Protocols to the Left, Protocols to the Right: Conspiracism in American Political Discourse at the Turn of the Second Millennium

Chip Berlet, Political Research Associates

Dedicated to Jeremiah Duggan

Reconsidering “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion”: 100 Years After the Forgery

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The Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University
How do the Protocols appear today?

• Direct mention of the Protocols

• Indirect reference to the Protocols in an antisemitic context

• Antisemitic claim of vast conspiracy by Jews that structurally replicates the Protocols

• Coded antisemitic claim of vast conspiracy by “Zionists” or other terms used as stand-in for “Jews” in a conspiracist context

• Claim of vast conspiracy by “Khazars” or “Rothschild's” other term used to suggest not all Jews are part of the conspiracy, or the conspirators are “not the real Jews”

• Claim of vast conspiracy by a named scapegoat other than the Jews
Protocols to the Left, Protocols to the Right
How do the Protocols appear today?

• Direct mention of the Protocols

• Indirect reference to the Protocols in an antisemitic context

Where are these appearing?

1. Most often on Extreme Right websites, especially those affiliated with Neonazis and the Christian Identity religious movement.

2. Across the political spectrum, and in New Age and UFO subcultures.

3. On the Political Left, increasingly posted on Internet discussions through listserves, open post websites such as Indymedia affiliates, and on blogs.
Claim of vast conspiracy by a named scapegoat

Apocalyptic Conspiracy theory is a growing genre inserting itself into public discourse in the new Millennium from the Right to the Left. Why?

1. What are the elements of the Frames and Narratives used by social movements that embrace conspiracism in a form structurally similar to the Protocols?

2. What is the historic record of political uses of this type of apocalyptic conspiracism found in the Protocols?

3. How do the named scapegoats overlap and influence new forms?

4. How do these conspiracist Frames and Narratives cross political boundaries?

5. What are the dynamics of apocalyptic conspiracism in a social movement setting?
Acknowledgements

- Barkun
- Boyer,
- Brasher,
- Cohn,
- Fenster,
- Fitzgerald,
- Fuller,
- Goldberg,
- Gorenberg,
- Griffin,
- Harding,
- Landes,
- Lyons,
- O’Leary,
- Pipes,
- Rhodes,
- Quinby,
- Strozier.
What are the elements of the Frames and Narratives used by social movements that embrace conspiracism in a form structurally similar to the Protocols?
Protocols to the Left, Protocols to the Right

Some Definitions
Frames

Frames are ways to organize a perspective on the world that highlights specific grievance and a specific solution.

Narratives

Narratives are stories told in social movements that have a plotline with heroes, villains, specific actions, and expected outcomes.

Narratives are scripted in a way that tells social movement members what to do.

Apocalypticism

The belief in an approaching confrontation, cataclysmic event, or transformation of epochal proportion, about which a select few have forewarning so they can make appropriate preparations. From a Greek root word suggesting unveiling hidden information or revealing secret knowledge about unfolding human events.
Apocalypticism & Religion

Central to Christianity, the tradition also exists in Judaism, Islam, and other religions and secular belief structures. Believers can be passive or active in anticipation; and optimistic or pessimistic about the outcome.

Apocalypticism & Christianity

In Christianity there are competing apocalyptic prophetic traditions based on demonization or cooperation. The dualist or demonized version involves a final show-down struggle between absolute good and absolute evil.

One version of Christianity that currently generates a high volume of apocalyptic excitement is called premillennial dispensationalism.

Secular Apocalypticism

Although in Western Culture apocalypticism is rooted in religious beliefs, it has influenced secular society and popular culture; from Moby Dick to Dick Tracy to Tracy Chapman.

Movies such as Apocalypse Now and TV programs such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer have made the apocalyptic genre ubiquitous.
**Dualism**

A binary division of the world into competing factions: one good and one evil.

Also called Manichaeism.

**Demonization**

The portrayal of individuals and groups as agents of pure evil, perhaps even in league with Satan.

A precursor to *scapegoating* and *conspiracism* which encourages discrimination and violence against the target.

Acts as a form of dehumanization or objectification.

**Conspiracism**

A distinct narrative form of scapegoating, that uses demonization to justify constructing the scapegoats as wholly evil; while reconstructing the scapegoater as a hero.

Sees secret plots by tiny cabals of evildoers as the major motor powering important historical events.

