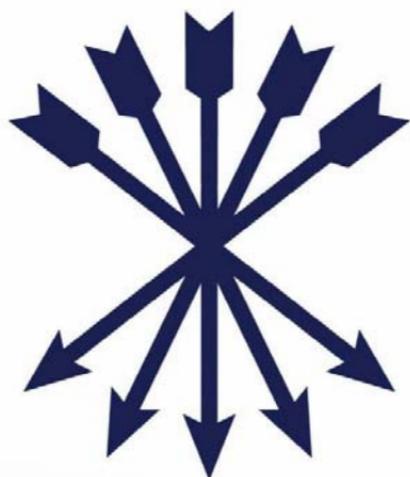


ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE



**The Rothschilds and their
corrupt global empire**

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PREFACE

“An Anarchist outrage on one of the Rothschilds is not greatly to be wondered at. In France as elsewhere they are so wealthy and hold so prominent a place that they stand out as the natural objects which Anarchists would seek to attack”.

So wrote *The Times* in London in the summer of 1895 [1] and in this essay I argue that this state of affairs remains true today, even though my own weapon of choice is the humble written word, rather than a home-made letter bomb.

But before we go any further, there are a couple of things we need to get straight.

First of all, as an anarchist I know full well that the current toxic combination of money and power existed well before the Rothschilds played any important role in our society (see my books *The Withway* and *The Stifled Soul of Humanity*).

By 1743, and the birth of Mayer Amschel Rothschild – founder of the Frankfurt banking dynasty which was to achieve such global

financial dominance – Europe had already become a modern commercial society (a *Gesellschaft* in Ferdinand Tönnies' [2] terms).

Without this underlying condition – the weakening of healthy social cohesion and cultural values by the domination of mercantile thinking – our world could not have been taken over to such an extent by financial schemers.

I would even say that the trajectory of our civilizational descent rendered inevitable the eventual seizure of widespread control by a group *such as* the Rothschilds: the fact that it turned out to be them *in particular* was mere historical chance.

Secondly, I am well aware that the Rothschilds are Jewish and that therefore even to invoke their name and influence is regarded by some as proof of “anti-semitism”. [3]

However, the truth of the matter lies elsewhere. By focusing specifically on the Rothschilds, my aim is to *distinguish* them from the Jewish community into which, when it suits them, they tend to melt away so as to protect themselves from specific scrutiny – a concealment aided and abetted by those who refer loosely to “Jewish” interests when they mean the Rothschilds.

I do not regard Rothschild attitudes and activities as *typically* Jewish; in so many ways they have more in common with the old

European upper classes with whom they have enjoyed such a fruitful symbiotic relationship over the centuries.

Moreover, I am not singling out the Rothschilds *because* they are Jewish, but rather *in spite of* that fact.

I am painfully conscious that there are people who seem unable to distinguish between certain Jewish people in particular and Jewish people as a whole: writing this piece while attempting to give no ammunition to such elements has been a thanklessly delicate task.

It would have been a thousand times easier to have written about the Rothschilds if they had been one of Europe's many historical Roman Catholic or Protestant banking families: nobody would have imagined for a moment that my criticisms applied to *all* or even *most* Catholics or Protestants.

But these other dynasties have not played the same central role in creating all that is worst in our contemporary world and so it is on the many sins of the Rothschilds that I am nevertheless obliged to focus.

Paul Cudenec, December 2022

I

AMASSING GREAT WEALTH

“Money is the god of our time and Rothschild is his prophet” [4] wrote the Jewish-born German poet Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) and his comment reflected public opinion of his time.

In 1870 the British magazine *The Period* published a cartoon depicting Lionel Rothschild as “The Modern Croesus”, a new Rothschild “king” upon his throne of cash and bonds, lording it over lesser rulers such as the Emperor of China, the Sultan, Napoleon III, Pope William I and Queen Victoria. [5]

Ten years previously one of the family, Alfred Rothschild, had remarked that James Rothschild’s funeral in Paris was “more like that of an Emperor than of a private individual” [6] – as perhaps was to be expected for a person who was, as Niall Ferguson notes in his invaluable account of the dynasty, “without question one of the richest men in history”. [7]

Professor Jean Bouvier, who was a specialist in banking affairs at the Université de Panthéon-

Sorbonne (Paris-I), dates the Rothschilds' financial pre-eminence to 1818, with the brothers busily building up their transnational network in Britain, France, Prussia, Russia, Austria, Spain and Italy. [8]

He says records from the time show that Rothschild total capital spiralled from 3 million francs in 1815 to 118 million in 1828: "This progression indicates absolutely extraordinary rates of profit. It also reflects the firm's crushing superiority". [9]

Derek Wilson writes in his study of the dynasty: "The House of Rothschild was immensely more powerful than any financial empire that had ever preceded it. It commanded vast wealth. It was international. It was independent.

"Royal governments were nervous of it because they could not control it. Popular movements were nervous of it because it was not answerable to the people. Constitutionlists resented it because its influence was exercised behind the scenes – secretly". [10]

The family's financial and commercial links stretched into Asia and the Americas.

As researchers Gerry Docherty and Jim Macgregor note: "The Rothschilds understood how to use their wealth to anticipate and facilitate the next market opportunity, wherever it was". [11]

Even by the mid-nineteenth century, it was becoming difficult to assess the real extent of the Rothschild riches and operations [12] as they expanded from banking and state loans into insurance and industrialism. [13]

Accordingly there are some who imagine that what Ferguson calls this “phenomenal, unprecedented and since unmatched economic ascent” [14] has ground to a halt and that their power should now be regarded as a purely historical phenomenon.

But, in truth, what has changed is that the Rothschilds have deliberately adopted a lower profile and become almost “anonymous”, [15] as Bouvier puts it, in representing global Capital itself.

From time to time, nevertheless, we catch a brief glimpse behind the curtains of confidentiality which suggests that Ferguson’s description of them as “the richest family in all history” remains valid. [16]

In 1988, for example, Dorothy Rothschild’s UK estate was the largest estate ever probated in British history, while in 2015 Eric de Rothschild in France sold two Rembrandt paintings for \$180 million. [17]

And the *New York Times* predicted in 2007 that a member of the young Rothschild generation, Nathaniel, “may become the richest Rothschild of them all” thanks to “bold bets in

this era's new-money investment vehicles" and the family's traditional geopolitical foresight. [18]

The report enthuses: "The man in line to be the fifth Baron Rothschild is close to becoming a billionaire through a web of private equity investments in Ukraine".

II

PUTTING THEMSELVES BEFORE OTHERS

The Rothschilds have always evidently been proud of their family's financial and social success and they have not been shy about building monuments to their own glory.

By the end of the 19th century, the family owned, or had built, at least 41 palaces, "of a scale and luxury perhaps unparalleled even by the richest royal families", [19] as Wikipedia puts it.

Ferguson comments: "They were advertisements for Rothschild power, five-star hotels for influential guests, private art galleries: in short, centres for corporate hospitality". [20]

Writing in 1836, Heine described James de Rothschild's house in Paris as "the Versailles of the absolute sovereignty of money". [21]

In London, Alfred Rothschild had his own personal train, a private orchestra, a circus of which he was the ringmaster and a carriage pulled by four zebras. [22]

Such was the family's status that the Metropolitan Police ensured that their carriages had right of way as they drove through the streets of London. [23]

The Rothschilds, who had achieved noble status both in Britain and in Europe, became known for their lavish entertaining and fancy high-society balls. [24]

For millions of people across Europe and North America, the 1930s meant misery, as they were plunged into desperate poverty by the Great Depression, for which the banking dynasty must bear some responsibility.

“Venal parliaments and gold-hoarding central banks bear at least some of the blame for the 1929-32 world crisis: the French Rothschilds were represented in both”, [25] comments Ferguson.

But all was hunky-dory for the family themselves, as he explains. “For Guy [de Rothschild], the 1930s meant golf, American cars, dancing at Biarritz and baccarat at Deauville. Philippe [de Rothschild] built himself a seaside villa at Arcachon, the better to entertain other men's wives, and helped his father to squander yet more money by building his own theatre in the rue Pigalle (a suitably louche location)”. [26]

Inevitably, perhaps, their ultra-rich lifestyle was increasingly accompanied by a certain sense of superiority, even arrogance.

Remarks Ferguson: “Having risen so far by their own efforts the Rothschilds considered themselves in many ways superior to the aristocracy, not least in financial terms”. [27]

In France, Maurice de Rothschild stood for election using the slogan “my name is my platform” on his posters and letting voters know that governments could do nothing without his family, who were in fact “the real” finance ministry. [28]

The Rothschilds were generally indifferent, even hostile, to the little people, way below them in the social pecking order.

For instance, they argued against land reform to increase the number of small proprietors in the British Isles [29] and Natty Rothschild sneered at “the much pampered and not over-worked British workman”. [30]

Alphonse de Rothschild made this unfortunate family trait even plainer when he declared in 1897: “I am sure that, generally speaking, working people are very satisfied with their lot...

“One has to distinguish between good and bad workers. Those who demand the eight hour day are the lazy, incapable ones. The others, the steady serious fathers of families, want to be able to work long enough to provide for themselves and their family.

“But if they were all compelled to work only eight hours a day do you know what the majority

of them would do? Well they would drink!... What else would you expect them to do?" [31]

Open racial and religious prejudice was very widespread in the 19th century, as the Rothschilds had themselves discovered to their cost. But they were not immune to the same failing themselves.

Alphonse de Rothschild, asked by a friend in March 1866 why he worked so hard to make more money when he was already enormously rich, replied: "Ah! You don't know the pleasure of feeling heaps of Christians under one's boots!". [32]

In 1876 public opinion in Britain was outraged by the "Bulgarian atrocities" in which up to 15,000 Bulgarian Christians were killed by Turks. [33] Ferguson remarks: "By its very nature, this appeal on behalf of the Balkan Christians was of limited interest to the Rothschilds". [34]

Indeed the family regarded the Slav nationalist cause as in contradiction to the interests of their fellow Jews and Lionel Rothschild was scathing about "all these public meetings" [35] about the plight of the Christians.

This is not to say that the Rothschilds' relationship to other Jews was straightforward. Not only their wealth but their genealogy set them apart from the rest of European Jewry.

For many generations the family followed a

policy of deliberate in-breeding, marrying not just within their own faith but within their own immediate kinship group.

Of 21 marriages involving descendants of Mayer Amschel Rothschild between 1824 and 1877, no fewer than fifteen were between his direct descendants. [36]

This meant, for instance, that when Natty Rothschild married Emma Rothschild, he was marrying the daughter of both his father's sister and his mother's brother. [37]

The mentality of the family is well illustrated by Charlotte de Rothschild's reaction on hearing of her brother's engagement to their cousin's daughter: "My good parents will certainly be pleased that he has not chosen a stranger. For us Jews, and particularly for us Rothschilds, it is better not to come into contact with other families, as it always leads to unpleasantness and costs money". [38]

The Rothschilds took on the role of leaders of the Jewish community, even "Kings of the Jews" [39] – a position later reinforced by their key role in the Balfour Declaration which paved the way for the state of Israel, with the 1917 document being addressed to, and apparently also drafted by, the family. [40]

But, at the same time, their aristocratic and quasi-royal status, along with their vast wealth, separated them from the mass of Jewish people,

with whom they had little in common and to whom they considered themselves altogether superior.

