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Conspiracy theories usually revolve around the major social, financial or political phenomenon. A conspiracy theory is a belief that the information presented to the public is not accurate and may even be intentionally misleading. The rise of social networks and instant communication has enabled the rapid growth and spread of conspiracy theories. Natural disasters are popular fodder for conspiracy theories. Sometimes people who formulate theories find events in ancient history to uphold their claims. Conspiracy theories are prevalent in modern times, but have existed throughout human history. The general public looks down and rejects people who believe in conspiracy theories. Some people snicker or roll their eyes to claims they don't heed logic, but surveys and questionnaires have found that most people believe in at least one conspiracy theory. Some conspiracy theories are easier to recognize than others. Conspiracy theories quickly catch on for a number of reasons. The human mind is very good at recognizing patterns. This was a skill that benefited our ancestors, and it still helps us today. Model recognition is almost automatic in many cases. The mind takes in new information constantly and people are often unaware of the existence of a pattern until the normal pattern is broken. Confusion, when patterns are disrupted, prompts a desire to find out why it has been disrupted. The same model of recognition supports belief in conspiracy theories. MbrH/Getty Images The thought of a hidden agenda or an unknown entity behind the scenes causes the mind to look for supporting evidence. Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for information that supports existing beliefs. Giving in to confirmation bias without realizing that it is easy. The mind creates connections between unrelated events to support a predetermined conclusion or decision. porcorex/Getty Images People frequently look for reasons behind confusing or troublesome events. It is human nature to form logic and reason from chaos. Conspiracy theories are most believable when they explain events that seemed like a fluke. Coincidences around significant events can quickly become a story with good guys and bad guys, making the story even more appealing as a conspiracy theory. Adventr/Getty Images Flat Earth Society is tenacious and wins supporters. They produce documentaries, continuously update a detailed website, and run multiple YouTube channels. They participate in media interviews and maintain an active Twitter account. Their evidence is well documented. Academics in the Flat Earth Society create documents and different types of professional media. They argue that gravity does not exist, instead the Earth accelerates upwards with the power of dark energy. Members of the Earth Society debate Einstein's theories within the group. Extensive documentation and highly active members have made flat earth theory one of the most conspiracy theories. Flat Earth Society has no obvious way of taking advantage of their claims or anything to gain from pushing an agenda. This gives an impression of legitimacy that many conspiracy theories lack. cokada/Getty Images Some conspiracy theories are so out there they seem to be more like poorly-written science fiction than a theory. David Icke is the source of many reptilian claims. Reptilians, also known as Draconians or Saurians, are a shape-shift race of humanoid aliens with reptile characteristics. Reptilians present themselves as people to take control of the governments of the world and rule the land. Some people believe that the origin of the Reptilians is the fictional series Conan the Barbarian. Reptilian theory may have begun as fiction until someone mistakenly thought it was reality. Sometimes reptilian theories are combined with Illuminati theories. Reptilians are portrayed as ancient leaders of the Illuminati. Bike_Maverick/Getty Images Order of the Illuminati was a secret society of intellectuals in Germany in 1776. They opposed religious and elitist influence, and the group gradually disappeared. Illuminated by modern conspiracy theories is the most comprehensive and comprehensive theory known. It is assumed that the Illuminati have controlled mankind for centuries, and still manipulate the governments of the world with ease. It began with a book called Principia Discordia a book written by anarchists who never wanted to be taken seriously. Another writer, Robert Anton Wilson, worked with one of the anarchist authors to write Illuminati! Trilogy. They thought giving the general public more conflicting views of events would lead to widespread questions. The confusion was meant to destroy trust in official sources. Mak_Art/Getty Images One of the most famous conspiracy theories relates to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. No single theory explaining his death has gained importance over alternatives, but distrust of the official story of his death is widespread and enduring. Many people over generations believe that the government retains information about and why JFK died. Other long-standing conspiracy theories involve government contact with 51st Area aliens and The fate of Rudolph Hess. Hess was one of Hitler's trusted advisers and commanders. Gremlin/Getty Educated Images people are less likely to engage in conspiracy theories than the average person. Well-informed people are predisposed to question what they are told, but they also question conspiracy theories. Many conspiracy theories do not resist under any control. A joint study between Lehigh University and Harvard University, conducted over 5 years, sought to determine the factors that influence faith in theories