

GREGORY DOUGLAS and REGICIDE:
Both Fascinating and Frustrating

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[Editor's Note: *The author has had numerous contacts with Gregory Douglas and has reviewed his book no less than three times, twice for Amazon.com and once for this journal (see below). While much of their content has been similar, their conclusions have varied from moderately qualified enthusiasm to moderately qualified skepticism. This preface explains why.*]

Without doubt, Gregory Douglas has published one of the most fascinating books ever written on the assassination of JFK. REGICIDE (2002) purports to lay the origins of the death of our 35th President at the feet of officials of the CIA, the FBI, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The scenario it describes suggests that the decision to removed JFK from office was motivated out of concern for the national security of the US, after James Jesus Angleton, legendary Chief of Counterintelligence for the CIA, concluded that JFK was betraying the country and that any alternative, legal means of action would be unlikely to succeed.

My first contact with Douglas occurred after I sent him an email on 17 February 2002 inquiring about "The Mighty Wurlitzer", which at the time I thought was a long article or short book on the use of propaganda by the CIA. He explained that this was a chapter on "the controlled and obedient press" included in his book, which was in the process of being printed. He offered to send me a copy of the manuscript, which he did electronically on 19 February 2002 and, when I asked for a hardcopy, his publisher sent one to me the following week. My 5-star review on Amazon.com was its first.

At this point in time, my email folder for Douglas contains 88 items, of which some 48 are pieces that he has forwarded to me, among others, that

concern current affairs, such as our demented Attorney General, the attack of 9/11, that no plane appears to have hit the Pentagon, and similar items. I have found myself in agreement with almost everything that he has sent. Of the remaining 40 items, at least 10 are from other sources but concern Douglas, some praising him and others criticizing him. There are a number of exchanges between us, most of which have to do with mundane matters.

We have also spoken on the phone a half-dozen times for perhaps as much as three hours collectively. I can tell you that this man is brilliant, learned, witty, and bold. He is extremely articulate and has the ability to be a spellbinding orator. I like him. He is fascinating. But he can also be frustrating. On 28 March 2002, I asked him to send me a copy of his vita, because I intended to discuss REGICIDE on Black Op Radio that night. For several days thereafter, I asked why it had never arrived. When I finally tracked him down by phone, he told me he had not sent one because he has none, which must make him quite unique among the world's scholars.

I subsequently arranged by telephone to meet him in Chicago, where a meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association would be held on 26-29 April 2002. We agreed to meet in the lobby of the Westin Hotel on Michigan Avenue at noon on Friday, 26 April 2002. Given my background in AI and cognitive science, Douglas wanted to bring along a friend to talk with me about those subjects. I also brought along a friend, because I wanted to have his impressions of Douglas. By 1 PM, he had not shown, so I left a note with the concierge and made sure that the staff who were manning the desk knew my name and the name of my missing party.

When I reached him by email, Douglas explained that he had been caught in traffic and arrived late. But even by his own account, he should have been there overlapping the lunch hour and our return. When I surveyed the hotel

staff, they assured me that no one by the name "Gregory Douglas" had visited the lobby during my absence. Insofar as I have found this fellow to be both fascinating and frustrating, perhaps it should come as no surprise that I have found the same to be true of his book. On blackopradio.com, for example, I praised the book during my initial discussion on 28 March 2002, but on the next program, I expressed skepticism. Things that appear to be too good to be true usually are. (These programs, #71 and #72, are archived there.)

My ambivalence about the book was also manifest by the revision of my review on Amazon.com. Although I initially assigned it a 5-star rating, now I changed that to 1-star. The revised review, which appears on Amazon.com with the date of 30 March 2002, bears the heading, "A fascinating work that appears to be a fraud". My doubts are rooted less in Douglas himself than in the authenticity of the documents upon which his work is based and his odd relationship with their source, Robert T. Crowley, former Deputy Director for Operations of the CIA. According to Douglas, he never actually met Crowley, which I personally find difficult to reconcile with the staggering importance of the information he allegedly entrusted to him. But that is Douglas' story.

