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Encyclopedia of **MODERN**
AMERICAN EXTREMISTS
and **EXTREMIST GROUPS**

Stephen E. Atkins

An Oryx Book



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American Fascism

the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi (New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1970).

American Fascism

Modern American fascism is a variant strain of post-World War I European fascism. Two manifestations of European fascism were Benito Mussolini's in Italy and Adolf Hitler's in Germany. Other European countries developed their own versions of fascism ranging from Oswald Mosley's British fascism to the Action Française and the Croix de Feu in France. Even the United States had William Dudley Pelley's *Silver Shirts* and the German American Bund in the late 1930s. The Silver Shirts, who wore flamboyant silver shirts, blue corduroy knickers, and gold stockings, never had more than 15,000 members in its heyday, but it was still influential. Many members later became active in postwar right-wing extremist groups. An early spokesperson for American fascism was Charles Coughlin and his hate radio.

Both American and European fascism united staunchly against communism. Fascists also shared national and racial prejudices against non-Europeans. Strongly nationalistic, fascists distrusted any ethnic group or nationality different from themselves in appearance and customs. Fascists were also anti-democratic, anti-materialistic, anti-liberal, anti-feminist, and anti-modern. Leaders proclaimed the need "for a new spirit and a new era" and glorified violent action. These ideas appealed to a generation of Americans and Europeans suffering from the economic and social dislocation of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Fascism experienced overwhelming defeat as an ideology during World War II, but it revived in the outbreak of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. Unreconstructed Nazis were recruited by the American intelligence community for intelligence work. Some of these Nazi operatives moved to the United States and were granted citizenship. These new citizens and their colleagues attempted to restore respectability to fascism by rehabilitating the image

of the Nazi and Mussolini regimes. They developed allies in this effort from France, Great Britain, and Germany, who were eager to lend moral support. Soon efforts to improve the reputation of the Nazi regime were initiated. One tactic was to deny the worst excesses of the concentration camp system. Later, this denial included questioning the existence of the Holocaust. American fascists tried to reprogram themselves as national populists.

American fascism has been successful in repackaging itself and its message in various populist movements since World War II. Two veterans of the German American Bund, Harold Keith Thompson, a successful New York businessman, and Francis Parker Yockey, a neo-Nazi philosopher, were key figures in making fascism respectable in American right-wing circles. Willis Carto followed in this tradition by forming the *Liberty Lobby* to spread American fascism. The leading exponent of American fascism, however, has been Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche. He and his followers have made the transition from communism to a modern American brand of fascism which incorporates the leadership principle with anti-democratic tendencies to overturn the American system of government. Other supporters of fascism have been *Ku Klux Klan* groups and the neo-Nazi *Aryan Nations*. Fascism has merged so closely with these movements that it no longer goes by that name; white supremacy and neo-Nazism have replaced it in the lexicon of the radical right. See also Carto, Willis; Coughlin, Charles; *Liberty Lobby*, LaRouche, Lyndon Hermyle; *Silver Shirts*; Yockey, Francis Parker.

Suggested readings: Dennis Eisenberg, *The Re-Emergence of Fascism* (New York: A. S. Barnes, 1967); Charles Higham, *American Swastika* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1985); Dennis King, *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism* (New York: Doubleday, 1989); Martin A. Lee, *The Beast Reawakens* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1997); Southern Poverty Law Center, "Neither Left nor Right," *SPLC Intelligence Report* 97 (Winter 2000): 41-46.

a representative of Matthew Hale's **World Church of the Creator**. A team of federal agents and Los Angeles police officers arrested the leaders of the Fourth Reich Skinheads and their white supremacist allies on July 15, 1993. In a subsequent trial held in October 1993, Fisher pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of bombing a residence. He received a ten-year prison sentence. Two other members of the Fourth Reich Skinheads were juveniles and received lesser sentences. Allies of the Fourth Reich Skinheads were convicted on illegal weapons charges and sentenced to long prison sentences. Metzger denied any ties with the Fourth Reich Skinheads or the white supremacists. See also Metzger, Tom; Skinheads; White Aryan Resistance.

Suggested readings: Gabe Martinez and Jim Newton, "FBI Infiltrator Was on Verge of Being Exposed," *Los Angeles Times* (July 19, 1993), p. A1; Jim Newton and Ann W. O'Neill, "Alleged White Supremacists Seized in Assassination Plots," *Los Angeles Times* (July 16, 1993), p. A1; Jim Newton, "4 Indicted in Hate Crimes, Illegal Guns," *Los Angeles Times* (July 30, 1993), p. B1; Jim Newton, "Hate Group Was Shadowed by Mysterious Informant," *Los Angeles Times* (July 18, 1993), p. A1; Jim Newton, "Skinhead Leader Pleads Guilty to Violence, Plot," *Los Angeles Times* (October 20, 1993), p. A1.