Often employs common fallacies of logic in analyzing factual evidence to assert connections, causality, and intent that are nonexistent.
Five Rules of Conspiracy Theory

• The conspirators are internationalist in their sympathies.

• Nothing is ever discarded. Right-wing mail order bookstores still sell the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*...[and] *Proofs of a Conspiracy*.

• Seeming enemies are actually secret friends. Through the lens of the conspiracy theorists, capitalists and Communists work hand in hand.

• The takeover by the international godless government will be ignited by the collapse of the economic system.

• It's all spelled out in the Bible. For those with a fundamentalist bent, the New World Order or One World Government is none other than the international kingdom of the Antichrist, described in the Book of Revelation.

--George Johnson, “The Conspiracy That Never Ends”
Apocalypticism
+
Dualism
Scapegoating
Demonization
Conspiracism
What is the historic record of political uses of the type of apocalyptic conspiracism found in the Protocols?
Allegations in the Protocols - 1905

**Jews** are behind a plan for global conquest,
**Jews** work through Masonic lodges,
**Jews** use liberalism to weaken church and state,
**Jews** control the press,
**Jews** work through radicals and revolutionaries,
**Jews** manipulate the economy, especially through banking monopolies and the power of gold,
**Jews** encourage issuing paper currency not tied to the gold standard,
**Jews** promote financial speculation and use of credit,

**Jews** replace traditional educational curriculum to discourage independent thinking,
**Jews** encourage immorality among Christian youth,
**Jews** use intellectuals to confuse people,
**Jews** control "puppet" governments both through secret allies and by blackmailing elected officials,
**Jews** weaken laws through liberal interpretations,
**Jews** will suspend civil liberties during an emergency and then make the measures permanent.
Allegations about the Freemasons - 1798

Freemasons are behind a plan for global conquest,
Freemasons work through Masonic lodges,
Freemasons use liberalism to weaken church and state,
Freemasons control the press,
Freemasons work through radicals and revolutionaries,
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Freemasons weaken laws through liberal interpretations,
Freemasons will suspend civil liberties during an emergency and then make the measures permanent.
Allegations about the Plutocrats – 1890s

**Plutocrats** are behind a plan for global conquest,
**Plutocrats** work through Masonic lodges,
**Plutocrats** use liberalism to weaken church and state,
**Plutocrats** control the press,
**Plutocrats** work through radicals and revolutionaries,
**Plutocrats** manipulate the economy, especially through banking monopolies and the power of gold,
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**Plutocrats** control "puppet" governments both through secret allies and by blackmailing elected officials,
**Plutocrats** weaken laws through liberal interpretations,
**Plutocrats** will suspend civil liberties during an emergency and then make the measures permanent.
Allegations about Agents of the Antichrist - 2005

Agents of the Antichrist are behind a plan for global conquest,
Agents of the Antichrist work through Masonic lodges,
Agents of the Antichrist use liberalism to weaken church and state,
Agents of the Antichrist control the press,
Agents of the Antichrist work through radicals and revolutionaries,
Agents of the Antichrist manipulate the economy, especially through banking monopolies and the power of gold,
Agents of the Antichrist encourage issuing paper currency not tied to the gold standard,
Agents of the Antichrist promote financial speculation and use of credit,

Agents of the Antichrist replace traditional educational curriculum to discourage independent thinking,
Agents of the Antichrist encourage immorality among Christian youth,
Agents of the Antichrist use intellectuals to confuse people,
Agents of the Antichrist control "puppet" governments both through secret allies and by blackmailing elected officials,
Agents of the Antichrist weaken laws through liberal interpretations,
Agents of the Antichrist will suspend civil liberties during an emergency and then make the measures permanent.
Allegations about the Secret Elites - 2005

Secret Elites are behind a plan for global conquest,
Secret Elites work through Masonic lodges,
Secret Elites use liberalism to weaken church and state,
Secret Elites control the press,
Secret Elites work through radicals and revolutionaries,
Secret Elites manipulate the economy, especially through banking monopolies and the power of gold,
Secret Elites encourage issuing paper currency not tied to the gold standard,
Secret Elites promote financial speculation and use of credit,

Secret Elites replace traditional educational curriculum to discourage independent thinking,
Secret Elites encourage immorality among Christian youth,
Secret Elites use intellectuals to confuse people,
Secret Elites control "puppet" governments both through secret allies and by blackmailing elected officials,
Secret Elites weaken laws through liberal interpretations,
Secret Elites will suspend civil liberties during an emergency and then make the measures permanent.
Scapegoat Timeline

1790

Freemasons (Europe)
Scapegoat Timeline

1790  1820

Freemasons (Europe)

Freemasons (U.S.)

