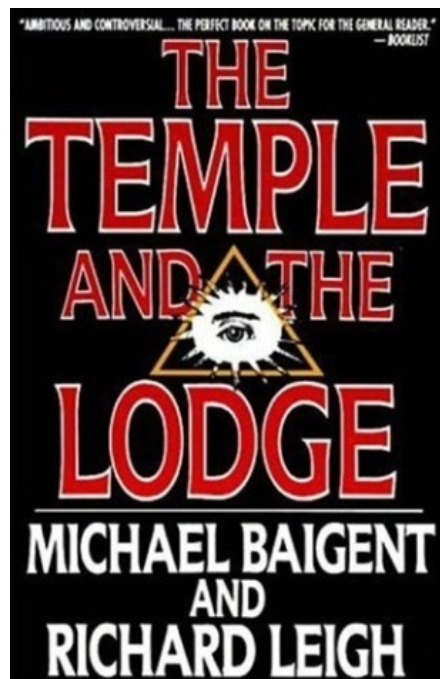




The Temple and the Lodge

Michael Baigent , Richard Leigh

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Dispelling myth and reevaluating European and American history, *The Temple and the Lodge* is the most illuminating investigation yet published into the evolution of Freemasonry. Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh recount the events that led to the strange and sudden disappearance of the Knights Templar in the fourteenth century and their reappearance in the court of excommunicate Scottish king Robert the Bruce. Theorizing, and documenting, the survival of Templar traditions through the birth of the Masonic lodge, the authors chart the history of Freemasonry through its medieval roots and into the modern era. They demonstrate the order's contribution to the fostering of tolerance, progressive values, and cohesion in English society, which helped to preempt a French-style revolution in England. In addition, they show how Freemasonry contributed to the formation of the United States as an embodiment of the ideal "Masonic Republic."

The Temple and the Lodge Details

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From Reader Review The Temple and the Lodge for online ebook

Hywel Owen says

I really wanted to dislike this book, as it has been panned as sensationalist. However, this appears to be mostly an opinion held by people who haven't actually read it. Whilst the book is speculative, it is nonetheless very interesting, and puts forward some plausible arguments, even if they are unsupported by good evidence. Some parts are good old-fashioned bunkum and deliberate misdirection, such as the implication that General Howe somehow deliberately caused the defeat of Burgoyne at Saratoga because he was sympathetic to Freemasonic ideals. I doubt it myself. Overall though, definitely worth a read as an alternative thread of history, albeit a fine one.

Stacy says

Covers a little too much time, geography, history and more names than you can shake a stick at. I did learn some things, for instance, that it would be good to visit Scotland and see some related ruins, having done that in Portugal.

Andreas Schmidt says

Novus ordo seclorum

Un testo particolarmente interessante, che fa chiarezza sulla massoneria fino agli inizi del Diciottesimo secolo. In particolare si fanno risalire le origini di questa società alla fine dell'ordine templare, mentre si fanno supposizioni sulla fuga di un nutrito gruppo di templari combattenti nella Scozia del 13° secolo, dove si suppone siano stati di aiuto fondamentale a Robert Bruce nel respingere le invasioni inglesi. Appunto, dopo la caduta dei regni in Terra santa, Outremer, ciascun ordine è riuscito a trovare la propria vocazione, tranne i Templari, distrutti per volontà di Filippo il Bello. Nel corso dei secoli successivi i Cavalieri del Tempio ispirano la massoneria. Molto interessanti le informazioni collaterali degli autori, sulla storia e i costumi che servono al ragionamento di base per capire esattamente cosa ne fu dei Cavalieri del Tempio (in particolare in merito al discorso in Scozia: i cavalieri templari erano la versione europea dei catafratti, dei carri armati in grado di aprire un varco in vaste file di nemici appiedati mediamente corazzati, grazie alle armi e alla perizia nel loro uso). Anche se il testo si ferma al 1800, si fa molta chiarezza sull'aspetto positivo della massoneria, dato che oggi ha connotazione eccezionalmente negativa; si fa particolare chiarezza sul modo in cui la massoneria ha ispirato il nuovo ordine secolare degli Stati Uniti, e anche qui, in maniera collaterale, cosa fu in realtà la formazione della federazione americana.

