post Company](#), Board of Directors for [Facebook](#)
- [Louis V. Gerstner, Jr.](#), ^[113]
- [H. J. Heinz II](#) (1954), ^[93] CEO of [H. J. Heinz Company](#)
- [Chris Hughes](#) (2011), ^[110] Co-founder of [Facebook](#)
- [Klaus Kleinfeld](#) (2011), ^[110] Chairman and CEO of [Alcoa](#)
- [André Kudelski](#) (2011) Director of [Nestlé](#), CEO of the [Kudelski Group](#) ^[114]
- [André Lévy-Lang](#), (French) ^[111] former CEO of [Paribas](#)
- [Alexei Mordashov](#) (2011), CEO of [Severstal](#) ^[115]
- [Jorma Ollila](#) (1997, ^[1] 2005, 2008, 2011), Non-Executive Chairman of [Royal Dutch Shell](#) and [Nokia Corporation](#)
- [Paul Rijkens](#) (Dutch) Former Chairman of Unilever ^[34]
- [Eric Schmidt](#) (2008, 2010, 2011), ^[46] CEO and Chairman of [Google](#)
- [Jürgen E. Schrempp](#) (1994–1996, 1997), ^[1] 1998, 1999, 2001–2005, 2006, 2007), former CEO of [DaimlerChrysler](#)
- [Rolf Soiron](#) (2011), CEO of [Holcim Ltd.](#) ^[116]
- [Hans Stråberg](#) (2006), ^[59] CEO of [Electrolux](#)
- [Peter Sutherland](#) (1989–1996, 1997, ^[1] 2005), former Chairman of [BP](#)
- [Martin Taylor](#) ^[1] (1993–1996, ^[26] 1997), former CEO, [Barclays](#)
- [Otto Wolff von Amerongen](#), ^[1] Chairman [Otto Wolff GmbH.](#)
- [Jacob Wallenberg](#) (2006), ^[59] Chairman of [Investor AB](#)

[edit] University, institute and other academic

- [Richard Pipes](#) (1981), ^[117] Senior Staff Member, [National Security Council](#)
- [C. Fred Bergsten](#) (1971, 1974, 1984, 1997), ^[1] President, [Peterson Institute](#)
- [Thierry de Montbrial](#), ^[111] Director of the [Institut Français des Relations Internationales](#)

[edit] Media

- [Nicolas Beytout](#), (French) ^[111] Editor of [Le Figaro](#) (France)
- [Conrad Black](#) (1981, 1983, 1985–1996) ^[26] (1997), ^[118] [Hollinger International, Inc.](#)
- [William F. Buckley, Jr.](#) (1996), ^[119] columnist and founder of [National Review](#) (deceased)
- [Will Hutton](#) ^[84] (1997), former CEO of [The Work Foundation](#) and editor-in-chief for [The Observer](#)
- [Andrew Knight](#) (1996), ^[64]^[26] journalist, editor, and media baron
- [George Stephanopoulos](#) (1996, 1997), ^[26] Former [Communications Director](#) of the Clinton Administration (1993–1996), now [ABC News](#) Chief Washington Correspondent
- [Peter Mansbridge](#) (2010), Chief Correspondent, [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation](#)
- [Carlo Rossella](#) (1997), Editor, [La Stampa](#) ^[109]
- [Oscar Bronner](#) (2010), ^[19] Publisher and Editor, [Der Standard](#)

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- [Tøger Seidenfaden](#) (1999, 2001–03),^[120] editor-in-chief, *Politiken*

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60. [^ a b c "Western Issues Aired". *The Washington Post*. April 24, 1978. "The three-day 26th Bilderberg Meeting concluded at a secluded cluster of shingled buildings in what was once a farmer's field. Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, Swedish Prime Minister Thorbjorn Falldin, former secretary of state Henry Kissinger and NATO Commander Alexander M. Haig Jr. were among 104 North American and European leaders at the conference."](#)
61. [^ "Bilderberg 2011: The Good, The Bad, and the Incredibly Wealthy". *The Guardian*. 15 June 2011.](#)
62. [^ Ian Aitken \(May 26, 1989\). *The Guardian* \(London\). "Mr Paddy Ashdown is not yet wholly at ease with the trappings of office, even if the office in question is only that of leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats. Attending the Bilderberg Conference of European political leaders in Spain last week, he was deeply impressed by the splendour of the official cars and the intensity of the security precautions laid on for his arrival. Reaching the conference headquarters at last, he sank into a chair and said to his neighbour: 'Hello, I'm Paddy Ashdown.' The neighbour smiled diffidently, put out his hand, and said: 'Hello, I'm the King of Spain.'"](#)
63. [^ Telegraph.co.uk Taxpayers foot bill for Ed Balls 'junket'. *Daily Telegraph*](#)
64. [^ a b c "Who pulls the strings?". London: *The Guardian*. 10 March 2001. Retrieved 2010-05-08.](#)
65. [^ a b "Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards - Complaint against Mr Kenneth Clarke". *United Kingdom Parliament*. 11 July 1997. "Mr Clarke subsequently explained that he and Mr Blair considered that they were attending the conference as representatives of the Government and the Opposition respectively, and stated that 'I was quite confident that I was at the time meeting the rules applying to Ministers, and it did not occur to me that the new rules concerning registration could apply to this visit'."](#)
66. [^ House of Commons - Register of Members' Interests, Commons Publications, 2 December 1998, retrieved 2009-07-21](#)
67. [^ "Register of Members' Interests". 9 June 1999. "3–6 June 1999, to Portugal, to attend Bilderberg meetings. I paid for my own air fare; the hotel accommodation for three nights was paid for by the organisers."](#)

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68. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Members' Interests"](#). 21 May 2003. "15–18 May 2003, to Versailles, France, to attend a Bilderberg Conference. I paid for my own air fare; the hotel accommodation for three nights was paid for by the organisers."
69. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Members' Interests"](#). 8 June 2004. "3–6 June 2004, to Stresa, Italy, to attend Bilderberg Conference. I paid for my own air fare; the hotel accommodation for three nights was paid for by the organisers."
70. [^] ^a ^b [House of Commons - Register of Members' Interests](#)
71. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Members' Interests - Kenneth Clarke"](#). [United Kingdom Parliament](#). 16 June 2008.
72. [^] ^a ^b ["Kenneth Clarke: Full register of members' interests"](#). London: The Guardian. Retrieved 2010-05-08. "5–8 June 2008, to Chantilly, Virginia, USA, to attend Bilderberg Conference. Hotel accommodation paid for by the conference sponsors. (I paid my travel costs.) (Registered 12 June 2008)"
73. [^] ^a ^b ["Atlantic world' theme for Bilderberg conference"](#). The Times. April 19, 1974. p. 6.
74. [^] ^a ^b [<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmregmem/memi19.htm> [British House of Commons](#) - Register of Journalists' Interests
75. [^] ^a ^b ^c ["Our man at Bilderberg"](#). London: The Guardian. 19 May 2009. Retrieved 2010-05-08. "Mandelson's office has confirmed his attendance at this year's meeting: "Yes, Lord Mandelson attended Bilderberg. He found it a valuable conference.""
76. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Members' Interests - George Osborne"](#). [United Kingdom Parliament](#). 3 July 2007.
77. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Members' Interests - George Osborne"](#). [United Kingdom Parliament](#). 16 June 2008.
78. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Member' Interests - George Osborne"](#). [United Kingdom Parliament](#). 27 May 2009.
79. [^] ^a ^b [Ronson, Jon](#) (10 March 2001). ["Who pulls the strings? \(part 3\)"](#). [The Guardian](#) (London). Retrieved 2009-07-04. ""During the Falklands war, the British government's request for international sanctions against Argentina fell on stony ground. But at a Bilderberg meeting in, I think, Denmark, David Owen stood up and gave the most fiery speech in favour of imposing them. Well, the speech changed a lot of minds. I'm sure that various foreign ministers went back to their respective countries and told their leaders what David Owen had said. And you know what? Sanctions were imposed.""
80. [^] ^a ^b ["Heath asks nation to be calm, fair, responsible, constructive"](#). The Times. April 29, 1968. p. 2. "The outstretched hand of Mr. Powell was rejected by the leader of a coloured delegation which tried to present a petition to him today at the ski lodge at Mont Tremblanc Quebec, where Mr. Powell was attending the seventeenth annual Bilderberg conference."
81. [^] ^a ^b ["Register of Lords Interests - Lord Roll of Ipsden"](#). [United Kingdom Parliament](#). 1 October 2004. Archived from [the original](#) on 2008-02-07.
82. [^] ^a ^b ["Lords Hansard Written Answers text for 19 Mar 1996"](#). 1996-03-19. Retrieved 2010-09-19.
83. [^] ^a ^b [Paddy Ashdown](#) (November 2000). *The Ashdown Diaries: 1988-1997*. Allen Lane. [ISBN 0713995106](#).
84. [^] ^a ^b ^c [Bill Hayton](#) (29 September 2005). ["Inside the secretive Bilderberg Group"](#). [BBC](#).
85. [^] ^a ^b ["Clinton; Tony and Gordon just have to work this out; The former president, who is expected to play a starring role at the Labour conference, talks to Toby Harnden about the party; its future and its leadership contest"](#). The Spectator. September 16, 2006. p. 14. "In fact, Clinton, then governor of Arkansas and considered a rank outsider for the 1992 presidential race, first met Brown in June 1991 at the Bilderberg conference in the Black Forest resort of Baden-Baden. By all accounts, the two clicked."
86. [^] ^a ^b ["Twenty-fifth Bilderberg meeting held"](#). Facts on File World News Digest. May 14, 1977. "Alec Douglas-Home, the former prime minister of Great Britain, chaired the conference, replacing Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who had previously headed the Bilderberg invitation committee. (Prince Bernhard had resigned all public positions after the 1976 Lockheed scandal.)"
87. [^] ^a ^b ["News in Brief"](#). The Times. April 26, 1975. p. 5. "Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader and Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, were among participants in the twenty second Bilderberg Conference."
88. [^] ^a ^b ^c ^d ["Conspiracists Push 'Bilderberger' Theory" March 15 2008](#)
89. [^] ^a ^b ["George W. Ball Papers, 1880s-1994"](#) (PDF). Princeton University Library. Archived from [the original](#) on 2007-06-24.

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"What do Henry Kissinger, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Colin Powell, David Rockefeller and IBM Chairman Louis Gerstner have in common?

"They are among 120 dignitaries from Europe and the United States meeting at a secluded resort in Georgia as part of an organization called the Bilderberg Group.

"For four days that began Thursday, the group's influential guests are part of an informal think tank on world issues."

114. [^ "Bilderberg 2011: The Good, The Bad, and the Incredibly Wealthy". *The Guardian*. 15 June 2011.](#)
115. [^ "Bilderberg 2011: The Good, The Bad, and the Incredibly Wealthy". *The Guardian*. 15 June 2011.](#)
116. [^ "Bilderberg 2011: The Good, The Bad, and the Incredibly Wealthy". *The Guardian*. 15 June 2011.](#)
117. [^ Richard Pipes \(2006\). *Vixi: Memoirs of a Non-Belonger*. Yale University Press. ISBN 0300109652. "when I attended the Bilderberg meeting at the Bürgenstock Hotel above Lake Lucerne"](#)
118. [^ Goddard, Jacqui \(February 15, 2004\). "Prufrock: Rulers of the world prepare to expel Black". London: The Sunday Times. Retrieved 2010-05-08. "The final straw came this month when Black said he would sue Henry Kissinger and \[Richard Perle\]\(#\), both directors of Hollinger and fellow Bilderbergers. Now he is going to be pressed to leave the group."](#)
119. [^ "Leaders' meeting exclusive, secret: Chance for relaxed discussions". Hamilton Spectator \(Ontario, Canada\). June 1, 1996.](#)
120. [^ "Seidenfaden gives Bilderberg insight". *Politiken*. 2011-06-17. Retrieved 2011-06-19.](#)

This page was last modified on **3 January 2012** at 18:41.

<http://www.trilateral.org/>



Welcome to the web site of the Trilateral Commission. The Commission was originally created in 1973 to bring together experienced leaders within the private sector to discuss issues of global concern at a time when communication and cooperation between Europe, North America, and Asia were lacking. The Commission has grown since its early days to include members from more countries in these regions, and it continues to find that study and dialogue about the pressing problems facing our planet remain as important today as in 1973. Problems and threats have changed, but their importance has only increased due to the more interconnected and interdependent world in which we now live.

Although we are a small group, and meet only a few times each year, we see great value in a web site that offers scholars, researchers, and the general public access to our proceedings and the major reports submitted during our meetings. We also offer links to the writings of our membership and their individual views on issues of concern, and we provide some basic information about the Commission, its history, and activities. We have also begun to present short video interviews and other information connected to our meetings.

The first video pieces relate to a panel discussion on the threat of drug cartels in the NAFTA zone held during the 2011 North American Regional Meeting in Toronto. To view them, just click on the names below: [Paula Dobriansky](#), former U.S. under secretary of state for democracy and global affairs

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[John Negroponte](#), former U.S. ambassador to Honduras and Mexico

[Jean Daudelin](#), assistant professor, Carleton University

[Jorge Tello](#), former executive secretary of Mexico's National Public Security System.

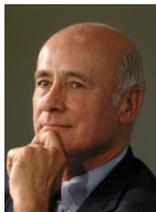
We also present here a compilation of essays on "Europe's Response to the Arab Awakening" which will be of interest to many of you. These essays were prepared by five European members of the Commission for the recent European Regional Meeting in The Hague. Click [here](#) to read their views of this significant turn in current affairs.

With best wishes for the coming new year,



Mario Monti

European Chair



Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

North American Chair



Yotaro Kobayashi

Pacific Asian Chair

About the Trilateral Commission

The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973 by private citizens of Japan, Europe (European Union countries), and North America (United States and Canada) to foster closer cooperation among these core industrialized areas of the world with shared leadership responsibilities in the wider international system. Originally established for three years, our work has been renewed for successive triennia (three-year periods), most recently for a triennium to be completed in 2012.

When the first triennium of the Trilateral Commission was launched in 1973, the most immediate purpose was to draw together—at a time of considerable friction among governments—the highest-level unofficial group possible to look together at the key common problems facing our three areas. At a deeper level, there was a sense that the United States was no longer in such a singular leadership position as it had been in earlier post-World War II years, and that a more shared form of leadership—including Europe and Japan in particular—would be needed for the international system to navigate successfully the major challenges of the coming years.

The “growing interdependence” that so impressed the founders of the Trilateral Commission in the early 1970s has deepened into “globalization.” That interdependence also has ensured that the current financial crisis has been felt in every nation and region. It has fundamentally shaken confidence in the international system as a whole. The Commission sees in these unprecedented events a stronger need for shared thinking and leadership by the Trilateral countries, who (along with the principal international organizations) have been the primary

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anchors of the wider international system. Doubts about whether and how this primacy will change do not diminish, and, if anything, have intensified the need to take into account the dramatic transformation of the international system. As relations with other countries become more mature—and power more diffuse—the leadership tasks of the original Trilateral countries need to be carried out with others to an increasing extent.

As our conviction has strengthened that the Commission remains more important than ever in helping our countries fulfill their shared leadership responsibilities in the wider international system, we too have changed. Our membership has widened to reflect broader changes in the world. Thus, the Japan Group has become a Pacific Asian Group, including in 2009 both Chinese and Indian members. Mexican members have been added to the North American Group. The European Group continues to widen in line with the enlargement of the EU. We are also continuing in this triennium our practice of inviting a number of participants from other key areas.

<http://www.trilateral.org/go.cfm?do=Page.View&pid=12>

About the Trilateral Commission - North American Region

Chairman: [Joseph S. Nye, Jr.](#)
Deputy Chairman: [Allan E. Gottlieb](#)
Deputy Chairman: [Jaime Serra](#)
Director: Michael J. O'Neil

Secretariat

1156 Fifteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC
20005
telephone: 1-202-467-5410
telefax: 1-202-467-5415
email: contactus@trilateral.org



The North American Group of the Trilateral Commission includes a maximum of 87 U.S. members, 20 Canadian members and, since 2000, 13 Mexican members.

The first North American chairman was Gerard C. Smith (1973-77), former head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and chief U.S. negotiator of SALT I, who served as Trilateral chairman until he entered the Carter administration as ambassador-at-large in charge of non-proliferation Issues. The next North American chairman was David Rockefeller (1977-91), who had played a central role in the formation of the Trilateral Commission and continues to be recognized as founder and honorary chairman. He was succeeded by Paul A. Volcker (1991-2001), former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, who now serves as honorary North American chairman. Thomas S. Foley, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (1989-95) and former U.S. ambassador to Japan (1997-2001), served as North American chairman from 2001 to 2008. He was

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succeeded by Joseph S. Nye, Jr., University Distinguished Service Professor and former dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, as well as former U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs and former chairman of the National Intelligence Council.

The North American deputy chairmen are the heads of the Canadian and Mexican groups. On the Canadian side, Jean-Luc Pepin was succeeded in 1977 by Mitchell Sharp, former foreign minister, when Mr. Sharp left government service and Mr. Pepin returned to government service. J.H. (Jake) Warren, former ambassador to the United States and coordinator for multilateral trade negotiations, served from 1986 to 1990. He was succeeded by Allan Gotlieb, former ambassador to the United States. Lorenzo Zambrano, chairman of the Board and chief executive officer of CEMEX, became deputy chairman in 2000 when the North American group widened to include Mexican members, and he served in that capacity until he resigned in 2011. He was succeeded by Jaime Serra, chairman of SAI Law and Economics and founder of Aklara, the Arbitration Center of Mexico, and the NAFTA Fund of Mexico.

The North American Group has a ceiling of 120 members.

In the case of the U.S. group, a rotation system generally brings 5-10 openings in the membership each year under the ceiling of 87. A major portion of the summer annual meeting of North American Executive Committee members is devoted to consideration of U.S. membership invitees, based on a list of candidates many times larger than the number of openings. If a member is elected or appointed to a position in the Executive Branch of the U.S. government, he or she steps down as a member, given the Commission's unofficial character.

The Canadian Group of 20 members and the Mexican Group of 13 members are separately organized for membership choices and for raising and expending the funds which cover participation of their members, a contribution to program, and hosting costs for events in Canada or Mexico, such as the North American regional meetings.

A grant from the Ford Foundation was the most important part of the financial base for the Trilateral Commission in the first triennium (1973-76). Fundraising has been decentralized since that time. In the United States, an increasing portion of the needed financial support has come from a wide range of corporations. Foundation support remains important, particularly for some project work, as does the support of some individuals.

The North American Group held its first regional conference in New York City in 2002. Subsequent regional meetings were held in Toronto (2003), Cancun (2004), Boston (2005), Montreal (2006), Cancun (2007), Washington (2008), Ottawa (2009), and Mexico City (2010). The 2011 regional meeting was held in Toronto.

The North American group also holds occasional dinner or luncheon events organized around a particular speaker. The presentations of these speakers are often transcribed for broader circulation.

[Tributes to Henry D. Owen](#), by Georges Berthoin and Charles Heck, Trilateral Commission, November 21, 2011

Click here to download the [North American Membership List](#).
http://www.trilateral.org/download/file/NA_list_12-11.pdf

About the Trilateral Commission - European Region

Chairman: [Mario Monti](#)

Deputy Chairman: [Vladimir Dlouhy](#)

Deputy Chairman: [Michael Fuchs](#)

European Director: Paul Révay

Secretariat

5, rue de Téhéran,
75008 Paris, France
telephone: 33-1: 45 61 42 80
telefax: 33-1/ 45 61 42 87



The framework of the Trilateral European group is the European Union (formerly the European Community). Thus the country coverage of the Trilateral European group has grown as the European Community has grown. The Trilateral Commission was launched in mid-1973, shortly after the enlargement which brought Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Ireland into the European Community. Spanish and Portuguese groups were formed in the late 1970s, looking toward the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community. In more recent years, Austrian, Swedish and Finnish groups have been formed in advance of the entry of these countries into European Union. A Greek group was added. Several additional national groups were formed as the European Union was enlarged to Central and Eastern Europe. The one non-EU country represented in the Trilateral European group is Norway. The consultations that went into the formation of the Trilateral Commission took place before the 1972 referendum which unexpectedly went against Norway joining the European Community.

The 170-member ceiling for the European group is divided into national quotas. Germany has a quota of 20; France, Italy, and the United Kingdom each have a quota of 18; and Spain has a quota of 12. The remaining national quotas range from 6 to 1.

The European Group, enlarged to Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus in 1998 and to Bulgaria and Romania in 2004, meets once a year in Autumn: Prague (2002), Porto (2003), Berlin (2004), Madrid (2005), Turin (2006), Vienna (2007), Paris, during France's EU Presidency (2008), Oslo (2009), Bucharest (2010), and The Hague (2011).

European members beyond their "Trilateral" engagement are also committed to the pursuit of the European unification process. The idea of a unifying Europe playing a larger role on the global stage has been a driving idea in the Trilateral Commission from the beginning. Several of the leaders of the Trilateral European group worked closely with Jean Monnet and have had prominent roles in the building of Europe, including Max Kohnstamm (European Chairman, 1973-76), Georges Berthoin (European Chairman, 1976-92), and François

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Duchene (European Deputy Chairman, 1974-76). Other former European Deputy Chairmen include Egidio Ortona and Garret FitzGerald.

The emphasis given to a unifying Europe playing a larger role on the global stage makes it therefore important for the European group to meet on its own as well as with North American and Japanese colleagues.

Mario Monti, elected European Chairman for the current 2010-2012 Triennium, will be assisted in his tasks at the helm of the European Group by an *Advisory Group* chaired by Lord Kerr.

Several national groups within the European Group have activities of their own and meet intermittently. [The German Group](#), for example, organizes discussion meetings with the German members of the Trilateral Commission and important policy-makers and occasionally publishes [Trilateral reports in German translation](#).

[A Tribute to Mario Vargas Llosa, European Member, 1997-2009](#)

[In Memoriam: Max Kohnstamm, a tribute by Georges Berthoin, Oct. 2010](#)

Click here to download the [European Region Membership List](#).
http://www.trilateral.org/download/file/EU_list_12-11.pdf

<http://www.trilateral.org/go.cfm?do=Page.View&pid=13>

About the Trilateral Commission - The Pacific Asian Group

Chairman: [Yotaro Kobayashi](#)

Deputy Chairman: [Han Sung-Joo](#)

Deputy Chairman: [Jusuf Wanandi](#)

Director: Tadashi Yamamoto

Secretariat

Japan Center for International Exchange
4-9-17 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106,
Japan

telephone: 81-3: 3446-7781

telex: 81-3: 3443-7580

<http://www.jcie.or.jp>



The former Japanese Group of the Trilateral Commission was widened in 2000 to become the Pacific Asian Group. For the 2009-2012 Triennium, the Pacific Asian Group is composed of over 100 members from Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the five original ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the

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Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), joined by the People's Republic of China and India in 2009. Triennium Participants from Taiwan have also participated.

Yotaro Kobayashi, former chairman of the Board of Fuji-Xerox, is the fifth person to serve as chairman of this group since the Trilateral Commission was created in 1973. The first Japanese chairman was Takeshi Watanabe, who took up his Trilateral duties shortly after stepping down as president of the Asian Development Bank. The second was Isamu Yamashita, chairman of Mitsui Shipbuilding and Engineering. He was succeeded by Akio Morita, founder and chairman of the SONY Corporation. Kiichi Miyazawa, former prime minister of Japan and a leading figure in the Trilateral Commission from its beginning, became acting Japanese chairman in late 1993. He passed the baton to Yotaro Kobayashi in January 1997.

The Japanese deputy chairman for many years was Nobuhiko Ushiba, former ambassador to the United States and later minister for external economic affairs. He was succeeded by Yoshio Okawara, who had also served as ambassador to the United States. Shijuro Ogata, former deputy governor of the Bank of Japan for international affairs, succeeded Ambassador Okawara, served as deputy chairman until December 2010, and was succeeded in 2011 by Jusuf Wanandi, co-founder and vice chairman, Board of Trustees, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Indonesia), Jakarta. Han Sung-Joo, former Korean foreign minister, became a deputy chairman of the Pacific Asian Group in 2000. After being appointed ambassador to the United States in 2003, he was succeeded by Kim Kyung-Won, president of the Seoul Forum for International Affairs and former ambassador to the United States and the United Nations. Professor Han, former president of Korea University and current chairman of The Asan Institute for Policy Studies, returned to the leadership of the Pacific Asian Group when he succeeded Kim Kyung-Won as deputy chairman in 2006.

Tadashi Yamamoto, founder and president of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), has been the director on the Japanese/Pacific Asian side of the Trilateral Commission from the beginning. The JCIE staff serves as the Trilateral Pacific Asian Group staff, among many other tasks. The multiple involvements of the Japan Center for International Exchange can be explored on the [JCIE Website](#).

The Pacific Asian Group held their first regional conference in Seoul, Korea in November, 2000. Subsequent regional meetings were held in Hong Kong (2001), Singapore (2002), Tokyo (2003), Bangkok (2004), Beijing (2005), Bali, Indonesia (2006), Singapore (2007), Shanghai (2008), Seoul (2009), and Tokyo (2010). The 2011 regional meeting will be held in Bali, Indonesia.

[JCIE launches Japan NGO Earthquake Relief and Recovery Fund](#), message from Tadashi Yamamoto, March 16, 2011

Click here to download the [Pacific Asian membership list](#). [http://www.trilateral.org/download/file/PA_list_12-11%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.trilateral.org/download/file/PA_list_12-11%20(2).pdf)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilateral_Commission

Trilateral Commission

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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The Trilateral Commission



Founder(s) [David Rockefeller](#)

Type Annual conference

Founded 1973

Location Washington, DC; Paris; Tokyo

Key people Joseph S. Nye, Jr. (North American chairman)
[Mario Monti](#) (European chairman)
Yotaro Kobayashi (Pacific Asian chairman)

Members More than 390

Website <http://www.trilateral.org/>

The **Trilateral Commission** is a non-governmental, non-partisan discussion group founded by [David Rockefeller](#) in July 1973, to foster closer cooperation among the [United States](#), [Europe](#) and [Japan](#).

Contents

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Sensing a profound discord between the nations of North America, Europe and Japan, the Trilateral Commission was founded to foster substantive political and economic dialogue across the world. To quote its founding declaration:

- "Growing interdependence is a fact of life of the contemporary world. It transcends and influences national systems...While it is important to develop greater cooperation among all the countries of the world, Japan, Western Europe, and North America, in view of their great weight in the world economy and their massive relations with one another, bear a special responsibility for developing effective cooperation, both in their own interests and in those of the rest of the world."
- "To be effective in meeting common problems, Japan, Western Europe, and North America will have to consult and cooperate more closely, on the basis of equality, to develop and carry out coordinated policies on matters affecting their common interests...refrain from unilateral actions incompatible with their interdependence and from actions detrimental to other regions... [and] take advantage of existing international and regional organizations and further enhance their role."
- "The Commission hopes to play a creative role as a channel of free exchange of opinions with other countries and regions. Further progress of the developing countries and greater improvement of East-West relations will be a major concern."^[1]

[Zbigniew Brzezinski](#), a professor at [Columbia University](#) and a Rockefeller advisor who was a specialist on international affairs, left his post to organize the group along with:

- [Henry D. Owen](#) (a Foreign Policy Studies Director with the Brookings Institution)
- [George S. Franklin](#)
- [Robert R. Bowie](#) (of the Foreign Policy Association and Director of the Harvard Center for International Affairs)
- [Gerard C. Smith](#) (Salt I negotiator, Rockefeller in-law, and its first North American Chairman)
- [Marshall Hornblower](#) (former partner at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering)
- [William Scranton](#) (former Governor of Pennsylvania)
- [Edwin Reischauer](#) (a professor at Harvard)
- [Max Kohnstamm](#) (European Policy Centre)

Other founding members included [Alan Greenspan](#) and [Paul Volcker](#), both later heads of the [Federal Reserve](#) system.

The Trilateral Commission initiated its biannual meetings schedule in October 1973 in [Tokyo](#). In May 1976, the first plenary meeting of all of the Commission's regional groups took place in [Kyoto](#). It was through these early meetings that the group affected its most profound influence, the integration of Japan into the global political conversation. Before these exchanges, the country was much more isolated on the international stage.^[1] Since its founding, the discussion group has produced an official journal called *Dialogue*.

