



Conspiracy Theory and the End of The Enlightenment

Lincoln Stoller, PhD., 2012

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Here's a classic version of the general conspiracy theory that appears in a [comment written by Ben Fulford](#).

"The United States of America Corporation (as opposed to the Republic of the United States), (is a) criminal corporation (that) has been constantly at war over the past 60 years if not the past several hundred years... The 13 inbred families that own this corporation have been trying desperately to avoid bankruptcy by starting World War 3. However, even though they retain a rump of brain-washed slaves in Europe and North America, they have lost their ability to fool the world's governments, militaries



and intelligence agencies. Soon even the brain-dead TV slaves will awaken."

This rather tame version creates a plot line that connects local, recent, and acknowledged events. There are smaller theories that are closer to accepted fact – such as the vaccination, cell-phone and other corporate conspiracies – and grand theories that border on the all-inclusive, such as Project Blue Beam, which is described below.



I don't know how many conspiracy theory websites there are but there seem to be many. Most are fervent. Serious sources belittle them but there is much to glean from the content, methods, and motivations of these writers. Conspiracy theory is both a symptom and a vector of discontent. I am sure its adherents are growing in number.

I'll give a few examples of conspiracy-like theories to illustrate their common elements and their value. I will make the point that they are a reflection of widespread change of thought in the role of accepted notions of reasoning and trust.

A good place to start is the educate-yourself.org site of Ken Adachi. I like this site because it's clear, comprehensive, and its authorship is relatively transparent. Ken Adachi identifies himself, gives his email and phone number, and provides directions on how to contact him. That's necessary for any kind of plausibility.

Adachi has a long list of briefly covered topics for which he provides useful links. He doesn't do his own research and he has no special expertise. This is typical of conspiracy theory and conspiracy theorists. It is very much a *Vox populi*.

Unlike most conspiracy theorists, and to his credit, Adachi seems open to a change of mind, as is indicated on his "The War on Terror is a Hoax" page. There he quotes [Paul Craig Roberts' refutation](#) of his own initial anti-Islamic hysteria. Roberts says:

According to US government propaganda, terrorist cells are spread throughout America, making it necessary for the government to spy on all Americans and violate most other constitutional protections... If America were infected with



terrorists, we would not need the government to tell us. We would know it from events. As there are no events, the US government substitutes warnings in order to keep alive the fear that causes the public to accept pointless wars, the infringement of civil liberty, national ID cards, and inconveniences and harassments when they fly.



In response to this Adachi seems to have dropped his smaller paranoia and replaced it with Paul Roberts' more comprehensive conspiracy theory. At its root Conspiracy Theory attempts to be systematic and comprehensive. It aims to be a Systems Theory but lacks an understanding of what that means.

I think much of the information at Adachi's site is factually wrong but that this should be expected. Like any new idea, these theories are full of holes. What is valuable is the picture of justified paranoia and the attempt to make sense of deceptive politics.

Here are some of the topics on Adachi's site along with my comments. Some of these situations are independent of others, but most are seen as some aspect of a larger system. All have an element of deceptive actors and manipulative intent. This kind of exploitation is generally accepted in a free-enterprise culture, and these theories inhabit this moral inconsistency. If you had a small view of what we consume and what is manufactured, then you might conceive of Conspiracy Theory as consumer activism gone berserk.

[Myths & Lies of the Vaccine Industry](#)

The issue was a proposed New York State mandate that all health care workers receive Swine Flu vaccinations. The site offers limited content but adds hysteria. More detail is provided through links to a [piece by Gary Null](#) that runs far and wide through all vaccines, history, and public policy. If you follow the topic to Gary Null's web site the thread is lost, as Gary Null's site sells health foods and survivalist gear.