Having made several appearances on RADIO LIBERTY with Stan Monteith, known as "Dr. Stan" to his listeners, I recommended Douglas to Dr. Stan for a guest spot. Dr. Stan, I now know, has had him on more than once. It must have come as something of a shock when I returned to the program on 19 April 2002 and explained the reasons why I now believe that REGICIDE has to be based upon documents that are fake, where the point of the deception appears to be to provide an essentially accurate history of the assassination but use documents that can later be discredited. Which would, in the minds of most Americans, discredit the history that they were alleged to support.

On that specific occasion, the effect may have been more than I intended,

because I now think that the guest who preceded me on 19 April 2002 was Gregory Douglas! Another listener wrote to inform me that on 22 July 2002 he had appeared with Dr. Stan again, where he claimed that flying saucers were a Nazi invention (as flying disks that can travel at enormous speeds), that AIDS was invented by the US government to disable enemy soldiers (but mutated out of control to become a deadly infection), and that CIA officials brought high-ranking Nazi spys into the US under the "Paperclip" Program. He recommended C. Wright Mills' THE POWER ELITE (2000) and the film, "Wag the Dog". It would not surprise me if most of this were true.

In spite of my revised review (of which I am certain that Douglas and his publisher had to have become aware immediately), he and I remained in contact. Most importantly, I extended an invitation to him to contribute to ASSASSINATION RESEARCH. On 26 May 2002, for example, I sent this:

> Gregory,
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> Just a reminder that I would like to have a piece from you
> about the origins of REGICIDE, the authenticity of the doc-
> uments, and related questions, for ASSASSINATION RESEARCH.
> Knowing your skills as a writer, I am sure you can compose
> something for me in a very short period of time. Get back.
>
> Jim

He assured me that, as soon as other pressing matters were cleared up, he would send me something. And, indeed, on 20 June 2002, I received the following from him, which I have altered by dividing into three paragraphs:

Before his death in October of 2000, Robert Crowley, once Deputy Director of the CIA's Clandestine Operations, sent me two boxes of documents he felt might be of assistance to me in my ongoing writings. I had known Crowley since 1993 and we were in daily contact. He was courteous enough to write a forward to one of my books on Heinrich Muller, once Chief of the German Gestapo and later a CIA employee.

Crowley was a man who knew where all the bodies were buried [and] was a good friend of Jim Angleton, head of counter intelligence for the Company, and who removed Angleton's most sensitive files when Angleton was fired from the CIA for illegally reading the mail of U.S. citizens. Some, but certainly

not all, of this material will be utilized as Crowley wished it to.

The great bulk of his extensive files ended up in the hands of Washington author, Joe Trento who has just written a book on the CIA that contains more material based on the Crowley files. The material on the Kennedy assassination was directly from the Crowley papers. He kept these devastating, and potentially very dangerous, papers for purposes of self-justification and insurance. Now, what was hidden in his Cathedral Ave. home for years is now in the process of being edited for future publication. G.D.

The more important grounds for my skepticism include (1) the absence of the original KGB study in the Russian language; (2) the convergence of both the Soviet assessment and the DIA assessment on three-shot scenarios; (3) the very idea of keeping official records of government agencies in collusion on the assassination of a President of the United States; and (4) the very idea that JFK would distribute photographs as sexual mementos to his conquests. It appears to me extremely improbable, when the assassination involved at least 8, 9, or 10 shots fired from at least 6 locations, that neither the Soviets nor the DIA would pick up on numbers greater than 3. That a politician of the intelligence and sophistication of Jack Kennedy would disseminate photos of his liaisons I find extremely difficult--even truly impossible--to believe.

Could I be mistaken? Well, my first review on Amazon was 5-stars and my first discussion on Black Op Radio was equally enthusiastic. Since I have revised my estimate, at least one of my opinions has to be wrong! Today, there are 17 reviews on Amazon, 14 5-star, 1 4-star, and 2 1-star, including mine. Assigning this book 1-star, however, really does not do it justice. This is a fascinating book on one of the most important events of the 20th century. I am dumbfounded that it has yet to become the object of public controversy. The prospect that it will, alas, is quite remote, given the control exercised over the media in America, as articles here also explain. Talk radio remains one of the last bastions of free speech in the US. May it long endure!