[edit] Membership

Membership is divided into numbers proportionate to each of the think tank's three regional areas. The North American continent is represented by 120 members (20 Canadian, 13 Mexican and 87 U.S. citizens). The European group has reached its limit of 170 members from almost every country on the continent; the ceilings for individual countries are 20 for Germany, 18 for France, Italy and the United Kingdom, 12 for Spain and 1–6 for the rest. At first, Asia and Oceania were represented only by Japan. However, in 2000 the Japanese group of 85 members expanded itself, becoming the Pacific Asia group, composed of 117 members: 75 [Japanese](#), 11

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South Koreans, 7 **Australian** and **New Zealand** citizens, and 15 members from the **ASEAN** nations (**Indonesia**, **Malaysia**, **Philippines**, **Singapore** and **Thailand**). The Pacific Asia group also included 9 members from **China**, **Hong Kong** and **Taiwan**. Currently, the Trilateral Commission claims "more than 100" Pacific Asian members.^[1]

While Trilateral Commission **bylaws** exclude persons holding public office from membership,^[2] the think tank draws its participants from political, business, and academic worlds. The group is chaired by three individuals, one from each of the regions represented. The current chairmen are former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs **Joseph S. Nye, Jr.**, Prime Minister of **Italy** (Italian: Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri, literally President of the Council of Ministers) and of **Bocconi University**, **Milan**, **Mario Monti**, and Chief Corporate Adviser, **Fuji Xerox Company, Ltd.** **Yotaro Kobayashi**.^[3]

[edit] Criticisms

A number of prominent thinkers and politicians have criticized the Trilateral Commission as encroaching on national sovereignty. On the right, in his book *With No Apologies*, former conservative Republican Senator **Barry Goldwater** lambasted the discussion group by suggesting it was "a skillful, coordinated effort to seize control and consolidate the four centers of power: political, monetary, intellectual, and ecclesiastical...[in] the creation of a worldwide economic power superior to the political governments of the nation-states involved."^[4] On the left, linguist **Noam Chomsky** criticized a report issued by the Commission called *The Crisis of Democracy* for suggesting that there was an "excess of democracy" in the 1960s and defending "the ideology of the liberal wing of the **state capitalist** ruling elite". Chomsky also argues that the group had an undue influence in the **administration of Jimmy Carter**.^[5]

[edit] Conspiracy theories

While the Trilateral Commission is only one of many similar think tanks on the right and left, many notable **conspiracy theorists** believe the organization to be a central plotter of a **world government** or **synarchy**. As documented by journalist **Jonathan Kay**, **9/11 conspiracy theorist** Luke Rudkowski gained notoriety in April 2007 by interrupting a lecture by former Trilateral Commission director **Zbigniew Brzezinski** and accusing the organization and a few others of having orchestrated the attacks of September 11th to initiate a new world order.^[6] Conservative and right-wing groups such as the **John Birch Society** and conspiracy theorists such as American **paleoconservative** **Alex Jones** also regularly tout this idea.^{[7][8]}

[edit] See also

- **Internationalism (politics)**
- **Rockefeller family**

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This article's **citation style may be unclear**. The references used may be made clearer with a different or consistent style of **citation**, **footnoting**, or **external linking**. (September 2009)

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- [Official website](#)
- [Current Membership](#) August 2011 <http://www.trilateral.org/download/file/TC%20list%208-11%20%285%29.pdf>
- [Is the Trilateral Commission the secret organization that runs the world?](#) (Fact check against conspiracy theories from *The Straight Dope*, 1987)

This page was last modified on **9 January 2012** at 16:41.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illuminati>

Illuminati

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



[Adam Weishaupt](#), founder

This article is about the group. For the film, see [Illuminata \(film\)](#). For other uses, see [Illuminati \(disambiguation\)](#).



This article is in the process of being translated from [Illuminaten](#) in the German-language Wikipedia. In order to reduce edit conflicts, please consider not editing it while translation is in progress.

The **Illuminati** (plural of [Latin](#) *illuminatus*, "enlightened") is a name given to several groups, both real (historical) and fictitious. Historically the name refers to the **Bavarian Illuminati**, an [Enlightenment](#)-era [secret society](#) founded on May 1, 1776. In more modern contexts the name refers to a purported conspiratorial organization which is alleged to mastermind events and control world affairs through [governments](#) and [corporations](#) to establish a [New World Order](#). In this context the *Illuminati* are usually represented as a modern version or continuation of the [Bavarian](#) Illuminati.

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History

The movement was founded on May 1, 1776, in [Ingolstadt](#) ([Upper Bavaria](#)) as the Order of the Illuminati, with an initial membership of five,^[1] by [Jesuit](#)-taught [Adam Weishaupt](#) (d. 1830),^[2] who was the first lay professor of [canon law](#) at the [University of Ingolstadt](#).^[3] It was made up of [freethinkers](#) as an offshoot of the [Enlightenment](#) and seems to have been modeled on the [Freemasons](#).^[4] The Illuminati's members took a vow of secrecy and pledged obedience to their superiors. Members were divided into three main classes, each with several degrees, and many Illuminati chapters drew membership from existing Masonic lodges.

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Originally Weishaupt had planned the order to be named the "Perfectibilists".^[1] The group has also been called the Bavarian Illuminati and its ideology has been called "Illuminism". Many influential intellectuals and progressive politicians counted themselves as members, including [Ferdinand of Brunswick](#) and the diplomat [Xavier von Zwack](#), the second-in-command of the order.^[5] The order had branches in most European countries: it reportedly had around 2,000 members over the span of ten years.^[3] It attracted literary men such as [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#) and [Johann Gottfried Herder](#) and the reigning dukes of [Gotha](#) and [Weimar](#).

In 1777 [Karl Theodor](#) became ruler of Bavaria. He was a proponent of [Enlightened Despotism](#) and his government banned all [secret societies](#) including the Illuminati. Internal rupture and panic over succession preceded its downfall, which was affected by the [Secular Edict](#) made by the Bavarian government.^[3] The March 2, 1785 edict "seems to have been deathblow to the Illuminati in Bavaria." Weishaupt had fled and documents and internal correspondences, seized in 1786 and 1787, were subsequently published by the government in 1787.^[6] Von Zwack's home was searched to disclose much of the group's literature.^[5]

Another reorganisation took place in 1780 after the Lower Saxon noble Adolph Freiherr Knigge joined the Illuminati. In 1782 he gave a structure similar to the Freemason lodges to the order that had until that point, as Weishaupt himself conceded, not actually existed anywhere but in Weishaupt's head. Leadership of the order was given to a so-called Areopagus that consisted of Weishaupt, Knigge and others.^[citation needed]

This new organisation allowed the Illuminati to recruit numerous Freemasons and infiltrate entire lodges against the backdrop of a crisis that the higher grades of the German Freemasonry were going through after the collapse of the Order of Strict Observance in 1776.^[citation needed] This relatively apolitical and romanticising movement claimed succession from the Knights Templars and had enabled Karl Gotthelf von Hund to get the German lodges under his leadership. For years he had been claiming to be in contact with "Unknown Superiors" who had let him in on the deepest secret of Freemasonry. However, after no such "Secret Superiors" contacted the lodges after Hund's death in 1776, the lodge members were perplexed. At the great Freemasons' Convent of the Strict Observance, that was held in Wilhelmsbad from July 16 to September 1, 1782, Knigge and Franz Dietrich von Ditfurth, the second Illuminati representative and a most radical proponent of the Enlightenment, could claim the opinion leadership for their order. The templar system was given up and the Order of the Golden and Rosy Cross, itself trying to succeed the Order of Strict Observance, remained in the minority. The two Illuminati even succeeded in winning over Johann Christoph Bode, one of the leading representatives of the Strict Observance.^[citation needed]

As a result, the disagreement between Weishaupt and Knigge intensified so much that it threatened to break the Order apart. Therefore an arbitral tribunal called a "Congress" was convened in Weimar in February 1784. It came as a surprise for Knigge that the "Congress", in which among others Goethe, Johann Gottfried Herder and Duke Ernst of Saxe-Gotha participated, judged that a completely new Areopagus should be created. Both heads of the Order were supposed to resign from their positions of power. This seemed to be an acceptable compromise. It meant an obvious defeat for Knigge, as the founder of the order would probably still have the same influence even without the formal chairmanship of the Aeropagus. Silence and the return of all papers was agreed upon and Knigge left the Illuminati on the first of July 1784. From this point on he turned away from the "fashionable foolishness" of trying to improve the world with secret societies. Weishaupt for his part handed over the leadership of the Order to Johann Martin Count of Stolberg-Roßla.^[citation needed]

While members of societies were quarrelling amongst themselves, secret societies had attracted the attention of the Bavarian authorities. They deemed the objectives of progressive-minded secret societies suspicious because they concentrated on changing the traditional order and on establishing a "rational state" by infiltrating public

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offices. On June 22, 1784, the Bavarian electoral Prince Charles Theodore consequently prohibited any "communities, societies and associations", which had been founded without his approval as a sovereign ruler. With the insistence of Father Frank, the chancellor Baron of Krettmayr, the Rosicrucian Baron of Törring and other people at court, another edict was released on March 2, 1785, which explicitly mentioned the names Illuminati and Freemason. It banned them for reason of treason and heresy. During house searches various documents of the order that showed further circumstantial evidence for their radical objectives were confiscated. Documents which were found with a deceased courier gave away information about names of several members. In two letters to the bishop of Freising, sent within the same year (June 18 and November 12), Pope Pius VI declared membership of the order to be incompatible with the Catholic faith. ^[citation needed]

Organisation

The most valuable secret of the Illuminati was their own moral system of authority, which was already practiced inside the order, but was now supposed to be applied on the outside world. The deceit and patronizing of the lower-positioned members soon provoked disagreements within the order. This was caused by Weishaupt's aim to perfect the individual by encouraging it to practice more self-discipline and covert leadership. He assumed that for the improvement of the individual the first necessary step was to know its secrets. Probably, he adopted this concept from his arch-enemy, the Jesuits, which were known for their slavish obedience and their gentle but still effective leadership by means of confession. Actually, according to Illuminati-expert Agethen, the order stayed in a dialectic entanglement with its opponents: they used Jesuit methods of investigating the conscience in order to emancipate the individual from the intellectual and spiritual domination of the church; they also used a ranking system and mystical fuss, similar to the enthusiastic irrationality of the Rosicrucians, to further the success of Enlightenment and rationality. They subjected their members to an utterly totalitarian monitoring and psychological techniques in order to ultimately free mankind of the despotism of princes and kings.

Members

This temporary success cannot hide the fact that the Illuminati order mainly consisted of quite subordinate academics who maybe joined the order especially in the hope of more career opportunities. Indeed their hope correlated with Weishaupt's concept of infiltration. Of course new members were ignorant about those intentions. The order hardly achieved its actual aim, namely to form the intellectual and political elite of society. Apart from the mentioned exceptions (Goethe, Herder, Knigge), all the really important representatives of the German "Spätaufklärung" either completely absented themselves from the order (as Schiller, Kant, Lessing, but also Lavater whom Knigge unsuccessfully tried to convince of joining for a long time) or shortly afterwards quit, just as Friedrich Nicolai did, out of disappointment about the rigid structures within the order. "Bookworm Weishaupt and his companions, utopists in a good and a ridiculous way" were never considered a real threat for the state of Bavaria but "the challenge for the old regimes was of course still too strong, even in this moderate form."

Barruel and Robison

Between 1797 and 1798 [Augustin Barruel's *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism*](#) and [John Robison's *Proofs of a Conspiracy*](#) both publicized the theory that the Illuminati had survived and represented an ongoing international conspiracy, including the claim that it was behind the [French Revolution](#). Both books proved to be very popular, spurring reprints and paraphrases by others^[7] (a prime example is *Proofs of the Real Existence, and Dangerous Tendency, Of Illuminism* by Reverend [Seth Payson](#), published in 1802).^[8] Some response was

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information critical, such as [Jean-Joseph Mounier's](#) *On the Influence Attributed to Philosophers, Free-Masons, and to the Illuminati on the Revolution of France*.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Robison and Barruel's works made their way to the United States. Across [New England](#), Reverend [Jedidiah Morse](#) and others sermonized against the Illuminati, their sermons were printed, and the matter followed in newspapers. The concern died down in the first decade of the 1800s, though had some revival during the [Anti-Masonic movement](#) of the 1820s and 30s.^[1]

Modern conspiracy theory

Main articles: [Conspiracy theory](#) and [New World Order \(conspiracy theory\)](#)

Writers such as [Mark Dice](#),^[9] [David Icke](#), [Texe Marrs](#), Ryan Burke, Jüri Lina and Morgan Gricar have argued that the Bavarian Illuminati survived, possibly to this day. Many of these theories propose that world events are being controlled and manipulated by a [secret society](#) calling itself the Illuminati.^{[10][11]} [Conspiracy theorists](#) have claimed that many notable people were or are members of the Illuminati. Presidents of the United States are a common target for such claims.^{[12][13]}

A key figure in the [conspiracy theory](#) movement, [Myron Fagan](#), devoted his latter years to finding evidence that a variety of historical events from [Waterloo](#), [The French Revolution](#), President [John F. Kennedy](#)'s assassination and an alleged communist plot to hasten the [New World Order](#) by infiltrating the [Hollywood](#) film industry, were all orchestrated by the Illuminati.^{[14][15]}

Modern Illuminati

In addition to the supposed shadowy and secret organization, several modern fraternal groups claim to be the "heirs" of the Bavarian Illuminati and have openly used the name "Illuminati" in founding their own rites. Some, such as the multiple groups that call themselves by some variation on "The Illuminati Order",^{[16][17]} use the name directly in the name of their organization, while others, such as the [Ordo Templi Orientis](#), use the name as a grade of initiation within their organization.

Popular culture

Main article: [Illuminati in popular culture](#)

Novels

The Illuminati are often illustrated in famous novels, such as the "Illiminatus" trilogy by [Robert Shea](#) and [Robert Anton Wilson](#), in *Foucault's Pendulum* by [Umberto Eco](#) or in *Angels and Demons* by [Dan Brown](#). The authors mentioned above do not rely on serious sources which provide well proven historic information about the order, but rather on conspiracy theories which are in circulation about the order. This is why they are described as evil villains as well as mysterious and diabolic conspirators. However this speculative information about the Illuminati is often mistaken as the truth. Neither Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) nor Bernini (1598-1680) was a member of the Illuminati, which they are said to be in Brown's novel, and neither followed the thousand-year old tradition of Celtic druids, assassins and Templers, who had the intention to find the "umbilicus telluris" (lat. hub of the world).

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information Symbols

The assumption that the Illuminati had owned certain symbols which they used to prove their existence to insiders and clever symbologists, can be widely found in novels. The following symbols are supposed to belong to those used by the Illuminati.

- the all-seeing eye
- the all-seeing eye as pyramidion (Great Seal of the United States)
- the number 23
- ambigrams

None of these symbols are historically related to the Illuminati. It is also highly implausible that an internationally operating conspiracy, as which the Illuminati are often labeled, would leave their symbols everywhere. The Illuminati only used one symbol for their "Secret School of Wisdom", the owl of Minerva.

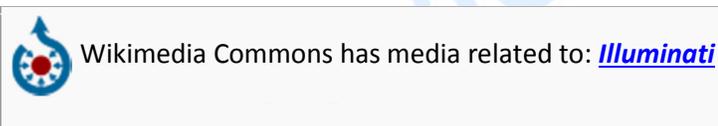
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Illuminati

The name assumed by the members of a [secret society](#) founded by Adam Weishaupt in 1776.

History

Weishaupt was born of [Westphalian parents](#) at [Ingolstadt](#) (Bavaria), on 6 February, 1748, and lost his [father](#) in 1753. Although [educated](#) at a [Jesuit school](#), he fell early under the influence of his [free-thinking](#) godfather, the director of the high-school of Ickstatt, to whom he owed his appointment as professor of [civil law](#) at the [University of Ingolstadt](#) in 1772. He was the first [layman](#) to occupy the chair of canon law at this [university](#) (1773), but, in consequence of the growing [rationalistic](#) influence which he exerted over the students both in his academic capacity and in his personal intercourse with them, he came into ever sharper collision with the loyal adherents of the [Church](#) and with those who were influential in government circles. As, furthermore, his obstinate nature led him to quarrel with almost everyone with whom his intercourse was at all prolonged, he felt the need of a powerful secret organization to support him in the conflict with his adversaries and in the execution of his [rationalistic](#) schemes along [ecclesiastical](#) and political lines. At first (1774) he aimed at an arrangement with the [Freemasons](#). Closer inquiry, however, destroyed his high estimate of this organization, and he resolved to found a new [society](#) which, surrounded with the greatest possible secrecy, would enable him most effectually to realize his aims and could at all times be precisely adapted to the needs of the age and local conditions.

His order was to be based entirely on [human nature](#) and observation; hence its degrees, ceremonies, and [statutes](#) were to be developed only gradually; then, in the light of experience and wider [knowledge](#), and with the co-operation of all the members, they were to be steadily improved. For his prototype he relied mainly on [Freemasonry](#), in accordance with which he modelled the degrees and ceremonial of his order. After the pattern of the [Society of Jesus](#), though distorting to the point of caricature its essential features, he built up the strictly hierarchical organization of his [society](#). "To utilize for good purposes the very means which that order employed for evil ends", such was, according to Philo (Endl. Erkl., 60 sq.), "his pet design". For the realization of his plans, he regarded as essential the "despotism of superiors" and the "blind, unconditional obedience of subordinates" (ibid.), along with the utmost secrecy and mysteriousness. At the beginning of 1777 he entered a [Masonic](#) Lodge and endeavoured, with other members of the order, to render [Freemasonry](#) as subservient as possible to his aims. As Weishaupt, however, despite all his activity as an agitator and the theoretic shrewdness he displayed, was at bottom only an unpractical bookworm, without the [necessary](#) experience of the world, his order for a long time made no headway. The accession to it, in 1780, of the [Masonic](#) agent Freiherr von Knigge (Philo), a man of wide experience and well known everywhere in [Masonic](#) circles, gave matters a decisive turn. In company with Weishaupt, who, as a [philosopher](#) and jurist, evolved the [ideas](#) and main lines of the constitution, Knigge began to elaborate rapidly the [necessary](#) degrees and [statutes](#) (until 1780 the Minerval degree was the only one in use), and at the same time worked vigorously to extend the order, for which within

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two years he secured 500 members. When the great international convention of [Freemasons](#) was held at Wilhelmsbad (16 July to 29 August, 1782) the "Illuminated Freemasonry", which Knigge and Weishaupt now proclaimed to be the only "pure" [Freemasonry](#), had already gained such a reputation that almost all the members of the convention clamoured for admission into the new institution. Particularly valuable for the order was the accession of Bode (Amelius), who commanded the highest respect in all [Masonic](#) circles. Assisted by Bode, Knigge laboured diligently to convert the whole [Masonic](#) body into "Illuminated Freemasons". A number of the most prominent representatives of [Freemasonry](#) and "enlightenment" became Illuminati, including, in 1783, Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, the foremost leader of [European Freemasonry](#) and the princely representative of the illuminism of his age. Other famous members were Goethe, [Herder](#), and Nicolai. The order was also propagated in [Sweden](#), [Russia](#), [Poland](#), [Denmark](#), [Hungary](#), [Austria](#), and [France](#). But in 1783 dissensions arose between Knigge and Weishaupt, which resulted in the final withdrawal of the former on 1 July, 1784. Knigge could no longer endure Weishaupt's pedantic domineering, which frequently assumed offensive forms. He accused Weishaupt of "Jesuitism", and suspected him of being "a [Jesuit](#) in disguise" (Nachtr., I, 129). "And was I", he adds, "to labour under his banner for [mankind](#), to lead men under the yoke of so stiff-necked a fellow?-- Never!"

Moreover, in 1783 the anarchistic tendencies of the order provoked public denunciations which led, in 1784, to interference on the part of the [Bavarian](#) Government. As the activity of the Illuminati still continued, four successive enactments were issued against them (22 June, 1784; 2 March, and 16 August, 1785; and 16 August, 1787), in the last of which recruiting for the order was forbidden under penalty of death. These measures put an end to the corporate existence of the order in [Bavaria](#), and, as a result of the publication, in 1786, of its degrees and of other documents concerning it--for the most part of a rather compromising nature--its further extension outside [Bavaria](#) became impossible. The spread of the spirit of the Illuminati, which coincided substantially with the general teachings of the "enlightenment", especially that of [France](#), was rather accelerated than retarded by the [persecution](#) in [Bavaria](#). In two letters addressed to the [Bishop](#) of Freising (18 June and 12 November, 1785) [Pius VI](#) had also condemned the order. As early as 16 February, 1785, Weishaupt had fled from Ingolstadt, and in 1787 he settled at Gotha. His numerous apologetic writings failed to exonerate either the order or himself. Being now the head of a numerous [family](#), his views on religious and political matters grew more sober. After 1787 he renounced all active connexion with [secret societies](#), and again drew near to the [Church](#), displaying remarkable [zeal](#) in the building of the [Catholic](#) church at Gotha. he died on 18 November, 1830, "reconciled with the [Catholic Church](#), which, as a youthful professor, he had doomed to death and destruction"--as the chronicle of the [Catholic parish](#) in Gotha relates.

Objects and organization

As exhibiting the objects and methods of the order, those documents are authoritative which are given in the first and second sections of works in the bibliography. The subsequent modifications of the system, announced by Weishaupt in his writings after 1785, are irrelevant, since the order had spread far and wide before these modifications were published. The above-named documents reveal as the real object of the Illuminati the elaboration and propagation of a new popular religion and, in the domain of politics, the gradual establishment of a universal democratic republic. In this [society](#) of the future everything, according to Weishaupt, was to be regulated by reason. By "enlightenment" men were to be liberated from their silly prejudices, to become "mature" or "moral", and thus to outgrow the religious and political tutelage of [Church and State](#), of "priest and prince". Morals was the [science](#) which makes man "mature", and renders him conscious of his dignity, his destiny, and his power. The principal means for effecting the "redemption" was found in unification, and this was to be brought about by "secret [schools](#) of wisdom". These "schools", he declares, "were always the archives of nature and of the [rights](#) of man; through their agency, man will recover from his fall; princes and nations,

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without [violence](#) to force them, will vanish from the earth; the [human race](#) will become one [family](#), and the world the habitation of rational beings. Moral [science](#) alone will effect these reforms 'imperceptibly'; every father will become, like Abraham and the [patriarchs](#), the [priest](#) and absolute lord of his household, and reason will be man's only code of law" ("Nachtr.", p. 80 sq.; repeated verbatim in Knigge, "Die neuesten Arbeiten", p. 38). This [redemption](#) of [mankind](#) by the restoration of the original "freedom and equality" through "illumination" and universal charity, fraternity, and tolerance, is likewise the [true](#) esoteric [doctrine](#) of Christ and his Apostles. Those in whom the "illuminating" grace of Christ is operative (cf. [Hebrews 6:4](#)) are the "Illuminati". The object of pure (i.e. illuminated) [Freemasonry](#) is none other than the propagation of the "enlightenment" whereby the seed of a new world will be so widely scattered that no efforts at extirpation, however violent, will avail to prevent the harvest ("Nachtr.", pp. 44, 118; "Die neuesten Arb.", pp. 11, 70). Weishaupt later declared (Nachtrag zu meiner Rechtfertigung, 77 sqq., 112 sqq.) that [Masonry](#) was the [school](#) from which "these [ideas](#)" emanated.

These objects of the order were to be revealed to members only after their promotion to the "priestly" degree (Nachtr., I, 68). The preliminary degrees were to serve for the selection, preparation, and concealment of the [true](#) "Illuminati"; the others were to open the way for the free religion and social organization of the future, in which all distinction of nations, creeds, etc., would disappear. The government of the order was administered by the superiors of the Minerval "churches", "provincials", "nationals", and "areopagites" (who constituted the supreme council), under the direction of Weishaupt as general of the order. Members were acquainted only with their immediate superiors, and only a few trusted members [knew](#) that Weishaupt was the founder and supreme head of the order. All the members were [obliged](#) to give themselves a training in accordance with the aims of the [society](#), and to make themselves useful, while the order, on its part, pledged itself to further their interests by the most effectual means. They were especially recommended to systematically observe [persons](#) and events, to acquire [knowledge](#), and to pursue scientific research in so far as it might serve the purposes of the order. Concerning all [persons](#) with whom they had intercourse they were to gather information, and on all matters which could possibly affect either themselves or the order they were to hand in sealed reports; these were opened by superiors unknown to the writers, and were, in substance, referred to the general. The purpose of this and other regulations was to enable the order to attain its object by securing for it a controlling influence in all directions, and especially by pressing culture and enlightenment into its service. All illuministic and official organs, the press, [schools](#), [seminaries](#), [cathedral](#) chapters (hence, too, all appointments to sees, [pulpits](#), and chairs) were to be brought as far as possible under the influence of the organization, and princes themselves were to be surrounded by a legion of enlightened men, in order not only to disarm their opposition, but also to compel their energetic co-operation. A complete transformation would thus be effected; public opinion would be controlled; "priests and princes" would find their hands tied; the marplots who ventured to interfere would repent their temerity; and the order would become an object of dread to all its enemies.

Concerning the influence actually exerted by the Illuminati, the statements of ex-Freemasons—L.A. Hossman, J.A. Starck, J. Robinson, the [Abbé Barruel](#), etc.--must be accepted with reserve, when they ascribe to the order a leading rôle in the outbreak and progress of the [French Revolution](#) of 1789. Their presentation of facts is often [erroneous](#), their inferences are untenable, and their theses not only lack [proof](#), but, in view of our present [knowledge](#) of the [French Revolution](#) (cf., e.g., Aulard, "Hist. pol. de la Rév. Franç.", 3rd ed., 1905; Lavisser-Rambaud, "Hist. générale", VIII, 1896), they are extremely improbable. On the other hand, once it had discarded, after 1786, the peculiarities of Weishaupt, "Illuminationism" was simply the carrying out of the principles of "enlightenment"; in other words, it was [Freemasonry](#) and practical [Liberalism](#) adapted to the requirements of the age; as such it exerted an important influence on the [intellectual](#) and social development of the nineteenth century. (See [MASONRY](#); [SECRET SOCIETIES](#).)

Sources

The documents, unquestionably genuine, that originated within the order and were published by the Bavarian government: *Einige Originalschr. des Ill. Ordens* (confiscated from Zwack) (Munich, 1787); with *Nachtrag* (seized from Baron Bassus) (in 2 parts, 1787); also documents made public through other agencies and recognized as genuine by Knigge and Weishaupt: *Der echte Illuminat* (Edessa, 1788); *Illuminatus dirigens oder schottischer Ritter* (1794); SPARTACUS AND PHILO (KNIGGE), *Die neuesten Arbeiten* (1794); PHILO, *Endliche Erklärung* (1788).

Declarations by members who left the order: COSANDEY, RENNER, AND GRÜNBERGER, *Drei merkwürdige Aussagen* (1786); IDEM (with UTZSCHNEIDER), *Grosse Absichten des Ill. Ordens*, with three appendices (1786).

In defence of the order: WEISHAUPT *Apologie der Illuminaten* (Frankfort and Leipzig, 1787); IDEM, *Vollständige Gessch. d. Verfolgung der Illuminaten in Bayern* (Frankfort and Leipzig, 1786); IDEM, *Pythagoras, oder Betrachtungen über die geheime Welt- and Regierungskunst* (1790).

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About this page

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Contact information. The editor of New Advent is Kevin Knight. My email address is feedback732@newadvent.org. (To help fight spam, this address might change occasionally.) Regrettably, I can't reply to every letter, but I greatly appreciate your feedback — especially notifications about typographical errors and inappropriate ads.

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<http://www.masonicinfo.com/illuminati.htm>



"**Illuminati**, Greek *illumination*, name given to those who submitted to Christian baptism. Those who were baptized were called "illuminati" or "illuminated ones" by the Ante-Nicene clergy, on the assumption that those who were instructed for baptism in the Apostolic faith had an enlightened understanding.

The Alumbrados, a mystical 16th-century Spanish sect, were among the societies that subsequently adopted the name illuminati. Later, the title of illuminati was used by a secret society founded by Adam Weishaupt that aimed to combat religious thinking and encourage rationalism."

---Microsoft Encarta2000

And in 2006 a reader wrote to advise that Microsoft was wrong and that the word actually comes from the Latin. Microsoft wrong? Perish the thought! It must be a Conspiracy!

Do they still exist? Apparently for some....

When creating this web site, we were under the belief that no one with any degree of education would believe there was a secret organization plotting for some 200+ years to control the world - and that the Masons were somehow a part of it. Boy, were we wrong!

Whenever conspiracy theory is spouted, the mysterious "Illuminati" (along with the Bilderburgers, The Trilateral Commission, the Council of Foreign Relations, and a plethora of others) are most often named as being responsible. Ironically, however, while many, many people can name those ostensibly belonging to the other conspiracy groups, the "Illuminati" is always left hanging as some secret, shadowy



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Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information entity which no one can quite describe. Interestingly too, no one can quite identify what specific acts can be attributed to them - everybody's got their own lists. And no one in 225 years seems to have left the organization to reveal its secrets. Pretty powerful stuff..... (If you're not hearing the theme music for the X-Files right now, it's a **CONSPIRACY!!!**)

Not one single defector in 5 or 6 generations: think about that! That'd be your great, great, great grandfather. I wonder how many people reading this page can actually name someone from their family who lived in the 1700s. Those who want to persuade us that a secret Illuminati cabal did lead the world from the Renaissance to the 19th century, and/or that it continues to do so today have a very difficult burden of proof and have never come close to producing documents or actual evidence that such is the case.

Illuminati history

The Illuminati was a movement founded on May 1, 1776. Much is, retrospectively, made of both the May 1st date later used by the Russian Revolution as well as the 1776 date tying in to the American Revolution. In fact, since there are only 365 days in a year, the Russian Revolution was bound to occur on one date or another which would/could have a connection to some devious scheme. By 1776, the American Revolution was well along in its planning stages and there's no credible link to a group founded in what is today near Munich, Germany. It was begun by Adam Weishaupt who was educated by the Jesuits, not unlike many who sought an education in those days and in that place. His organization was composed of those who were then espousing the ideals of the Enlightenment: freedom of thought and equality amongst classes of people, ideas that were considered by the authorities as being heretical and treacherous, particularly since logical outcome of equality would preclude the continued existence of monarchy. They were ideas which today, anyone reading this website likely espouses: the right to think as one wishes and to exercise - within the bounds of law - their freedom of choice. At that time, though, freethinking was an anathema to those in power and subjected those who would think such heretical thoughts to imprisonment.

While some have suggested that the Illuminati was created to overthrow government and/or that they were behind the American Revolution, such ideas are without any real merit. [Augustin Barruel](#)



Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information and [John Robison](#), even claimed that the Illuminati were behind the [French revolution](#), a claim that Jean-Joseph Mounier dismissed in his 1801 book *On the Influence Attributed to Philosophers, Free-Masons, and to the Illuminati on the Revolution of France*. Barruel and Robison also wrote - essentially copying each other - trying to tie in Freemasonry to the plot. It is important to note, however, that both writers recognized that it was ONLY the 'Grand Orient'-type of Freemasonry being practiced in parts of France and Germany that was involved: never what we now term 'regular/recognized' Freemasonry stemming from the Grand Lodge of England! Robison, who had joined Freemasonry in his youth, was roundly criticized for his work, even by the Encyclopedia Britannica for whom he had written articles!

