RFK and the JFK Assassination

Bobby Never Bought the Lone-Gunman Theory

Robert Kennedy did not resign himself to the lone gunman theory, the official version of his brother’s death. On the contrary, he immediately suspected that President Kennedy was the victim of a powerful conspiracy. And he spent the rest of his life relentlessly searching for the truth about his brother’s murder.—David Talbot

From the beginning, whatever Bobby said in public about the Warren Commission was only a fragile facade. He clearly suspected a powerful domestic conspiracy.—James Bilge

One of the myths propagated by defenders of the Warren Commission and the JFK Assassination Report is the claim that President John F. Kennedy’s brother Robert accepted the commission’s conclusion, embodied in its Report, that JFK’s assassination was committed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, and that there was no conspiracy behind the president’s murder.

The Central Intelligence Agency, for example, which directly or indirectly, officially or unofficially, may well have been involved in the JFK assassination, and which unquestionably has stonewalled every inquiry into the assassination directed at the agency, used to claim that Kennedy supplied talking points to the news media. Claiming that, because Robert F. Kennedy supported the Warren Report, the Oswald was the sole assassin theory must be true.

The myth that RFK had confidence in the Warren Report was demolished by David Talbot’s brother. The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years, published in 2007. Talbot, a leading journalist, is founder and former editor-in-chief of Salon, the online magazine. His book is based on recently declassified documents and more than 150 exclusive interviews with Kennedy administration officials and former law enforcement officials and intelligence agents, as well as with various journalists and writers who, after examining the work of the Warren Commission or reviewing the Warren Report, or both, came to the realization that the commission botched its job and that its report is a sham. Brothers is another step forward in the continuing search for the truth about America’s Crime of the 20th Century.

Talbot’s 478-page book will convince an open-minded person that RFK privately carried on, until his own assassination in 1968, a secret, informal investigation of the circumstances of his brother’s murder; that RFK regarded the Warren Report with disdain; that he believed that his brother’s assassination resulted from a conspiracy, and that he thought the conspiracy was not a foreign but a domestic one, with the conspirators probably consisting of Mafia members, anti-Castro Cubans and rogue CIA-affiliated personnel. “In truth,” Talbot writes, “Robert F. Kennedy was one of the first—and among the staunchest—believers in a conspiracy.”

For personal and political reasons which Talbot explains in detail, RFK felt compelled to publicly express support for the Warren Report. Privately, though, he vowed that if elected president, he would reopen the JFK assassination investigation. “I can’t do anything,” he told longtime friend William Attwood, “until we get control of the White House.”

Some of Robert Kennedy’s closest associates also believed that JFK was assassinated as a result of a conspiracy. His press aide, James P. Hoffa, wrote him a “love letter” that “I just didn’t believe that a high-school dropout couldn’t planned the whole thing.... I came to the conclusion that there was some sort of conspiracy, probably involving the mob, anti-Castro Cubans, Cubans, and maybe-vague CIA agents.” James Symposium, a former RFK administrative assistant, concluded after reading the Warren Report that “it seems to be like an effort by people who were very resourceful to come out with this lie, and it’s such a lie and such a thing and so concerned that we call it the Warren Report and that it’s such a thing that is so concerned and that it’s such a lie and such a thing and so concerned that we call it the Warren Report and that it’s...”

Talbot’s book appeared in 1968 and has been widely acclaimed as one of the most important works on the Kennedy assassination. It is a compelling, well-researched, and meticulously documented account of the events surrounding the assassination, as well as a revealing look at the inner workings of the Kennedy administration. Talbot’s book has been praised for its exhaustive research and for its unflinching examination of the evidence, both for and against a conspiracy theory.

In the context of the JFK assassination, the belief that RFK had confidence in the Warren Report and its conclusion that the assassination was the work of a lone assassin is one of the most persistent myths. However, Talbot’s book challenges this belief, presenting a convincing case for a conspiracy that involved multiple actors, including the CIA, the Mafia, and anti-Castro Cubans. Talbot’s book has helped to dispel the myth of the lone gunman and has contributed to a growing body of evidence that supports the conclusion that the Kennedy assassination was the result of a complex conspiracy.

In summary, David Talbot’s book provides a compelling account of the events surrounding the Kennedy assassination and challenges the belief that the Warren Report was accepted by RFK. By examining the evidence, both for and against a conspiracy theory, Talbot’s book has provided a new perspective on this historic event and has helped to shed light on one of the most enduring mysteries of American history.