

## EIR Books

# Tell the truth about the German rocket scientists

by Marsha Freeman

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### **Secret Agenda**

by Linda Hunt

St. Martin's Press, New York, 1991  
340 pages, hardbound, \$19.95

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Linda Hunt's book on the postwar Operation Paperclip, which brought German scientists to the United States, has its own "secret agenda," far different from the stated purpose of exposing new-found atrocities by "Nazi" scientists who were secretly brought to America. Her diatribe is directed at those who have opposed the Justice Department's "Nazi-hunting" witchhunt through the Office of Special Investigations. That opposition has been by the German rocket scientists targeted by OSI; by the families of various European emigrés who were accused of being "Nazis"; and by economist and political figure Lyndon LaRouche, his collaborators (including this author), and publications such as *Fusion* magazine, to which he was a contributor.

The Office of Special Investigations' "Nazi-hunting" unit of the Justice Department was set up at the instigation of Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman's 1978 amendment to the immigration law, but it was not mass-murderers who were sought by OSI's intrepid "investigators": Rocket scientists such as Arthur Rudolph, who put more than 30 years of their lives into fulfilling their dream of moving human civilization into space, have been hounded as if they had been the enforcers of Hitler's "final solution."

### **'Guilt' by slander and association**

This book is not unique in its repetition of "anti-Semitic"

and other slanders against Lyndon LaRouche personally and against numbers of his collaborators (some of whom, like this author, are Jewish). However, for those German scientists for whom she could find no damning evidence of war-time atrocities (some of them were no more than teenagers at the time), she brands as Nazis nonetheless, because they have worked with "well-known anti-Semite" LaRouche.

And Hunt's "proof" of LaRouche's supposed "Nazi-like" views comes from lying "documentation" from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and other politically biased organizations. She reports not a word on what LaRouche has written or said on any subject, including in his many campaigns for public office. But without batting an eyelash, she does report that the CIA describes LaRouche as heading a "violence-oriented" cult. This is the same CIA which she has spent multiple chapters attacking for using former "Nazi" doctors to run illegal, immoral, and secret experiments on unsuspecting U.S. soldiers in the MK-Ultra project. What a credible source!

Hunt's account of a public scientific conference held in 1985, to honor the late German scientist and visionary Krafft Ehrlicke, is one of the most egregious examples of *willful* misrepresentation in the book. (Certainly she cannot claim she did not have the time or access to material, since she had five years to research the subject, which is completely in the open literature.) Hunt describes this conference, which took place in a hotel in Reston, Virginia June 15-16, as "an anti-OSI rally held at LaRouche's heavily guarded estate in July 1985." In fact, the conference was open to the public and she herself could have attended. Present and/or participating in this supposed "conspiracy" to defend "ardent Nazis" were not only German rocket scientists and Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche, but also the late Gen. John B. Medaris (ret.), and

military representatives from Europe.

For the past six years, the entire proceedings of this “secret anti-OSI rally” have been publicly available, for \$9.95 in a paperback book, *Colonize Space! Open the Age of Reason*.<sup>1</sup> Even a cursory reading of the conference proceedings makes clear Ehrlicke’s optimistic view of the future of mankind, that the colonization of space will finally open the age of reason.

## Why Hunt rages

What is being said about the ADL and Justice Department’s witchhunts against the German rocket scientists and other Europeans that so infuriates Hunt?

Hunt describes an April 1985 reunion of the rocket team in Huntsville, to celebrate the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their arrival in America. The celebration’s press conference, she says, was turned into a “podium for the twisted paranoia and conspiracy theories of LaRouche. Marsha Freeman, Washington editor of *Fusion* magazine, a LaRouche mouthpiece, was introduced by the public relations officer [actually, it was my first trip to Huntsville, and no one had any idea who I was] and allowed to launch into a fifteen-minute attack on the OSI. ‘The witchhunt against the leading space scientists of the United States is nothing less than a Soviet plot to destroy the military-scientific accomplishments of the U.S.,’ she said.” At least, Hunt accurately quotes me.

