

# London's murder of McKinley sets up U.S.-U.K. special relationship, war

by Anton Chaitkin

Any supporter of Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War era would have viewed Woodrow Wilson's 1917 declaration of war on Germany under British auspices as an act of treason in the service of London, the enemy in 1776, 1812, and 1861. For the British, the perspective of American logistical support and, finally, use of American soldiers was an indispensable precondition for unleashing war. How, then, did London subvert the United States that had followed Lincoln, into the principal tool of British geopolitics in 1917?

During the first decades after the American Civil War, relations between the United States and Germany had been traditionally cordial. Americans gratefully remembered how the presence of the Prussian Army along the Rhine had helped to prevent the British puppet Emperor Napoleon III from intervening in support of the southern Confederacy and from sending more French troops to back up the regime of Maximilian in Mexico. The strong support given by most German immigrants to Lincoln and the Union cause was soon supplemented by German-American cooperation in infrastructure and industry. These important German-American ties soon became the target of London and of the fifth column of American anglophiles. London mobilized the intrigues of its intelligence services, financial and economic warfare by the City, and political assassinations conducted through the Mazzini networks to weaken the forces of American nationalism and strengthen the anglophiles.

Up until 1863-64, the policy of Lord Palmerston and the British Empire had been to destroy the American federal union. After Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and the arrival of the Russian fleet in New York and San Francisco, the British were forced to resign themselves to the fact that the United States was emerging as the leading world power and would remain so for more than a century. The new British strategy accepted this reality and concentrated on making American power the servant of the geopolitical designs of London.

The key turning point came with the assassination of President William McKinley, an admirer of Lincoln, and the succession to the presidency of Vice President Theodore Roosevelt, an asset of Sir Edward Grey and Cecil Spring-Rice of the British Foreign Office. Roosevelt's rapprochement with Edward VII was the prelude to the establishment of the U.S.-U.K. "special relationship" by Wilson, Grey's agent Col. Edward House, Secretary of State Robert Lansing

of the Dulles family, and U.S. Ambassador to London Walter Hines Page. The special relationship was sealed with the blood of 350,000 U.S. casualties in World War I. Thanks to U.S. support, London also felt free to destabilize Russia with the 1917 revolutions, which yielded the Bolshevik regime and world communism. The U.S.-U.K. special relationship has been the indispensable prerequisite for British geopolitics ever since.

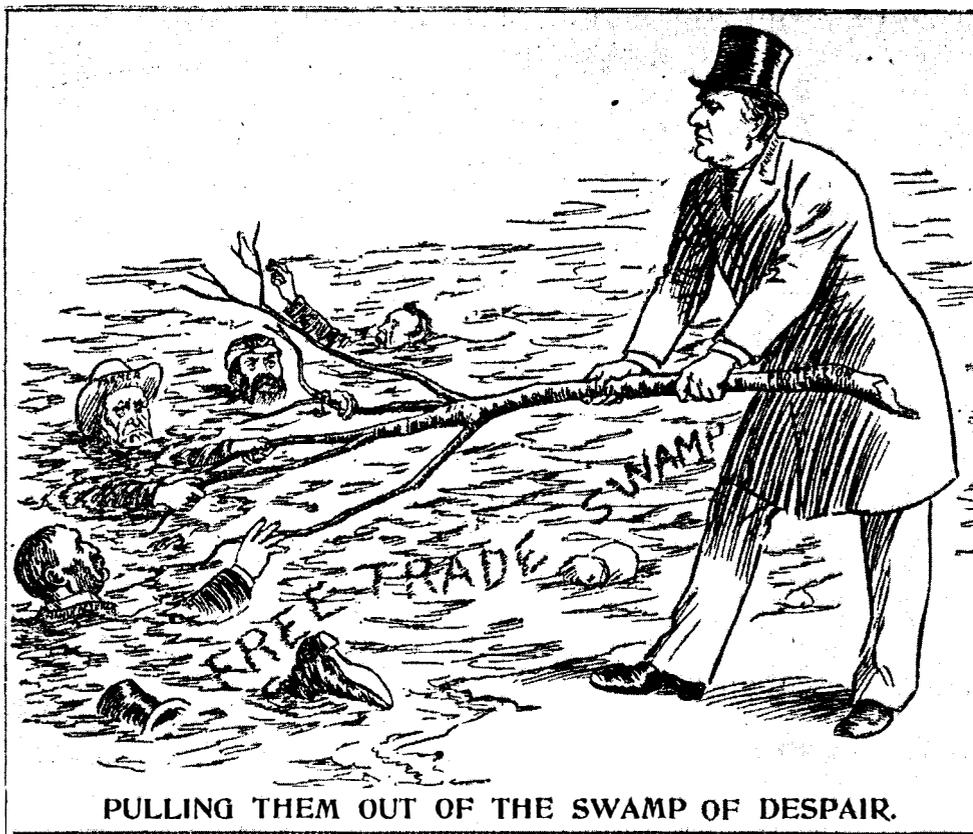
## The 'national party' falls

The assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 marked the complete downfall of the American nationalists. The mighty American productive apparatus, which had been created by the U.S. nationalists—Britain's enemies—despite fierce British resistance, ironically, was then used by decrepit Britain for its war. Let us look back to the period before this divide of 1901, and see what the world lost. We can then evaluate the grotesque change imposed after the McKinley murder.