There is information supporting a conspiracy theory of vaccination, but it requires much greater focus and evidence. That trail picks up with a study of Andrew Wakefield's 1998 paper in the medical journal *The Lancet* that presented apparent evidence that autism spectrum disorders could be caused by the MMR vaccine. Great effort was put into publicly debunking Wakefield's work, but he has defended himself and, in turn, accused his debunkers of deception. A subsequent court case [overturned Wakefield's assignment of medical misconduct](#) and subsequent events that I've followed through Dr. Campbell-McBride reveal the hallmarks of the kind of industrial espionage that is practiced in all monopolistic industries.



If you're interested in following these ideas, then you'd get the quickest start by reading the most current debunkers of the anti-vaccine camp. Campbell-McBride gets a thrashing in [GAPS in a Doctor's Reasoning About Vaccines and Autism](#). This pro-vaccination blogger is neither balanced nor informative but he gives reference to the various camps. For a balanced review of the anti-vaccine perspective, see [this article](#) on the Weston A. Price website.

It is true that the vaccine industry is a pet project of public health officials who think they know better, and are willing to endanger millions of people in their faith in epidemiology and social engineering. That is what public health is all about, after all. That is a system, not a conspiracy. The Conspiracy Theorist connects these *scienticians* to the hypothetical controllers at the top of the supposed pyramid – a connection largely left to one's imagination.

As with much Conspiracy Theory there is a reaction against reductive argument, an attraction to holism, and a reliance on shared belief. This reflects, among other things, a traditional American hostility toward intellectualism and elitism, instead advocating "frontier common sense" and local control.

Cell Phone Dangers

This is another topic of economic conspiracy and manipulated science. Plausible topics such as this are the substrate of the larger and less well-founded conspiracy theories. In this case there is no doubt that cell phones are a huge business with concentrated profits. Electromagnetic radiation most likely does have chronic health effects but public policy is based on studies of acute effects. There is great profit in collecting evidence of the safety of electromagnetic devices and virtually no profit in confirming any danger.

We recently watched an interesting YouTube video on the topic of biological sensitivity to electromagnetic radiation called "[Resonance: Beings of Frequency – Mobile Phone Technology Causing Harm](#)". I found this exposition to be full of holes and exaggerations, yet after discounting what I disagreed with I still accepted the author's conclusion that cell phones cause chronic health problems; and for sensitive people acute health problems can ensue.

**Just the facts, mam.
Just the facts.**



Two things are going on here. On the one hand there's a plausible idea and a trail of evidence. The trail leads through familiar conspiracy concepts, cobbles together scientific evidence, and arrives at an actionable proposal that always seems to revolve around taking things into one's own hands. This both provides a reward and an incentive to go to the next level. The "next level" is to consider a larger conspiracy with larger implications and a potentially larger reward in its thwarting.



In the case of cell-phone dangers the larger conspiracy involves a variety of forms of electromagnetic invasion and control. Here things get both interesting and "kooky" and, I think, fun. There is everything from electromagnetic mind control to orgone energy. Personally, I'm a fan of orgone energy because it's totally outlandish and because its discoverer, [Wilhelm Reich](#), seems to have been dead-on right about everything else he did. To jump down that rabbit hole read about the

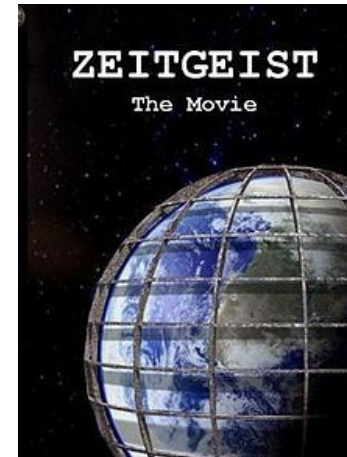


[Orgonite Gifting Movement here.](#)

[Zeitgeist Refuted: A Critical Examination of the Distortions & Falsified History](#)

I very much enjoyed the [Zeitgeist movie](#) when I first saw it. There were two (actually there are four, but I saw only the first two). The first movie focused on religion and neo-con propaganda. The second one, called [Zeitgeist Addendum](#), focused on the Nine-Eleven event, the international monetary system, and alternative social structures.

