

On Conspiracies

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2020 0812

Conspiracies are fairly common events among humans. Successful Conspiracies are much less common, but certainly not rare. Successful secret conspiracies undertaken by the government or a shadow organization are even less common, and yet it is those that have the most ardent believers.

Typically a conspiracy theory arises out of either an inability to explain an observed phenomenon or the disbelief that people could intentionally do something really stupid. One or the other of these is then linked to mild to severe paranoia on the part of the believer. Most of these simply fail the tests of both logic and probability.

For example, a currently popular one is known as “Chemtrails.” This is the theory that the government is putting large tanks of chemicals into jet airliners and then spraying them at high altitude. The chemical has been reported to be one that makes us sick or lethargic, but the most common one is that it reduces our intellectual capacity; we are being ‘dumbed down’ to keep us compliant and subservient.

The origin of the theory is in the visible contrails that are left when a jet flies at an altitude where the water in the exhaust crystalizes immediately due to the temperature forming long thin clouds.

Such a secret government led conspiracy would require literally thousands of people to be involved in it: Pilots, air crews, ground crews, chemical manufacturers, schedulers, maintenance crews, mechanics to retrofit the airliners, and all of the people in government who would pay the bills. It is simply absurd to believe that all those people could keep the project a secret. There would be leaked videos, best selling books, people suffering from accidents incurred while loading or transporting the chemicals, and probably a few dead bodies.

Another level of conspiracy might be the one in which the government is not doing the job it is supposed to do in order to keep us under control. Educational settings or public assistance situations are often the seat of these. Again, hundreds of government employees would need to be part of the conspiracy in order to pull it off. In stark contrast to the chemtrail conspiracy, which would require very high levels of professionalism, this kind is more easily explained by incompetence among the government workers and managers. Incompetence is simply more believable than complicated, well-run programs of oppression.

The last example is one in which the appearance of a conspiracy is blatant. Public or semi-public groups are working hand in hand with numerous government agencies resulting in a cacophony of objectionable or oppressing situations being visited on the common people. These normally manifest themselves in ways where a government agent might make a ruling and then a private interest reaps the financial reward. There are often multiple conspirators.

While fun to think about, the implementation of massive, coordinated, inter-agency orchestrated, public-private partnership supported conspiracies against the common people is much too complicated. What is more likely is that someone, probably in government, manifested his incompetence in a manner that opened up opportunities which were then taken by these various groups. The 'opportunistic' scenario isn't a conspiracy at all. The facade of these unconnected acts being a conspiracy is the result of numerous stifled agendas being suddenly, and unexpectedly, released.