For instance, Mayer Carl Rothschild showed little empathy for his fellow Jews when he told German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1875: “As for anti-semitic feeling the Jews themselves are to blame, and the present agitation must be ascribed to their arrogance, vanity and unspeakable insolence”. [41]

One group the Rothschilds particularly disliked were the *nouveaux riches* – “Jewish bankers and businessmen who had made their fortunes more recently than the Rothschilds”, [42] as Ferguson puts it.

Another was the *Ostjuden*, eastern Jews, of whom 2.5 million fled anti-semitic repression and pogroms in Russia and elsewhere from the early 1880s and sought refuge in Western Europe. [43]

The Rothschilds did not welcome the arrival of these co-religionists and actively took part in organisations which raised funds for their return to Eastern Europe or their onward emigration to South Africa, Canada or Argentina. [44]

And their strong public opposition to the Tsarist regime’s anti-Jewish policies did not prevent them from playing a central role [45] in the Franco-Russian entente of the 1890s.

For the Rothschilds, matters of solidarity always came second to their own personal

pecuniary interests, as can also be seen from their initial rejection of an approach by Viennese playwright and journalist Theodor Herzl, in the 1890s, for help in funding a new Jewish state.

He fumed that the Rothschilds were “vulgar, contemptuous, egotistical people” and “a national misfortune for the Jews”, calling for a mobilisation of the Jewish masses for “a battle against the powerful Jews”. [46]

The problem was that, as well as potentially calling into question the Rothschilds’ long-cultivated national loyalties, Herzl’s plan for a Jewish state featured proposals for controls of the banking system which did not in the least appeal to this family of financiers. [47]

Herzl was not the only prominent Jew to harshly criticise the Rothschilds. In 1839 the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judenthums* launched a bitter attack against the Rothschilds, accusing them of positively harming the cause of Jewish emancipation.

This Jewish newspaper wrote: “Well we know to our dismay that the repulsive attitude towards the Jews in Germany, which had almost disappeared completely at the time of the Wars of Liberation, increased with the increase in the House of Rothschild; and that the latter’s great wealth and [that of] their partners have adversely affected the Jewish cause, so that as the former grew so the latter sank all the

further... We must sharply separate the Jewish cause from the whole House of Rothschild and their consorts". [48]

And in the 1870s the *Jüdische Zeitschrift* in Vienna even accused the Rothschilds of employing anti-semites in preference to Jews. [49]

The most shocking instance of Rothschild contempt for the little people of their own faith came with their reaction to the Jewish refugees fleeing the horrors of Nazi Germany.

In France, Robert de Rothschild declared in 1935: "Immigrants, like guests, must learn how to behave and not criticise too much... and if they aren't happy here, they'd do better to leave". [50]

And Victor Rothschild told a meeting of the Earl Baldwin Fund for Refugees at the Mansion House, London, in December 1938: "In spite of humanitarian feelings, we probably all agree that there is something unsatisfactory in refugees encroaching on the privacy of our country, even for relatively short periods of time". [51]

As will already be becoming clear, self-interest has always sat at the core of the Rothschild family project, with political and cultural allegiances regarded as matters of expedience rather than articles of faith.

Nathan Rothschild is described by Ferguson as not being "the kind of man to turn down good

business on ideological grounds” [52] while Anselm Rothschild, when chided for being “too devoted an Austrian”, replied that he was “far more a devoted pro-Rothschild”. [53]

Stockbroker Ernest Feydeau wrote of James de Rothschild: “He kept abreast of the slightest pieces of news – political, financial, commercial and industrial – from all quarters of the globe; he did his best to profit from these, quite instinctively, missing no opportunity for gain, no matter how small”. [54]

Bouvier explains that the Rothschilds, unhampered by ideology, had no *ethical* problem with backing any kind of regime.

“For them it was above all a matter of using political circumstances so as to extend and consolidate their network”, [55] he writes.

“The Rothschilds did not want to *run any risk*. It wasn’t political principles that they defended, but their own security”. [56]

On a personal level, this cynicism meant that they regarded even their own social ascent as a mere tool, says Ferguson. “Titles and honors were ‘part of the racket’, helpful in giving the brothers access to the corridors of power. Playing host was an uncomfortable duty, to the same end: much of it was corporate hospitality, as we would now say”. [57]

On an international level it meant they never had any qualms about backing both sides in a

conflict, as Bouvier sets out in relation to the 19th century clash between Italy and imperial Austria.

“But what was it all about, other than to conduct business? Who cared whether this was with Turin or Vienna?... The Rothschilds quite naturally pursued an ‘Austrian’ policy in Vienna and an ‘Italian’ one in Turin”. [58]

The rights and wrongs of the conflict were of no interest to them, he says. Their sole aim was to *profit* from the situation in as many ways as they could. [59]

III

PROFITTEERING FROM WAR AFTER WAR

There was a period in the 19th century when the Rothschilds gained a certain reputation for defending the peace in Europe, but with hindsight this appears to have been yet more expediency on their part.

When their self-interest in the form of their investments required stability, they were against the disruption caused by war, but this was never a *moral* principle.

Indeed, the whole success of their dynasty was founded on the way in which they exploited the opportunities presented to them by the wars that followed the French Revolution of 1789.

Ferguson writes that “the Rothschilds were presented with undreamed-of business opportunities by the revolutionary wars”, [60] while Bouvier defines the Rothschilds as “that family of merchants made rich by the long European war of 1792 to 1815”. [61]

According to historian Egon Caesar Corti, “it

was in the profits made from war at that time that we can find the real origins of the subsequent enormous fortune of the House of Rothschild". [62]

The Rothschilds made money out of war in a range of different ways, not all of which were entirely legal. "The disruption of established patterns of trade and banking created room for ambitious risk takers", as Ferguson puts it. [63]

In their home city of Frankfurt they took advantage of food shortages and spiralling prices to operate on the black market and sold provisions to armies at a considerable profit. [64]

From 1808 onwards, Nathan Rothschild exported English guineas to the continent. Ferguson describes this as a "lucrative line of business" [65] and Bouvier adds that "the profits were no doubt proportionate to the risks". [66]

British goods, including cotton fabric, sugar, indigo and tobacco, were also transported across the Channel, via the Rothschilds' warehouses, in defiance of Napoleon's blockade. [67]

Close to Wilhelm IX, the Elector of Hesse-Kassel, Mayer Amschel Rothschild was involved in his purchase of thousands of mercenaries to join the British-led fight against the French forces. [68]

Wars are expensive affairs and the financing has to come from somewhere.

"As the scale and cost of the conflict between

France and the rest of Europe rose, so too did the borrowing needs of the combatant states”, says Ferguson. [69]

“The defeat of France in the Napoleonic Wars had been financed to a large extent by British loans and subsidies to Austria, Russia and Prussia. With their establishments in Frankfurt, London and Paris, the Rothschilds had been in a uniquely good position to facilitate these transfers”. [70]

He says that their activities at this time ushered in a new era in financial as well as political history.

“The Rothschilds stretched their credit to breaking point, sometimes losing sight altogether of their assets and liabilities, gambling everything they owned for the sake of governmental commissions, interest payments and speculative gains from exchange rate and bond yield fluctuations. In 1815 alone, Nathan’s account with the British government totalled close to £10 million, a huge sum at that time”. [71]

Particularly striking is the way in which Nathan Rothschild used funds entrusted to him by Wilhelm IX as if it was his own capital, investing in hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of British government bonds and thereby securing the proximity to the British state for which his family is still known. [72]

The Rothschilds' network of agents across Europe also famously enabled them to be the first in London to have news of Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815, which, says Bouvier, perhaps enabled Nathan Rothschild to pull off a spectacular coup at the Stock Exchange. [73]

Writes Ferguson: "The Rothschilds emerged in 1815 as sterling millionaires. Almost at once, Nathan embarked on perhaps the most successful transaction of his career: a huge investment in British government bonds (consols) whereby he rode the upswing caused by the government's postwar financial stabilization, taking his profits just before the market peaked. This was Nathan's supreme *Meistergeschäft*, realizing profits of more than £250,000 at a stroke". [74]

Financing wars became something of a speciality for the Rothschilds; they loaned £1 million to Brazil to fund its war with Argentina and Uruguay in 1851, for example. [75]

A couple of years later, they were back in action floating the British Government's Crimean War Loan, [76] a reflection of the near monopoly enjoyed by Rothschilds over British war finance. [77]

Their involvement in this 1853-1856 conflict torpedoes the idea that they had a vested interest in maintaining the peace.

Ferguson insists: "Far from weakening the

Rothschilds' position, the Crimean War had precisely the opposite effect in that it emphatically reasserted the Rothschild houses' primacy in the field of public finance.

“Indeed, it demonstrated that the Rothschilds had for years been exaggerating the financial dangers of war. In reality, wars – and especially short wars of the sort which characterised the period from 1854 to 1871 – created financial opportunities which they, with their distinctive multinational structure, were especially well placed to exploit”. [78]

As well as lending Britain a total of £26 million for the Crimean War, which was added to the £782 million existing national debt subsequent to the Napoleonic Wars, [79] they also lent money to France and Turkey. [80]

While those two powers were both British allies in that conflict against Russia, between 1859 and 1870 the Rothschilds “would find themselves repeatedly on both sides of decisive conflicts which were to recast the map of Europe”, writes Ferguson. [81]

“The wars of the 1850s and 1860s were fought by states which were, by and large, strapped for cash; this more than anything else explains the importance of the role played by bankers in the period – and the substantial profits they could make”. [82]

He adds that their internal communications

reveal that the Rothschilds “were calculating carefully to ensure that both sides in the conflict paid them for their financial services”. [83]

Ferguson stresses that it would be absurd to argue that there was no connection between the overall profitability of the period for the Rothschilds and the recurrence of military conflict.

“Far from damaging their position as the world’s leading multinational bank, the wars of the mid nineteenth-century generated unprecedented business for the Rothschilds, just as fifty years before it had been war which had set them on their way to fortune and notoriety”. [84]

I will mention later the political Rothschild-linked machinations behind the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, but suffice to say here that they were involved with both sides and as a result their power in France and Europe was further enhanced. [85]

Having been lured into launching the war, which they lost, the French were landed with hefty reparations.

Of course, the Rothschilds were on hand to provide loans to the French state to pay off Prussia.

“It was, quite simply, the biggest financial operation of the century, and arguably the Rothschilds’ crowning achievement”, [86] writes

Ferguson.

