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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

The President of the United States is dead.

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00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:10,000

Tonight, the assassination that shook our country to its core.

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00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:16,000

It was just a shock that caused everybody to stop and think for a moment about how the world had changed.

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00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:21,000

Police quickly catch the culprit, but many believe there's more to the story.

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00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:26,000

The first question any good theorist asks is who wants Kennedy dead?

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00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Now, we'll explore the top theories surrounding one of America's most shocking events.

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00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:38,000

So he was convinced that Kennedy was killed by enemies high in his own government.

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00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:43,000

He believed that Fidel Castro orchestrated the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:48,000

Is there a conspiracy behind John F. Kennedy's assassination?

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00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:52,000

And if so, who is really responsible for his death?

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00:00:56,000 --> 00:01:00,000

The President of the United States

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:04,000

The President of the United States

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

The President of the United States

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:19,000

At 11.25 a.m., President John F. Kennedy arrives on Air Force One.

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:27,000

President Kennedy goes to Dallas to give a lunchtime speech at a convention center known as the trademark.

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Between his arrival at Love Field and his speech, he's to lead a motorcade through the center of downtown Dallas.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,000

The motorcade has over 12 cars.

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00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:42,000

Kennedy is riding in a three-road Lincoln Continental convertible limousine with the top down.

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:45,000

President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy are in the back seat.

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,000

President Kennedy on the right side, Mrs. Kennedy on the left.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

Ahead of them are Texas Governor John Connolly and his wife Nelly.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:56,000

And ahead of them are two secret service agents. One of them is driving.

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:59,000

It's a very warm reception for Kennedy.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:03,000

There are something like 200,000 people lining the route, so it is no small turnout.

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:06,000

And at one point Mrs. Connolly in the car says,

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:09,000

You can't say Dallas doesn't love you, can you?

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:13,000

And President Kennedy replies, No, you certainly can't.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:16,000

Those are his last words.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:21,000

The motorcade comes down Main Street to the end of Main Street where it hits Dealey Plaza,

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:24,000

takes a sharp right turn on Commerce Street,

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:29,000

and then a sharp left turn in front of the Texas schoolbook depository.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

And it's at that moment that the first gunshots are heard.

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Something I repeat has happened in the motorcade route.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:42,000

A gunshot rings out, and then two more, both President Kennedy and Governor Connolly are hit.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Two shots hit Kennedy. The first enters his upper back and comes out through his throat,

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

and then the second enters the back of his skull.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:54,000

He is rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital.

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,000

That's where he would soon be declared dead at the age of 46.

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00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:02,000

Connolly is also gravely injured but survives.

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:07,000

One hour after the shooting, Kennedy's death is officially announced to the media.

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:12,000

As word spreads of this, everybody stops where they are. People are crying.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:17,000

There's a lot of screaming, there's chaos, and just a lot of fear and confusion.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:23,000

It was just a shock that caused everybody to stop and think for a moment about how the world had changed.

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:30,000

Any divisiveness or any factions within the country, everybody just comes together in this moment to grieve.

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:34,000

As the world stops to mourn, a manhunt begins.

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:39,000

As soon as it's clear that President Kennedy's been hit and the motorcade rushes out of Dealey Plaza,

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:45,000

the police go interview eyewitnesses, and perhaps the most important witness of that day was a steamfitter

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:54,000

at the Alice Man named Howard Brennan, who says that he saw a man with a rifle on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:04:01,000

Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman and Deputy Sheriff Eugene Boone rush inside the book depository.

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:06,000

And there they find quite literally the smoking gun.

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00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:14,000

They find a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, an Italian-made rifle, and they also find three spent cartridges

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:18,000

suggesting that somebody had just fired three bullets from the sixth floor.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:23,000

They find the books have been moved around to create sort of a sniper's perch.

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00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:27,000

They also find a 38-inch brown paper bag.

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00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:32,000

The shooter escapes, but building staff identify a prime suspect.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:40,000

An employee at the Texas School Book Depository, Kuhl Wesley Frazier, offers a colleague a trip into downtown Dallas on the morning of the assassination.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:45,000

And the colleague is carrying a long brown paper bag in which he says he has curtain rods.

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:52,000

A manager in the building, Roy Trulie, looks around and he sees that one of his employees is actually missing.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:56,000

It's the same man who brought in that suspicious brown paper bag that morning.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:03,000

It's Lee Harvey Oswald. Police radio his description to all city units.

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00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:06,000

So it's been less than an hour since President Kennedy was shot.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:12,000

And thanks to the quick work of the Dallas PD, they actually have a promising lead.