When Abraham Lincoln came in as President in 1861, the nationalists came back into power. This leadership faction was a political, industrial, and scientific grouping which led the American Revolution and wrote the Constitution. The nationalist faction, or what may be called the "national party," was based in Philadelphia, the original American capital. Philadelphia was the home of Alexander Hamilton's First Bank of the United States, Nicholas Biddle's Second Bank, the German economist Friedrich List, the Irish-American economist Mathew Carey, and Mathew Carey's son Henry Carey, whose American System, anti-British economics texts Lincoln studied and put into practice.

From Lincoln until the McKinley murder, the United States and Britain opposed each other globally, representing the two opposite views of man: racist imperialism versus emancipation and technological development. In that contest, the U.S. national party was an active partner with the nationalists in Europe, Asia, and Ibero-America. After Teddy Roosevelt's takeover, the United States joined Britain in smashing America's former allies.

Back at the end of the Civil War, despite Lincoln's death, the nationalist group pushed ahead on programs designed under Lincoln. The first transcontinental railway, the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific, paid for by Lincoln's government



A McKinley campaign cartoon mocks the British free traders. Who wants free trade? McKinley asked. "England wants it, demands it—not for our good, but for hers."

and built under Army supervision, was completed in 1869. That same year, Civil War leader Gen. Ulysses S. Grant became U.S. President.

In 1870, Grant and the Philadelphians revived the Northern Pacific railway project which Lincoln had chartered.

The Northern Pacific was the largest single enterprise in U.S. history up to its time. It traversed a 2,000-mile route, from the western tip of Lake Superior to the Columbia River and Puget Sound on the Pacific, linking the Pacific Ocean with the Great Lakes and the Atlantic. The Northern Pacific founded and built Duluth, Minnesota and Tacoma, Washington as its terminus cities.

The government gave the Northern Pacific gigantic land grants, equalling in size the states of Ohio and Indiana combined. Plots of land from these grants would then be sold by the railroad to settlers, and before such sales, the railroad could get advances of credit from an array of sources without the backing of the bitterly hostile British-led bankers. The law required the railroad to use only American iron and steel, made from American iron ores. The congressional manager of the bill was Speaker of the House James Blaine, a principal spokesman of the national party.

A map of the Northern Pacific land grants (Figure 1), for use with European allies, shows the rich coal-mining and wheat-farming potential of the western continent and shipping connections to China and Japan, and gives latitudes

equivalent to Paris and Venice. A dotted line on the map is captioned: "This isothermal passes through Chicago . . . southern France, Lombardy, and the wheat-growing district of southern Russia."

The real character of this enterprise can be better understood by reviewing some of the most prominent original stock owners of the Northern Pacific.

- The joint project managers were Philadelphia banker Jay Cooke, and his industrial partners in the leadership of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Cooke was the government's principal private banker. During the Civil War, Cooke had sold over a billion dollars of small-denomination government bonds to the public, so that Lincoln could outflank London and Wall Street bankers opposed to the American Union. Other Pennsylvania Railroad industrial projects included Andrew Carnegie's steel mills, and Thomas Edison's invention organization.

- Another pivotal owner and backer was Baron Friedrich von Gerolt, German Chancellor Bismarck's ambassador to the United States. Baron Gerolt had been Prussia's minister to the United States since 1844. He had spoken publicly about the "thousands and tens of thousands of our emigrants . . . [who] arrive annually to establish a new home and to unite their capacities with American industry and enterprise in developing the unbounded resources and promoting the welfare of the new and rising states" (*New York Times*, April

24, 1858).

• Other important stockholders included U.S. Vice President Schuyler Colfax, and President Grant's private secretary, the anti-British writer Gen. Horace Porter.

As planning progressed, Jay Cooke negotiated secret agreements aimed at U.S. annexation of the western half of British Canada.

### U.S.-German infrastructure building: Bismarck, North Dakota

Cooke sent a Northern Pacific fundraising agent to Europe, equipped with a letter of introduction from Bismarck's ambassador, Baron Gerolt. Cooke wrote to Chancellor Bismarck inviting him to come to the United States and to be a guest in Cooke's home. Bismarck replied months later, apologizing for the delay and warmly thanking Cooke for the invitation. He explained that he had "gotten involved" in the Franco-Prussian War (a war which would have disastrous consequences—see article, p. 29) a week after getting Cooke's letter. The Northern Pacific put the Bismarck letter to good use in scrounging Europe for loans.

