

The Assassination Of John F. Kennedy

Humanities 11

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On the day of November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy arrived in Dallas Texas to promote his presidential campaign. Sitting in the front car of the motorcade they drove a route around Downtown Dallas. Passing the Texas School Book Depository shots were fired and hit the President. Bringing him to a hospital did no good as he died minutes later. His assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald was taken into custody and was charged with the murder of President of John F. Kennedy. But little could be gotten out of him as he was shot while being transferred between prison facilities. Out of the situation, many wild theories and conspiracies were made up so the investigation into this was driven by these theories. They ran into dead ends and as a result, they could not find solid evidence that proved any of those theories. The investigation proved among other things that Lee Harvey Oswald was the primary and only assassin. There was big conflict and fuss over theories over what could have happened and those theories drove most of the investigation. But ultimately led officials into dead ends. Causing the lack of evidence that made it seem that Lee Harvey Oswald played a lone part in Kennedy's Assassination. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was a cruel and terrible act, and although the case of his assassination was called out with many wild theories, there was no solid evidence the government could find that suggested that Lee Harvey Oswald was not a lone gunman, disproving all foreign involvement or inner government covers up conspiracies.

Arriving in Dallas on the day of November 22 President Kennedy was greeted with air force members, they all shook hands with the president before he occupied a car in the front of the motorcade. They left the airport and rode a ten-mile route that went around Downtown Dallas as he supposed to speak at a lunch in. Crowds cheering and applauding, excited citizens lined the

streets and cheered for the Kennedy's. And as the vehicle, he was in turned onto Dealey Plaza around 12:30 pm. Passing by the Texas School Depository, shots were fired. "Witnesses claimed that at least some of the shooting came from the Texas School Book Depository.(Jeremy Bojczuk). Immediately the car rushed to Memorial Hospital where little could be done, and he was pronounced dead. An hour earlier between trying to save Kennedy in the hospital, the authorities arrested Lee Harvey Oswald who was recently "employed at the School Book Depository" ("Who Killed President Kennedy?"). Which making it known that he had the job from where the shots were fired.

He was seen fleeing the Depository building with a rifle. On the spot, he was charged with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. His motives for the crime could not be found as he was shot two days while he was being transferred between prison facilities. His killer Jack Ruby fired a bullet into Oswald killing him on the spot. The investigation of who was exactly behind the assassination went underway for years. Many conspiracies such as it being an inside job or cover up by the government or some type of foreign plot surfaced. Governmental agencies could not prove anything to be true about these conspiracies nor any other evidence that suggested Lee Harvey Oswald did not work alone or was a lackey in a bigger plot. Most in the sense because they always looked back to the fact that "Lee Harvey Oswald, was seen fleeing the Texas Schools Book Depository but was arrested on the scene. He was convicted of the assassination of JFK on the spot" ("Who Killed President Kennedy?"). Proof of him seeming to be guilty came from the analyzation by the Warren Commission as they stated, "The Warren Commission analyzed his movements in the period between the assassination of the President and the shooting of Tippit some 40-45 minutes later. A total of seven witnesses claims to have

seen Oswald during this period” (Lynch). The critical evidence all pointed towards Oswald being the only one who killed President Kennedy.

In the case of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, accusations of Lee Harvey Oswald being the only one involved in shooting JFK, had much of backed up evidence behind it. A month before the assassination, Oswald received a job from the school book depository, “On October 9 they had led him to interview for a clerk trainee job but Oswald had not been hired. And on the very morning, he reported to the Texas School Depository Building for his first day”(Grant). Being as much to be proved, seeing as the fact that he was the only man caught at the crime area it was justifiable. But it was proven by witnesses that Oswald was there at the crime scene before he was taken into custody. A news reporter, “NBC’s Robert MacNeil races inside the Texas School Depository, looking for a phone to file the news, as do several local newsmen. Both MacNeil and WFAA’s Pierce Allman are later told they may have talked to Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged sniper, on his way out of the building” (Rather 35). From another witness, the Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig spoke to the Warren Commission and told them that, " shortly after the assassination he was standing near the School Book Depository and saw a man run from the building down towards the grassy area. Craig stated that he later identified this man as Lee Oswald and went to Captain Fritz office to tell him” (Thomas 71). As for escaping to flee the scene it was said through a Commissioned report that, “Oswald approached a cab at the Greyhound Bus station which was a few blocks from the School Book Depository Building” (Thomas 72). It was said that “immediately after the shots had fired out and the presidential motorcade sped away, a man in the Texas School Book Depository, second-floor lunchroom was confronted by an armed Dallas policeman who had raced into the building. The man in question,

