

Contents

Editorial Note	v
Preface	vii
Contributors	xv
1. The Temptation of Conspiracy Theory, or: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Part I: Preliminary Draft of a Theory of Conspiracy Theories	1
<i>Dieter Groh</i>	
Initial Approach to a Definition of the Term	2
Are Adherents of Conspiracy Theories Paranoid?	5
Conspiracy Theory Constructs in the Science of History	9
Universal-Historical Phases or a Universal-Historical Caesura in the 18th Century?	11
2. The Temptation of Conspiracy Theory, or: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Part II: Case Studies	15
<i>Dieter Groh</i>	
The “Jewish Conspiracy” in the Late Middle Ages	16
Witch Pattern and Witch-Hunt	17
The “Conspirations” of Rebellious Peasants in the 17th and 18th Centuries	20
The Famine Plot “Persuasion” in 18th century France	21
The French Revolution: A Conspiracy Against State and Religion	23
Counter Revolution and the Boom in Conspiracy Theories	26
The “Testament” of Peter the Great: The First Fabrication of a Conspiracy Theory	28
The Secular Boom Infects a Representative of a Structural History Theory: Karl Marx and the Russian Design to Overthrow Europe	30

The Theory of Labor-Aristocracy: Conspiracy Theory in the Realm of Materialist Theory of History	31
The “Dagger Legend” in Post-War Germany	32
3. “Man-Eating” and the Myths of the “New World” – Anthropological, Pictorial, and Literary Variants	39
<i>Christian W. Thomsen</i>	
4. Demoniac Conspiracy	71
<i>Nicole Jacques-Chaquin</i>	
5. The Conspiratorial Imperative: Medieval Jewry in Western Europe	87
<i>Henri Zukier</i>	
The Conspiratorial Imperative	87
The Conspiratorial Imperium	93
6. The Topic of the Jewish Conspiracy in Russia (1905–1920), and the International Consequences	105
<i>Léon Poliakov</i>	
7. Anti-Semitic Themes and the British Far Left: Some Social-Psychological Observations on Indirect Aspects of the Conspiracy Tradition	115
<i>Michael Billig</i>	
On the Jewish Question	117
Nation, Religion, and Judaism	120
Anti-Semitism and Nazism	124
Left-Wing Themes and Conspiracy	129
8. Social Conflict and Conspiracy in Nuremberg 1789–1797	137
<i>Andreas Grieflinger</i>	
9. The Conspiracy Mentality	151
<i>Serge Moscovici</i>	
The Hand of the Stranger	151
A Modern Mentality and Its Principal Characteristics	154
Hostility Toward and Fear of Minorities	157
The Conspiracy Mentality and Resentment	160
Remarks on Resentment and Its Consequences	162
Conspiracy as Strategy and Means to Mobilize the Masses	165
Conclusion	168

10. Paranoid Conspiratory Delusion	171
<i>Erich Wulff</i>	
Introduction	171
Kraepelin and Freud	173
The Experience of Reality and the Cathexis of the Outside World	175
Paranoid Conspiracy Delusion as a Local and Partial Dissociation of Cathexis	179
Natural Obviousness, Trust, Cooperation, and Division of Labor	182
Cathexis Hole and Cathexis Fillings	183
The Economy of Cathexis: Amount, Covering, Metabolism	185
Outlook	188
11. Conspiracy Theory in Conflict Escalation	191
<i>Dean G. Pruitt</i>	
The Neighborhood Controversy	191
The Crisis at UB	192
The Process of Escalation	194
Impact of Conspiracy Theory on Conflict	198
Origins of Conspiracy Theory in Conflict	199
Conclusions	201
12. Self/Other Relations and the Social Nature of Reality	203
<i>Robert M. Farr</i>	
The Ideology of Success and Failure in Certain Western Cultures	203
The Nature of Social and of Optical Illusions	207
Heider's Naive Psychology of Interpersonal Relations	213
13. Blame-Placing Schemata and Attributional Research	219
<i>Arie W. Kruglanski</i>	
The Psychological Interest of Conspiracy Theories	220
The Attribution Paradigm in Social Psychology	220
Research on Defensive Attributional Tendencies	221
Informational and Motivational Influences on Attributions: Disjunctive Versus Conjunctive Interpretations	223
Conspiracy Theories: Truth or Illusion?	223
Research on Attributional Errors	224
Exchanging People's Biases: The Theory of Lay Epistemology	225
The Epistemic Process and Conspiracy Theories	227
Conclusions	228

14. Extremist Political Positions and Perceptions of Conspiracy: Even Paranoids Have Real Enemies	231
<i>Ronald Inglehart</i>	
Societal Trust and the Rise of Postmaterialism	236
Conclusion	243
15. Conspiracy: History and Social Psychology—A Synopsis	245
<i>Carl F. Graumann</i>	
Makers and Movers	246
The Structure and Dynamics of Attributing Conspiracy	247
Crowd Mind, Leadership, and Conspiracy	250
Author Index	253
Subject Index	259