[Wikipedia summarizes the movie's conclusion](#) as an exploration of *"the idea that all major social problems are ultimately the result of wide-scale ignorance concerning the two concepts of emergence and symbiosis—an ignorance maintained by the political, monetary, and religious institutions."*



I was grateful that a single person could and did produce these movies largely through their own efforts. They are worth watching simply to remind yourself of what you too could accomplish. My partner Liz recently commented on the anti-religious sentiment the movies convey, and the refutation of the Zeitgeist point of view presented at educate-yourself.org addresses the astro-theological ideas in the first movie. In this it is a pro-religious reaction to Zeitgeist agnosticism.

Both have their place in a dialog that should have more than two vantage points. A broad perspective accepts the truths and recognizes the fallacies in both extremes. I have not seen these refutations so I can't comment, but I would be interested in seeing whether the pro-religious camp can be clear-headed. They don't have a good track record, and comments against the Zeitgeist thesis indicate it's strongly adversarial:

"I'm so grateful (for) this careful and critical rebuttal to the specious and un-supported allegations and historical inaccuracies proffered by two of the most outrageous and disingenuous New Age propaganda peddlers I've ever encountered."

Jesus Mythers

"Zeitgeist Refuted" Debunked and Exposed

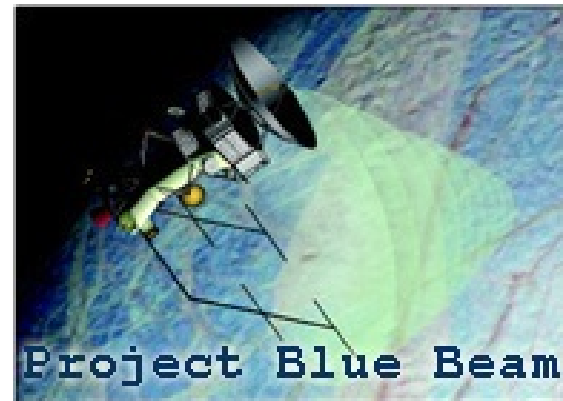
It should be mentioned, and generally is not mentioned, that Zeitgeist's astro-theology comes from [Manley P. Hall](#) who wrote "The Secret Teachings of All Ages" in 1936. The fact that it's not a new story, but is being presented as if it were, is a hallmark of conspiracy theory. Conspiracy theories are rarely based on original research, although the better theories expose new information.

Project Blue Beam

Here we step away from weakly plausible science which, for those who knew they were right all along, was only a means of substantiating their intuition in the first place. In Project Blue Beam the dots themselves are the argument for their connection. Deduction atrophies, blows away, and is replaced by a system of thought that is entirely inductive. So much for the scientific method, which was never understood in the first place.

Project Blue Beam is described as a NASA-orchestrated project for world domination in four steps. There is so much going on in this theory that I think it best to just present an overview. The theory is so big that it cannot be contained and never concluded. Indeed, that is the point.

Project Blue Beam:



Step One: the breakdown of all archaeological knowledge. Artificially created earthquakes at certain precise locations on the planet and supposedly new discoveries which will finally explain to all people the "error" of all fundamental religious doctrines.

Step Two: a gigantic "space show" with three-dimensional optical holograms and sounds, laser projection of multiple holographic images to different parts of the world, each receiving a different image according to predominating regional national religious faith. This new "god's voice" will be speaking in all languages... this superbly staged falsification will result in social and religious disorder on a grand scale.

Step Three: the use of Telepathic Electronic Two-Way Communication by the use of which,

"mind control of the entire planet is now possible. An individual's only resistance would be to constantly question the motivation behind their thoughts, and not act upon thoughts which they consider to be outside their own ideological, religious and moral boundaries."

