

# Conspiracy Theories in American History

An Encyclopedia

Volume 1  
A-L

Edited by  
Peter Knight

Associate Editors  
Robert Alan Goldberg  
Jeffrey L. Pasley  
Larry Schweikart

A B C  C L I O

Santa Barbara, California    Denver, Colorado    Oxford, England

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### LaRouche, Lyndon

Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr., has had a long and controversial career on the fringes of U.S. politics—running several times for president in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s—and as the founder and leader of a cultlike political organization that subscribes to a host of conspiracy theories that defy categorization as left or right wing.

Born in New Hampshire to French Canadian immigrant parents in 1922, LaRouche was raised as a Quaker, the liberal faith to which both his mother (a former evangelical Protestant) and his father (born a Roman Catholic) had converted. LaRouche's father never got along with the pacifist Quakers and had a falling out with the church's political wing—the American Friends Service Committee—over some embezzled funds. Both the father's combativeness and his alleged financial misdeeds would be repeated in the son's later political career.

While LaRouche the younger attended, but did not graduate from, Northeastern University, he was largely an autodidact, delving deeply into the works of the great philosophers. He was, he later claimed, particularly taken with the moral reasoning of Immanuel Kant. True to his Quaker roots, LaRouche was assigned to a Civilian Public Service camp for conscientious objectors during World War II. Following the conflict, he drifted toward the Trotskyist left, joining the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in 1948.

While a dedicated organizer for the party for more than fifteen years, LaRouche eventually had a

falling-out with his fellow Trotskyists in 1966, going on to organize a chapter of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), a Maoist-leaning group. The PLP chapter, which included many former members of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a radical, anti-Vietnam War movement, became involved in the radical takeover of Columbia University in 1968. In the wake of the sit-in, LaRouche organized the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), ostensibly to create a political alliance between student activists and labor organizers, out of the collapsing SDS.

During the early 1970s, LaRouche and the NCLC fought bitter sectarian fights with the SWP and the Communist Party of the U.S.A. (CPUSA) that occasionally became violent. The goal was control of the far left movement in New York and, in this struggle, LaRouche began to develop the two tactics that would mark his future political career. The first was smear tactics, the careful planting of outlandish rumors and stories about political enemies. LaRouche would later go on to attack the personal reputations of widely disparate public figures from former secretary of state Henry Kissinger to liberal *Playboy* publisher Hugh Hefner. The second was mind control. Beginning in 1973, LaRouche established mandatory "ego-stripping" sessions for all NCLC chapters, where psychological humiliation was employed to bind members to the organization.

Along with the psychological manipulation came indoctrination in the LaRouche worldview, which combined various conspiracy theories with a cult-

like belief in the leadership and genius of LaRouche himself. LaRouche's conspiracy theory was global in scope. In it, humanity was essentially divided into three camps: the "oligarchs," the "sub-humans," and the "humanists." The oligarchs were those who secretly manipulated world events; the sub-humans were the vast majority of humanity who had no idea what was going on; and the humanists—the followers of LaRouche—were those nobly fighting to expose the oligarchs.

As LaRouche drifted from left to right and back again, the composition of the oligarchs was wide ranging and included, among other institutions, the United Nations, the National Council of Churches, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the British royal family, the latter largely responsible, argued LaRouche, for the world drug trade. In addition, LaRouche pointed an accusing finger at more traditional targets of U.S. conspiratorial thinking—the Trilateralists, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Zionist movement. If the objects of LaRouche's conspiratorial thinking ranged widely, their aim was simple: genocide. As LaRouche had it, the aim of the oligarchs is to reduce world population to under one billion so they can thereby more easily continue their domain over the planet. Even as LaRouche was formulating his conspiratorial worldview, his organization—the NCLC had spun off the U.S. Labor Party (USLP) in 1971—was delving into electoral politics. In 1976, its peak year, the USLP ran 140 candidates in 21 states—including LaRouche for president—but only received a paltry 154,000 votes. Disbanding the party in 1978, LaRouche and his followers—now numbering several hundred—began conducting a "stealth" campaign within the Democratic Party. In 1986, LaRouche followers took the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor and secretary of state in Illinois. Denounced by the head of their ticket—Democratic gubernatorial candidate Adlai Stevenson III—both candidates lost, however.

The large sums of money LaRouche spent on politicking—including expensive nationally run commercials for his presidential candidacies in the 1980s—came from several sources: One was intelligence gathering; LaRouche's publication, *Executive Intelligence Review*, with its mix of officially leaked

news and insider scuttlebutt, was widely subscribed to in Reagan-era Washington. A second source of money came from LaRouche's followers themselves. As with many, more religiously oriented cults, LaRouche acolytes—many of whom were college graduates and young professionals—were required to turn over their worldly assets and live lives of penury for the good of the organization.

Last, the LaRouche organization operated a right-wing boiler room fund-raising operation that would often play on the fears of elderly Americans who were told that only LaRouche and his organization stood between the United States and a triumphant oligarchy. It was this last tactic that ultimately brought about the downfall of LaRouche and his organization. In order to support their leader's political career and increasingly lavish lifestyle, operatives began to engage in credit card fraud, running up huge bills on the cards of elderly citizens who had donated money.

In 1986, federal agents raided LaRouche's estate and headquarters in Virginia. Despite being on trial for mail fraud and other crimes in 1988, LaRouche also managed to run for president once again, as he would do from prison in 1992. Ailing, LaRouche was released from the Federal Medical Center in 1993. While his organization remains a shadow of its former self, LaRouche has continued his political career, running for the presidency in 1996 and 2000.

