

Rod Rodriguez ([00:01](#)):

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Jack Murphy ([00:55](#)):

Yeah. And the occult. Um, so huge, huge subject. But we were lucky to get Eric Kurlander on the show to discuss it. You know, who is a, uh, historian of German history. Really did a lot of research for his book "Hitler's Monsters" on the Nazis and the occult.

Rod Rodriguez ([01:14](#)):

I was the guy that got to edit this episode, uh, put it together. And as I was listening to it, fascinating material, because I always, I think most people, anybody who's seen a Indiana Jones movie knows that there was this fascination, uh, of the occult of, uh, biblical lore, uh, that the Nazis had with, you know, the Ark of the Covenant, uh, spear of destiny. I mean, it's been on all of these, these movies, but what I was really fascinated by was the description of werewolves, the description of vampires, uh, the belief in astrology and this, um, this very weird take on Christianity and Jesus through this strange Nordic lore lens. Like Jesus was a, uh, a Nord essentially like a Nordic guy, uh, in the Middle East. Like, I didn't know that they really believed this at the time.

Jack Murphy ([02:22](#)):

Well, I mean, there were a number of different pseudoscience and occult beliefs that various people in Germany espoused, right? So it's not, uh, not that the, there was one unified theory. There was all sorts of different wild ideas being touted about in Germany at this time. And yeah, one of them was that Jesus was not a Jew, but he was an Aryan. And I, and there was a concerted effort made by some of the Nazi elite to almost create this sort of a pan-Aryan philosophical framework that interestingly encompassed, not just, uh, you know, what we would think of is like Scandinavia, but also going into the Arab world, going into Nepal, Tibet, uh, India and places like this as well. And trying to recast all of them is being from some sort of Aryan bloodline, uh, and what they were trying to do there, exactly, I suppose, is up for debate, but one could argue that they were trying to form the basis of a much larger empire for their thousand-year Reich.

Rod Rodriguez ([03:33](#)):

One of the things that I was surprised from this episode was I was expecting a story about Hitler looking for relics, you know, again like Indiana Jones. Uh, I thought we were gonna find out that Hitler was trying to create werewolf soldiers or, you know, kind of, uh, you know, like the, uh, the video games of today, uh, you know, uh, Nazi zombies, something in that realm. But what we found was a story of a country desperately in need of some type of identity and that, and that they turn to a man who used the occult and beliefs, uh, and religion and, and mixed it in with his own brand of fascist politics, uh, quite, quite different from what I anticipated.

Jack Murphy ([04:34](#)):

I think that one of the biggest takeaways, maybe the big takeaway from Eric's book is not that, you know, Himmler and some of the other, you know, Nazi cronies were involved in the occult. I think people kind of know that at this point. I think the big takeaway was that pseudoscience, astrology, the occult, uh, Volkish mythology, all these different things were already on the rise in Weimar Germany, that they had widespread public appeal. And that was part of what made people, um, susceptible, as you said, the Nazis took in things like the Thule society and all these different occultic beliefs and blended it with their fascist politics as a way to draw in a larger audience to create a big tent sort of conspiracy. Uh, just like what we see today with Q Anon. There are some, there are some dangerous, um, and concerning comparisons to be made there.

Jack Murphy ([05:33](#)):

But what's interesting with the Nazis is that Germany at that time was in such dire straits. They had just come out of a failed war. Uh, there's widespread unemployment, super inflation. Uh, the economy had collapsed. There were all of these things that happened that had put Germany in a very bad position. And what the Nazis did is they came around and they used a magical realism, really. They said, we're rejecting this reality because we don't like it. And we're inventing a complete parallel reality that we prefer to live in. And that kind of worked for them. Not that they were able to create their Aryan paradise, but it worked in the sense that it drew people to the Nazi party and, uh, it facilitated their rise to power.

Rod Rodriguez ([06:19](#)):

That leads me to, I guess, the big question for me, uh, I'd listened to the episode folks, if you get a chance, go listen to this one, because there's a lot to unpack. Uh, I'm going to ask a very unfair question to you, Jack, but based on your hour plus, uh, with Dr. Kurlander reading the book, you've already hinted it, the Q Anon tie-in, but I guess the big question here is, is there a tie in, is that what Kurlander Dr. Kurlander is hinting at? Like, are there some similarities that he's concerned about?

