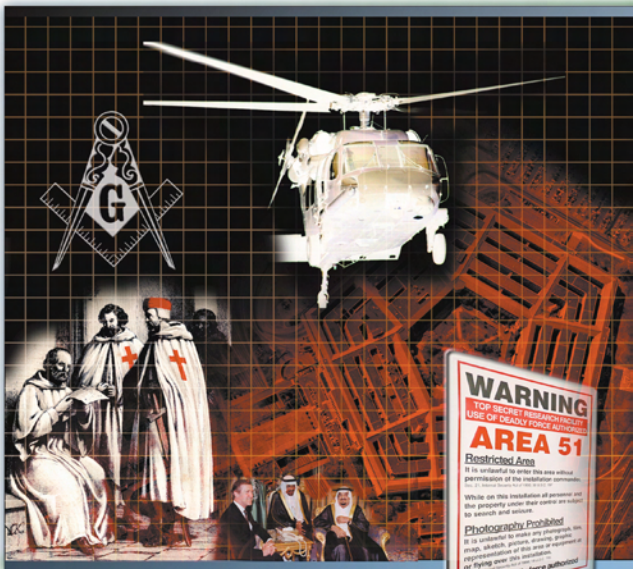


MICHAEL NEWTON

The Encyclopedia of **CONSPIRACIES AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

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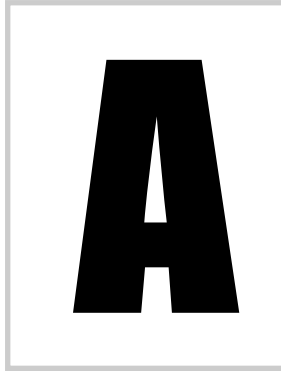


THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
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Michael Newton



Facts On File, Inc.



ABBAS, Abu (1948–2004)

One of the world's most notorious terrorists prior to the advent of Osama bin Laden (see BIN LADEN FAMILY), Abu Abbas was born in 1948 in a Syrian refugee camp for Arabs who were expelled from ISRAEL. He studied at Damascus University and was recruited by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1968. After guerrilla training in the Soviet Union, Abbas joined the newly formed Palestine Liberation Front and engaged in bitter conflict between rival Palestinian groups in LEBANON. He subsequently allied himself with Yasser Arafat and Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In 1981, Abbas was credited with planning the hang-glider attack on an oil refinery at Haifa, Israel. A year later, when the PLO was exiled to Tunisia, Abbas was elected to the group's ruling executive committee. In October 1985 U.S. authorities named Abbas as the mastermind of the *Achille Lauro* hijacking, during which an American hostage was murdered. Abbas negotiated the surrender of four hijackers in that case and joined them on a flight to Tunisia, where they were supposed to be "disciplined" by PLO leaders. That flight was intercepted by U.S. warplanes, with Abbas and the hijackers jailed by Italian authorities, but Abbas was released to Yugoslavia on October 12, 1985. From there, he reportedly flew to Baghdad, IRAQ. An Italian court subsequently convicted Abbas in absentia and sentenced him to life imprisonment, but he remained

in hiding until 1996 when Israeli authorities permitted him to settle in the Gaza Strip as part of the endless Middle East "peace process." Abbas publicly embraced nonviolence, while U.S. and Italian authorities ignored him. U.S. troops captured Abbas in April 2003 after they invaded Baghdad as part of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. His death in U.S. custody was announced in February 2004, with jailers blaming his demise on natural causes while the late prisoner's widow called his death an assassination.

AFGHANISTAN

Darius I and Alexander the Great were the first conquerors to visit Afghanistan, followed by Muslim invaders in the seventh century, Genghis Khan (13th century) and Tamerlane (14th century). Four hundred years later, the "great game" between England and RUSSIA for control of central Asia sparked three Afghan Wars (1839–42, 1878–80, and 1919). Britain was victorious, granting Afghani independence in 1919, and the monarchy of Emir Amanullah was founded in 1926.

The Afghan front remained peaceful until the cold war prompted King Mohammed Zahir Shah to accept financial aid from the Soviet Union. A royal cousin, Mohammed Daud Khan, dethroned the king in 1973 and was himself unseated by rival Noor Taraki five years later. Taraki and successor Babrak Karmal tried to establish a Communist state, but

ZOG

Weizmann called the act “a miraculous clearance of the land.”