Step Four: has three parts that generate a "universal supernatural manifestation with electronic means:

- Part A: *"make mankind believe that an alien (off-world) invasion is about to occur at every major city on earth in order to provoke each major nation to use its nuclear weapons in order to strike back."*
- Part B: *"make the Christians believe that the Rapture is going to occur with the supposed divine intervention of an alien (off-world) civilization coming to rescue earthlings from a savage and merciless demon."*
- Part C: *"supernatural forces' will travel through optical fibers, coaxial cables (TV), electrical and phone lines in order to penetrate to everyone at once through major appliances. Embedded chips will already be in place. All populations will be pushed to the edge of hysteria and madness, to drown them into a wave of suicide, murder and permanent psychological disorders."*

"Worldwide populations will then be ready for the new messiah to re-establish order and peace at any cost, even at the cost of



abdication of freedom."

Now **THAT'S** a conspiracy theory!

If this sounds like the implausible plot of a Hollywood movie, then think again, these movies have already been made and many more are in the works, ([more details here](#)). All of the following movies either came out last year, this year, or will come out next year:

The Darkest Hour, Apollo 18, Extraterrestrial, Report 51, Prometheus, Project 12, Dark Skies, Oblivion, Skyline, Super 8, Falling Skies, Battle: Los Angeles, Cloud Atlas, The Host, Ender's Game, Ombis, After Earth, Escape From Planet Earth, Robopocalypse, Snow Crash, We Mortals Are, Mortal Instruments, The Gate, Rise of the Guardians, Oblivion, Ombis, Elysium, Attack the Block, Pacific Rim, Dark Moon, Year 12, Panic Attack!, Earth Defense Force, Alien Sleeper Cell, Michael Bay's Confidential Alien Project, Singularity, Jupiter, Branded, The Prototype, Neuromancer (yes, they're planning a movie of Gibson's genre-defining book.)



Basically every sci-fi movie now being released explores one or another of the conspiracy themes of Project Blue Beam: aliens, corporate greed, political deception, or mind control. The fear and the fixation both arise from the same widespread sense of cultural threat and dread.

We'll see and hear more of this as the level of social agitation and confusion rises. The point is not what is true and what isn't. The point is the lack of reliable information and sources that can be trusted. What we should consider is how collective thinking develops in such an environment.

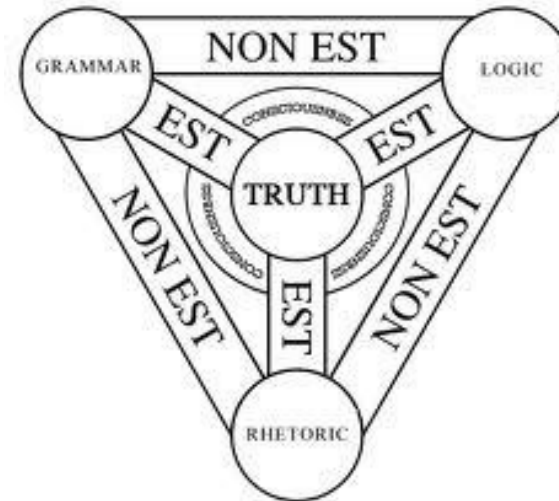
The Enlightenment Will Not Be Televised

Wikipedia defines the "[Age of Reason](#)" as a movement that began in the 17th century and whose

"purpose was to reform society using reason, challenge ideas grounded in tradition and faith, and advance knowledge through the scientific method. It promoted science, skepticism and intellectual interchange and opposed superstition, intolerance and some abuses by church and state."

The Enlightenment is failing. Church and state have punctured rational thinking and reasserted themselves by appealing to tradition and faith, otherwise known as nationalism, patriotism, and authoritarianism.

The Enlightenment presupposes general thinking skills, and this threat to church and state has been under assault from the start. The foundations of reason -- grammar, logic and rhetoric -- have never been taught to the public. The public has always been told, and continues to be told, that what they need to know are facts!

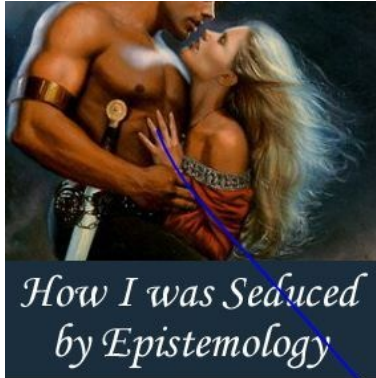


What happens when the notion of truth and fact are deposed by propaganda and the manipulation of information?

