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Reading Response 5

Since the beginning of the book *United States of Paranoia*, the author Jesse Walker introed with multiple assassination stories and many back and forth conspiracies theories between very different cultural backgrounds such as the story about the Indians and European settlers. As the American society evolves, although conspiracy theories become more empirically oriented, the paranoia surrounding conspiracies lingers on and produces new spin-offs. But one thing Walker suggests to remain constant is that “The conspiracy theorist will always be with us, because he will always be us. We will never stop finding patterns. We will never stop spinning stories. We will always be capable of jumping to conclusions…” (p. 338).

In the grand scheme of things, with all the paranoia around these false rumors and far-fetched folklore of historical events, teaches the Americans to be vigilant not only by what they see or hear, but the origin of these conspiracies and how it affects its audience psychologically. This book exemplifies that our words have immense power to persuade and control people of their perspective by planting seeds of rhetoric in people’s heads that will grow into something good or vile, or even a threat to themselves. Furthermore, Walker reveals in the book that the consistent production of conspiracy theories reveals that Americans are very perceptive and receptive of information, as well as malleable and gullible. These conspiracies would not have propagated in the first place, were it not for the paranoias it feeds on people and the conspirators tirelessly spinning stories. Ultimately, it also shows, from the Native Indian Americans to Barack Obama administration, that the American people are generally concerned citizens who constantly seek for the truth.

Works Cited

Walker, Jesse. *The United States of Paranoia*. Harper. Kindle Edition.