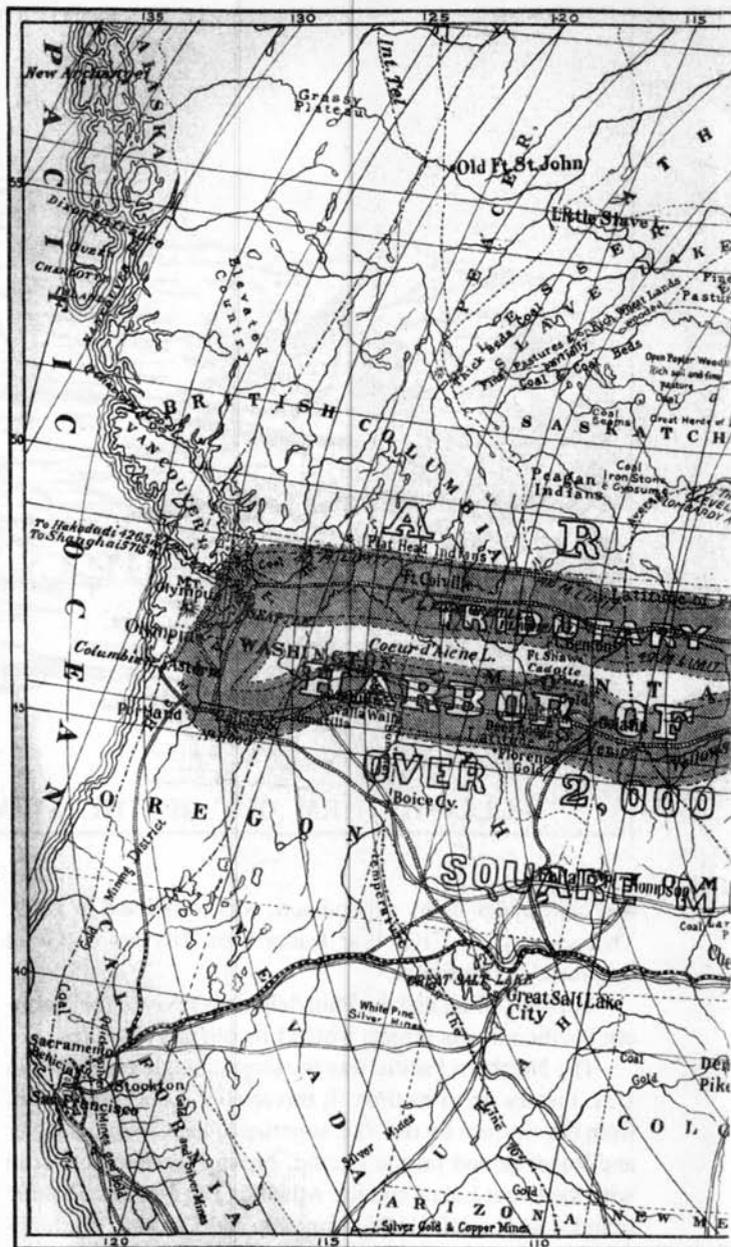
The Franco-Prussian War temporarily dried up credit there. But Northern Pacific corporate secretary Samuel Wilkeson, an associate of economist Henry Carey, said the world would now finally be rid of Napoleon III, that "composite monkey and tiger."

The railroad construction progressed westward from Lake Superior, and eastward from the Pacific coast. While President Grant directed his legations abroad to encourage emigration to America, Northern Pacific agents sent families over from Germany, Scandinavia, Russia, central Europe, and Britain.

The immigrants were welcomed at the New York wharves by Northern Pacific reception teams which included diverse translators. They were housed in Northern Pacific-owned hostels in several cities, until transportation and land arrangements were completed for them out west. They were supposed to thickly settle an unpopulated waste.

In 1873, the Northern Pacific completed its first great link from the Great Lakes to the Missouri River in Dakota Territory. The railroad created a terminus city on the Missouri River and named it Bismarck, in honor of the German chancellor. Bismarck later became the capital of North Dakota.

As the Northern Pacific project progressed, the Russian ambassador to the United States, Konstantin Gavrilovich Katakazy, maintained close contact with Jay Cooke; he frequently stayed at his house in Philadelphia. Meanwhile, the pro-nationalist Civil War governor of Pennsylvania, Andrew Curtin, was serving as the U.S. ambassador to Russia. Economist Henry Carey had organized a send-off party for Ambassador Curtin back in 1869, attended by Cooke, his partners, and the Russian legation. At the party, Gen. Joshua T. Owen delivered a toast, in what must be seen as President



Grant's blunt response to British geopolitics:

"We stand on the shores of the Pacific, and cast wistful eyes over its expanse of waters, to see if any kindred people will join us in girdling the globe with a tramway of iron. . . . We have discovered that true glory is only to be attained through the performance of great deeds, which tend to advance civilization, [and] develop the material wealth of people. . . . In pursuance of these noble objects we have discarded war, although we had organized the greatest war power of ancient or modern times. . . .