Catherine says

Opened my mind to an area I had never been exposed to other than that of the typical "conspiracy theorist's" mania. I found it very helpful personally and I particularly jive with Baigent's seeming passion of subject, and yet, balanced approach in perspective and presentation. Just started another of his books.

Matthew Hyde says

The Temple and the Lodge did a very good job on going through history to explain in detail how the Masons came to America. The authors go back to the Templar Knights up to the Revolution. Deep read.

Ryan says

After their enormously successful Holy Blood, Holy Grail Baigent and Leigh are at it again. This time they examine the disappearance of the Knights Templar and Scotland's history at the time of Robert the Bruce. They argue Robert the Bruce and the refugee Templars formed an alliance, that Scotland harbored these refugees for centuries, and that through intermarrying with Scottish nobility, Templar chivalry intermingled with the nobility of Scotland resulting in a proto-Masonic society. Of course, Rosslyn Chapel is revisited and offered as a possible connection point between the refugee Templars and proto-Masons. Alternative history to say the least, but still very interesting and fairly well researched.

Jamie says

I ran across this at a Goodwill and picked it up because I knew almost nothing about Masons or Templars despite frequent references to them in popular culture. It turns out that it also tied in with the Eastern Roman Empire and the Crusades, two subjects that I've been interested in recently. It provides more information about the Knights Templar than about the Masons/Freemasons, and alludes to facets of the latter organizations. But they *are* secret societies, so I guess I can cut some slack there.

The book traces the origins, operations, persecution, and supposed continuation of the Knights Templar. I already knew that they were a religious order of knights founded during the Crusades, but I hadn't realized that fighting was only a very small part of their overall operations. The scale of their financial and logistical apparatus is surprising, as is their influence upon later institutions. The book also presents some of the popular theories about the Knights Templar that exist about this powerful and elusive group.

The latter half of the book covering the Masons and Freemasons is equally interesting. The links between the Knights Templar and Freemasons posited in the book are somewhat tenuous but still plausible. The points made regarding the Freemasons' influence upon the Renaissance and the creation of liberal democracies in the west are intriguing. A fair amount of conjecture and allusion is involved, as would be expected in connecting dots of secret societies from hundreds of years ago. The only bothersome aspect for me was the frequent presence of the 'culture and values' of the Freemasons, without ever explaining what that entails, exactly. Perhaps having more knowledge of the Freemasons before reading this book would be helpful.

Overall, I found the book very illuminating on two organizations that everyone has heard of, but probably knows little about. This book definitely makes me want to study the subject further, and makes me understand why so many conspiracy theories exist in this area. I am thankful that the authors stayed in the historical realm and away from conspiracy theories.

Nick Stibbs says

Brought alive a part of history that I hadn't fully understood - whether the life it brought is fictive and to what degree is a matter to tease out with more sober and academic study - there is something very pleasurable about this kind of writing - its raciness, its measured revelation of 'facts', its disclosure of secrets means the style is more akin to detective novel than non-fiction book and that is why the authors do so well.

Starting in the period of absolute monarchies of the early part of 2nd Millenium AD, when Western Europe was staring at a consolidated Islamic Empire which had occupied Jerusalem and at times crept up as far as Southern France and Spain, to the revolutions, Republics and Constitutional Monarchies of the last few hundred years. From family lines of inherited title (and violent usurpations) to a more meritocratic system in some areas, guess which institutions (according to the authors) played a major role in this transition?

Whilst democracy does not equal meritocracy - votes by the majority definitely not guaranteeing that the best candidate gets in, the new systems of rule which have replaced Monarchies or severely limited their power, in America and Europe, were very often the direct or indirect result of Freemasonry, a spiritual system predicated on the separation of title from person and a hierarchical ranking system through which initiates could rise (as was the Catholic Church, though not, the Church of England, which represented a return to a Shamanic consolidation of State and religious power, rather than overarching religious and legal power ruling different States.)

