

The strange alliances of Nation Of Islam

The Nation Of Islam (NOI) was founded in Detroit in 1930 by one W D Fard, a self-appointed Muslim prophet (although some reports describe him as a Druze), who had strong anti-white views. One of his first recruits was Elijah Muhammad, who soon went on to lead the organisation and develop its ideology, which ranges from the repugnant to the bizarre. He held that black people originated on the Moon and that whites were the result of a botched experiment by a mad scientist.

The NOI demanded separation of races and an end to racial intermarriage. A venal antisemitism was very obvious. NOI members were allowed only one meal a day and could only eat bread that was baked twice and at least three days old.

The NOI made little impact until the late 1950s, when it recruited Malcolm X, a former pimp and drug pusher, in prison. A brilliant public speaker and organiser, he soon pushed the NOI onto the national stage. However he began to have doubts about the NOI's racial policies after making the Haj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca, where he saw Muslims of all colours praying, eating and talking together in harmony. At the same time he started to develop the idea that poor whites and poor blacks had more in common than they had differences.

Malcolm X left the NOI in 1963 to set up his own black Muslim organisation, which grew rapidly. On 4 December 1964 a rising NOI star called Louis Farrakhan made a vicious attack on him which included the statement: "such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death". On 21 February 1965 Malcolm X was murdered by three NOI gunmen.

Muhammad died in 1973 to be succeeded by his son Wallace, who started to move the NOI towards the Islamic mainstream. This was too much for Farrakhan. He and a few others left and set up a rival NOI in 1975, which he still leads today.

The antisemitism and racial separatism of the NOI led it into cooperation with the Ku Klux Klan and a variety of nazi organisations. There is a bizarre logic to these alliances. Both nazis and the NOI believe in racial purity and segregation, both believe that Jews are secretly in control of the world. They both hate leftists, feminists, gays, Asians and Hispanics. Both admire Hitler. They just agree to differ on who is the master race.

One early NOI KKK meeting took place in the Magnolia Hall in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1961, when Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X met KKK leaders. They agreed that a black homeland should be set up in parts of South Carolina and Georgia, but only on condition that the KKK take state power.

Muhammad's attitude must have impressed the National Socialist International because he became a member shortly afterwards.

This collaboration continued on a regular basis. A few years later Farrakhan was on the platform at an NOI meeting, at which members of the American Nazi Party in full nazi uniform sat in the front row as honoured guests.

Farrakhan's new organisation publicly accepted donations from Tom Metzger, a for-

National Front leaflet in praise of Farrakhan. Below: order form for anti-Jewish books in *The Final Call*

| QTY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE | NOI? |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|------|
| | THE BIGGEST LIE EVER TOLD(JABBBAR) | 9.95 | |
| | AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X(HALEY) | 5.95 | |
| | THE PLOT, CAUSE, SOLUTION(JABBBAR) | 4.95 | |
| | THE INTERNATIONAL JEW(H. FORD SR.) | 9.95 | |
| | THE SLAVE SHIP(E.G. STERNE) | 2.95 | |
| | BOOK OF THE DEAD(BUDGE) | 9.95 | |
| | CULT OF THE BLACK VIRGIN(EAN BEGG) | 9.95 | |
| | PROTOCOLS OF ZION | 7.95 | |
| | PAGAN ORIGINS, CHRIST MYTHS(JACKSON) | 3.95 | |
| | GOLDEN AGES OF AFRICA(JACKSON) | 3.95 | |
| MERCHANDISE TOTAL | | | |
| (OHIO ONLY) 5.75% TAX | | | |
| \$2 FOR 1ST BOOK, \$1 EACH FOR MORE - SHIPPING | | | |
| WE SHIP IMMEDIATELY !! | | TOTAL | |

mer KKK leader who went on to lead White Aryan Resistance. Both nazis and the NOI try to recruit in prisons and have held joint meetings inside various prisons.

Internationally Farrakhan likes to get around and has been officially welcomed in a number of countries recently, including Ghana, China, the Sudan, where he managed to ignore the thriving slave trade in young children, and Libya, to meet the well known bankroller of fascists Colonel Gaddafi. The colonel doubtless called in a few financial favours to arrange his visit to South Africa, where Winnie Mandela slobbered all over him in public while Nelson Mandela at least criticised his policies.

In 1986 Farrakhan was denied entry into Britain by the then Home Secretary Douglas Hurd. The campaign against the ban was led by black nationalists, supported by some leftists and liberals and the Third Positionists within the leadership of the National Front, who were trying to work with British black separatists and Muslim extremists.

The Third Positionists tried to ingratiate themselves by publishing, in the March 1986 edition of *Nationalism Today*, a sycophantic photo feature on the NOI written by one of Farrakhan's lieutenants. It worked. In 1988 the NOI used the NF to import and distribute its paper, *The Final Call*, in Britain. The NF's

successor organisation continues to write favourably about the NOI and maintains links with black separatists. Of late the British National Party's Michael Newland has also expressed respect for the NOI's views.

The number of NOI members in the UK is probably far fewer than 1,000 but with a much bigger periphery. Their main activity is selling *The Final Call* mainly in black areas such as Tottenham and Brixton. The NOI has a shop in Dalston and rents offices in the Angell Town Estate from Lambeth Council in south London. It also has other premises in London, at which regular meetings are held to push Farrakhan's views.

At an NOI meeting that took place under the guise of a "People's Trust" rally in Clapton, east London on 30 October 1994, a speaker calling himself Brother James expressed the view that "the black community should not trade with the enemy, those Jewish hooked-nosed bagel-eating crackers". Although Minister Wayne X condemned these remarks, the audience countered by chanting: "tell the truth, tell the truth, tell the truth about the Jews". Not to be outdone, the next speaker, Derek Hunt, told his enthusiastic audience: "The gas ovens at Auschwitz

were a divine retribution against the Jews".

The main NOI publication is the bimonthly *The Final Call*, which carries reports of Farrakhan's regular meetings with Elijah Muhammad in a spaceship. There are pages on numerology and why one should not eat peanuts. A lot of the features are about matters of genuine concern to the black community, such as police racism, education, the prison service and Aids.

Then there are the nastier articles and cartoons; the antisemitism is still there although slightly toned down. One aspect of *The Final Call* that has received little publicity is the vicious campaign against Asian shopkeepers in black neighbourhoods. Seizing on one incident, such as allegedly selling meat past its sell-by date, the NOI goes on to incite hatred against the whole Asian community. A recent issue carried a cartoon accusing Hispanics of selling rotten meat and mouldy bread to black customers.

But it is in the books advertised for sale that the NOI shows its true colours. The list includes *The International Jew* by Henry Ford and the notorious antisemitic forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, both nazi classics. There is a host of conspiracy type books as well as the none-too-subtly titled *The Jews And Their Lies*. One of the most unpleasant offerings is *The Secret Relationship Between The Blacks And The Jews*, the premise of which is that because some Jews were involved in the slave trade, the Jews were solely responsible for killing 100,000,000 blacks during the slave trade.

The rest of the paper is made up of NOI self-publicity, advertisements for NOI businesses and fundraising appeals. A badly produced British NOI magazine, *Sign of the Times*, appeared sporadically from 1996 to 1997 but now seems defunct.