

British archives hiding royal family's links to anti-Semitism in 1930s, says historian

JP O'Malley writes in the [a biography of Edward VIII](#), who was king for six months in 1936 only to voluntarily abdicate so he could marry an American divorcee. Ziegler has written that Edward VIII was only "mildly anti-Semitic."

In her book, much of Urbach's narrative focuses on royal relative Carl Edward and his loyalty to the Nazi movement for nearly two decades. It would appear his ties to Hitler helped to create a widespread culture of anti-Semitism among the British monarchy.

"Carl Edward's British network was very useful for Hitler," the German historian explains from an University of London office in the Institute of Historical Research, where she is currently a senior fellow.

"Hitler was an Anglophile, and his dream [during the early 1930s] was to have an alliance with Britain," says Urbach.



German historian Karina Urbach says the British royals are covering up an anti-Semitic past. (courtesy)

"Hitler needed people who had access to the elite in Britain. Carl Edward was therefore ideal. He was born in Britain, and he was related to Queen Mary, who was very pro-German. She invited Carl Edward several times to England and had a correspondence with him that has mysteriously vanished," says Urbach.

"The Royal Archives in Britain are hindering research on this subject," she alleges.

Urbach believes letters the British monarchy is presently holding back from the public would potentially shed far more light on details about Coburg's relationship with Hitler. Unfortunately, though, they are still under strict censorship. Or, she believes, they may have been destroyed.

"After 1945, and the de-Nazification trials, [German aristocrats] burned a lot," says Urbach.

Gleaning more information on how members of the British Monarchy empathized with and supported the Nazi regime during the 1930s is today almost impossible, says Urbach, because the Royal Archives at Windsor have a strict embargo on royal correspondence for the interwar years.



The Duke and Duchess of Windsor meet Adolf Hitler, 1937 (Wikipedia)

It's hardly surprising. During the 1920s and 30s, under the influence of conversations they had with their German relatives, many British royals became deeply embroiled in Fascist ideas, even flirting with Nazi ideology. Although

Nazism clearly waged an ideological war on the upper classes, it did not, unlike Bolshevism, threaten to dispossess private property from aristocrats.

While publicly, Hitler may have mocked members of the aristocracy as degenerates, privately he knew how useful a group of socially well-connected individuals could be in the poker game of international diplomacy.