



Politics and the Occult: The Left, the Right, and the Radically Unseen

By Gary Lachman

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The gritty business of politics is not something we usually associate with the occult. But esoteric beliefs have influenced the destiny of nations since the time of ancient Egypt and China, when decisions of state were based on portents and astrology, to today, when presidents and prime ministers privately consult self-proclaimed seers. *Politics and the Occult* offers a lively history of this enduring phenomenon. Author and cultural pundit Gary Lachman provocatively questions whether the separation of church and state so dear to modern political philosophy should be maintained. A few of his fascinating topics include the fate of the Knights Templar and the medieval Gnostic Cathars, the occult roots of America and the French Revolution in Freemasonry, Gurdjieff and the swastika, Soviet interest in UFOs, the CIA and LSD, the Age of Aquarius, the millenarian politics that inform the struggle with Islamic terrorism, fundamentalism, and more.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Born in 1955, **Gary Lachman** is a former student of Gurdjieff's Fourth Way, as well as a counterculture expert. He published his first book, *Turn Off Your Mind: The Mystic Sixties* and the *Dark Side of the Age of Aquarius*, in 2001, a history of the 1960s occult counterculture. During the 1980s, Gary avidly studied philosophy, psychology, history, science, and esoterism. He also traveled in Europe, visiting Chartres Cathedral, Stonehenge, as well as the site of Gurdjieff's prieure in Fontainbleau. From 1987 to 1993, he managed the renowned Bodhi Tree Bookstore in Los Angeles and helped start their catalogue. He has published several articles in the Pauper's Press Colin Wilson Studies Series and was the Science Writer for the University of California Los Angeles. He received recognition for composing music and playing bass guitar for the pop rock group Blondie. His public figure rose in the late 1970s as he toured with Blondie and earned three gold records for his award-winning song, "I'm Always Touched By Your Presence, Dear," which was a top-ten hit in Europe and the UK. His unique experience with the group was the subject of his 2002 book, *New York Rocker*. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2006. Gary became a full-time writer in 1996, when he moved to London. He contributes to many journals in the US and UK including: *Times Literary Supplement*; *Literary Review*; *Fortean Times*; *Mojo*; *Bizarre*; and *Guardian*. He is author of *A Secret History of Consciousness* and *A Dark Muse: A History of the Occult*, among other books. He lectures widely on the esoteric underground and the 1970s New York music scene.

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