In 1777, [Karl Theodor](#) became ruler of Bavaria. He was a proponent of [Enlightened Despotism](#) and, in 1784, his government banned all [secret societies](#), including the Illuminati. They had, by then, included the overthrow of political rulers in their goals and it's easy to understand how that could be a tad upsetting to those in charge. How many people were involved in the organization at that point is difficult to say. Some estimates are as high as 2000 but the simple fact is that once it was outlawed, the organization died - as would ANY organization where involvement could lead to a life in wretched prison confinement.

Weishaupt had modeled his group to some extent on Freemasonry and Illuminati chapters drew some of their membership from existing Masonic lodges.

Illuminati conspiracies



It is well established that by the end of the eighteenth century, the Illuminati had been effectively disbanded. That will surely burst the bubble of those who've come here seeking to find some buried bit of proof that they still exist and are today controlling the world.

Because of Freemasonry's inadvertent involvement and the misuse of Freemasonry by the Illuminati's founder who had become a Mason, the legends of its continued existence (and influence) persist into the twenty-first century tying the organizations somehow together. In fact, Weishaupt founded the organization and then tried to get the Freemasons involved. He achieved a very limited success in a couple of lodges but was soon seen as a 'user'

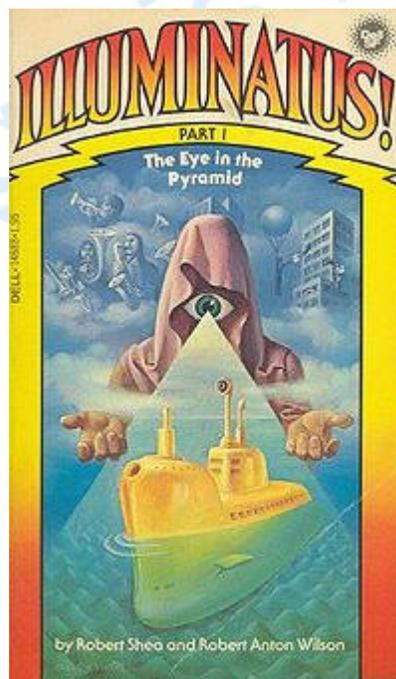
Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information and his group removed - not unlike the ['fake Masonry'](#) of today, actually!

In the 1950s and 1960s, members of the John Birch Society made much of this supposed 'shadow' organization, using it as an effective substitute for their anti-Semitism. Perhaps some of the confusion regarding the organization is due to the fact that over time, the word *illuminati* came to be used more expansively for many enthusiasts of Enlightenment, including but not limited to the followers of Emmanuel Swedenborg. Nevertheless, the Illuminati's connection with Freemasonry was date-specific (the late 1700s) and place-specific (what is now Germany); it had NO involvement in Freemasonry elsewhere despite fanciful claims. Even the oft-mentioned *'Proofs of A Conspiracy'* written in 1797 by Robison (and the root cause of so much furor in the United States as a result of one Boston Minister's fanciful claims made based on that book) notes that the Illuminati's brand of Freemasonry was **NOT** the same Freemasonry as found in England and from which all other legitimate Masonic lodges today can trace their ancestry.

Robert Anton Wilson

A HUGE amount of interest in the Illuminati stems, for those today, from Robert Anton Wilson (1932-2007). A self-described agnostic mystic, he was also an author, philosopher and, some would say, a comedian. Many endow Wilson with all-seeing power while others read his works as poking fun at society and those who would blindly read his writings as fact.

Because of his professed agnostic beliefs, the claim from the conspiracy-minded religious intolerants has even more fuel than someone else might have given it.



Wilson wrote some 35 books and many other works. His best-known work is the cult classic [The Illuminatus! Trilogy: The Eye in the Pyramid, The Golden Apple, Leviathan](#) (1975) which he co-authored with Robert Shea and advertised as "a fairy tale for paranoids". In it, he humorously examined American paranoia about conspiracies. Many, though, have accepted this as NON-fiction and have succumbed to even more paranoia - always, it

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information seems, involving the Freemasons.

In 1977, Wilson published "[Cosmic Trigger I : Final Secret of the Illuminati](#) " in which he wrote on pages 3-4:

Briefly, the background of the Bavarian Illuminati puzzle is this. On May 1, 1776, in Bavaria, Dr. Adam Weishaupt, a professor of Canon Law at Ingolstadt University and a former Jesuit, formed a secret society called the Order of the Illuminati within the existing Masonic lodges of Germany. Since Masonry is itself a secret society, the Illuminati was a secret society within a secret society, a mystery inside a mystery, so to say. In 1785 the Illuminati were suppressed by the Bavarian government for allegedly plotting to overthrow all the kings in Europe and the Pope to boot. This much is generally agreed upon by all historians. 1 Everything else is a matter of heated, and sometimes fetid, controversy.

It has been claimed that Dr. Weishaupt was an atheist, a Cabalistic magician, a rationalist, a mystic; a democrat, a socialist, an anarchist, a fascist; a Machiavellian amoralist, an alchemist, a totalitarian and an "enthusiastic philanthropist." (The last was the verdict of Thomas Jefferson, by the way.) The Illuminati have also been credited with managing the French and American revolutions behind the scenes, taking over the world, being the brains behind Communism, continuing underground up to the 1970s, secretly worshipping the Devil, and moperly with intent to gawk. Some claim that Weishaupt didn't even invent the Illuminati, but only revived it. The Order of Illuminati has been traced back to the Knights Templar, to the Greek and Gnostic initiatory cults, to Egypt, even to Atlantis. The one safe generalization one can make is that Weishaupt's intent to maintain secrecy has worked; no two students of Illuminology have ever agreed totally about what the "inner secret" or purpose of the Order actually was (or is . . .). There is endless room for spooky speculation, and for pedantic paranoia, once one really gets into the literature of the subject; and there has been a wave of sensational "ex-poses" of the Illuminati every generation since 1776. **If you were to believe all this sensational literature, the damned Bavarian conspirators were responsible for everything wrong with the world, including the energy crises and the fact that you can't even get a plumber on weekends.**

Wilson then goes on to create a broad expansion of fantasy which - just as with Dan Brown novels in the early years of 2000 - are accepted as fact. It's a sad state on our ability to think that so many in society can't separate fact from fiction and today blather on with great fear and loathing about the evil Freemason/Illuminati treachery without a single provable example. In fact, some - in order to keep the bubble of fantasy from popping - suggested that RAW was the Grand Master (or inner head) of the Illuminati himself. Wilson always toyed with the accusations, and in typical RAW fashion, he's never denied it outright - finding the whole concept enormously amusing as well as helpful for book sales.

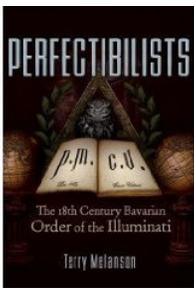
One cannot read any of RAW's material without a healthy sense of

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information humor although many, many do. We've noted from the outset of this very website that those with beliefs stemming from white-hot religious fervor or extreme paranoid conspiracy have ZERO sense of humor and wouldn't recognize satire if it were a sausage that hit them in the head. Thus, the internet has a zillion and a half websites all postulating on the existence of an organization that no one has ever seen and which all rational explanations say simply couldn't exist, with or without the all-powerful Freemasons.

Illuminati reading

For a couple of centuries, there's been nothing truly factual about the 18th Century Barvarian Order of the Illuminati except the sometimes hard to find book [The Bavarian Illuminati in America: The New England Conspiracy Scare, 1798](#) by Vernon Stauffer.

Perfectibilists by Melanson from Amazon



In 2009, however, a new work arrived on the scene - and truthfully, it was one that had all the trappings of 'nut case' on it. Its publisher was a very minor one, noted for sensationalist titles. The author - Terry Melanson - is the owner and developer of the "Illuminati Conspiracy Archive" where paranoia and absurdity reign supreme. He is also a noted anti-

Mason, having 'foreseen' an occult revival with Freemasonry leading the way. A clear waste of money, I'd concluded at the outset.

However, despite my pre-judged conclusions, Perfectibilists is actually pretty good. The author has set aside all of the foolishness usually found on his website and has done what appears to be some great detective work. He notes that the Order of the Illuminati (the name to which the Perfectibilists was changed almost immediately) had approximately 2000-3000 members at its peak and he provides the biographies for hundreds of them. In addition, Melanson has sidebar 'excursions' into related topics, some an entire page, discussing things like the difference between the ACTUAL emblem of the Illuminati (the OWL!) and what we today think of as their emblem, that [pyramid with the eye](#).

The book is interesting in that the primary text is less than 170 pages but then there are 'supplements' totaling another 300 pages along with an exhaustive table of contents. Footnotes are scrupulously provided and the professionalism with which this work

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information was created is really quite impressive. Unfortunately, this may be similar to the way Mr. Melanson has provided footnotes about Freemasonry in his various online screeds so one should consider the material with a jaundice eye unless/until validations are made by trained historians - something that Mr. Melanson isn't.

What others say

Online we found an excellent summary of the entire Illuminati Conspiracy theory. We've placed it here with permission of the site owner. Perhaps you'll find it interesting....

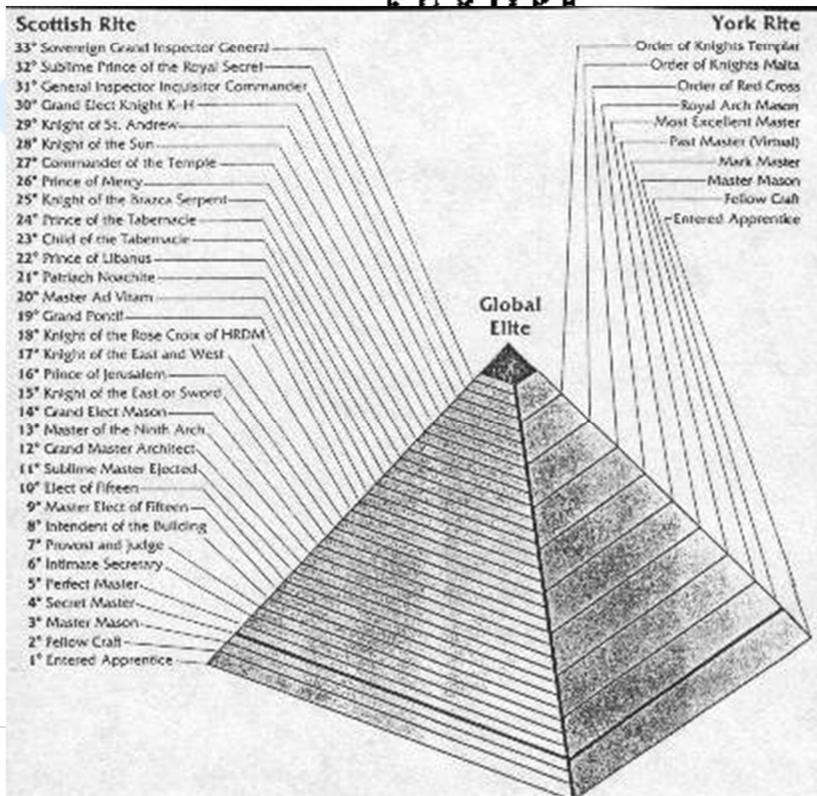
The Illuminati Freemason Conspiracy

From [Public Eye](#) and [Political Research Associates](#):

The Freemasons began as members of craft guilds who united into lodges in England in the early 1700's. They stressed religious tolerance, the equality of their male peers, and the themes of classic liberalism and the Enlightenment. Today they are a worldwide fraternal order that still educates its members about philosophical ideas, and

engages in harmless rituals, but also offers networking for business and political leaders. and carries out charitable activities.

P R O O F S
 OF A
CONSPIRACY
 AGAINST ALL THE
RELIGIONS AND GOVERNMENTS
 OF
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Got some thoughts or reactions? We'd be interested in *your* comments - within reason of course. **If you want to contact us, see [here](#) to avoid spam filters!**

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The Illuminati in America

Exclusive Interview with an Ex-Illuminati Programmer/Trainer

By Svali with interviewer HJ Springer, Chief Editor CentrExNews.com <centrex@looksmart.com>
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also offers the additional perspective of the mind controlled programmer who's 'work' is more clinical (albeit ghastly), yet just as destructive to the traumatized victim of mind control as well as to the 'traumatizer', the programmer herself, who in most cases is also under mind control. Neither party is consciously aware that they are engaged in this activity and yet both parties are direct participants in the perpetuation of this diabolical enslavement program which had its genesis in Nazi concentration camps under Dr. Joseph Mengele (the infamous Auswitz "Angel of Death") and was developed to full operational status right here in the USA under the very same Dr. Joseph Mengele courtesy of the OSS/CIA and *Operation Paper Clip*.

HJ Springer, Editor of CentrExNews.com, penned the following introductory remarks to this revealing ten part interview with Svali. Our gratitude to 'Svali' for bringing this information forward and HJ Springer for running the story. You can read many more articles by Svali and examine her self published book at <http://www.suite101.com/>. Every thinking person on this planet needs to become educated about the Illuminati takeover agenda; otherwise their life and the lives their children will suffer the ultimate price for their inattention, ignorance, and inaction...**Update Nov. 2004**: CentrExNews.com vanished from the internet somewhere around 2003. Ken Adachi]

While running our series 'The Illuminati: How the Cult Programs People' we received a few emails that were of a somewhat skeptical nature and/or requesting more information. Needless to say, I had some questions of my own regarding some details of the Illuminati and their agenda, and so I got in touch with 'Svali' (her pseudonym), an Ex-Illuminati Programmer/Trainer, to find out more about her claims. In the following few episodes I will enlighten you (pardon the pun), as much as I can, with additional knowledge I received from her. Our correspondence took place in the form of an email interview, which I left mainly intact. I only edited it for spelling and punctuation; minus some personal information addressed to me. Should you have any additional questions you would like to ask Svali, please email me at centrex@looksmart.com and I will forward them to her for a possible future article. Following is the first part of our interview.

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Dear Mr. Springer,

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When I went to the police in 1996 (after I had left the group) sure enough, there was an estate there belonging to someone with that name. One of his cult names was "Black Hand" because he wore black gloves when he worked with people. He was the head trainer in the group, and one of the most sadistic and brutal people I ever knew. He burned out most of the trainers that worked with him, and I made it because I had a friend on leadership council who hated him and helped me undermine him (the Illuminati are a very political and back stabbing group, a "dog eat dog" mentality; everyone wants to move up). Her cult name was Athena.

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I remembered so much, and he had never heard of it and had no idea how to help (definitely no suggesting of memories there, most of mine occurred spontaneously, AT HOME. I have never been hypnotized or age regressed, all of my memories have occurred in the course of daily life).

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I wish that this was just "made up". That it weren't real. But it is. There is too much documentation of this occurring (I can send you an URL for documented convicted RA cases). My greatest regret is that I was used by this group, after a lifetime of teaching, to be a perpetrator of the worst kind. I used to torture and abuse others, believing that I was "helping" them.

Now, I realize that what I did was wrong, I have asked God's forgiveness. And am committed to exposing this group through my writing. I am also a professional writer in the medical field, was a registered nurse for 18+ years, and currently work as an ESL teacher, health educator, and freelance author (on non abuse topics!). I hope this is enough background info, it is the truth before God and men. If you need any other, that won't compromise my anonymity or my children's protection, please let me know.

Sincerely, Svali

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Exclusive Interview with an Ex-Illuminati Programmer/Trainer

By Svali with interviewer HJ Springer, Chief Editor CentrExNews.com <centrex@looksmart.com>

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The Illuminati in America

Exclusive Interview with an Ex-Illuminati Programmer/Trainer

By Svali with interviewer HJ Springer, Chief Editor CentrExNews.com <centrex@looksmart.com>
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Part 2: Who and What is the Illuminati?

Q: *Does it bother you to write about this?*

A: It doesn't upset me to write on the topic of the Illuminati, I was explaining why I write under a pen name, that is all. I received a letter recently in which it was alleged that I write under a pen name because I'm a phony, which is not true at all. I am a freelance writer on the side (I write for nursing magazines and publications on health topics that have NOTHING to do with abuse) and understand the need for fact checking, so no offense is taken at your wanting to know my background. In fact, it shows you are a responsible editor, which I admire. I have nothing to hide. My story is 100% true.

I have gained no money for disclosing; I do NOT go on talk shows, I am unknown and prefer it this way. I have absolutely no secondary gain from doing this, other than the medical bills for my children, which means I work three part-time jobs. This is to answer the skeptics who say that people disclose for: sympathy (I don't want any and don't need it. I made choices and mistakes in my life, and am now involved in restitution); money (I earn \$20 a MONTH for my site on Suite 101. I earn \$150 to \$250 an article when I write on Women's health. Guess which topic I write on more frequently? Yep. Women's health, on completely non-abuse issues. The editors of the Nursing magazines and women's magazines don't know about the other topic I write on, another reason I write under a pen name.) I don't write for fame. Instead, if my co-workers knew about my past, I risk losing my job. I have everything to lose by disclosing, everything to gain by being silent.

But I also know that this kind of child abuse must be stopped. As a Christian, and as one who stands against child abuse, I have decided to speak out against cult abuse by writing articles that expose it. I also know that

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there are a number of people outspoken on this topic who have published, and they could possibly be back-up information for you. I don't know any of them, since I have no contact with other survivors other than my own family, but it is a possibility.

Anyway, to your questions:

Q: *Svali, I think our readers are wondering 'Is the Illuminati a religion, secret society, satanism or is it a combination of it, or something different all together, or more sinister?'*

A: The Illuminati is a group that practices a form of faith known as "enlightenment". It is **Luciferian**, and they teach their followers that their roots go back to the ancient mystery religions of Babylon, Egypt, and Celtic druidism. They have taken what they consider the "best" of each, the foundational practices, and joined them together into a strongly occult discipline. Many groups at the local level worship ancient deities such as "El", "Baal", and "Ashtarte", as well as "Isis and Osiris" and "Set".

This said, the leadership councils at times scoff at the more "primitive" practices of the anarchical, or lower levels. I remember when I was on council in San Diego, they called the high priests and priestesses the "slicers and dicers", who kept the "lower levels happy". This is not to offend anyone, it only shows that at the leadership levels, they often believe they are more scientifically and cognitively driven. But they still practice the principles of enlightenment.

There are 12 steps to this, also known as "the 12 steps of discipline" and they also teach traveling astral planes, time travel, and other metaphysical phenomena. Do people really do this, or is it a drug induced hallucination? I cannot judge. I saw things that I believe cannot be rationally explained when in this group, things that frightened me, but I can only say that it could be a combination of cult mind control, drug inductions, hypnosis, and some true demonic activity. How much of each, I cannot begin to guess. I do know that these people teach and practice evil.

At the higher levels, the group is no longer people in robes chanting in front of bonfires. Leadership councils have administrators who handle finances (and trust me, this group makes money. That alone would keep it going even if the rest were just religious hog wash). The leadership levels include businessmen, bankers, and local community leaders. They are intelligent, well educated, and active in their churches. Above local leadership councils are the regional councils, who give dictates to the groups below them, help form the policies and agendas for each region, and who interact with the local leadership councils.

At the national level, there are extremely wealthy people who finance these goals and interact with the leaders of other countries. The Illuminati are international. Secret? By all means. The first thing a child learns from "family, or the Order" as they are called, is "The first rule of the Order is secrecy". This is why you don't hear from more survivors who get out. The lengths that this group goes to, to terrify its members into not disclosing, is unbelievable. I have seen set ups (oh, yes, they set up fake deaths, etc.) where a person was "burned alive" to teach the children not to tell. They are told that this is a traitor, who disclosed, and now he is being punished. (The person wasn't really a traitor, and is in a flame proof vest, but the vision of a person on fire and screaming remains with 3 and 4 year old children for a lifetime). And, when they are adults, even if they DO leave, scenes such as this mean they won't tell many people for fear of being traced and punished.

Because I helped create a lot of set ups as an adult trainer, I became somewhat cynical, and have chosen to disclose as a result. Although I do fight intense fear even now at times. Try being buried in a wooden box for a

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period of time (it may have been minutes, but to a four year old it is an eternity), and then when the lid is lifted, being told, "if you ever tell, we'll put you back in forever". The child will scream hysterically that they will NEVER EVER tell. I was that child, and now I am breaking that vow made under psychological duress. Because I don't want any other children to go through what I did, or have seen done to others. Yes, the Illuminati are organized, secretive, and extremely wealthy at its upper levels. They are not stupid, or poor people running around dabbling with witchcraft. To see them as this is a huge misconception.

Q: *How widespread would you say this group has infiltrated our society in terms of number of people? Are they present in every town or city throughout North America? Do they take or recruit outsiders? And how far does this group go to keep this knowledge secret?*

A: I think I answered some of the secrecy above. The Illuminati are present in every major metropolitan center in the United States. They have divided the United States up into 7 major regions, and each has a regional council over it, with the heads of the local councils reporting to them. They meet once every two months, and on special occasions.

A metropolitan region may have as many as 10 to 30 groups within it, and rural areas will often have meetings with other local groups, and report to the metro leadership council. They almost NEVER recruit outsiders, although occasionally they will buy children or a family from Asia, for example, and keep them under constant surveillance in return for saving their life from the local Mafia. They are threatened with being returned to this group if they ever disclose.

They also have excellent lawyers who are well paid to help cover their tracks. There are also people in the media paid to help keep stories from coming out. I know of three people in San Diego who worked for the *Union Tribune* who were faithful Illuminists, and who also wrote frequent articles attacking local therapists who worked with RA (Ritual Abuse) [or SRA, Satanic Ritual Abuse] survivors. I remember leadership boasting they had "run so-and-so out of town" because of a media blitz, and being quite happy about it.

The Illuminati believe in controlling an area through its:

- 1. Banks and financial institutions** (guess how many sit on banking boards? You'd be surprised)
- 2. Local government:** guess how many get elected to local city councils?
- 3. Law:** children are encouraged to go to law school and medical school.
- 4. Media:** others are encouraged to go to journalism school, and members help fund local papers .

Q: *Is this the same Illuminati that was created by Adam Weishaupt in Germany?*

A: Weishaupt did not create the Illuminati, they chose him as a figurehead and told him what to write about. The financiers, dating back to the bankers during the times of the Templar Knights who financed the early kings in Europe, created the Illuminati. Weishaupt was their "go fer", who did their bidding.

Q: *Do you have anymore info about the political goals, if any, of the Illuminati?*

A: This article I wrote for Suite101.com addresses it: "*Are the Illuminati taking over the world?*" You can reprint it, or part of it, as long as you give credit to Suite 101 and/or a link back to the site.

Q: *How do Illuminati members recognise each other?*

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A: Since it is generational, its easy. It isn't hard to recognize one's father, mother, siblings, and neighbors and friends one has grown up with. The Illuminati use telephone trees to contact members when a meeting is to occur. A month or two ahead of time, leadership council plans dates and places for meetings for different groups under their umbrella. They then call local leaders a week ahead of time (the high priest or priestess). Two days ahead, these people call their head members, who then call the people under them. A person knows their status in the group by how far ahead of time they know a meeting date. The lower in the group, the less they are trusted with information, and the less "lag time" before meetings.

Sometimes, certain pieces of jewelry, such as a ruby ring or an oval emerald, might be worn if meeting someone in a public place at a prearranged assignation. But most accessing and contact is done through family members or close friends.

When I lived in San Diego, my entire family of origin and my four closest friends were all members of the group. It wasn't hard to reach me, to say the least. My spouse was also a member. The Illuminati believe in arranged members, and do NOT allow their members to marry a nonmember. If someone says their spouse isn't in it, they aren't Illuminati, or they are in denial. This was an unbreakable policy. My marriage was arranged by the local leadership council to another ranking member. I didn't want to marry him, because I didn't love him, and I will never forget what I was told by Athena, my mentor at the time (she held the second position on the council): "That's for the best, then, because he can never hurt you or control you." Or, my mother's timeless advice given when I was 12 years old: "Never fu-- someone lower than you. They will drag you down. Always choose someone higher than yourself."

She was an ambitious woman, to say the least, determined that I would do well in this very political group. I took her advice, and Athena was my lover and protected me from some of the SOBs on leadership in San Diego especially Jonathan, the head trainer. She taught me his weaknesses and how to get around him, and stood up to him for me. I wouldn't have survived otherwise.

These are NOT nice people and they use and manipulate others viciously. They cut their eye teeth on status, power, and money. I have given all of that up to leave, and am glad to be away from it now, although I do miss some of my friends, and at times I miss the respect of being a leader. But I am learning to live a whole new life without the constant background of "family" monitoring and telling me what to do.

Know what the hardest part of getting out was? The freedom. Not having anyone telling me what to do. I literally went through a period of adjustment, felt wobbly, trying to figure out what I wanted to do. It was hard, since I was used to reflexively checking my decisions with leadership and Jonathan and my husband. Freedom can be difficult, believe it or not, and took quite a period of time to adjust to. I believe that the inability to deal with it often draws people back in. I hope this information is useful to you.

Part 3: [How the Illuminati runs Hollywood](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt3.shtml>

Part 3: How the Illuminati runs Hollywood

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Q: *I would think that California would be one of the major 'turfs' of the Illuminati, and I'm thinking specifically Hollywood. What's your inside on this, in regards to film making, symbology, subliminals, the whole scene in general?*

A: Oh, boy, do you have a few hours? I'll try to be brief. The Illuminati believe that to control the media is to control the public. This is one of their stated agendas. Remember, finances, media, law, government and education are the areas they targeted as being the best to dominate society.

How do they do this? They don't go to a film producer and say, "Oh, by the way, we're Illuminati members and we want you to make a movie that promotes our agenda". (Remember, they aren't stupid, either). Instead, they will form a small investment corporation that funds movies with ideas that they like. They quietly hire actors and producers and directors and scripts, but they never mention their affiliation publicly or why they are doing this.

Money talks, and especially in Hollywood. If you have money, you can get about anything made, and they know this. They can also channel money into advertising campaigns, etc. for their films (how many Christian films have had major ad campaigns in the past twenty years? Very few. How many occult movies have? I rest my case).

This has been a slow, subtle process because they are patient. They have been working behind the scenes for hundreds of years, and they know that the public is slow to accept new ideas, that it has to be done gradually. (They call it leading in the "sheep" which is one of their terms for the "unenlightened"). And it has been. The number of occult films that has come out in the past ten years alone should make anyone pause and think.

Why so many films with this theme? Why the desensitization of America's youth to the occult and magic? Just look at Saturday morning cartoons. I don't allow my children to watch them, except for "animaniacs" and Bugs Bunny at times. Instead, we rent old classics with Audrey Hepburn and John Wayne. I can send you some articles that did an excellent job of investigating **Walt Disney** (he was an Illuminist, and *Fantasia* was used to program children).

Some films that blatantly portray the Illuminist agenda: *The Matrix*. You could have peeled me off the ceiling when I saw that one. The references to conditioning and the core were so blatant, it wasn't funny. *Fight Club*: I love Brad Pitt and Ed Norton, and this film is a nod at the **covert military buildup going on that the average person doesn't realize**. Also, **Ed is dissociative in the film**, as Pitt's character takes over (notice that the cult-creating military figure is the "stronger" one in the story?).

The Labyrinth: I haven't seen this, but my husband did, and everything he mentioned is pure Illuminati programming stories used with children. Any movies with an occult viewpoint, or that show supernatural psychic phenomena, astral travel, or contact with the spirit world are guaranteed to be part of this agenda. I don't watch them, myself. Saw enough of the real thing to last me this lifetime.

The sensationalization of rituals and other occult insignia on television is another example. Ghost stories. Witch stories. Children's books about Wizards and their training that are extremely popular.

Oh, yes, *Starship Trooper*. This one had so many cult symbols (the Illuminists have a strong Aryan ideology going, too) that I almost laughed outright when I saw it. I counted at least 100 in it. Someone had fun going tongue-in-cheek with the Illuminist agenda in that one.

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Many fine actors and actresses are being used in films funded by these people. Some may know the agenda, most probably do not, as long as they receive a pay check. Some are also Illuminists as well, although I don't know who is. I do know a few, but I don't want to risk a libel suit here.

Anyway, I was too busy training and going to meetings and learning the effects of drugs on people to pay much attention to that part of the group when I was in it, sorry, I don't have lots of famous names in my memories. I lived a very relatively boring life as a teacher and head trainer, and we rarely discussed the media except the fact that it, too, was another tool to bring in "The New Order", which is the motivation for all Illuminists.

I want to address another misconception. That is, the one that the Illuminists know that they are evil. When I was in the group, I and those around me were ideologically committed to the agenda as being GOOD. I thought I was helping others reach their full potential when I was a trainer.

I believed that after years of sweat and hard work, that my intelligence won out, and that I made an excellent leader. I fought Jonathan and others on the council when I thought they were unfair, and stood up for the people beneath me. Others did the same. They honestly think they are doing a GOOD thing, and if you told them it was wrong, or evil, they would look confused.

It took a LOT of therapy and deprogramming myself, doing reality checks with noncult people to realize that it was all a lie. I was devastated. I had dedicated my life to helping others bring in the glorious new order, and then found out it was EVIL and abusive. I went through a period of intense grieving/mourning over this.

Most Illuminists I knew weren't evil, they were deceived. Only the top leadership perhaps were consciously being hurtful.

Part 4: [The Illuminati-Freemason Connection](http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt4.shtml)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt4.shtml>

Part 4: The Illuminati - Freemason Connection

Q: *Svali, one of the more important points, which I am sure a lot of readers would like to know more about, is, what is the Illuminati /Freemason connection, as far as you are aware of, given your previous position in the Illuminati? Also, was there and is there an infiltration of the Masonic Order?*

A: **The Freemasons and the Illuminati are hand in glove.** I don't care if this steps on any toes, it's a fact. The masonic temple at Alexandria, Virginia (the city itself was named after Alexandria, Egypt, and is a hotbed of Illuminati activity) is a center in the Washington, DC area for Illuminati scholarship and teaching. I was taken there at intervals for testing, to step up a level, for scholarship, and high ceremonies. The leaders in this masonic group were also Illuminists.