“Freeman concluded her tirade” she continues, “by asking for a congressional investigation and urging that the OSI be shut down. At that point the Germans in the audience cheered.” Actually, I would describe it as polite applause.

At any rate, Linda Hunt had gotten her first taste of political opposition to the ADL and OSI. She goes on to make the incredible statement: “LaRouche has long-standing ties with the Nazi scientists brought to the United States under Paperclip,” and includes Krafft Ehrlicke in this group. But, Ehrlicke’s “credentials” as a “Nazi” are simply that he authored articles about colonizing the Moon published in *Fusion* magazine.

Other Germans against whom she has no evidence of Nazi activities are slandered as Nazis, because they had “ties” to LaRouche, such as Konrad Dannenberg, Prof. Hermann Oberth, and Dr. Friedwardt Winterberg. In fact, these three plus retired General Medaris (an active clergyman) had paid their respects to Krafft Ehrlicke at the July 1985 conference in his honor. They were rightly motivated to celebrate the accomplishments of the German rocket scientists and condemn the outrageous treatment they had been subjected to by the Justice Department.

## The original issue, 40 years ago

Since rocket scientist Arthur Rudolph is pictured on the cover of Hunt’s book, one assumes some hideous, new information will be revealed regarding his involvement in the wartime production of the V-2 rocket, and that this new

evidence will forever convince the reader, in hindsight, that this man, along with hundreds of his colleagues, should never have been allowed into the United States.

But for that point to be convincing or even credible, the book is more than 40 years too late.

It is certainly the case that concerned voices were raised after the war, when the German scientists began streaming into the United States. These scientists had been offered positions both to help the U.S. benefit from the technology developed in wartime Germany, and to prevent the Soviets from nabbing them. A group of 40 distinguished individuals, including Albert Einstein and A. Philip Randolph, recorded their “profound concern” in telegrams to President Harry Truman and other U.S. officials in December 1946.<sup>2</sup> “We hold these individuals to be potentially dangerous carriers of racial and religious hatred,” they stated. They qualified their concern with the understanding that there were strategic and political reasons to bring the Germans here; notwithstanding, they requested “that they not be granted permanent residence or citizenship in the United States with the opportunity which that would afford of inculcating those anti-democratic doctrines which seek to undermine and destroy our national unity.”

It is undeniable that people with undesirable records in the Nazi regime were brought into the United States, both for their technical and intelligence expertise, and because they would otherwise have ended up, many against their will, working for the Soviets. Although Linda Hunt dismisses the Soviet threat as an unserious “excuse” for bringing the Germans here, it has been amply documented—as she acknowledges—that those members of the German rocket team who remained in the Soviet-controlled zone were literally kidnaped by the Soviets. They were whisked off to the highly secret Soviet rocket program, kept isolated, debriefed extensively, and eventually sent back to Germany.

According to historian Frederick Ordway, in the middle of one fall night in 1946, “a young Army officer pounded upon the door” of each home of the 6,000 Germans employed by the Soviets in their occupied zone. The officer would read a statement informing the occupant that “the works in which you are employed are being transferred to the U.S.S.R. . . . Your contract will be to work in the Soviet Union for five years. You will be provided with food and clothing for the journey which you must expect to last three or four weeks.”<sup>3</sup> According to Ordway’s research, between Oct. 12 and 16, about 20,000 Germans were removed to the Soviet Union. In 1954, the former chief engineer of the Junkers Aircraft Company returned to Germany with the remainder of his original team of 800 specialists and their families. “Twenty-five had died in the U.S.S.R., five had committed suicide, and two had gone insane.”

According to another account, in 1947, nuclear scientist Werner Heisenberg, working for the British at Göttingen University, told the *Washington Post* that his closest assis-

tants were working for the Russians in the Urals, and that he also had been made an offer.<sup>4</sup>

In October 1957, when the Soviet Sputnik launch was announced, Edward Teller remarked to the press that “their Germans had beaten our Germans.” Scientists, even many Jewish scientists, knew the implications of the only other nuclear superpower having access to some of the best scientific minds of this century. Linda Hunt, however, now with 40 years of hindsight, apparently thinks it was of no consequence whether this extraordinary pool of talent, particularly in rocketry, aerodynamics, and nuclear science, came to the United States, or was taken to the Soviet Union.

