

jfk and the cia

JFK and the CIA: Unraveling the Complex Relationship

The relationship between President John F. Kennedy and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) remains one of the most intriguing and debated topics in American history. From covert operations to political tensions, the interactions between JFK and the CIA have left a lasting impact on U.S. foreign policy and intelligence practices. This article explores the intricate history, key events, and ongoing controversies surrounding JFK and the CIA, providing a comprehensive understanding of their connection.

The Background: JFK's Presidency and Intelligence Priorities

JFK's Approach to Intelligence and Foreign Policy

John F. Kennedy's presidency (1961–1963) was marked by a focus on confronting Cold War threats, particularly from the Soviet Union and Cuba. As a young president with a background in government and a keen interest in national security, JFK prioritized strengthening intelligence capabilities to navigate a complex geopolitical landscape.

The CIA's Role During Kennedy's Administration

The CIA, established in 1947, was tasked with gathering foreign intelligence, conducting covert operations, and supporting national security objectives. During JFK's tenure, the agency was involved in numerous clandestine activities, some of which aligned with the president's strategic goals, while others created tensions and controversies.

Key Events in the JFK-CIA Relationship

The Bay of Pigs Invasion: A Failed Covert Operation

Background of the Bay of Pigs

- Planned under President Eisenhower's administration.
- Launched in April 1961, aimed to overthrow Fidel Castro's government in Cuba.
- Managed by the CIA with little direct oversight from JFK.

The Failure and Its Impact

- The invasion was poorly executed and publicly exposed.
- Resulted in a humiliating defeat and heightened tensions between JFK and the CIA.
- Led to increased skepticism about CIA operations and oversight.

The Cuban Missile Crisis: Intelligence at the Forefront

How the CIA Contributed

- Provided critical intelligence on Soviet missile deployments in Cuba.
- Played a role in developing the U-2 reconnaissance flights that uncovered missiles.

JFK's Response

- Used intelligence to navigate a tense standoff with the Soviet Union.
- Implemented a naval blockade (quarantine) to prevent further missile deliveries.
- Negotiated with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to de-escalate the crisis.

The Vietnam War and Covert Operations

Escalation of CIA Activities

- Supported South Vietnamese government and conducted covert operations against communist insurgents.
- Involved in psychological warfare, sabotage, and political manipulation.

JFK's Stance

- Initially supportive of increased intelligence efforts.
- Later expressed concern over the expanding scope of covert operations and their potential consequences.

The Assassination of JFK: Conspiracy Theories and CIA Involvement

Official Accounts

- According to the Warren Commission, Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.
- No definitive evidence linking the CIA to JFK's assassination.

Conspiracy Theories

- Numerous theories suggest CIA involvement or knowledge.
- Speculations include motives related to Cuba, the Soviet Union, or internal power struggles.
- Ongoing debates fueled by declassified documents and investigative reports.

The Post-Assassination Era and Declassified Documents

Revelations from Declassified Files

- In the decades following JFK's death, numerous documents related to CIA operations have been declassified.
- Some files reveal prior knowledge of threats or covert plans that intersected with JFK's policies.

Impact on Public Perception

- Declassified information has fostered suspicion and curiosity about the CIA's role in JFK's life and death.
- Conspiracy theories persist despite lack of conclusive proof.

The Evolution of the JFK-CIA Relationship

Changes in Intelligence Practices

- Post-Kennedy, reforms were enacted to increase oversight and accountability.
- The Church Committee (1975) investigated intelligence abuses, leading to significant policy changes.

Modern Reflections

- JFK's presidency is often viewed as a pivotal moment in U.S. intelligence history.
- The relationship between presidents and the CIA continues to be scrutinized for transparency and accountability.

Controversies and Debates

The Role of the CIA in Shaping Foreign Policy

- Debates over the morality and effectiveness of covert operations.
- Concerns about overreach and unintended consequences.

The Kennedy Assassination and Cover-up Theories

- Many believe that JFK's assassination involved elements within the CIA or other clandestine agencies.
- Despite official conclusions, skepticism remains widespread.

Conclusion: The Legacy of JFK and the CIA

The relationship between JFK and the CIA is a complex tapestry woven with clandestine operations, political tensions, and unresolved mysteries. While the agency played a crucial role in shaping Cold War strategies, its actions during JFK's presidency continue to provoke debate and investigation. Understanding this relationship is essential for grasping the broader history of U.S. intelligence and its influence on American and world history.