"Who are our natural allies in the Old World, in the prosecution of this grand design? Not the English, for they

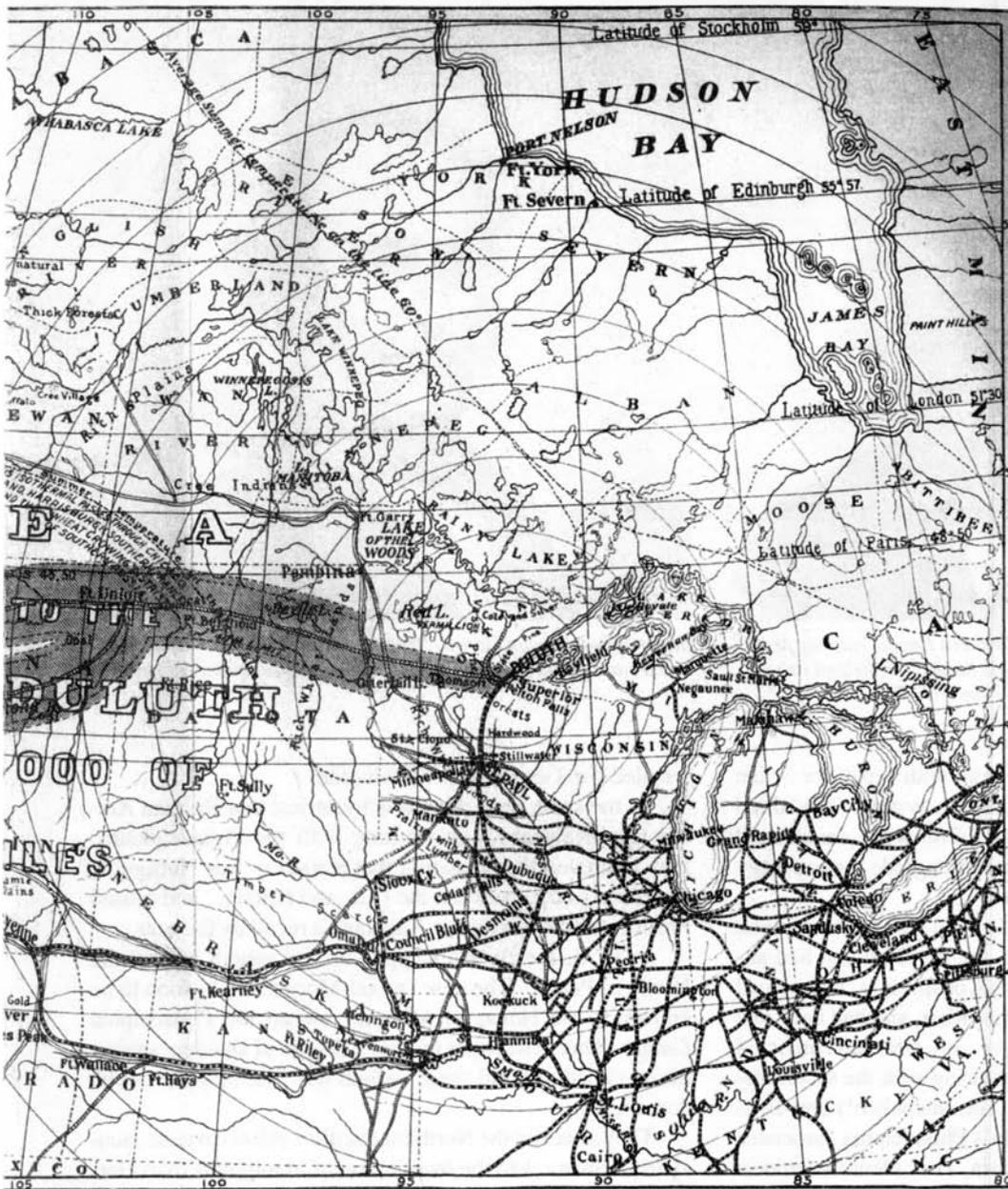


FIGURE 1  
The Northern Pacific  
land grants

*The Northern Pacific railway project, chartered by Lincoln, was the largest single enterprise in U.S. history up to its time, linking the Pacific Ocean with the Great Lakes and the Atlantic. Promoted by the 'national party' of American pro-industrial patriots and their allies abroad, the project was finally completed in 1883. On the map, the rings indicate 100, 200, etc. miles from Duluth, Minnesota.*

Source: Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, *Jay Cooke, Financier of the Civil War*, Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co., 1907.

