

# Dreaming of a parallel culture

*Adam Carter Carter profiles Alex Kurtagic, a New Right activist, who is based in the UK but has strong links to the US racist counter-culture.*

ON 16-18 MARCH THIS YEAR in the town of Dickson, Tennessee, USA, the cream of the American radical right – a motley collection of white nationalists, 'scientific' racists, antisemites, Holocaust deniers and New Right activists – gathered at the annual meeting of American Renaissance, a leading suit-and-tie white supremacist group. In the past, this meeting has been addressed by British National Party leader Nick Griffin and luminaries of the US white nationalist scene such as Jared Taylor. However this year the British speaker at the meeting is Alex Kurtagic who was billed to speak on an apocalyptic fantasy he calls the "great erasure", which he defines as "the actual destruction of Whites as a unique biological entity".

Kurtagic is a self-styled 'right-wing intellectual' who has been a regular attendee at meetings of the UK New Right group for several years and has a close relationship with its leading ideologues such as Troy Southgate and Jonathan Bowden. Kurtagic has a vision of creating a white nationalist alternative to mainstream culture by establishing small cultural producers who can link up to disseminate a dissident racist message to oppose what he perceives as a liberal hegemony. This is part of the broader strategy of the UK New Right groups and similar 'metapolitical' enterprises to effect political change through cultural activism. As a result, Kurtagic is an active figure in a variety of cultural fields and has

become one of the most prolific and increasingly well-known figures in the pseudo-intellectual racist underground.

Kurtagic was born in 1970 and is of Slovenian-Spanish descent. He recently moved to the picturesque town of Abergele in North Wales. He became a participant in white nationalist circles within the past decade and has become increasingly dedicated to the cause – he co-founded the Alternative Right

website several years ago which is part of a network of American blogs and websites including American Renaissance, Counter Currents, Occidental Quarterly and Vdare that aim to provide a more sophisticated intellectual veneer to racism and white nationalism. He is also active on the black metal music scene, owned the Supernal Music record label and now owns the Wermod & Wermod book publishing group.



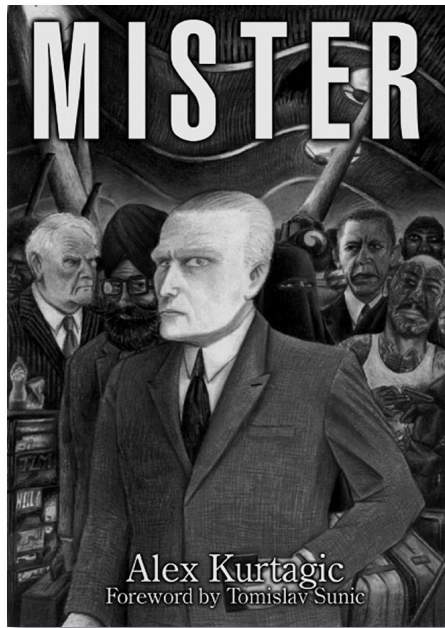
New Right "intellectual" Alex Kurtagic

### Blogging for the white race

Alternative Right was established in March 2010 as an online magazine of “radical traditionalism” which, in its own words, “marks an attempt to forge a new, independent intellectual Right”. It operates out of Whitefish, Montana in the US and is edited by Kurtagic and Richard B. Spencer, a former assistant editor at *The American Conservative* and executive editor at *Taki's Magazine*. Its contributing editors are Peter Brimelow, Paul E. Gottfried, Mark Hackard, Colin Liddell, Scott Locklin, Andy Nowicki, Keith Preston and Derek Turner, several of whom are long-standing US activists on the anti-immigrant radical right. Irish born Derek Turner, who now edits the conservative *Quarterly Review*, will be more familiar to *Searchlight* readers as the former leader of an Irish nazi group, the Social Action Initiative, and longtime editor of *Right Now!* the overtly racist magazine on the fringes of the UK Tory party which ceased publication in 2006. The site has also featured contributions from John Bean, the veteran British fascist who until recently edited the BNP's magazine *Identity*.

Alternative Right is funded by the National Policy Institute (NPI). The NPI, now also based in Whitefish Montana, was created in 2005 by far-right publisher William Regnery and recently appointed Alternative Right co-founder Richard B. Spencer as its chairman. It has published a number of reports criticising civil rights, affirmative action and immigration as well as attacking anti-hate groups such as the Southern Poverty Law Center. In 2011 it held its inaugural conference on the theme ‘Towards a New Nationalism’, which featured Kurtagic as one of the speakers alongside veteran white nationalists such as Jared Taylor and Sam Dickson.

