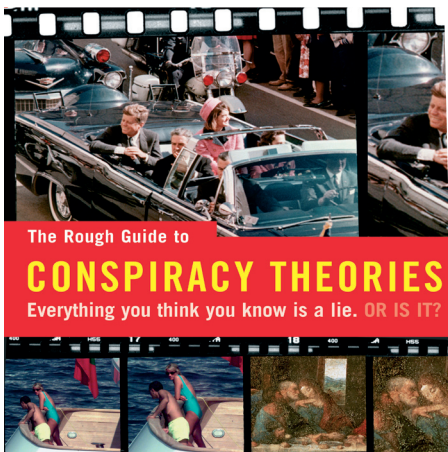


# The Rough Guide to Conspiracy Theories

by James McConnachie and Robin Tudge



Now more than ever before the idea that mega-conspiracies are responsible for great events and changes occurring in the world is moving into mainstream America.

The box office sales for Michael Moore's various right-wing conspiracy theory-riddled documentaries have been unprecedented. *The Da Vinci Code*, (in)famous vehicle of Templar intrigue and Christian scandal, has been riding high on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 32 weeks. And this enthusiasm shows no sign of dropping off.

Chronicling with a critical eye and wry wit the conspiracy theories that have cropped up around events from Y2K to 9/11, secret societies like the Rosicrucians and the Freemasons, and calamities and cover-ups ranging from Roswell to the Apollo moon landing, *The Rough Guide to Conspiracy Theories* is the definitive guide to all conspiracy theories troubling and just plain troubled.

## Highlights include:

- A conspiracy theory archive listing the best of books, websites, and movies that address conspiracies
- Coverage of all theories grand and gimmicky, domestic and abroad, from Chechen rebels to the 'suicide' of British microbiologist David Kelley
- Feature boxes on the most controversial figures, topics, political organizations, and case studies
- Illustrations throughout, including pictures of Princess Di, Bill Gates (the anti-christ?), Saddam Hussein, political posters, maps, and paintings ranging from a Knight Templar to a scene of people dying of Bubonic (Black) Plague

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When not monitoring the spread of conspiracy theories online, JAMES MCCONNACHIE works as a photographer and TV presenter, and is currently writing a 'biography' of the Kama Sutra for Atlantic Books. He is the author of *The Rough Guide to Paris*, *The Rough Guide to the Loire*, and is co-author of *The Rough Guide to Nepal*.

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from **THE ROUGH GUIDE TO CONSPIRACY THEORIES** (pg. 192):

## MK-Ultra

The notion of a programmable agent who robotically carries out assassinations for the CIA, and then has no memory of who told him to so do, has cropped up in speculative theories about the killings of many prominent people. However, it has its roots in a real-life program, MK-ULTRA, which was worked on by the CIA and US Army Chemical and Biological Weapons division for two decades.

Congressional investigation and the declassification of archives have revealed that US military and intelligence agencies have been dabbling in mind control ever since the end of World War II. Project Chatter was instigated by the US Navy in 1947, following news of successful Soviet experiments with truth drugs. The CIA's mind-control experiments began with Project BLUEBIRD which evolved into Project ARTICHOKE. This involved the use of hypnosis to induce amnesia in subjects, with the aid of magician John Mulholland. MK-ULTRA, the largest and most famous such programme, was created when CIA director Allen Dulles amalgamated the various projects in April 1953, and set aside six percent of CIA funds to pay for it.

Many of the experiments carried out under MK-ULTRA were performed without the knowledge or consent of their subjects, who ranged from CIA employees to prostitutes and ordinary citizens. Some were supposedly coerced into "volunteerism" by being entrapped in brothels set up by the CIA. Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a Bronx biochemist who was supposedly the inspiration for the mad scientist in Stanley Kubrick's film *Dr. Strangelove*, was at the helm of MK-ULTRA during its first eleven years

Gottlieb oversaw some truly bizarre experiments. Subjects were hypnotized and given drugs such as LSD, ketamine, psilocybine, heroin, marijuana, scopolamine, mescaline and alcohol, as well as electro-convulsive shocks, implanted electrodes, lobotomies, and radiation...



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