“As a percentage of GDP, French public debt was already 44 per cent in 1869, before the war, and 59 per cent in 1871, before most of the indemnity had been paid. So the total internal and external debt burden in 1871 was in the vicinity of 80 per cent of GDP”. [87]

It was an “immense risk” [88] for the Rothschilds in France to be identified with paying such large sums of money to Berlin, he adds, and it is “extraordinary” how little criticism was levelled at Alphonse de Rothschild for his “great operation”, as the family termed it. [89]

“Great racket” would be nearer the truth!

I have already described [90] the Rothschild connections to South Africa, where the Boer War of 1899-1902 was essentially a grab of gold and diamond resources for Rothschild interests including De Beers.

It is worth recalling that this conflict saw the first use of concentration camps, in which the families of Dutch-origin settlers were shockingly imprisoned.

A few years later the Rothschilds semi-secretly helped finance the Japanese in their war against Russia in 1904-1906 and then openly loaned a further £48 million issue to help build back the post-war Japanese economy. [91]

They performed the same role on the other side of the conflict, when “Russian industry

recovered spectacularly thanks to the Rothschilds and other international bankers who poured massive loans into the country”, [92] as Docherty and Macgregor note.

The Rothschilds’ role in the conspiracy to start and prolong the First World War is of utmost importance, but since I have already examined it in detail elsewhere, I will not repeat myself here.

I will simply remind readers that the Rothschilds and their associates were able to profit from the bloodbath in multiple ways – through loans to finance the war and subsequent “build back better” projects, yes, but also very directly through their heavy involvement in the arms trade.

One important player in this respect was wealthy international arms dealer Basil Zaharoff, deeply involved in both munitions and international politics at the time and “a Rothschild man”, in Docherty and Macgregor’s words. [93]

By 1914, Zaharoff sat on the boards of Vickers and Le Nickel, both Rothschild-financed and influenced. [94]

He would no doubt have agreed with James de Rothschild, who proudly told his nephews in 1866: “In a war there is money to be made from having money”. [95]

IV

GRABBING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Over the last 200 years the Rothschilds have systematically gained control of much of the infrastructure of the modern industrial world.

Their first big step in this direction was with the railways which changed European life and ushered in the 19th century New Normal.

As early as 1836, Salomon Rothschild was writing that the railways were going to create “completely new possibilities – industrial, commercial, political and military”. [96]

Indeed, as Professor Carroll Quigley observes, much of the impetus to industrial advance came from the railways, since these became “by far the chief purchasers of ferrous metals, coals, and petroleum products”. [97]

Railways amounted to the tentacles of a central state-commercial system reaching everywhere, extracting resources from the countryside, moving around raw materials and manufactured goods, providing rapid communication and personal mobility and, in the case of

war, transporting thousands of troops to the borders.

Right from the outset, the railway companies tended to link up various aspects of this process, becoming giant multi-faceted industrial groups of the kind with which we are so familiar today. [98]

One of the biggest Rothschild rail projects was in the north of France, where their *Compagnie du chemin de fer du Nord* was at the centre of an immense industrial web, also including waterway navigation, steel and coal, and whose capital reached 1.3 billion francs by 1895. [99]

Importantly for the Rothschilds and their like, these vast continental-scale construction projects created the “need” to spend vast amounts of public money.

“The rise of financial capitalism in France, as elsewhere, was made possible by the demand for capital for railroad building”, [100] says Quigley.

Ferguson confirms that the Rothschilds played leading roles in railway finance in Austria, France and Germany: “By the middle of the century, the Rothschilds were already well on the way to building a highly profitable pan-European railway network”. [101]

They were also heavily involved in a series of loans for railway-building in Russia, particularly

in the 1870s and 1890s. [102] A 400-million-franc loan to the Russian government in 1896 even led to Alphonse de Rothschild being decorated with the Grand Cross by the czar. [103].

The adverse effect of this industrialisation on all aspects of the traditional cohesive life of the country was immense, as Quigley explains.

“The railroads had a most profound effect on Russia from every point of view, binding one-sixth of the earth’s surface into a single political unit and transforming that country’s economic, political, and social life...

“The drain of wealth from the peasants to the urban and export markets was increased, especially in the period before 1890. This process was assisted by the advent of a money economy to those rural areas which had previously been closer to a self-sufficient or a barter basis. This increased agricultural specialization and weakened handicraft activities”. [104]

The family was also involved with the Imperial Lombardo Venetian and Central Italian Railway Company, which gave the Rothschilds and their associates control of more than 600 miles of Italian railways. [105]

There were further railway acquisitions in Italy, Spain and Austria [106] as well as in present-day Slovenia and Croatia. [107]

It is hardly surprising to learn that, following their involvement in an initial 1960s study

group, Rothschild acted as advisors to the European Channel Tunnel Group which initiated the present railway link between London and Paris, their two main historical centres of activity. [108]

Having surfed the wave of railway profits, the Rothschilds turned their attention to the physical infrastructure of the money system itself – gold.

Their interests in gold mining grew rapidly at the end of the 19th century, notably in South Africa, and fitted in nicely with their gold refining and broking business. [109]

Through their vehicles such as Rio Tinto and the Exploration Company, the Rothschilds built up a vast empire of gold mines, which spread to West Australia, New Zealand, California, Mexico and Venezuela.

They reaped “substantial returns from the various mining companies”, writes Ferguson. “The profits to be made from such investments were huge”. [110]

The Rothschilds thus had an obvious vested interest in promoting the “gold standard” which became, in effect, “the global monetary system”, as Ferguson explains.

“The London and Paris houses acted as vital auxiliaries to their respective central banks, spending specie across the Channel in large quantities at times of crisis in one or other

market. This in itself was a profitable business”.
[111]

The demand for gold seemed likely to remain buoyant as more and more countries adopted it as the basis for their monetary systems, [112] he adds. “Small wonder the English Rothschilds encouraged the spread of the gold standard”.
[113]

The Rothschilds’ central role in this system was not concealed. After the First World War, the world market price for gold was set every morning at 11am following an auction conducted at their head office at New Court, London. [114]

One Great Leap Forward for the modern world was the electrification of our lives.

Funnily enough, the Rothschilds were on hand to profit from this development by gaining what Ferguson identifies as “a position of real power on the world copper market” [115] – copper being the principal metal required for the new electric infrastructure.

Having gained a controlling interest in the Rio Tinto copper mines in Spain in the late 1880s [116] – described by Ferguson as “an involvement which proved exceedingly profitable as world demand for copper soared” [117] – they went on to expand their copper investments elsewhere, such as in German South-West Africa.

Another Great Advance on the glorious path of industrial progress was, of course, the growing

dependence on oil and thus on plastics, pharmaceuticals, chemical fertilisers and so on.

The claim was already being made in 1890, by Hessian Reichstag Deputy Otto Böckel, that the Rothschilds had cornered the world market in oil. [118]

This tied in nicely with their control of the railway infrastructure. Docherty and Macgregor write: “The Rothschilds, behind a myriad of different company titles, constructed oil tank wagons for the railways, storage depots and refineries for the production of petrol and kerosene, and bartered with Government departments over concessions and favorable rail cargo fares”. [119]

They were notably involved in the Russian oilfields around Baku, now in Azerbaijan, where, explain Docherty and Macgregor, they “amassed vast and highly profitable investments”. [120]

I have already described, in the piece on the Great War, how the Rothschilds controlled Germany’s oil supply at the time, notably via Romania.

They have also long been close to the multinational oil entity which became known as Royal Dutch Shell.

Writes Ferguson: “The tendency was for the Rothschilds to participate in the gradual merger between Shell and Royal Dutch. The Rothschilds took a third share of the Asiatic Petroleum Co.

created by the two oil firms in 1902, and in 1911 exchanged their entire Russian operation for shares in Royal Dutch and Shell, making them the largest shareholders in each”. [121]

The Shell connection is very apparent in the Rothschilds’ story, whether in the way that Anthony de Rothschild, 3rd Lord Rothschild, directed scientific research at Royal Dutch Shell [122] or in that fact that when Edouard de Rothschild died in 1949, his estate included 720 million francs worth of shares in the same oil giant. [123]

The last piece of infrastructure I want to mention was in truth the first in the Rothschilds’ journey to power – communications.

Because the five “houses” founded by Mayer Amschel Rothschild’s five sons (represented by the five arrows in the family logo) were scattered all over Europe, a fast, secure and effective internal communications system was essential.

Before the age of telegraphs, let alone telephones, they developed a network of couriers and private ships that accepted no external passengers.

This enabled them to gain news of events elsewhere on the continent ahead of competitors and even governments.

It also brought them closer to diplomats and other government officials who came to rely on Rothschild communications to keep ahead of the

game, thereby also allowing the Rothschilds to keep abreast of what was being communicated. [124]

They adapted, of course, to changing times. Even before the Dover-Calais submarine telegraph cable had been laid in 1851, Julius Reuter wrote to the Rothschilds offering them the monopoly of its banking-related use. [125]

Reuters remains part of what we now call “the media” and the Rothschilds are certainly very present in that domain, even if the details of their involvement are only rarely made clear.

Evelyn de Rothschild, who died in November 2022, was proud of the fact that from 1972 to 1989 he was chairman of the *Economist* magazine, which he once called “probably the most independent publication in the world”. [126]

Independent of what?

Ferguson records that Rothschild also sat on the boards of Beaverbrook Newspapers and The Telegraph plc and that the Rothschilds invested in ATV, one of the first independent television companies in the UK. [127]

Quigley records that the Rothschilds’ Paribas bloc of businesses in France included both Havas and Hachette.

“Havas was a great monopolistic news agency, as well as the most important advertising agency in France. It could, and did, suppress or spread both news and advertising. It

usually supplied news reports gratis to those papers which would print the advertising copy it also provided. It received secret subsidies from the government for almost a century (a fact first revealed by Balzac)...

“Hachette had a monopoly on the distribution of periodicals and a sizable portion of the distribution of books. This monopoly could be used to kill papers which were regarded as objectionable”. [128]

The biggest and most controversial name in French media today is billionaire industrialist Vincent Bolloré, a “fervent Catholic” currently facing serious charges of corrupting government officials in Togo, Africa. [129][130]

Through his firm Vivendi he gained control of the aforementioned Havas in 2017 and controls several TV and radio channels, as well as publications such as *Paris Match* and the *Journal du Dimanche*.

Intriguingly, as a young man Bolloré worked for the Rothschilds, becoming assistant director to Edmond de Rothschild. [131]

In 2003 it emerged that he owned 300 million euros of shares in Paris Orléans, a giant holding company which in 2015 was renamed Rothschild & Co. [132]

V

EXPLOITING HUMANITY, DESTROYING NATURE

It goes without saying that the Rothschilds' profiteering exploits have not been without adverse consequences for the well-being both of human beings and of the natural world to which we belong.

For those who share their love of industrialism, such consequences might be regarded as mere "collateral damage" in the holy quest for "economic growth" – growth, in the Rothschilds' case, of their own family fortune.

Maybe they can contemplate a wrecked and diseased miner or factory worker, or a chemically-contaminated stream or river, and insist in all honesty that this was a necessary price to pay for the onward march of "development".