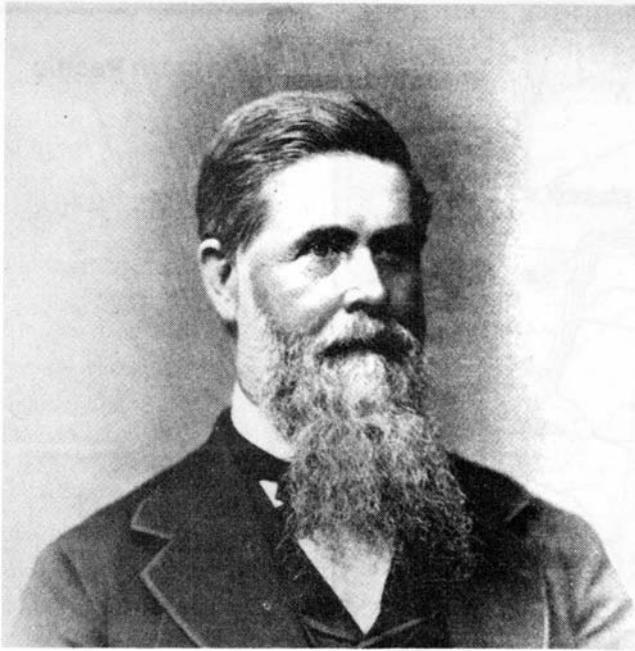
are our commercial rivals—not the French, for they are jealous of our democratic institutions. . . .

“The Russians have become simultaneously with us, the champions of freedom by emancipating their slaves. . . . However much common origin, common language, and common religion, or some grand sentiment may unite peoples, the greatest bond is a community of interest and identity of destiny. . . . Let [Czar] Alexander construct a grand trunk railway from the Baltic to the Sea of Okhotsk of like gauge with our Pacific Central [Union Pacific-Central Pacific], and he will maintain his firm hold on his vast dominions, and outflank the movement made by France and England, for

predominance in the East through the Suez Canal; and America and Russia, can dictate peace to the world.”

Over the next period, Russia’s Sergei Witte worked in the czar’s railway service while learning the economics of Friedrich List. In the 1890s, when Witte, by now finance minister, built Russia’s Trans-Siberian Railway, he was advised by Gen. Grenville Dodge, who had been Lincoln’s superintendent for the Union Pacific railroad construction.

Japanese Prince Iwakura, Japanese cabinet ministers, and a Japanese embassy party totalling 30 persons, stayed at Cooke’s house in 1872, while they prepared a treaty with the United States and a loan of \$15 million for Japanese



*Jay Cooke, project manager of the Northern Pacific railway project. The government's principal private banker, he helped raise the funds to preserve the Union during the Civil War.*



*Baron Friedrich von Gerolt, Prussian ambassador to Washington and a staunch supporter of the Northern Pacific railway project.*

development. Cooke was negotiating with Japan for Asian connections with the Northern Pacific system. The allied nationalists envisioned a global belt of railways, canals, and shipping operations that would vastly upgrade the economy and power of the sovereign nations.

In 1873, President Grant made Ohio Congressman John Bingham the U.S. ambassador to Japan. Bingham had authored the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, had helped send troops to suppress the Ku Klux Klan, and had been one of the military judges in the Lincoln case, who had convicted John Wilkes Booth's gang of conspiring with the secret service apparatus in British Canada. The outspokenly anti-British Bingham brought Henry Carey's Philadelphia associates to Japan to work with Prince Iwakura. They identified mineral resources, planned transportation projects, and outlined tariff strategies. Bingham constantly sparred with the British plenipotentiary Sir Harry Parkes, and defeated the British opium traffic in Japan.

### **Britain's war against the nationalists**

From the outset of the Northern Pacific project, British Empire agencies assailed the railroad and its nationalist sponsors. The Ulysses S. Grant administration (1869-77) had a viciously pro-British secretary of state, Hamilton Fish. In 1871, Fish's ambassador to Germany, George Bancroft, an admirer of Britain's Lord Palmerston, orchestrated a slander campaign to influence Chancellor Bismarck against the pro-American Baron von Gerolt, who was aiding the Northern Pacific in every way possible. Bismarck fell for the bait and

recalled von Gerolt from Washington.

At the same time, Fish was hysterical that Russian Ambassador Katakazy was working with the Philadelphians. Fish promoted the allegation that Katakazy was "intriguing to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Britain," and caused President Grant to request Katakazy's recall by the czar.

In 1873, the British stepped up the assault against the Northern Pacific. The new Drexel-Morgan bank, soon to be known as the House of Morgan, owned the Philadelphia *Ledger*. This newspaper printed a deluge of slanders against the so-called railroad "ring" which was "robbing the public domain."