William Morgan
Scapegoat Timeline

1790       1820    1880

Freemasons (Europe)

Freemasons (U.S.)

Catholics (Nativism)

STARTLING FACTS
FOR
NATIVE AMERICANS
CALLED
"KNOW-NOTHINGS,"
OR A VIVID PRESENTATION OF THE
DANGERS TO AMERICAN LIBERTY,
TO BE APPREHENDED FROM
FOREIGN INFLUENCE.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED AT 128 NASSAU STREET
OPPOSITE THE NASSAU BANK.
1855.
Scapegoat Timeline

1790       1820    1880  1890

Freemasons (Europe)
  Freemasons (U.S.)
    Catholics (Nativism)
      Plutocrats (Populists)

THE OCTOPUS
FRANK NORRIS
Scapegoat Timeline

1790  1820  1880  1890  1905

Freemasons (Europe)

Freemasons (U.S.)

Catholics (Nativism)

Plutocrats (Populists)

Jews (Protocols)

Later repackaged by Henry Ford

THE PROTOCOLS OF ZION

THE INTERNATIONAL JEWARD

THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PROBLEM

PUBLISHED BY THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO.
DEARBORN, MICH.
NOVEMBER, 1920
Louis Post later wrote that the deportations had been part of a national “delerium.”
The Elizabeth Dilling books echoed the themes of the work of Nesta Webster, which were based on the Protocols.

The New Dealers in Office book was primarily a list of “Jewish-sounding” names.
The Beaty book used coded antisemitism by blaming the conspiracy on the “Khazars.”

Roosevelt Administration

Red Scare morphs into attack on Rockefellers, CFR, Trilateral Commission

Palmer Raids

Communists & Anarchists

Liberal Collectivists

Liberal Internationalists

Jews (Protocols)

Plutocrats (Populists)

Catholics (Nativism)

Freemasons (U.S.)

Freemasons (Europe)

1790 1820 1880 1890 1905 1920 1935 1950
Scapegoat Timeline

1790  1820  1880  1890  1905  1920  1935  1950  1965

Freemasons (Europe)
- Freemasons (U.S.)
  - Catholics (Nativism)
  - Plutocrats (Populists)
  - Jews (Protocols)
- Communists & Anarchists
- Liberal Collectivists
- Liberal Internationalists
- Civil Rights

This picture was taken at the Highlander Center.

Roosevelt Administration

Palmer Raids

Red Scare morphs into attack on Rockefellers, CFR, Trilateral Commission
Scapegoat Timeline

1790 1820 1880 1890 1905 1920 1935 1950 1965

Freemasons (Europe)
Freemasons (U.S.)
Catholics (Nativism)
Plutocrats (Populists)
Jews (Protocols)
Communists & Anarchists
Liberal Collectivists
Liberal Internationalists
Civil Rights
Secret Kingmakers

Roosevelt Administration
Palmer Raids
Red Scare morphs into attack on Rockefellers, CFR, Trilateral Commission
Schlafly & JBS

Schlafly claimed the Republican Party had been taken over by the “Secret Kingmakers.”
Scapegoat Timeline


- Freemasons (Europe)
- Freemasons (U.S.)
- Catholics (Nativism)
- Plutocrats (Populists)
- Jews (Protocols)
- Communists & Anarchists
- Liberal Collectivists
- Liberal Internationalists
- Civil Rights
- Secret Kingmakers
- Secular Humanism
- Feminists
- Homosexuals
- Assassins

We need to back up to 1963 to pick up a major trend in scapegoating.

A series of political assassinations starting in 1963 created a cottage industry of conspiracy peddlers across the political spectrum.
In conspiracism, nothing is random.

“KKK”…a coincidence?