This has been true of every large city I have lived in. The **top Freemasons were also top Illuminists.** My maternal grandparents were both high ranking Masons in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa. (president of the Eastern Star and 33rd degree Mason) and they both were also leaders in the Illuminati in that area.

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Are all Masons Illuminati? No, especially at the lower levels, I believe they know nothing of the practices that occur in the middle of the night in the larger temples. Many are probably fine businessmen and Christians. **But I have never known a 32 degree or above who wasn't Illuminati,** and the group helped create Freemasonry as a "front" for their activities.

Q: *What exactly is the meaning of the pyramid on the back of the \$1 U.S. note? I'm talking about the pyramid with the capstone detached and hovering above the rest of the pyramid, containing the 'All-Seeing-Eye'. Is this a Masonic or Illuminati symbol?*

A: The pyramid and the "eye of Horus" on the back of the dollar bill are Illuminati symbology. The pyramid is an ancient form based on the holiness of the **number 3** to the ancient mystery religions (it, not 6, is considered the most spiritual number), and a pyramid was a structure used specifically to call up the demonic, or occult, a point of psychic activity.

The eye is the all seeing eye of Horus (remember the emphasis on Egyptian magical religious practices? The book of the undead, etc.?) and the fact that no one can escape his magical reach. This eye is considered a demonic eye in the group, or the eye of the deity, and in Illuminati mythology is either open or closed, depending upon the spiritual time of year and the state of the person psychically. Young children are given "psychic surgery" where the eye is placed inside, and they are told that Horus will snatch their soul if they ever try to leave, or if they tell, or that the eye will explode. The symbol on the dollar is reinforcement for every Illuminati child who sees one, and the reminder that they are being watched.

The saying on the dollar, 'Novus Ordo Seclorum' also means "bringing in the new order", which is the Illuminati stated agenda. Just think, in the early 1800's, our forefathers already were looking forward to when the new order would be ushered in. Have I mentioned that this is a patient, forward looking group of intellectuals? That **Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, FDR,** and others **were Illuminati leaders?** Our country may have been founded on freedom from taxation, but it was also founded on the New World Order just as surely.

Q: *How far back in time does the concept / cult of the Illuminati go? It seems to me that they have been around quite some time, possibly since antiquity, guiding, steering and using humanity for their own purposes, operating under different names? Can you elaborate?*

A: I was taught that the Illuminati had its roots in the ancient practices that reach into the beginning of recorded time; that the Babylonians on the plains created ziggurats to their deities, whom the Illuminati worship. They were proud of the fact that it was supposedly an unbroken occult line from then until now. The names changed, the basic group was the same.

The ancient mystery religions of Egypt, heart of dark magic were another forerunner, with adherents of Set, Osiris, Horus and Ra; and the Illuminists also believe their bloodlines have come down from the ancient kings of Egypt.

It's hard for me to know how much was cult propaganda, and how much truth is in the claims. The **Templar Knights** were definitely a forerunner during medieval times, as well as the **Rosicrucians** and **ancient celts** and druids (you know, the ones who built Stonehenge).

Part 5 - [Illuminati - CIA Connection - Russia & China](#)

Part 5 - Illuminati - CIA Connection - Russia & China

Svali: I just want you and your readers to know that I am NOT an Illuminati expert, nor do I want to be. I am only a survivor who was part of this group, in a lower management position locally. I did NOT rub elbows with the rich and famous, although I heard about things that occurred at higher levels (people do gossip even in the cult, they're still human beings).

There are other people who have come out and disclosed. I don't know them personally, but I have heard about them. One is [Brice Taylor](#), in California and North Carolina (she lives part time in both places). Another is **Neil Brick** of [SmartNews](#), he seems to be very real and believable and a nice person. Others are **Caryn StarDancer**, of [Survivorship.org](#), and **Annie McKenna** (I think she even wrote a book about her experiences [ed. '[Paperclip Dolls](#)'], it is quite good). There are others, and if you go to the [Suite101.com](#) site, there are links to resources and also survivor pages. [Survivorship.org](#) also has links.

Some survivors have self-published their stories on the web, to help the public know that this is going on. I am only one person among many who has come out to talk about my experiences, and my experiences are limited to what one person did in the Washington, DC area and the San Diego, Ca. area between 1957 and 1995. A person who was doing their job at the time, was very misguided, and who is now heartily sorry for the things that I once participated in.

Q: *How do survivors remain anonymous after seeking help? Would the cult not go to extreme measures to find and silence programmers or members that have left the cult? To what ends would they go to shut you up?*

A: At Suite 101, and in my book, I wrote a whole chapter on staying safe. Here's the URL for the Suite 101 article: [Breaking Free of the Cult](#). It includes tips on staying safe. Yes, they do try to recontact people who get out. The first way they do this is through their family (remember they are transgenerational). My mother told me to "come back or die" four years ago, which triggered off lethal self destruct programming inside (I believe she was counting on my coming back, but she was wrong and I almost died. God spared my life). I then had to go in and dismantle it all. When I left, the head trainer was pretty arrogant. He had said I would be dead within 6 months if I remembered, because "no one could remember with what I put in her and live". Direct quote from Jonathan M., head trainer, and I hope he reads this article.

Second, a lot of people get abducted and reaccessed because they : phone their perps, go out alone at night (you wouldn't believe the stories I have heard from survivors who told me they went out at 2 or 3 am to the store, alone, walking down alleys. What were they thinking????).

I helped one survivor get out three years ago, she was being harrassed by the group, and was fighting back, she literally pulled a gun on a would-be abductor and he backed away (he had his gun out) when she asked him, "and who of the two of us do you think is the better shot?" She was an expert marksman). She stayed with me for 6 months, and is free of the group.

They usually do give up after awhile, and get tired of trying to pull people back. I could never live in San Diego, or DC, though. The chances of running into an old trainer or someone I knew would be too great. Instead, having physical distance (people in the cult in this state don't know me or care about me one way or the

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other) helps. I also have tons of accountability. These people like secrecy, and won't usually act out in public if someone is with people who aren't part of their group. I have heard of people being assassinated, which is one reason that I don't go on T.V., or speak publicly. I live very quietly and anonymously out here. MOST cult recontact comes because the person recontacts, though. The pull to go back is enormous at times, and has to be fought a lot, especially in the first years. To find out why someone would go back to their abusers, read my article on ["Trauma Bonding: The Pull to the Perpetrator"](#) at Suite 101.

Q: *I want to get back to the Illuminati's political agenda. What is the connection between the CIA, FBI, and other secret services and the cult? To what degree are they infiltrated? And what is the real agenda of these secret services?*

A: They are all infiltrated. I don't think everyone in these groups are Illuminists, but a lot of the leadership is. An example: my mother was friends with Sid Gottlieb, who was part of the CIA. The farm I grew up on was only about a half hour away from his home in Culpeper, Va. She also knew the Dulles family. A lot of the researchers in the CIA were part of it, and I visited Langley, Va. at intervals growing up. MK-Ultra was funded in part with Illuminati money. These people use the most sophisticated mind control techniques on their members, believe me.

When I was in San Diego, human experimentation was still going on. Jonathan and I were investigating the effects of certain drugs on inducing trance states and assisting with programming. We would take the data, and download it into a database (oh, yes, the cult is very technologically sophisticated) and then send it to Langley.

Many of the administrators and directors at the FBI are also Illuminists. The CIA helped bring over German scientists after WWII. Many of these were also Illuminati leaders in their own country, and they were welcomed with open arms by the U.S. group. They also funnelled all information they were learning to the Illuminati.

Q: *I assume if the U.S. political, banking, and military systems are all fairly well under Illuminati control this would then also be true for Eastern Europe, Russia and other communist bloc countries as well. What does this mean for relations between the West-East axis? Was Russia, or the USSR at the time, ever the adversary it was made out to be, and was there a grand plan behind having Russia as an enemy?*

A: Russia was never really a threat to us. Marxism was funded by the Illuminati, and espoused as a counterbalance to capitalism. The Illuminati believe strongly in balancing opposing forces, in the pull between opposites. They see history as a complex chess game, and they will fund one side, then another, while ultimately out of the chaos and division ..., they are laughing because they are ultimately beyond political parties. A top western financier will secretly meet with an eastern or Russian "adversary" during those years, and have a good laugh at how the "sheep" were being deluded. I am sharing here what I was taught, and also observed.

When DELPHI met with ORACLE in Europe, (these are the head training groups for the northern hemisphere and European continents) the Russian, German, French, British, Canadian, and US trainers all worked together. In fact, this is one reason why plurality of linguistics is valued in the Illuminati. I had to learn six languages as a child, and learn to converse with people from around the world. They are truly an international group, and the group's agenda supercedes any nationalistic feelings. There is also a lot of trading back and forth of members in these groups. A Russian trainer might come to the US for awhile, complete a job, then go back, or vice-versa.

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Q: *China is starting to rattle their sabers and arming itself with nuclear weapons which are pointing at U.S. cities. Is all this occurring according to Illuminati agenda or is there still a fairly large 'uncertainty, random or x-factor' involved that is beyond the Illuminati's control?*

A: I have been out for five years, so my information is "old news". But the military buildup of China is part of their plan. There are members of the group who are Asian, and very opportunistic. The Oriental Mafia groups are very much linked to Illuminati activity. The random factor in all of this is how the average citizen reacts. It can't be predicted, although Illuminati leadership will often invent different scenarios, and try to decide how they will act if the ordinary citizens react in an unexpected manner.

I was told that around 2020, the Illuminist agenda would be revealed openly. I don't know if this is accurate, or just propaganda that I was taught, or if they have changed this date since I was in the group.

Q: *Svali, earlier you were talking about mindcontrol victims and survivors that have come forward with their stories and publicised it. One of the more recent and high profile stories is the one of Cathy O'Brian [see links at <http://www.vegan.swinternet.co.uk/articles/conspiracies/cathyandmark.html> and <http://www.trance-formation.com/>]. She seems to be more of a CIA mind control victim, which still sound very much like your own story, in terms of technology and technique. Do you think there could be an Illuminati connection?*

A: As I mentioned before, the CIA and the Illuminati are definitely linked. The top leadership in the CIA are also Illuminati leaders. I mentioned [Allen] Dulles and [Sidney] Gottlieb as men I knew personally as a child and young adult. **The scientists that ran the MK-Ultra and other governmental mind control programs were Illuminists brought over from Nazi Germany.** That's why you will find that mind control victims ALWAYS speak German or have a dissociated part that speaks with a German accent; they are mimicking their abusers, which is very very common.

You could say that the CIA and the Illuminati are hand in glove companions. I know that the different Illuminati groups around the US also send data on the experiments they do to the central computer at Langley, Va. (oh, yes, human experimentation and mind control experiments are still ongoing, it didn't stop with WWII...).

Part 6 - [Ritual Abuse - Mind Control Denial; Bohemian Grove](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt6.shtml>

Part 6 - Ritual Abuse - Mind Control Denial; Bohemian Grove

Q: *I just find it amazing that this sort of topic (Ritual Abuse, mindcontrol) gets next to no press attention, considering the amount of evidence available.*

A: Here is where I will sound really, really cynical. I'm not surprised, because the Illuminati leadership often boasted that their best protection was that no one would believe what was happening. They also have their own media blitz campaign, one that is pretty effective. For example, a reporter with the initials M. S., who wrote

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information articles on Ritual Abuse (RA) and Mind Control in the San Diego Union-Tribune, was a member of the Illuminati. His articles have almost a patent formula.

1. He interviews supposedly respected doctors in the field. These people with scholarly credentials, the "thinking man's verdict" give a rational, measured conclusion: no logically thinking being could ever possibly believe in ritual abuse, and the therapists that treat victims of it are leading the poor people on, the gullible little dears being oppressed by therapists of a most vicious and mercenary bent.

2. He then exposes the "fundamentalist, narrow minded" "raving" and "mentally ill" people who say that ritual abuse is real, and the "fraudulent" or supposedly mercenary/attention seeking therapists that work with them. His word images create the image of a person practically foaming at the mouth, full of demented ravings, on this side of the fence. He then brings in the heart break of dear, precious families broken apart by the wicked therapists who are "implanting" ideas of ritual abuse in these poor victim's heads.

Wrap up with the supposedly rational, caring, logical and compassionate person on the FMS board saying how tragic it is that this is occurring, that something needs to be done.

M.S. never mentions that the therapists who work with ritual abuse survivors work for very low pay, or sometimes for free, to help these people break free of the chains of a lifetime. He never ever interviews the large percentage (>85%) of the psychological field that has stated that they believe that ritual abuse is, or could be real; instead, he only interviews the minority viewpoint to feed his agenda.

Okay, so now we know that the normal media is quite biased at times.

Q: *But, with the evidence out there, why aren't more people concerned about the Illuminati?*

A: Because they simply can't, won't believe that this is happening. I am a strong Christian, and in Revelations, it says that right before the return of Jesus, people will be acting as if nothing has happened, that all is normal, in spite of evidence to the contrary. You could show people a video taken of a ritual, and they would declare: "it has to be a fake; people just don't do those things." You can show them a site with pentagrams, buried bones, and other evidence, and they would say, "Oh, that is just teenagers playing around". You can show them photos of underground tunnels near Los Alamos, and they will say, "Isn't that interesting. Must be some government project." They can be shown the scars on a survivor's body, from cigarette burns in childhood, and old lash marks that have healed on their back, and the question would be "are you sure it wasn't self inflicted?"

The evidence is there, but in my opinion, the average person does NOT want to know, and even when confronted with it, will look the other way.

The Franklin case is a point. How much evidence has come out? Or the MK-Ultra documents that have been declassified, shown as real, and people ignore it.

Okay, I'll get off my soap box. But I believe that the media that downplays ritual abuse is feeding into a deep need in the average person to NOT know the reality. In fact, how can a person face the fact of great evil in mankind, unless they have either a strong faith in God, or are faced with insurmountable evidence? We as human beings want to believe the BEST of our race, not the worst, IMHO.

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Q: *You probably have heard of the 'Bohemian Grove'. What do you know about this? Any connection to the Illuminati?*

A: I myself do not know anything about the Bohemian Grove. Remember, I wouldn't have been in a position to have much to do with it. Most of my connections were with Germany. I was never prostituted out, instead I taught others to be that. But I myself never went there, and really don't know anything about it. I'm sorry I can't be more helpful there.

Now, if you were asking about the masonic temple in Alexandria, Va., or the "Institute" in Charlottesville, Va., or a small grove up in Canada with a bronze statue of Baal, I could help you. Sorry I don't have anything to share on this topic. If the Bohemian Grove is occult, though, it probably definitely is known about by the Illuminati.

Part 7: [Illuminati Symbols and Clues; Level of Infiltration](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt7.shtml>

Part 7 - Illuminati Symbols and Clues; Level of Infiltration -

Q: *Yes, tell me more about that (german connection, masonic temple, the 'institute' and the Baal statue in Canada, please [\[see previous article\]](#)). What are some of the Illuminati trademarks, symbols and clues that are placed throughout society as their signals (other than the pyramid and all-seeing-eye of Horus), intentionally or unintentionally. Does the Illuminati get careless?*

A: To completely answer these questions, you would need my whole biography. I had thought once about writing it, but I doubt many would read it (seriously, this isn't false modesty) and also I really don't believe people will do anything about the Illuminati even if they know. Sorry for the cynicism, but it is based on a lifetime of experience.

The Illuminists don't care who prints this stuff, or if they are "exposed" because they are counting on the majority not believing it, having done a pretty good job with a media blitz campaign (seen any articles in Newsweek or Time lately that addresses this other than as a laughable conspiracy theory? Guess who owns Time-Warner?).

I have heard them laughing about this very thing in leadership meetings five years ago, and I doubt their attitude has changed much since then. If people DID believe this, if action were able to be taken, then I would be very surprised and quite happy.

I'll give you an example. Two years ago, I tried to find a publisher for my book on how the Illuminati program people. I wanted it available for therapists who work with survivors. I couldn't find anyone willing to consider it; they told me it was much too controversial, and "there is no market for this among the general public". Sad, but true.

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At the same time, I do believe that God is in control of world history. I have exposed them, and [self published my book](#) for free on the web, to let those who work with survivors realize what they have been through. It's hard to help people leaving a group without understanding the traumas both emotional and physical that they have endured.

Okay, now to your questions.

1. The Bruderheist is the ruling council of Germany. It meets in the black forest region, which is considered the center of the earth, and a vortex for psychical/spiritual energy. They are some of the most vicious people I have ever known in my life, and make the Nazis (who they encouraged) look like fun people. They are still there, manipulating people, running banks, and channeling their dirty money to Brussels, Switzerland, and Cairo, Egypt.

2. Canada has a very large Illuminati and Templar Knight community (they are hand in glove groups) that worship ancient deities. The gold or bronze statue of Baal is in a holy grove on a large private estate between Quebec and Montreal. Since I was only 12 years old when I went there, the details aren't quite as clear. But the ceremonies there were full of people in white gowns, lots of flowers and fruits and votive offerings, singing, then the final sacrifice in the arms of the statue.

3. Illuminati trademarks: these are the most cautionary people on earth. They try to leave absolutely NO tracks. Most of the symbology can be seen on T.V. or movies, and include: the concept of a military government ruling. These people are very, very militaristic.

The Phoenix: this is one of their highest military and spiritual symbols. If you see a German eagle, too, this is a huge sign. Certain companies will use a phoenix as their logo, especially red on black, or the reverse, this is a huge sign, since the Illuminati use many resuscitation rituals in their training, where the person is brought into a death, or near death state, then "resuscitated" and told that Baal, or some other entity, "gave them life" and they owe their new life to him and the group. Thus, the phoenix is a huge trigger and symbol.

Butterflies and rainbow signs are big triggers for people who have gone through the Monarch programming (yes, the Illuminists invented Monarch programming with the CIA). Certain types of jewelry are used as triggers. If a person goes online, and plays certain role games (like Ultima) the games are FULL of trigger symbols, such as gem stones. I don't play them but my husband does, and I have told him what the symbols mean. He thinks it's funny since they don't bother him (he isn't Illuminati).

A tiara, or crown with 13 gems, with a diamond in the center, is a symbol of the coming reign of the "chosen one".

Star of David: believe it or not, one of the highest Illuminati religious symbols is a star of David with a circle around it. Called "the great seal of Solomon" it is used at the highest ceremonies to invoke the demonic.

Earth, water, and fire: these three are used in a lot of ceremonies. Check out how many Saturday a.m. cartoons use this concept. You'd be amazed. In fact, "The Fifth Element" movie was based on it.

Greek and Roman mythology and symbols: The Illuminati use a tremendous amount of Greek and Roman mythology in their programming, and most people will have internal structures with a roman or greek temple inside. Lightening bolts, and any symbols from this time will also trigger those with this inside. For more, just

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pick up any recent Time magazine. Most of the ads are filled with Illuminati symbology. A picture of a head with a computer inside is another big one, symbolizes delta programming, for example.

Q: Take the lead and tell me about issues you may not have covered in your articles or in this interview.... perhaps some issues I have missed in regards to the New World Order/ global government and such...

A: 1. These people are pedophiliacs, they abuse and torture small children and teach them under duress to become perpetrators themselves from earliest infancy. This alone means they should be stopped.

They run the porn industry, along with other groups such as the Mafia. They make enormous amounts of money from drug smuggling, gun running, and human slavery (oh, yes, the buying and selling of human beings is alive and well in the 21st century).

They are involved in evil and money making in the extreme. If a profit is being made off of human suffering, you can trace the chain back somewhere to these people.

2. They have money and lawyers that could blast anyone confronting them out of the water.

3. They have infiltrated our government, and the governments of every country in the world, and well as the judicial and legal systems.

4. The media as well.

5. They run our financial institutions.

6. They are ruthless, ambitious, and will not stop at killing those they oppose. They invented MK-Ultra with the help of the CIA. Still want to take them on? Sorry, just letting you know what they are like.

7. They are working towards bringing in a new leader, who will usher in a Luciferian reign of joy, prosperity, and rewards to the faithful. Almost an Elysian type paradise. Of course, the brutality would continue, and those who oppose his reign are to be hunted down and converted or destroyed, but the followers will be so happy and content that they believe these holdouts will want to come over to their side. Sounds unbelievable, but true.

Also, people will have new jobs, and leadership positions in this new order, since the Illuminati believe that their children are the brightest and best (remember that lifetime of training and teaching?) and will be the intellectual elite who will rule over the unintelligent, or "less fit". These people really, truly believe this, and almost worship Plato's ideal Republic as their blue print for the new order.

Now, the other side of the picture.

1. They are arrogant, and this could be their downfall. They view the common man as "sheep" with no intelligence. They are full of pride, believe they are invulnerable (see above) and that any press about them is the equivalent of a gnat to be swatted. Arrogant people make mistakes, and they are becoming more blatant and open in recent years.

2. They believe they can overcome God, which is a huge mistake. God can stay the hand of history, and has so far, in the hope that more from this group will get out, because He is merciful.

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3. Most of them are wounded, abused victims, who don't realize that it is possible to leave the group. There is a lot of discontent in the ranks, and there would be a mass exodus if the members believed it were really possible to get out (and live). Many of the trainers I knew (I know, wicked, torturing pedophiles) were NOT happy with what they did. They would whisper quietly, or give a look, to show that they disagreed with what they had to do. They would resignedly do their jobs, in the hope of advancement.

Know what one of the biggest carrots offered to those who advance up in the group is? That you don't have to hurt people anymore, and that you can't be abused (it's true: only those higher than you in the group can abuse you, so everyone wants to move up, where the pool of candidates becomes smaller). Of course, people can choose to abuse anyone beneath them, and that motivates some (but not all!) to move up.

4. As more survivors leave, therapists and churches and support people are becoming more aware of the sophisticated mind control techniques used to control members. They are learning to undo it.

5. Prayer can overcome the greatest evil, and my greatest hope is that those I once knew in this group, including the heads and those who hurt me at times, would get out. That they could know that, yes, it is truly possible to leave.

Q: I have seen Clinton do this hand sign on a few occasion, and now Prince William as well. Any hidden meaning?

A: That is an old, well known greeting of one satanist to another. Usually, the Illuminists are a lot more subtle and don't do that publicly.

Part 8 - [The Fourth Reich](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt8.shtml>

Part 8 - The Fourth Reich

Q: The way you describe the Illuminati it sounds like the Third Reich Revival. I can certainly see the Nazi traits in their behavior and goals. It seems like Germany is taking the lead, yet again, in uniting the EU, we see the

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setting up of a European Army, the Rapid Reaction Force, and a World Court. How is this ultimately going to play out?

A: Actually, they have a name for the New World Order. One of the synonyms used is the "**Fourth Reich**". I'm serious. Lots of Illuminists have Fourth Reich programming inside. Yep, Germany, and the EU, will dominate the world economy. The US economy will go down for awhile, then restore with the help of Europe.

Q: *The Book of Revelation pretty much paints a gloomy picture of how this is going to end, and by what means. How is this going to effect the Illuminati agenda? They would certainly know about the prophecies of old and their own foretold demise. Are they attempting to use prophecies, somehow, to their advantage by way of deceiving human beings?*

A: Basically, they are in denial. They believe that history can be changed, and that John's prophetic revelation is only one interpretation of the future. They are aware of Revelations, but don't take it too seriously.

Remember, some of those at the top are ALREADY in power, figuratively speaking. They dominate the financial picture, have immense wealth, several mansions around the world, anything they want, and the (to them) joy of controlling millions of others. They believe their intellect is sharp, and that they will be the "good guys" in the New Order. They are Luciferians, and so believe the Bible is misguided in its assertions.

For all intents and purposes, if you asked them, they would probably laugh and say, "But the new order is already here. It just isn't open yet."

They have been in power for several hundred years, with no lightening bolts from heaven striking them dead. They may even believe that they represent God's will on earth (remember, they serve "God", too, just not the same as the Biblical Christian one).

They would ask back, "how did God allow people to develop such potential if He didn't want us to help them use it? Isn't it a criminal waste of the intellect and the gifts he gave us to NOT develop them, and help people mature into a better race?" They would argue along these lines.

They believe that basically, they are GOOD and doing a good work, even if the means are tough to endure at the time. They are weeding out the weak and unfit, and developing a supreme human being. I know it sounds like hog wash, but they truly, honestly believe this at a core level. To be under the judgements in Revelations, they would have to see themselves as evil, and they don't.

I hope this helps explain a little. I think they would see themselves in that picture as riding in on the white horses, not the dark ones. Such is the power of deception. I am a Christian, myself, and have given up these old beliefs that I was taught in the cult.

Part 9 - [Ritual Sacrifices - Demons- Shape Shifting](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt9.shtml>

Part 9 - Ritual Sacrifices - Demons- Shape Shifting

Q: *Svali, earlier on you talked about sacrifices. You are talking about animal sacrifices, right? Give me a bit more details about that, please.*

A: I hate to sensationalize things by going into gruesome particulars, but I will share a little.

First, please remember that the Illuminati have SIX branches of learning, and the spiritual (where the sacrifices are done) is only ONE part of what they do. I was in Sciences, and used to make fun of people who specialized in spiritual. Yes, everyone has to go to spiritual rituals during certain high days, but I tried to stay as far from it as I could. It's ugly, crude, and gross, but considered important.

1. The celtic branch of spiritual believes that power is passed at the moment between life and death. They will do rituals with children, or even older adherents, where the person is tied down, and an animal is bled to death on top of them. The belief is that the person receives power from the departing spirit, which "enters" the person. It is also highly traumatizing and horrible to have an animal go through its death throes on top of you. Throw in a few threats that "this will happen to you if you ever tell," and a quite strong impression is made on small children.

2. **Opening portals and dimensions:** I know, this sounds like stuff from a sci-fi film, but these people really believe that there are other spiritual dimensions, and that to pass into them, first a major sacrifice is done to "open a portal", usually several animals. I have also seen animal sacrifices done to protect from the demonic, or blood used to "close a circle" so the demonic cannot penetrate it.

The Illuminists very much believe in the spiritual realm, and have codified practiced over hundreds of years from ancient occultic rituals. They believe they can control these powers (I believe they are deluded).

Sacrifices are also done on high holy days. I have seen an animal "psychically killed" in front of me, and have no way to explain what I saw. I have also seen human sacrifice, but these were very rare (I believe I have seen two or three real ones in my life, the rest were set-ups).

They really don't want to kill off their children, they want a new generation to grow up and continue the practices. I have also heard of them buying children from other countries, and using them, or the homeless, but never witnessed it myself.

More often, I saw animals used in sacrifices and rituals. Other loss of life, rare but horrible, I saw as a head trainer because of my job. Rarely, a trainer would push a person too far, and didn't check for signs of stress. Especially with some of the newer medications used to create trance states, their meds covered the more obvious signs of trauma and stress (elevated heart rate, rapid breathing, tremors, pupil size changing), or blunted them.

Inexperienced trainers would miss more subtle signs, and basically screw a person up. It is horrible to work with a person, and they NEVER COME BACK. They become a vegetable, or worse, they scream and scream for hours without end.

We occasionally had to "put down" these training failures, by using a lethal injection of air, or insulin. The person was then set up in a "fatal crash" or "fire" to dispose of the body. May God forgive me for the few times

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this happened and I was forced to act. I so regret it now. A person cannot be kind or sympathetic. And, the trainer always knows that it could be them next on the table, screaming, so they do their jobs well.

Any failures are heavily punished, to say the least. One of my jobs was teaching younger trainers the masking effects of hypnotic drug combinations, and how to recognize subtle clues of distress. Sigh.

Do the failures count as "sacrifices" to a horrible evil that is perpetrated on others? I think so, even though there was no ritual about it at all, it was all done in a training room with lab coats and needles.

Q: *Svali, I have to ask you this: There are stories floating around on the internet about the Illuminati (and other agencies) being run by extra-terrestrials, ET's, in particular a reptilian race, operating from a higher dimension. Any thoughts on that?*

A: My answer will probably cause a lot of anger, and it's not meant to step on any toes. Here it goes.

I have never seen an alien or extra-terrestrial. I have seen some programming to make people THINK they saw aliens, as a cover story for programming, if they remembered. None of the head trainers I knew, or others on leadership council, believed in aliens, although I never asked them.

I personally believe that the reptilian stuff is actually the demonic at work. I have seen shape-shifting and other stuff because of demonic influence (okay, so here some will say, gee, she believes in demons, that's as far out as aliens).

Well, this is what the Illuminati certainly believe in. They KNOW there are spiritual realities, and think they can control them. Those of a more cynical bent would say the shape shifting was a drug induced hallucination and group hysteria in the context of a ritual setting. I will let each reader decide based on their personal comfort zone. But no, absolutely no reptiles or aliens seen in Washington, DC, or San Diego, Ca. as of 5 years ago, at least I never saw them.

Part 10 - [More About Demonic Shape Shifting](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt10.shtml>

Part 10 - More About Demonic Shape Shifting -

Q: *Tell me more about the shapeshifting part, please. I have heard about this elsewhere, and this not just occurring during rituals, some people claim to have seen politicians shapeshift, for instance. When you say 'demonic' are you talking about a specific 'demon' or type of demon? Is it possible that these demons are really nothing more than some type of ETs influencing the Illuminati, in turn deceiving them?*

A: Since you asked about shape shifting, I will share a little more, but it also relates directly to my own belief system. Can't help it, so I will warn you here that I will be discussing fundamental Christianity and the demonic.

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After being raised in a group that glorifies the demonic, I became a Christian years ago. I honestly believe that without faith in Jesus Christ, I could NEVER have gotten out of the Illuminati, and one reason I don't fear for my life when I share what I remember is that I believe that God is able to protect me.

