

J. Edgar Hoover's Nazi Friends



FBI chief Hoover: Hitler's stooge?

As Hitler overran Europe, FBI head J. Edgar Hoover was busy cooperating with the Nazis who ran Interpol.

Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization), which today has more than 100 countries as members, was begun in 1923 as a private organization composed of law enforcement agencies from participating nations. Hitler needed just such a police network for his conquest plans, and he had Interpol headquarters moved to Berlin in 1938.

The Nazis had just taken over Interpol when Hoover decided the FBI should join its ranks. He corresponded with Interpol's Nazi officials and even sent one Nazi admirer a signed photo.

Meanwhile, the FBI sought Interpol's aid in capturing American criminals. The notations "Jewish type" and "Jewish race" appeared on some descriptions of Americans in Interpol's police journal. FBI information did not include religious affiliation for any other American fugitives. As late as 1940—long after the Nazis' mass extermination of the Jews must have been known to Hoover—the label "Jewish type" persisted.

The FBI director maintained that Interpol was a neutral police agency. In fact, Interpol had two Nazi presidents from 1938 to 1941. One was hanged in 1946 for war crimes. It was not until *three days* before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that Hoover stopped cooperation with the Nazi police. In 1945, at war's end, Hoover and the FBI rejoined Interpol. Hoover was its vice president from 1946 to 1950.

Today the U.S. pays annual dues of about \$500,000 to the organization. Interpol has refused to assist in hunting Nazi war criminals still at large, maintaining that such "political" involvement runs counter to its charter.