One member of the Peenemünde team, Dieter Huzel, has detailed what was in the “baggage” the German rocket team brought with them to America: “the treasure trove of documents containing the sum and substance of the whole German rocket development effort.”<sup>5</sup>

As the person who organized the burial of more than a ton of technical documents in an abandoned mine in the Harz Mountains, which were later unearthed and brought to the U.S., he is well placed to summarize the value of this war booty: “These documents were of inestimable value. Whoever inherited them would be able to start in rocketry at that point at which we had left off, with the benefit not only of our accomplishments, but of our mistakes as well—the real ingredient of experience. They represented years of intensive effort in a brand new technology, one which, all of us were still convinced, would play a profound role in the future course of human events.”

No matter to Hunt. Not satisfied with belittling the important work of the German rocket team, she makes the absolutely incredible claim that Operation Paperclip was a Soviet operation to infiltrate Nazis into American society to undermine its democratic ideals! This makes far more interesting, therefore, the fact that it is the accusation primarily by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, this author, nuclear scientist Fred Winterberg, and others that it was the *Justice Department* “Nazi-hunting” activities of the OSI which was the Soviet operation. Clearly this is what really rattles Hunt.

Soviet and communist intelligence services (such as the hated Stasi in East Germany) were heavily involved in Operation Paperclip—40 years after the war—to try to destroy the work, reputation, inspiration, and influence the top German space and rocket scientists who chose to become American citizens and who had devoted 30 years of their lives to making the United States the premier nation in space.

But even if one could believe that the Soviets were behind Operation Paperclip, for which this book presents no convincing evidence, what is the record? What did the German scientists do in America?

### ‘Ardent Nazis’?

The leadership of the German rocket team surrendered to (were not captured by), the Americans at the end of the war.

In 1950 the majority of the group of over 100 specialists arrived in Huntsville, Alabama to work under Gen. John Medaris at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. There they designed and tested the medium-range missiles for NATO which would help protect Western Europe from an expanding Soviet empire.

After the establishment of the civilian space program, the team was transferred to NASA in 1960. Most have stayed in Huntsville to this day. Ask a resident of Huntsville today what the effect of the Germans on their town has been. Were they spreading “anti-democratic” or anti-Semitic ideas over the past 45 years? (Apparently Linda Hunt did not take the time to make these inquiries, although we know, from her own account, that she made at least one trip there in April 1985, where this author encountered her.)

When the Germans arrived in Huntsville, it had fewer than 15,000 residents, and was known as the watercress capital of the country. Today, it has the largest space museum in the country, an astronomy observatory, a symphony orchestra, a performing arts theater, an art museum, and the finest rocket research and testing laboratory of any civilian space program in the world, at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. Huntsville has been home to the only team of scientists and engineers who built the rockets which took astronauts to the Moon, and who have, since 1948, worked on the theory and technology to take mankind to Mars. “Nazi” ideology? German, perhaps, but not Nazi.

But Hunt claims that most of these men were “ardent Nazis.” Her definition is purely formal—having been a member of the Nazi party, other organizations, year of membership, etc.—and has little to do with any one of the scientists’ ideas. Wernher von Braun, himself, she reports, was a major in the SS—a very well known fact. She neglects to report that the entire rocket development operation was placed directly under Himmler’s SS after the Aug. 17, 1943 Allied bombing of the Peenemünde Army facility: As the head of the team, von Braun had been given the ceremonial title of major in the SS.

Nor does she bother to mention the other well-known fact about “Major” Wernher von Braun: He was unceremoniously arrested by the SS and thrown into prison for “sabotaging the war effort,” because part of his top-flight design team was working on manned missions to the Moon in the “advanced projects division” at Peenemünde, while the war was still raging. Not very many “ardent Nazis,” who were considered politically trustworthy were arrested by the SS, Ms. Hunt.

Nor does Hunt mention that the wife of one of the most prominent German rocket scientists was Jewish.