Roosevelt Administration

Red Scare morphs into attack on Rockefellers, CFR, Trilateral Commission

Schlafly & JBS

Christian Right

Secular Humanism

Secular Humanism

Feminists

Homosexuals

Assassins

Secret Kingmakers

Civil Rights

Liberal Internationalists

Liberal Collectivists

Communists & Anarchists

Jews (Protocols)

Plutocrats (Populists)

Catholics (Nativism)

Freemasons (Europe)

Freemasons (U.S.)
Assassination conspiracy theorists on the political right wove their research into claims of a globalist conspiracy involving liberals and the CIA.
Assassination conspiracy theorists on the political left had no problem adopting claims of a globalist conspiracy involving liberals and the CIA, and weaving them into opposition to the Vietnam War.
In the mid 1970s, groups such as Willis Carto’s Liberty Lobby and the Lyndon LaRouche network wove references to Jews “dual loyalists,” & “Zionists” into anti-CIA conspiracy theories on the political right and political left.
Some of the political right saw Globalism as a liberal plot.
Further to the political right, the plot was seen as involving both Republicans and Democrats.
In the extreme right, globalism was seen as a plot by Jews who controlled the Republicans and Democrats.
Globalism, Corporate Globalization, overseas military action in the Middle East, and fears about a “New World Order” generated a myriad of overlapping conspiracy theories.
Scapegoat Timeline


Freemasons (Europe)
Freemasons (U.S.)
Catholics (Nativism)
Plutocrats (Populists)
Jews (Protocols)
Communists & Anarchists
Liberal Collectivists
Liberal Internationalists
Civil Rights
Secret Kingmakers
Christian Right
Feminists
Secular Humanism
Homosexuals
Secret Team
Assassins
"Zionists"
Secret Team
New World Order
9/11
Islam
NeoCons

Roosevelt Administration
Red Scare morphs into attack on Rockefellers, CFR, Trilateral Commission
Palmer Raids
Schlafly & JBS

INTRODUCTION TO SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

GUILTY FOR 9-11: BUSH, RUMSFELD, MYERS
Introduction & Section 1
by Ilarion Bykov and Jared Israel
[Posted 14 November 2001]
[Updated 17 November 2001]
Dedicated to the firemen of New York.
Keep in mind this set of overlapping conspiracy theories.
How do the named scapegoats overlap and influence new forms?

“Rule No. 2: In a conspiracy theory, **nothing is ever discarded**. Right-wing mail order bookstores still sell the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the anti-Semitic fantasy hatched in Russia a century ago. Another big seller is "Proofs of a Conspiracy, " a 1797 book reprinted by the John Birch Society, which fueled speculation that a Freemasonic group called the Order of the Illuminati plotted with the Jeffersonians to turn over the fledging United States to followers of French Enlightenment philosophy -- the 18th century equivalent of secular humanism.”

--George Johnson, “The Conspiracy That Never Ends”
The Protocols of Conspiracism.
The Protocols of Conspiracism.

Freemasons
(Illuminati)

Catholics
(Jesuits)
The Protocols of Conspiracism

Freemasons (Illuminati)

Catholics (Jesuits)

Plutocrats (Robber Barons) (Secret Elites)
The Protocols of Conspiracism.

Jews
(Zionists)
(Khazars)

Freemasons
(Illuminati)

Catholics
(Jesuits)

Plutocrats
(Robber Barons)
(Secret Elites)
The Protocols of Conspiracism.

- **Jews** (Zionists) (Khazars)
- **Communists / Anarchists**
- **Freemasons** (Illuminati)
- **Catholics** (Jesuits)
- **Plutocrats** (Robber Barons) (Secret Elites)
The Protocols of Conspiracism.

- Jews (Zionists) (Khazars)
- Liberal Collectivists
- Communists / Anarchists
- Freemasons (Illuminati)
- Catholics (Jesuits)
- Plutocrats (Robber Barons) (Secret Elites)
The Protocols of Conspiracism.

Jews
(Zionists)
(Khazars)

Communists / Anarchists

Freemasons
(Illuminati)

Secular Humanists
(Feminists / Gays)

Plutocrats
(Robber Barons)
(Secret Elites)

Liberal Collectivists

Catholics
(Jesuits)
The Protocols of Conspiracism.