His love is the antithesis of the cruelty and evil that I saw in this group. His compassion and infinite caring and purity the opposite of the sexual abuse and darkness that surrounded the rituals. I believe that God has forgiven my past, I have sincerely asked His forgiveness, or I could not live with the memories of what I did to others (such as getting young girls addicted to drugs, so they would prostitute for the cult, as only one example).

I have renounced that lifestyle, given it up, and only Christianity has shown me the love and forgiveness and healing that I have needed for a soul weary beyond belief after seeing the underbelly of life and the cruelty that human beings are capable of showing to others.

In the occult world, I do believe that there are demons, that they are real, and that they have a spiritual hierarchy that the cult hierarchy attempts to emulate on a physical plane.

There are principalities, and lower demons, and they control the portals into other spiritual dimensions that humans have NO BUSINESS entering. This stuff is destructive in the extreme to people.

The shape shifting was usually in the context of an occult ceremony, by those given completely over to the demonic. Humans took on the form of animals for a period of time, or of hideous looking beings, and they were NOT aliens. This was demonic activity that caused a human to see the demonic revealed, and distorted what they saw.

I have seen people go temporarily "blind" because of the demonic influence. I have seen animals psychically killed, by others coming into a circle and directing their "energy" at the animal. These were not aliens, some of them were people I grew up with, and my own mother (she was strange, but not an alien).

I participated in this as well at times, and I'm no alien, just a wounded human being. I believe that the demonic does have sexual relations with humans, because it is recorded in the Bible (Genesis); God also forbids it as being completely wrong.

In fact, the Biblical covenants are the antithesis of the dark covenants practiced by the Illuminati, and I have found a lot of healing by going to Scripture and seeing how God views our world, and how He deals with the Spiritual realm. He is going to win, and is in the process of winning the battle.

I will share with you a dream I had 2 years ago. I was standing in a large room, circular shaped, with tiers of rows. A large emblem of the world with a wreath above it was on the wall, and robed figures surrounded me. I was before the Supreme World Council (who will rule when the NWO comes in), and they were pointing at me and saying I was a traitor and would have to die.

The sense of darkness and oppression in the room was intolerable, I was choking from it. One of the leaders came forward, and said that I would die a traitor's death, as an example to them all, unless I came back into the fold of "family".

I fought the dark impulse to give in to save my life, then in my mind, cried out "Jesus, save me". Instantly, the love and peace of God filled my heart, I was no longer afraid, and I told him, "No, because you are defeated,

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you just don't realize it. You can kill my body, but I serve a God who has defeated you and everyone in this room."

I woke up at this point, filled with joy. Now you know why I don't mind answering questions about my past. I believe in a God who is greater than the plans of evil men. They can plot all they want, but in the end, their plans will be defeated.

So ask away, any time, and I will share with you all that I remember. I don't mind exposing them, although I do have a lot of cynicism, as I have noted, as to whether people will do anything about it.

While I respect your desire to investigate, and your openness to any possibilities, I can tell you that as a former lifetime member of the group, I saw demons acting, not reptiles or aliens. I would really wonder about aliens who were as vicious and against Biblical Christianity in particular as the demons I saw.

[Part 11-Illuminati Proof - Vulnerabilities](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt11.shtml>

Part 11: Illuminati Proof - Vulnerabilities

Q: Svali, have you ever come forward publicly with that story, or is this the first time? A: I have never gone into the demonic aspects much, because it is so controversial (ie. your question below!). I have shared this before with my husband, my therapist, and a close friend. I'm not really a "public" person, I've only posted some articles at Suite101.com, to help others who are trying to get out of the cult. I hate sensationalizing stuff, personally, because it can detract from the real problem; children are being hurt and abused, and the abuse needs to stop. Call it demons, aliens, or whatever, there are evil men (and women) using small children and profiting from their pain. That is why I have spoken out against this group.

Q: I am certain that a lot of readers will say 'Come on, now I know this is just sci-fi, how can this be real?!' and would want to see some proof or evidence to that. What would you say to them?

A: I would say "go to a ritual, you will see plenty" except that I don't want ANYONE to ever see or be near that type of evil. Spiritual realities don't leave physical marks, but I think it is interesting that throughout recorded history, mankind has written about these type of phenomena.

Could all of our recorded histories be false? Could mankind be a pathological liar throughout the centuries in this area? If a person visits Africa, they will also hear accounts of shape shifting done by the occult, and there, they DON'T dissociate, so you can interview people who have seen it while fully conscious. In South America, and Asia, this also occurs. How could a world-wide phenomena be made up by groups that had no previous contact with each other? Does the demonic leave a trail, a mark that I can point to? No. But does it leave an indelible impression on those that have witnessed it? Yes, and even in premedieval times, this type of stuff was recorded. I didn't take videos or snapshots of this stuff happening, so a person has to decide whether they believe it or not based on oral testimony. I don't really care. I know what I saw.

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Q: Also, to wrap this interview up for now, what do you see as the Illuminati's Achilles Heel, their vulnerability? Is there any way to stop them, and a way for humanity to move on and say 'It is finished!'? At the moment it seems hopeless, sort of like having your fingers in a chinese finger trap, - you know what I'm talking about - with no way out.

A: 1. Their arrogance (I think I mentioned this before) is their weakness. These people think they are untouchable, and this could make them careless.

2. If by a miracle, enough people took this SERIOUSLY and started organizing in some way to stop the Illuminati take over, with prayer and God's guidance, perhaps they could be stopped. I hope so, with all of my heart.

3. Stopping pornography and child prostitution and drug smuggling and gun running would take out a huge chunk of their profits. Maybe they would slow down. But honestly, stopping the above would be as difficult as stopping the group.

4. To be honest, I don't know what could really stop them. I have written about this group to try and expose them, I have gone to the police several times, given videotaped testimony against them in a court case (the interview was with 5 lawyers and took 3 hours), knowing that my ex-headtrainer would be seeing a copy of the video (I thought about smiling and waving and saying "hi Jonathan", but then decided that might be going a little too far).

I have encouraged others in getting out, and helped a few survivors find safe housing and a way to stay out. I guess each person has to do their best in fighting these people, in the way they feel led to. My skills tend to be in writing, so I am using them.

Q: If you have any last comments or think there are some areas we have not touched or topics you would like to take us to, please feel free to share those.

A: If anyone has heard the sobs of a child when it has been used brutally by adults, or the screams of a child psychologically terrorized, they would do anything they could to stop this abuse.

There are children as young as three and four being used in pornographic films, beaten black and blue if they refuse to comply. There are toddlers being forced to watch brutalities, then given a stick and told to go over and hit the victim themselves, or they will be beaten. The child hesitates, it doesn't want to, and the adults hit the child, until the child goes, tears streaming down its face, and unwillingly does what the adults tell it. This is cruelty beyond belief.

To see a slightly older child with an electric dog collar around its neck, shocked when it tries to "escape" and treated as an animal, to the laughter of the adults and older children around it, and the child goes over to a bush and vomits from fear and self-loathing.

These are the pictures that any survivor of the Illuminati holds in their heart, and these are the reasons I will write and write about them to expose them, and why my heartfelt prayer is that they can be stopped. I wish I were making this up, but I'm not. I wish I didn't have these pictures engraved in my memory, but I do.

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Q: Svali, would you be willing to answer readers questions or feedback, in form of some future article? I think there may be some questions coming in for you at some point, probably to cover some details about your story.

A: I would prefer that they send their questions to you, and then you forward them, if possible. I don't want to get a lot of "hate mail" because I am writing about a topic that is controversial and politically incorrect to talk about.

I'm sure there will be those who say, "oh, she just wants attention". Well, I get plenty of attention at the classes I teach, with a room full of students, and lots more fun besides. I get attention seeing my NON abuse articles in print, and make money besides (which I don't when I write about this)..

No, I want to expose these people, that's my motivation. Some will believe what I am writing, others won't. That's fine with me. If they feel the need to vent their disbelief, that's fine, as long as I don't get lots of cuss words, or people saying I'm stupid (oh, yes, I get letters like that at times) or uneducated.

Sorry, none of the above are true. I have 2 university degrees. I had to, I was told to by the cult. They don't let stupid people lead.

Oh, and HJ, I won't just disappear on you or recant anything I wrote. You can email me anytime with questions, and I will delightedly expose what SOBs this group is composed of. Oops, that doesn't sound Christian there, but God appreciates honesty, doesn't He? I'm only accurately describing them. I'm still working on forgiveness, as you can see...

Q: Svali, I'm grateful you took the time to share those experiences with us, which I'm sure was neither easy nor pleasant. I wish you all the best, for you and your family. Perhaps more people will read this, and pass this article on to others. Maybe we can stop all of this shocking brutality, child abuse, the Illuminati someday. It's never too late. Thank your very much for this interview, Svali.

* Please forward questions for Svali regarding the Illuminati to centrexnews@yahoo.com.

[Part 12 - The Top of the Pyramid](#)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt12.shtml>

Part 12 - The Top of the Pyramid -

Q: Svali, a very important question I'm sure all our readers are asking themselves is, who heads the Illuminati? Who is the top of the pyramid?

A: Hooboy! Where do I start with this? First, it depends on what level. I would like to draw up a little map of the Illuminati from my memories (which are NOT FOND) of being part of this group. I will also try to fill in

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some names, but I want to be cautious. If I name too many names, I could draw some nasty fire from people in the group. Here it goes:

I will be doing an upside down pyramid, to show the Illuminati structure, NOT to trigger people (I know the Illuminati use lots of pyramids) but because this is how they have their hierarchy set up:

Level One: Local level: (anytown, USA)

Sister groups

There will be between ten and thirty sister groups in most metropolitan areas, dependent on the size of the city. The larger the city, the more sister groups. There are Illuminati groups in EVERY major city in the US and Europe. This first level is what is known as the "anarchical" or "low level". It is what most people reporting [satanic] ritual abuse discuss: a high priest and priestess preside over each group, which also contains a group of two to four trainers, and others with jobs. The sister groups unite on rare occasions, are aware of each other, but each one is fairly independent, and reports only to their leadership council.

Level Two: Metropolitan leadership council:

This is what the local leadership council over these groups will look like. It will also cover scattered groups in outlying rural areas.

Baalim (head) (1), assistants to the head (2) administrators over finances and day to day happenings (4), head trainers (oversee and teach other trainers) (6).

The total: 13 members

The Baalim and his two assistants report to:

Regional Leadership Council

The United States has been divided into seven different regions geographically. Each region has a 13 member leadership council that coordinates with the local leadership councils (are you getting the idea by now? The Illuminati are set up a lot like "Amway" or any other well-organized business enterprise with a flowchart of accountability for each member). This council will look something like this:

Head of council (1), Military (2 seats), Spiritual (2 seats), Scholarship (2 seats), Finances (2 seats), Training (2 seats), Sciences (2 seats).

Total: 13 members

The regional councils will represent the different areas of interest and knowledge that the Illuminati pursue. The membership will change over time as members are promoted or demoted.

The seven regional councils each have a leader as noted above, who reports to the:

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National Council (The nations in Europe also have national councils, Mexico and Canada do as well, as does the Soviet Republic and China).

The national council will look much like the one above, with this difference; these are influential bankers with OLD money such as: The Rockefellers, the Mellon family, the Carnegie family, the Rothschild family etc. I know I shouldn't name names, but I will.

The heads of the National councils report to:

The Supreme World Council.

This council is already set up as a prototype of the one that will rule when the NWO comes into being. It meets on a regular basis to discuss finances, direction, policy, etc. and to problem-solve difficulties that come up. Once again, these leaders are heads in the financial world, OLD banking money. The Rothschild family in England, and in France, have ruling seats. A descendant of the Hapsburg dynasty has a generational seat. A descendant of the ruling families of England and France have a generational seat. The Rockefeller family in the US holds a seat.

This is one reason that the Illuminati have been pretty "untouchable" over the years. The ruling members are very, very, very wealthy and powerful. I hope this information is helpful. How do I know this? I was on a local leadership council (a head trainer), but I talked to those on regional. Also, every Illuminati child is taught who their "leaders" are, and told to take an oath of allegiance to them and the "New Order to come".

Q: To what degree is the European royalty involved, what is their real pecking order and power structure and what is their U.S.-U.K. relationship in terms of financial/political/cult power. Is the Monarchy still running the show?

A: This is hard to answer, but I'll try. The Illuminati leadership state that they are descended from royal bloodlines, as well as unbroken occult heritage.

See, there were two definitions of "royalty" used. Open royalty that is currently seen now, and "hidden royalty" of royal lineage and extreme occult power. Sometimes the two were concurrent, such as with the Prince of Wales.

I never thought of which country/line held the most power, since I was just a peon busily doing my job. But my understanding was: The Hanoverian / Hapsburg descendants rule in Germany over the Bruderheist. They are considered one of the strongest lines for occult as well. The British line is just under them, with the royal family. Definitely, they rule the UK branch under the Rothschilds in the occult realm, even though parliament rules the country openly.

In France, again, descendants of the royal families are also in power in the occult realm, but the French Rothschilds hold the reigns over all or them. The U.S. is considered lower, and younger, than the European branches. This is why the children of leaders are ALWAYS sent to Europe for part of their training; the education is considered better and the U.S. families want to renew their affiliation with the european forebears.

Germany, France, and the UK form a triumvirate that rules in the European cult. The USSR is considered important, and has the strongest military groups. **The USSR has been promised fourth position in the New**

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information World Order, BEFORE the role the U.S. would have, because the USSR has been more helpful and cooperative over the years with furthering the agenda.

The descendants of the former ruling families there are also involved in the occult leadership, along with the newer ones. There is no marxism in the cult. China will be ranked after the USSR, then the U.S.. **But a lot of the current U.S. leadership will be in Europe when the change occurs**, and many have homes there. They will be "changing nationalities" overnight, as it were. This is the little that I do remember. Wish I had been a better student of this stuff, but I was too busy trying to stay alive when I was in it.

[Part 13- The UN or 'Supreme World Council'](http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt13.shtml)

<http://educate-yourself.org/mc/mcsvaliinterviewpt13.shtml>

Part 13 - The UN or 'Supreme World Council' -

Q: Svali, what role does and will the UN play in the future and how do you see this unfolding? What is their timeline?

A: The UN was created early in this century in order to help overcome one of the biggest barriers to a one world government necessary, if there is to be a military rule and dictatorship by the Illuminists. That barrier is the one of nationalism, or pride in one's country. This is why it was NOT a popular concept when first introduced, it took years of country bashing in the media and the destruction of any sense of national pride by a (not so subtle) media campaign over the years. It's agenda? It is set up as a shadow, or forerunner, of the **Supreme World Council** that will represent every nation. Every ambassador to the UN has either done something to curry Illuminati favor and been rewarded, or is a political figurehead chosen to make the organization "look good".

The Illuminati and governmental leaders chose to create the UN early in the past century, and worked hard and against opposition to put it in place (**FDR** was their man in America who helped the American public accept it). Both he and **Eleanor** were **staunch Illuminists**. So is **Shirley Temple Black**. In fact, most of our presidents since the beginning of the past century have been either Illuminists, or agreed by oath to support their goals, in return for campaign funds and support. I believe it is impossible to win a presidential election in our country today without their backing. The Kennedy family were punished because they tried to disobey them. They were free thinkers, and too hard to "control".

The UN has a stated goal of world peace, and wants to incorporate under its fold military and peace-keeping functions. But in reality, giving this role to the UN weakens the individual military strength of nations, and encourages them to lean more and more on an external organization, making them less able to resist when the takeover occurs.

I was told that by the **year 2020**, that the New Order would be openly revealed, BUT that may have been cult propaganda, and they are always changing dates. I personally believe that by the mid of this century, they will reveal themselves. This is just my opinion, though.

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Q: What are the plans of the Illuminati for the Middle East and how will it affect the rest of the world? Will we see WWII?

A: The conflict in the middle east is only to the advantage of the Illuminists. They HATE Israel, and hope one day to see it destroyed, and are biding their time. One of the olive branches offered by the UN when it takes over is that they will prevent war in the middle east, and this will be greeted with joy by many. At the same time, the Illuminati covertly supply guns and funds to BOTH sides to keep the conflict fueled. They are very duplicitous people. They used to funnel guns through the USSR to Palestine, for example, in the name of promoting "friendliness" between the USSR and this state and other arab nations. Then, the US Illuminists would help funnel guns to Israel, for the same reason.

These people love the game of chess, and see warfare between nations as creating an order out of chaos. The **USSR is going to get stronger again**. It has too strong a military both openly, and covertly (ALL Illuminati military trainers have visited Russia to learn from them) to sit quietly and quiescently to the side. In the NWO, they will be stronger than us.

Want to hear the end of the world scenario the Illuminati taught me? It was cult propaganda, but this is how they believed the New Order would be ushered in: There will be continued conflict in the mideast, with a severe threat of nuclear war being the culmination of these hostilities. **An economic collapse that will devastate the economy of the US** and Europe, much like the Great Depression.

One reason that our economy continues limping along is the artificial supports that the Federal Reserve had given it, manipulating interest rates, etc. But one day, this won't work (or this leverage will be withdrawn on purpose) and the next Great Depression will hit. The government will call in its bonds and loans, and credit card debts will be called in. There will be massive bankruptcies nationwide. Europe will stabilize first, and Germany, France and England (surprise) will have the strongest economies, and will institute through the UN an international currency. Japan will also pull out, although their economy will be weakened.

Peacekeeping forces will be sent out by the UN and local bases to prevent riots. The leaders will reveal themselves, and people will be asked to make a pledge of loyalty during a time of chaos and financial devastation.

Doesn't sound pleasant, does it? I don't know the exact time frame for all of this, and wouldn't want to even guess. The good news is that **if a person is debt-free, owes nothing to the government or credit debt, and can live self sufficiently, they may do better than other. I would invest in gold**, not stocks, if I had the income. Gold will once again be the world standard, and dollars will be pretty useless (remember after the Civil War? Our money will be worth about what confederate money was after the collapse).

All this said, it could just be cult propaganda taught to me and others to frighten us. It may be that none of this will happen. I sincerely hope not. I also strongly believe that God is able to stay the hand of the wicked, and to take care of our nation and others, if we turn to Him.

Q: Overall, would you say the Illuminati are racist? I am asking this because their agenda seems to be very white supremacist throughout history.

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The Illuminati are racist, and have a very "aryan" outlook. They believe strongly in the rule of the "pure" and "intelligent" by their definitions, and in their ceremonies, there will occasionally be minorities killed in ceremonies.

They are trying to breed a "genetically superior" race to rule, with their children and descendants. They are also followers of Plato's Republic, and believe that they will be the ones to usher in this "Utopian" rule with the NWO in their opinion. In their Utopia, the intelligentsia will rule, and the sheep like masses will follow their leaders (that is their view of the world; that the occult leaders are "enlightened" and intelligent, while the average person is a "sheep" to be led by the nose).

Q: Why would they allow a black leader to head the UN?

A: Because it is a temporarily politically expedient thing for them to do. They are liars, and will hold out a hand to a popular political figure, throwing them a figurehead role in one of their organizations, to make the UN look better, and as a group that promotes "interracial harmony" and "unity" and "peace".

The real leaders would never publicly allow their real feelings to show. The UN is a preparation, but it is not the real power in the world, and will be relatively unimportant when the NWO comes into being. The real councils will then step forward. But as a means of getting the general public to accept the idea of a "global community" and the "one world community" the UN is a stepping stone in their working towards the NWO.

Q: Do they have a population control agenda? I'm thinking specially in view of the AIDS plague in Africa. Could this be engineered by them?

A: I have heard reports that certain deadly viruses have been engineered by the Illuminati, but I doubt that HIV was. Why? Because so many of the leadership of the Illuminati are blatantly pedophilic and homosexual, the virus is rampant in parts of the US, and they would be endangering themselves as well. **Most of the leadership that I knew were homosexuals in their night personas** (myself included) and it was accepted as a lifestyle in that setting, and encouraged.

Also, the viruses that they are developing are ones that they are also engineering antidotes to, to protect leadership from the virus if an epidemic breaks out. I do know that there is some working on biological weapons by members of this group as a method of threatening population bases that don't embrace the "New Order" when revealed, this was discussed occasionally in leadership meetings. What state it is at at this time, I couldn't say, since it has been several years since I was active in the group.

[Questions from Readers](#)

More information from Svali can be seen at her web site:

http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/ritual_abuse/53556

<http://freemasonry.org/>



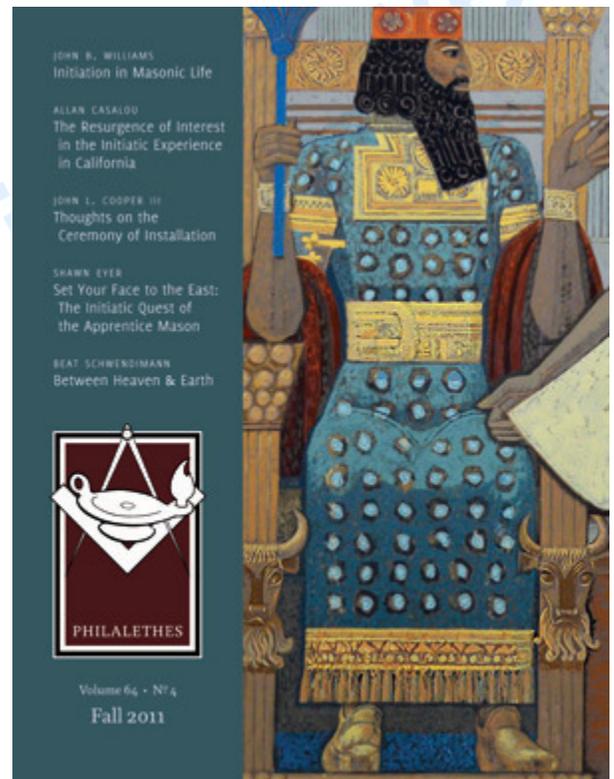
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Established in 1928, the Philaethes Society is the oldest independent Masonic research society in North America, serving thousands of members around the world.

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"Just as there is a vital spark in man that defies definition or description, so is there in Freemasonry a divine flame—a vital, living force that transcends all descriptions."

New Features

Welcome to our new website. Be sure to learn about the recently redesigned [Journal](#). If you haven't seen *Philalethes* for a while, take a look at our new presentation!

A [free sample article](#) from the Summer 2011 issue has now been posted. It explores the importance of the Craft's traditional requirement of a belief in the Supreme Being. More free samples are available on our [Philalethes magazine](#) page.

We have also added a page about our proud 82-year [History](#) of Masonic education. Check back often, as new features will be added on an ongoing basis.

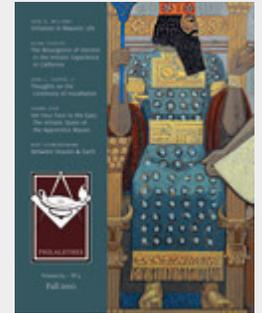
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Freemasonry - About Us

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Welcome to The Philaethes Society, North America's oldest and largest international Masonic research and education society. Our website is currently undergoing many changes and we hope you will come back often.

The Society has been in existence for [80 years](#) and, since 1946, we have published [Philaethes](#) magazine. Our new editor, Shawn Eyer, has taken the helm of the quarterly magazine, expanded it to 44 pages each issue, in full color. Many high quality Masonic education papers are featured in each edition. We welcome the submission of quality papers at any time and encourage you to contact our editor with your submissions.



current issue

Fall 2011



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<http://freemasonry.org/history.php>

History of the Philaethes Society

Established in 1928, the Philaethes Society is devoted to the promotion of the highest quality Masonic education and research. It was created on October 1, 1928, when a small group of Masonic writers gathered at the Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids, Iowa for a very serious purpose. They were some of the most renowned Freemasons of their day: Robert I. Clegg (editor of new editions of Mackey's classics), George H. Imbrie (editor of Kansas City's **Masonic Light**), Cyrus Field Willard (formerly of the Boston Globe), Alfred H. Moorhouse (editor of **The New England Masonic Craftsman**), Henry F. Evans (editor of Denver's **Square and Compass**, and William C. Rapp (editor of Chicago's **Masonic Chronicler**).

They gave birth to the Philaethes Society because they recognized that all Freemasons are charged to spread Masonic Light, but sometimes that Light can be hard to find. Reflecting upon this problem, founding president Cyrus Field Willard said:

Those who have been members of the Fraternity for a number of years have known men who were little more than "good fellows," but because they were appointed to some minor position by a friend who was Master, they continued to go "up the line" until eventually they landed in the Master's chair. And after serving in the office for a year, they had signally failed "to set the Craft to work and give them instructions whereby they might pursue their labors." It was the realizing sense of this that prompted the formation of an association to bring together in one body the writers who felt

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that the great mass of Freemasons in the United States should have more information on the fundamentals of Freemasonry.

What Does Philalethes Mean?

The Greek word **philaléthês** (pronounced "fill-a-lay-thayss") was used by ancient writers such as Aristotle and Plutarch, and means "a lover of truth." The word came into Masonic circles through alchemical mystic Robert Samber (1682–1745), who used the pseudonym Eugenius Philalethes; Samber's use, in turn, was an homage to Thomas Vaughan, an earlier alchemist who had used the same name. Finally, a Rite of Philaléthes was founded in Paris in 1772, devoted to the study of esotericism. Founding President Cyrus Willard wrote in 1937 that the Philalethes Society took its name from the Parisian Philaléthes.

Early Structure

In the earliest days, the Society described itself as "An International Body of Masonic Writers." Official membership was limited to forty Fellows, who were drawn from writers and editors of the many Masonic newspapers and magazines that existed before the second world war.

Its Fellowship is limited to 40, like the French Academy, but the Correspondence Circle is unlimited in number. ... Its purpose is to bring together the Masonic writers of the world who seek the Truth in Masonry.

This structure consciously imitated both the Académie Française (in the limitation of forty Fellows) and the world's premier lodge of Masonic research, Quatuor Coronati № 2076 in London, England (in allowing non-members to participate through an unlimited "Correspondence Circle"). Members of the Correspondence Circle were also called "corresponding members."

Today, members of the Correspondence Circle are merely referred to as "Members." The number of members who are designed Fellows is still restricted to forty.

Notable Members

The Philalethes Society has attracted some of the greatest minds in Freemasonry. Among the original forty Fellows were Cyrus Field Willard, Harold V. B. Voorhis, Rudyard Kipling, Oswald Wirth, Robert I. Clegg, Louis Black, J. Hugo Tatsch, Charles S. Plumb, Harry L. Haywood, J. S. M. Ward, and Charles C. Hunt.

Fellows elected since that time have included Masonic notables such as Carl H. Claudy (1936), Arthur Edward Waite (1937), Ray Denslow (1945), Allen E. Roberts (1963), S. Brent Morris (1980), John Mauk Hilliard

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information (1981), Wallace McLeod (1986), Thomas W. Jackson (1991), Norman Vincent Peale (1991), Robert G. Davis (1993) and Leon Zeldis (1994).

Origins of the Journal

In the Society's early days, all of its publications appeared in other, established Masonic periodicals—many of which were edited by Fellows of the Society. There was no separate **Philalethes** journal. Many of the Society's earliest publications were issued under the slogan, "With Rough Ashlar and Tracing Board," and under the motto, "There is No Religion Higher than Truth." Both of these maxims reflect the viewpoint that Freemasonry is a serious and deeply personal quest for Truth and Light.



Unfortunately, the Great Depression took a toll on many of the Masonic periodicals, and after that the hardships of World War Two caused nearly all of them to fold. It was only after the war ended that the Philalethes Society was able to release the first issue of **Philalethes**. The first issue, dated March, 1946, was edited by Walter A. Quincke fps.

Philalethes: The Review of Masonic Research and Letters has long served as the de facto magazine for North American Freemasonry.

The Tradition Continues

It was the intention of the founders that the Philalethes Society would effectively serve the needs of those in search of deeper insight into the history, rituals and symbolism of Freemasonry.

Today, our mission is much the same as when we began nearly a century ago. A new generation of Freemasons is in search of Masonic Light. Not satisfied with simplistic answers, they ask for new ideas, more information, deeper engagement, expanded fraternal contact, and a more profound exploration of the **meaning** of the Craft. The members of the Philalethes Society are united in that quest for knowledge.

A book-length history of the Society, **Seekers of Truth**, was published in 1988 by Allen E. Roberts FPS. Those seeking a more extensive history of the Society should obtain a copy.

Living Past Presidents of the Philalethes Society

John Mauk Hilliard fps

Wallace McLeod fps

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Robert G. Davis fps

Nelson King fps

Joel Springer III fps

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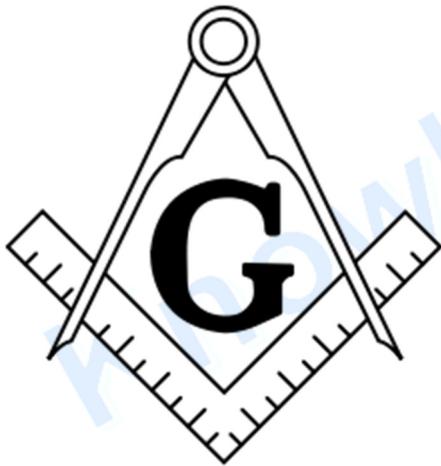
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Freemasonry

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Freemasons" redirects here. For other uses, see [Freemasons \(disambiguation\)](#).

"Masonic" redirects here. For the ghost town in California, see [Masonic, California](#).



The Masonic [Square and Compasses](#).

(Found with or without the letter [G](#))

Part of a [series](#) of articles on

Freemasonry



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Freemasonry is a [fraternal organisation](#) that arose from obscure origins in the late 16th to early 17th century. Freemasonry now exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated at around six million, including approximately 150,000 under the jurisdictions of the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#) and [Grand Lodge of Ireland](#), over a quarter of a million under the jurisdiction of the [United Grand Lodge of England](#)^[1] and just under two million in the [United States](#).^[2]

The fraternity is administratively organised into independent [Grand Lodges](#) or sometimes Orients, each of which governs its own [jurisdiction](#), which consists of subordinate (or *constituent*) Lodges. The various Grand Lodges recognise each other, or not, based upon adherence to [landmarks](#) (a Grand Lodge will usually deem other Grand Lodges who share common landmarks to be [regular](#), and those that do not to be "irregular" or "clandestine").