Jim Ciment

See also: *Executive Intelligence Review*.

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#### Leisler's Rebellion

In November 1688, Protestant monarchs William and Mary of Orange led a small army across the

poverty and compared them to the "legitimate" descendants of the married couple (kallos). As Goddard expected, the results of the study confirmed that the kakos line were much more likely to be troubled or in trouble than the kallos line. Goddard published the results of his study in *The Kallikak Family* (1912), but in fact he had doctored photos of the kakos line to give the individuals a more depraved and sinister appearance, for example, by painting dark circles under the eyes of small children.

The science of eugenics was flawed in many ways. For example, the methods used to study ethnic and racial variation in various behavioral traits were poorly defined and difficult to measure. Surveys filled out by professionals working inside institutions and advocates of the eugenics ideals contained falsified data and dishonest findings. Other data were collected from school principals of children and friends and acquaintances of adults. Often, the only evidence presented by eugenicists was anecdotal, drawing conclusions about entire ethnic and racial groups based on stories about a particular family or individual. Key concepts of study were poorly and subjectively defined according to middle-class white standards that immediately biased findings against some racial and ethnic groups. The main proposition of eugenicists, that genes caused a wide range of behavioral problems in individuals, was illogical and simplistic. Other, larger level factors in society were ignored as important for understanding human behavior.

Matthew B. Robinson

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### Executive Intelligence Review

*Executive Intelligence Review* is a weekly news-magazine published by the Lyndon LaRouche organization. LaRouche, the magazine's contributing editor, published articles and "exposés" that contributed to the development of his conspiracy theories involving Jewish politicians, international bankers, the British royal family, and drug dealing. The editors of the *Executive Intelligence Review* also published books and shorter monographs on a variety of topics by expanding articles originally published in the magazine.

The magazine emerged out of Lyndon LaRouche's 1971-plan to develop a worldwide intelligence operation. He proposed that the operation be organized like a major national news weekly. The New Solidarity International Press Service (NSIPS) was incorporated by three LaRouche followers in 1974. As a news service, LaRouche's intelligence operatives used journalistic cover complete with press passes to gain access to government officials. *Executive Intelligence Review* was created as money flowed into the operations of the NSIPS. During the Ford and Carter administrations, *Executive Intelligence Review* operatives gained White House press accreditation and participated in a number of presidential press conferences. The news service also opened bureaus in capitals around the world. By 1979, *Executive Intelligence Review* was producing about \$4 billion in revenue—not surprisingly, since the annual subscription rate was nearly \$400.

Many of the articles that appear in *Executive Intelligence Review* were expanded into books. One

of the more famous books was *Dope, Inc.: the Book that Drove Henry Kissinger Crazy* (1992). In this book, the editors exposed what they saw as the real aims of the United States government's "war on drugs." According to the book, "the kingpins of the U.S. branch of the drug cartel, led by Henry Kissinger and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith launched a years-long effort to silence the authors [of an earlier edition], starting with LaRouche, who was railroaded to federal prison in late 1988." President George H. W. Bush kept LaRouche in prison, according to the book, because LaRouche was about to reveal the complicity of the federal government in the drug trade.

In *The Ugly Truth about the ADL*, the editors of *Executive Intelligence Review* exposed the Anti-Defamation League as "one of the most dangerous organizations in the world." The book portrays the ADL as a spy organization supplying intelligence data to foreign governments. It cites the 1994 San Francisco spy scandal as an example of the role played by the ADL in spying on the United States. At the end of 1993 it was revealed that an ADL operative in San Francisco, Roy Bullock, collected and traded information in a covert spy network involving the San Francisco police, some twenty other California police departments, and police departments outside of California. Over thirty years Bullock compiled a huge computerized data bank including files on close to 1,000 groups and 10,000 individuals. Bullock provided information to the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and sold information on antiapartheid activists to both South African agents and the ADL. *The Ugly Truth* also linked the ADL to organized crime by connecting contributions from reputed gangster Meyer Lansky to the Anti-Defamation League.

Despite the connection to Lyndon LaRouche, the *Executive Intelligence Review* received some

attention from the mainstream press. In 1988, Nelson Benton, a reporter for the magazine, asked President Ronald Reagan about the fitness of Democratic Party nominee Michael Dukakis to be chief executive of the United States. A rumor had been circulating for some time that Dukakis twice underwent psychiatric treatment in the 1970s. President Reagan answered the question, thus allowing the rumor to gain additional credence. Jeffrey Steinberg, a senior reporter for *Executive Intelligence Review*, appeared on British television in 1998 to present the theory that Prince Philip ordered British intelligence to assassinate Princess Diana. The latter incident indicated how much the British royal family was a target of the LaRouche network. *Executive Intelligence Review* regularly reported that Queen Elizabeth ran an international cocaine smuggling cartel and that Italian banker Roberto Calvi was murdered by the Duke of Kent. The *Executive Intelligence Review* also claimed that the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing was a first strike in a British attempt to take over the United States with the eventual goal of world domination.

John David Rausch, Jr.

**See also:** Antisemitism; British Royal Family; Drugs; Kissinger, Henry; LaRouche, Lyndon; Oklahoma City Bombing.

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#### Website

*Executive Intelligence Review* website: <http://www.larouchepub.com>.