But there have always been those of us who object on moral grounds to the relentless steamroller of Capital that flattens and destroys everything we love about life and our world.

The Rothschilds' role in the building of railways, and the associated industrial system, exposed them to "unprecedented public criticism" in the late 19th century, records Ferguson.

"Radical and (for the first time) socialist writers began to portray them in a new and lurid light: as exploiters of 'the people', pursuing capital gains and profits at the expense of taxpayers and ordinary travelers". [133]

Capitalists like the Rothschilds have always regarded the mass of people – you, me and everyone we know – as mere objects, counters in their great game. The term "human capital" is still being bandied about by the family today. [134]

Accordingly, they never hesitate in uprooting vast numbers of us from our homelands and dumping us in some other part of the world.

Not only does this often supply a source of cheap labour, but it also results in populations without any sense of shared belonging or community and which are thus less likely to come together to resist the control and exploitation of the ruling class.

A very clear example of the Rothschild network's involvement in such practices is provided by Docherty and Macgregor in their account of their South African gold mining activities at the start of the 20th century.

Rothschild associate Alfred Milner and the

mine owners had a recruitment problem, with even their traditionally exploited African workers deserting them because the work was so badly paid and dangerous.

“But investor profits were good,” note the authors. Rather than increasing pay or improving conditions, they turned to China where their exploitative regard had identified a “large source of surplus cheap labour”.

“The Chinese were lured to the South African mines with false promises and outrageous lies. They were led to understand that they would be living in pleasant garden cities where, once settled, families might join them.

“Fit and healthy applicants were selected and kept in sheds until embarkation. Then, under armed guard, they were loaded into the holds of ships for the journey.

“The first ship to sail, the 3,400-ton iron-hulled SS *Ikbal*, left China on 30 June 1904 with over 2,000 men crammed in the hold like a classic eighteenth-century slave ship...

“By the time it arrived in Durban, 51 men had died and their bodies dispatched overboard. The deaths proved no great loss to the organisers, however, for they had insured each man for \$125 and netted a tidy profit from the insurance company”. [135]

Once in South Africa, the men were housed in compounds beside the mines, 20 of them

crammed into each hut.

They were unable to leave the compounds without a special permit and were flogged and fined for not working hard enough or for breaking the rules.

They worked for minimal wages and were forced to pay back the cost of their transportation from China.

Comments historian John Hamill: “These Chinese were brought over in the prime of life to be broken on the wheel within three years for the purpose of grinding out ever greater profits for the monsters of greed who owned them”. [136]

Monsters of greed, indeed, and there are echoes here of the prison labour that the French Rothschilds had used for their nickel mines in the Pacific colony of New Caledonia in the late 1800s. [137]

Gold mining, like all extractivism, is very noxious to the natural environment, particularly because cyanide or mercury is used to separate the precious metal from the original ore.

These substances are highly toxic to wildlife and, of course, to people – and particularly to people who spend their working lives exposed to them.

As part of their monopolising of the industrial infrastructure, the Rothschilds took control of the mercury supply they needed for their gold business and secured a long-term concession

from the Spanish government for the mines at Almaden.

Writes Bouvier: “Almaden was a hell-hole. A report in 1900 stressed that the mercury fumes reduced the worker to a physically pathetic condition”. [138]

For the record, the symptoms of mercury poisoning include muscle weakness, poor coordination, numbness in the hands and feet, skin rashes, anxiety, memory problems, and trouble speaking, hearing and seeing. [139]

It was not just gold, mercury, oil, nickel and copper from which the Rothschilds made spectacular profits.

In building what Ferguson says “can justifiably be described as a mining empire”, [140] they were also involved in the extraction and processing of lead, silver, diamonds, rubies, [141] zinc, iron [142] and coal. [143]

In Chile their involvement in government finance was linked closely with the export of nitrates for use in fertilisers and explosives. [144]

After the First World War, their influence as the principal shareholders in Rio Tinto became even greater as the firm expanded its interests to embrace sulphur-recovery, cinder-treatment and silica gel and gained a presence everywhere from Spain and Belgium to Africa and the Americas. [145]

Adds Ferguson: “By 1928 it was operating in twenty-two different countries with a host of different interests in metallurgy and chemicals”. [146]

The family’s exploitation of natural and human resources has accelerated since the Second World War.

In the late 1950s, the French branch of the Rothschilds played a central role in the creation of a company called COFIMER which targeted African natural resources like iron, aluminium, phosphates and uranium. [147]

In the late 1960s, their Le Nickel business “absorbed Peñarroya and various other mining companies”, [148] writes Ferguson.

The Rothschilds financed a 1950s scheme to “develop” the resource-rich Canadian province of Newfoundland via the Brinco (British Newfoundland Corporation Ltd) consortium [149] and occupy a pre-eminent position in the Australian natural resources market. [150]

In 1966 they led a large syndicate raising the first tranche of funding for a trans-Alpine pipeline between Trieste and Ingolstadt and they were involved in financing Chile’s first atomic reactor. [151]

Why spoil the story of their sparkling financial success with gripes about devastated lives and desecrated landscapes?

VI

CORRUPTING POLITICAL LIFE

“Rothschild biographers record that men of influence and statesmen in almost every country of the world were in their pay”, write Docherty and Macgregor. [152]

One of those biographers, Ferguson, sees the origins of that situation in a “hard-nosed” business rule that Mayer Amschel Rothschild taught to his five sons.

This was, apparently: “If a high-placed person enters into a [financial] partnership with a Jew, he belongs to the Jew”. [153]

Says Ferguson: “This last piece of advice lay behind the brothers’ practice of plying politically powerful individuals with gifts, loans, investment tips and outright bribes”. [154]

The Rothschilds’ most famous historical relationship to a politician was that with Benjamin Disraeli, British Prime Minister in 1868 and from 1874 to 1880, himself a Jewish-born convert to Christianity.

He became very close to the family, in both

London and Paris, during the late 1830s and 1840s. By 1846, Lionel Rothschild was “helping Disraeli speculate in French railways and later assisted him with his tangle of debts”, [155] writes Ferguson.

Following Lionel’s death in 1879, his sons replied to Disraeli’s condolences by telling him that their father “looked upon you as his ‘dearest friend’. It is hard to think of anyone who was closer to him in these later years”. [156]

This proximity raised enormous questions over Disraeli’s historic decision, in 1875, that Britain should buy nearly £4 million of shares in the Suez Canal from the Khedive of Egypt – using a loan from his financier friends. [157]

The outraged former Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Robert Lowe pointed out that the Rothschilds’ total charges of £150,000 for a three-month loan amounted to 15 per cent per annum interest. [158]

The Rothschild-Disraeli intimacy caused some disquiet in diplomatic circles.

Foreign Secretary Lord Derby related in 1877 that the Russian ambassador to Britain felt the Rothschilds were “acquainted with everything that goes on... even more so than the ministers: he is convinced that they are in daily communication with the Premier, hear all that passes, & use it for their own purposes. From other sources I am certain that the leakage of

cabinet secrets, of which we have so often complained, is mainly in that quarter". [159]

But the Rothschilds enjoyed other, less publicised, relationships with leading British politicians, such as Robert Cecil, Lord Salisbury, whose life is described by Quigley as exemplifying the penetration of public life by the Rothschild-related Anglo-American Establishment. [160]

The Prime Minister was also famed for his nepotism, [161] to the extent that the English colloquial term "Bob's your uncle" refers to the way that his nephew and chief assistant Alfred Balfour was seamlessly installed as his successor in 1902.

The first thing Salisbury did after forming a new minority administration in the summer of 1885 was, on the subject of lucrative Egyptian bond issues, to announce that he was "entrusting the issue of the English portion of the Loan to the agency of N.M. Rothschild, because that firm is one with the Houses of the same name in Paris and Frankfurt and is in similar relations with the House of Bleichroeder in Berlin". [162]

No wonder that the Rothschilds "fervently wished Salisbury to remain in power at the end of 1885", [163] as Ferguson records.

That same year Salisbury appointed, as Secretary of State for India, a politician by the name of Randolph Churchill, father of Winston.

This, notes Ferguson, “seemed to herald a blossoming of the Rothschilds’ interest in India”. [164]

While planning the issue of a loan for the Indian Midland Railway, Churchill specifically told the Viceroy, Lord Dufferin: “When the loan is brought out I shall fight a great battle against [Bertram] Currie to place it in the hands of the Rothschilds”. [165]

Churchill also approved the annexation of Burma on 1 January 1886, thus allowing the Rothschilds to issue their immensely successful shareholding in the Burma ruby mines. [166]

Can there be any possible connection here to the fact that on his death from syphilis, it transpired that Churchill owed an astonishing £66,902 debt to the Rothschilds, which would amount today to around £5.5 million? [167]

Like father, like son, so they say, and much-celebrated 20th century British Prime Minister Winston Churchill also had ties to the Rothschild family.

Jimmy Rothschild was one of those who donated towards the purchase of the cash-strapped Churchill’s house at Chartwell in 1946 to allow him to go on living there [168] and Ferguson describes the Rothschilds’ aforementioned involvement in the 1950s Newfoundland development project as “probably the most important financial opportunity generated by the

bank's continuing links with Winston Churchill". [169]

Indeed the site of the massive hydroelectric plant that was the result of the Brinco project was later renamed "Churchill Falls".

Lord Rosebery, a British Foreign Secretary who became Prime Minister in 1894, was so close to the Rothschilds that he actually married one of them. [170]

The Rothschilds had established, throughout the 19th century, their tradition of influencing politicians of both main political parties, inviting them to dine with them and lavishing them with generosity at their mansions or in private clubs.

Says Ferguson: "It was in this milieu that many of the most important political decisions of the period were taken". [171]

Rothschild involvement in British political decision-making was still evident in *much* more recent times, as will see a little later...

The overall story of the Rothschilds' corruption of political life in Europe can be traced back well over 200 years to "Mayer Amschel's financial influence over Napoleon's henchman in the Rhineland, Karl von Dalberg", [172] says Ferguson.

Initially, before their influence on power was fully established, they risked facing judicial consequences for their activities. The police in Austria were involved in investigating an 1820

loan of 20 million florins to their government by the Rothschilds and their associates, for which the bankers were to be repaid 36 million. [173]

The police report noted that a minister and other officials had been “bribed” by Salomon Rothschild and commented that the affair amounted to a “worse than contemptible” treatment of the public. [174]

One of many politicians whose private finances had been bolstered by Rothschild loans was Klemens Metternich, Chancellor of Austria from 1821 to 1848. [175]

Having “taken soup” with Amschel Rothschild in 1821, he began a “a long and mutually beneficial friendship” with the family, explains Ferguson.

“They attended to his private finances (often on preferential terms) and acted as a swift and secret channel of diplomatic communication; he in turn provided them with sensitive political news and gave them a privileged position not only in Habsburg finances but in Austrian society”. [176]

But, apart from Britain, it is in France that the Rothschilds have enjoyed the most visible influence on politicians, often with disastrous consequences for the country.

