

Anti-Communism Warrior Dies

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Lt. Gen. Ion Mihai Pacepa, in 1978 the highest ranked defector to the United States from the Soviet Bloc Intelligence Services (Romania), died Feb 14, 2021, at age 92, in an undisclosed location. He had been in hiding from communist assassins since his defection.

Lord Christopher Monckton, an adviser to the late Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said that Pacepa was the “most influential man of the 20th century and, arguably, the beginning of the 21st” because he revealed for Western intelligence services the communist, and particularly the Soviet Communist, decades-long disinformation program. Small wonder that the communists had a \$2 million bounty on Pacepa’s head.

Unfortunately, most people have no knowledge of Pacepa’s work and his writings to warn the West about the communist menace.

After two decades in communist intelligence work for Romania, Pacepa became head of Romania’s new industrial espionage department. Two years later he became right-hand man to communist Romania’s dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu. He played an important role in international communist politics and propaganda activities—connected with communist leaders of the time around the world—Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, Nikita Khrushchev—while serving the tyrant Ceausescu.

In 1978 he’d had enough and risked his life to come to the U.S. President Jimmy Carter was naive enough to believe communist disinformation about Pacepa, and wanted to return him to certain death in Romania, but Carter relented when the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) showed him the reality of Pacepa’s value and intentions as a defector. Pacepa wrote of his story in the book *Red Horizons*, which was lauded by President Ronald Reagan as an excellent guidebook for anti-communists. The book was also the prime exhibit for the conviction and execution of Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

If we had paid more attention to Ion Mihai Pacepa, we wouldn’t be asking questions about Russian manipulation or disruption of Western nations’ politics.

Pacepa worked with the CIA on multiple projects to blunt the efforts of the communist Eastern European Bloc, but they discarded him by the 1990s because he was conservative and anti-communist, and the intelligence services have been compromised. For example, one of his unpopular assertions was that Muslim terrorists are tools of Russia.

Pacepa’s warnings to the Western world are in his book *Disinformation: Former Spy Chief Reveals Secret Strategies for Undermining Freedom, Attacking Religion, and Promoting Terrorism*, with Ronald J. Rychlak (WND Books 2013). It reveals the reach and influence of communist propaganda and disinformation and its ability to compromise Western culture, traditions, and institutions, and to influence movements in target societies. He warns us not to underestimate the magnitude of effort; the effectiveness of the communist intelligence, propaganda, and espionage operations; or their ability to sow seeds of destruction in Western societies. For example, all foreign representatives of the Soviet Union—physicians, nurses, engineers—were saboteurs, or at least

provocateurs for the movement. Had they not been agents for the regime, they would not have been allowed out of the country.

Disinformation challenges the false histories and slanders, the effort to tear down Christianity, even Popes, and of course bishops and cardinals in the Eastern European countries. Pacepa tells about how the Kremlin, even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is working the disinformation project against Jews to energize the Islamic threat against the West, and how it actively supports terrorism around the world.

Pacepa wrote of how the communists made Pope Pius XII “Hitler’s Pope” despite his efforts to help the Jews and his wide acclaim among them. He was propagandized to a whole generation as an anti-Semite. The long list of other multifarious operations by the Russian intelligence community that Pacepa describes include infiltration of many institutions.

For example, he discusses the National Council of Churches and the Enterprise for Democratic Renewal. Is the decline of Christianity, with serial efforts to discredit religious leaders, just the natural development of things, or possibly infiltration of mainline churches, and propaganda aimed at character assassination?

Is the socialist drift of academic institutions spontaneous, or the result of disinformation?

Did the radical leftist attitudes of the Democratic Party as far back as McGovern in 1972 stem solely from McGovern’s background as a young communist lawyer, or are they a product of disinformation?

Was Liberation Theology, the thinly veiled Marxist socialist pseudo-religious activism, which started in South American Catholicism and spread to Catholic clergy and now all the way to the socialist papacy—formerly a bastion of anti-communism—the result of disinformation?

The Left in the U.S. portrays America as the source of evil and oppression, and as guilty of heinous sins against humanity. Would that be a natural thought development?

Pacepa’s last book is *Operation Dragon—Inside the Kremlin’s Secret War on America*, co-authored with Ambassador James Woolsey (Encounter Books 2021). It dissects the evidence that makes the case for Khrushchev’s hand in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. A disinformation campaign was undertaken to blame Americans in government agencies and/or Lyndon Johnson and American oilmen. The “blame America” theme has certainly picked up speed and energy in the past two decades.

Ion Pacepa was America’s most important intelligence acquisition of the last 50 years. He provided insights available only from a well-trained communist intelligence officer. Unfortunately, U.S. intelligence services were themselves compromised by an aggressive communist program of disinformation. Our vulnerability as an open society has been expertly used in a campaign that could result in our destruction.

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