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:20,000

Three shots fired, three spent shell casings, found next to a rifle that they believe was brought in by Lee Harvey Oswald,

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:23,000

who is the only person who has fled that book depository.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Every other employee is there still actually talking to investigators.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:32,000

It appears that Oswald is the man responsible for the assassination.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:41,000

The Dallas Police Department sends out a message to be on the lookout for somebody who looks like Lee Harvey Oswald.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:45,000

And Officer JD Tippett is in a patrol car about three miles away.

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:54,000

He sees a man on the side of the road who appears to fit the description of the man who's been identified in Dealey Plaza as the president's assassin.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:58,000

The police officer tries to stop this man and is gunned down by him.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:02,000

And this man, according to many witnesses, is Lee Harvey Oswald.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:10,000

If police had any doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy, that doubt is gone the moment he killed Officer Tippett.

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00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:16,000

A local merchant named Johnny Brewer has seen this man duck into the local movie theater.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:22,000

A little bit before 2 p.m., police officers find Oswald seated there. He's armed.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:25,000

He puts up a struggle before he's arrested.

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00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:32,000

One of the arresting officers, Nick McDonald, testifies that as they reach him, Oswald raises his pistol and pulls the trigger.

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:41,000

But McDonald grabs the gun just as the hammer falls, hitting the webbing between his thumb and index finger, probably saving his life.

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00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:49,000

Oswald is brought to the police and courts building in downtown Dallas and charged for both murders.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:54,000

Subsequent investigation uncovers a lot more evidence that actually implicates Oswald.

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00:06:54,000 --> 00:07:01,000

They find a photo of Oswald that was taken by his wife, where he's holding a rifle that matches the murder weapon.

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:05,000

Oswald had made a fake ID in the name of Alec Heidel.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:17,000

The rifle that was found in the schoolbook depository had been ordered in the name of Alec Heidel and sent to a post office box in that name.

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:23,000

Virtually all of the ballistics evidence points to Oswald as the gunman in Dealey Plaza.

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00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:32,000

His palm prints are found on the weapons and the bullets fired in Dealey Plaza almost certainly came out of the rifle that's found on the sixth floor.

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00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:36,000

But none of this evidence is ever presented in court.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:46,000

So Oswald is held in custody downtown. He's interrogated by the FBI, the Secret Service, the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas District Attorney's Office.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:56,000

He goes through rounds of questioning. What we know from those interrogations that he lies again and again and again, and he insists he had nothing to do with the president's murder.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Then something absolutely crazy happens. Sunday morning, November 24th, police are actually ready to transfer Oswald to the county jail.

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

They have an armored car ready in the basement of the building.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:22,000

And as he's being brought out in front of the TV cameras, Jack Ruby, owner of a local nightclub, steps out of the crowd with a .45 and shoots Oswald once in the stomach on national TV.

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Ruby is arrested and Oswald is taken to the same hospital as Kennedy, where, less than 48 hours after the president, he's declared dead as well.

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:45,000

Oswald's death on November 24th means that there will never be a trial, never an opportunity to resolve an awful lot of the evidence that points to Oswald as the gunman in Dealey Plaza.

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00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:54,000

New president, Lyndon Johnson, establishes a commission to investigate the assassination. It

becomes known as the Warren Commission.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:07,000

It's sort of the ultimate blue ribbon commission among the other members, or the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Alan Dulles, as well as a young congressman from Michigan by the name of Gerald Ford.

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:21,000

The Warren Commission works for nearly a year, compiling evidence gathering information. And on September 24th, 1964, they present an 888 page report to President Johnson.

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:30,000

The Warren Commission expresses no doubt. They state that Lee Harvey Oswald is the only man responsible for JFK's death.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:42,000

They also find that Jack Ruby acted alone in killing Oswald. But over the years, a lot of people have questioned these findings, saying that they might appear to be a little too neat.

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Making this report, far from the last word on JFK.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:59,000

When the Warren Commission releases its findings in 1964, it marks the end of the official investigation into the JFK assassination.

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:05,000

They find that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President John F. Kennedy.

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00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:08,000

But that answer doesn't satisfy the public for long.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:22,000

Skeptics write books, first a trickle of books and then a flood of books, questioning the findings of the report and leading to a larger distrust both in the commission itself and in the sort of firmament of American government.

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:27,000

After 12 years of scrutiny, the U.S. government takes action.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:33,000

The House Select Committee on Assassinations was created in 1976.

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00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:37,000

The committee takes a closer look at the Warren Commission report.

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:44,000

They agree with most of what the Warren Commission says, particularly regarding the evidence against Oswald.

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:49,000

They're confident that Oswald did shoot Kennedy from the sixth floor of the book depository.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:52,000

But they uncover a new piece of evidence.

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00:10:52,000 --> 00:11:04,000

Assassination researchers in Dallas came to the committee and said it may be that the sound of the gunshots was captured on this policeman's radio recording.

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00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:15,000

So the committee has multiple acoustic experts go over this recording and upon first listen, they think actually there weren't three shots, as previously thought, but four.

