

CENTER FOR TACTICAL MAGIC

When the early Egyptian pharaohs put the call out for magi and mystics throughout the land, it was both academic and strategic. On the one hand, the quest was to assemble in one place those who professed spiritual, occult, or unconventional knowledge. This mystical census, as it were, sought to test their skills accordingly with the hope of determining a thorough system of working magic. On the other hand, the gathering of seers and scryers, prophets and priests, conjurers and con men, was a strategic assemblage of those who wielded some degree of power. Recognizing both that powerful allies could come in handy for one trying to rule an empire, and that power left unchecked could eventually create problems for authority, the pharaoh wisely invited the vast array of magicians to remain guests of the palace. Given a choice between hocking their skills in the bazaar or dining with royalty, the choice for many of these magicians-in-residence would have been easy. As for those who did not aspire to partake in the priestly caste or whose abilities proved deficient, there was always the final vanishing act. And so the consolidation of occult power began, continuing on to European monarchs with their court sorcerers, up through the ages to today where governments recruit the best and the brightest with the temptation of high-dollar military contracts, expansive research facilities, and catch-22 plea bargains for computer hackers, con artists, and talented magic-users. Whether we understand "occult" to mean "hidden or secretive" or we understand it as "rooted in magic, metaphysics, and /or the supernatural", we are accurate in declaring an intimate relationship between military, government, and the occult.

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A Voice from the Past
The art of magic has prevailed in most ages and in most parts of the globe. Let no one wonder that it has wielded very great authority inasmuch as it embraces three other sources of influence. No one doubts that it took its rise in medicine and sought to cloak itself in the garb of a science more profound and holy than the common run. It added to its tempting promises the force of religion, after which the human race is groping, especially at this time. Further it has brought in the arts of astrology and divination. For everyone desires to know what is to come to him and believes that certainty can be gained by consulting the stars. Having in this way taken captive the feelings of man by a triple chain it has reached such a pitch that it rules all the world and in the East, governs the King of Kings."

Pliny the Elder lived in ancient Rome from 23-79 A.D. where he was a cavalry officer, an advisor to emperors, and the author of at least 75 books – most notably, Natural History, a 37-volume work regarded as the first encyclopedia.



**GOVERNMENT,
MILITARY, & MAGIC**