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information

There are also [appendant bodies](#), which are organisations related to the main branch of Freemasonry, but with their own independent administration.

Contents

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History

Main article: [History of Freemasonry](#)



Goose and Gridiron, where the [Grand Lodge of England](#) was founded

The origins and early development of Freemasonry are a matter of some debate and conjecture. A poem known as the "[Regius Manuscript](#)" has been dated to approximately 1390 and is the oldest known Masonic text.^[3] There is evidence to suggest that there were Masonic lodges in existence in [Scotland](#) as early as the late 16th century^[4] (for example the [Lodge at Kilwinning](#), Scotland, has records that date to the late 16th century, and is mentioned in the Second [Schaw](#) Statutes (1599) which specified that "ye warden of ye lug of Kilwvynning [...] tak tryall of ye [airt of memorie](#) and science yrof, of everie fellowe of craft and everie prenteiss according to ayr of yr vocations").^[5] There are clear references to the existence of lodges in [England](#) by the mid-17th century.^[6]

The first Grand Lodge, the [Grand Lodge of England](#) (GLE), was founded on 24 June 1717, when four existing [London](#) Lodges met for a joint dinner. This rapidly expanded into a regulatory body, which most English Lodges joined. However, a few lodges resented some of the modernisations that GLE endorsed, such as the creation of the Third Degree, and formed a rival Grand Lodge on 17 July 1751, which they called the "[Antient Grand Lodge of England](#)." The two competing Grand Lodges vied for supremacy – the "Moderns" (GLE) and

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the "Antients" (or "Ancients") – until they united on 25 November 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).^[7]

The Grand Lodge of Ireland and The Grand Lodge of Scotland were formed in 1725 and 1736 respectively. Freemasonry was exported to the British Colonies in [North America](#) by the 1730s – with both the "Antients" and the "Moderns" (as well as the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland) chartering offspring, or "daughter," Lodges, and organising various Provincial Grand Lodges. After the [American Revolution](#), independent U.S. Grand Lodges formed themselves within each state. Some thought was briefly given to organising an overarching "Grand Lodge of the United States," with [George Washington](#) (who was a member of a Virginian lodge) as the first Grand Master, but the idea was short-lived. The various state Grand Lodges did not wish to diminish their own authority by agreeing to such a body.^[8]

Although there are no real differences in the Freemasonry practiced by lodges chartered by the Antients or the Moderns, the remnants of this division can still be seen in the names of most Lodges, F.& A.M. being *Free and Accepted Masons* and A.F.& A.M. being *Antient Free and Accepted Masons*.



View of room at the Masonic Hall, [Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, England](#), early 20th century

The oldest jurisdiction on the continent of [Europe](#), the [Grand Orient de France](#) (GOdF), was founded in 1733.^[9] However, most English-speaking jurisdictions cut formal relations with the GOdF around 1877, when (following the [Lausanne Congress of 1875](#)) the GOdF removed the requirement that its members have a belief in a Deity. The [Grande Loge Nationale Française](#) (GLNF)^[10] is currently the only [French](#) Grand Lodge that is in *regular amity* with the UGLE and its many concordant jurisdictions worldwide.

Due to the above history, Freemasonry is often said to consist of two branches *not in mutual regular amity*:

- the UGLE and concordant tradition of jurisdictions (mostly termed Grand Lodges) in amity, and
- the GOdF, European Continental, tradition of jurisdictions (often termed Grand Orients) in amity.

In most [Latin](#) countries, the GOdF-style of European [Continental Freemasonry](#) predominates,^[citation needed] although in most of these Latin countries there are also Grand Lodges that are in *regular amity* with the UGLE and the worldwide community of Grand Lodges that share regular "fraternal relations" with the UGLE. The rest of the world, accounting for the bulk of Freemasonry, tends to follow more closely to the UGLE style, although minor variations exist.

Organisational structure



[Freemasons Hall](#), London, home of the [United Grand Lodge of England](#).

Main article: [Grand Lodge](#)

Grand Lodges and Grand Orients are independent and sovereign bodies that govern Masonry in a given country, state, or geographical area (termed a *jurisdiction*).^[11] There is no single overarching governing body that presides over worldwide Freemasonry; connections between different jurisdictions depend solely on mutual recognition.^[12]

Regularity

Main article: [Regular Masonic jurisdictions](#)

Regularity is a constitutional mechanism whereby Grand Lodges or Grand Orients give one another mutual recognition. This recognition allows formal interaction at the Grand Lodge level, and gives individual Freemasons the opportunity to attend Lodge meetings in other recognised jurisdictions. Conversely, regularity [proscribes](#) interaction with Lodges that are *irregular*. A Mason who visits an irregular Lodge may have his membership suspended for a time, or he may be [expelled](#). For this reason, all Grand Lodges maintain lists of other jurisdictions and lodges they consider regular.^[13]

Grand Lodges and Grand Orients that afford mutual recognition and allow intervisitation are said to be [in amity](#). As far as the UGLE is concerned, regularity is predicated upon adherence to a number of fundamental principals (known as *Landmarks*), set down in the UGLE Constitution and the Constitutions of those Grand Lodges with which they are in amity. Even within this definition there are some variations with the quantity and content of the Landmarks from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Other Masonic groups organise differently.^[14]

Each of the two major branches of Freemasonry considers the Lodges within its branch to be "regular" and those in the other branch to be "irregular." As the UGLE branch is significantly larger, however, the various

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Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in amity with UGLE are commonly referred to as being "regular" (or "Mainstream") Masonry, while those Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in amity with GOdF are commonly referred to "liberal" or "irregular" Masonry. (The issue is complicated by the fact that the usage of "Lodge" versus "Orient" alone is not an indicator of which branch a body belongs to, and thus not an indication of regularity). The term "irregular" is also universally applied to various self created bodies that call themselves "Masonic" but are not recognised by either of the main branches.

Masonic Lodge

Main article: [Masonic Lodge](#)

A Lodge (often termed a *Private Lodge* or *Constituent Lodge* in Masonic constitutions) is the basic organisational unit of Freemasonry. Every new Lodge must have a Warrant or Charter issued by a Grand Lodge, authorising it to meet and work. Except for the very few "time immemorial" Lodges pre-dating the formation of a Grand Lodge, masons who meet as a Lodge without displaying this document (for example, in prisoner-of-war camps) are deemed "Clandestine" and irregular.

A Lodge must hold regular meetings at a fixed place and published dates. It will elect, initiate and promote its members and officers; it will build up and manage its property and assets, including its minutes and records; and it may own, occupy or share its premises. Like any organisation, it will have formal business to manage its meetings and proceedings, annual general meetings and [committees](#), [charity funds](#), correspondence and reports, membership and subscriptions, accounts and tax returns, special events and catering, and so forth. The balance of activities is individual to each Lodge, and under their common constitutions and forms of procedure, Lodges evolve very distinctive traditions.

A man can only be initiated, or made a Mason, in a Lodge, of which he may often remain a subscribing member for life. A Master Mason can generally visit any Lodge meeting under any jurisdiction in amity with his own, and as well as the formal meeting, a Lodge may well offer hospitality. A visitor should first check the regularity of that Lodge, and must be able to satisfy that Lodge of his own regularity; and he may be refused admission if adjudged likely to disrupt the harmony of the Lodge. If he wishes to visit the same Lodge repeatedly, he may be expected to join it and pay a subscription.



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This plaque commemorates a 'formal' fraternal visit by NIRMAS, the Masonic association for members of the [Royal Australian Navy](#), that originally stated at the Apprentice Training Base, [HMAS Nirimba](#), hence the name. The plaque is styled after the [ship's badge](#) for the Navy. The visit was to Lodge [Gundagai](#) United, No.25.

Most Lodges consist of Freemasons living or working within a given town or neighbourhood. Other Lodges are composed of Masons with a particular shared interest, [profession](#) or background. Shared [schools](#), [universities](#), [military units](#), Masonic appointments or degrees, arts, professions and [hobbies](#) have all been the qualifications for such Lodges. In some Lodges, the foundation and name may now be only of historic interest, as over time the membership evolves beyond that envisaged by its "founding brethren"; in others, the membership remains exclusive.

There are also specialist Lodges of Research, with membership drawn from Master Masons only, with interests in Masonic Research (of [history](#), [philosophy](#), etc.). Lodges of Research are fully warranted but, generally, do not initiate new candidates. Lodges of Instruction in UGLE may be warranted by any ordinary Lodge for the learning and rehearsal of Masonic [Ritual](#).

Freemasons correctly meet *as* a Lodge, not *in* a Lodge, the word "Lodge" referring more to the people assembled than the place of assembly. However, in common usage, Masonic premises are often referred to as "Lodges". Masonic buildings are also sometimes called "Temples" ("of [Philosophy](#) and [the Arts](#)"). In many countries, *Masonic Centre* or *Hall* has replaced *Temple* to avoid arousing prejudice and suspicion. Several different Lodges, as well as other Masonic or non-Masonic organisations, often use the same premises at different times.

According to Masonic tradition, medieval European stonemasons would meet, eat, and shelter outside working hours in a Lodge on the southern side of a building site, where the sun warms the stones during the day. The social *Festive Board* (or *Social Board*)^[15] part of the meeting is thus sometimes called *the South*.^[16] Early Lodges often met in a [tavern](#) or any other convenient fixed place with a private room.

Lodge Officers

Main article: [Masonic Lodge Officers](#)

Every Masonic Lodge elects certain officers to execute the necessary functions of the lodge's work. The Worshipful Master (essentially the lodge President) is always an elected officer. Most jurisdictions will also elect the Senior and Junior Wardens (Vice Presidents), the Secretary and the Treasurer. All lodges will have a Tyler, or Tiler, (who guards the door to the lodge room while the lodge is in session), sometimes elected and sometimes appointed by the Master. In addition to these elected officers, lodges will have various appointed officers – such as Deacons, Stewards, and a Chaplain (appointed to lead a non-denominational prayer at the convocation of meetings or activities – often, but not necessarily, a clergyman). The specific offices and their functions vary between jurisdictions.

Many offices are replicated at the Provincial and Grand Lodge levels with the addition of the word 'Grand' somewhere in the title. For example, where every lodge has a 'Junior Warden', Grand Lodges have a 'Grand Junior Warden' (or sometimes 'Junior Grand Warden'). Additionally, there are a number of offices that exist only at the Grand Lodge level.^[17]

Prince Hall Freemasonry

Main article: [Prince Hall Freemasonry](#)

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Prince Hall Freemasonry derives from historical events in the early United States that led to a tradition of separate, predominantly [African-American](#) Freemasonry in North America.

In 1775, an African-American named [Prince Hall](#)^[18] was initiated into an Irish Constitution military Lodge then in [Boston, Massachusetts](#), along with fourteen other African-Americans, all of whom were free-born. When the military Lodge left North America, those fifteen men were given the authority to meet as a Lodge, form Processions on the days of the Saints John, and conduct Masonic funerals, but not to confer degrees, nor to do other Masonic work. In 1784, these individuals applied for, and obtained, a Lodge Warrant from the Premier Grand Lodge of England (GLE) and formed African Lodge, Number 459. When the UGLE was formed in 1813, all U.S.-based Lodges were stricken from their rolls – due largely to the [War of 1812](#). Thus, separated from both UGLE and any concordantly recognised U.S. Grand Lodge, African Lodge re-titled itself as the African Lodge, Number 1 – and became a *de facto* "Grand Lodge" (this Lodge is not to be confused with the various Grand Lodges on the Continent of [Africa](#)). As with the rest of U.S. Freemasonry, Prince Hall Freemasonry soon grew and organised on a Grand Lodge system for each state.

Widespread [segregation](#) in 19th- and early 20th-century North America made it difficult for African-Americans to join Lodges outside of Prince Hall jurisdictions – and impossible for inter-jurisdiction recognition between the parallel U.S. Masonic authorities.

Prince Hall Masonry has always been *regular* in all respects except constitutional separation, and this separation has diminished in recent years. At present, Prince Hall Grand Lodges are recognised by some UGLE Concordant Grand Lodges and not by others, but they appear to be working toward full recognition, with UGLE granting at least some degree of recognition.^[19] There are a growing number of both Prince Hall Lodges and non-Prince Hall Lodges that have ethnically diverse membership.

Other degrees, orders and bodies

Main article: [Masonic appendant bodies](#)

There is no degree in Freemasonry higher than that of Master Mason, the Third Degree.^[20] There are, however, a number of organisations that require being a Master Mason as a prerequisite for membership.^[21] These bodies have no authority over the Craft.^[20] These orders or degrees may be described as additional or *appendant*, and often provide a further perspective on some of the allegorical, moral and philosophical content of Freemasonry.

Appendant bodies are administered separately from Craft Grand Lodges but are styled *Masonic* since every member must be a Mason. However, Craft Masonic jurisdictions vary in their relationships with such bodies, if a relationship exists at all. The Articles of Union of the "Modern" and "Antient" craft Grand Lodges (into UGLE in 1813) limited recognition to certain degrees, such as the [Royal Arch](#) and the "chivalric degrees", but there were and are many other degrees that have been worked since before the Union. Some bodies are not universally considered to be appendant bodies, but rather separate organisations that happen to require prior Masonic affiliation for membership. Some of these organisations have additional requirements, such as religious adherence (e.g., requiring members to profess [Trinitarian](#) Christian beliefs) or membership of other bodies.

Quite apart from these, there are organisations that are often thought of as being related to Freemasonry, but which have no formal or informal connections with Freemasonry. These include such organisations as the [Orange Order](#), which originated in Ireland, the [Knights of Pythias](#), or the [Independent Order of Odd Fellows](#).^[22]

Principles and activities

While Freemasonry has often been called a "[secret society](#)," Freemasons themselves argue that it is more correct to say that it is an [esoteric](#) society, in that certain aspects are private.^[20] The most common phrasing is that Freemasonry has, in the 21st century, become less a secret society and more of a "society with secrets."^[23] The private aspects of modern Freemasonry are the modes of [recognition](#) amongst members and particular elements within the [ritual](#).^[24] Despite the organisation's great diversity, Freemasonry's central preoccupations remain charitable work within a local or wider community, moral uprightness (in most cases requiring a belief in a supreme being) as well as the development and maintenance of fraternal friendship, as [James Anderson's Constitutions](#) originally urged amongst brethren.

Ritual, symbolism, and morality

Masons conduct their meetings using a ritualised format. There is no single Masonic ritual, and each jurisdiction is free to set (or not set) its own ritual. However, there are similarities that exist among jurisdictions. For example, all Masonic ritual makes use of the [architectural](#) symbolism of the tools of the [medieval operative](#) stonemason. Freemasons, as *speculative* masons (meaning philosophical building rather than actual building), use this symbolism to teach moral and ethical lessons of the principles of "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth;" or as related in France, "[Liberty, Equality, Fraternity](#)."



The Square and Compasses carved into stone

Two of the principal symbolic tools always found in a Lodge are the [square](#) and [compasses](#). Some Lodges and rituals explain these tools as lessons in conduct: for example, that Masons should "square their actions by the square of virtue" and to learn to "circumscribe their desires and keep their passions within due bounds toward all mankind." However, as Freemasonry is non-dogmatic, there is no general interpretation for these tools (or any Masonic emblem) that is used by Freemasonry as a whole.^[25]

These moral lessons are communicated in performance of allegorical ritual. A candidate progresses through *degrees*^[20] gaining knowledge and understanding of himself, his relationship with others and his relationship with the Supreme Being (per his own interpretation). While the philosophical aspects of Freemasonry tend to be discussed in Lodges of Instruction or Research, and sometimes informal groups, Freemasons, and others, frequently publish, with varying degrees of competence, studies that are available to the public. Any mason may speculate on the symbols and purpose of Freemasonry, and indeed all masons are required to some extent to

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speculate on masonic meaning as a condition of advancing through the [degrees](#). There is no one accepted meaning, and no one person "speaks" for the whole of Freemasonry.^[26]

Some lodges make use of [tracing boards](#). These are painted or printed illustrations depicting the various symbolic [emblems](#) of Freemasonry. They can be used as teaching aids during the lectures that follow each of the three Degrees, when an experienced member explains the various concepts of Freemasonry to new members. They can also be used by experienced members as self-reminders of the concepts they learned as they went through their [initiations](#).

Freemasonry uses the [metaphors](#) of operative [stonemasons'](#) tools and implements, against the [allegorical](#) backdrop of the building of [King Solomon's Temple](#), to convey what has been described by both Masons and critics as "a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."^{[27][28]}

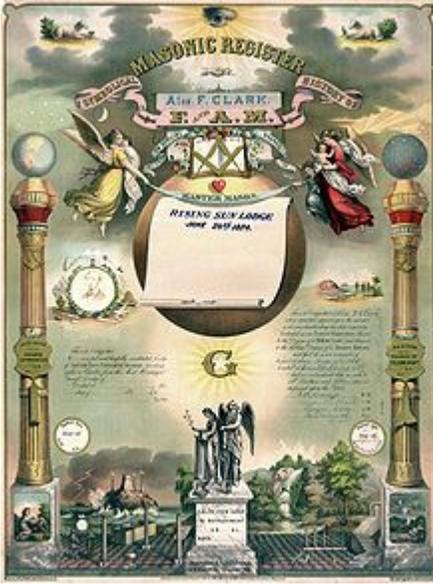
The Supreme Being and the Volume of Sacred Law

Candidates for [regular](#) Freemasonry are required to declare a belief in a [Supreme Being](#).^[29] However, the candidate is not asked to expand on, or explain, his interpretation of Supreme Being. The discussion of [politics](#) and [religion](#) is forbidden within a [Masonic Lodge](#), in part so a Mason will not be placed in the situation of having to justify his personal interpretation.^[30] Thus, reference to the Supreme Being can mean the Christian [Trinity](#) to a Christian Mason, [Allah](#) to a Muslim Mason, [Para Brahman](#) to a Hindu Mason, etc. While most Freemasons would take the view that the term Supreme Being equates to [God](#), others may hold a more complex or philosophical interpretation of the term.

In the ritual, the Supreme Being is referred to as the [Great Architect of the Universe](#), which alludes to the use of architectural symbolism within Freemasonry.^{[31][32]}

A [Volume of the Sacred Law](#) is always displayed in an open Lodge in those jurisdictions which require a belief in the Supreme Being. In English-speaking countries, this is frequently the [King James Version of the Bible](#) or another standard translation; there is no such thing as an exclusive "Masonic Bible."^[33] Furthermore, a candidate is given his choice of religious text for his Obligation, according to his beliefs. UGLE alludes to similarities to legal practice in the UK, and to a common source with other oath taking processes.^{[34][35][36][37]} In Lodges with a membership of mixed religions it is common to find more than one sacred text displayed. In lodges that follow the [Continental](#) tradition other texts may be used, including texts that are non-religious in nature.

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In the 19th century, certificates such as this were commonly issued to Masons to show that they had taken the three degrees of Craft Masonry in a regular lodge

The three degrees of *Craft* or *Blue Lodge* Freemasonry are those of:

1. *Entered Apprentice* – the degree of an Initiate, which makes one a Freemason;
2. *Fellow Craft* – an intermediate degree, involved with learning; and
3. *Master Mason* – the "third degree", a necessity for participation in most aspects of Masonry.

The degrees represent stages of personal development. No Freemason is told that there is only one meaning to the allegories; as a Freemason works through the degrees and studies their lessons, he interprets them for himself, his personal interpretation being bounded only by the Constitution within which he works.^[33] A common symbolic structure and universal archetypes provide a means for each Freemason to come to his own answers to life's important philosophical questions.

There is no degree of Craft Freemasonry higher than that of Master Mason.^[20] Although some Masonic bodies and orders have further degrees named with higher numbers, these degrees may be considered to be supplements to the Master Mason degree rather than promotions from it.^[21] An example is the [Scottish Rite](#), conferring degrees numbered from 4° up to 33°. ^[38] It is essential to be a Master Mason in order to qualify for these further degrees. They are administered on a parallel system to *Craft* or *Blue Lodge* Freemasonry; within each organisation there is a system of offices, which confer rank within that degree or order alone.

In some jurisdictions, especially those in continental Europe, Freemasons working through the degrees may be asked to prepare papers on related philosophical topics, and present these papers in open Lodge. There is an enormous bibliography of Masonic papers, magazines and publications ranging from fanciful abstractions which construct spiritual and moral lessons of varying value, through practical handbooks on organisation, management and ritual performance, to serious historical and philosophical papers entitled to academic respect.

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information Signs, grips and words

Freemasons use *signs* (gestures), *grips* or *tokens* (handshakes) and *words* to gain admission to meetings and identify legitimate visitors.^[39]

Many exposés, revealing these signs grips and passwords to the uninitiated, have been written over the years (the earliest appeared in the eighteenth century). The fraternity responded in different ways. One response, made by many Masonic jurisdictions, was to deliberately transpose certain words in the ritual, so as to catch out anyone relying on an exposé. Other Grand Lodges simply chose new signs, grips and passwords. Since each Grand Lodge is free to create its own rituals, the signs, grips and passwords can and do differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.^[25] Furthermore, Grand Lodges can and do change their rituals periodically, updating the language used, adding or omitting sections.^[40] Therefore, any exposé can only be valid for a particular jurisdiction at a particular time, and is always difficult for an outsider to verify. Today, an unknown visitor may be required to produce a certificate, dues card or other documentation of membership in addition to demonstrating knowledge of the signs, grips and passwords.

Obligations

Obligations are those elements of ritual in which a candidate swears to abide by the rules of the fraternity, to keep the "secrets of Freemasonry" (which are the various signs, tokens and words associated with recognition in each degree), and to act towards others in accordance with Masonic tradition and law.^[24] In regular jurisdictions these obligations are sworn on the aforementioned *Volume of the Sacred Law* and in the witness of the Supreme Being and often with assurance that it is of the candidate's own free will.

Details of the obligations vary; some versions are published^[24] while others are privately printed in books of coded text. Still other jurisdictions rely on oral transmission of ritual, and thus have no ritual books at all.^[41] Moreover, not all printed rituals are authentic – [Léo Taxil](#)'s exposure, for example, is a proven hoax, while Duncan's Masonic Monitor (created, in part, by merging elements of several rituals then in use) was never adopted by any regular jurisdiction.

Whilst no single obligation is representative of Freemasonry as a whole, a number of common themes appear when considering a range of potential texts. Content which may appear in at least one of the three obligations includes: the candidate promises to act in a manner befitting a member of civilised society, promises to obey the law of his Supreme Being, promises to obey the law of his sovereign state, promises to attend his lodge if he is able, promises not to wrong, cheat nor defraud the Lodge or the brethren, and promises aid or charity to a member of the human family, brethren and their families in times of need if it can be done without causing financial harm to himself or his dependents.^{[24][42][43]}

The obligations are historically known amongst various sources critical of Freemasonry for their so-called "bloody penalties,"^[44] an allusion to the apparent physical penalties associated with each degree. This leads to some descriptions of the Obligations as "Oaths". The corresponding text, with regard to the penalties, does not appear in authoritative, endorsed sources,^[24] following a decision "that all references to physical penalties be omitted from the obligations taken by Candidates in the three Degrees and by a Master Elect at his Installation but retained elsewhere in the respective ceremonies."^[45] The penalties are interpreted symbolically, and are not applied in actuality by a Lodge or by any other body of Masonry. The descriptive nature of the penalties alludes to how the candidate should feel about himself should he knowingly violate his obligation.^[46] Modern actual penalties may include suspension, expulsion or reprimand.

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Landmarks

Main article: [Masonic Landmarks](#)

The Landmarks of Masonry are defined as ancient and unchangeable principles; standards by which the regularity of Lodges and Grand Lodges are judged. Each Grand Lodge is self-governing and no single authority exists over the whole of Freemasonry. The interpretation of these principles therefore can and does vary, leading to controversies of recognition.

The concept of Masonic Landmarks appears in Masonic regulations as early as 1723, and seems to be adopted from the regulations of operative masonic guilds. In 1858, [Albert G. Mackey](#) attempted to set down 25 Landmarks.^[47] In 1863, George Oliver published a Freemason's Treasury in which he listed 40 Landmarks. A number of American Grand Lodges have attempted the task of enumerating the Landmarks; numbers differing from West Virginia (7) and New Jersey (10) to Nevada (39) and Kentucky (54).^[48]

Charitable effort

The fraternity is widely involved in charity and community service activities. In contemporary times, money is collected *only* from the membership, and is to be devoted to *charitable* purposes. Freemasonry worldwide disburses substantial charitable amounts to non-Masonic charities, locally, nationally and internationally.^{[49][50]} In earlier centuries, however, charitable funds were collected more on the basis of a Provident or [Friendly Society](#), and there were elaborate regulations to determine a petitioner's eligibility for consideration for charity, according to strictly Masonic criteria.

Some examples of Masonic charities include:

- Homes^[51] that provide [sheltered housing](#) or nursing care.
- Education with both educational grants^[52] or schools such as the [Royal Masonic School \(UK\)](#)^[53] which are open to all and not limited to the families of Freemasons.
- Medical assistance.^[54]
- [Masonic Child Identification Programs \(CHIP\)](#).

In addition to these, there are thousands of philanthropic organisations around the world created by Freemasons. The Masonic Service Association,^[55] the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory,^[56] and the [Shriners Hospitals for Children](#)^[57] are especially notable charitable endeavours that Masons have founded and continue to support both intellectually and monetarily.

Membership requirements





Freemasonry [initiation](#). 18th century

Contrary to common misconception, joining Freemasonry is not by invitation only. In fact, in many jurisdictions, the brothers of the lodge are not allowed to ask potential candidates to join (in these jurisdictions, the brethren must wait for the potential candidate to inquire).^[58] Other jurisdictions allow for varying degrees of solicitation.

However the initial introduction is made, the official process of becoming a Mason begins when a candidate for Freemasonry formally petitions a lodge. The brethren will then investigate the candidate, to assure themselves of his good character, and hold a secret ballot election (often using an old fashioned [ballot box](#)). The number of adverse votes needed to reject a candidate varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction (in some, one "[black ball](#)" is enough to reject, in others up to three are required).

General requirements

Generally, to be accepted for initiation as a regular Freemason, a candidate must:^[20]

- Be a [man](#) who comes of his own free will.
- Believe in a Supreme Being (the form of which is left to open interpretation by the candidate).
- Be at least the minimum age (from 18–25 years old depending on the jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions the son of a Mason, known as a "Lewis," may join at an earlier age than others).
- Be of good morals, and of good reputation.
- Be of sound mind and body (lodges had in the past denied membership to a man because of a physical disability; however, now, if a potential candidate says a disability will not cause problems, it will not be held against him).
- Be free-born (or "born free", i.e., not born a [slave](#) or [bondsmen](#)).^[59] As with the previous, this is entirely an historical holdover, and can be interpreted in the same manner as it is in the context of being entitled to write a [will](#). Some jurisdictions have removed this requirement.
- Be capable of furnishing character references, as well as one or two references from current Masons, depending on jurisdiction.

Some Grand Lodges in the United States have an additional residence requirement, candidates being expected to have lived within the jurisdiction for a certain period of time, typically six months.^[60]

Having been elected and initiated, a member may subsequently resign from membership if he so desires. Additionally, the fraternity may either suspend or expel a member for cause.

Membership and religion

Freemasonry explicitly and openly states that it is neither a religion nor a substitute for one. "There is no separate Masonic God", nor a separate proper name for a deity in any branch of Freemasonry.^{[29][61]}

Regular Freemasonry requires that its candidates believe in a *Supreme Being*, but the interpretation of this term is subject to the conscience of the candidate. Consequently, Freemasonry accepts men from a range of faiths, including (but not limited to) [Buddhism](#), [Christianity](#), [Hinduism](#), [Islam](#), [Judaism](#), and [Sikhism](#). As a result, Freemasonry uses *Volume of the Sacred Law* (VSL) as a generic term for a religious book. As UGLE-based

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Freemasonry also requires that a VSL be present on the Altar, many Lodges have multiple VSLs available, and a candidate can be obligated on his book of choice.

Since the early 19th century, in the *irregular* Continental European tradition (meaning *irregular* to those Grand Lodges in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England), a very broad interpretation has been given to a non-dogmatic Supreme Being; in the tradition of [Baruch Spinoza](#) and [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#) – or views of [The Ultimate](#) Cosmic Oneness – along with Western [atheistic idealism](#) and [agnosticism](#).

The form of Freemasonry most common in [Scandinavia](#), known as the [Swedish Rite](#), accepts only Christians.^[62]

Freemasonry and women

Main articles: [Freemasonry and women](#) and [Co-Freemasonry](#)

Since the adoption of [Anderson's constitution](#) in 1723, it has been accepted as fact by regular Masons that only men can be made Masons. Most Grand Lodges do not admit women because they believe it would violate the ancient Landmarks. While a few women, such as [Elizabeth Aldworth](#), were initiated into British speculative lodges prior to 1723,^[63] officially regular Freemasonry remains exclusive to men.

While women cannot join regular lodges, there are (mainly within the borders of the United States) many female orders associated with regular Freemasonry and its appendant bodies, such as the [Order of the Eastern Star](#), the [Order of the Amaranth](#), the White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Social Order of Beauceant and the [Daughters of the Nile](#). These have their own rituals and traditions, but are founded on the Masonic model. In the French context, women in the 18th and 19th centuries had been admitted into what were known as "adoption lodges" in which they could participate in ritual life. However, men clearly saw this type of adoption Freemasonry as distinct from their exclusively male variety. Since the late 19th century, mixed gender lodges have met in France.

