

The Encyclopedia of Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories

By Michael Newton

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Does the CIA covertly utilize "mind control" drugs and techniques? Are satanic messages subliminally hidden in popular music? Were Freemasons behind London's Jack the Ripper murders? Did Kurt Cobain really commit suicide, or was he murdered? Did American astronauts really walk on the moon or was the whole event concocted on a sound stage? Does your vote really count or is the U.S. president chosen by secretive societies such as the Bilderberg Group, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Illuminati? In an objective, fact-based manner, The Encyclopedia of Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories thoroughly documents, discusses, and explores these and other provocative questions. This intriguing reference provides more than 500 detailed entries that define the major conspiracies, both proven and unproven, throughout history. From the "inheritance powder" of the Medicis to the U.N. oil-for-food scandal, this encyclopedia investigates the broad history of conspiracies and their impact on global affairs and everyday life. Entries include biographies, specific events, profiles of groups, and thumbnail histories of notorious nations, each noting whether the conspiracy at hand is documented (BCCI, Project Paperclip) or speculative (alien abductions, New World Order) and offering concise analysis of the evidence and plausibility.

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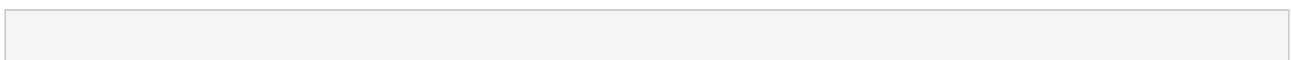
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Editorial Review

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Conspiracies and conspiracy theories, both documented and undocumented, abound in our world. Many of these, even though documented, are only theoretical and not actual fact, and as author Newton states, "some are absurd, transparently ridiculous, or even physically impossible." However, they certainly make for fascinating reading.

This volume's 500-plus entries are arranged alphabetically and encompass people; conspiratorial organizations and movements; nations involved in conspiracies; specific events; and general essays on social, political, or religious movements. The selection of topics represents what Newton considers "significant" conspiracy and conspiracy theories--that is, those that affect large numbers of people or inspire widespread interest. Entries are typically one-half to three and one-half pages in length. Names or terms in small caps within an entry refer to subjects with their own entries. The volume contains more than 80 black-and-white photographs. The 200 or so listings in the bibliography are limited to sources published or translated in the English language.

Topics include those one would expect to find: *Alien abductions*, *Holocaust and Holocaust denial*, *Iran-Contra conspiracy*, *Oklahoma City bombing*, and *UFOs*. Treating less-familiar theories are *Barbie dolls*, *Suppressed inventions*, and *Undead outlaws*. There are also entries on police departments from several major cities, such as Chicago and L.A. In addition to John F. Kennedy, other presidents have entries--for example, both Bushes, Clinton, Johnson, Lincoln, Nixon, and Washington.

Many entries overlap with those in the more scholarly *Conspiracy Theories in American History: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2003). However, several subjects in the volume under review are not in the 2003 publication (e.g., *Apollo project*; *Enron*; *Silkwood, Karen*; *Simpson, O. J.*; *USA Patriot Act*). With their different scopes, both works would be a great addition to a library's collection. If funds won't allow the purchase of both, however, this recent volume would be a good choice on its own, especially for high-school and public libraries. *kaye talley*

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About the Author

Michael Newton is a professional writer who has published more than 140 books. He has written primarily about crime, with a specialization in serial murder. His books for Facts on File/Checkmark Books include *The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers*; *The Encyclopedia of High-Tech Crime and Crime-Fighting*; *The Encyclopedia of Kidnappings*; *The Encyclopedia of Robberies, Heists, and Capers*; and *The Encyclopedia of Unsolved Crimes*. He lives in Nashville, TN.

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