- Jews (Zionists) (Khazars)
- Liberal Collectivists
- Communists / Anarchists
- Freemasons (Illuminati)
- Catholics (Jesuits)
- Secular Humanists (Feminists / Gays)
- Space Aliens (Icke Lizards)
- Plutocrats (Robber Barons) (Secret Elites)
- Secular Humanists (Feminists / Gays)
How do these Frames and Narratives cross political boundaries?
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

Plutocrats

Protocols

 Freemasons

Secret Team "Zionists" Secret Team
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

Note that individuals and groups in a specific thematic category generally may not be directly connected. For example, Fletcher Prouty apparently was not in the John Birch Society, even though his work was thematically similar.
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

- **Plutocrats-CIA**: Christic Institute, Casolaro “Octopus”
- **Protocols-Jews**: Liberty Lobby, LaRouche, NeoNazis, Christian Identity
- **Freemasons-Elites**: John Birch Society (Fletcher Prouty)

Political Left
Political Right
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

Political Left

- Christic Institute
- Casolaro “Octopus”

Political Right

- Liberty Lobby, LaRouche, NeoNazis, Christian Identity
- John Birch Society (Fletcher Prouty)

Organizations:
- Plutocrats-CIA
- Protocols-Jews
- Freemasons-Elites
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

- Plutocrats-CIA
- Protocols-Jews
- Freemasons-Elites
- Christic Institute
- Casolaro “Octopus”
- Liberty Lobby, LaRouche, NeoNazis, Christian Identity
- John Birch Society (Fletcher Prouty)

Political Left

Political Right
The LaRouche Network has cited the Protocols in the past, and today is one of the world’s largest distributors of conspiracist literature including coded antisemitism based on the false allegations in the Protocols.
Eustace Mullins uses a coded form of antisemitism in some of his work.
Not all criticisms of Zionism or the state of Israel are antisemitic or linked to the conspiracism of the Protocols, but an increasing number of such criticisms are linked. The term “Zionism in quotes here refers to coded antisemitism, whether or not the group or individual is aware of (or even denies) the antisemitism.
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

The Christic Institute filed a lawsuit over Iran-Contra

Danny Casolaro hunted for the people behind the “Octopus.”

The Anti-CIA theme of the Prouty book was adopted by some on the Political Left

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites

Christic Institute
Casolaro “Octopus”

Liberty Lobby, LaRouche, NeoNazis, Christian Identity

John Birch Society (Fletcher Prouty)

Political
Left

Political
Right
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

The Protocols + Coded Antisemitism + Freemason Plot + Plutocrat Conspiracy = Left Conspiracism in the Christic Case

The Prouty book was later republished by the Holocaust denying Institute for Historical Review
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

- Plutocrats-CIA
- Protocols-Jews
- Freemasons-Elites

Christic Institute Casolaro “Octopus”

Liberty Lobby, LaRouche, NeoNazis, Christian Identity

John Birch Society (Fletcher Prouty)

Secret Team

“Zionists”

New World Order (Gulf War)

Secret Team

Secret Elites

Less Antisemitic More

Less Antisemitic More

Pacifica Radio Internet “Experts”

Apocalyptic Christians Patriot/Militias (Neonazis)

Political Left

Political Right
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

Political Left
- Christic Institute
- Casolaro “Octopus”
- Secret Team
- Secret Elites
- Bush/Cheney
- NeoCons
- Pacifica Radio
- Internet “Experts”
- Antiwar Anti-Globalist

Political Right
- Protocols-Jews
- Liberty Lobby, LaRouche, NeoNazis, Christian Identity
- Secret Team
- New World Order (Gulf War)
- “Zionists”
- Secret Elites
- Islam
- Apocalyptic Christians
- Patriot/Militias (Neonazis)
- Neoconservatives
- Christian Right Patriot

- Freemasons-Elites
- John Birch Society (Fletcher Prouty)
- Plutocrats-CIA
- Freemasons-Elites
- Protocols-Jews
- Secret Team
- “Zionists”
- Jews
- NeoCons
- “Zionists”
- “Zionists”
- Islam
- Antiwar - Isolationist
- Patriot - AntiGlobalist Neonazis
- Protocols-Protocols
- Protocols-Jews
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites

GUILTY FOR 9-11:
BUSH, RUMSFELD,
MYERS

Introduction & Section 1
by Illarion Bykov and Jared Israel
[Posted 14 November 2001]
[Updated 17 November 2001]
Dedicated to the firemen of New York.