Key Takeaways

- JFK's presidency was marked by significant interactions with the CIA, from the Bay of Pigs to the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- The agency's covert operations had profound effects on U.S. foreign policy and JFK's legacy.
- Numerous conspiracy theories suggest CIA involvement in JFK's assassination, though no conclusive evidence exists.
- Declassified documents have shed light on some aspects of the CIA's activities during JFK's time, fueling ongoing debates.
- The evolution of oversight and intelligence reform reflects lessons learned from the past and concerns about agency accountability.

Further Reading and Resources

- Books:
- JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters by James W. Douglass
- The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence by Victor Marchetti and John D. Marks

- Reclaiming History: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy by Vincent Bugliosi
- Documentaries:
 - The Fog of War
 - JFK: The Smoking Gun
 - The Men Who Killed Kennedy
- Declassified Documents:
 - The National Archives' JFK Records Collection
 - CIA FOIA Electronic Reading Room

By exploring these resources, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the nuanced and often controversial relationship between JFK and the CIA, shedding light on a pivotal chapter in American history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the connection between JFK and the CIA?

President John F. Kennedy had a complex relationship with the CIA, initially relying on its intelligence but later growing suspicious of its independence and actions, particularly regarding the Bay of Pigs invasion and secret operations.

Did the CIA have a role in JFK's assassination?

Many conspiracy theories suggest the CIA was involved in JFK's assassination, but there is no conclusive evidence. Officially, the Warren Commission concluded Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, though some researchers continue to investigate potential covert connections.

How did JFK's stance on covert operations impact his relationship with the CIA?

JFK was reportedly critical of some CIA activities, especially after the Bay of Pigs invasion, leading to a strained relationship and efforts to curb certain covert operations during his presidency.

What revelations have emerged about CIA activities during JFK's presidency?

Declassified documents have revealed various covert operations and internal disagreements within the CIA during JFK's time in office, fueling speculation about its influence on key events like the Cuban Missile Crisis and the handling of other foreign interventions.

How has the narrative about JFK and the CIA evolved over time?

Initially, official accounts minimized CIA involvement in JFK's assassination and covert activities, but subsequent declassifications and research have led to increased public suspicion and a more nuanced understanding of the agency's role during his presidency.

Additional Resources

JFK and the CIA: Unraveling the Complex Relationship Between the 35th President and America's Intelligence Agency

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, remains one of the most scrutinized events in American history. Central to many conspiracy theories and debates is the role of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), an agency founded in 1947 primarily to gather foreign intelligence and conduct covert operations. The relationship between JFK and the CIA has been the subject of intense speculation, investigation, and debate, with many researchers suggesting that tensions and clandestine dealings between the President and the agency played a pivotal role in shaping pivotal events of the early 1960s.

This comprehensive review aims to analyze the multifaceted relationship between JFK and the CIA, exploring the agency's operations during his presidency, the conflicts that arose, and the enduring questions surrounding their interactions. Through examining declassified documents, credible testimonies, and scholarly interpretations, we seek to illuminate this complex and often controversial chapter of American history.

Historical Context: The Birth and Evolution of the CIA

Understanding the relationship between JFK and the CIA necessitates a brief overview of the agency's origins and its evolution leading up to the early 1960s.

Founding Principles and Early Operations

The CIA was established in 1947 via the National Security Act, primarily to coordinate intelligence efforts during the Cold War. Its initial focus was on gathering foreign intelligence, counterespionage, and covert actions aimed at countering Soviet influence. During the 1950s, the CIA orchestrated operations such as the overthrow of governments, including Iran (1953) and Guatemala (1954), and played a significant role in Cold War geopolitics.

The Cold War Climate and Kennedy's Foreign Policy

Kennedy inherited an era marked by intense rivalry with the Soviet Union. His administration was committed to containing communism, which often involved secret interventions. The Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro, was executed by CIA-trained Cuban exiles and became a defining moment in JFK-CIA relations.

JFK's Attitudes Toward the CIA

President Kennedy's relationship with the CIA was complex, characterized by both reliance and suspicion.