Frankhauser, Roy Everett, Jr. (1939–)

Roy Frankhauser, a longtime supporter of extremist causes, was born on November 4, 1939, in Reading, Pennsylvania. His parents divorced when he was still young and he became the subject of a lengthy custody battle. At the age of fourteen, he joined the **Ku Klux Klan**. After service in the U.S. Army, Frankhauser became a member of George Lincoln Rockwell's **American Nazi Party**. At about the same time, he joined Jesse Benjamin Stoner's **National State's Rights Party**. During the civil rights movement, Frankhauser, who attacked civil rights marchers on several occasions, was one of the more violent counterdemonstrators. By the early 1960s, he had become active in Robert Shelton's **United Klans of America (UKA)** and became the

grand dragon for the state of Pennsylvania. Frankhauser was also active in Robert Bolivar De Pugh's **Minutemen** movement for which he served as the coordinator for Pennsylvania. In 1965 he lost an eye in a barroom brawl in Reading over his Klan activities.

Frankhauser's role in the **Ku Klux Klan** movement and his reputation for violence soon attracted the attention of federal authorities. A congressional investigation of Klan activities led to an invitation for him to testify before the committee. In a February 1966 hearing, Frankhauser refused to answer all questions citing the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. Many of the questions were about his role in the suicide of fellow Nazi and Klansman, Daniel Burros, in Frankhauser's house after Burros had been exposed by the media for being half-Jewish. Frankhauser was one of the few defendants at the hearings who was not sentenced to prison for contempt of Congress. Shortly afterward, he became an informant for the FBI. His exposure as an informant came after his arrest for stealing dynamite for the bodyguard of Robert Miles, a Michigan **Ku Klux Klan** leader, in 1971. Frankhauser pleaded guilty to this offense and in February 1974 received two five-year terms of probation. Shelton immediately had him dismissed as grand dragon and expelled from the **United Klans of America**.

After his banishment from the Klan movement, Frankhauser resurfaced in other extremist organizations. He was hired to be a security consultant to Lyndon LaRouche's neo-Nazi movement. His activities with LaRouche led to his being indicted in 1986 on federal fraud and conspiracy charges in a credit card scheme. In December 1987, Frankhauser was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison and fined \$50,000. During the appeals process, he renewed his association with the **Ku Klux Klan** by working at rallies for James Farrand's **Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan**. Frankhauser went to prison in 1989 and served his time at the federal prison in Duluth, Minnesota. After his release in the sum-

Freemen Movement

mer of 1990, he resumed his Klan activities. In April 1992, he was arrested for stabbing a Ku Klux Klan security guard at a Klan rally near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He spent nearly a year in prison and at a mental institution before being acquitted of the charge by reason of self-defense.

Frankhauser continues to be an unreconstructed neo-Nazi racist. On most public occasions, he charges that the problem with the United States is its domination by Jews and racial minorities. Frankhauser is unable to stay out of legal trouble. He was indicted and convicted of obstruction of justice and destruction of evidence in a case involving a Massachusetts skinhead leader. In May 1995, he received a twenty-five-month prison sentence for this offense. Frankhauser's most recent activity has been in the harassment case of Bonnie Jouhari in Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1999. Jouhari had been active in ending housing discrimination in the Reading area by working as a representative of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Frankhauser conducted a personal harassment campaign against Jouhari until authorities ordered him to stop. Although Frankhauser has never been a national leader in any of the extremist organizations that he has belonged to, his participation in most of the neo-Nazi and racist groups in the last forty-five years makes him an important case study of a life-long extremist. See also Burros, Daniel; Ku Klux Klan, LaRouche, Lyndon Hermyle; Neo-Nazis; United Klans of America.

Suggested readings: Anti-Defamation League, *Danger: Extremism: The Major Vehicles and Voices on America's Far-Right Fringe* (New York: Anti-Defamation League, 1996); Eric Lichtblau, "Klansman to Apologize for Harassment," *Los Angeles Times* (May 12, 2000), p. A19; Eric Lichtblau, "Neo-Nazi Must Pay \$1.1 Million to Fair Housing Activist," *Los Angeles Times* (July 21, 2000), p. A19; Ronald J. Ostrow and Kevin Roderick, "Extremist's Ex-Aide Disclosed Alleged Statement; FBI Tells of Threat by LaRouche," *Los Angeles Times* (October 10, 1986), part 1, p. 19; Kevin Roderick, "Five LaRouche Groups, Aides Charged in Fraud," *Los Angeles Times* (October 7, 1986), part 1, p. 1.