Jack Murphy ([06:57](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. And, and one of the things I, I, you know, first, uh, spoke to Eric about right off the bat, uh, I don't think it's in the interview. I don't think we're even recording at the time, but I said, you know, as I was reading your book, I was watching that guy Lindell the MyPillow guy, and he's holding his cyber rally, his cyber symposium, where he's up on stage saying that the election was stolen from Donald Trump. And he has like computer code up on the screen and quote unquote, cyber experts. And they're doing this big presentation and it's all very, it is a sort of technological shamanism, uh, a sort of cyber, a cultism that the average person doesn't even know what this code is or what it means. These like boomers these 60, 70 year old women who are in the audience.

Jack Murphy ([07:50](#)):

So he's able to project whatever he wants into it. And yeah, there are cybersecurity experts and, uh, you know, voting machine experts come out and say, this is total nonsense. This doesn't make any sense, but people are going to choose what to believe. And you have up on stage this sort of technological shaman telling you exactly what you want to hear. Um, so that's, what's concerning is that we do live in an era where there are people trying to promote this sort of like magical thinking that they're rejecting the reality, the pragmatic objective reality that we're being presented with and trying to replace it with fantasies, with fantasies where a CIA server farm in Germany was raided by, you know, commandos American commandos, a fantasy where there are these, uh, you know, child molesting elites gathering

Adrenochrome from children, um, where there are, you know, coded messages being put out by, you know, some guy named Q that we can decode and learn hidden messages from, uh, there, there is that sort of magical thinking increasingly in American politics and more and more people are buying into it.

Jack Murphy ([09:00](#)):

Um, it's, I've been talking about this for, for years now, um, particularly, uh, seeing veterans and military personnel affected by it. But I mean, look, I go to pick up Chinese food and there's a guy there at the counter we're in a Q hat. And on the back of it, it says, "Where we go, one, we go all." Like, this is, this is happening in our society. This is in the fabric of our social order now. Um, and how we put the genie back in the bottle, if it even can be, is a question that we're going to have to grapple with.

Rod Rodriguez ([09:34](#)):

That makes me concerned. Uh, and I was surprised. And, you know, that was the thing that, that my takeaway was very similar to your description. The tie-in that, the similarities between what we're seeing with some of this Q Anon stuff, uh, this idea that there, that politics is becoming a spiritual, uh, battleground.

Jack Murphy ([09:56](#)):

And the big, the big difference. I mean, the pandemic obviously really affected people's minds in a lot of different ways, but the thing we have going for us in America is our economy has held together. Now, imagine if we experienced an economic depression like Germany did after the, you know, during that time frame, you would see some really nasty things come out in American politics,

Rod Rodriguez ([10:18](#)):

Desperation. People would be desperate to re to hold onto their power, give people something hope, desperate.

Jack Murphy ([10:24](#)):

Desperate for a new narrative. Make America Great Again. How are we going to do that?

Rod Rodriguez ([10:29](#)):

I do want to give the folks in the right some credit in that you can believe in making America great again without buying into, uh, you know, satanic cabals eating children. Um, I know a lot of folks that are very involved in their political, in the, in the political action groups and the political realm where they sincerely believe that Donald Trump or whoever is on the right that they believe in is a good candidate because of the political ideas that they hold. But I think that there is a point where the left is even guilty of this, where the left may not necessarily ascribe so much in, in religion, but there is this desire for fervor. People want to be desperately ingrained in believing something, whether that's, um, uh, communism, socialism, uh, they're they they're, they're just so wrapped up in this belief that, uh, all capitalism is evil and any pursuit of personal wealth is, is indicative of your character and your unethical state of, of personal beliefs and whatnot.

Rod Rodriguez ([11:54](#)):

I'm concerned that the country is leaning in two different ways, and they're leaning super hard. I'm feeling the death of moderates. That's what I feel a lot is is that it's not cool to be a moderate anymore.

It's not OK to shake hands with the other guy. If you do, you're a traitor and you should be thrown out to the wolves. Uh, we saw that with different political parties throwing out long-held the respected members of the political group, simply because they would not back or support their main guy. And it, and it's true on both the left and the right were, were slowly becoming that the chasm between left and right is becoming deeper and deeper. I wonder how this belief in the occult, this desire for the fantastic, how this is going to play in American culture in the next couple of years.

Jack Murphy ([12:50](#)):

Yeah. As do I. Um, and I think it's probably going to get worse.

Rod Rodriguez ([12:54](#)):

I will say that, uh, one of the pieces of feedback that we got was from Chelsey Weber-Smith, and she is the host of "American Hysteria," another very popular podcast. She was reading his book, Dr. Kurlander's book for her own show, and one of her thoughts was on astrology. And she was very surprised at how much astrology had to play in the Nazi occult belief system. And I think it's interesting because like, we can look at astrology today and it's in the newspaper. It's, you know, there's still the, the, you can still look up your Zodiac sign and read your fortune, but, uh, you know, I can't help but to look at Facebook at times, and it's like, answer this questionnaire and find out what, what your, your full thing on your Pisces is, or your LIBOR, your Sagittarius, whatever.