Initial Confidence and Strategic Engagement

Kennedy initially relied heavily on CIA intelligence, especially regarding Cold War threats. He approved covert operations, authorized the Bay of Pigs invasion, and sought to leverage the agency's capabilities to advance U.S. foreign policy goals.

Growing Skepticism and Frictions

However, after the failure of the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy grew wary of CIA operations. He publicly criticized the agency's handling of the invasion and expressed frustration with its independence. Notable incidents include:

- The cancellation of the Operation Mongoose plan to overthrow Fidel Castro after initial failures.
 - Concerns about the agency's clandestine activities escalating beyond presidential control.
 - A desire for greater oversight and accountability.
-

Major Events and Interactions Between JFK and the CIA

Several key events encapsulate the evolving dynamics between Kennedy and the CIA.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961)

Perhaps the most infamous episode, the Bay of Pigs involved a CIA-led operation to overthrow Castro. JFK authorized the plan but later publicly distanced himself following its

failure, leading to tensions with the CIA leadership. The fiasco damaged trust and marked a turning point in his approach to covert operations.

The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the CIA's intelligence and reconnaissance played a crucial role in identifying Soviet missile sites. Kennedy relied heavily on CIA intelligence, and the agency's JMWAVE station in Miami provided critical surveillance data. The crisis was a pivotal moment where cooperation between Kennedy and the CIA appeared strong, although underlying tensions persisted.

Operation Mongoose and Covert Actions

Kennedy authorized Operation Mongoose to destabilize Castro's regime, including sabotage, propaganda, and assassination plots. While some of these activities were conducted covertly, Kennedy was reportedly uncomfortable with the scope and ethical implications, leading to increased oversight demands.

The JFK Assassination and Conspiracy Theories

The tragic assassination in Dallas has spurred countless theories involving the CIA, with some suggesting agency involvement or knowledge of plots against Kennedy. These theories are fueled by declassified documents, alleged misconduct, and the agency's history of clandestine activities.

Declassified Documents and Revelations

Since the 1990s, numerous documents related to JFK and the CIA have been declassified, shedding light on previously clandestine activities.

The Church Committee and the Pike Committee

Senate and House investigations in the 1970s revealed widespread abuses by intelligence agencies, including unauthorized operations. These hearings highlighted the CIA's involvement in activities that conflicted with presidential authority.

The JFK Records Act and Public Disclosure

Passed in 1992, the JFK Records Act mandated the release of classified documents related to JFK's assassination and related intelligence activities. While many documents remain redacted, the disclosures have fueled ongoing debates and conspiracy theories.

Key Revelations from Declassified Files

- Evidence of CIA surveillance and covert operations targeting foreign governments and individuals.
- The agency's knowledge of potential threats to JFK prior to his assassination.
- Indications of internal disagreements within the CIA regarding certain operations.

Scholarly Interpretations and Controversies

Academic and journalistic analyses offer varying perspectives on JFK's relationship with the CIA.

Supporters' Viewpoints

Proponents argue that JFK relied heavily on CIA intelligence during crises like Cuba and that the agency's capabilities were essential to national security. They contend that JFK's frustrations stemmed from operational failures rather than fundamental opposition to the agency.

Critics' Perspectives

Critics suggest that JFK's conflicts with the CIA reflected broader concerns about unchecked intelligence activities, including illegal operations and potential involvement in destabilization campaigns. Some theorists posit that elements within the CIA sought to manipulate or influence JFK or even eliminate him.

Theories Linking the CIA to JFK's Assassination

Numerous conspiracy theories allege that the CIA played a role in JFK's assassination, motivated by disagreements, policy conflicts, or covert agendas. While these theories remain speculative, they are supported by certain declassified documents and testimonies suggesting internal dissent and clandestine plots.

Implications and Legacy

The complex relationship between JFK and the CIA continues to influence public perceptions of U.S. intelligence operations and executive oversight.

Reforms and Oversight

In response to abuses revealed in the 1970s, reforms were enacted, including the establishment of permanent oversight committees in Congress and the creation of the Director of National Intelligence. These measures aim to prevent future conflicts between the President and intelligence agencies.

Enduring Mysteries and Ongoing Research

The declassification of more documents could further clarify JFK's dealings with the CIA, but many records remain classified or redacted, fueling speculation. Researchers continue to analyze available evidence, balancing skepticism with factual inquiry.