INTRODUCTION TO SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE
In this updated and enlarged edition, Michel Chossudovsky blows away the smokescreen, put up by the mainstream media, that 9/11 was an "intelligence failure". Through meticulous research, the author uncovers a military-intelligence ploy behind the September 11 attacks, and the cover-up and complicity of key members of the Bush Administration.

Michel Chossudovsky
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites

Michael C. Ruppert
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

- Plutocrats-CIA
- Protocols-Jews
- Freemasons-Elites

Michael C. Ruppert
Conspiracism: Right / Left Dynamic 1984-2005

Growing antisemitism on the political left prompted this special issue of the New Internationalist magazine in October 2004

By Chip Berlet
Political Left

The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion is a document which should be read by all. No other single document provides us with such a clear understanding of why the world is gradually moving towards a One World Government, controlled by an irreproachable hidden hand. In The Protocols, we are given clear insights as to why so many incomprehensible political decisions are made in both local, national and international politics, which seem to continually work against the favor of the masses and in favor of the vested interests of the banking/industrial cartel -- the global power elite.

Political Right

“banking/industrial cartel -- the global power elite”

Michael B. Haupt: Three World Wars website

http://www.threeworldwars.com/protocols.htm October 21, 2005
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Faction One is the New World Order, made up of the International bankers, the 300 un-named families who also own our Federal Reserve Banking System. These families are descended ideologically AND biologically from the Rothschild funded Illuminati. Faction One also created the Corporations.

Corporations were created by the King of England who was owned and controlled by the Rothschilds.

Faction Two is descended from the King of Bavaria, the Knights Templars and the German Abwher. Faction Two was created by men whose countries had been destroyed by the New World Order.

In 1776, the King of Bavaria blew the whistle on the planned take-over of the monarchies of Europe by the Illuminati/Rothschilds. As a result, the NWO, which expected to go "online" in 1776, had to retreat to the shadows and build up their strength for their "next planned world-takeover".

http://www.rumormillnews.com/cgi-bin/archive.cgi?read=41807
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

“Hidden History:” Freemasons, Trilateral Commission, Great Pyramid

Some new, some recent, some classics reissued
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

The John Birch Society is alive and well and living in Appleton, Wisconsin...not far from the grave of Sen. Joseph McCarthy

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites

The New American Special Report

Conspiracy: For Global Control
John Coleman,
The Committee of 300
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

- Plutocrats-CIA
- Protocols-Jews
- Freemasons-Elites

Apocalyptic Christian Evangelicals and Fundamentalists

Less Conspiracist

More Conspiracist
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites

Tim LaHaye & Jerry B. Jenkins: The Left Behind Series

“Nor is contempt for Judaism the books' only disturbing message. They promote conspiracy theories; they demonize proponents of arms control, ecumenicalism, abortion rights and everyone else disliked by the Christian right; and they justify assassination as a political tool. Their anti-Jewishness is exceeded by their anti-Catholicism. Most basically, they reject the very idea of open, democratic debate.”

--Gershom Gorenberg
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Apocalyptic Christian Zionists with Conspiracist Narratives

- Plutocrats-CIA
- Protocols-Jews
- Freemasons-Elites
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Secularized Conspiracism about the Middle East & Muslims

SECRET INFLTRATION
HOW MUSLIM SPIES AND SUBVERSIVES HAVE PENETRATED WASHINGTON

PAUL SPERRY
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites

Conspiracism in the Black Community

Nation of Islam

Primary sources also include material from Muslim conspiracists and the LaRouche Network
Conspiracism: Some Samples in 2005

Conspiracism in the Black Community

Cites to book on Freemason conspiracy, the Lyndon LaRouche network publication, Dope, Inc., and Eustace Mullins

Plutocrats-CIA

Protocols-Jews

Freemasons-Elites
The LaRouche Network has cited the Protocols in the past, and today is one of the world’s largest distributors of coded antisemitic literature based on the false allegations in the Protocols.
What are the dynamics of apocalyptic conspiracism in a social movement setting?
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Defensive Response

Passive Response

Aggressive Response

Conspiracist Crucible

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Refractory Effect

Funnel

Furnace

Secular

Religious

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon

Defensive Response
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Degree of Antisemitism

Less Antisemitism

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Conspiracist Crucible

More Antisemitism

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon

Secular

Religious

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Refactory Effect

Degree of Antisemitism
Apocalyptic Dynamics

- Passive Response
- Aggressive Response
- Defensive Response

- Secular
- Religious

- Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

- Conspiracist Crucible
  - Cross-Dialog & Recruiting
  - Heroic Gnostics

- Millenarian Moment
- Date Event Horizon
Brenda E. Brasher: Apocalypticism as a sociological “Frame”

Apocalypticism transcends specific political ideology, so it is a stylistic meta frame.

