= Conspiracy Encyclopedia =

Conspiracy Encyclopedia : The Encyclopedia of Conspiracy Theories is a non @-@ fiction reference book about conspiracy theories , with an introduction by editor Thom Burnett . It was published in 2005 by Chamberlain Bros. , and in 2006 by Collins & Brown . Contributors to the work include Thom Burnett , Nigel Cawthorne , Richard Emerson , Mick Farren , Alex Games , John Gill , Sandy Gort , Rod Green , Emma Hooley , Esther Selsdon , and Kenn Thomas.The encyclopedia discusses 365 conspiracy theories , most of which are political .

The encyclopedia was positively reviewed in The Guardian , where it was referred to as a " beautifully @-@ produced tome " . It received both a positive and a negative review from two different writers in The Times . In 2008 the encyclopedia was listed as required reading in a course on conspiracy at Harvard University .

= = Background = =

Conspiracy Encyclopedia was published in 2005 by Chamberlain Bros. , and in 2006 by Collins & Brown . Contributors to the work include Thom Burnett , Nigel Cawthorne , Richard Emerson , Mick Farren , Alex Games , John Gill , Sandy Gort , Rod Green , Emma Hooley , Esther Selsdon , and Kenn Thomas .

Burnett has written multiple other works on international politics , including Who Really Won the Space Race ? : Uncovering the Conspiracy That Kept America Second to the Russians (2005) , and Who Really Runs the World ? : The War Between Globalization and Democracy (2007) . Burnett is a pseudonym for an individual who first garnered security experience while a member of United Kingdom Special Forces . After his military service , he became a writer and pursued postgraduate education in Britain within the field of conspiracy theory .

= = Contents = =

Thom Burnett begins the encyclopedia by introducing the reader to the contents and concepts in the work . Burnett notes that the German term Verschwörungsmythos means " Conspiracy Myth " , and has value as a descriptive label . " Perhaps the conspiracy world is an updated version of ancient myths , where monsters and the gods of Olympus and Valhalla have been replaced by aliens and the Illuminati of Washington and Buckingham Palace , " writes Burnett . Three hundred and sixty @-@ five conspiracy theories are discussed in the work , the majority of which are political in nature . It contains many pictures to illustrate the points it makes . Topics discussed include the moon landing conspiracy theories , the Bilderberg Group , the Illuminati , the Warren Commission and the Kennedy assassination conspiracy theories , the views of David Icke , and chupacabras . The encyclopedia has a section on assassinations , and those discussed include the deaths of Kenneth Bigley in 2004 , Danny Casolaro in 1991 , John F. Kennedy in 1963 , and Tutankhamun in 1323 BC .

= = Reception = =

The Bookseller called the book " the first comprehensive encyclopedia of its kind " . In a review of the encyclopedia for The Guardian , Andrew Mueller called it a " beautifully @-@ produced tome " and commented that the work " succeeds , as was probably intentional , in offering some fascinating tours of the byways of history and providing a tantalising alternative universe in which much of what you know may not be what it seems " . John Cooper reviewed the encyclopedia for The Times , and described it as " an entertaining compilation of ideas ranging from who was the ' real William Shakespeare ' to the BCCI case and al @-@ Qaeda " . Cooper noted , " The most fascinating section relates to ' Assassinations ' ... an unusual fairytale book for Christmas . " Martin Samuel gave a more critical review of the encyclopedia for The Times , commenting , " For all the encyclopedia 's pretence at sifting the evidence in search of a verdict , if the truth is out there , the

authors are damned if they can find it . "

 Conspiracy Encyclopedia was listed as required reading in a 2008 course on conspiracy at Harvard University . Writing in Conspiracy Theories & Secret Societies For Dummies , authors Christopher Hodapp and Alice Von Kannon comment that Burnett asserts " the spirit of our times has had the crap kicked out of it by global domination " . The encyclopedia is recommended for further reading by David Southwell and Sean Twist in their book Unsolved Political Mysteries . Writing for The Star , James Mitchell observed , " There 's a huge amount packed in here , simply presented . " Mitchell concluded , " Read the Conspiracy Encyclopedia , and you 'll either have your worst fears confirmed that there 's a grand , unified conspiracy affecting everything ... or less exciting , that most of the time , vanilla rules : What you see is what you get ! "