

Conspiracy

“One of the reasons for conspiracy theories is an assumption that people in high places always know what they are doing. When they do something that makes no sense, devious reasons are imagined by conspiracy theorists, when in fact it may be due to plain old ignorance and incompetence.”

– Thomas Sowell –

It isn't long after a tragedy or event of great significance that conspiracy theories arise. Once launched such theories often take on an immortal life of their own despite any and all evidence to the contrary. Why does this happen? What causes us to gravitate to stories of conspiracy? What causes us to believe and even want to believe complex and convoluted theories?

Underlying most conspiracy theories is a deep seated unsatisfactory feeling attached to the accepted explanations. It just seems that the official answers are too simple, depend upon basic stupidity, are the result of incredible coincidence, or just seem so senseless or lacking in meaning. The shooting death of a president, the explosion and crash of an airliner, the collapse of large buildings all scream for great meaning that seems elusive in the official stories.

In the assassination of President Kennedy, conspiracy theories have a dime a dozen. They involve the CIA, FBI, Mafia, Castro, and various combinations of all of the above plus a few more. Why? Mostly because a popular president killed by a single, otherwise inconsequential lone person is so meaningless. Yet, if there was no conspiracy, why was there so much scrambling by various agencies after the fact? Could it have been as simple as each agency realizing they really failed at the job they were given and not wanting to be the one to have to take the blame? Could it be as simple as the human nature of not wanting to be the one to take the blame when you know you didn't do your job as well as you could have and should have? Still, wasn't their inexplicable evidence like the miracle bullet?

In the conspiracy theories the miracle bullet is claimed to be pristine after having passed through Kennedy and Connelly. Also there is the ever prevalent claim that the bullet could not have traveled through them both without going uphill between them. As good as this seems in regard to evidence there is a problem. It ignores basic facts. The pristine bullet isn't pristine. It's bent. It also ignores the fact that Connelly was not sitting in a regular seat, but was actually seated lower than the President in the back seat. When everything is placed in proper perspective and compared with the medical reports the entry and exit wounds of the President and Gov. Connelly line up perfectly. Still there is the not-quite-pristine bullet. Could it have passed through them both and just be a little bent? In short, yes. Exactly this scenario has been duplicated with two ballistic gel torsos, the same model rifle from the same distance and height and on the same trajectory. The result? A bullet that passed through both, was slightly bent but otherwise “pristine” and with wounds consistent with medical reports. So, what everyone claimed is not possible was not only possible but has been duplicated.