Freemen Movement

The Freemen Movement, an anti-government protest movement, denies the political authority of federal, state, and local governments. LeRoy Schweitzer, a former crop-dusting pilot from Colfax, Washington, founded the Freemen in 1992 shortly after his exposure to the anti-government teachings of Roy Schwasinger. Schwasinger, an anti-government activist from Fort Collins, Colorado, taught a course during which he claimed that the federal government was unconstitutional and its currency was worthless. He advocated that citizens file claims against the federal government to get their share of \$600 trillion in gold held by the government. Schweitzer seized on these ideas and incorporated them into other anti-government positions held by the Posse Comitatus Movement and the Christian Identity movement. He traveled around the Midwest and the West advocating a repudiation of all forms of government except those proposed by him.

Over the course of nearly five years, Schweitzer and his followers adopted an aggressive anti-government philosophy. They believed that the United States was an illegal political entity and that as white males they were no longer under federal or state political jurisdiction. All constitutional amendments after the Bill of Rights in the Constitution were unconstitutional and illegal because they were passed by Jewish-dominated legislatures. They subscribe to the common law doctrine that adheres only to the Bible, the Magna Carta, the Constitution and its first ten amendments, and the Uniform Commercial Code. The Uniform Commercial Code assumes great importance in their philosophy because they interpret it as a contract which they can break. Consequently, governmental requirements, such as social security cards, driver's licenses, marriage licenses, and income tax forms, are all illegal. Because the Federal Reserve System is also considered to be illegal, they are not reluctant to attack it and its policies.

Since the Freemen reject established insti-

thorities to locate Guthrie. The FBI wanted Guthrie for threatening the life of President George H. W. Bush. After only minimal cooperation with federal agents, Langan disappeared into the white supremacist underground.

Langan and Guthrie became members of the Aryan Republican Army whose mission was to provide funds to establish a future white homeland in the Pacific Northwest. During their travels around the country, they fell under the influence of Mark Thomas, a veteran leader of the Pennsylvania white supremacist movement and the East Coast head of the Aryan Nations. He provided the inspiration and general planning; Langan and Guthrie, the tactical planning and the muscle. In a video entitled "The Armed Struggle Underground," recovered from the Aryan Republican Army, Langan explains that their goal was to eliminate federal and state governments above the county level, exterminate the Jews, repatriate minorities to their homeland, and return the country to the law of the Bible. Before starting their operations, Langan negotiated weapons from Chevie O'Brien Kehoe, a white supremacist who was later convicted of murder, and his father, Kirby Kehoe. Several members of the Aryan Republican Army traveled to Elohim City, the Christian Identity community in eastern Oklahoma, to acquire more weapons. Characterizing themselves as the Mid-Western bank bandits, Langan led a small team of four in a spree of twenty-two bank robberies. They modeled their operations on those advocated by Robert Jay Mathews and The Order. The robberies were scheduled about a month apart and conducted in smaller, out-of-the-way banks. Pipe bombs and explosives were left behind to hinder pursuit. Langan used the name of "Commando Pedro" as his operational code name. The team also engaged in bogus-refund scams at service stores. Most of the funds were sent to other white supremacist organizations. Thomas received about \$80,000 for his planning efforts. Among the gifts was one to make a CD recording of skinhead music honoring Vicki and Sam Weaver, who