Lee Harvey Oswald, was to become associated with Kennedy's assassination" (Crime and Investigation). Proving he was there, to begin with at the scene to be prosecuted for Kennedy's Death.

Further evidence proved that Oswald did kill the president after finding records of him buying the rifle and a letter that showed his agenda to kill Kennedy. According to the Warren Commission, "its microfilm records, Klein's received an order for a rifle on March 13, 1963, with a coupon clipped from the February 1963 issue of the American Rifleman magazine. The order coupon was signed, in hand printing, it was sent in an envelope bearing the same name and return address in handwriting" (Archives 58). But it may seem as he was the lackey who only bought the rifle and never actually fired from it, but FBI forensics performed an "independent examination and also determined that this was the right palmprint of Oswald" (Archives 123). Further proof was brought up when agents of the CIA surfaced a letter by Oswald that commissioned staff never got. And this letter showed Oswald's "declaration in the Cuban embassy in Mexico and from what agent Kelley uncovered "Oswald definitely offered to kill President Kennedy" (Shannon 541), which would prove in overall that Oswald for sure wanted to and did kill President Kennedy.

Days after Kennedy's death rumors began to surface, conspiracies on how the assassination actually happened, although none of the theories could be supported after being disproved. A time in and time out an original theory of a "plot" behind Kennedy's assassination was a foreign conspiracy, specifically from Russian territory. Evidence states that "'The Soviets had a palpable, powerful motive [to kill JFK]: to gain revenge for the humiliation of the USSR in the 1962 Cuban missile crisis," says Scientia Press. Oswald was a communist and had spent time

in the USSR. His "Russian Odyssey" afforded the KGB many opportunities to interact with him" (The Week). This theory was immediately conjured after background information on Oswald picked up that he, "dealt in various transactions with several agencies of the U.S. Government. Before departing the United States for the Soviet Union in 1959" (Archives 325), and two years after he became a "defected agent to the Soviet Union" (Shenon 24). Disproving this theory in the investigation with the Kennedy assassination, federal and governmental agencies were led by dead ends in the investigation as with all their leads began to unravel as not being true. Dealing with Oswald's connection to communist aids, the CIA were quick to assume that foreign forces were involved in the assassination. After interrogating a Soviet spy they obtained that "Kostikov also had routine diplomatic duties at the embassy as part of his cover. 'I personally think the Soviets informed and Oswald that they wanted no part of the of his scheme', Kelly said." (Shenon 541). This was proof enough that the Soviets wanted o part in what Oswald had planned.

And as for theories of the Cubans also being suspected of the assassination when they discovered that just a few weeks earlier Oswald traveled to Mexico City to meet with foreign diplomats in a Cuban embassy. Federal agents had been keeping tabs around the Cuban embassy so when Oswald made a visit there, "Accounts of Oswald's being a hired gun of Castro's flooded from that city after the assassination, most provably false" ("Cuba and the Kennedy Assassination"). The FBI came to the conclusion that, "for Castro, the FBI had determined that 'the dictator thought at the time that the offer might be a deliberate provocation by the U.S. government or that Oswald was simply a madman' and that Cuban diplomats in Mexico

probably had nothing further to do with him.” (Shenon 560). Concluding any thoughts of Cuban involvement with the assassination.