Take the Duc de Gramont, who was appointed as French Foreign Minister in May 1870. He essentially stoked war with Prussia through a

“highly inflammatory declaration” and gave a “distorted” version of the truth to elected representatives, [177] which reminds me, for one, of the notorious “dodgy dossier” that was used to justify UK involvement in the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Since, as we have seen, the Rothschilds’ role in France and Europe was to be enhanced by the conflict, we can well understand why Alphonse de Rothschild had declared himself “delighted” by Gramont’s appointment to the post. [178]

Adds Ferguson: “The fact that the Duke’s son later married a Rothschild (Mayer Carl’s daughter Margaretha) raises the possibility that he was already a family friend”. [179]

The leading role in post-war French reparations to Prussia was played by politician Léon Say, described by Bouvier as a “Rothschilds man, their representative in parliaments and governments”. [180]

Thanks to his work in arranging the details of these finances, the Rothschilds earned the impressive sum of a million francs in commission. [181]

Leaping forward, we see a similar scenario in the period following the Second World War when, as Quigley relates, René Mayer, “active head of the Rothschild family interests” became Minister of Finance. [182]

Georges Pompidou, director general of the

Banque Rothschild, ran President General de Gaulle's staff office for six months before returning to the bank [183] after the constitution had been revised to allow more presidential power over elected representatives.

He later went back into politics as de Gaulle's second Prime Minister between 1962 and 1968. [184]

More recently still, in 2017 former Rothschild banker Emmanuel Macron became President in time for the Great Reset.

Macron, explains one 2021 newspaper report, "spent four years as a deal maker at the bank and is considered a protégé of Baron David de Rothschild". [185]

VII

USING ROYALTY

As we have seen, the Rothschilds came to regard themselves as being at the very top of the social ladder, second to nobody, and Charlotte Rothschild even used the term “royal family” to describe her own kin. [186]

They quickly established financial relationships with various “other” royal families and soon “most of the royalty of Europe was under their influence”, say Docherty and Macgregor. [187]

Their communications network, amounting to an express postal service, was also appreciated by kings, queens and princes across the continent. [188]

The Rothschilds were particularly close to the Saxe-Coburg dynasty, later rebranded “Windsor” in the UK to sound less foreign.

One of their early clients was a German prince, Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, who went on to become monarch of the new state of Belgium which was founded in 1830, an arrangement

which, says Ferguson, the Rothschilds found “congenial”. [189]

But it was the British monarchy to which the Rothschilds became most importantly close, starting with the personal loans they made to Leopold of Saxe-Coburg’s father-in-law, King George IV, infamous for his profligate ways as Prince Regent and who sat on the British throne between 1820 and 1830. [190]

Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert, was another Saxe-Coburg targeted by the Rothschilds.

Lionel Rothschild of N.M Rothschild & Co in London promoted the family interests by befriending Albert, whose chronic shortage of money provided easy access to his patronage. [191]

Ferguson reveals that 1847 correspondence shows discussion of a Rothschild loan just days before Albert bought the lease of Balmoral Castle and its 10,000-acre estate. [192]

The Rothschild-Albert relationship involved “serious financial dealings”, he adds. “In 1847 the Rothschilds gave Albert’s impecunious Bavarian relative Prince Ludwig von Oettingen-Wallerstein a £3,000 loan which Albert personally guaranteed; he thus became the debtor when Prince Oettingen defaulted after a year”. [193]

In time, Queen Victoria joined her husband

in becoming close to the Rothschild family, as of course did their son, the future King Edward VII, as I set out in the First World War essay.

Docherty and Macgregor explain that the Rothschilds “covered the heir to the throne’s massive gambling debts and ensured that he was accustomed to a standard of luxury well beyond his means”. [194]

There is no reason to think that these intimate private connections between the Rothschilds and the British monarchy have ever ceased.

Indeed, on the death of Evelyn de Rothschild in November 2022, it was reported that he had “counted Queen Elizabeth II among those who sought his financial advice” and had been knighted by her in 1989. [195]

The current King Charles III also has links to Rothschild circles, as I set out in a previous article, [196] with one of the vice-presidents of his Business in the Community network being Mark Weinberg, co-founder of J. Rothschild Assurance, which later became St James’s Place.

And, of course, there is *that* photo of Evelyn de Rothschild pointing a finger at Charles’ chest in a somewhat superior manner.

It is perhaps not *entirely* coincidental that Charles was chosen in 2020 to officially launch the so-called Great Reset whose agenda, as we will see, is so close to that of the Rothschilds.

VIII

PRIVATISING POWER

Probably the most important infrastructure over which the Rothschilds have been able to seize control is that of governance and what used to be the public sector.

That much was already evident more than a century ago, in 1909, when future British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, in his earlier radical phase, asked: “Now, really, I should I like to know, is Lord Rothschild the dictator of this country?” [197]

The Rothschilds’ deliberate targeting of governments can, like their control of individual politicians, be traced back to patriarch Mayer Amschel Rothschild’s hard-nosed business rules.

He told his sons: “It is better to deal with a government in difficulties than with one that has luck on its side”. [198]

A country with financial problems was “a natural target for Rothschild financial penetration”, [199] says Ferguson. As we have seen, expensive wars create governments in need

of loans, and so do sustainably endless waves of costly infrastructure “development”.

Governments crippled with debt also find themselves “in difficulties” and thus in aid of further “help” from those brought them to that point.

Bouvier says the first “direct” loan by the Rothschilds to a government, that is to say with their own money, was to Denmark in 1810. [200]

The creation of Greece and Belgium as new states was literally underwritten by Rothschild finance in the forms of loans guaranteed by the great powers and floated by the family. [201]

And Ferguson writes that by the end of the 1850s “the Rothschilds had reaffirmed their position as Europe’s pre-eminent lender to governments. Britain, France, Turkey, Austria and Prussia had all issued bonds through one or more of the Rothschild houses”. [202]

In the 12 years from 1895 to 1907 alone, it is estimated that the Rothschilds loaned nearly \$450,000,000 (\$13,350,000,000 adjusted to inflation in 2022) to European governments. [203]

In France, following defeat against Prussia the Rothschilds were involved in a series of massive loans to the government, as well as to the city of Paris: Bouvier estimates that the profit they made from these loans in 1871 and 1872 alone was in the order of 75 million francs.

[204]

Debts provide financiers not just with profit, but also with control. Ferguson notes: “A government that did not borrow money was a government the Rothschilds could advise, but not pressurise”. [205]

Thus the family maintained what he describes as “a unique influence over French foreign policy and European international relations in general”. [206]

Governments which declined to submit to this unique influence could easily be taught the error of their ways.

An interesting example is what happened when Léon Gambetta became Prime Minister of France in November 1881.

Alphonse de Rothschild assembled tame journalists in December to warn them that Gambetta aimed to tamper with government bonds with which the Rothschilds were involved and to embark on some kind of railway nationalisation. He told them: “I want an all-out campaign; it is necessary to demolish Gambetta before he demolishes us”. [207]

The increasingly beleaguered Gambetta was forced to resign the very next month, January 1882, after a disastrous collapse on the stock exchange.

The police chief in Paris took an interest in these goings-on, noting that “it is generally

admitted that Monsieur Rothschild dominates the market”. [208]

In the post-Gambetta administration the new finance minister was Léon Say, the “Rothschild man” I have already mentioned. Not only was the rail nationalisation idea dropped, but in 1883 the position of the big rail companies was even legally consolidated. [209]

The Rothschilds were early enthusiasts for the public-private partnership agenda later favoured by such luminaries as Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Klaus Schwab.

As such, the idea of privatising assets previously owned by the state has long appealed to them and they were suggesting the sell-off of railways as a way for European states to raise cash as early as 1865. [210]

But in the UK in the 1980s privatisation became, as Ferguson details, “one of the bank’s most important areas of activity”. [211]

He identifies this involvement as beginning with Victor Rothschild’s role as the head of Prime Minister Edward Heath’s Central Policy Review Staff “think tank” between 1970 and 1973.

“This may partly explain why in July 1971 the Heath government entrusted N.M. Rothschild with the sale of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation”. [212]

Then in August 1976 Miles Emley was seconded from the Rothschilds’ bank to advise

Labour Party minister Tony Benn as the Department of Energy began to sell its stakes in the North Sea oil fields. [213]

But privatisation really took off under the premiership of Margaret Thatcher.

One of the main architects of the programme was John Redwood, who set out the agenda in his 1980 book *Public Enterprise in Crisis*.

He was working at the time for the N.M. Rothschild Equity Research Team and, though he left to join Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street Policy Unit in 1983, he returned to the Rothschilds three years later as director of overseas privatisation.

Ferguson writes: "He and Michael Richardson, who joined N.M. Rothschild from the stockbrokers Cazenove in 1981, can (and do) claim much of the credit for turning the idea of privatisation into a political reality, though the firm's involvement predated their arrival". [214]

An obituary of Evelyn de Rothschild sheds more light on this period: "His friendship with Margaret Thatcher – British prime minister from 1979 to 1990 – helped the bank win the job of lead underwriter in the sales of shares in state-owned companies such as British Gas Plc and British Petroleum Plc". [215]

Ferguson relates that in February 1982 N.M. Rothschild handled the sell-off of high technology company Amersham International – "the first

time a wholly government-owned concern had been floated on the stock market” [216] – and during the BNO (Britoil) sale in that same year “it did not go unnoticed that the head of Britoil was a former N.M. Rothschild director (Philip Shelbourne)”. [217]

N.M. Rothschild scored what Ferguson describes as its “biggest success” in this context when it won the contract in 1986 to advise British Gas on its £6 billion sell-off, famously advertised as some kind of move towards a share-owning democracy. [218]

The firm’s interventions did not entirely escape criticism and it was taken to task by the National Audit Office for advising the government to sell the Royal Ordnance to British Aerospace in 1985 at a bargain price. [219]

But its role continued and it was also involved in the sell-offs of BP, as we have seen, and of British Steel, British Coal, the twelve regional electricity boards and ten water authorities. [220]

Ferguson writes that it is “inconceivable” that a programme as drastic as privatisation could have been implemented without close contact between the government and the City – and in particular with the Rothschild HQ at New Court.

“After Margaret Thatcher’s deposition in 1990, political support for the Conservative

government dwindled rapidly; and the links between New Court and Westminster inevitably became the target of fresh Opposition criticism”. [221]

In the post-1992 administration, not only Redwood but also Chancellor Norman Lamont and junior minister Tony Nelson were former N.M. Rothschild employees, he notes.