Rod Rodriguez ([13:48](#)):

I, maybe I'm making a stretch here, man. But I looked at social media and I look at some of these questionnaires, and I look at some of this interest in the occult, and I look at the interest in astrology, and now we're all looking to the stars for aliens. And now I'm seeing a, we did a whole, a couple of episodes on aliens, and I can't help, but look at the ancient aliens and the Zodiacs and astrology and American, the American zeitgeist. And I can't help, but to wonder if we're watching it slowly happen, like this melding of religion, science and politics.

Jack Murphy ([14:25](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. And with the advent of AI, talk about technological shamans, we're all going to worship, you know, as the cult of the machine God, it's going to be wild, wild times coming, man. But I, I think with, uh, uh, Eric said was really interesting was that, that stuff you see on the History Channel today on the History Channel, this stuff about ancient aliens, where there's this, uh, super race of an advanced civilization that then fell because their society degenerated somehow, like that is one for one Nazi occult beliefs. That's what they believed that that's exactly what they believed. Uh, and that's just mainstream. Now. That's just mainstream on television every day. And as a, another friend of mine, uh, a analyst named Jade Parker, she pointed out that you've been playing conspiracy theory shows on the Learning Channel and the History Channel and everything else for the last 20 years. Everything is about JFK, assassinations and Roswell. And, uh, it and ancient aliens, like no wonder why people believe all this crazy stuff now in 2021, I mean, they've grown up with it now.

Rod Rodriguez ([15:39](#)):

I mean, there is this whole, I believe there was an actual show on History Channel about, um, Hitler and the occult. I could be mistaken. I'm not very sure, but I, I feel like I've seen a show, uh, either on the History Channel or one of these, one of these shows about Hitler and the Nazis in the occult. And that's where I thought this episode was going to go. I thought this episode was heading in that direction of like,

why Hitler was trying to find the spear of destiny or, you know, why he was trying to find, uh, the Ark of the Covenant, one of the more popular Indiana Jones episodes. But instead we ended up learning a little bit more about ourselves and, and, and finding the deeper meaning behind some of these, these myths, these, this, this lore.

Jack Murphy ([16:22](#)):

Another takeaway from it is that Hitler was not all that interested in the occult. Like he was, it wasn't really his thing. Uh, it was something he had a passing interest in, but for him, it was more seen as this is something I can use that I see that people are interested in this. They're interested in spiritualism and astrology and dowsing, and, uh, all of these sorts of odd occultish beliefs. And he saw this as something I can use as a, as a vehicle for my political party.

Rod Rodriguez ([16:55](#)):

Well, it kind of goes back to rewriting history. Doesn't it? I mean, it just seems cooler to have a Hitler who was interested in werewolves and vampires and, and, uh, the Ark of the Covenant. That seems more fun. That makes history more interesting when we say that Hitler wasn't into any of that really kinda, eh, it's kinda iffy on it. Uh, more like, uh, it was a tool used by other people to, to bring people in. Um, that's not fun. In fact, that's, that's mildly depressing because we have this idea of what might have been, uh, the films, the video games, where we have this idea, we have this, this image in our heads that Hitler wanted alien technology UFOs, uh, and the, the, the occult and spiritual relics. And I think maybe part of it is that means it Hitler wanted it. That has to mean it's real, right?

Rod Rodriguez ([18:06](#)):

Like if we're looking at this, this, this, the psycho of our, of our, uh, history that killed millions of, of Jews and, and his, you know, quote unquote, uh, undesirables, a monster like this, who had such an impact on the world if he wanted UFOs, if he wanted alien technology that was, uh, in the north pole and he wanted the spear of destiny and he wanted werewolves and he wanted all, and he believed this stuff then has the, maybe it exists. Maybe there are aliens in the north pole that he was sending Nazi, uh, scouting parties to go after. Maybe there is Ark of the Covenant in Ethiopia that he was sending, uh, Nazis to go after. That means our world is freaking cool, Jack. That means we have aliens and spiritualism and angels and demons. And that's kind of cool.

Jack Murphy ([19:07](#)):

Yeah. The, the, uh, you know, making reality as if it was a, that Wolfenstein video game from back in the day is a much more interesting and exciting than the reality, the sad reality of, you know, the Holocaust, uh, and the, the, the horrible human toll of the second world war. So I, I can, I guess I can understand from that perspective that it's a much funner to, to delve into the fantastic.