The first successful test V-2 rocket did not have Adolf Hitler’s face painted on the outside. It had the emblem picturing a woman sitting on a crescent Moon, after the 1929 German movie, “The Woman in the Moon,” which had inspired many of the scientists to devote their lives to space travel.

It is a serious accusation to say someone is a "Nazi": Most of the chapters of this book are devoted to recounting in gross detail the horrible human experiments conducted on inmates of concentration camps, by doctors; indeed, some of these "Nazi doctors" were brought to the United States after the war, such as Hubertus Strughold. However, none of these people's photographs appear on the cover of Hunt's book.

Arthur Rudolph's does.

### OSI repudiated by facts

In 1986 Arthur Rudolph was exonerated of all charges of war crimes after more than two years of an exhaustive investigation by the government of West Germany. After an OSI hate campaign, Rudolph had been coerced into renouncing his U.S. citizenship and leaving the United States rather than be subjected to a deportation hearing under conditions of advanced age and ill health.

In a similar repudiation of OSI "dirty tricks," in mid-August, the war-crimes conviction of former Cleveland auto worker John Demjanjuk in Israel has been thrown into serious doubt, as 15,000 documents recently "found" by the Soviet government have turned up contemporary reports that he was not "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka concentration camp. The Justice Department's OSI had illegally—but successfully—had Demjanjuk deported to Israel, using forged evidence provided by the KGB.

The legacy of what the German rocket team brought to this country (which included classical European culture and education along with tons of technical documents), and what they built since they have been here, stand on their own.

Taking her cue from the years of slanderous attacks on Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, Hunt never attacks the *work* or the *ideas* of the German rocket team. Her tendencies, and sometimes laughably contradictory, pronouncements—ignoring what these men thought or what they accomplished—then gives us a glimpse of the real purpose of her book. In the most inflammatory fallacy of composition, Hunt concludes her mish-mash of lies, half-truths, and assertions in the final chapter with the following: "Why have we made heroes of men who assisted in one of the greatest evils in modern history? Some were unquestionably highly qualified scientists. Wernher von Braun, for example, was a brilliant man who contributed immeasurably to American missile and space programs. But he was also a Nazi collaborator. What price did we ultimately pay to tap the Germans' knowledge? The most common response is that it got us to the Moon. But how do you balance that against murder?"

Hunt is convinced that the past years' "new beginning" of relations with the "open" Soviet Union have finally proven that there was no postwar need to make use of the talents of German scientists, even for purposes of U.S. national security. Perhaps the Soviet coup attempt of the past days will give Ms. Hunt pause to compare the culture, vision, hard work, and dreams the German rocket team brought

to Huntsville, to the tanks and armaments deployed by the Nomenklatura into the streets of Moscow and Leningrad.

### References

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3. *The Rocket Team,* by Frederick Ordway and Mitchell Sharpe. 1979, Thomas Y. Crowell, New York.
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## Holmes court paved way for Nazi race hygiene

by Nora Hamerman

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### The Sterilization of Carrie Buck

by J. David Smith and K. Ray Nelson  
New Horizon Books, New Jersey, 1989  
267 pages, hardbound, bibliography, \$22.95

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This valuable book tells the story of one of the darkest blots on the history of the judiciary of the United States. The facts are summarized on the jacket blurb:

"Virginia—1924. She was 'poor white trash.' She was naive. She was teenaged and pregnant. They called her retarded. Then, they took her baby away, and committed her to the Virginia Colony for Epileptics and the Feebleminded.

"Following one of the most infamous trials of our century, she is condemned to be the first victim of the Virginia compulsory Sterilization Law.

"Two years later, Carrie Buck is sterilized—without her understanding or agreement—with the blessings and agreement of the United States Supreme Court.

"This act led to the sterilization of over 50,000 American citizens, without their consent. It was the forerunner of the Hereditary Health Law which initiated the slaughter of millions of Jews, Catholics, homosexuals, Gypsies and persons opposing the goals of Nazi Germany. Between 1933 and 1945, two million people were deemed 'defective.' At the