In addition, there are many non-mainstream Masonic bodies that do admit both men and women or are exclusively for women. [Co-Freemasonry](#) admits both men and women,^[64] but it is held to be irregular because it admits women. The systematic admission of women into International Co-Freemasonry began in France in 1882. In more recent times, women have created and maintained separate Lodges, working the same rituals as the all male regular lodges. These Female Masons have founded lodges around the world, and these Lodges continue to gain membership.

Opposition to and criticism of Freemasonry

Main article: [Anti-Masonry](#)

See also: [Masonic conspiracy theories](#)

Anti-Masonry (alternatively called *Anti-Freemasonry*) has been defined as "opposition to Freemasonry."^{[65][66]} However, there is no homogeneous anti-Masonic movement. Anti-Masonry consists of widely differing criticisms from diverse (and often incompatible) groups who are hostile to Freemasonry in some form. Critics have included religious groups, political groups, and [conspiracy theorists](#).

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There have been many disclosures and exposés dating as far back as the 18th century. These often lack context,^[67] may be outdated for various reasons,^[40] or could be outright [hoaxes](#) on the part of the author, as in the case of the [Taxil hoax](#).^[68]

These hoaxes and exposés have often become the basis for criticism of Masonry, often religious or political in nature (usually by totalitarian dictatorial regimes,^[69] but also arising in the historical [Anti-Masonic Party](#) in the United States), or are based on suspicion of corrupt conspiracy of some form. The political opposition that arose after the "[Morgan Affair](#)" in 1826 gave rise to the term "[Anti-Masonry](#)," which is still in use today, both by Masons in referring to their critics and as a self-descriptor by the critics themselves.^[70]

Religious opposition

Freemasonry has attracted criticism from [theocratic](#) states and organised religions for supposed competition with religion, or supposed [heterodoxy](#) within the Fraternity itself, and has long been the target of [conspiracy](#) theories, which see it as an [occult](#) and evil power.^[71]

Christianity and Freemasonry

Main articles: [Christianity and Freemasonry](#) and [Catholicism and Freemasonry](#)

Although members of various faiths cite objections, certain [Christian denominations](#) have had high profile negative attitudes to Masonry, banning or discouraging their members from being Freemasons.

The denomination with the longest history of objection to Freemasonry is the [Roman Catholic Church](#). The objections raised by the Roman Catholic Church are based on the allegation that Masonry teaches a naturalistic [deistic](#) religion which is in conflict with Church [doctrine](#).^[72] A number of Papal pronouncements have been issued against Freemasonry. The first was [Pope Clement XII's In Eminenti](#), 28 April 1738; the most recent was [Pope Leo XIII's Ab Apostolici](#), 15 October 1890. The 1917 [Code of Canon Law](#) explicitly declared that joining Freemasonry entailed automatic [excommunication](#).^[73] The 1917 Code of Canon Law also forbade books friendly to Freemasonry.

In 1983, the Church issued a new Code of [Canon Law](#). Unlike its predecessor, it did not explicitly name Masonic orders among the [secret societies](#) it condemns. It states in part: "A person who joins an association which plots against the Church is to be punished with a just penalty; one who promotes or takes office in such an association is to be punished with an [interdict](#)." This named omission of Masonic orders caused both Catholics and Freemasons to believe that the ban on Catholics becoming Freemasons may have been lifted, especially after the perceived liberalisation of [Vatican II](#).^[74] However, the matter was clarified when Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later [Pope Benedict XVI](#)), as the Prefect of the [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#), issued a [Declaration on Masonic Associations](#), which states: "... the Church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic association remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive [Holy Communion](#)." Thus, from a Catholic perspective, there is still a ban on Catholics joining Masonic Lodges. For its part, Freemasonry has never objected to Catholics joining their fraternity. Those Grand Lodges in amity with UGLE deny the Church's claims and state that they explicitly adhere to the principle that "Freemasonry is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion."^[29]

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In contrast to Catholic allegations of rationalism and naturalism, Protestant objections are more likely to be based on allegations of [mysticism](#), [occultism](#), and even [Satanism](#).^[75] Masonic scholar [Albert Pike](#) is often quoted (in some cases misquoted) by Protestant anti-Masons as an authority for the position of Masonry on these issues.^[76] However, Pike, although undoubtedly learned, was not a spokesman for Freemasonry and was controversial among Freemasons in general, representing his personal opinion only, and furthermore an opinion grounded in the attitudes and understandings of late 19th century Southern Freemasonry of the USA alone. Indeed his book carries in the preface a form of disclaimer from his own Grand Lodge. No one voice has ever spoken for the whole of Freemasonry.^[77]

[Free Methodist Church](#) founder [B.T. Roberts](#) was a vocal opponent of Freemasonry in the mid 19th century. Roberts opposed the society on moral grounds and stated, "The god of the lodge is not the God of the Bible." Roberts believed Freemasonry was a "[mystery](#)" or "alternate" religion and encouraged his church not to support ministers who were Freemasons. Freedom from secret societies is one of the "frees" the Free Methodist Church was founded upon.^[78]

Since the founding of Freemasonry, many Bishops of the [Church of England](#) have been Freemasons, such as [Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher](#).^[79] In the past, few members of the Church of England would have seen any incongruity in concurrently adhering to Anglican Christianity and practicing Freemasonry. In recent decades, however, reservations about Freemasonry have increased within Anglicanism, perhaps due to the increasing prominence of the evangelical wing of the church. The current [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), [Dr Rowan Williams](#), appears to harbour some reservations about Masonic ritual, whilst being anxious to avoid causing offence to Freemasons inside and outside the Church of England. In 2003 he felt it necessary to apologise to British Freemasons after he said that their beliefs were incompatible with Christianity and that he had barred the appointment of Freemasons to senior posts in his diocese when he was Bishop of Monmouth.^[80]

In 1933, the [Orthodox Church of Greece](#) officially declared that being a Freemason constitutes an act of [apostasy](#) and thus, until he repents, the person involved with Freemasonry cannot partake of the [Eucharist](#). This has been generally affirmed throughout the whole Orthodox Church. The Orthodox critique of Freemasonry agrees with both the Roman Catholic and Protestant versions: "Freemasonry cannot be at all compatible with Christianity as far as it is a secret organization, acting and teaching in mystery and secret and deifying rationalism."^[81]

Regular Freemasonry has traditionally not responded to these claims, beyond the often repeated statement that those Grand Lodges in amity with UGLE explicitly adhere to the principle that "Freemasonry is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion. There is no separate 'Masonic deity,' and there is no separate proper name for a deity in Freemasonry."^[29] In recent years, however, this has begun to change. Many Masonic websites and publications address these criticisms specifically.

Islam and Freemasonry

Many [Islamic](#) anti-Masonic arguments are closely tied to both [Anti-Semitism](#) and [Anti-Zionism](#), though other criticisms are made such as linking Freemasonry to [Dajjal](#).^{[82][83]} Some Muslim anti-Masons argue that Freemasonry promotes the interests of the [Jews](#) around the world and that one of its aims is to rebuild the [Temple of Solomon](#) in [Jerusalem](#) after destroying the [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#).^[84] In article 28 of its Covenant, [Hamas](#) states that Freemasonry, [Rotary](#), and other similar groups "work in the interest of Zionism and according to its instructions ..."^[85] Many countries with a significant Muslim population do not allow Masonic establishments within their jurisdictions. However, countries such as [Turkey](#) and [Morocco](#) have established Grand Lodges,^[86]

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while in countries such as [Malaysia](#)^[87] and [Lebanon](#)^[88] there are District Grand Lodges operating under a warrant from an established Grand Lodge. In [Pakistan](#) in 1972 [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto](#), then [Prime Minister of Pakistan](#), placed a ban on Freemasonry and confiscated all the literature. The lodges were then disbanded.^[citation needed] Masonic lodges existed in [Iraq](#) as early as 1919, when the first lodge under the UGLE was opened in Basra,^[citation needed] and later on when the country was under [British Mandate](#) just after the First World War. However the position changed in July 1958 following the Revolution, with the abolition of the Monarchy and Iraq being declared a republic, under [General Qasim](#). The licences permitting lodges to meet were rescinded and later laws were introduced banning any further meetings. This position was later reinforced under [Saddam Hussein](#), the death penalty was "prescribed" for those who "promote or acclaim Zionist principles, including freemasonry, or who associate [themselves] with Zionist organisations."^[82]

Political opposition

See also: [Anti-Masonry](#) and [Suppression of Freemasonry](#)

Regular Freemasonry has in its core ritual a formal obligation: to be quiet and peaceable citizens, true to the lawful government of the country in which they live, and not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion.^[33] A Freemason makes a further obligation, before being made Master of his Lodge, to pay a proper respect to the civil [magistrates](#).^[33] The words may be varied across Grand Lodges, but the sense in the obligation taken is always there. Nevertheless, much of the political opposition to Freemasonry is based upon the idea that Masonry will foment (or sometimes prevent) rebellion.

In 1799 English Freemasonry almost came to a halt due to Parliamentary proclamation. In the wake of the [French Revolution](#), the *Unlawful Societies Act, 1799* banned any meetings of groups that required their members to take an [oath](#) or obligation.^[89] The Grand Masters of both the Moderns and the Antients Grand Lodges called on the Prime Minister William Pitt (who was not a Freemason) and explained to him that Freemasonry was a supporter of the law and lawfully constituted authority and was much involved in charitable work. As a result Freemasonry was specifically exempted from the terms of the Act, provided that each Private Lodge's Secretary placed with the local "Clerk of the Peace" a list of the members of his Lodge once a year.^[89] This continued until 1967 when the obligation of the provision was rescinded by [Parliament](#).^[89]

Freemasonry in the United States faced political pressure following the disappearance of [William Morgan](#) in 1826. Reports of the "Morgan Affair," together with opposition to [Jacksonian democracy](#) (Andrew Jackson was a prominent Mason) helped fuel an Anti-Masonic movement, culminating in the formation of a short lived [Anti-Masonic Party](#) which fielded candidates for the Presidential elections of 1828 and 1832.

In Italy, Freemasonry has become linked to a scandal concerning the [Propaganda Due](#) Lodge (aka P2). This lodge was chartered by the [Grande Oriente d'Italia](#) in 1877, as a lodge for visiting Masons unable to attend their own lodges. Under [Licio Gelli](#)'s leadership, in the late 1970s, the P2 Lodge became involved in the financial scandals that nearly bankrupted the [Vatican Bank](#). However, by this time the lodge was operating independently and irregularly; as the Grand Orient had revoked its charter in 1976.^[90] By 1982 the scandal became public knowledge and Gelli was formally expelled from Freemasonry.

[Conspiracy theorists](#) have long associated Freemasonry with the [New World Order](#) and the [Illuminati](#), and state that Freemasonry as an organisation is either bent on world domination or already secretly in control of world politics. Historically, Freemasonry has attracted criticism – and suppression – from both the politically [extreme right](#) (e.g. [Nazi Germany](#))^{[91][92]} and the [extreme left](#) (e.g. the former [Communist](#) states in [Eastern Europe](#)).^[69]

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The fraternity has met with approval for supposedly founding, and opposition for supposedly thwarting, [liberal democracy](#) (such as in the United States of America).

Even in modern democracies, Freemasonry is sometimes viewed with distrust.^[93] In the [UK](#), Masons working in the justice system, such as judges and police officers, were from 1999 to 2009 required to disclose their membership.^[94] While a parliamentary inquiry found that there has been no evidence of wrongdoing, it was felt that any potential loyalties Masons might have, based on their vows to support fellow Masons, should be transparent to the public.^{[93][94][95]} The policy of requiring a declaration of masonic membership of applicants for judicial office (judges and magistrates) was ended in 2009 by Justice Secretary Jack Straw (who had initiated the requirement in the 1990s). Straw stated that the rule was considered disproportionate, since no impropriety or malpractice had been shown as a result of judges being Freemasons.^[96] The rescinding of the rule did not change the disclosure requirements for police officers.

Freemasonry is both successful and controversial in [France](#); membership is rising, but reporting in the popular media is often negative.^[93]

In some countries anti-Masonry is often related to anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. For example, In 1980, the Iraqi legal and penal code was changed by Saddam Hussein's ruling [Ba'ath Party](#), making it a felony to "promote or acclaim Zionist principles, including Freemasonry, or who associate [themselves] with Zionist organisations."^[82] Professor Andrew Prescott of the University of Sheffield writes: "Since at least the time of the [Protocols of the Elders of Zion](#), anti-semitism has gone hand in hand with anti-masonry, so it is not surprising that allegations that [11 September](#) was a Zionist plot have been accompanied by suggestions that the attacks were inspired by a masonic world order."^[97]



[Forget-me-not](#)

The Holocaust

Main article: [The Holocaust](#)

See also: [Freemasonry under authoritarian regimes](#) and [Liberté chérie \(Freemasonry\)](#)

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The preserved records of the [Reichssicherheitshauptamt](#) (the Reich Security Main Office) show the persecution of Freemasons.^[98] RSHA Amt VII (Written Records) was overseen by Professor [Franz Six](#) and was responsible for "ideological" tasks, by which was meant the creation of anti-Semitic and anti-Masonic propaganda. While the number is not accurately known, it is estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were killed under the [Nazi regime](#).^[99] Masonic concentration camp inmates were graded as political prisoners and wore an inverted [red triangle](#).^[100]

The small blue [forget-me-not](#) flower was first used by the Grand Lodge *Zur Sonne*, in 1926, as a Masonic emblem at the annual convention in [Bremen](#), Germany. In 1938 the forget-me-not badge – made by the same factory as the Masonic badge – was chosen for the annual Nazi Party [Winterhilfswerk](#), a Nazi charitable organisation which collected money so that other state funds could be freed up and used for rearmament. This coincidence enabled Freemasons to wear the forget-me-not badge as a secret sign of membership.^{[101][102][103]}

After [World War II](#), the forget-me-not^{[104][dead link]} flower was again used as a Masonic emblem at the first Annual Convention of the United Grand Lodges of Germany in 1948. The badge is now worn in the coat lapel by Freemasons around the world to remember all those that have suffered in the name of Freemasonry, especially those during the Nazi era.^{[104][dead link][105]}

See also

- [List of Freemasons](#)

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- [Masonic Books Online](#) of the *Pietre-Stones Review of Freemasonry*

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- [The Constitutions of the Free-Masons](#) (1734), James Anderson, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Royster. Hosted by the Libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- [The Mysteries of Free Masonry](#), by William Morgan, from [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [A Legislative Investigation Into Masonry \(1832\)](#) at the [Internet Archive](#), [OCLC 1560509](#)
- [The United Grand Lodge of England's Library and Museum of Freemasonry](#), London
- [The Centre for Research into Freemasonry](#) at the [University of Sheffield](#), UK
- [A page about Freemasonry](#) - claiming to be the world's oldest Masonic website.
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The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

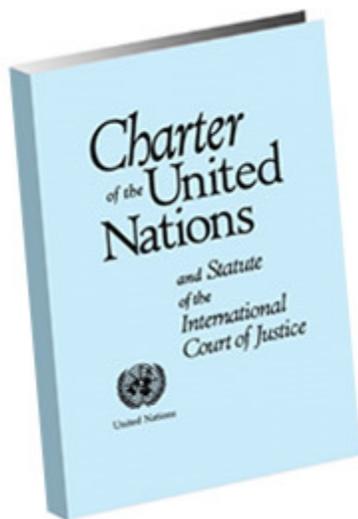
The UN has 4 main purposes

- To keep peace throughout the world;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 193 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>



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The Charter established six principal organs of the United Nations: the [General Assembly](#), the [Security Council](#), the [Economic and Social Council](#), the [Trusteeship Council](#), the [International Court of Justice](#), and the [Secretariat](#). The United Nations family, however, is much larger, encompassing [15 agencies and several programmes and bodies](#).

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[General Assembly](#)

The following Bodies report directly to the General Assembly.

[Main Committees](#)

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- [Commissions](#)
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Advisory Subsidiary Body

- [United Nations Peacebuilding Commission](#) ⁽¹⁾

Programmes and Funds

- [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC)
- [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR)
- [United Nations Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF)
- [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD)
- [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP)
 - [United Nations Capital Development Fund](#) (UNCDF)
 - [United Nations Volunteers](#) (UNV)
- [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC)
- [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP)
- [United Nations Human Settlements Programme](#) (UN-HABITAT)
- [United Nations Population Fund](#) (UNFPA)
- [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East](#) (UNRWA)
- [United Nations World Food Programme](#) (WFP)

Research and Training Institutes

- [United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research](#) (UNIDIR)
- [United Nations Institute for Training and Research](#) (UNITAR)
- [United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute](#) (UNICRI)
- [United Nations Research Institute for Social Development](#) (UNRISD)

Other UN Entities

- [International Computing Centre](#) (ICC)
- [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) (UNAIDS)
- [United Nations Office for Project Services](#) (UNOPS)
- [United Nations System Staff College](#) (UNSSC)
- [United Nations University](#) (UNU)
- [UN Women](#)



Security Council

The following bodies report directly to the Security Council.

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- [1540 Committee](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism Committee](#)
- [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia \(ICTY\)](#)
- [International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda \(ICTR\)](#)
- Military Staff Committee
- [Peacekeeping Operations and Missions](#)
- [Sanctions Committees](#)
- [Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees](#)
- [UN Compensation Commission](#)
- [Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict](#)
- [Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions](#)

Advisory Subsidiary Body

- [United Nations Peacebuilding Commission](#) ⁽¹⁾



Economic and Social Council

The following bodies report directly to Economic and Social Council.

Functional Commissions

- [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#)
- [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#)
- [Commission on Population and Development](#)
- [Commission on Science and Technology for Development](#)
- [Commission for Social Development](#)
- [Commission on the Status of Women](#)
- [Commission on Sustainable Development](#)
- [Statistical Commission](#)
- [United Nations Forum on Forests](#)

Regional Commissions

- [Economic Commission for Africa \(ECA\)](#)
- [Economic Commission for Europe \(ECE\)](#)
- [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean \(ECLAC\)](#)
- [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\)](#)
- [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\)](#)

Standing Committees

- Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

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- [Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations](#)
- [Committee for Programme and Coordination](#)

Ad hoc bodies

- Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics

Expert Bodies composed of governmental experts

- [Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals](#)
- [United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#)
- Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

Expert Bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

- [Committee for Development Policy](#)
- [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- [Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#)
- [Committee of Experts on Public Administration](#)
- [Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

Other related Bodies

- [Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women](#)
- [International Narcotics Control Board](#)
- Committee for the United Nations Population Award
- Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS



Trusteeship Council

International Court of Justice

Secretariat

Specialized Agencies, Related Organizations, Funds, and other UN Entities

Specialized Agencies

- [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO)
- [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) (ICAO)
- [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#) (IFAD)

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- [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO)
- [International Maritime Organization](#) (IMO)
- [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF)
- [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU)
- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO)
- [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO)
- [Universal Postal Union](#) (UPU)
- [World Bank Group](#)
 - [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) (IBRD)
 - [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes](#) (ICSID)
 - [International Development Association](#) (IDA)
 - [International Finance Corporation](#) (IFC)
 - [Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency](#) (MIGA)
- [World Health Organization](#) (WHO)
- [World Intellectual Property Organization](#) (WIPO)
- [World Meteorological Organization](#) (WMO)
- [World Tourism Organization](#) (UNWTO)

Related Organizations

- [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) (IAEA) ⁽²⁾
- [Preparatory Commission for the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization](#) (CTBTO) ⁽³⁾
- [Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#) (OPCW) ⁽³⁾
- [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO)

Secretariats of Conventions

- [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#) (UNCCD)
- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC)

UN Trust Funds

- [United Nations Democracy Fund](#) (UNDEF) ⁽⁴⁾
- [United Nations Fund for International Partnerships](#) (UNFIP) ⁽⁵⁾



NOTES:

(1) The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission has a direct reporting relationship with the Security Council and the General Assembly, and non-subsidiary relationship with the Economic and Social Council and the Office of the Secretary-General.

(2) The IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).

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(3) The CTBTO Preparatory Commission and OPCW report to the GA.

(4) UNDEF's Advisory Board recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General.

(5) UNFIP is an autonomous trust fund operating under the leadership of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General.

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United Nations

المتحدة الأمم

联合国

Organisation des Nations unies

Организация Объединённых Наций

Organización de las Naciones Unidas



[Flag](#)



Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information



Map showing the [Member states of the United Nations](#)

This map does not represent the view of its members or the UN concerning the legal status of any country,^[1] nor does it accurately reflect which areas' governments have UN representation.

Headquarters [International territory](#)
in New York City,
New York, U.S.

Official languages [Arabic](#)
[Chinese](#)
[English](#)
[French](#)
[Russian](#)
[Spanish](#)

Membership [193 member states](#)

Leaders

- [Secretary-General](#) [Ban Ki-moon](#)
- [Deputy Secretary-General](#) [Asha-Rose Migiro](#)
- [General Assembly President](#) [Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser](#)
- [Security Council President](#) [Vitaly Churkin](#)

Establishment

- [United Nations Charter](#) signed 26 June 1945
- Entry into force of Charter 24 October 1945

Website

The **United Nations** (UN) is an [international organization](#) whose stated aims are facilitating cooperation in [international law](#), [international security](#), [economic development](#), [social progress](#), human rights, and achievement of [world peace](#). The UN was founded in 1945 after World War II to replace the [League of Nations](#), to stop wars between countries, and to provide a platform for dialogue. It contains multiple subsidiary organizations to carry out its missions.

There are currently [193 member states](#), including every [internationally recognised](#) sovereign state in the world but the [Vatican City](#). From its offices around the world, the UN and its specialized agencies decide on substantive and administrative issues in regular meetings held throughout the year. The organization has six principal organs: the [General Assembly](#) (the main [deliberative assembly](#)); the [Security Council](#) (for deciding certain resolutions for peace and security); the [Economic and Social Council](#) (for assisting in promoting international economic and social cooperation and development); the [Secretariat](#) (for providing studies, information, and facilities needed by the UN); the [International Court of Justice](#) (the primary judicial organ); and the [United Nations Trusteeship Council](#) (which is currently inactive). Other prominent [UN System](#) agencies include the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), the [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) and [United Nations Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF). The UN's most visible public figure is the [Secretary-General](#), currently [Ban Ki-moon](#) of South Korea, who attained the post in 2007.

The [United Nations Headquarters](#) resides in international territory in New York City, with further main offices at [Geneva](#), [Nairobi](#), and [Vienna](#). The organization is financed from assessed and voluntary contributions from its member states, and has six official languages: [Arabic](#), Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.^[2]

Contents

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History

Main article: [History of the United Nations](#)



Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information

The [Chilean](#) delegation signing the [UN Charter](#) in San Francisco, 1945

The [League of Nations](#) failed to prevent [World War II](#) (1939–1945). Because of the widespread recognition that [humankind](#) could not afford a third world war, the United Nations was established to replace the flawed League of Nations in 1945 in order to maintain international peace and promote cooperation in solving international economic, social and humanitarian problems. The earliest concrete plan for a new world organization was begun under the aegis of the U.S. State Department in 1939. [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) first coined the term 'United Nations' as a term to describe the [Allied countries](#). The term was first officially used on 1 January 1942, when 26 governments signed the [Atlantic Charter](#), pledging to continue the war effort.^[3] On 25 April 1945, the [UN Conference on International Organization](#) began in San Francisco, attended by 50 governments and a number of non-governmental organizations involved in drafting the [United Nations Charter](#). The UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945 upon ratification of the Charter by the five permanent members of the [Security Council](#)—France, the [Republic of China](#), the [Soviet Union](#), the United Kingdom and the United States—and by a majority of the other 46 signatories. The first meetings of the [General Assembly](#), with 51 nations represented, and the Security Council, took place in [Westminster Central Hall](#) in London in January 1946.^[4]

The organization was based at the [Sperry Gyroscope Corporation](#)'s facility in [Lake Success, New York](#), from 1946–1952, before moving to the [United Nations Headquarters](#) building in Manhattan upon its completion.

Since its creation, there has been controversy and [criticism of the United Nations](#). In the United States, an early opponent of the UN was the [John Birch Society](#), which began a "get US out of the UN" campaign in 1959, charging that the UN's aim was to establish a "One World Government." After the Second World War, the [French Committee of National Liberation](#) was late to be recognized by the US as the government of France, and so the country was initially excluded from the conferences that aimed at creating the new organization. [Charles de Gaulle](#) criticized the UN, famously calling it *le machin* ("the thing"), and was not convinced that a global security alliance would help maintain world peace, preferring direct defence treaties between countries.^[5]

Legal basis of establishment

Shortly after its establishment the UN sought recognition as an [international legal person](#) due to the case of *Reparations for Injuries Suffered in the Service of the United Nations*^[6] with the advisory opinion delivered by the [International Court of Justice](#) (ICJ). The question arose whether the United Nations, as an organisation, had "the capacity to bring an international claim against a government regarding injuries that the organisation alleged had been caused by that state."^[7]

The Court stated: the Organization was intended to exercise and enjoy, and is in fact exercising and enjoying functions and rights, which can only be explained on the basis of the possession of a large measure of international personality and the capacity to operate upon an international plane ... Accordingly, the Court has come to the conclusion that the Organization is an international person. That is not the same thing as saying that it is a State, which it certainly is not, or that its legal personality and rights and duties are the same as those of a State ... What it does mean is that it is a subject of international law and capable of possessing international rights and duties, and that it has capacity to maintain its rights by bringing international claims.^[8]

Organization

Main article: [United Nations System](#)

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The United Nations' system is based on five principal organs (formerly six – the [Trusteeship Council](#) suspended operations in 1994, upon the independence of [Palau](#), the last remaining UN trustee territory);^[1] the [General Assembly](#), the [Security Council](#), the [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC), the [Secretariat](#), and the [International Court of Justice](#).

Four of the five principal organs are located at the main [United Nations Headquarters](#) located on international territory in New York City.^[10] The [International Court of Justice](#) is located in [The Hague](#), while other major agencies are based in the UN offices at [Geneva](#),^[11] [Vienna](#),^[12] and [Nairobi](#).^[13] Other UN institutions are located throughout the world.

The six [official languages](#) of the United Nations, used in intergovernmental meetings and documents, are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.^[2] The Secretariat uses two working languages, English and French. Four of the official languages are the national languages of the [permanent members of the Security Council](#) (the United Kingdom and the United States share English as a *de facto* official language); Spanish and Arabic are the languages of the two largest blocs of official languages outside of the permanent members (Spanish being official in 20 countries, Arabic in 26). Five of the official languages were chosen when the UN was founded; Arabic was added later in 1973. The United Nations Editorial Manual states that the standard for English language documents is [British usage](#) and [Oxford spelling](#), the [Chinese writing](#) standard is [Simplified Chinese](#). This replaced [Traditional Chinese](#) in 1971 when the UN representation of China was changed from the [Republic of China](#) to the People's Republic of China (see [China and the United Nations](#) for details).

General Assembly



[United Nations General Assembly](#) hall

Main article: [United Nations General Assembly](#)

The General Assembly is the main [deliberative assembly](#) of the United Nations. Composed of all [United Nations member states](#), the assembly meets in regular yearly sessions under a [president](#) elected from among the member states. Over a two-week period at the start of each session, all members have the opportunity to address the assembly. Traditionally, the Secretary-General makes the first statement, followed by the president of the assembly. The first session was convened on 10 January 1946 in the [Westminster Central Hall](#) in London and included representatives of 51 nations.

When the General Assembly votes on important questions, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting is required. Examples of important questions include: recommendations on peace and security; election of members to organs; admission, suspension, and expulsion of members; and, budgetary matters. All other questions are decided by majority vote. Each member country has one vote. Apart from approval of budgetary

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matters, resolutions are not binding on the members. The Assembly may make recommendations on any matters within the scope of the UN, except matters of peace and security that are under Security Council consideration.

Conceivably, the [one state, one vote](#) power structure could enable states comprising just eight percent of the world population to pass a resolution by a two-thirds vote (see [List of countries by population](#)). However, as no more than recommendations, it is difficult to imagine a situation in which a recommendation by member states constituting just eight percent of the world's population, would be adhered to by the remaining ninety-two percent of the population, should they object.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Security Council



[United Nations Security Council](#) chamber

Main article: [United Nations Security Council](#)

The [Security Council](#) is charged with maintaining peace and security among countries. While other organs of the United Nations can only make 'recommendations' to member governments, the Security Council has the power to make binding decisions that member governments have agreed to carry out, under the terms of [Charter Article 25](#).^[14] The decisions of the Council are known as [United Nations Security Council resolutions](#).

The Security Council is made up of 15 member states, consisting of 5 permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—and 10 non-permanent members, currently [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Brazil](#), [Colombia](#), [Gabon](#), [Germany](#), [India](#), [Lebanon](#), [Nigeria](#), [Portugal](#), [South Africa](#). The five permanent members hold [veto power](#) over substantive but not procedural resolutions allowing a permanent member to block adoption but not to block the debate of a resolution unacceptable to it. The ten temporary seats are held for two-year terms with member states voted in by the [General Assembly](#) on a [regional basis](#). The presidency of the Security Council is rotated alphabetically each month.^[15]

Secretariat

Main article: [United Nations Secretariat](#)

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The [United Nations Secretariat Building](#) at the [United Nations Headquarters](#) in New York City.

The United Nations Secretariat is headed by the [Secretary-General](#), assisted by a staff of international civil servants worldwide. It provides studies, information, and facilities needed by United Nations bodies for their meetings. It also carries out tasks as directed by the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council, and other UN bodies. The United Nations Charter provides that the staff be chosen by application of the "highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity," with due regard for the importance of recruiting on a wide geographical basis.

The Charter provides that the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any authority other than the UN. Each UN member country is enjoined to respect the international character of the Secretariat and not seek to influence its staff. The Secretary-General alone is responsible for staff selection.