Historical Significance

The JFK-CIA relationship exemplifies the tension between presidential authority and intelligence agency independence—a theme that remains relevant in contemporary national security debates.

Conclusion

The relationship between President John F. Kennedy and the CIA was marked by moments of cooperation, conflict, and suspicion. While the agency played a vital role in Cold War crises and covert operations, JFK's discomfort with certain clandestine activities and his ultimate push for greater oversight reveal a complex dynamic often clouded by secrecy and controversy.

As new documents continue to emerge, the full scope of their interactions remains partially shrouded, fueling ongoing debates about the true nature of JFK's presidency and the hidden machinations of America's intelligence community. Whether viewed through the lens of historical fact or conspiracy theory, the JFK and CIA relationship underscores the enduring importance of transparency, accountability, and the careful balance of power in safeguarding democracy.

End of Article

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jfk and the cia: *Murder, Inc.* James H. Johnston, 2019-08-01 Late in his life, former president Lyndon B. Johnson told a reporter that he didn't believe the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President John F. Kennedy. Johnson thought Cuban president Fidel Castro was behind it. After all, Johnson said, Kennedy was running "a damned Murder, Inc., in the Caribbean," giving Castro reason to retaliate. *Murder, Inc.*, tells the story of the CIA's assassination operations under Kennedy up to his own assassination and beyond. James H. Johnston was a lawyer for the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1975, which investigated and first reported on the Castro assassination plots and their relation to Kennedy's murder. Johnston examines how the CIA steered the Warren Commission and later investigations away from connecting its own assassination operations to Kennedy's murder. He also looks at the effect this strategy had on the Warren Commission's conclusions that assassin Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and that there was no foreign conspiracy. Sourced from in-depth research into the "secret files" declassified by the JFK Records Act and now stored in the National Archives and Records Administration, *Murder, Inc.* is the first book to narrate in detail the CIA's plots against Castro and to delve into the question of why retaliation by Castro against Kennedy was not investigated.

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jfk and the cia: *First Hand Knowledge* Robert D. Morrow, 1993-11 The only inner-circle operative not to have been mysteriously killed, the author steps out of the shadows to give riveting testimony. Morrow—who was a CIA covert agent—reveals how he came to purchase the rifles used by Oswald and others to kill JFK. Ties into the 30th anniversary of the assassination.

jfk and the cia: *Last Word* Mark Lane, 2011-11-01 Mark Lane tried the only U.S. court case in which the jurors concluded that the CIA plotted the murder of President Kennedy, but there was always a missing piece: How did the CIA control cops and secret service agents on the ground in Dealey Plaza? How did federal authorities prevent the House Select Committee on Assassinations from discovering the truth about the complicity of the CIA? Now, New York Times best-selling author Mark Lane tells all in this explosive new book—with exclusive new interviews, sworn testimony, and meticulous new research (including interviews with Oliver Stone, Dallas Police deputy sheriffs, Robert K. Tanenbaum, and Abraham Bolden) Lane finds out first hand exactly what went on the day JFK was assassinated. Lane includes sworn statements given to the Warren Commission by a police officer who confronted a man who he thought was the assassin. The officer

testified that he drew his gun and pointed it at the suspect who showed Secret Service ID. Yet, the Secret Service later reported that there were no Secret Service agents on foot in Dealey Plaza. The Last Word proves that the CIA, operating through a secret small group, prepared all credentials for Secret Service agents in Dallas for the two days that Kennedy was going to be there—conclusive evidence of the CIA's involvement in the assassination.

jfk and the cia: Plausible Denial Mark Lane, 1991

jfk and the cia: Oswald and the CIA John Newman, 2008-06-01 From the acclaimed author of JFK and Vietnam comes a book that uncovers the government's role in the Kennedy assassination more clearly than any previous inquiry. What was the extent of the CIA's involvement with Lee Harvey Oswald? Why was Oswald's file tampered with before the assassination of John F. Kennedy? And why did significant documents from that file mysteriously disappear? Oswald and the CIA answers these questions, not with theories, but with information from the primary sources themselves—ex-agents, officials, and secret records. To look at the Oswald file is to look at the most sensitive CIA operation of the Cold War. The story is as alarming as it is tragic; the lies and manipulations it reveals led directly to Kennedy's murder. Oswald and the CIA is a gripping journey to the darkest corners of the CIA.