“But it was the appointment of former ministers (and senior civil servants) to positions at New Court which prompted the most public comment”. [222]

Peter Walker, the former Secretary of State for Wales, became a non-executive director of the bank’s Welsh subsidiary and of Smith New Court, Norman Lamont joined the N.M. Rothschild board after being replaced as Chancellor in 1993 and so did Lord Wakeham, the former Energy Secretary who had earlier commissioned N.M. Rothschild to assess the viability (and potential for privatisation) of British Coal. [223]

The Rothschilds have subsequently been involved in the privatisation of British Rail and Northern Ireland Electricity, and advised the British government on the sale of housing association loans and student loans. [224]

And their enabling of privatisation has not been confined to Britain: in 1988 alone, the bank handled eleven privatisations in eight different

countries. [225]

In 1996-7 it advised the Brazilian government on the sale of its stake in the Companhia Vale do Rio Doce iron ore mines, Zambia on the privatisation of its copper industry and Germany on the £6 billion flotation of Deutsche Telekom. It later did the same thing for the Australian Telstra. [226]

What all this amounted to, says Ferguson, was a manoeuvre of historical proportions, an “immense transfer of assets from the public to the private sector”. [227].

IX

IMPOSING GLOBAL CONTROL

The principal historical vehicle for the Rothschilds' acquisition of enormous global power was European imperialism and in particular the dominant British variety.

Private financial gain was always the motivating force behind colonialism – “the profits of overseas expansion unquestionably flowed to a relatively small elite of investors”, [228] remarks Ferguson.

“Late-nineteenth-century imperialism was the political accompaniment to an economic process similar to the ‘globalisation’ of the late twentieth century. As leading members of that elite of imperial investors, the Rothschilds’ role in British imperialism was substantial”. [229]

As he adds, the Rothschilds relied on the physical and legal infrastructures of empires like those of Britain and France to enable and impose their exploitation: “It is hard to imagine their investments in Burmese ruby mines or New Caledonian nickel mines in the absence of direct

European control”. [230]

Various euphemisms have been used over the years to describe the violence with which this pillaging was enforced.

The Rothschilds played a key part in the British occupation of Egypt, from which they profited in multiple ways, including the lucrative Suez loan and speculation on Egyptian bonds. [231]

In the 1880s, when British warships bombarded Alexandria after riots had broken out in the Egyptian city, Alphonse de Rothschild wrote enthusiastically of the establishment of “law and order”. [232]

In 1893 Arthur de Rothschild described the use of murderous force against the Matabele people of southern Africa as “a sharp engagement... 100 of them having been killed, whilst there was, I am happy to say, hardly a single casualty on our side”.

The main interest for him was that this had resulted in what he called “a little spurt in the shares” of his family’s business. [233]

The deadliest weapon used by the British Empire to impose its rule in Matabeleland and elsewhere was the automatic gun produced by Maxim-Nordenfelt, famously cited by writer Hilaire Belloc as the key to European hegemony. [234]

Helpfully, recounts Ferguson, the Roths-

childs retained a substantial shareholding in the new Maxim-Nordenfelt company and exerted a direct influence over the firm's management.

“If late nineteenth-century imperialism had its ‘military-industrial complex’ the Rothschilds were unquestionably part of it”. [235]

The Rothschilds were intimately involved in all aspects of British imperialism, whether in encouraging British intervention in Sudan, [236] issuing £6.4 million worth of Indian railway shares, [237] securing a highly lucrative ruby mining concession from the British government following the annexation of Burma, [238] or sending a trusted agent to Australia for the gold rush. [239]

They benefited from the British annexation of Hong Kong, which opened up possibilities of trade with China and by 1853 they were in correspondence with a Shanghai-based merchant firm to whom they made regular shipments of silver from Mexico and Europe. [240]

In the second half of the twentieth century they were still working closely with the rebranded empire, with N.M. Rothschild participating in an issue of debentures for the Commonwealth Development Finance Co in 1963. [241]

But Rothschild interests always went further than the limits of the official British domains and they were important participants in

creating what is sometimes known as the informal empire, which included Latin America.

Quigley writes about the process of commercialization and incipient industrialization of Latin American society which “was largely a consequence of foreign investments, which introduced railroads, tram lines, faster communications, large-scale mining, some processing of raw materials, the introduction of electricity, waterworks, telephones, and other public utilities and the beginnings of efforts to produce supplies for these new activities”. [242]

Brazil was a particular sphere of Rothschild exploitation from the 1820s onwards, [243] with the coffee trade [244] forming an important aspect of their involvement.

Rapidly following the aforementioned 1851 war loan came the “need” to finance the rapid growth of the country’s railway network, which sparked a £1.8 million loan from the Rothschilds.

“It was just the beginning of an exceptionally monogamous financial relationship between the Brazilian government and the London house which, between 1852 and 1914, generated bond issues worth no less than £142 million”, [245] writes Ferguson. “Plainly, the Rothschilds had substantial financial leverage over Brazil”. [246]

During the First World War, the US ambassador in Brazil commented that “the Rothschilds have so mortgaged Brazil’s financial future

that... they will place every obstacle in the way of her entering into banking relations with any other house other than their own". [247]

The centralising of economic and political power suits the interests of global capitalists like the Rothschilds and so they were enthusiastic builders of what has been variously called the Common Market, the EEC and the EU.

Guy de Rothschild became known as "EEC banker Rothschild" [248] and the family was behind the plan for a new transnational currency called the "eurco" ("European Composite Unit"), based on the values of nine major European currencies, the forerunner of the later ecu and now the euro. [249]

In their drive for globalisation, the Rothschilds have, among very many activities, developed the Eurobond market, [250] raised millions for the Inter-American Development Bank, [251] arranged "Eurodollar" bond issues for Japanese companies, [252] and floated loans for the Philippines and South Korea. [253]

Ferguson comments that the Rothschilds have always had a vested financial interest in "the continuation and expansion of a global economic system in which capital, goods and indeed people could move as freely and as securely as possible". [254]

X

KEEPING IT ALL SECRET

While the 19th century Rothschilds wanted everybody to know exactly how rich and powerful they had become, their 21st century descendants tend to keep a low profile and understate their role.

This, I suspect, is because if the true extent of their phenomenal wealth and power were generally known, it would spark worldwide outrage and anger.

Quigley writes that merchant bankers, also known as international bankers, private bankers or investment bankers, are generally “devoted to secrecy and the secret use of financial influence in political life”. [255]

A certain degree of deceit formed part of the Rothschild *modus operandi* right from the word ‘go’.

How else would they have survived the police investigation into their handling of Wilhelm IX’s money under the 1790s French occupation [256] or been able to use his funds in

London to found their own financial empire?
[257]

Why else would Natty Rothschild have warned Cecil Rhodes to be “careful” about what he said in public about the Boer War through fear that some might “lay the blame for what has taken place on the shoulders of capitalists and those interested in South African Mining”? [258]

Sometimes we can identify particular acts of concealment, such as the disappearance of evidence concerning Disraeli’s financial dealings with the family [259] and the destruction of Natty Rothschild’s correspondence after his death, which left Ferguson wondering “how much of the Rothschilds’ political role remains irrevocably hidden from posterity”. [260]

But there is a general fog around the Rothschilds’ activities which arises historically from the very structure of their family business, run as a private – and thus secret – partnership. [261]

Quigley notes that such private status ensured “the maximum of anonymity and secrecy to persons of tremendous public power who dreaded public knowledge of their activities”. [262]

“In return for flotations of securities of industry, they took seats on the boards of directors of industrial firms as they had already done on commercial banks, savings banks,

insurance firms and finance companies.

“From these lesser institutions they funneled capital to enterprises which yielded control and away from those who resisted. These firms were controlled through interlocking directorships, holding companies and lesser banks”. [263]

The multiplication of financial entities that have borne or still bear the Rothschild name is, in itself, bewildering – these include N.M. Rothschild, Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG, de Rothschild Frères, Banque Rothschild, Edmond de Rothschild, Rothschild Intercontinental Bank, Rothschild Asset Management, Rothschild Incorporated, Rothschild North America, Rothschild Canada, Rothschild Europe, Rothschild GmbH, Rothschild Italia SpA, Rothschild España SA and Rothschild offices in Argentina, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, the Isle of Man, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. [264]

There is also Concordia BV, the parent company of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG, [265] and the St. James’s Place Group, originally the J. Rothschild Assurance Group, which since 1999 has had an office in Beijing. [266]

And a very important current entity is RIT Capital Partners plc, formerly Rothschild

Investment Trust, which boasts that it is “now one of the UK’s largest investment trusts, with a market capitalisation of over £4 billion”. [267]

But a Rothschild reality often hides behind a completely different name, thanks to the way they have systematically expanded their control.

Docherty and Macgregor explain: “They would rescue ailing banks or industrial conglomerates with large injections of cash, take control and use them as fronts”. [268]

“In most of their business organization, they operated a complex and sophisticated network of interlocking front companies and trusts which concealed not just the true extent of their ownership of key industries, but their unrivaled power over nations”. [269]

There is thus a vast entanglement of businesses over which the Rothschilds hold some kind of decisive influence or control.

Bouvier writes: “The way in which the firm had a role or an interest in these companies was not identical in each case. They made use of a range of diverse financing techniques”. [270]

Financial researcher Jean-Jacques Lauredon describes the result as a “maze” which he speculates has been deliberately contrived to be as complicated as possible. [271]

There was also money to be made out of such manoeuvres, Quigley adds, with financial capitalists discovering that they could not only

make killings out of the issuing of securities, they could also make killings out of the bankruptcy of corporations, through the fees and commissions of reorganization.

“A very pleasant cycle of flotation, bankruptcy, flotation, bankruptcy, began to be practiced by these financial capitalists. The more excessive the flotation, the greater the profits, and the more imminent the bankruptcy. The more frequent the bankruptcy, the greater the profits of reorganization and the sooner the opportunity of another excessive flotation with its accompanying profits”. [272]

In addition to the likes of Paribas in France, which is generally known to be a Rothschild entity, [273] other banks historically identified as “fronts” for the Rothschilds include Warburg, [274] Bleichröder, [275] Credit-Anstalt, [276] Disconto, [277] Kuhn, Loeb & Co, [278] and Barings. [279]

Further confusion is caused by the Rothschilds’ long-term use of representatives or agents within various companies, observing and guiding in a way that is invisible from the outside. [280]

The Rothschilds appear to have been particularly keen to hide the extent of their involvement in the oil industry.

As we have seen, they are very close to Royal Dutch Shell and Docherty and Macgregor write that they “were to be found in every aspect of

European oil, quietly amassing a monopoly” [281] behind a “bewildering flurry of name changes, of company amalgamations, of buy-outs and stock holdings, of new donations and aggressive take-overs”. [282]

As far as the USA is concerned, many questions have been asked about the precise nature of their relationship with Standard Oil and the Rockefeller dynasty.

The two ultra-rich families were holding secret talks about collaboration as early as 1892.

Docherty and Macgregor relate: “Standard Oil’s chief spokesman, John Archbold, reported directly to Rockefeller that they had quickly reached a tentative agreement, but stressed that ‘it was thought desirable on both sides that the matter be kept confidential’...

“Much of the great rivalry between Rothschild and Rockefeller was a convenient facade, though both would have the world believe otherwise”. [283]

Financial strategist Jacob Schiff of Kuhn, Loeb & Co, a Rothschild agent, [284] became the financial strategist for Rockefeller’s Standard Oil, which was then refining about 90 per cent of all crude oil in the United States. [285]

But we have to consider a third important player in order to complete the picture of the reach of the Rothschilds’ power in the USA and indeed across the world.