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00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:25,000

Three shots did in fact come from the Texas School Book Depository, but that one shot came from a grassy knoll in front of the motorcade.

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00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:29,000

In other words, Oswald didn't act alone.

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00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:32,000

If he didn't act alone, someone planned this killing with him.

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00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:34,000

And if so, who was it?

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00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:39,000

The House Committee uses a word that will become connected to the Kennedy assassination from then on.

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00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

The word they use is conspiracy.

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00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:49,000

So the audio evidence that seems to point to a conspiracy is later disputed.

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00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:53,000

And in many minds, it is found to be completely an error.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:12:02,000

It's almost too late to put the toothpaste back in the tube that the idea of conspiracy is now even further cemented in the minds of millions of Americans.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:07,000

If the JFK assassination is a conspiracy, who's behind it?

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:12,000

Almost immediately after the shooting, one conspiracy theory rises to the top.

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00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:17,000

So while there's only circumstantial evidence to prove it, there's a lot of circumstantial evidence.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:27,000

Even Lyndon Johnson did at some point make an aside to an ABC News reporter that he believed that

Fidel Castro orchestrated the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

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00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:31,000

Why is Fidel Castro a suspect? Let's start with motive.

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:37,000

At the time of the assassination, there is no foreign power with a bigger grudge against Kennedy than Castro.

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00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:48,000

President Kennedy is so determined to get rid of Castro that he tells the CIA to go forward with an invasion of Cuba that becomes known as the Bay of Pigs operation.

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00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:54,000

They send Cuban exiles into Cuba with the CIA support to oust Castro.

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00:12:54,000 --> 00:13:05,000

It's a debacle and afterwards, certainly Castro knows that President Kennedy is so determined to remove him from power that he had actually ordered an invasion of his country.

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00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Documents that are later declassified reveal more evidence.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:18,000

After the Bay of Pigs invasion fails, the Kennedy administration through the CIA tried to kill Castro in the most exotic of ways.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:25,000

Everything from poisoned cigars to poisoned skin diving suits to exploding seashells.

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:30,000

But yes, certainly Castro knew the presidency was plotting against him.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:36,000

So we know that Fidel Castro has reason to want to see President Kennedy dead.

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00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:45,000

And the question in all the years since is what role did Lee Harvey Oswald play in whatever plot was developed to try to kill the president?

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:51,000

During their investigation, the Warren Commission conducts a thorough background check on Oswald.

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00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:58,000

Even when he's serving in the Marine Corps for three years, Lee Harvey Oswald is not shy about the fact that he's a Marxist.

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:03,000

So much so his colleagues in the Marine Corps used to refer to him as Oswaldovich.

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00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:11,000

In 1959, he defects to the Soviet Union and marries 19-year-old Soviet citizen Marina Prusakova, and they have a child.

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00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:19,000

They live there until 1962 in an apartment just a few blocks away from where the Soviets are training Cuban spies and soldiers.

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00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Back in the U.S. in April of 1963, Oswald goes down to New Orleans.

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00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:28,000

There he tries to start up a pro-Castro activist group.

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00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:39,000

It's clear that Oswald likes communism, but the biggest revelation for investigators is that it turns out that Oswald went to Mexico City in September of 1963,

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:46,000

which of course is just two months before JFK's assassination, and while there had contact with officials at the Cuban Embassy.

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00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:52,000

According to author Gus Russo, during these meetings Oswald makes a chilling offer.

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00:14:52,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Russo talks to various sources, including an FBI case officer who has two high-level informants within the Communist Party,

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00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:06,000

and these two informants are two brothers by the names of Morris and Jack Childs.

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:17,000

The Child's brothers meet with Fidel Castro after the Kennedy assassination and learn just how much Fidel Castro knew about Lee Harvey Oswald in the weeks before the assassination.

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00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:22,000

According to Russo's research, Oswald tells embassy officials,

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00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:26,000

I'll kill that bastard Kennedy when he goes to Dallas.

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00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:32,000

Castro is immediately informed about this. The embassy staff calls him up and they ask him, what do we do?

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00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:36,000

Castro denies taking Oswald up on his offer.

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00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:42,000

I don't think there's any credible evidence that Fidel Castro played any role in ordering President Kennedy's assassination,

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:51,000

but I think it's clear that he was well aware before the assassination that Lee Harvey Oswald had marched into a Cuban embassy in Mexico City

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00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:54,000

and made the statement that he was going to kill Kennedy.

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00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Russo keeps digging.

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00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Russo speaks to some former Cuban spies that tell him that when Oswald makes this offer, they actually encourage him.

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00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:12,000

One officer tells Russo that they offer Oswald money and then tell him that they'll help him evacuate if he's successful doing this.