They attacked the Northern Pacific's efforts to raise money in Germany, and the recruitment of immigrants from Germany. The *Ledger* "predicted" that the Northern Pacific would fail and a general panic would result. These attacks were reprinted as leaflets, and distributed in banking circles in the United States and Europe. Because the *Ledger* ran an exchange of news with the London *Times*, Cooke's agent was led to discover that *Ledger* editor George Childs was an "intimate house guest" of *Times* financial editor H.B. Sampson.

No British financial house would participate in the sale of Northern Pacific bonds, though Cooke invited the Rothschilds, and regularly worked with the other major banks. The Rothschilds poisoned the money-raising well with bankers in Germany. The Barings and Rothschilds tried to talk down the value of U.S. bonds that Cooke was marketing at that time.

Early in 1873, a scandal was gotten up in the newspapers against Credit Mobilier, the construction subcontractor for the Union Pacific railroad. The pivotal figure for this concocted scandal was Credit Mobilier executive Francis R. Train, of the notorious British intelligence Train family. (During the Civil War, Boston Congressman Charles Russell Train—grandfather of the current British agent on Wall Street, John Train—had introduced legislation to destroy Cooke's financing of the Union war effort. Lincoln's allies defeated Train's initiative.) Congressional hearings smeared Speaker of the House Blaine, Vice President Colfax, the heads of the two houses of Congress, and the government leaders of the Northern Pacific project.

The demoralized Congress suspended payment on the old Union Pacific bonds, and thus undercut the market for all railroad securities. Congress then refused any subsidies for the cash-strapped Northern Pacific.

Finally, in September 1873, under terrible pressure from international bankers, Cooke's New York-based partner suddenly closed the New York office and stopped payment to Cooke's creditors—without consulting Cooke. Cooke was forced to close the main Philadelphia office the same day.

When Cooke, the main government banker, closed his doors, panic closed the New York Stock Exchange, and it stayed shut down for seven days in the worst American financial crisis up to that time. Factories, shops, and mines closed throughout the country. Construction on the Northern Pacific railroad was suspended for six years.

The American nationalists were now gravely weakened. The Drexel-Morgan and Rothschild banks replaced the ruined Jay Cooke as the principal bankers handling the bonds of the U.S. government.

The financial struggle of 1873 should be of interest to currently embattled District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry. When Cooke's Washington office was forced to close, the Washington partner was Jay's brother Henry D. Cooke. Henry was at that time governor of the "Territory" of Washington, by appointment of President Grant.

Among Gov. Henry Cooke's official advisers was black leader Frederick Douglass. During 1871-73, the Cooke administration organized and financed the transformation of the national capital city: It drained swamps, built sewers, commenced garbage collection and sewage treatment, paved and graded hundreds of miles of roads and sidewalks, and planted 50,000 trees.

The suddenly bankrupt Henry Cooke now resigned as governor of Washington, temporarily succeeded by his lieutenant, Alexander Shepherd. The following year a southern-led, anti-nationalist congressional initiative eliminated the territorial government and ended all voting rights and self-government for Washington's citizens, including its large component of freed black slaves. Washington got no voting rights or home rule again until the era of Marion Barry a century later.

## The national party regroups

But the nationalists hung on.

In 1876, the Pennsylvania Railroad partnership sponsored the opening of an invention factory for their young wizard Thomas Edison. They publicized his phonograph. Their agent Edward H. Johnson organized Edison's company. In 1878, their University of Pennsylvania professor George Barker took Edison to Wyoming to observe a solar eclipse.

On this trip, Professor Barker described the status of attempts to produce artificial light from electricity, and proposed that Edison tackle and solve the problem. With Barker as his mentor, Edison soon announced to the press that he would make electric lights and, furthermore, that he would provide the first electricity to the world's industries and households. Edison especially used the work of German scientists and craftsmen to push this project forward.

In the following year, 1879, the first incandescent electric light was demonstrated. The Pennsylvania railroad ran special trains bringing thousands of people to the Edison lab to see the demonstration. That same year, Henry Carey's Philadelphia congressman, William "Pig Iron" Kelly, met with Chancellor Bismarck. Kelly reported that Bismarck expressed "intense contempt" for advocates of the British free trade doctrine, calling them "arrogant . . . blockheads." That same year, the Pennsylvania Railroad partners restarted construction on the Northern Pacific. They soon sold financial control of the project to Henry Villard, the representative of German holders of U.S. transportation bonds. The Northern Pacific was completed in 1883, with the German ambassador on hand for the inaugural ceremony.

Meanwhile, Britain's House of Morgan had taken control of Edison's company and stopped its progress. The Philadelphians got it back, temporarily, with a stockholders' revolt in 1884. Production of dynamos and their installation grew rapidly. Large city central power stations rose from 12, in 1884, to 58 in 1886; they were being installed in Europe, South America, and Japan. The German industrialist Emil Rathenau, father of Walther Rathenau, bought Edison's patents and set up the Edison General Electric Company of Germany (Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft), by means of which German cities were lit and powered.