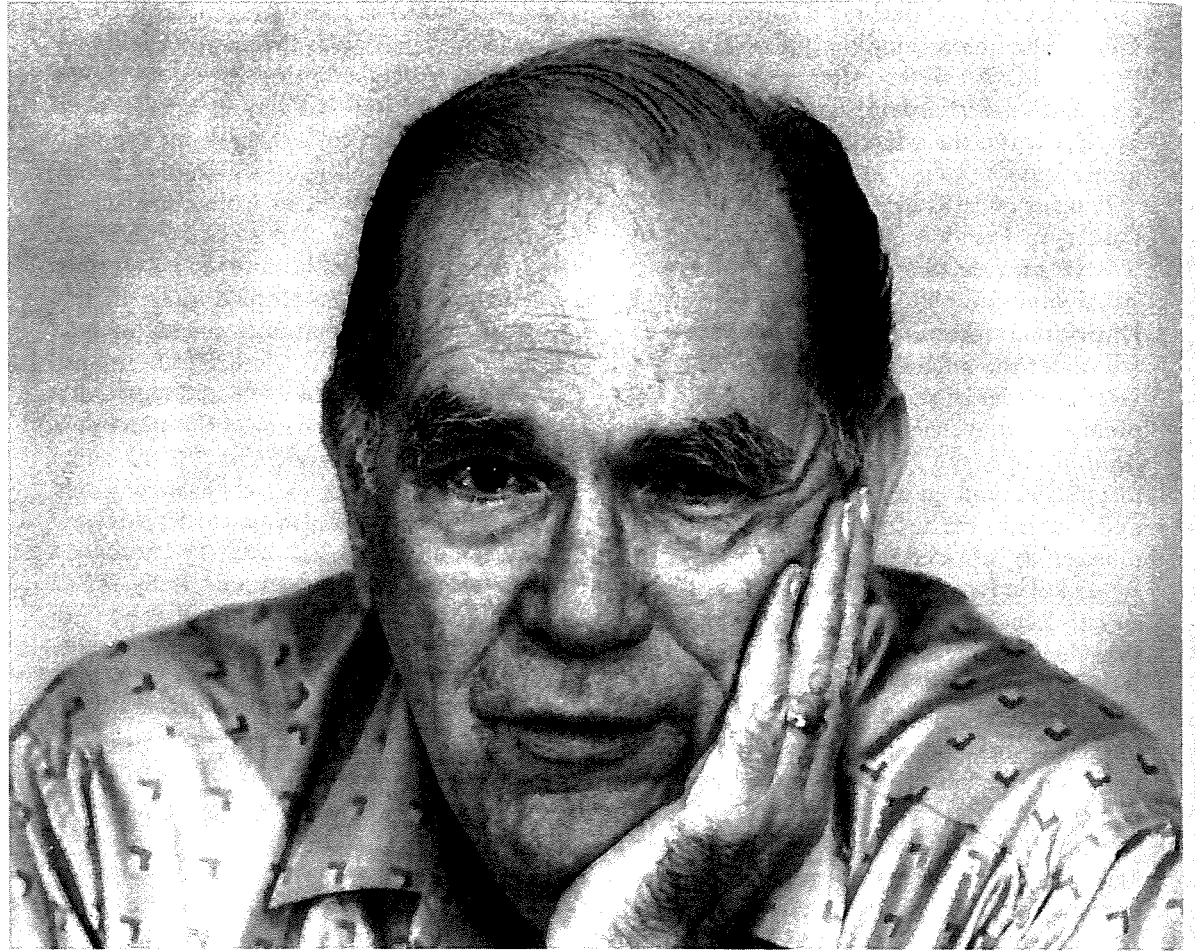
had been killed at Ruby Ridge, and Richard Wayne Snell, who was executed for killing a pawnbroker and state trooper.

Federal and state authorities undertook a national manhunt to find the bank robbers. After a brief gunfight, police arrested Langan on January 18, 1996, in Columbus, Ohio. Guthrie had been arrested earlier and had informed the authorities of Langan's whereabouts. Guthrie pleaded guilty to the robberies before committing suicide in July 1996. Langan stood trial in Columbus, Ohio, in the summer of 1996 and received a fifty-five-year prison sentence for assaulting federal agents. Other members of the gang were also convicted, but they were given lesser jail terms. See also Aryan Republican Army; Thomas, Mark.

Suggested readings: Richard Leiby, "The Saga of Pretty Boy Pedro; How a Wheaton Kid Became a Neo-Nazi Bank Robber," *Washington Post* (February 13, 1997), p. B1; Judy Pasternak, "A Bank-Robbing 'Army' of the Rights is Left in Tatters," *Los Angeles Times* (January 15, 1997), p. A1; Robert Ruth, "Interview Focused FBI on Langan," *Columbus Dispatch* (December 28, 1997), p. 1C; Robert Ruth, "Langan Speaks His Mind, Then Gets Life Term," *Columbus Dispatch* (December 19, 1998), p. 1C.

LaRouche, Lyndon Hermyle (1922–)

Lyndon LaRouche has built a political and financial empire based on his extremist views and, in the process, has become the leading neofascist politician in the United States. He was born on September 8, 1922, in Rochester, New Hampshire. His father was a United Shoe Machinery Corporation salesman. Both his father and mother were Quakers. Much of his childhood was spent in Lynn, Massachusetts. His contentious parents left the Quakers in 1941 over a financial dispute. LaRouche had a difficult childhood and was always an indifferent student. He entered Northeastern University in Boston in 1941 but continued to be a poor student. After a brief tour with the Civilian Public Service, LaRouche signed up with the U.S. Army as a noncombatant. He served in



Lyndon LaRouche talks with members of the news media in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1996, during his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for president in the Pennsylvania primary election. (AP Photo/Paul Vathis)

the China-Burma Theater as a private in medical and ordnance units. About this time, LaRouche experimented with communism before becoming a Trotskyite. After leaving the army in May 1946 and a brief stint at Northeastern University, LaRouche joined, in December 1948, the Socialist Workers Party, an affiliate of the Trotskyite Fourth International. For the next seventeen years, LaRouche worked in various jobs but remained a staunch Trotskyite. He became successful as a management consultant and displayed an active interest in early computers.