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00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:18,000

Oswald's end goal is to get a visa to get either to Cuba or to the Soviet Union or both,

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00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:25,000

and eventually the Cubans do give him some form of temporary visa in October of 1963.

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00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:30,000

But according to Russo's findings, they don't actually intend to bring Oswald to Cuba.

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00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:35,000

They plan to pick him up and kill him and then dump his body in the Gulf of Mexico.

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00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:40,000

According to Gus Russo, there's more evidence to support this claim.

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00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Russo finds reports of a private plane sitting on an airfield in Dallas on November 22nd,

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00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:50,000

and that plane takes off for Havana after the assassination.

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00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:56,000

As we know, Oswald is not on that plane, but that might be where he's headed when he encounters Officer Tipit,

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00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:59,000

and the entire Cuban plan changes after that.

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:05,000

So that's the theory. The Warren Commission and also the later House Committee on Assassinations

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00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:12,000

dismiss the idea that Castro or the Cuban government could have been responsible for the killing of JFK.

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00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:20,000

And today Oswald, Castro, Johnson, they're all dead. So I say any hopes of proving this theory are gone.

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00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:33,000

When Lee Harvey Oswald visits Mexico City in the fall of 1963, investigators are desperate to know what he's up to.

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00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:40,000

He makes several visits to the Cuban Embassy. What happens there? Are the Cubans involved? You have to ask, right?

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00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:45,000

But the Cuban Embassy isn't the only place Oswald visits in Mexico.

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00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:51,000

While in Mexico City, he also goes to the Soviet Embassy in his quest for a visa,

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00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:56,000

and he ends up kind of bouncing back and forth between the Cuban Embassy and the Soviet Embassy.

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00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:03,000

So Oswald, in visiting the Soviet Embassy, is taken to meet with a Valery Kostakov.

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00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Oswald has one meeting on September 28th with Kostakov, and they have a subsequent telephone conversation on October 1st.

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00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Authorities dig into Kostakov's background, and they make a chilling discovery.

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:23,000

Valery Kostakov is actually a KGB agent and a KGB assassinations expert.

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00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:27,000

Doesn't that suggest that this man, Lee Harvey Oswald, is up to no good?

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00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:36,000

So that leads us to the next big question, which is, is the Soviet Union, led by Premier Nikita Khrushchev, involved in JFK's assassination?

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00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:42,000

Khrushchev may have a motive to kill Kennedy that's just as strong as Fidel Castro's.

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00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:51,000

As we know, Kennedy is on a crusade against communism, and communism is represented on the world stage by its biggest superpower, the USSR.

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00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Premier Khrushchev is trying to promote revolution and communism around the world, and JFK is trying to do the exact opposite.

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00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:03,000

So these two are pitted against each other at a geopolitical level.

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:11,000

And unfortunately for JFK, 90 miles from the Florida coastline, the Soviets have a communist nation in the form of Cuba.

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00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:18,000

Communist Cuba would not have happened without the Soviets. They give the Cubans straining, financial and military support.

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00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:22,000

Castro's victory is also a victory for Khrushchev.

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00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:29,000

Then in 1962, Khrushchev experiences a very public defeat, thanks to President Kennedy.

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00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:41,000

A year before Kennedy's death, the United States and the Soviet Union had almost gone toward when the Soviet Union attempts to set up missile launch pads in Cuba that can be used for nuclear weapons.

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00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:53,000

Kennedy isn't okay with Soviet nukes 90 miles away, and this begins what's known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, which ultimately, after a lot of back-and-forth political posturing, Kennedy wins.

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00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:59,000

Two years later, in 1964, Khrushchev is removed from office.

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00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:07,000

But before he's removed in 1963, Khrushchev is still clinging to power, looking for a way to redeem himself among the communists.

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:15,000

That would certainly add some logic to the idea that maybe the Khrushchev wants to see Kennedy dead.

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00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:21,000

If Oswald walks right into the embassy and offers to kill Kennedy and Dallas, maybe the Soviets go for it.

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00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Otherwise, why is he meeting with a KGB assassinations expert?

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00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:35,000

There is an even further out theory, which is that Khrushchev started plotting to kill Kennedy even before the Mexico City machinations.

198

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Author and attorney Michael Edoz shares details of his investigation in the 1977 book The Oswald File.

199

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Michael Edoz comes up with this theory that Khrushchev conceives of this plot to kill Kennedy when Oswald is still living in the Soviet Union beginning in 1959.

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00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Khrushchev realizes he's got a golden opportunity on his hands.

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00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:05,000

Here, he's got an American citizen, a former Marine, an avowed communist who speaks Russian.

202

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:11,000

And everybody knows he's there in the USSR. The Associated Press had reported on his defection.

203

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:24,000

Edoz believes that Khrushchev detains and kills Oswald while in the USSR, then replaces him with a KGB agent, someone who looks very similar.