Freemasons were, again according to the authors, in some ways a continuation of a line from the Knights Templar, who were major bankers in Western Europe as well as leading forces in the Crusades. The Templars learnt banking tricks from the Jews in Southern Europe but massively increased the rate of interest. They were a very rich organisation and acquired land and built churches through different parts of Western Europe. It is suggested that the Templars were related to the, perhaps mythical, Priory of Sion, a link which is explored further in Holy Blood, Holy Grail.

The Templars were a Christian organisation, with an unorthodox, some would say heretical theology. They had a troubled relationship with the Catholic Church and were eventually crushed, with the resurgence of Freemasonry experiencing further tensions with the Church, although Catholics have been Freemasons. Freemasons took their name and early structure from Stonemasons responsible for building Cathedrals and Churches. A link is made to the Temple of Solomon, with illuminating analysis of Biblical narratives of the Temple's construction. Freemason's philosophy was not Christian as such, talking about the Great Architect or Master Builder and drawing from a range of literary/spiritual sources including but not exclusive of the Bible.

Prey to a wealth of conspiracy and conjecture, with all kinds of accusations which may or may not have some grounding in historical reality, besides the febrile imaginations of some, including what may have been forced out of cornered Templars and Freemasons whilst being tortured, the image of Freemasons remains questionable, despite their many philanthropic efforts in modern times. Hitler, influenced by 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion', persecuted Freemasons, killing tens of thousands and still today, their reputation is smeared by accusations of involvement in paedophile rings. This is not the book to discover the veracity or otherwise of such accusations - the authors taking a gentlemanly and fairly respectful view of Templars/Freemasons role in history. The topic is further explored in another book by the author (and others), called 'Holy Blood, Holy Grail', which was a major influence on 'The Da Vinci Code' and explores the role of Secret Societies in passing on information about Esteemed Bloodlines.

I had been in possession of 'The Temple and Lodge' book for many years, after an acquaintance gave it to me and only recently felt motivated to read it after hearing some of the contemporary theories about Freemasons. I am glad I read it and so too, having started 'Holy Blood, Holy Grail', can recall the number of times that I

Crabby McGrouchpants says

Mostly, it got funneled (roughly) into what became Freemasons: a pursuit of "sacred geometry as a whole — compounded of Pythagorean, Vitruvian, Hermetic, Neo-Platonic, Judaic and Islamic thought" through shifting winds and more or less periods of tolerance. Why everyone got so frightened of these folks I don't know — 'cept for the fact that, as Adam Zamoyski shows in his 2015 book, *Phantom Terror: The Threat of Revolution and the Repression of Liberty 1789-1848*, it suited the purpose of the paranoid post-French revolution European leaders (particularly as fomented by the single figure of the Austrian Klemens von Metternich, who made ripples undisregardable by every other Sovereign). Huh.

[illegible]

I read this book with an open mind . I am not a Freemason. However some of the Templar historical

narrative overlaps with the Freemasons.

Kenneth Wilkinson says

The holy templars were the forebears of the masonic lodge. Using some fact with some embellishment this author builds on that to try and paint a picture of history. According to this book George Washington wasn't really a hero. The Revolutionary War was planned out for who would win. How does this author come to this conclusion? George Washington was a mason and the British had a lot of masons on their side, too.

It isn't the only leap of faith the author asks us to take with him. It's got some interesting notations, but as in most of the work this guy has written (along with Richard Leigh), it's based on conspiracies that other historians are trying to obfuscate facts. It's ludicrous to think any scholar would try to do that. Primary sources are always the major component of history. Following that with other historians you can piece together what was. When authors try to say both the primary sources and the later historians are wrong nothing becomes reliable; not even their own research can be accepted if this is so.

It's one of the main problems with post-modern and revisionist thought and it's a problem with this book.

Brad Hart says

Interesting book on the origins of the Masons. Pretty entertaining, but not entirely accurate.

Kelly Feldcamp says

A nifty little "history" of freemasonry. I put quotation marks around it because much of it is speculation and pseudohistory, but it's still a great read and certainly gets you thinking about some of the possible historical connections between the Knight Templar and freemasonry. I recommend this book for anyone involved in or interested in the craft.

Jeff Morgan says

Difficult to accept some of the premises offered when the history of the American Revolution is so warped and distorted. It falls into the category of extremely interesting conjecture. But well written and entertaining.