LaRouche concluded in the 1960s that he

could become the leader of a national Marxist party. His first action was to establish a working relationship with the student-dominated Progressive Labor Party (PLP). His attempt to gain control of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) by operating behind the scenes with PLP leaders failed in 1968. LaRouche recovered by forming the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) and attacking other leftist groups. These actions led to his being expelled from the SDS. The NCLC under LaRouche's leadership launched a violent campaign against the Communist Party in Operation Mop-Up. In 1973 LaRouche directed the NCLC into

a street war with black leaders in New York City. After this battle peaked, LaRouche turned his group to an attack on Jews and Zionism.

By the mid-1970s, LaRouche was ready for the transition from a left-wing agitator for a Marxist society to a leader in the American right wing promoting a neofascist regime. Some of his early actions as head of the NCLC demonstrated his orientation toward right-wing extremism, but it was his growing ties to Willis Carto and the Liberty Lobby that reinforced his commitment to neo-Nazism. Besides anti-minority agitation and anti-Semitism, LaRouche began preparing his followers for a possible military takeover by the right wing. His supporters started sounding out disgruntled military officers and invited them to join LaRouche's party. LaRouche believed that his chances for political power depended on a crisis in the international monetary system. He foresaw an impending international budget crisis caused by defaults by developing countries, and he began to plan to exploit this crisis. When the international budget crisis failed to materialize at the rate he had predicted, LaRouche turned to politics.

By the early 1980s, LaRouche had allied himself with the extremist wing of the white supremacist movement, and he decided to run for national office. His first race was for president in the 1982 national election running as a Democrat. Although his campaign raised over \$33 million, LaRouche never had a chance to win the election. LaRouche returned to politics in 1984 and this time it was an unsuccessful campaign to win the Democratic nomination for president. In 1986 LaRouche moved his base of operations from New York City to a 171-acre compound in Leesburg, Virginia. This time he used a marketing campaign about AIDS to raise funds. LaRouche was able to maneuver two of his supporters onto the Democratic Party's governor's slate in Illinois. This tactic had little practical outcome, but it made LaRouche a more serious political force in the upcoming presidential election. Although LaRouche had no chance of

beating Ronald Reagan for the presidency his fund-raising tactics attracted the attention of federal authorities. LaRouche and six members of his organization were convicted in Virginia in December 1988 for conspiracy, mail fraud, and tax evasion. Although LaRouche was sentenced to fifteen years in prison, he served only five years before being released in January 1994. During and after his jail stay, LaRouche's organization continued its close ties with right-wing extremists.

LaRouche still agitates against the U.S. government and looks for ways to remake it. His publications, the *New Federalist*, *21st Century Science and Technology*, and *EIR—Executive Intelligence Review*, continue to express his conspiracy views that a secret society of Jewish bankers, British aristocrats, and fellow travelers seek to dominate the business world. LaRouche is particularly hostile toward the environmental movement because it is hindering the worldwide advance of technology. Since his legal troubles, LaRouche and his organization have maintained a low profile while waiting for the economic crisis foretold by LaRouche in the 1980s to take place.

Suggested readings: Don Davis, "LaRouche Indulges in Explosive Rhetoric," *San Diego Union-Tribune* (June 3, 1984), p. A1; David Gelman et al., "Lyndon LaRouche; Beyond the Fringe," *Newsweek* (April 7, 1986), p. 38; David Helvarg, *The War Against the Greens: The "Wise-Use" Movement, the New Right, and Anti-Environmental Violence* (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1994); Dennis King, *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism* (New York: Doubleday, 1989); John Mintz, "Inside the Weird World of Lyndon LaRouche," *Washington Post* (September 20, 1987), Outlook, p. C1; John Mintz, "Loudoun Newcomer," *Washington Post* (January 13, 1985), p. A1; Megan Rosenfeld, "Lyndon LaRouche: A Most Unusual Candidate for President," *Washington Post* (February 22, 1980), D1.

Lauck, Gary Lex (1953–)

Gary Lauck, the chief propagandist for the American and European neo-Nazi move-