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00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:32,000

So it's not Lee Harvey Oswald who lands back in the United States in 1962. It's an imposter whose mission it is to kill John F. Kennedy.

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00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Edoz believes he has definitive proof that Oswald was replaced.

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00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:47,000

On his Marine records, Oswald is listed as being 5'11", but that the person who killed Kennedy is actually 5'9".

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00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:56,000

The original Oswald also had a cranial operation as a child, leaving him with an indentation behind his ear and a dime-sized hole in his skull.

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00:21:56,000 --> 00:22:01,000

But according to Edoz, the autopsy on the Kennedy assassin shows no such features.

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00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:08,000

It does however show that the assassin has a large scar on his wrist, which Edoz notes the original Oswald did not have.

210

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:16,000

His argument persuades the Texas courts and Oswald's widow Marina to have his body exhumed.

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00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:18,000

So this is huge news.

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00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:26,000

Edoz has managed to convince authorities and Lee Harvey Oswald's widow that there's something to this theory.

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00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:32,000

So in 1981, they dig up the body and it's in an advanced state of decomposition.

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00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Edoz and widow Marina Oswald agree to have the Dallas County medical examiner Linda Norton do the examination.

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00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Dr. Norton is able to match dental records and also identify the evidence of the childhood cranial surgery,

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00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:53,000

which together show that actually the body in the grave really is that of Lee Harvey Oswald.

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00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:58,000

So Khrushchev didn't replace Lee Harvey Oswald with another killer, that much we know.

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00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:09,000

But the Soviet conspiracy theory is still alive and well, because it does improve that Oswald himself didn't work with the USSR to plan and execute the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

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00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:11,000

But that's not what the House committee says.

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00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:19,000

In their 1976 report, they find that neither the Cubans nor the Soviets are behind the assassination.

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00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:22,000

But they do think that somebody else could be involved.

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00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:32,000

For almost 60 years, one detail in the JFK investigation remains undisputed.

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:35,000

Lee Harvey Oswald's Communist Ties.

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00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:46,000

But in 2017, thanks to newly declassified documents, fresh evidence comes to light that could change everything we think we know about Oswald.

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00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Recently declassified intelligence reports reveal that the KGB does their own investigation into Oswald.

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00:23:53,000 --> 00:24:00,000

They have him under very tight surveillance from the moment he enters the USSR, so they have a lot of intelligence on him.

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00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:08,000

And according to the KGB report, contrary to what we've all been led to believe, Oswald stops being a communist sympathizer.

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00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:15,000

The KGB reports that over his time in the Soviet Union, Oswald actually becomes disillusioned with the cause.

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00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:20,000

And by the time he leaves in 1962, he is not a communist anymore.

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00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:25,000

This goes against decades of conventional thinking about Oswald and the assassination.

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00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:28,000

If he's not a communist, then who killed JFK?

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00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:32,000

So the KGB does believe that Oswald killed Kennedy.

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00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:37,000

They do say that they think he's part of a conspiracy. It's just not the conspiracy you think.

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00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:53,000

So instead, the KGB theory is that Oswald is part of a militant anti-communist conspiracy group whose intent is to poison relations between the Soviet Union and the United States by killing Kennedy and framing the communists for it.

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00:24:53,000 --> 00:25:02,000

Khrushchev will say in an interview in 1964 that in fact Oswald was working with extremist anti-communist forces in the United States.

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00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:06,000

Many wonder if this theory is simply Soviet propaganda.

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00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Of course, Khrushchev wants to take suspicion off himself, but independently of the KGB, a U.S. investigator also looks into this theory.

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00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:28,000

Jim Garrison, the district attorney of New Orleans, comes to believe that a murky conspiracy involving business leaders and Lee Harvey Oswald has brought together all these right-wing anti-communist elements to kill JFK.

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00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:34,000

To prove his theory, Garrison spends six years interviewing witnesses.

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00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:41,000

Through the 1960s, Jim Garrison's investigation leads to a man by the name of David Ferry.

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00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:50,000

Back in the 1950s, David Ferry serves in the Civil Air Patrol, which also has as a member Lee Harvey Oswald.

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00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:56,000

Dave Ferry was a rapidly anti-communist and heavily involved in the anti-Castro movement in New Orleans.

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00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:02,000

So you might be thinking, now wait a minute, someone who's anti-Castro should like Kennedy.

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00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:10,000

But David Ferry was disappointed in Kennedy for not being staunch enough in their opposition to Castro.

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00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:16,000

He thinks that Kennedy's attempts at a peaceful outcome are weak, that he's essentially handed Cuba to the Communists.

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00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:23,000

In fact, he gives a fiery speech in 1961 where he says that Kennedy should be shot.

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00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:27,000

According to Garrison, Ferry follows through with that threat.

