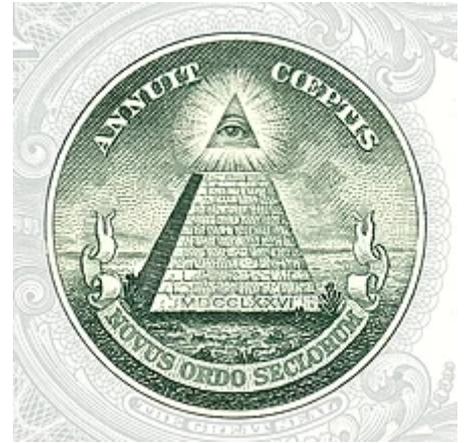


# List of conspiracy theories

This is a **list of conspiracy theories** that are notable. Many conspiracy theories relate to clandestine government plans and elaborate murder plots. Conspiracy theories usually deny consensus or cannot be proven using the historical or scientific method and are not to be confused with research concerning verified conspiracies such as Germany's pretense for invading Poland in World War II.

In principle, conspiracy theories are not false by default and their validity depends on evidence just as in any theory; although they are often discredited *a priori* due to the cumbersome and improbable nature of many of them.

Psychologists attribute finding a conspiracy where there is none to a mental illness called *illusory pattern perception*.<sup>[3][4]</sup>



The Eye of Providence, or the all-seeing eye of God, seen here on the US\$1 bill, has been taken by some to be evidence of a conspiracy involving the founders of the United States and the Illuminati<sup>[1]:58[2]:47–49</sup>

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**See also**

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**Further reading**

## Aviation

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Numerous conspiracy theories pertain to air travel and aircraft. Incidents such as the 1955 bombing of the Kashmir Princess, the 1985 Arrow Air Flight 1285 crash, the 1986 Mozambican Tupolev Tu-134 crash, the 1987 Helderberg Disaster, the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and the 1994 Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash as well as various aircraft technologies and alleged sightings, have all spawned theories of foul play which deviate from official verdicts.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Black helicopters

This conspiracy theory emerged in the U.S. in the 1960s. The John Birch Society originally promoted<sup>[6]</sup> it, asserting that a United Nations force would soon arrive in black helicopters to bring the U.S. under UN control. The theory re-emerged in the 1990s during the presidency of Bill Clinton, and has been promoted by talk show host Glenn Beck.<sup>[7][8]</sup> A similar theory concerning so-called "phantom helicopters" appeared in the UK in the 1970s.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Chemtrails

Also known as SLAP (Secret Large-scale Atmospheric Program), this theory alleges that water condensation trails ("contrails") from aircraft consist of chemical or biological agents, or contain a supposedly toxic mix of aluminum, strontium and barium,<sup>[10]</sup> under secret government policies. An estimated 17% of people globally believe the theory to be true or partly true. In 2016, the Carnegie Institution for Science published the first-ever peer-reviewed study of the chemtrail theory; 76 out of 77 participating atmospheric chemists and geochemists stated that they had seen no evidence to support the chemtrail theory, or stated that chemtrail theorists rely on poor sampling.<sup>[11][12]</sup>



A high-flying jet's engines leaving a condensation trail (contrail)

### Korean Air Lines Flight 007

The destruction of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 by Soviet jets in 1983 has long drawn the interest of conspiracy theorists. The theories range from allegations of a planned espionage mission, to a US government cover-up, to the consumption of the passengers' remains by giant crabs.

### Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in southeast Asia in March 2014 has prompted many theories. One theory suggests that this plane was hidden away and reintroduced as Flight MH17 later the same year in order to be shot down over Ukraine for political purposes. Prolific American conspiracy theorist James H. Fetzer has placed responsibility for the disappearance with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.<sup>[13]</sup>