

# E. MICHAEL JONES

## INTRODUCTION

E. Michael Jones is a Catholic writer who seeks to defend traditional Catholic teachings and values from those he perceives as seeking to undermine them. At various times such diverse groups as Protestants, urban planners, and moviemakers have been the subjects of his ire, but a longstanding obsession of Jones is the damage that he believes Jews are inflicting on the Catholic Church and western civilization.

## IDEOLOGY

E. Michael Jones is an anti-Semitic Catholic writer who promotes the view that Jews are dedicated to propagating and perpetrating attacks on the Catholic Church and moral standards, social stability, and political order throughout the world. He portrays the Jewish religion as inherently treacherous and belligerent towards Christianity. He describes Jews as “outlaws and subversives [who use] religion as a cover for social revolution,” and claims that Judaism possesses “a particularly malignant spirit.” Jones also imagines the contemporary world, with its social ills, as having been cast in the imprint of Judaism, characterizing 21st-century civilization as “a Jewish world run on commercial principles.” He also identifies this “Jewish modernity” as representing “blood, the law, calculation, and hate.”

In the tradition of conspiracy theorists, Jones credits Jews with orchestrating occurrences as varied and disconnected from the Jewish experience as the Protestant Reformation and the French Revolution. He also blames Jews for Bolshevism, Freemasonry, and an alleged contemporary “Jewish takeover of American culture.” Jones reaches for tenuous connections to paint “the Jews” as inherently wicked and prone to colluding openly or secretly to threaten other populations around them.

Jones argues that mass killings of Jews throughout history have been understandable reactions to Jewish beliefs and behavior. He goes so far as to justify Eastern European pogroms and even the Nazi Holocaust on these grounds. As he wrote in a 2003 *Culture Wars* article, “[T]he Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jews was a reaction to Jewish Messianism (in the form of Bolshevism) every bit as much as the Chmielnicki pogroms flowed from the excesses of the Jewish tax farmers in the Ukraine.”

Jones' views are not limited to religious Jews. He applies his theory of Jewish subversiveness to Jews of all ideological and religious stripes, from traditional rabbis and political conservatives to militant atheists and Marxists. For Jones, any Jew who does not embrace Christianity rejects God and the natural order of the universe. Jones therefore concludes unambiguously that “every Christian, insofar as he is a Christian, must be anti-Jewish.”

Jones' anti-Semitic writings are premised on the idea that Catholic doctrine obligates the faithful to oppose Judaism, regardless of the behavior of individual Jews. The Vatican and most Catholics have thoroughly repudiated anti-Semitism, but Jones still declares himself to be a defender of normative Catholic teachings. Jones' contention that his beliefs have theological foundations may give him a degree of legitimacy among some Catholics who would otherwise be dismissive of his extremist conclusions.

Writing on the controversy surrounding Holocaust-denying Bishop Richard Williamson of the ultra-traditionalist Society of St. Pius X, Jones criticizes the Vatican's condemnation of Williamson's words: "the Church can have unity or she can have good relations with the Jews, but she can't have both." Jones herein expresses his ideological opposition to anything Jewish; although he does not deny the Holocaust himself, he believes that the Church must at all times oppose Jewry and must not acknowledge Jewish grievances even when valid.

### BACKGROUND: JONES' JOURNEY TO EXTREMISM

After growing up in a working-class neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pa., Jones came to promote anti-Semitic conspiracy theories following a tumultuous personal journey beginning in his early adult years. According to autobiographical sources, Jones initially abandoned the Catholic faith of his upbringing at age 20, embraced the counterculture of the 1960s, and spent his honeymoon stuck in traffic on the way to the Woodstock music festival. In the 1970s, Jones spent time in a rural area of Germany teaching English. Jones reconnected with Catholicism while living in Germany, and also became concerned with the loss of ethnic and religious traditions in the West. Upon his return to the United States, he earned a Ph.D. in American history and literature from Temple University and then assumed a position as assistant professor of American Literature at St. Mary's College, a Catholic women's school in South Bend, Indiana, from which he was quickly fired. Jones claims that he was dismissed from this job because of his outspoken opposition to abortion.

In 1981, Jones founded *Fidelity* magazine as a platform for Catholics who believed that "modernity" and the liberal Church were having a destructive impact upon popular culture and traditional religious communities. In his early books such as *The Slaughter of Cities*, Jones railed against what he viewed to be the disintegration of immigrant Catholic neighborhoods. He blamed a Protestant-WASP elite, and to a lesser extent Jews, for seeking to dominate Catholic populations and to facilitate the decay of the spiritual and geographic foundations of their faith. In following years, Jones increasingly focused his claims on Jews as the main foreign population attempting to harm the wellbeing of Catholic communities. He published numerous articles in his magazine, renamed *Culture Wars* in 1996, about an alleged Jewish conspiracy to undermine not only the Catholic faith but also American society through social, political, cultural, and economic subversion. Many of these pieces would later be republished in a recent book entitled *The Jewish Revolutionary Spirit*, linked together to create the portrait of a people seeking worldwide social and political instability in the hopes of harming society's moral core.

In addition to his published writings, Jones has also expressed intolerant views in a CD that he released in 2003 entitled "Watching MTV: Neoethnic Songs and Dances." The album includes an anti-Jewish song entitled "Fear the Jews," as well as other songs with homophobic and anti-Semitic lyrics authored by Jones.

### JONES AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The position that Jones articulates about Judaism is one that does not enjoy the support of the Catholic Church, and his views are considered to be extreme even in staunchly traditionalist circles. Many Catholics have denounced Jones' bigoted rhetoric and exploitation of Catholic teachings for his own purposes. Responding to his participation on a panel in Prague in September 2006, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, Archbishop of Prague, released a statement criticizing Jones for his outreach to "political extremists, Lefebvrites, nationalists, anti-Semites, Islamists and neo-Nazis." In 2004, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil

Rights “unequivocally condemned” Jones for his anti-Semitism and denounced “his efforts to justify it in the name of Catholic theology.” It also strongly criticized Jones for “outrageously blam[ing] the Jews themselves for the Holocaust and pogroms.”

#### EXTREMIST AFFILIATIONS

In his writings, Jones takes pains to clarify that his views on Jews are not based on racial theories, and that he is “anti-Jewish” but not “anti-Semitic”. Nevertheless, he courts individuals on the extremist fringe of American society whose racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia is unmistakable. Jones' book *The Jewish Revolutionary Spirit* cites such bigoted sources as Holocaust denier Michael A. Hoffman II and anti-Semitic ideologue Professor Kevin MacDonald. To market *The Jewish Revolutionary Spirit*, Jones has also sought the support of extremist, conspiracy-theorist radio and television hosts such as Hesham Tillawi, Henry Makow, and Peter Schaenk. Alex Linder featured the book on his virulently racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic internet radio program Radio Istina. The radio program is broadcast on Linder's Vanguard News Network, a white supremacist website whose slogan is “No Jews. Just Right.” Jones has also formed working relationship with the far-left anti-Semitic writer Israel Shamir, a Russian-born Jewish convert to Christianity. Jones' extremist associations, and the support he enjoys among the radical fringe, underscore his hateful message.