Frames are ways to organize a perspective on the world that highlights a specific grievance and a specific solution.
Narratives are scripted in a way that tells social movement members what to do.
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Stephen D. O’Leary: *Arguing the Apocalypse*

The Tragic and Comedic rhetorical narrative styles

Comedic

Tragic

Conspiracist Crucible

Defensive Response

Aggressive Response

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Refractory Effect

Focus

Furnace

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Secular

Religious

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Stephen D. O’Leary:
Arguing the Apocalypse

Comedic

Heroic Gnostics

Tragic

Conspiracist Crucible

Defensive Response

Passive Response

Aggressive Response

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Refractory Effect

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Secular

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Funnel

Furnace

Date Event Horizon

Millenarian Moment
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Stephen D. O’Leary: *Arguing the Apocalypse*

- Defendant Response
- Passive Response
- Aggressive Response

Comedic

Tragic

Heroic Gnostics

Conspiracist Crucible

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Focus

Furnace

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Millenarian Moment Date Event Horizon

Secular

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Apocalyptic Dynamics

Heroic Gnostics

Tragic Mode

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon

Secular
Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Religious
Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Passive Response
Conspiracist Crucible
Cross-DIALOG & Recruiting
Defensive Response

Aggressive Response
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Scapegoated Villains

Tragic Mode
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Feared Outcome
- Fascist Rule
- New World Order Rule
- Marshall Law
- Globalist Corporate Rule
- Techno-Collapse
- Economic Collapse
- End Times 666
- Social Collapse
- Nuclear Meltdown
- Natural Disaster
- Enviro-Disaster
- Plagues AIDS
- Plagues
- Sloth & Sin
- Red Menace Rule

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon

Conspiracist Crucible

Passive Response

Defensive Response

Aggressive Response

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Refractory Effect

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Secular

Religious

Furnace

Furnace

Funnel

Funnel
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Scapegoated Villains

Secular Humanists

Heroic Gnostics

Tragic Mode

Feared Outcome

New World Order

Ecological Disaster

Rule of AntiChrist

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon

Conspiracist Crucible

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Passive Response

Aggressive Response

Defensive Response
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Heroic Gnostics

Comedic Narrative

Tragic Narrative

Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon

Secular

Religious

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Conspiracist Crucible

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Refractory Effect

Focus

Funnel

Furnace

Passive Response

Aggressive Response

Defensive Response

Active Response
What are the dynamics of apocalyptic conspiracism in a social movement setting?

How does the relationship between Frames and Narratives influence the outcome of this dynamic?
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Scapegoated Villains
- Jews

Heroic Gnostics
- Millenarian Moment
- Date Event Horizon

Comedic Narrative
- Secular
- Religious
- Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch
- Funnel
- Furnace
- Refractory Effect
- Focus
- Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Tragic Narrative
- Conspiracist Crucible

Feared Outcome
- New World Order

Stylistic Meta Frame
- Narrative
- Passive Response
- Aggressive Response
- Defensive Response
Apocalyptic Dynamics

- Passive Response
- Aggressive Response
- Defensive Response

Scapegoated Villains
- Jews

Feared Outcome
- New World Order

Stylistic Meta Frame
- Tragic Narrative
- Tragic Apocalyptic Narrative

Heroic Gnostics
- Conspiracist Crucible
- Refractory Effect
- Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Milennial Moment
- Date Event Horizon
- Secular
- Religious
- Funnel
- Furnace
- Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Scapegoated Villains

Jews

Tragic Apocalyptic Narrative

The “Other” is causing all the problems, time is short, we are good, they are bad, we need to…

Stylistic Meta Frame

Feared Outcome

New World Order

Defensive Response

Passive Response

Aggressive Response

Conspiracist Crucible

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Secular

Religious

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Millenarian Moment

Focus

Furnace

Heroic Gnostics

Date Event Horizon

Refractory Effect

The Tragic Narrative
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Scapegoated
Villains

Jews

Stylistic
Meta
Frame

The “Other” is causing all the problems, time is short, we are good, they are bad, we need to:

Go up on the mountain and pray.

