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~~...~~
Quotes from Voodoo
Histories:... "But
progressive as it could be,
American populism also lent
itself to more reactionary
impulses. Suspicious of big

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David Aaronovitch

capital, it was equally
hostile to the big state;
and much as it claimed to
champion the little man, it
often took up cudgels
against those seen as the
conscript army of unwanted
change—immigrants.

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Aaronovitch, "Voodoo
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In preparation for this
interview I watched the
documentary (that's what ...

~~David Aaronovitch, "Voodoo~~

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a time when he started to
see a pattern among

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As Aaronovitch himself says
of 1919 in Voodoo Histories:
"Everywhere people stared
out of the abyss, their
certainties and traditions

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replaced by extreme anxiety and dangerous novelty."

Mainly, the...

David Aaronovitch

~~Review: Voodoo Histories by David Aaronovitch | Books~~

...

History Book Review: Voodoo Histories: The Role of the Conspiracy Theory in Shaping Modern History by David Aaronovitch. Voodoo Histories isn't an attempt to tell everyone to chill out and stop worrying about what people in authority are up to. Rather, it attempts the trickier task of explaining why a set of conspiracy theories do not hold water on close examination, and accounting

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for how they differ from
traditional historical
explanations - what is
specifically "conspiracist

...

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INTRODUCTION : #1 Voodoo
Histories The Role Of
Publish By Beatrix Potter,
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The Conspiracy Theory In
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Brother Voodoo first made his appearance in Strange Tales #169 in 1973. Born in Haiti, Jericho was an accomplished psychologist, doctor, and author who left home to pursue a college education, and to avoid the shame he felt because of his family's deep-rooted belief and practice of Vodou.

~~Marvel's Brother Voodoo is a
chance to explore Black ...~~

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David Aaronovitch. Jonathan

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Cape, 2009 - Conspiracies -
358 pages. 18 Reviews. Our
age is obsessed by the idea
of conspiracy. We see it

everywhere - from Pearl
Harbour to 9/11, from the
assassination of Kennedy to
the death of Diana.

Aaronovitch carefully probes
and ...

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David Aaronovitch. Penguin,
Feb 4, 2010 - History - 416
pages. 19 Reviews

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"Meticulous in its research,
forensic in its reasoning,
robust in its argument, and
often hilarious in its

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debunking... a highly entertaining rumble with the century's major conspiracy theorists and their

theories." --John Lahr, National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of Tennessee Williams From an award-winning journalist, a history so funny, so true, so scary, it's bound to be called a conspiracy. Our age is obsessed by the idea of conspiracy. We see it everywhere- from Pearl Harbor to 9/11, from the assassination of Kennedy to the death of Diana. In this age of terrorism we live in, the role of conspiracy is a serious one, one that can fuel radical or fringe

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elements to violence. For David Aaronovitch, there came a time when he started to see a pattern among these inflammatory theories. these theories used similarly murky methods with which to insinuate their claims: they linked themselves to the supposed conspiracies of the past (it happened then so it can happen now); they carefully manipulated their evidence to hide its holes; they relied on the authority of dubious academic sources. Most important, they elevated their believers to membership of an elite- a group of people able to see beyond lies to a higher reality. But why believe

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something that entails stretching the bounds of probability so far? In this entertaining and enlightening book, he examines why people believe conspiracy theories, and makes an argument for a true skepticism: one based on a thorough knowledge of history and a strong dose of common sense.

Did Neil Armstrong really set foot on the moon? Was the United States government responsible for the 11 September attacks? Should we doubt the accidental nature of Diana's death? Voodoo Histories entertainingly demolishes the absurd and

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sinister conspiracy theories of the last 100 years. Aaronovitch reveals not only why people are so ready to believe in these stories but also the dangers of this credulity. *Includes a new chapter investigating the conspiracy theories that question Obama's legitimacy as president *

Our age is obsessed by the idea of conspiracy. We see it everywhere - from Pearl Harbour to 9/11, from the assassination of Kennedy to the death of Diana. Bookshop shelves threaten to collapse under the weight of texts devoted to proving myriad conspiracy theories true,