It must be noted that Zionism does not represent the sole Jewish viewpoint in regard to Palestine or the question of a Jewish state. Many religious Jews interpret God’s promise of a Jewish homeland as referring to events *after* the advent of the Messiah—an occurrence which all orthodox Jews agree has not yet occurred. One contrary organization, Neturei Karta, issues fliers with a header addressed to Zionists: “Why do you violate God’s order? It will not succeed!”

See also HOLOCAUST AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL.

ZOG

ZOG is an abbreviation for “Zionist Occupation Government,” a name applied by modern neo-Nazis since the early 1980s to the U.S. federal government in Washington, D.C. According to such groups as the KU KLUX KLAN, the SILENT BROTHERHOOD, POSSE COMITATUS, and various militia factions, Jewish conspirators based in ISRAEL or elsewhere have captured control of the United States, including the presidency, Congress, and the SUPREME COURT, dictating subversive policies which threaten white supremacy and otherwise conform to the broad terms of world domination outlined in the fraudulent *PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION*. No evidence supports this fascist fantasy, but it persists regardless, finding new adherents in the ranks of gullible skinheads and other disaffected youth who seek scapegoats for personal failure.

See also FASCISM; MILITIAS; ZIONISM.

ZOMBIES

Best known to moviegoers as rotting reanimated corpses, slow on their feet and hungry for human flesh, zombies occupy a rather different place in the culture of their native HAITI. To worshipers of voodoo, any person may be subject to a curse that kills and then allows the victim’s enemy to resurrect his prey, the undead zombie forced to work forever as a mindless slave. Of course, enlightened persons understand that no such creatures actually exist.

Or do they?

On May 2, 1962, 40-year-old Clairvius Narcisse died at a Haitian hospital. He was buried the following

day—then resurfaced in his native village during 1980. Fingerprints confirmed his identity, but physicians could not explain his belated resurrection. Narcisse claimed that his brother hired a Vodun priest to curse him in 1962 and that his “corpse” was unearthed within hours of burial, after which he spent two years as a plantation slave in northern Haiti. With other zombies his brother rebelled and escaped in 1964, but he spent the next 16 years hiding in fear for his life until news reached him of his brother’s death.

Similar cases are well documented by Haitian physicians, but they remained mysterious until 1982 when Harvard botanist Wade Davis launched a three-year study of zombification, tracing the practice back to its native roots. Davis emerged from his study with malaria, hepatitis, and enough material for two books on voodoo, including a detailed breakdown of various “zombie” potions derived from toxic plants and fish. Abrasive ingredients, ranging from ground glass to caustic plant resins, permit the toxins to penetrate human skin (as when victims walk barefoot over treated soil). The concoctions simulate symptoms of death without inducing full unconsciousness so that victims are aware of their own “death” and interment. Traditional belief in voodoo provides a supernatural explanation when the victims are unearthed and revived with chemical antidotes, sometimes including drugs that promote amnesia and overcome physical resistance.

Z/R Rifle

Z/R Rifle was the code name for one of several plots hatched by the U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) in its campaign to murder Cuban leader FIDEL CASTRO. Apparently hatched in the summer of 1961, Z/R Rifle involved CIA recruitment of MAFIA leaders including SAM GIANCANA, JOHN ROSELLI, SANTOS TRAFFICANTE, and others. (Some researchers also describe New Orleans mob boss CARLOS MARCELLO and syndicate mastermind MEYER LANSKY as integral members of the plot.) Those notorious gangsters apparently joined in the conspiracy with full knowledge of Attorney General Robert Kennedy and presumably with the collaboration of President John Kennedy. Despite recruitment of such lethal talent, however, all efforts at liquidating Castro failed. Author Gus Russo contends that the multiple murder

attempts, albeit unsuccessful, drove Castro to plot and execute the JFK ASSASSINATION of November 22, 1963, as an act of retaliation. Other researchers disagree, suggesting that the Z/R Rifle team itself was more likely responsible for Kennedy's murder in Dallas. In 1979 the HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS officially absolved both Castro and

the CIA of any role in JFK's murder. The same committee declared that "the national syndicate of organized crime, as a group, was not involved in the assassination of President Kennedy, but . . . the available evidence does not preclude the possibility that individual members may have been involved."

See also KENNEDY DYNASTY.