The rational mindset depends upon a shared reality from which new observations come and against which ideas are tested. If this reality is not shared, or if different realities obtain for different classes, then the process of reason by deduction fails. What remains is induction, and inductive thinking, applied by itself, is a belief in causes by relationship. Genetics and eugenics are deductive; the Doctrine of Signatures and morality are inductive. Together they are partners; the results of applying them separately can be monstrous.



Conspiracy Theories reject politically dictated reality and signal a return to inductive thinking. It is not necessary to be



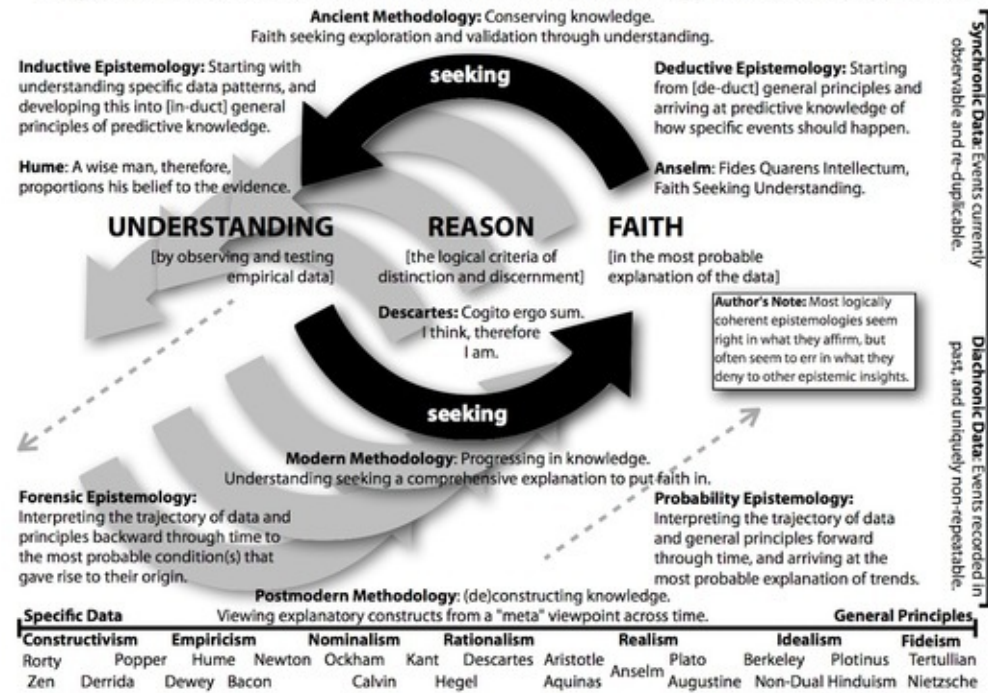
unreasonable but Conspiracy Theory by its nature has little patience for a reasoning process that has itself been hijacked.

This is similar to adults who manipulate children by their use of language in order to compel children to act against their will. The same thing happens in our Maritime-based legal system that redefines the meanings of words, actions, and judgments in order to create a separate legal reality. In both cases, when abuses become too egregious the exploited party gets wise and the mechanism of dialog – otherwise known as "sanity" – breaks down.

This partly explains the rebellion that's stigmatized as childhood ADHD and Conspiracy Theories, themselves a form of denial and rebellion. This is my central point: Conspiracy Theories are a rejection of standard facts and dialog. They grow where facts and dialog are the most abused, perverted, or manipulated. The central issue is not their "truth," according to one paradigm or another, but the incipient collapse of the epistemological framework in which they are embedded.

Like the canary they signal poison in the coal mine but where the canary dies, conspiracy theories flourish. Keep your eye on conspiracy theories.

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