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while even quality newspapers and serious TV channels are prepared to give them credence. For David Aaronovitch, there came a time when he started to see a pattern. These theories used similar dodgy methods with which to insinuate their claims: they linked themselves to the supposed conspiracies of the past (it happened then so it can happen now); they carefully manipulated their evidence to hide its holes; they relied on the authority of dubious academic sources. Most importantly, they elevated their believers to membership of an elite - a group of people able to see

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beyond lies to a higher reality. But why believe something that entails stretching the bounds of probability so far? Surely it is more likely that men did actually land on the moon in 1969 than that thousands of people were enlisted to fabricate a deception that they did. In this entertaining and enlightening book - aimed to provide ammunition for those who have found themselves at the wrong end of a conversation about moon landings or twin towers - Aaronovitch carefully probes and explodes a dozen of the major conspiracy theories. In doing so, he looks at why

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people believe them, and makes an argument for a true scepticism: one based on a thorough knowledge of history and a strong dose of common sense.

From 9/11 conspiracy theorists and UFO obsessives to the cult of Ayn Rand and Birther crusaders, America is suffering from an explosion in post-rationalist ideological movements. In *Among the Truthers*, journalist Jonathan Kay offers a thoughtful and sobering look at how social networking and Web-based video sharing have engendered a flourishing of new conspiracism. Kay

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details the sociological profiles of ten brands of modern conspiracists—the Failed Historian, the Mid-Life Crack-Up, the Damaged Survivor, the Campus Revolutionary, the Stoner, the Clinical Case, the Puzzle Solver, the Christian Doomsayer, the Cosmic Voyager, and the Egomaniac—in a compelling exploration of America's departure from reason and what it means for the very future of rational discourse as the nation steps further into the 21st century.

A history of America's demons 1693: Cotton Mather suggests that the spirits

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attacking Salem are allied with the colony's human enemies. At their "Cheef Witch-meetings," he writes, "there has been present some French canadians, and some Indian Sagamores, to concert the methods of ruining New England." 1835: A gunman tries to kill Andrew Jackson. The president accuses a senator of plotting the assassination. Jackson's critics counter that the shooting was arranged by the president himself to gain public support. 1868: An article in the New-York Tribune declares that the Democrats have engineered malaria outbreaks in the nation's

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capital, pumping "the air,
and the water, and the
whisky of Washington full of
poison." 1967: President
Lyndon Johnson asks his
cabinet if the Communists
are behind the country's
urban riots. The attorney
general tells him that the
evidence isn't there, but
Johnson isn't convinced.
Conspiracy theories aren't
just a feature of the
fringe. They've been a
potent force across the
political spectrum, at the
center as well as the
extremes, from the colonial
era to the present. In *The
United States of Paranoia*,
Jesse Walker explores this
rich history, arguing that

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Conspiracy stories should be read not just as claims to be either believed or debunked but also as

folklore. When a tale takes hold, it reveals something true about the anxieties and experiences of those who believe and repeat it, even if the story says nothing true about the objects of the theory itself. In a story that stretches from the seventeenth century to today, Walker lays out five conspiracy narratives that recur in American politics and popular culture. With intensive research and a deadpan sense of humor, *The United States of Paranoia* combines the rigor of real

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Conspiracy Theory in
history with the punch of
pulp fiction.

Shaping Modern History

David Aaronovitch

Conspiracy theories seem to be proliferating today. Long relegated to a niche existence, conspiracy theories are now pervasive, and older conspiracy theories have been joined by a constant stream of new ones - that the USA carried out the 9/11 attacks itself, that the Ukrainian crisis was orchestrated by NATO, that we are being secretly controlled by a New World Order that keep us docile via chemtrails and vaccinations. Not to mention the moon landing that never happened. But what are

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David Aaronovitch

conspiracy theories and why do people believe them? Have they always existed or are they something new, a feature of our modern world? In this book Michael Butter provides a clear and comprehensive introduction to the nature and development of conspiracy theories. Contrary to popular belief, he shows that conspiracy theories are less popular and influential today than they were in the past. Up to the 1950s, the Western world regarded conspiracy theories as a legitimate form of knowledge and it was therefore normal to believe in them. It was only after the Second World

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War that this knowledge was delegitimized, causing conspiracy theories to be banished from public discourse and relegated to subcultures. The recent renaissance of conspiracy theories is linked to internet which gives them wider exposure and contributes to the fragmentation of the public sphere. Conspiracy theories are still stigmatized today in many sections of mainstream culture but are being accepted once again as legitimate knowledge in others. It is the clash between these domains and their different conceptions of truth that is fuelling