As I explained in a previous article, J.P. Morgan, although it appears to be a completely separate concern, has for a long time been a front for the Rothschilds.

And, Quigley points out, “the Rockefeller group, which was really a monopoly capitalist organisation investing only its own profits, functioned as a financial capitalist unit in close co-operation with Morgan”. [286]

So, as a result, explain Docherty and Macgregor, “Morgan, Schiff and Rockefeller, the three leading players on Wall Street, had settled into a cosy cartel, behind which the House of Rothschild remained hidden but retained immense influence and power”. [287]

The major victory of this cartel was to push the USA into creating the Federal Reserve, a central bank which, like those already existing in Europe, was not controlled by the government on behalf of the people but by the bankers themselves in their own self-interest.

The so-called “need” for this entity was deliberately created in the form of a banking crisis in 1907, a financial panic which, remark Docherty and Macgregor, was “a colossal fraud” [288] and “ran like a true Rothschild scam, orchestrated by Morgan”. [289]

Indeed John Pierpoint Morgan, who stepped forward to save the day by providing the “solution” of a central bank, was duly hailed by

the Rothschilds as “a man of wonderful resources” worthy of “admiration and respect”. [290]

With this important step achieved, the Rothschilds’ cartel went about building a vast global infrastructure of financial, political, cultural, academic, scientific and “philanthropic” institutions and foundations.

I touched on this process in the Great War article, which looks at the origins of Chatham House in the UK and the Council on Foreign Relations in the USA, but they are just the tip of the iceberg.

Quigley writes of multiple international networks “organized by the same people for the same motives... the financing came from the same international banking groups and their subsidiary commercial and industrial firms”. [291]

Over the decades this has created “a multi-level political hierarchy”, he says. “In this hierarchy, the top level is held by the United Nations and its associated functional bodies, such as the World Health Organization, UNESCO, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the ILO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the International Court of Justice, and others”. [292]

If he had been writing today, he would probably have added the World Economic Forum

to that list, albeit perhaps at a slightly lower level.

Such institutional power is integrated with the corporate control built up by the Rothschilds over the last 200 years.

This is now on such a scale that it defies detailed description. Laundon was already writing in the 1960s: “It is no longer possible to completely study the Rothschilds’ ‘zone of influence’ because page could be added to page. It is considerable and continues to expand”. [293]

What of the situation today?

Recent research into the ultimate ownership of international financial and business power has identified BlackRock, State Street and Vanguard as being at the heart of an interlocking network of global holding companies. [294]

Writes Dr Joseph Mercola: “While it would take time to sift through all of Vanguard’s funds to identify individual shareholders, and therefore owners of Vanguard, a quick look-see suggests Rothschild Investment Corp. and the Edmond de Rothschild Holding are two such stakeholders”. [295]

The combination of institutional and financial power that appears to be wielded by the Rothschilds today would certainly explain the full-spectrum ubiquity of the “Great Reset” agenda currently being imposed on us.

Because of the Rothschilds’ obsessive con-

cealment of their activity, the historian can sometimes only “guess” the extent of their role, as Bouvier says. [296]

But deceit on this gargantuan scale is a dangerous game. If the truth about the unacceptable and totally undemocratic power and influence of the Rothschilds ever becomes widely known, the layers of secrecy with which they have long covered their traces will surely only fuel the severity of the inevitable reaction against them.

XI

SWITCHING TO AUTHORITARIAN MODE

There is an undeniable *nastiness* about the Rothschild dynasty which is something they seem to have deliberately nurtured.

Yet another of the famous “hard-nosed business rules” that Mayer Amschel Rothschild taught his sons was: “If you can’t make yourself loved, make yourself feared”. [297]

The freedom and well-being of anyone other than themselves has simply never been any kind of priority.

As James de Rothschild declared in a letter to his children in January 1867: “Finances cannot progress without liberties, but even less with too many”. [298]

It was this mindset, so typical of the European ruling classes, that led them in the 19th century to give their backing to what Bouvier calls “the forces of the Counter-Revolution”. [299]

He adds: “Everywhere they helped to provide money to absolute monarchies and prince-tyrants

in difficulties”. [300]

Ferguson describes how in the 1820s the Rothschilds bankrolled the restoration of aristocratic power.

“They enabled Austria, Prussia and Russia – the members of the Holy Alliance – as well as the restored Bourbons in France, to issue bonds at rates of interest only Britain and Holland had previously been able to enjoy.

“In that this made it easier for Prince Metternich to ‘police’ Europe – notably when Austria and France intervened to restore the Bourbon regimes in Naples and Spain – there was truth in the jibe that the Rothschilds were the ‘chief ally of the Holy Alliance’.” [301]

In particular they funded Metternich in his attempts to crush the Italian liberal and nationalist movement against tyrannical Austro-Hungarian imperial rule. [302]

This same preference for centralised authority led them to pull away from their Egyptian investments when they feared British control was slipping in the face of resurgent Egyptian nationalism. [303]

It was also behind their opposition to the idea that the imperial capital, London, might give Ireland “home rule” in the form of some kind of devolved legislature and government.

This, says Ferguson, “seemed to threaten the integrity of the United Kingdom and to imply a

general decentralisation of power throughout the Empire”. [304]

The Rothschilds’ “political” position never really amounted to anything more than supporting anything that aided their profits and opposing anything that got in the way of them.

While often in favour of increased government spending – on armaments or any other products in which they had a vested interest – they have always been hostile to taxes which might adversely affect their own wealth.

Ferguson writes: “The Rothschilds shared that violent aversion, so widespread among the rich of the period, to any increases in direct taxation – especially those motivated by a desire to improve working class living standards.

“The Rothschild argument was that ‘capital’ must be left free from taxation in order to accumulate; only then could economic growth, increased employment and higher wages be expected”. [305]

This hostility to any kind of economic justice led them even to reject the moderately “radical” wing of the Liberal Party in late 19th century Britain.

Ferdinand Rothschild wrote in a letter that this tendency amounted to “stimulating an unhealthy desire for social and pecuniary equality the disastrous results of which have been only too well illustrated in France”. [306]

It was indeed in France that the Rothschilds first had to face up the fact that they would have to adapt their authoritarian royalist “politics” to embrace republican governments.

But they drew a line between “moderate” republicans with whom they could work and radical or “red” republicans who presented a threat to their interests. [307]

As we have seen, railways played a crucial role in the Rothschilds’ 19th century expansion, especially in the form of their giant Nord rail-industrial complex in France.

Following strikes by French railworkers in 1847, revolution broke out in February 1848 and the insurgents knew full well who their enemies were.

The railways were seen a symbols of the new industrial economy and the wealth of those who were profiting from its exploitative domination.

Numerous arson and sabotage attacks were carried out on railway infrastructure, those of Nord in particular [308] – a section of the line near Paris suffered more than a million francs of damage – and a Rothschild chateau in the Parisian suburbs was set on fire. [309]

Eventually “order” was restored and it was business as usual for the Rothschild railways.

Bouvier remarks that historians know nothing about the role of James de Rothschild in these events, adding: “We can only guess his

position: the defence of his own interests". [310]

The Rothschilds were very hostile to any proposed nationalisation of railways, as already mentioned, condemning the very notion as "socialism".

Remarks Ferguson: "As in England, 'socialism' became a shorthand for any threatened state intrusion on hitherto unrestricted property rights". [311]

"In 1892 Edmond [de Rothschild] wrote with alarm of the increasingly vocal socialist attacks on the 'plutocracy' and warned of impending 'anarchy', while Alphonse predicted that the 'socialist epidemic' would be more 'dangerous' in France than in England". [312]

In 1924 Edouard de Rothschild openly criticised the left-wing French government for what he saw as its soft line towards striking railway workers and what he regarded as excessive public sector pay settlements. [313]

We know that the attacks against their empire in 1848 were very much on the Rothschilds' minds when revolt again broke out in Paris in 1871. [314]

The story of the crushing of the Commune is a good illustration of the Rothschilds' historical complicity with any extreme state violence that furthers their own ends.

They saw the uprising coming in advance, in August 1870, with Alphonse de Rothschild

warning in internal correspondence that France risked becoming “a hotbed of anarchy”. [315]

He initially hoped to deal with the threat of insurrection by means of controlled opposition, “moderate” republican leaders “who under the present circumstances could be called on to exercise an influence on events” and who had personally reassured him of their commitment to maintaining “order”. [316]

But when that didn’t work, it was time to take off the velvet gloves.

Alphonse did not hide his hatred of the “dangerous classes” of Paris that had dared to challenge the capitalist system from which his family profited so handsomely.

The state had to “get rid of all those vermin, veritable gallows fodder who constantly threaten society”, he fumed. “Purge France and the world of all those rogues”. [317]

In the Bloody Week which followed in May 1871, some 20,000 people died, around half of them rebels who were lined up and shot in improvised “abattoirs” at the orders of the army commanders. [318]

In the light of these attitudes, it is not surprising to see Rothschild links to violent authoritarianism in the 20th century.

Support for the Bolshevik seizure of power in Russia may appear to place them on the side of the “socialism” they had always opposed, but as

eye-witnesses like the Russian anarchist Voline were at pains to point out, the event in fact amounted to a counter-revolution against the threat of an authentic people's revolt.

The involvement in the Bolshevik coup of Rothschild associates, including that great British believer in the "highly-organised state", Alfred Milner, [319] is well documented in Professor Antony C. Sutton's brilliantly-researched book *Wall Street and the Bolshevik Revolution*. [320]

Another important player was banker William Boyd Thompson, who in 1914 had become the first full-term director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Thompson, explains Sutton, "became an ardent supporter of the Bolsheviks, bequeathing a surviving symbol of this support – a laudatory pamphlet in Russian, *Pravda o Rossii i Bol'shevikakh*". [321]

Docherty and Macgregor explain that Thompson was "a loyal Morgan man" and stress that J.P. Morgan and the entire Morgan Empire were "very firmly connected to Rothschild influence". [322]

They add: "Writing in 1974, Professor Sutton was clearly unaware that virtually the entire international banking cabal was linked through a complex chain that led back to the Rothschilds in London and Paris". [323]

In addition to its role in suppressing real people power, the Soviet New Normal benefited Rothschild interests by pushing massive industrialisation, including electrification dependent on their copper supplies, and by forcing peasants off the land and into factories in a manner typical of each of the industrial so-called “revolutions”.

Anyone who imagines that all this proves that the Rothschilds are “communists” is totally missing the point. Their only ideology is profit and they will back whatever force might serve that self-interest, regardless of ethical, political or cultural considerations.

The Rothschilds are not ideologically Fascists or National Socialists either, but this did not stop their vast financial empire from funding Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler’s regimes.

What better way of ensuring “order” and sustainable prosperity for themselves than by banning troublesome trade unions and left-wing political opposition, sourcing prison camp labour for private gain, embarking on massive industrial and military spending and remodelling human life to answer the needs of their greed machine?