## William McKinley and the American System

One of the leading spokesmen for the "nationalist party" and an outspoken opponent of British free trade doctrine, was William McKinley. In 1882, then-Congressman McKinley from Ohio spoke about the American program of government protection for manufactures. McKinley said that U.S. citizens were not the ones demanding free trade. Who, then, wanted free trade? McKinley asked. He answered:

"England wants it, demands it—not for our good, but for hers; for she is more anxious to maintain her old position of supremacy than she is to promote the interests and welfare of the people of this republic, and a great party in this country



*President William McKinley's assassination marked the downfall of the American nationalist faction, and the ascendancy of the pro-British free traders.*

voices her interest. . . . She would manufacture for us, and permit us to raise wheat and corn for her. We are satisfied to do the latter, but unwilling to concede to her the monopoly of the former."

McKinley continued, "Free trade may be suitable to Great Britain and its peculiar social and political structure, but it has no place in this republic, where classes are unknown, and where caste has long since been banished; where equality is a rule; where labor is dignified and honorable; where education and improvement are the individual striving of every citizen, no matter what may be the accident of his birth, or the poverty of his early surroundings. Here the mechanic of today is the manufacturer of a few years hence. Under such conditions, free trade can have no abiding place here."

Congressman McKinley pushed through the last great protective tariff in 1890. At that time, nationalist James Blaine was U.S. secretary of state. Blaine's modification of the tariff system, called "reciprocity," allowed for the United States, Mexico, and South America to help boost each other's production while protecting themselves against British trade war.

British diplomat Sir Cecil Spring-Rice wrote back to London in 1891 on the McKinley Tariff, and how it was operating under Blaine's reciprocity:

"We must count on the present tariff for a year and a half at least, probably for much longer. We must reconcile ourselves to it and look for new markets. A serious aspect of it is the reciprocity clause, which drives us out of the West Indies

and S[outh] America."

McKinley, an anti-imperialist follower of Lincoln and Blaine, was elected President in 1896 and again raised the tariff.

### **Theodore Roosevelt, British agent**

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was Britain's personal manager of U.S. politician Theodore Roosevelt, or "TR." He wrote to Roosevelt on Nov. 3, 1897, a wild letter, an anti-German tirade. TR was then assistant secretary of the Navy. The letter urged him to move the United States to invade Cuba, and explained why Germany wouldn't dare interfere. Spring-Rice wrote: "The prevailing motive underlying German policy is peace and commercial progress. Anything which would endanger their enormous interests on your side [of the ocean], trade, shipping, investments—would be avoided. . . . They dare not go to war."

Teddy Roosevelt took unauthorized action with the Navy which helped drag the United States and Spain into a war that President McKinley didn't want. Roosevelt then resigned from the government and led the highly publicized "Rough Rider" troops invading Spain's possession, Cuba.

In 1900, under pressure from the now supreme British faction of U.S. bankers, President McKinley accepted Teddy Roosevelt as his second-term vice president.

Soon after the inauguration, McKinley was murdered and TR took over. The murderer, Leon Czolgosz, proclaimed himself an apostle of anarchist Emma Goldman. Goldman revealed in her memoirs the precise nature of the British "anarchist" murder apparatus. Her London base of operations, as she explained, was the home of William Michael Rossetti, the leader of the Ruskinite, Pre-Raphaelite feudalists. A contemporary cartoon hit the nail on the head, showing Teddy Roosevelt dancing cheek-to-cheek with a man in drag holding a bomb, who is named "Anarchism."

Many Americans calling themselves populists admire the traitor President Teddy Roosevelt. This is a pathetic commentary on our nation's lost national memory. Teddy Roosevelt helped Britain anarchize Russia and militarize Japan. He drove the United States toward war against Germany. He brutalized Spanish America and deliberately portrayed the United States as an international tyrant.

As Britain had long desired, Roosevelt closed the U.S. West to settlement, terrorizing and arresting congressmen and other western opponents of his programs. He founded the Conservation movement in America, and set up the Forestry Service as a New Age propaganda machine officially modelled on the British regime in India. He completed the consolidation of British financial power over U.S. national industries and railroads. The railroads were gradually dismantled, and much of the West was left unpopulated and waste.

Teddy Roosevelt was personally tied to British finance, to the Baring Bank and to the British intelligence apparatus which ran the slaveowners' southern Confederacy. His dearest uncle, James Builoch, had managed the British ar-

rangements to create the Confederate war fleet, which sank U.S. merchant ships and doubled the length and casualties of the U.S. Civil War. Teddy Roosevelt successfully prevailed on his uncle, then in permanent exile in England as a traitor to his country, to write up the "heroic" official story of the Confederate Secret Service.

### 'True Americanism'

But let us hear from TR himself, what he wrote about "true Americanism": He attacked Germany as a "fundamentally immoral" country, and said, "The German people now stand behind their government and heartily support it in every infamy it commits. . . .