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the current debate over
conspiracy theories.
Shaping Modern History

David Aaronovitch

The Earth is flat, the World Trade Center collapse was a controlled demolition, planes are spraying poison to control the weather, and actors faked the Sandy Hook massacre... All these claims are bunk: falsehoods, mistakes, and in some cases, outright lies. But many people passionately believe one or more of these conspiracy theories. They consume countless books and videos, join like-minded online communities, try to convert those around them, and even, on occasion, alienate their own friends

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and family. Why is this, and how can you help people, especially those closest to you, break free from the downward spiral of conspiracy thinking? In *Escaping the Rabbit Hole*, author Mick West shares over a decade's worth of knowledge and experience investigating and debunking false conspiracy theories through his forum, MetaBunk.org, and sets forth a practical guide to helping friends and loved ones recognize these theories for what they really are. Perhaps counter-intuitively, the most successful approaches to helping individuals escape a rabbit

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hole aren't comprised of simply explaining why they are wrong; rather, West's tried-and-tested approach emphasizes clear communication based on mutual respect, honesty, openness, and patience. West puts his debunking techniques and best practices to the test with four of the most popular false conspiracy theories today (Chemtrails, 9/11 Controlled Demolition, False Flags, and Flat Earth) – providing road maps to help you to understand your friend and help them escape the rabbit hole. These are accompanied by real-life case studies of individuals

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who, with help, were able to break free from conspiracism. With sections on: the wide spectrum of conspiracy theories avoiding the “shill” label psychological factors and other complications (and concluding with) a look at the future of debunking Mick West has put forth a conclusive, well-researched, practical reference on why people fall down the conspiracy theory rabbit hole and how you can help them escape.

As a first-hand account of the weird mysteries and horrors of voodoo, Tell My Horse is an invaluable

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resource and fascinating guide. Based on Zora Neale Hurston's personal experiences in Haiti and Jamaica, where she participated as an initiate rather than just an observer of voodoo practices during her visits in the 1930s, this travelogue into a dark world paints a vividly authentic picture of ceremonies and customs and superstitions of great cultural interest.

9/11 was an inside job. The Holocaust is a myth promoted to serve Jewish interests. The shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School were a false flag operation.

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Climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese government. These are all conspiracy theories. A glance online or at bestseller lists reveals how popular some of them are. Even if there is plenty of evidence to disprove them, people persist in propagating them. Why? Philosopher Quassim Cassam explains how conspiracy theories are different from ordinary theories about conspiracies. He argues that conspiracy theories are forms of propaganda and their function is to promote a political agenda. Although conspiracy theories are sometimes defended on the

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grounds that they uncover evidence of bad behaviour by political leaders, they do much more harm than good, with some resulting in the deaths of large numbers of people. There can be no clearer indication that something has gone wrong with our intellectual and political culture than the fact that conspiracy theories have become mainstream. When they are dangerous, we cannot afford to ignore them. At the same time, refuting them by rational argument is difficult because conspiracy theorists discount or reject evidence that disproves their theories. As

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Conspiracy theories are so often smokescreens for political ends, we need to come up with political as well as intellectual responses if we are to have any hope of defeating them.

The secrets of Santeria, Voodoo and Obeah are among the oldest enigmas in the world. Their roots go back to pre-historic Africa - perhaps even beyond that. From the 16th century onwards, the slave trade brought these ancient mysteries to the West, where they blended strangely with traditional Christianity: the ancient African gods became identified with

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legendary saints. In
integration of the two
faiths slowly evolved to
form the many varieties of
Santeria, Obeah and Voudoun
that are widely practiced
throughout the world today.
Their characteristic dancing
and drumming seem able to
invoke strange states of
mind in which almost
anything is possible. Even
stories of zombies - the
walking dead - still
persist. Is there a rational
explanation for them?
Contemporary Voudoun
priests, priestesses,
magicians and enchanters use
rare herbs and spices as
well as charms, dolls and
talismans to control the

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natural world in ways that science cannot always explain. Accounts of their inexplicable successes are examined in depth. Most intriguing of all are the claims that are made for their love philtres and aphrodisiacs. What powers do these old religions still possess?

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