jfk and the cia: Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy United States. Congress. House. Select Committee on Assassinations, 1979

jfk and the cia: The CIA's Greatest Hits Mark Zepezauer, 2012-04-01 A revised and updated edition of the explosive book that blows the lid off the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA's Greatest Hits details how the CIA: • hired top Nazi war criminals, shielded them from justice and learned—and used—their techniques • has been involved in assassinations, bombings, massacres, wars, death squads, drug trafficking, and rigged elections all over the world • tortures children as young as 13 and adults as old as 89, resulting in forced “confessions to all sorts of imaginary crimes (an innocent Kuwaiti was tortured for months to make him keep repeating his initial lies, and a supposed al-Qaeda leader was waterboarded 187 times in a single month without producing a speck of useful information) • orchestrates the media—which one CIA deputy director liked to call “the mighty Wurlitzer—and places its agents inside newspapers, magazines and book publishers • and much more The CIA's crimes continue unabated, and unpunished. The day before General David Petraeus took over as the twentieth CIA director, federal prosecutors announced that they were dropping 99 investigations into the deaths of people in CIA custody, leaving just two active cases they're willing to pursue.

jfk and the cia: Coup D'état in America Alan J. Weberman, Michael Canfield, 1992 The genus *Peromyscus* is one of the most representative genera of North American mammals and the most intensively studied. This volume focuses on five areas of peromyscine biology that have been particularly dynamic over the past 20 years, and in which there have been significant contributions both to specific knowledge of the genus as well as to the understanding of broader ecological and evolutionary processes.

jfk and the cia: Reclaiming History Vincent Bugliosi, 2007-05-17 For fifty years the truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been obscured. This book releases us from a crippling distortion of American history. At 1:00 p.m. on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was pronounced dead, the victim of a sniper attack during his motorcade through Dallas. That may be the only fact generally agreed upon in the vast literature spawned by the assassination. National polls reveal that an overwhelming majority of Americans (75%) believe that there was a high-level conspiracy behind Lee Harvey Oswald. Many even believe that Oswald was entirely innocent. In this continuously absorbing, powerful, ground-breaking book, Vincent Bugliosi shows how we have come to believe such lies about an event that changed the course of history. The brilliant prosecutor of Charles Manson and the man who forged an iron-clad case of circumstantial guilt around O. J. Simpson in his best-selling *Outrage* Bugliosi is perhaps the only man in America capable of writing the definitive book on the Kennedy assassination. This is an achievement that has for years seemed beyond reach. No one imagined that such a book would ever be written: a single

volume that once and for all resolves, beyond any reasonable doubt, every lingering question as to what happened in Dallas and who was responsible. There have been hundreds of books about the assassination, but there has never been a book that covers the entire case, including addressing every piece of evidence and each and every conspiracy theory, and the facts, or alleged facts, on which they are based. In this monumental work, the author has raised scholarship on the assassination to a new and final level, one that far surpasses all other books on the subject. It adds resonance, depth, and closure to the admirable work of the Warren Commission. *Reclaiming History* is a narrative compendium of fact, forensic evidence, reexamination of key witnesses, and common sense. Every detail and nuance is accounted for, every conspiracy theory revealed as a fraud on the American public. Bugliosi's irresistible logic, command of the evidence, and ability to draw startling inferences shed fresh light on this American nightmare. At last it all makes sense.

jfk and the cia: *Legacy of Secrecy* Lamar Waldron, Thom Hartmann, 2009-03-01 This painstakingly researched follow up to *Ultimate Sacrifice* draws on "explosive new material" from the National Archives to piece together the puzzle of JFK's assassination (*Vanity Fair*). "A riveting take on the assassination itself and the devastating results of government secrets." —*Publishers Weekly* John F. Kennedy's assassination launched a frantic search to find his killers. It also launched a flurry of covert actions by Lyndon Johnson, Robert F. Kennedy, and other top officials to hide the fact that in November 1963, the United States was on the brink of invading Cuba as part of a JFK-authorized coup. The coup plan's exposure could have led to a nuclear confrontation with Russia, but the cover-up prevented a full investigation into Kennedy's assassination, a legacy of secrecy that would impact American politics and foreign policy for the next forty-five years. It also allowed two men who confessed their roles in JFK's murder to be involved in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968. Exclusive interviews and newly declassified files from the National Archives document in chilling detail how three mob bosses were able to prevent the truth from coming to light until now.