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00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:40,000

In September of 1963, a few weeks before the assassination of JFK, insurance agent named Perry Russo would state that he was at a party with a businessman from New Orleans named Clay Shaw,

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00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:47,000

Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferry, where the assassination of JFK would be discussed.

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00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:55,000

Russo testifies that he remembers them saying that they were going to kill Kennedy and that they were going to use something called a triangulation of shooters.

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00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:59,000

They also discussed alibis for the people involved in this conspiracy.

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00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:05,000

By February of 1967, Garrison is ready to reveal his finding.

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00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:09,000

Newspapers in New Orleans break Garrison's story.

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00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:16,000

He's convinced that David Ferry and Lee Harvey Oswald are longtime friends since their days together in the Civil Air Patrol.

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00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:21,000

He believes they want to take out Kennedy and frame the Communists.

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00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:30,000

David Ferry and Lee Harvey Oswald work together to plan the assassination with the support of Clay Shaw and the help of another man behind the scenes named Guy Bannister.

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00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:39,000

Ferry and Bannister were both adamant supporters of the anti-Castro movement, which included arming

people to go stage attacks in Cuba.

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00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,000

And Ferry, as a pilot, was moving the weapons and Bannister was supplying them.

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00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:49,000

So these men did have a hard right background that involved guns.

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00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:52,000

Garrison was certainly correct about that.

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00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:57,000

Garrison's theory has Bannister and Ferry as the brains behind this operation.

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00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:01,000

Clay Shaw would be handling logistics and financial backing.

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00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:05,000

And then in this scenario, there are two shooters involved in a crossfire.

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00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Oswald, as we know in the book depository, and then another unnamed shooter on the grassy knoll.

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00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:16,000

Armed with the evidence, Garrison's ready for his day in court.

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00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:26,000

Oswald is already dead and then Bannister has died of a heart attack by 1964, so there are already two alleged conspirators gone.

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00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:29,000

Then something more unusual happens.

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00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:36,000

Less than a week after the Garrison investigation goes public, Dave Ferry is found dead.

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00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:41,000

David Ferry is found in his apartment with two typed up suicide notes,

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00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:49,000

but the autopsy finds no evidence either of suicide or of murder and that David Ferry has died of a brain hemorrhage.

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00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:51,000

Garrison is flummoxed.

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00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:58,000

He says, I suppose it could be just a weird coincidence that the night Ferry penned two suicide notes, he dies of natural causes.

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00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:05,000

On March 1st, 1967, the last alleged co-conspirator alive is arrested.

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00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:14,000

Clay Shaw is finally tried in 1969 and it remains the only trial in American history associated with the assassination of JFK.

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00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:24,000

But Garrison is unsuccessful, with few witnesses remaining alive and others deemed unreliable, Shaw is acquitted in 45 minutes.

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00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:31,000

Ten years later in 1979, the House Select Committee wonders publicly if justice was served.

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00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:38,000

The House Committee's final report states that they believe the Louisiana witnesses were both quote, credible and significant

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00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:43,000

and that they were telling the truth about Ferry and Oswald's meetings in 1963.

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:50,000

So Garrison's theories cause for a lot of sensational reporting and a lot of excitement on the part of the public

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00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:54,000

and you know maybe swayed some people in the court of public opinion.

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00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:00,000

In actual court where evidence is required, they were found to fall apart pretty quickly.

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00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:09,000

After decades of pressure from the American public, Congress passes the JFK Records Act in 1992.

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00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:13,000

The act mandates the release of all files relating to the case.

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00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:19,000

So even all these decades later, people still want answers and are now hopeful that maybe we'll start to get them.

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00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:27,000

These documents aren't released all at once, but during the 1990s, millions and millions of pages of documents are made public.

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00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:34,000

The law had a deadline. It said that everything in the government's files had to be made public in 2017.

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00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:37,000

Well guess what? That does not happen.

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00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:44,000

But by 2017, tens of thousands of records have been released and one of them gets a lot of attention

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00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:52,000

because it appears to confirm a long-standing theory that the mafia was involved in the assassination of JFK.

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00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:59,000

From the moment Kennedy dies, conspiracy theorists are asking the right question, which is who wants him dead?

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00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:02,000

The communists in a lot of minds feature really high on that list,

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00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:09,000

but there's another group who might want Kennedy dead even more and that is the Cosa Nostra, the American mafia.

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00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:19,000

In 1962, JFK, along with his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, are on a crusade to wipe out organized crime in America.

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00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:24,000

One of the biggest revenue streams the mob had, obviously, were the casinos in Cuba.

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00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:27,000

The mob was kicked out of Cuba by Castro.

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00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:31,000

So they were angry with President Kennedy for not having done more.

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00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:39,000

So they wanted to see Castro overthrown so they could get back into Cuba, reopen their casinos and their liquor operations and get going again.