"We have in this country room only for thoroughgoing Americans. . . . [If a man] tries to be half American and half something else, it is proof positive that he isn't an American at all and the sooner he gets out of the country the better. . . . Germanism here at home is the foe of Americanism and those who believe in it should go back to Germany, where they belong" (*The Works of Theodore Roosevelt; National Edition*, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1926, volume XIX, pp. 329-30).

Listen as Teddy Roosevelt defines his own nationality. Here he is lecturing at Oxford in 1910, on the "English-speaking peoples" managing "alien races": "In the long run there can be no justification for one race managing or controlling another unless the management and control are exercised in the interest and for the benefit of that other race. That is what our peoples have in the main done, and must continue . . . to do, in India, Egypt, and the Philippines" (Romanes lecture "Biological Analogies in History," *ibid.*, volume XII, pp. 57-58).

Now listen as the Anglophile Confederate speaks of good breeding: "I wish very much that the wrong people could be prevented entirely from breeding; and when the evil nature of these people is sufficiently flagrant, this should be done. Criminals should be sterilized, and feeble-minded persons forbidden to leave offspring behind them. But as yet there is no way possible to devise which could prevent all undesirable people from breeding. The emphasis should be on getting desirable people to breed" (*ibid.*, volume XII, p. 201).

Finally, let us hear Teddy Roosevelt reviewing a book called *The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century*, written by the English-born Nazi writer Houston Stewart Chamberlain. Here Roosevelt directly condemns the U.S. Declaration of Independence:

"Much that he says regarding the prevalent loose and sloppy talk about the general progress of humanity, the equality and identity of races, and the like, is not only perfectly true, but is emphatically worth considering by a generation accustomed, as its forefathers . . . were accustomed, to accept as true and useful thoroughly pernicious doctrines taught by well-meaning and feeble-minded sentimentalists" (*ibid.*, volume XII, pp. 107-12).

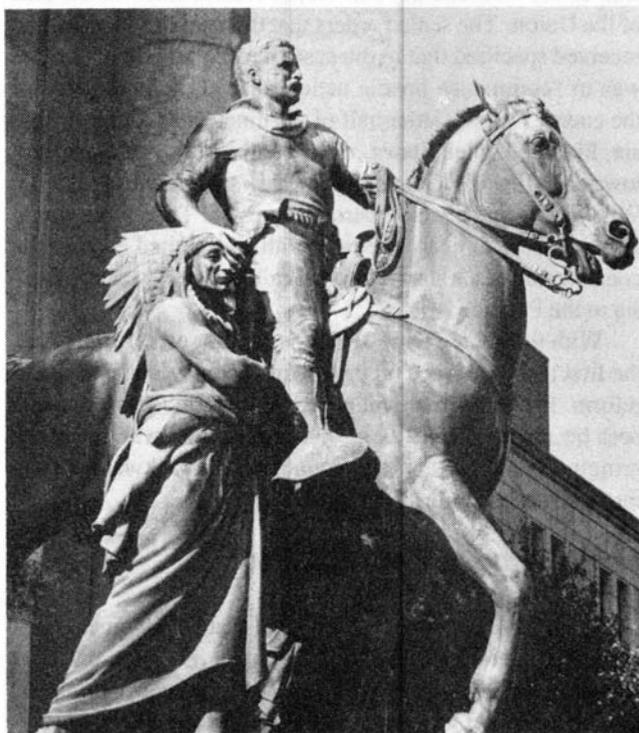
And thus the obstacle, known as the United States of

America, was cleared out of the path of the British oligarchy.

The First World War began in August 1914, when Woodrow Wilson was U.S. President. Wilson was closely advised by "Colonel" Edward M. House, an open British agent whose British father had made his fortune running the U.S. blockade to aid the slaveowners' rebellion. Once the United States joined the world war, House would coordinate the relations among the Triple Entente partners.

In February 1915, six months after the British went into World War I and the United States was still neutral, President Wilson showed his true colors. He put on a gala screening of the first motion picture to be shown in the White House. The film was D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation," originally titled "The Klansman," depicting the Ku Klux Klan as heroically fending off outrages by freed slaves and northerners. Wilson, who had himself written history texts praising the post-Civil War Klan, commented after viewing the film, "It is like writing history with Lightning. And my only regret is that it is all so terribly true."

This presidential endorsement was immediately used nationwide to re-launch the KKK as an institution. The new Klan's first target was German-Americans, who were attacked as "aliens" hostile to Anglo-Saxon America. President Wilson invited filmmaker Griffith to the White House and urged him to go to England to "make some picture showing our fight for democracy." By the time Griffith made his anti-German propaganda film "Hearts of the World" for the British government, the United States had already declared war.



Teddy Roosevelt, portrayed here in a statue at the Museum of Natural History in New York City, was a British agent who drove the United States toward war against Germany.