



PRESS RELEASE

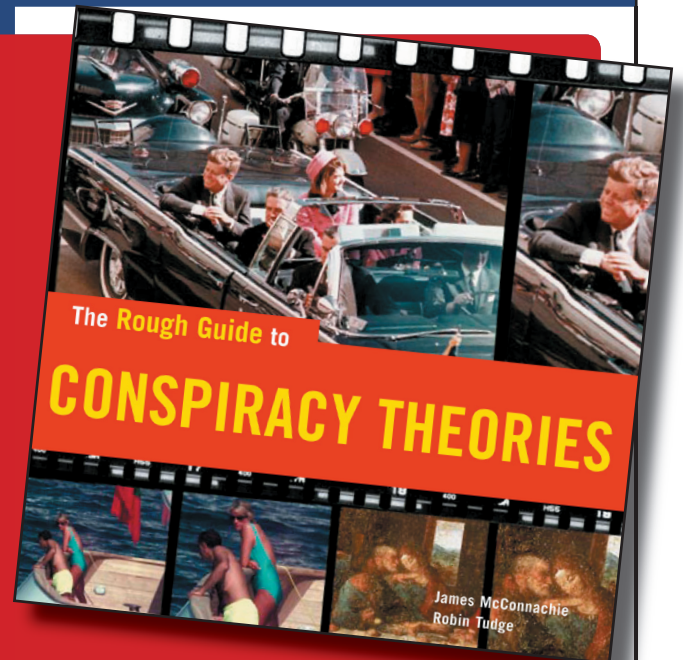
# NEW ROUGH GUIDE DISCUSSES ALLEGED CONSPIRACIES INVOLVING PRINCE PHILIP, SADDAM HUSSEIN AND THE POPE\*

A NEW 420-page book from travel publishers Rough Guides, **The Rough Guide to Conspiracy Theories**, asks “Is everything you think you know a lie? Can you ever be sure of anything again?” The book, by James McConnachie and Robin Tudge, published this month, examines the most disturbing explanations for the state of the world today – and the great controversies of the past – including conspiracy theories involving Prince Philip in an alleged plot to reduce the world’s population to one billion, Saddam Hussein as a close ally of the USA, and the Pope in ignoring sex-abuse allegations against senior Catholics.

Co-author James McConnachie said “In the Rough Guide, all the usual suspects are dragged out of the shadows and interrogated: from the IMF and the KGB via JFK and the CIA. But there are lots of more unlikely subjects – the royal family for example: we examine all the theories and shine a light on them from every angle. We’ve done a vast amount of research and much of it is quite jaw-dropping. If we weren’t scared before we started this book, I think we’re somewhat paranoid now.”

He went on to say “Nevertheless, a lot of conspiracy theories are complete nonsense – entertaining but without a shred of evidence that stands up to scrutiny.”

**The Rough Guide on the Royal Family:** You may wonder why Prince Philip, in cahoots with the WWF, ODA and SAS, would have wanted the Rwandan genocide to happen. According to one website it stems from his historical role as the unofficial leader of the Club of the Isles, a highly secretive association of corporate and European aristocratic interests, dedicated to consolidating a one-world empire which would require the world’s population to be massively reduced.



## **The Rough Guide on the death of Diana:**

Paparazzo James Andanson had been investigated as the owner of a white Uno at the time of the crash and one report had matched the paint with traces found on the Mercedes. The Fiat had been prepared for respray soon after the crash. Yet Andanson had simply given an alibi and been released. In May 2000, Andanson’s body was found in a burned-out car in the south of France in May 2000 and, soon afterwards, the offices of his photo agency were burgled by three masked, armed men.

**The Rough Guide on the Pope:** It was the job of Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) to handle all sex abuse cases. In 2001 he sent a letter in Latin to all bishops insisting that all such cases were to remain strictly confidential. Nine separate abuse allegations against the founder of the Legion of Christ, Marcial Maciel, were ignored by him on the grounds that “One can’t put on trial such a close friend of the Pope”. (cont. overleaf...)

\*NB: This refers to three *separate* conspiracy theories.

**The Rough Guide on Dr David Kelly:** Could a modern government really kill someone like Kelly so audaciously, in the midst of a media maelstrom? Perhaps only a government also audacious enough to base its public case for going to war on shamelessly inadequate intelligence.

**The Rough Guide on 9/11:** The weakest link in the official version of events concerned the hijackers themselves. How had they managed to board the planes without showing up on CCTV? If they were using aliases, how had the FBI managed to track some of them down to their flight schools within a day? The biggest absurdity was the passport of one of the hijackers, conveniently found in the ruins. A bit of laminated cardboard had survived a fire that had melted solid steel and destroyed the planes' indestructible black boxes.

**The Rough Guide on Saddam:** George W Bush isn't the first US president to have carried out "regime change" in Iraq. In 1963, the CIA, under President John F Kennedy, was behind a successful coup in Baghdad, carried out in collaboration with Saddam Hussein, who later became president. Between 1985 and 1990, the US Department of Commerce approved \$1.5 billion worth of dual use (civilian-military) items to Iraq. The Americans knew that Saddam had WMD because they still had the receipts.

**The Rough Guide on Opus Dei:** Opus Dei is building a powerful network of conservative Catholics. It has some 83,000 lay members, 3000 of them in the US. They include celibate Numeraries, who have ordinary jobs but live in single-sex houses and give over all their income to Opus Dei, and Supernumeraries, who can be married and merely hand over large portions of their salaries. Education secretary Ruth Kelly is a Supernumerary.

**The Rough Guide on the Asian tsunami:** Some conspiracy theorists suspect that HAARP (the US High Frequency Active Auroral Research Programme) was behind the massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean in December 2004, which caused a devastating tsunami.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the US Senate: "The tsunami was a wonderful opportunity to show not just the US government, but the heart of the American people, and I think it has paid great dividends for us."

## The Rough Guide to Conspiracy Theories

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### AUTHOR NOTES

**James McConnachie** graduated from Oxford University and worked as a researcher for the maverick historian Theodore Zeldin before turning to conspiracy theories. He savaged Dan Brown's ideas in *The Rough Guide to The Da Vinci Code*. Alongside monitoring the spread of conspiracy theories online, he works as a photographer and TV presenter, and is currently writing a book about the Kama Sutra.

**Robin Tudge** is a journalist, who has spent many years living and working in the USA, Russia, Vietnam and China. He is the author of a travel guide to North Korea and currently lives in London, where he works for a nuclear energy consultancy.

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