Participants who overestimated their knowledge of government, politics and science were most likely to believe conspiracy theories. Participants who have tried knowledge were much less likely to believe, although there are exceptions. Some conspiracy theories are supported or initiated by people with higher education. Conspiracy theories initiated by professionals and academics tend to be very complex with a small group of dedicated devotees. Diy13/ Getty Images Conspiracy theories are very hard to debunk because they have a built-in defense against any argument. Claims and evidence that oppose the theory are effortlessly rejected as part of a cover-up. In some cases, it would be the Reptilians, the supporters can't believe their claims. Many reptilian websites and YouTube channels seem to follow intrigues of classic science fiction works, while some authors integrate reptilians into new fiction novels. Other conspiracy theories have genuine, dedicated supporters who are not swayed by anything. Flat Earth supporters do not consider entire fields of science to believe and advocate for their theories. The scientific community and governments throughout history have made false claims. Some false claims were intentional, while others were the result of a change in information or scientific advances that challenged previous conclusions. Conspiracy theorists cite such incidents to defend their own credibility. stock-eye/Getty Images AP Photo/Chao Soi CheongSmoke billows from one of the towers of the World Trade Center and flames and debris explode from the other tower, September 11, 2001. Are you the kind of person who likes to hear about a good conspiracy theory? Some people just don't like the discomfort that a conspiracy theory creates. But for others, conspiracy theories are interesting. They like to explore all the possibilities that a conspiracy theory presents, in the same way that they like to explore puzzles or mysterious novels. Sometimes a conspiracy theory is ridiculous and learning about it is a form of entertainment. Or you might find that the theory is credible and makes you believe. It's interesting to consider the theory, weigh the evidence and come to a conclusion. In the 21st century, an event reigns supreme in the catalogue of conspiracy theories: the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States. This event is seared in the consciousness of the nation and has significantly affected the entire planet. It seems inevitable that people would shout conspiracy about any event with this impact much. However, conspiracy theories around 9/11 have been strong and consistent. The whole controversy surrounding 9/11 boils down to a simple question: Did 19 terrorists cause all the destruction assisted on 9/11/2001, or did a group of people in the U.S. government conspire to create this destruction for political gain? The U.S. government has provided the terrorist explanation, and this is the story that many people believe. large number of people, however, refuse to believe this official story. They believe that conspiracy theorists when they say that the U.S. government actually masterminded and executed executed Attack. We could spend a lot of time arguing on one side or the other. Instead, we'll focus on the process. Isn't it fascinating that there can be two credible explanations for such a complex event, and that both explanations can be so diametrically opposed to each other? start a conspiracy theory like this? What is needed to fuel it in a full-time public debate? Can the theory ever be proven? What does the possibility of theory say about our society? In this article we will explore these questions and more as we look at the events of September 11th. Conspiracy The Conspiracy The basics Image courtesy of Amazon Oliver Stone's 1991 film JFK addresses a controversial version of the events surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The Dictionary defines a conspiracy theory in this way: A theory that seeks to explain a case or matter challenged as a plot by a secret group or alliance, rather than an individual or isolated act. [ref] A conspiracy theorist, therefore, is a person who formulates such a theory. There is a certain negative subton of the term conspiracy theory in today's society. Detractors will point out that many conspiracy theories contain certain characteristics that undermine their credibility. In this article, however, we use the term conspiracy theory in its neutral sense. We use it to mean an alternative explanation for an event, so it's defined in the dictionary. In modern times there have been a number of conspiracy theories. One example is the assassination of John F. Kennedy. After the assassination, the government offered an explanation for the events. A large number of people (at one time, more than half the adult population in the United States) simply do not believe the government's explanation. This conspiracy theory has reached such a high level in the public consciousness that an entire Hollywood film was made about him: JFK, directed by Oliver Stone and released in 1991. Kennedy's assassination did indeed begin the modern conspiracy theory movement. This is an event where the government's official explanation of crime has been openly ridiculed by a large number of normal citizens. Many people believe that the Kennedy assassination was carried out as part of a larger government-centered conspiracy, rather than as a random event organized by a single gunman. In the same way, a very large number of people do not believe that the terrorists carried out the events observed on 9/11. Instead, they believe the government caused these events. Next, we'll see the conspiracy theories begin. Advertising Advertising