The Alternative Right website is fairly sophisticated, featuring a



Kurtagic's “dystopian white nationalist novel”

regularly updated magazine, blogs, a podcast, video links and a shop (selling Odinist t-shirts!). Its content varies from old style paleoconservative attacks on the usual suspects – liberalism, multiculturalism, immigration, feminism, homosexuality and affirmative action – to more apocalyptic fantasies of the ‘destruction of the white race’. One does not have to look too far to see extremist sentiments like the support for Oslo murderer Anders Breivik in a post by Andy Nowicki, “I do understand the appeal, in a way. Whenever anyone shows nerve, guts, and fortitude, putting himself in possible danger in order to express a deeply-held conviction, whether with words or with guns and bombs, there is something to admire”, or the apparent exhortations for a ‘black genocide’ in South Africa in a piece by Colin Liddell.

In contrast though, many of the posts are articulate and careful with their use of language (although the comments are frequently far more intemperate and sometimes feature crude racism and occasionally antisemitism) but despite the surface discourse of ‘white advocacy’, ‘racial

realism’ or ‘human biodiversity’ and the specious pseudoscience, the underlying reality of Alternative Right is the same old racial nationalism which regards African-Americans and other minorities as mentally inferior, prone to violent crime and unfit to live as social and political equals among whites.

Kurtagic is a very regular contributor to Alternative Right generally focusing on racial issues and also strategic analysis of where the far right is going wrong and what it needs to change. He is obviously intelligent and widely read, and appears desperate to have an influence on cultural life – one gets the impression of a considerable ego crying out for recognition of its ‘genius’. But, in his elitist monomania, he is obsessed with a ‘leftist conspiracy’ along the lines of the ‘cultural Marxist’, one which was a similar *bête noire* for Breivik. He is clearly in thrall to the likes of Kevin MacDonald, the controversial antisemitic psychology professor who has been described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as “the neo-Nazi movement's favorite academic”. Kurtagic has written about shocking his liberal tutors by using MacDonald's work when he was studying for an MA in Cultural Studies and he has posted frequently on MacDonald's Occidental Observer website. In Kurtagic's novel *Mister MacDonald* appears as a leading dissident who has been locked up by the ‘liberal’ authorities. There is similar hero worship of the late William Pierce, former leader of the neo-nazi National Alliance and author of the terrorist bible, *The Turner Diaries*. The fourth album by Kurtagic's own band *Benighted Leams*, *Obombrid Welkins* (2007), features a paean to Pierce.

The blog posts written by Kurtagic frequently discuss cultural matters including an ambitious (albeit, at times, laughably pretentious) attempt on Alternative Right to present Black Metal music as the

current incarnation of the *völkisch* traditions which fed into the original formation of the Nazi party. Kurtagic's advocacy of the racist potential of this murky sub-genre of heavy metal is based on his longstanding active participation in that musical milieu through the record label he founded, Supernal Music.

### Supernal Music

Supernal Music was established in 1996 and is wholly owned by Kurtagic. It is a record label and distributor specialising in 'Underground Extreme Metal' which, from its inception, has been one of the main UK distributors of National Socialist Black Metal (NSBM) a sub-genre within the wider black metal music scene featuring bands that use Nazi imagery and have lyrics advocating white supremacy, antisemitism and racial separatism. As *Searchlight* previously reported in 2008, Supernal's political agenda could be clearly deduced from its monthly email bulletin which regularly featured pictures of Nazi mystics and advocates of esoteric Hitlerism including Savitri Devi and Miguel Serrano (see below) and the antisemitic writers Ernst Junger and Julius Langbehn.

Supernal produced CDs by a range of black metal bands (including some that were apolitical) and distributed a number of other more explicitly racist and Nazi CDs from groups in the US and Western and Eastern Europe. These included the US group *Sturmführer* which

featured Hitler on a CD cover and songs that praised white supremacist terrorists, and the Greek band *Der Stürmer* (named after the notorious antisemitic Nazi newspaper) who released a song called 'The Nailbomber' lauding David Copeland, the London Nazi bomber, as well as Russian and US bands with close links to the Nazi music Blood and Honour networks.

### Dissolution rather than distribution

Supernal was clearly trying to be both a money-making exercise and an attempt to convert fans of black metal to the white supremacist cause as part of a wider cultural activism. Kurtagic admits the latter in an audio interview with Croatian extremist Tomaslov Sunic on the overtly white supremacist and Holocaust denial *Voice of Reason* website, where he advocates the aesthetic and cultural struggle as central to the white nationalist cause. However it appears that the economic reality of sustaining an unpopular racist alternative to the mainstream has resulted in financial problems for Supernal music – a number of complaints have appeared online from bands about its alleged financial probity and a statement was posted on Supernal's website in 2011 declaring that it could no longer afford to produce CDs but would carry on distributing them. But the website has not been updated for months, and in February 2012 Kurtagic submitted a form to Companies House in the UK asking for the dissolution of Supernal Music

so it would appear that he has given up on the music business as a cultural battleground.