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jfk and the cia: *Mary's Mosaic* Peter Janney, 2013-10-01 Who really murdered Mary Pinchot Meyer in the fall of 1964? Why was there a mad rush by CIA counterintelligence chief James Angleton to immediately locate and confiscate her diary? What in that diary was so explosive and revealing? Had Mary Meyer finally put together the intricate pieces of a bewildering, conspiratorial mosaic of information that revealed a plan to assassinate her lover, President Kennedy, with the trail ultimately ending at the doorstep of the Central Intelligence Agency? And was it mere coincidence that Mary Meyer was killed less than three weeks after the release of the Warren Commission Report? Based on years of painstaking research and interviews, much of it revealed here for the first time, author Peter Janney traces some of the most important events and influences in the life of Mary Pinchot Meyer—including her first meeting with Jack Kennedy at the Choate School during the winter of 1936, her explorations with psychedelic drugs, and finally how she supported her secret lover, the president of the United States, as he turned away from the Cold War toward the pursuit of world peace. As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination—and Mary Meyer's—*Mary's Mosaic* adds to our understanding of why both took place. This paperback edition has been updated and revised with a significant postscript that focuses on Meyer's alleged assassin, who the author finally located and confronted in person in August 2012, as well as the ongoing saga of Janney's attempt to reopen the case based on new evidence.

jfk and the cia: *Conspiracy in Camelot* Jerome A. Kroth, 2003 This complete and up-to-date synopsis of the assassination of JFK (the actors, witnesses and investigators) weighs the different theories and looks at the drama as both a detective story and a defining moment in American mass

psychology.

jfk and the cia: *God, School, 9/11 and JFK* Bruce de Torres, 2021-05-21 GOD, SCHOOL, 9/11 AND JFK by Bruce de Torres exposes the lies that are killing us (we are poor, miserable sinners who deserve God's condemnation and school's incarceration; salvation and careers depend on doing what we are told) and the truth that sets us free (we are eternal love and consciousness, creating all we behold). The lies of 9/11 and the JFK assassination prove our government was hijacked by elites, who strip our rights, wage wars of aggression, and accumulate unspendable riches as they seek to rule the world. The ideals of the American Founding enthrone our sovereignty, our right to be free and oversee a transparent and accountable government. What is seen by those who die and return suggests eternal life and safety. The truth restores our sanity, braces us to play this game of life, and allows us to love each other as ourselves as we create the solutions that we need.

jfk and the cia: *The Hidden History of the JFK Assassination* Lamar Waldron, 2013-10-21 INSIDE THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY: This fascinating history draws on never-before-published information to reveal the Mafia conspiracy that led to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Answering the questions that have haunted Americans for decades: Why and how was JFK murdered? The Hidden History of JFK's Assassination draws on exclusive interviews with more than two dozen associates of John and Robert Kennedy, in addition to former FBI, Secret Service, military intelligence, and Congressional personnel, who provided critical first-hand information. The book also uses government files—including the detailed FBI confession of notorious Mafia godfather Carlos Marcello—to simply and clearly reveal who killed JFK. Using information never published before, the book uses Marcello's own words to his closest associates to describe the plot. His confession is also backed up by a wealth of independent documentation. This book builds on the work of the last Congressional committee to investigate JFK's murder, which concluded that JFK "was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy," and that godfathers "[Santo] Trafficante [and Carlos] Marcello had the motive, means, and opportunity to assassinate President Kennedy." However, it also draws on exclusive files and information not available to Congress, that have only emerged in recent years, to fully explain for the first time how Marcello and Trafficante committed—and got away with—the crime of the 20th century.

jfk and the cia: *The CIA's Black Ops* John Jacob Nutter, Ph.D, 2009-12-04 The vast array of CIA black ops (operations) has turned the agency into a policy maker dangerously independent of the government that created it. This is an unprecedented declassification of foreign exploits and domestic secrets.

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