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00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:43,000

And one way of doing that might be by killing President Kennedy.

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00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:50,000

In the minds of some mobsters, Kennedy took billions of dollars out of their pockets and they have killed for a lot less.

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00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:56,000

And wouldn't you know it, right in the middle of the Kennedy case, there's a man who could be the key to a mafia connection.

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00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:01,000

That man is Lee Harvey Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby.

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00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:04,000

Jack Ruby was a tough guy from Chicago.

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00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:12,000

Jack Rubenstein originally, a thug, a pimp, moves to Dallas, opens up his nightclub there

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00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:16,000

and quickly becomes a kind of fixture among organized crime figures.

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00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:19,000

He was what you would call a wannabe.

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00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:23,000

He gets these nightclubs up and running and they become a conduit for all the things we know the mafia for.

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00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:27,000

Gambling, running narcotics and eventually sex work.

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00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:32,000

Theorists long speculated that Jack Ruby and the mafia worked together to kill Kennedy.

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00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:41,000

They say by 1963, Jack Ruby is heavily indebted to the mafia and they forced him to find a patsy to assassinate the president.

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00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:45,000

And afterwards they make him kill that fall guy so that he can't talk.

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00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:50,000

A lot more evidence came out in the 1970s with the House Select Committee investigation

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00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:55,000

and that strengthened the notion that there wasn't organized crime connection to the assassination.

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00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:59,000

Did Ruby hire Oswald on behalf of the mafia?

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00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:06,000

Dallas police have two witnesses report that on October 4th, 1963, seven weeks before the assassination,

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00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:11,000

they see Ruby and Oswald meet in Ruby's Carousel Club on Commerce Street in Dallas.

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00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:18,000

There they argue over a large sum of money for an undisclosed job that Oswald will be doing for Ruby.

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00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:22,000

But the Warren Commission fails to interview these witnesses.

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00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:30,000

After he's arrested, Ruby denies ever having known Oswald and that he didn't know beforehand that the assassination was going to happen.

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00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Ruby says that he was several blocks away, busy placing some newspaper ads.

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00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:40,000

And killed Oswald because of grief, because of patriotism, and because he felt for the First Lady

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00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:44,000

and wanted to keep her from having to suffer through a prolonged trial.

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00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:49,000

For over 50 years, no one can prove otherwise.

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00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:59,000

But then in 2017 as part of another large dump of declassified Kennedy files, we see document 321-49267.

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00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:03,000

It's a report from the FBI's Intelligence Division about Jack Ruby.

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00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:10,000

In it, an informant named Bob Vanderslice says that Ruby calls him up on the day of the assassination.

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00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:14,000

He asks if he, quote, would like to watch the fireworks.

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00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:22,000

Vanderslice goes with Ruby to a location right across from the Texas School Book Depository, and together they watch the president get shot.

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00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:28,000

When it happens, Ruby says nothing. He just turns calmly and walks south towards the newspaper office,

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00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:31,000

where he places the ads and thereby creates an alibi.

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00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:37,000

If this is true, then Jack Ruby knew there were going to be, quote, fireworks,

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00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:41,000

and he knew exactly where and when the assassination was going to happen.

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00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:44,000

In other words, Ruby lied, and he knew about the whole thing.

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00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:50,000

After months in custody, Ruby himself claims there's more to his story.

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00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:55,000

At first, Ruby sticks to his alibi, but then he changes his tune.

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00:34:55,000 --> 00:35:03,000

He writes letters, he makes statements to police, and then even testifies to the Warrant Commission that he knows some things he's not saying.

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00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:10,000

But he believes that his life is in danger. He wants to tell the whole truth, but he can't, unless he can get some protection from the government.

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00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:19,000

But he never gets that protection, and he dies in 1967, taking with him to the grave any potential secrets about a mafia assassination plot.

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00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:25,000

Some believe that members of the mafia work quickly to cover their tracks after JFK's death.

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00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:31,000

Over a dozen witnesses and participants die mysteriously in the aftermath of the shooting.

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00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:37,000

Oswald, Ruby, Dorothy Kilgallen, she's the only reporter to interview Jack Ruby at his trial.

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:44,000

She then openly questions the Warren Commission and then dies of a mysterious overdose in 1965.

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00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:55,000

So, following this trail of murders, it reaches its apex in 1968 when Robert F. Kennedy, who also could be seen as an enemy of the mafia, is killed in Los Angeles.

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00:35:55,000 --> 00:36:03,000

What kind of organization would be willing to leave behind such a long string of bodies to keep

hold of their power and their secrets?

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00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:10,000

The mafia, that's who. And if they did, then it worked, because there is no one left to confirm this theory.

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00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:23,000

December 20th, 1991, Oliver Stone's film about the Kennedy assassination, JFK, is released in theaters.

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00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:27,000

Almost immediately, it causes an uproar.