### Wermod & Wermod

While he may have turned his back on converting others to the white nationalist cause through music, Kurtagic is still active as a book publisher. He established Wermod & Wermod Publishing Group (W&W) several years ago and it has since published both non-fiction and novels expressing far-right viewpoints. As part of its palingenesis project ('palingenesis' or the myth of national rebirth into a new golden age is seen as a core component of fascist ideology according to the respected scholar, Professor Roger Griffin) these include new reprints of books by American writers who have influenced the development of white nationalism, including racist eugenicist Lothrop Stoddard (1883-1950), scientific racist Madison Grant (1865-1937) and Francis Parker Yockey (1917-1960), the fanatical antisemite and fascist theorist who envisaged a reborn Europe with pro-Soviet leanings as a bulwark against the influence of American liberalism.

### Revisionism

W&W has also published an essay collection by the Croatian white supremacist Tomislav Sunic and an analysis of British fascism by Troy Southgate, *Nazis, Fascists or Neither? Ideological Credentials of the British Far Right 1987-1994*. This book is a simplistic and



revisionist account of British fascism which minimises and downplays the racism and antisemitism of groups such as the National Front and International Third Position as well as their ideological debt to fascism and Nazism. It reveals very little interesting detail about Southgate's own groupuscules, the English National Movement/National Revolutionary Faction, but unsurprisingly praises them as the most effective nationalist groups of their era. Several sections of the books are ill-informed rants about *Searchlight* even though our close analysis of the ideological permutations of these groups has generally been pretty accurate.

### Esoteric Hitlerism

Kurtagic has also published Southgate's 'alternative history' novel about Hitler and his own novel *Mister*, a 'dystopian white nationalist novel' which features an anti-hero who rebels against a 'totalitarian politically correct bureaucracy' with the help of an 'underground of esoteric Hitlerists'. Having waded through some of its dyspeptic prose, I think it's unlikely

to be a bestseller or influence the radical right as much as *The Turner Diaries*.

This strange obsession with occultist fascism is reflected in Kurtagic's announcement that W&W is undertaking the first official translation into English of the series of books on 'esoteric' Hitlerism by Miguel Serrano. Serrano's picture adorns the banner of W&W's website and Kurtagic, who speaks fluent Spanish, has already translated several of the late Chilean nazi's interviews and other works.

Serrano (1917-2009) is at the extremist fringe of the extremist fringe. He was a youthful member of the Chilean nazi party before embracing virulent pathological antisemitism during the war and becoming increasingly involved in the occult. Despite working for a while as Chilean ambassador to India, Yugoslavia and Austria, and developing friendships with such impressive figures as Swiss psychologist Carl Jung and German novelist Herman Hesse, Serrano was simultaneously developing his own bizarre and half-baked occult ideas into an all-encompassing conspiracy

theory of history and cosmology. In the 1970s he became far more public in his overt Nazism and published in Spanish three lengthy books on Hitler which defy easy summary\* but posit that the Aryans were descended from a race of gods who used to live at the poles, the Jews are in an evil global conspiracy against them and Hitler is a divine manifestation. That Kurtagic is interested in giving such extremist nonsense a wider audience does not reflect well on him or his publishing company.

### Conclusion

If readers have stuck with me this far, I hope they can see that Kurtagic is an interesting case study in the variety of ideological permutations and cultural manifestations of racism and white nationalism that exist in the 21st Century. There is a strange continuum for the metapolitical fantasies of a parallel 'purified' white culture which stretches from national socialist black metal music and novels to blogs and conferences. And from the seeming respectability of pseudo-academic discourse advocating 'white rights' and the dystopian alternative reality of fictional universes to the explicit racial separatism and antisemitism of the UK New Right and the Hitler-worship of occult fascism. There is little originality in Kurtagic's thought but he is emblematic of the synthesis of certain ideological and cultural terrains and new forms of activism and white racist consciousness-raising which we ignore at our peril.

\* Interested readers are referred to Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke's, *Black Sun: Aryan Cults, Esoteric Nazism and the Politics of Identity*, NYU Press, 2002; Joscelyn Godwin, *Arktos: The Polar Myth in Science, Symbolism and Nazi Survival* (Adventures Unlimited Press, 1996)



Former Chilean Nazi Miguel Serrano, whose work Kurtagic is eagerly translating