Sutton notes that Thomas W. Lamont, head of the J.P. Morgan banking network, served as something of a business consultant for the government of Fascist Italy and secured a \$100

million loan for Mussolini in 1926 at a particularly crucial time for the dictator. [324]

In his book focusing on Germany, Sutton identifies “American companies associated with the Morgan-Rockefeller international investment bankers” as being intimately involved with the growth of Nazi industry – “those firms controlled through the handful of financial houses, the Federal Reserve Bank system, the Bank for International Settlements, and their continuing international cooperative arrangements and cartels which attempt to control the course of world politics and economics”. [325]

He says the Nazis were funded by industrial networks involved in chemicals, automobiles, electricity, telecommunications and oil. [326]

Rothschilds associates Paul M. Warburg, a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and his brother Max Warburg held directorships with I.G. Farben, the massive industrial complex at the heart of the Nazi regime [327] which “produced 95% of German poison gas”, [328] including that which was to be put to such horrifying use in the concentration camps.

As to why the Rothschilds would want to have financial links to regimes which appeared to be diametrically opposed to their ethno-cultural affiliations, we have to bear in mind, once again, that their *own family's finances* are

always their overwhelming priority.

We might also consider Quigley's definition of the phenomenon in question, which has certain uncanny echoes in the 2020s.

“Fascism is the adoption by the vested interests in a society of an authoritarian form of government in order to maintain their vested interests and prevent the reform of the society”.
[329]

XII

DICTATING THE FUTURE

Without going so far as to pin the blame for the current techno-authoritarian agenda of the so-called Great Reset entirely on the Rothschilds, it is possible to state quite categorically that they are fully *aligned* with it.

The Rothschilds are, for instance, involved in impact investment, the insidious means by which speculators aim to turn human lives into digital commodities, both through the Asset Management division of Rothschild & Co, with its “social impact investment fund”, [330] and via their St James’s Place Charitable Foundation. [331]

And historical loan-based links between the Rothschilds and the papacy (the 1906 *Jewish Encyclopedia* described the Rothschilds as “the guardians of the papal treasure” [332]) were reinforced in 2020 with the partnership [333] between the Vatican and Lady Lynn Forester de Rothschild’s [334] Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism, which very much shares the Davos worldview.

The gold and diamonds of southern Africa provided an important boost to Rothschild wealth more than 100 years ago and since the 1950s they have again been focusing on the potential profits to be extracted from that continent.

In 1957 Guy de Rothschild gave a speech announcing that the Rothschilds were playing an active part in the COFIMER project involving mining and energy interests in Africa.

He added: “You will know that immense natural resources in western and equatorial Africa, in Madagascar and in the Sahara will shortly be subject to exploitation, thanks to some very significant financial creations in which our partners, both European and American, will be participating”. [335]

This interest led to Edmond de Rothschild becoming the key player behind the World Conservation Bank, [336] later renamed Global Environment Facility (GEF), the moving force behind the current fake-green conservation movement trying to throw African pastoralists off their land in the name of “protecting wildlife”. [337]

The Corbett Report explains that the idea for an international “conservation” bank had been around for some time before France put forward a formal proposal at a joint ministerial meeting of the IMF in 1989. [338]

“The project was put under the umbrella of the World Bank and by 1991 the World Conservation Bank was formally established”.

It adds that the GEF has made and co-financed tens of billions of dollars worth of grants and “is the funding mechanism for five different UN conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”.

As well as establishing so-called “protected areas” it has funded Chinese companies producing solar cells and wind farm technology.

Biotech and the associated transhumanist movement are a central part of the global agenda built around the UN Sustainable Development Goals, impact investment and the digital concentration camps known as smart cities.

A very significant pioneer in this domain was Victor Rothschild, who worked for MI5 and for Royal Dutch Shell as well as for N. M. Rothschild & Sons.

According to the Rothschild archives, he was “a valued adviser on intelligence and science to both Conservative and Labour Governments” and even in his senior years worked as a security adviser to Rothschild friend Margaret Thatcher. [339]

They add: “In 1981, Victor established Biotechnology Investments Limited which became one of Europe’s leading specialist biotech investment companies”.

A news report from 1999 states: “Two of the largest biotechnology investment groups in the UK are negotiating a merger. Biotechnology Investments Limited (BIL; London) and International Biotechnology Trust (IBT; London) – both divisions of Rothschilds (London) – are looking to broaden their investment portfolios by merging”. [340]

The Rothschilds’ IBT says on its website that it “offers investors access to the fast-growing biotechnology sector” [341] and that it is managed by an associated entity called SV Health Managers LLP – “We seek breakthroughs that have the power to change the lives of millions”. [342]

Predictably, in view of the Rothschilds’ intimacy with UK governments, their biotech firms were involved in the country’s “response” to Covid.

IBT proudly relates that its investment manager Kate Bingham, who is also a managing partner of SV Health Managers, was in May 2020 “appointed Chair of the UK Vaccine Taskforce reporting to the Prime Minister to lead UK efforts to find and manufacture a COVID-19 vaccine on a six month engagement stepping down as Chair in December 2020.

“On December 8th 2020 the UK started COVID-19 vaccinations – the first Western country to do so. She was awarded a DBE in the

Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2021 for services to the procurement, manufacture and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines". [343]

There was some controversy around Bingham, not least the less-than-transparent recruitment process that landed her this crucial role.

The Observer reported at the time: "As Kate Bingham, chair of the vaccine taskforce, came under sustained scrutiny over the £670,000 budget she had allocated for public relations consultants, attention switched from her suitability for the role to her connections to the Conservative government.

"Managing partner of a private equity firm, SV Health Investors, involved for 30 years in pharmaceutical investment, she is also married to a Tory MP, Jesse Norman, who was at Eton at the same time as Johnson, and she went to private school with Rachel Johnson, the prime minister's sister". [344]

Rothschild employee Bingham, a self-declared "venture capitalist", [345] has been back in the news more recently.

She was quoted by *The Guardian* on November 30 2022 as warning that the UK was "not in a significantly better place to deal with a new pandemic". [346]

The report credits Bingham with "putting the UK on the front foot for early deployment of

vaccines during the pandemic” and says she is calling for an “expert leader” to coordinate the country’s future vaccine policies.

It doesn’t specify whether she has herself in mind!

The most blatant embrace of the Great Reset by a Rothschild concern probably comes from the Edmond de Rothschild entity which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, but boasts a “global presence”, with offices in Belgium, France, Germany, the UK, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates. [347]

It uses the same pompous tone deployed by Klaus Schwab of the WEF, also coincidentally based in Switzerland with a global presence, when it declares: “We are bold builders of the future”.

It adds, tellingly: “At Edmond de Rothschild, we believe that wealth is what tomorrow can be made of”. [348]

The Swiss-based Rothschilds happily endorse the whole Fourth Industrial Revolution circus in the form of “Farming 4.0”, [349] “Digital Lifestyle”, [350] “Cybersecurity” [351] and “Sustainable Governance”. [352]

They are also very interested, as already mentioned, in “human capital” and when Ariane Rothschild took over the group in 2015 she reinforced its impact investment strategy. [353]

In her message to the group's 2021 Annual Report, we learn that it has established a strategic partnership in the realm of "innovative food", technology linked to "alternative proteins", new agricultural systems and the creation of "digital solutions" to nutrition. [354]

Referring, in good Schwabian style, to the "deep and irreversible impact that the pandemic has had on our ways of living", Rothschild assures investment clients that she and her team will remain a step ahead of "the major growth tendencies of tomorrow".

XIII

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

The Rothschilds have, as I have shown, amassed vast wealth at the expense of the rest of us, consistently put themselves before others, profiteered from war after war, grabbed hold of industrial infrastructure, exploited humanity, destroyed nature, corrupted political life, used royalty for their own purposes, privatised the public sector, imposed their global control in a secretive manner and now imagine that they can dictate our future, confining us to a miserable and denatured state of techno-totalitarian slavery.

Enough is enough! How can it be possible for this single family and their associates, these enemies of the people, to get away with ruining the lives of billions of human beings?

We desperately need to shake free from their vile domination. But how?

There will no doubt be some who would like to see authorities across the world investigate every last corner of the Rothschild empire, close

down all corruption and malpractice and ensure that those involved in wrong-doing are prosecuted and permanently stripped of assets and power.

However, since the “authorities” pretty much everywhere appear to be under the direct or indirect control of that same empire, I’m not sure how that is going to happen!

Grassroots popular resistance is going to be needed, though it will probably have to be combined with, or provoke, some kind of internal rupture and crumbling within the system.

This would involve some of those who have until now been working on the side of the empire (while maybe imagining they are loyally serving their country or some noble political cause) switching to the side of free humanity.

After this has happened, it would then be essential to rethink the way our societies are structured and imagined, to cure the underlying social disease which, as I outlined at the start of this piece, made our society weak enough to be taken over by a ruthless clique.

Perhaps, in fact, it is essential to think about this *right now*?

Perhaps it is precisely by discussing what has gone so wrong with this “modern world”, and the alternative ways in which we could live, that we might inspire current agents of the empire to break from its ranks and join our uprising?

I would encourage readers to take a look at the accumulated wisdom of the 90-plus thinkers featured on the Organic Radicals site, [355] which aims to start the crucial conversation about where humankind can go from here.

Those who are still hung up about the Rothschilds being Jewish might want to take a careful look at the profiles of the likes of Emma Goldman, Gustav Landauer, Walter Benjamin, Martin Buber, Herbert Marcuse, Leopold Kohr and Fredy Perlman.

All of these thinkers have transmitted a powerful vision which flies completely in the face of the odious global regime constructed by their self-appointed “royal family”.

On a personal note, I should say that I did not lightly take the decision to write and publish this essay.

I did not initially set out to investigate the Rothschilds in particular, but their name and their connections just kept cropping up time and time again in my research until I felt obliged to look a little closer.

Having discovered the information presented here (which is very far from being comprehensive!) I felt it would have been a sin of omission, even of downright cowardice, not to have sought to share it with a wider public.

In times when the truth is actively repressed, any of us who acquire relevant

knowledge have a duty to pass it on and, moreover, to act upon it according to our own deepest conscience.

At the very least we might win the freedom to discuss the historical and contemporary role of the Rothschilds without fear of censorship or recrimination.

And this is but a necessary stepping-stone to gaining the greater freedom of which they and their ruling-class predecessors have deprived us for far too long now – to be what we are meant to be, to live how we wish to live, to decide amongst ourselves what kind of future we want to give our children and our children’s children.

The vision of this potential freedom is something that can inspire us all to rise to new levels in our fight against the tyranny of a tiny clan of power-craving sociopaths.

The celebrated French historian Jules Michelet wrote in his *Journal* in 1842 that the Rothschilds knew everyone of importance in Europe and everything that was going on everywhere.

But, he added: “There is only one thing that they never foresee and that is self-sacrifice. They will never guess, for example, that in Paris there are 10,000 people ready to die for an idea”. [356]

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