



The Element Encyclopedia of Secret Societies: The Ultimate A-Z of Ancient Mysteries, Lost Civilizations and Forgotten Wisdom

John Michael Greer

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Discover everything you ever wanted to know about secret societies like the Freemasons, the historical mystery of Atlantis, why King Arthur, Leonardo da Vinci and Hitler are key figures, plus conspiracy theories, forgotten sciences and ancient wisdom.

A complete and informative A to Z for one of the most popular genres to have emerged in recent times – the hidden history of the last 10,000 years. This encyclopedia answers all your questions on the more controversial subjects being debated.

- Conspiracies and secret societies, e.g. Knights Templar, the Rosicrucians, the Freemasons, the Bavarian Illuminati, the Hellfire Club, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Priory of Sion. It also includes secret traditions, hidden bloodlines, extraterrestrial intervention, imminent apocalypse, and the Mayan calendar prophecies.
- Ancient wisdom and forgotten sciences, e.g. alchemy, prophecy, sacred geometry, ley lines, and magic, as well as supporting evidence for advanced technologies in ancient times e.g. the mysteries of Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids.
- Unsolved historical mysteries, e.g. the location of Atlantis, the early history of Christianity, the Holy Grail, the fate of the Knights Templar, the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, the causes of the French Revolution, and the occult roots of Nazism.
- Key figures in hidden history – Pythagoras, Jesus of Nazareth, Leonardo da Vinci, King Arthur, Roger Bacon, John Dee, Alessandro Cagliostro, the Comte de St. Germain, Benjamin Franklin, and Adolf Hitler.

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Dan Robert says

Encyclopaedias of whatever size are not usually read through. And it's not usually done largely for entertainment. Yet that's exactly what I did with this one, enjoying myself thoroughly in the process in fits and starts over a year and a half. Coherence, accurate information and cross-referencing are not normally associated with books about secret societies, alternative histories and rejected knowledge, yet John Michael Greer deserves a standing ovation for painstakingly researching his material, putting together a unique reference that holds up all the way through. There's serious scholarship throughout here, but Greer also has a great sense of humour evident in discussing some of the fringier elements that the human consciousness can come up with. One shouldn't be keeping a straight face when writing an entry about the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, either.

Greer also recognizes the dangers inherent in delusional thought patterns reinforced through paranoia and hatred, something reflected when he delineates the occult bases of the SS and the neo-Nazi movement and groups such as the Solar Temple. The ironic lesson repeated throughout is that falsehoods and pure fabrications often don't cause the most damage at their point of inception. They ferment throughout the years as some people choose to believe them as unassailable fact and move their errors from wrong thought to wrong action. Proof that the documents are completely fictitious does not deter these true believers. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion's continued existence is a shameful example of this. But then there's always the Church of the Sub-Genius to remind us when we take some things too seriously.

Alphabetical would not quite describe the way I read this. I did start with A, but then followed related articles throughout, keeping track on what became two pages of very small and cramped writing branching out like some kind of evil fungus. Once all interconnections were tapped out, I skimmed through the whole volume, reading orphaned articles of which there were surprisingly few. The core was Freemasonry, barrelling throughout with a heavy dose of Theosophy and Blavatsky radiating to the stranger modern incarnations. The surprise was to realize how much room the Priory of Sion fuelled by Holy Blood and Holy Grail and of course the Da Vinci Code took up here. It's always stunning to realize how many people would rather not be confused by what we know of factual history once they've gotten a hold of a juicy conspiracy.

Lionkhan-sama says

Wow. What a superbly comprehensive book. I must commend the author for maintaining a purely objective view throughout, despite himself being involved in secret societies.

Honestly, I must say this book was a shock in many regards. A violent slap in the face, giving a more realistic view of secret societies and almost anything that has to do with them. So much information that I previously took for fact was clarified in a new light. The difference between the theories surrounding secret societies and their actual histories is ridiculous.

An eye-opener in many regards, this book really had me hooked all throughout reading. An excellent reference.

Charbel says

Informative to say the least. This heavy book is a great reference to all secret societies. It is well written and well organized.

Michelle says

Another brilliant book in this series!
Very interesting.
Great for reasearch.

Charlot says

The only encyclopedia I ever read and it was worth it. Great reference!

Nawal Al Hosani Scorpion DOADA says

Its a reference as the title suggests.... & Really detailed and informative and some what inspiring....

Jasmin says

Just as wonderful as the others in the series that I own, I find it quiet helpful and yes while your not suppose to read it cover to cover. I did, as I have the others, and I loved it. Hopefully helpful with many stories yet to come.

nikki says

this series is a good starter pack. it contains brief information on a lot of different things, and is a good place to do beginner reference and expand further from there. i'm also a sucker for the format and style of the books - they just look good, and i can't help but think of how good they'd look together on my bookshelf. as a bibliophile, i really like this series.

obviously, don't consult these for in-depth research. but, again, they're a good place to start broad, wide-ranging consultation. not to be crass but they'd be good bathroom/coffee table reading, too. it's kind of like wikipedia - great place to dip your feet in, but it's just the surface, and should be taken with a grain of salt. very useful if used properly.

William Hrdina says

Great, simple resource

Kendra says

Really big, tons of information. It's an encyclopedia, so one really more flips through it, then truly reads it, but it will be well-used in the future on my shelf. I really enjoy the "Element Encyclopedia" series as a whole.

June Savoie says

Some societies are missing. Not an accurate encyclopedia.

Donna Rochow - Poljarevic says

What can I say it's an encyclopedia