Tragic Apocalyptic Narrative

Feared
Outcome

New
World
Order

Tragic Narrative

Passive
Response

Aggressive
Response

Defensive Response

Conspiracist
Crucible

Cross-Dialog
& Recruiting
Apocalyptic Dynamics

Stylistic Meta Frame

Scapegoated Villains
Jews

Feared Outcome
New World Order

Tragic Apocalyptic Narrative

The “Other” is causing all the problems, time is short, we are good, they are bad, we need to:
Collect food and water and defend ourselves.

Passive Response

Conspiracist Crucible

Aggressive Response

Defensive Response

Secular

Religious

Apocalyptic Expectation Blowtorch

Funnel

Furnace

Refractory Effect

Cross-Dialog & Recruiting

Heroic Gnostics

Tragic Narrative

The Millenarian Moment

Date Event Horizon
The “Other” is causing all the problems, time is short, we are good, they are bad, we need to:

**Kill them before they kill us!**

---

Scapegoated Villains

- Jews

---

Apocalyptic Dynamics

- Passive Response
- Aggressive Response
- Defensive Response

---

Tragic Apocalyptic Narrative

- Millenarian Moment
- Date Event Horizon

---

New World Order

- Feared Outcome

---

Stylistic Meta Frame

- Tragic Narrative

---
The Protocols use an Apocalyptic Meta Frame and script a Dualistic Narrative in which Jews are Scapegoated, Demonized, accused of plotting a grand Conspiracy against the common good; and thus there is justification for striking them before they have time to attack us.

The “Other” is causing all the problems, time is short, we are good, they are bad, we need to: Kill them before they kill us!
Some Conclusions
What have we learned?

- All conspiracist theories start with a grain of truth, which is then transmogrified with hyperbole and filtered through pre-existing myth and prejudice.
- People who believe conspiracist allegations sometimes act on those irrational beliefs, which has concrete consequences in the real world.
- Conspiracist thinking and scapegoating are symptoms, not causes, of underlying societal frictions, and as such are perilous to ignore.
- Scapegoating and conspiracist allegations are tools that can be used by cynical leaders to mobilize a mass following.
- Supremacist and fascist organizers use conspiracist theories as a relatively less-threatening entry point in making contact with potential recruits.
- Even when conspiracist theories do not center on Jews, people of color, or other scapegoated groups, they create an environment where racism, antisemitism, and other forms of prejudice and oppression can flourish.
The Protocols: Frames and Narratives

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The Schiller Institute

The Schiller Institute is a front group for the LaRouche Network.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Jeremiah Duggan

Attended a Schiller Institute conference in Wiesbaden, Germany in March 2003.

Jeremiah’s conference notes:
“Jewish lead to Fascism leads to Cheney.”
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London U.K

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Jeremiah learned about the Protocols as a child. He knew what he was hearing. He stood up and objected. A few hours later he was dead.
A British coroner’s inquest ruled that there was insufficient evidence for suicide, and that Jeremiah was in a “state of terror” when he died. German authorities refuse to reopen the case.
They say there is no evidence that the LaRouche network is antisemitic.

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400,000 copies
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http://justiceforjeremiah.com
The Protocols use an Apocalyptic Meta Frame and script a Dualistic Narrative in which Jews are Scapegoated, Demonized, accused of plotting a grand Conspiracy against the common good; and thus there is justification for striking them before they have time to attack us.

• Conspiracism is a narrative form of scapegoating that uses an apocalyptic meta frame to script a dualistic story in which a demonized “Other” calls an attack on itself through its evil intent.

• This type of Conspiracist Theory cuts across political and social boundaries.

• Even when conspiracist theories do not center on Jews, people of color, or other scapegoated groups, they create an environment where racism, antisemitism, and other forms of prejudice and oppression can flourish.

• Each generation needs to be taught about the dangers of Apocalyptic Dualism, Demonization, and Conspiracist Scapegoating.

• The forgery of the Protocols needs to be a centerpiece of that curriculum.
Tragic Apocalypticism  
+  
Aggressive Dualism  
Demonization  
Conspiracist Scapegoating  
=  
Genocide