Rod Rodriguez ([19:36](#)):

Yeah. And I think that it, you know, that's the part that, that harsh reality that you just brought up. He's no, you know, it's the Holocaust. Um, you're not gonna find very many, I'm sure there are some video games where, you know, the world of, of taste is, is somewhat subjective, but you're not going to find him any video games where you're acknowledging, uh, Auschwitz, where you're acknowledging, uh, what human beings endured for years under a brutal, uh, fascist regime where, you know, they were these death camps, literal death camps, I think, eh, you know, I think at the further we, we, we unfortunately, so many of our veterans from World War II are passing away so many, uh, survivors of

the Holocaust or passing away that we people have you seen that flag of the vaccines shaped like a Nazi flag?

Rod Rodriguez ([20:36](#)):

Um, oh yeah. They, they, they take four, uh, they take a couple of syringes and they turn it into a swastika. And, uh, you know, there's a lot of comparison to the vaccine to Nazi Germany. And everyone's very quick to like, it's this Nazi-ism all over again. And I'm like, guys, I don't go talk to a survivor, go talk to a survivor of the Holocaust, ask them how closely this resembles their experience. I think, and I get it, I get it. People will argue like, well, it's the beginnings and blah, blah, blah. I think we just got to, I think we gotta be careful. I think this country just needs to take a chill, relax a little bit, take, you know, uh, acknowledge some reality that, that Dr. Kurlander I think is hinting at that. Maybe what we think is, uh, exciting and interesting might, might be the bad medicine. It might be, might be bad Juju to take down. Uh, just be careful what you're thinking, what you're accepting.

Jack Murphy ([21:38](#)):

I've been saying and writing for for years now that I've been concerned with the number of veterans I've seen getting interested in Q Anon and going down that rabbit hole. And the number of veterans, I see this, this blows my mind, but openly talking about like civil war and salivating at the idea of turning their guns on their fellow Americans, it should, it's horrifying. And like, when I pointed out to them, they're like incredulous that I, that I would even like point it out to them, like this is bat crazy. Like, what are you doing right now?

Rod Rodriguez ([22:10](#)):

And again, I'll, I know you pointed out at Q Anon, but I will say that there was also this idea of, uh, at glamorization of civil war from the left. I've seen Antifa people, you know, doing videos where they're like running around the woods with, you know, guns and they're like, we're ready to fight the fascists.

Jack Murphy ([22:31](#)):

Yeah, I, I would just point out, I mean, I would be perfectly happy to report on that stuff, too. I just have not seen too many left-wing veterans doing that. Cause I, I focus on veterans and military issues and I, so maybe that's where my perspective is somewhat skewed. Um, but I have not seen left-wing veterans like training Antifa, uh, to, to like combat or anything. Maybe it exists and, and it would be a huge story if you have any tips hit us up. Um, I just haven't seen it yet.

Rod Rodriguez ([23:07](#)):

All right, folks, that's a, I think we're going to call this a wrap. I think this is a good, fast take. We're actually under an hour for a Fast Take. So there's a plus folks. You're welcome. We actually made a fast take relatively fast, but seriously, if you have any comments or feedback about, uh, this episode about vampires, werewolves, Nazis and the occult, uh, or if you have a tip, if, if, if you are a veteran, uh, who's interested in training Antifa people, or you're on the other side of this Q Anon fence, but you, you think that there's going to be, uh, a violent rise. We want to hear from you. I want to explore all angles here. I we're, we're not a political show. I know some of you may not believe that I know we've taken our shots at Q Anon, but to Jack's point, they are very vocal group. They are all over social media and Twitter, uh, Antifa as well. I personally have yet to talk with a veteran who is riding on the Antifa bandwagon. I've yet to meet a vet who is out there doing, who believes wholeheartedly and in this foreseeable or inevitable civil war between fascists and anti-fascists.

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Jack Murphy ([24:27](#)):

I have known a few veterans who, uh, joined Antifa and it, but that they were not advocating violence, but they definitely went off the deep end from my perspective.

Rod Rodriguez ([24:41](#)):

Stay in shallow waters folks. I think staying in shallow waters. All right, anyways, I'm Rod Rodriguez. That was Jack Murphy. This is Military Matters. You can always find us at [stripes.com](https://www.stripes.com). Make sure that you're like listening and subscribing and share this podcast. We grow by word of mouth folks. So make sure you are sharing this podcast with everybody in your particular network. We will see you at the next episode.