
American racists to speak at Traditional Britain Conference

The Traditional Britain Group, which bridges the far right and ultra-Conservative right, also has clear links with Generation Identity. Markus Willinger, Generation Identity's leading ideologue, is among the line-up of eight speakers at the TBG's conference in London on 19 October with a talk entitled "A Europe of regions and identity". Others include the New Right activist and publisher Alex Kurtagić, Robin Tilbrook, leader of the tiny English Democrats party, and Dr Sean Gabb, director of the Libertarian Alliance, as well as two speakers from the USA, on whom **Devin Burghart of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights (IREHR)** shines a light

A PAIR OF CONTROVERSIAL AMERICANS are scheduled to speak at the Traditional Britain "Future of the Nation State" conference on 19 October in London. Though the two represent different generations, both slid from "respectable" conservative circles to the white nationalist fringe. The two are friends and colleagues. One is best known for trying to revitalize the philosophical legacy of a Nazi collaborator, the other has called for "peaceful ethnic cleansing" to create a white homeland in North America. Here are their stories.

Paul Gottfried

One of the main attractions at the Traditional Britain gathering is Paul E. Gottfried. At 72, Gottfried is part of the old-guard of paleo-conservatives. He claims political figures including Richard Nixon and Pat Buchanan as acquaintances. Like his close friend, the late white nationalist philosopher-general Samuel Francis, over time Paul Gottfried has moved away from the cosy confines of paleo-conservatism to engaging in a more explicit racial nationalism. His academic work has also found a receptive audience among white nationalists.

Now retired from his teaching position at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania, in addition to being an adjunct scholar at the Ludwig von Mises Institute, one of Gottfried's key movement roles is as president of the H L Mencken Club. Dubbed "a Society for the Independent Right", the Mencken Club has become an annual gathering for discredited conservatives, academic racists and unabashed white nationalists to mingle.

Just look at the programme for the November 2013 Mencken event. In addition to the two visitors to London it includes: Robert Weisberg, recently kicked out of the conservative *National Review* after IREHR exposed his racism; John Derbyshire, also fired from *National Review* after a racist column; William Regnery II, publisher of the racist and antisemitic journal, *The Occidental Quarterly*; and Michael Hart, the academic



Paul Gottfried: white nationalist and defender of scientific racism

racist who organized the 2009 Preserving Western Civilization conference. Past Mencken Club gatherings featured names familiar to readers of *Searchlight*, including British expatriate Peter Brimelow of the white nationalist group VDARE, and Derek Turner of *The Quarterly Review* (formerly of *Right Now!* magazine, and the Irish neo-Nazi group, Social Action Initiative).

In his academic career, Gottfried published numerous books on the paleo-conservative movement and political philosophy. One of the most infamous of these works was Gottfried's attempt to sanitize the reputation of the German political philosopher and Nazi collaborator Carl Schmitt. In his 1990 book, *Carl Schmitt: Politics and Theory*, Gottfried argued that "Schmitt in fact expounded a modified traditionalist view of the state that had little in common with Nazi theory or Nazi practice".

In reality, Schmitt joined the Nazis in 1933 and rapidly rose in the Nazi legal regime, where he came to be

perceived as the “Crown Jurist” of National Socialism. Several scholars have noted that Schmitt enthusiastically devoted himself to the task of purging German jurisprudence of “Jewish influence”, and to defending Hitler’s extra-judicial killings of political opponents. Other scholars have examined how Schmitt’s fervent antisemitism was intimately linked to his political theory. Gottfried attempts to circumnavigate these issues, dismissing them as merely unpleasant political associations used to distract from his theoretical contributions. “They simply use association with his ideas or the failure of some of his exponents to attack Schmitt sufficiently as evidence of fascist sympathies,” he argued in a 2009 interview.

Gottfried himself expressed a curious position on the Nazis in a recent editorial, “the Nazis never advocated the expulsion or destruction of the Jews as ‘racially inferior’. Hitler and others in his movement thought Jews were quite clever but working maliciously against the Aryan race.” Defending scientific racism, Gottfried also argued that, “The citing of Nazi crimes to scare people into ignoring genetic influences or IQ tests reeks of dishonesty and manipulation.”

On issues of race in the United States, Gottfried has done everything from attack a Civil Rights icon, to defend the South in the Civil War. In “The Patron Saint of White Guilt”, Gottfried attacked Martin Luther King Jr, repeating many of the old slanders against Dr King and adding that “this now beatified figure was a self-proclaimed social radical, who provided the god figure of a post-Christian religion, albeit one that is parasitic on Christian narratives”. In the same article, Gottfried refers to Confederate General Robert E. Lee as a “gallant Southern leader”. Elsewhere he has tried to minimize the role of slavery in the Civil War. “Although slavery contributed to the War Between the States, it was not the only cause ... There were regional and tariff differences that led to the struggle.”

Gottfried is a “friend, mentor and colleague” to the other American scheduled to speak at the Traditional Britain conference.

Richard Spencer

University-educated and well-to-do, Richard Spencer is part of a new generation of leaders trying to reshape the image of white nationalism.

After obtaining a bachelor’s degree at the University of Virginia and a master’s degree at the University of Chicago, he was a doctoral student at Duke University before “dropping out to pursue a life of thought-crime”, according to Spencer.