The Secretary-General's duties include helping resolve international disputes, administering peacekeeping operations, organizing international conferences, gathering information on the implementation of Security Council decisions, and consulting with member governments regarding various initiatives. Key Secretariat offices in this area include the Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter that, in his or her opinion, may threaten international peace and security. ^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Secretary-General

Main article: [Secretary-General of the United Nations](#)



The current [Secretary-General](#), [Ban Ki-moon](#)

The Secretariat is headed by the [Secretary-General](#), who acts as the *de facto* spokesperson and leader of the UN. The current Secretary-General is [Ban Ki-moon](#), who took over from [Kofi Annan](#) in 2007 and has been elected for a second term to conclude at the end of 2016.^[16]

Envisioned by [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) as a "world moderator", the position is defined in the [UN Charter](#) as the organization's "chief administrative officer",^[17] but the Charter also states that the Secretary-General can bring to the [Security Council](#)'s attention "any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of [international peace](#) and security",^[18] giving the position greater scope for action on the world stage. The position has evolved into a dual role of an administrator of the UN organization, and a diplomat and [mediator](#) addressing disputes between [member states](#) and finding consensus to global issues.^[19]

The Secretary-General is appointed by the [General Assembly](#), after being recommended by the Security Council, where the permanent members have [veto power](#).^[20] The General Assembly can theoretically override the Security Council's recommendation if a majority vote is not achieved, although this has not happened so far.^[21] There are no specific criteria for the post, but over the years, it has become accepted that the post shall be held for one or two terms of five years, that the post shall be appointed on the basis of geographical rotation, and that the Secretary-General shall not originate from one of the five permanent Security Council member states.^[21]

Secretaries-General of the United Nations^[22]

No.	Name	Country of origin	Took office	Left office	Note
1	Trygve Lie	 Norway	2 February 1946	10 November 1952	Resigned
2	Dag Hammarskjöld	 Sweden	10 April 1953	18 September 1961	Died while in office

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3	U Thant	 Burma	30 November 1961	31 December 1971	First Secretary-General from Asia
4	Kurt Waldheim	 Austria	1 January 1972	31 December 1981	
5	Javier Pérez de Cuéllar	 Peru	1 January 1982	31 December 1991	First Secretary-General from the Americas
6	Boutros Boutros-Ghali	 Egypt	1 January 1992	31 December 1996	First Secretary-General from Africa
7	Kofi Annan	 Ghana	1 January 1997	31 December 2006	
8	Ban Ki-moon	 South Korea	1 January 2007	Incumbent	

International Court of Justice



[Peace Palace](#), seat of the [International Court of Justice](#) at [The Hague](#), Netherlands

Main article: [International Court of Justice](#)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), located in [The Hague](#), Netherlands, is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations. Established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter, the Court began work in 1946 as the successor to the [Permanent Court of International Justice](#). The Statute of the International Court of Justice, similar to that of its predecessor, is the main constitutional document constituting and regulating the Court.^[23]

It is based in the [Peace Palace](#) in [The Hague](#), Netherlands, sharing the building with the [Hague Academy of International Law](#), a private centre for the study of international law. Several of the Court's current judges are either alumni or former faculty members of the Academy. Its purpose is to adjudicate disputes among states. The court has heard cases related to war crimes, illegal state interference and ethnic cleansing, among others, and continues to hear cases.^[24]

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information International Criminal Court

Main article: [International Criminal Court](#)

The International Criminal Court (ICC), it came into being on 1 July 2002 with the entering into force of the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#) which was adopted on 17 July 1998. It is the first permanent international court charged with trying those who commit the most serious crimes under international law, including war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression (although it cannot exercise jurisdiction over this crime prior to 2017). The ICC is functionally independent of the UN in terms of personnel and financing, but some meetings of the ICC governing body, the [Assembly of the States Parties to the Rome Statute](#), are held at the United Nations. There is a "relationship agreement" between the ICC and the UN that governs how the two institutions regard each other legally.^[25]

Economic and Social Council

Main article: [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#)



The ECOSOC chamber

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) assists the General Assembly in promoting international economic and social cooperation and development. ECOSOC has 54 members, all of which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term. The president is elected for a one-year term and chosen amongst the small or middle powers represented on ECOSOC. ECOSOC meets once a year in July for a four-week session. Since 1998, it has held another meeting each April with finance ministers heading key committees of the [World Bank](#) and the [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF). Viewed separate from the specialized bodies it coordinates, ECOSOC's functions include information gathering, advising member nations, and making recommendations. In addition, ECOSOC is well-positioned to provide policy [coherence](#) and coordinate the overlapping functions of the UN's subsidiary bodies and it is in these roles that it is most active.

Specialized institutions

Main article: [List of specialized agencies of the United Nations](#)

Many UN organizations and agencies exist to work on particular issues. Some of the most well-known agencies are the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#), the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#), [UNESCO](#) (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), the [World Bank](#) and the [World Health Organization](#).

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information

It is through these agencies that the UN performs most of its humanitarian work. Examples include mass vaccination programmes (through the WHO), the avoidance of famine and malnutrition (through the work of the WFP) and the protection of vulnerable and displaced people (for example, by the [UNHCR](#)).

The [United Nations Charter](#) stipulates that each primary organ of the UN can establish various specialized agencies to fulfil its duties.

Organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations

No.	Acronyms	Logo	Agency	Headquarters	Head	Established in
1	FAO		Food and Agriculture Organization	 Rome, Italy	 José Graziano da Silva	1945
2	IAEA		International Atomic Energy Agency	 Vienna, Austria	 Yukiya Amano	1957
3	ICAO		International Civil Aviation Organization	 Montreal, Canada	 Raymond Benjamin	1947
4	IFAD		International Fund for Agricultural Development	 Rome, Italy	 Kanayo F. Nwanze	1977
5	ILO		International Labour Organization	 Geneva, Switzerland	 Juan Somavía	1946 (1919)
6	IMO		International Maritime Organization	 London, United Kingdom	 Efthimios E. Mitropoulos	1948
7	IMF		International Monetary Fund	 Washington, D.C., USA	 Christine Lagarde	1945 (1944)
8	ITU		International Telecommunication Union	 Geneva, Switzerland	 Hamadoun Touré	1947 (1865)
9	UNESCO		United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 Paris, France	 Irina Bokova	1946
10	UNIDO		United Nations Industrial Development Organization	 Vienna, Austria	 Kandeh Yumkella	1967
11	UPU		Universal Postal Union	 Bern, Switzerland	 Edouard Dayan	1947 (1874)

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12	WB	 World Bank	 Washington, D.C., USA	 Robert B. Zoellick	1945 (1944)
13	WFP	 World Food Programme	 Rome, Italy	 Josette Sheeran	1963
14	WHO	 World Health Organization	 Geneva, Switzerland	 Margaret Chan	1948
15	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization	 Geneva, Switzerland	 Francis Gurry	1974
16	WMO	 World Meteorological Organization	 Geneva, Switzerland	 Alexander Bedritsky	1950 (1873)
17	UNWTO	World Tourism Organization	 Madrid, Spain	 Taleb Rifai	1974

Membership

Main article: [Member states of the United Nations](#)



1945 



An animation showing the timeline of accession of UN member states, *according to the UN*. Note that Antarctica has no government; political control of [Western Sahara](#) is in dispute; and the territories administered by the [Republic of China](#) (Taiwan) and [Kosovo](#) are considered by the UN to be provinces of the People's Republic of China and [Republic of Serbia](#), respectively.

With the addition of [South Sudan](#) on 14 July 2011,^[26] there are currently 193 United Nations member states, including all fully recognized independent [states](#)^[27] apart from [Vatican City](#) (the [Holy See](#), which holds sovereignty over the state of Vatican City, is a [permanent observer](#)).^[28]

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information

The [United Nations Charter](#) outlines the rules for membership:

1. Membership in the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving states that accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.
2. The admission of any such state to membership in the United Nations will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

—United Nations Charter, Chapter 2, Article 4, <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>

Group of 77

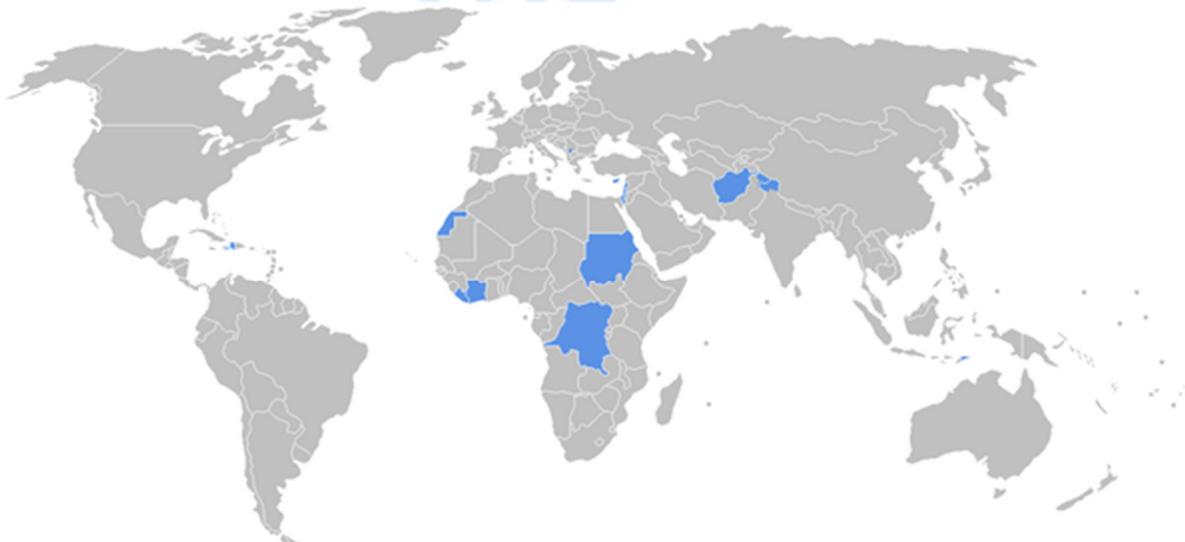
The [Group of 77](#) at the UN is a loose coalition of [developing nations](#), designed to promote its members' collective [economic](#) interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations. There were 77 founding members of the organization, but the organization has since expanded to 130 member countries. The group was founded on 15 June 1964 by the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#) (UNCTAD). The first major meeting was in [Algiers](#) in 1967, where the *Charter of Algiers* was adopted and the basis for permanent institutional structures was begun.^[29]

Stated objectives

Peacekeeping and security

Main article: [United Nations peacekeeping](#)

See also: [List of United Nations peacekeeping missions](#)



•
[Darfur](#)
•

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information

[Western Sahara](#)

•

[Israel/Palestine](#)

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[Kosovo](#)

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[Cyprus](#)

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[Golan](#)

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[Lebanon](#)

•

[Haiti](#)

•

[Liberia](#)

•

[Côte d'Ivoire](#)

•

[DR Congo](#)

•

[Sudan](#)

•

[East Timor](#)

•

[Jammu and Kashmir](#)

•

[Afghanistan](#)



Current UN [peacekeeping](#) missions

The UN, after approval by the [Security Council](#), sends [peacekeepers](#) to regions where armed conflict has recently ceased or paused to enforce the terms of peace agreements and to discourage combatants from resuming hostilities. Since the UN does not maintain its own military, peacekeeping forces are voluntarily provided by member states of the UN. The forces, also called the "Blue Helmets", who enforce UN accords, are

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information awarded [United Nations Medals](#), which are considered [international decorations](#) instead of [military decorations](#). The peacekeeping force as a whole received the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 1988.^[30]

The founders of the UN had envisaged that the organization would act to prevent conflicts between nations and make future wars impossible, however the outbreak of the [Cold War](#) made peacekeeping agreements extremely difficult because of the division of the world into hostile camps. Following the end of the Cold War, there were renewed calls for the UN to become the agency for achieving world peace, as several dozen [ongoing conflicts](#) continue to rage around the globe.

A 2005 RAND Corp study found the UN to be successful in two out of three peacekeeping efforts. It compared UN nation-building efforts to those of the United States, and found that seven out of eight UN cases are at peace, as compared with four out of eight US cases at peace.^[31] Also in 2005, the [Human Security Report](#) documented a decline in the number of wars, genocides and human rights abuses since the end of the [Cold War](#), and presented evidence, albeit circumstantial, that international activism—mostly spearheaded by the UN—has been the main cause of the decline in armed conflict since the end of the Cold War.^[32] Situations where the UN has not only acted to keep the peace but also occasionally intervened include the [Korean War](#) (1950–1953), and the authorization of intervention in Iraq after the [Persian Gulf War](#) in 1990.

The UN has also drawn criticism for perceived failures. In many cases, [member states](#) have shown reluctance to achieve or enforce Security Council resolutions, an issue that stems from the UN's intergovernmental nature—seen by some as simply an association of 193 member states who must reach consensus, not an independent organization. Disagreements in the Security Council about military action and intervention are seen as having failed to prevent the 1994 [Rwandan Genocide](#),^[33] failed to provide [humanitarian aid](#) and intervene in the [Second Congo War](#), failed to intervene in the 1995 [Srebrenica massacre](#) and protect a refugee haven by authorizing peacekeepers to use force, failure to deliver food to starving people in [Somalia](#), failure to implement provisions of Security Council resolutions related to the [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#), and continuing failure to prevent genocide or provide assistance in [Darfur](#). UN peacekeepers have also been accused of child rape, sexual abuse or soliciting prostitutes during various peacekeeping missions, starting in 2003, in the [Congo](#),^[34] [Haiti](#),^{[35][36]} [Liberia](#),^[37] [Sudan](#) and what is now [South Sudan](#),^[38] [Burundi](#) and [Côte d'Ivoire](#).^[39] In 2004, former Israeli ambassador to the UN [Dore Gold](#) criticized what it called the organization's [moral relativism](#) in the face of (and occasional support of)^[40] [genocide](#) and terrorism that occurred between the moral clarity of its founding period and the present day. Gold specifically mentions [Yasser Arafat](#)'s 1988 invitation to address the General Assembly as a low point in the UN's history.^[41]

In addition to peacekeeping, the UN is also active in encouraging [disarmament](#). Regulation of armaments was included in the writing of the [United Nations Charter](#) in 1945 and was envisioned as a way of limiting the use of human and economic resources for the creation of them.^[42] However, the advent of [nuclear weapons](#) came only weeks after the signing of the charter and immediately halted concepts of arms limitation and [disarmament](#), resulting in the first [resolution](#) of the first ever [General Assembly](#) meeting calling for specific proposals for "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction".^[43] The principal forums for disarmament issues are the [General Assembly First Committee](#), the UN Disarmament Commission, and the [Conference on Disarmament](#), and considerations have been made of the merits of a [ban on testing nuclear weapons](#), [outer space arms control](#), the banning of [chemical weapons](#) and [land mines](#), nuclear and conventional disarmament, [nuclear-weapon-free zones](#), the reduction of [military budgets](#), and measures to strengthen [international security](#).

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The UN is one of the official supporters of the World Security Forum, a major international conference on the effects of global catastrophes and disasters, which took place in the [United Arab Emirates](#) in October 2008.

Human rights and humanitarian assistance



[Eleanor Roosevelt](#) with the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) in 1949

The pursuit of human rights was a central reason for creating the UN. World War II atrocities and [genocide](#) led to a ready consensus that the new organization must work to prevent any similar tragedies in the future. An early objective was creating a legal framework for considering and acting on complaints about human rights violations. The UN Charter obliges all member nations to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights" and to take "joint and separate action" to that end. The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), though not legally binding, was adopted by the General Assembly in 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all. The Assembly regularly takes up human rights issues.

The UN and its agencies are central in upholding and implementing the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A case in point is support by the UN for countries in transition to democracy. Technical assistance in providing free and fair elections, improving judicial structures, drafting constitutions, training human rights officials, and transforming armed movements into political parties have contributed significantly to democratization worldwide. The UN has helped run elections in countries with little or no democratic history, including recently in [Afghanistan](#) and East Timor. The UN is also a forum to support the right of women to participate fully in the political, economic, and social life of their countries. The UN contributes to raising consciousness of the concept of human rights through its covenants and its attention to specific abuses through its General Assembly, Security Council resolutions, or [International Court of Justice](#) rulings.

The purpose of the [United Nations Human Rights Council](#), established in 2006,^[44] is to address human rights violations. The Council is the successor to the [United Nations Commission on Human Rights](#), which was often criticized for the high-profile positions it gave to member states that did not guarantee the human rights of their own citizens.^[45] The council has 47 members distributed by region, which each serve three-year terms, and may not serve three consecutive terms.^[46] A candidate to the body must be approved by a majority of the General Assembly. In addition, the council has strict rules for membership, including a universal human rights review. While some members with questionable human rights records have been elected, it is fewer than before with the increased focus on each member state's human rights record.^[47]

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The rights of some 370 million [indigenous peoples](#) around the world are also a focus for the UN, with a [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) being approved by the [General Assembly](#) in 2007.^[48] The declaration outlines the individual and collective rights to culture, language, education, identity, employment and health, thereby addressing post-colonial issues that had confronted indigenous peoples for centuries. The declaration aims to maintain, strengthen and encourage the growth of indigenous institutions, cultures and traditions. It also prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their active participation in matters that concern their past, present and future.^[48] The [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) is the UN's central coordinating body for matters relating to the concerns and rights of the world's indigenous peoples. The forum is an advisory body within the framework of the United Nations System that reports to the UN's Economic and Social Council.

In conjunction with other organizations such as the [Red Cross](#), the UN provides food, drinking water, shelter and other humanitarian services to populaces suffering from [famine](#), displaced by war, or afflicted by other disasters. Major humanitarian branches of the UN are the [World Food Programme](#) (which helps feed more than 100 million people a year in 80 countries), the office of the [High Commissioner for Refugees](#) with projects in over 116 countries, as well as peacekeeping projects in over 24 countries.

Social and economic development

Millennium Development Goals

1. eradicate extreme poverty and [hunger](#);
2. achieve universal primary education;
3. promote [gender equality](#) and empower women;
4. reduce [child mortality](#);
5. improve [maternal health](#);
6. combat HIV/AIDS, [malaria](#), and other diseases;
7. ensure environmental [sustainability](#); and
8. develop a global partnership for [development](#).

The UN is involved in supporting [development](#), e.g. by the formulation of the [Millennium Development Goals](#). The [UN Development Programme](#) (UNDP) is the largest multilateral source of grant technical assistance in the world. Organizations like the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), [UNAIDS](#), and [The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#) are leading institutions in the battle against diseases around the world, especially in poor countries. The UN Population Fund is a major provider of reproductive services. 32 UN agencies performing tasks on development are coordinating their efforts through the [United Nations Development Group](#) or UNDG.^[49]

The UN also promotes human development through some related agencies, particularly the UNDP.^[50] The [World Bank Group](#) and [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF), for example, are independent, specialized agencies and observers within the UN framework, according to a 1947 agreement. They were initially formed as separate from the UN through the [Bretton Woods](#) Agreement in 1944.^[51]

The UNDP annually publishes the [Human Development Index](#) (HDI), a comparative measure [ranking countries](#) by poverty, [literacy](#), education, [life expectancy](#), and other factors.^[52]

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The [Millennium Development Goals](#) (declared in the [United Nations Millennium Declaration](#), signed in September 2000) are eight goals that all of the then 192 United Nations member states have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015.^[53]

Mandates

See also: [Category:United Nations Security Council mandates](#)

From time to time, the different bodies of the United Nations pass resolutions that contain operating paragraphs that begin with the words "requests", "calls upon", or "encourages", which the [Secretary-General](#) interprets as a mandate to set up a temporary organization or do something. These mandates can be as little as researching and publishing a written report, or mounting a full-scale peacekeeping operation (usually the exclusive domain of the Security Council).

Although the specialized institutions, such as the [WHO](#), were originally set up by this means, they are not the same as mandates because they are permanent organizations that exist independently of the UN with their own membership structure. One could say that original mandate was simply to cover the process of setting up the institution, and has therefore long expired. Most mandates expire after a limited period and require renewal from the body, which set them up.

One of the outcomes of the [2005 World Summit](#) was a mandate (labelled [jd 17171](#)) for the Secretary-General to "review all mandates older than five years originating from resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs". To facilitate this review and to finally bring coherence to the organization, the Secretariat has produced an [on-line registry of mandates](#) to draw together the reports relating to each one and create an overall picture.^[54]

Greening the Blue

In 2007, On 5 June [World Environment Day](#) 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made public his ambition to make the United Nations more efficient in its operations: "I would like to see our renovated Headquarters complex eventually become a globally acclaimed model of efficient use of energy and resources. Beyond New York, the initiative should include the other United Nations headquarters and offices around the globe." The UN's progress towards achieving this goal is communicated through the initiative Greening the Blue (see external links below).

Other

Over the lifetime of the UN, over 80 colonies have attained independence.^[55] The General Assembly adopted the [Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples](#) in 1960 with no votes against but abstentions from all major colonial powers. Through the [UN Committee on Decolonization](#),^[56] created in 1962, the UN has focused considerable attention on [decolonization](#). It has also supported the new states that have arisen as a result of self-determination initiatives. The committee has overseen the decolonization of every country larger than 20,000 km² and removed them from the [United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories](#), besides [Western Sahara](#), a country larger than the UK only relinquished by Spain in 1975.

The UN declares and coordinates [international observances](#), periods of time to observe some issue of international interest or concern. Using the symbolism of the UN, a specially designed logo for the year, and the infrastructure of the [United Nations System](#), various days and years have become catalysts to advancing key

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information issues of concern on a global scale. For example, [World Tuberculosis Day](#), [Earth Day](#) and [International Year of Deserts and Desertification](#).

Funding

Top 10 donators to the UN budget, 2011^[57]

<u>Member state</u>	Contribution (% of UN budget)
 USA	22.000%
 Japan	12.530%
 Germany	8.018%
 United Kingdom	6.604%
 France	6.123%
 Italy	4.999%
 Canada	3.207%
 China	3.189%
 Spain	3.177%
 Mexico	2.356%
Other member states	27.797%

The UN is financed from assessed and voluntary contributions from member states. The General Assembly approves the regular budget and determines the assessment for each member. This is broadly based on the relative capacity of each country to pay, as measured by their [gross national income](#) (GNI), with adjustments for external debt and low per capita income.^[58]

The Assembly has established the principle that the UN should not be overly dependent on any one member to finance its operations. Thus, there is a 'ceiling' rate, setting the maximum amount any member is assessed for

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the regular budget. In December 2000, the Assembly revised the scale of assessments to reflect current global circumstances. As part of that revision, the regular budget ceiling was reduced from 25% to 22%. For the least developed countries (LDCs), a ceiling rate of 0.01% is applied.^[58] In addition to the ceiling rates, the minimum amount assessed to any member nation (or 'floor' rate) is set at 0.001% of the UN budget. Refer to the table for major contributors.

A large share of UN expenditures addresses the core UN mission of peace and security. The peacekeeping budget for the 2005–2006 fiscal year was approximately US\$5 billion, €2.5 billion (compared to approximately US\$1.5 billion, €995 million for the UN core budget over the same period), with some 70,000 troops deployed in 17 missions around the world.^[59] UN peace operations are funded by assessments, using a formula derived from the regular funding scale, but including a weighted surcharge for the five permanent Security Council members, who must approve all peacekeeping operations. This surcharge serves to offset discounted peacekeeping assessment rates for less developed countries. As of 1 January 2011, the top 10 providers of assessed financial contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations were: the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, China, Canada, Spain and the Republic of Korea.^[60]

Special UN programmes not included in the regular budget (such as [UNICEF](#), the [WFP](#) and [UNDP](#)) are financed by voluntary contributions from other member governments. Most of this is financial contributions, but some is in the form of agricultural [commodities](#) donated for afflicted populations. Since their funding is voluntary, many of these agencies suffer severe shortages during economic recessions. In July 2009, the World Food Programme reported that it has been forced to cut services because of insufficient funding.^[61] It has received barely a quarter of the total it needed for the 09/10 financial year.

Personnel policy

The UN and its agencies are immune to the laws of the countries where they operate, safeguarding UN's impartiality with regard to the host and member countries.^[62]

Despite their independence in matters of human resources policy, the UN and its agencies voluntarily apply the laws of member states regarding [same-sex marriages](#), allowing decisions about the status of employees in a same-sex partnership to be based on nationality. The UN and its agencies recognize same-sex marriages only if the employees are citizens of countries that recognize the marriage. This practice is not specific to the recognition of same-sex marriage but reflects a common practice of the UN for a number of human resources matters. It has to be noted though that some agencies provide limited benefits to [domestic partners](#) of their staff and that some agencies do not recognise same-sex marriage or domestic partnership of their staff.^[citation needed]

Reform

Main article: [Reform of the United Nations](#)



In 2005, then-Secretary General [Kofi Annan](#) published his report *In Larger Freedom*, a proposal for reform of the UN.

Since its founding, there have been many calls for reform of the United Nations, although little consensus on how to do so. Some want the UN to play a greater or more effective role in world affairs, while others want its role reduced to humanitarian work.^[63] There have also been numerous calls for the [UN Security Council's membership to be increased](#), for different ways of electing the UN's [Secretary-General](#), and for a [United Nations Parliamentary Assembly](#).

The UN has also been accused of bureaucratic inefficiency and waste. During the 1990s, the United States withheld dues citing inefficiency, and only started repayment on the condition that a major reforms initiative was introduced. In 1994, the [Office of Internal Oversight Services](#) (OIOS) was established by the General Assembly to serve as an efficiency watchdog.^[64]

An official reform programme was begun by [Kofi Annan](#) in 1997. Reforms mentioned include [changing the permanent membership of the Security Council](#) (which currently reflects the power relations of 1945), making the bureaucracy more transparent, accountable and efficient, making the UN more democratic, and imposing an international [tariff on arms manufacturers](#) worldwide.^[citation needed]

In September 2005, the UN convened a World Summit that brought together the heads of most member states, calling the summit "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take bold decisions in the areas of development, security, human rights and reform of the United Nations."^[65] Kofi Annan had proposed that the summit agree on a global "grand bargain" to reform the UN, renewing the organization's focus on peace, security, human rights and development, and to make it better equipped at facing 21st century issues. The *World Summit Outcome Document* delineated the conclusions of the meeting, including: the creation of a [Peacebuilding Commission](#), to help countries emerging from conflict; a [Human Rights Council](#) and a democracy fund; a clear and unambiguous condemnation of terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations"; agreements to devote more resources to the Office of Internal Oversight Services; agreements to spend billions more on achieving the [Millennium Development Goals](#); the dissolution of the [Trusteeship Council](#), because of the completion of its mission; and, the agreement that individual states, with the assistance of the international community, have the "[responsibility to protect](#)" populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity- with the understanding that the international community is prepared to act "collectively" in a "timely

Code of Federal Regulations, Council on Foreign Relations, Codex Alimentarius, Bilderbergs, Trilateral Commission, Illuminati, Freemasons, United Nations Information and decisive manner” to protect vulnerable civilians should a state "manifestly fail" in fulfilling its responsibility.^[66]

The Office of Internal Oversight Services is being restructured to better define its scope and mandate, and will receive more resources. In addition, to improve the oversight and auditing capabilities of the General Assembly, an Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) is being created. In June 2007, the Fifth Committee created a draft resolution for the [terms of reference](#) of this committee.^{[67][68]} An ethics office was established in 2006, responsible for administering new financial disclosure and [whistleblower](#) protection policies. Working with the OIOS, the ethics office also plans to implement a policy to avoid fraud and corruption.^[69] The Secretariat is in the process of reviewing all UN mandates that are more than five years old. The review is intended to determine which duplicative or unnecessary programmes should be eliminated. Not all member states agree on which of the over 7000 mandates should be reviewed. The dispute centres on whether mandates that have been renewed should be examined.^[70] Indeed, the obstacles identified – in particular, the lack of information on the resource implications of each mandate – constituted sufficient justification for the General Assembly to discontinue the mandate review in September 2008. In the meantime, the General Assembly launched a number of new loosely related reform initiatives in April 2007, covering international environmental governance, ‘Delivering as One’ at the country level to enhance the consolidation of UN programme activities and a unified gender organization. Whereas little was achieved on the first two issues, the General Assembly approved in September 2010 the establishment of ‘UN Women’ as the new UN organization for gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women was established by unifying the resources and mandates of four small entities for greater impact and its first head is Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of [Chile](#).^[citation needed]

See also

- [Collective security](#)
- [High-level Panel on United Nations Systemwide Coherence](#)
- [International relations](#)
- [List of current Permanent Representatives to the United Nations](#)
- [Model United Nations](#)
- [Official statistics](#)
- [UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador](#)
- [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Goodwill Ambassador](#) UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador
- [Official languages of the United Nations](#)
- [United Nations Association](#)
- [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#)
- [United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#) (UNGEGN)
- [United Nations in popular culture](#)
- [United Nations International School](#)
- [United Nations Peace Messenger Cities](#)
- [United Nations Postal Administration](#)
- [United Nations Security Council](#)
- [United Nations University](#)
- [University for Peace](#)
- [World Heritage Site](#)
- [Yearbook of the United Nations](#)



Relations between specific states and the United Nations

- [Australia and the United Nations](#)
- [Brazil and the United Nations](#)
- [Canada and the United Nations](#)
- [China and the United Nations](#)
- [Fiji and the United Nations](#)
- [France and the United Nations](#)
- [Marshall Islands and the United Nations](#)
- [Micronesia and the United Nations](#)
- [New Zealand and the United Nations](#)
- [Pakistan and the United Nations](#)
- [Russia and the United Nations](#)
- [Soviet Union and the United Nations](#)

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- [Activities of the Holy See within the United Nations system](#)
- [India and the United Nations](#)
- [Israel, Palestine, and the United Nations](#)
- [Japan and the United Nations](#)
- [United Kingdom and the United Nations](#)
- [United States and the United Nations](#)
- [Vanuatu and the United Nations](#)

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