Another famous conspiracy that circled around after the assassination of President Kennedy was the second gunman theory. Since there were two bullet wounds that struck Kennedy the idea of a second shooter became relevant to the point of authorities searching for solid evidence of that. Seeing as during the moments the shots were fired, "the President's head movements after being hit depict him being shot at an angle that does not correspond to where Lee Harvey Oswald was supposedly shooting from, therefore there had to be a second shooter, most likely on the grassy knoll” (Patti). Although this theory seemed to be true, further investigation suggested that this theory turned out not to be true. Agencies also went along with tracking down evidence of a second shooter being involved with killing Kennedy. Furthering that investigation they looked towards the autopsy report on Kennedy and discovered that, "the autopsy examination further disclosed that, after entering the President, the bullet passed between two large muscle is a wound of entrance, the basis for that conclusion is that this wound was relatively small with clean edges. It was not a jagged wound, and that is what we see in the wound of the entrance at a long range” (Archives 64) which would conclude that the wound was caused only by one gun from the range estimated to where Oswald was stationed. Proving the second gunman theory to be not true.

A minor common theory was that Oswald was hired by the government as an inside job. With Oswald and his encounters with the government “rumors and allegations that Oswald may have been a paid informant or some type of undercover agent for a Federal agency, usually the

FBI or the CIA. The Commission has fully explored whether Oswald had any official or unofficial relationship with any Federal agency beyond that already described” (Archives). But proven otherwise that, “close scrutiny of the records of the Federal agencies involved and the testimony of the responsible officials of the U.S. Government establish that there was absolutely no type of informant or undercover relationship between an agency of the U.S. Government and Lee Harvey Oswald at any time” (Archives 46) and (Shenon 351). The theories these agencies followed tossed them into multiple dead ends due to every theory being squashed by solid evidence.

The investigation furthered and as it began to end there still came out as no other evidence other than Oswald being the only one involved, that was found. Further reasons to believe Oswald acted alone is due to the fact that he never truly allied himself with anyone, and if hired there would be evidence of it, in records, "his life was characterized by isolation, frustration, and failure. He had very few, if any, close relationships with other people and he appeared to have great difficulty in finding a meaningful place in the world." (22 November 1963). An effect to why exact evidence could not be found was because that after the assassination, "in the city where the president had been killed, the destruction of evidence began within a day of the assassination." (Shenon 24). So in the end "the evidence reviewed above identifies Lee Harvey Oswald as the assassin of President Kennedy and indicates that he acted alone in that event. There is no evidence that he had accomplices or that he was involved in any conspiracy directed to the assassination of the President" (Archives 7). With an interview that included a federal agent, Vincent Bugliosi, that made his own personal investigation on the association stated that within the investigation, “I set forth 53 separate pieces of evidence

pointing toward Oswald's guilt. It would not be humanly possible for this man to be innocent and still have 53 pieces of evidence pointing toward his guilt. Only in a fantasy world can you have 53 pieces of evidence pointing toward guilt and still be innocent" (Lindley). Haig a confession would have been helpful for authorities to close the case but seeing as that Oswald died shortly after his arrest the trail of evidence ended there. During the moment "from the time of Oswald's arrest to his own assassination at the hands of Jack Ruby, no formal transcript or record was kept of statements made by the alleged killer. It was said that no tape recordings were made of Oswald's remarks, and many notes taken of his statements were destroyed" (The Government Decides There Is No Truth). Hard evidence came along that could not be disproved. The confiscation of a note that Oswald had left behind, "IN this threatening letter, Oswald complained about the bureau's surveillance of his family, but the exact wording of his threats, and his target was clear, this letter majorly stated that Oswald had planned to kill Kennedy, but with o trace of an accomplice" (Shenon 539). So, in this case, this proves above all else that Oswald acted alone.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy was a cruel and terrible act, and although the case of his assassination was called out with many wild theories, there was no solid evidence the government could find that suggested that Lee Harvey Oswald was not a lone gunman, disproving all foreign involvement or inner government covers up conspiracies. Accusations of Lee Harvey Oswald being the only one involved in shooting JFK where true going by the evidence of him being there and all the other evidence that pointed towards him. Since no testimony could be heard from the assassin due to his death, rumors surfaced of conspiracy theories and ideas about what actually happened within the assassination. Forwarding the

investigation federal agencies were caught at dead ends as all their leads were based on theories, and those theories unraveled himself to be not true. And ending the investigation there was no further evidence that could be found other than Oswald acting alone. In overall this would prove above all other accusations that can not be proved that Lee Harvey Oswald was the only one involved in the assassination.

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