Like several of his older white nationalist movement mentors, Spencer began his political activity in



Richard Spencer (left) with Taki Theodoracopulos (back) and Peter Brimelow

mainstream conservative circles. He worked as an assistant editor at Pat Buchanan’s *The American Conservative* magazine, then became executive editor of Taki’s Magazine (the publication of Buchanan’s co-founder of *The American Conservative*). But Spencer kept marching to the white side.

In November 2008 he spoke about Nietzsche at Gottfried’s H L Mencken Club event. By early 2009, Spencer could no longer hold back his fixation on “contemporary white consciousness”. In a TakiMag piece on 29 May 2009 entitled “White Like Me” Spencer opined, “In our increasingly globalized world (it’s not just a cliché), race hasn’t been obscured or overcome, as many had hoped, but heightened and magnified – and contemporary white consciousness, if we’re to use this term, is so complicated and bizarre (more on that below) that no serious cultural publication should refrain from discussing it.”

By year’s end, Spencer left the semi-respectability of the paleo-conservatives for good, when he announced that he was leaving TakiMag to start AlternativeRight.com, “an online magazine of radical traditionalism”. Under the financial umbrella of British expatriate Peter Brimelow’s white nationalist VDARE foundation, Alternative Right took to repackaging old white nationalist ideas for a new generation.

Launched on 1 March 2010 with a professional-looking design and a long list of columnists, Alternative Right quickly became a big success in white nationalist circles. As one activist wrote, “I have been glued to the

same website for hours today: Richard Spencer's new webzine *Alternative Right* ... I hope that *Alternative Right* will attract the brightest young conservatives and libertarians and expose them to far broader intellectual horizons, including race realism, White Nationalism, the European New Right, the Conservative Revolution, Traditionalism, neo-paganism, agrarianism, Third Positionism, anti-feminism, and right-wing anti-capitalists, ecologists, bioregionalists, and small-is-beautiful types."

The popularity of the website made Spencer a rising star in the movement. When Louis Andrews, the chairman of a white nationalist think-tank and a small publishing house, became ill in 2011, Spencer was tapped to take over both operations. Spencer moved both projects to Whitefish, Montana, where he lives in a \$3 million home.

To Washington Summit Publishers, Spencer brought in new works such as Guillaume Faye's *Why We Fight: Manifesto of Resistance and Sea Changes* by Derek Turner to sell alongside classic racist publications, such as Francis Parker Yockey's *Imperium*, to *Fascism Viewed From The Right* by Julius Evola, to Madison Grant's *The Passing of the Great Race*. Several of the new titles in the WSP catalogue come from the Abergele-based Wermod and Wermod Publishing Group. That company is run by another speaker at the Traditional Britain conference, Alex Kurtagić. Spencer and Kurtagić worked closely together on *Alternative Right*, and the two have shared a platform on multiple occasions.

Washington Summit Publishers gave Spencer another revenue stream, but credibility was to be had from the think-tank, the National Policy Institute. Founded in 2005 by William Regnery II, a member of a wealthy conservative publishing family, and the influential white nationalist figure Sam Francis, the National Policy Institute's goal was "to elevate the consciousness of whites, ensure our biological and cultural continuity, and protect our civil rights". It published several so-called studies, including: "The State of White America – 2007", "The Costs and Benefits of Mass Deportation", "Conservatives and Race", "The Wealth and IQ of Nations", and "Uhuru for South Africa". Before moving to Montana, it was located in Augusta, Georgia.

Spencer's first big move as executive director of the National Policy Institute was to hold a splashy conference in Washington DC entitled "Towards a New Nationalism: Immigration and the Future of Western Nations". He kicked off the conference with a direct invocation of Enoch Powell's infamous Rivers of Blood speech. Using video of recent riots in England with tape of Powell's 1968 speech, Spencer, discussed the catastrophe that Latin, Asian and African immigrants

have brought the white race. Other speakers at the event included white nationalist stalwarts such as the Council of Conservative Citizens leader Sam Dickson and Jared Taylor of *American Renaissance*. At the conference, the National Policy Institute also published a pamphlet by Spencer entitled "The Majority Strategy – the Essential Argument – Why the GOP Must Win White America".

After the re-election of president Obama, many white nationalists gave up their hopes that Republicans would adopt their "White America" strategy. Some, like Spencer, abandoned altogether the idea that they could win back America and retreated towards enclave-style white nationalism.

At the spring 2013 conference of the other white nationalist think-tank, *American Renaissance*, Spencer took to the podium to advocate "the creation of a White Ethno-State on the North American continent". He told the small crowd on hand in Tennessee that "We need an ethno-state so that our people can 'come home again', can live amongst family – to put it banally, so that they can feel safe and secure." To create a white homeland, Spencer argued for peaceful ethnic cleansing to solve the problem. "Today, in the public imagination, 'ethnic-cleansing' has been associated with civil war and mass murder (understandably so). But this need not be the case. 1919 is a real example of successful ethnic redistribution – done by fiat, we should remember, but done peacefully." He elaborated on his dream, "It is perfectly feasible for a white state to be established on the North American continent. Action is the easy part."

Following Spencer's move to Montana, other white nationalists have taken up the call to move to the western United States. For instance, a Canadian white nationalist recently started purchasing land in an effort to take over the small rural town of Leith, North Dakota (population 16) to turn it into a racist stronghold. IREHR will keep close watch on these and other efforts where racism tries to sink roots.



Conservative political commentator and presidential adviser Pat Buchanan, with Paul Gottfried and Richard Spencer at an H L Mencken Club conference in 2009