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00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:34,000

The film combines a number of conspiracy theories, including the alleged New Orleans plot and the second shooter on the grassy knoll.

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00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:38,000

But more important than the film's plot is the impact it has on this country.

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00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:45,000

After the film is released, we see a tidal wave of other publications associated with the JFK assassination.

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00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Including one from a man who says he was directly involved.

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00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:57,000

Robert Moro claimed to be a former CIA operative active in the anti-Castro movement in the 1960s,

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00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:08,000

and he alleged in a book that he was asked by Tracy Barnes, a senior CIA official, to buy guns that he said were later used in the assassination.

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00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:14,000

Moro's cast of characters in the alleged CIA plot might sound familiar.

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00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Moro actually names the same co-conspirators that are in the movie JFK, and also those that were pursued by Jim Garrison in his New Orleans case.

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00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:35,000

He claims that Clay Shaw, Guy Bannister, and Dave Ferry were helping in the operations against Castro in Cuba before the assassination.

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00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Moro says they also enlisted the help of the mafia through Jack Ruby.

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00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:43,000

On November 22nd in Dallas, they placed four shooters.

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00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:49,000

Oswald in the book depository, another on the grassy knoll, and two more, all with Moro's rifles.

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00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:54,000

The month prior, they laid some groundwork. They sent Oswald to Mexico to meet with the Cubans.

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00:37:54,000 --> 00:38:02,000

Their goal is to frame Castro for the crime, and therefore bring about a full-scale invasion of Cuba.

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00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:13,000

According to Moro, the CIA wants redemption from their failed Bay of Pigs operation, and the mafia,

as hopes of being able, returned to reopen their casinos in Cuba.

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00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:17,000

It's quite a story, a complicated CIA plot with dozens of participants.

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00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:28,000

And yet, with all those people, including government agents and known criminals that are under surveillance, the Warren Commission finds no evidence that any of this actually happened.

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00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Moro offers a potential explanation for that as well.

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00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:38,000

Many have speculated that the Warren Commission never adequately looked into the Cuban connection or the CIA.

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00:38:38,000 --> 00:38:44,000

Moro believes that that's due to the presence on the commission of the former CIA director, Alan Dulles.

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00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:50,000

When the commission is formed, they don't put the current CIA director on it, or anyone from the FBI.

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:55,000

The only one on the commission with intelligence experience is Alan Dulles,

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00:38:55,000 --> 00:39:00,000

who just happens to be the man that Kennedy fired from his position after the Bay of Pigs failed.

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00:39:00,000 --> 00:39:06,000

At the time of the Warren Commission, CIA involvement in the Bay of Pigs is classified.

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00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:13,000

The government didn't want that getting out. They also didn't want any information getting out related to Operation Mongoose,

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00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:21,000

which at the time was top secret, but we now know was a Kennedy-sanctioned CIA operation to assassinate Castro, led by Alan Dulles.

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00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:28,000

As more documents have been declassified, more information has been revealed about the CIA.

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:35,000

It is clear that they were withholding information from the Warren Commission, information that Alan Dulles knew and kept hidden.

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00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:40,000

Some theorists believe that information could have even saved Kennedy's life.

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00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:49,000

In 2013 and 2014, some very damaging records are released about the CIA as per the JFK Records Act.

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00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:56,000

They reveal that the CIA actually knew about Oswald's trip to Mexico City before the assassination.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:01,000

The agency claimed to the Warren Commission that they only found out afterwards. That was a lie.

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00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:07,000

They had an eye on Oswald since his defection to the USSR. They were reading his mail, tracking his movements.

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00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:13,000

The CIA field office in Mexico City reported Oswald's meeting with the Cubans almost immediately.

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:19,000

And the CIA had Soviet agent Valery Kostakov under surveillance during the time he was meeting with Oswald.

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00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:25,000

Does that mean the CIA killed Kennedy? No, absolutely not.

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00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:30,000

But should the CIA have known that Oswald was a threat? Yes, they probably should have.

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00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:37,000

And could an earlier intervention have prevented Oswald from killing the president? Again, I would say the answer is yes.

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00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:48,000

In a now declassified 2013 report, CIA historian David Robarch finds that the agency is complicit in keeping incendiary information from the Warren Commission.

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He says they intended to keep the commission focused on, quote,

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What the agency believed was the best truth that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in killing John Kennedy.

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I think all of the most credible evidence suggests that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the bullets that killed President Kennedy.

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That he probably is the only gunman. But whether or not other people knew whether or not other people helped him, those are mysteries that will probably linger forever.

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The National Archives recently released thousands of newly declassified documents.

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Now almost all of these nearly five million pages are available to the public.

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Perhaps they will provide some closure to this enduring mystery.

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I'm Lawrence Fishburne. Thank you for watching. History's Greatest Mysteries.