

Conspiracy Theories in the Arab World

Sources and politics

Matthew Gray

Contents

<i>A note on transliteration</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
<i>The significance of conspiracism in the Arab world</i>	2
<i>Conspiracy theory, conspiracism, paranoia: terminologies and definitions</i>	4
<i>Conspiracism and Arab politics</i>	8
<i>About this book</i>	11
2 Conspiracism and conspiracy theories	20
<i>The weaknesses of pathological and structural explanations for conspiracism</i>	21
<i>The limited utility of structural explanations</i>	24
<i>Conspiracism as entertainment</i>	27
<i>Conspiracism as a sign of marginalization and as popular deconstructivism</i>	29
<i>Political-sociological explanations for conspiracism</i>	32
<i>The state–society dimension</i>	38
<i>The question of applicability</i>	43
3 Actual conspiracies, perceived conspiracies and historical wrongs	49
<i>Early history and the impact of colonialism</i>	50
<i>Zionism and the creation of Israel</i>	53
<i>The Arab-Israeli conflict, superpower interventionism, the growth of Israeli power and conspiracy theories</i>	58
<i>Oil and politics and conspiracies</i>	67
<i>The US and Iraq, the war on terrorism and beyond</i>	74
<i>Conspiracism and history</i>	78

4	State, society, ideological vacuums and conspiracism	88
	<i>Relative decline and the failure of old ideologies</i>	89
	<i>The weakness and threat of new ideologies</i>	96
	<i>The distance between states and societies</i>	102
	<i>state–society relations, ideological inchoateness and conspiracism</i>	105
5	The state as conspiracist	118
	<i>What the state says and means</i>	119
	<i>Real conspiracies? The state, international politics and conspiracism</i>	126
	<i>The common pattern? State conspiracism as diversion</i>	130
	<i>State conspiracism as symbolism and state-building</i>	133
	<i>State conspiracism as counter-relevance and counter-factual language</i>	135
	<i>The importance of the state as conspiracist</i>	136
6	Beyond state and society: globalization and transnational conspiracism	141
	<i>Globalization and the conspiracism context</i>	142
	<i>Transnational media and conspiracism</i>	144
	<i>The role of the internet in conspiracism</i>	151
	<i>Globalization, al-Qa'ida and transnational extremism, and conspiracism</i>	154
	<i>Beyond the globalized Internet: transnational actors and conspiracism</i>	156
	<i>The new modalities of conspiracism</i>	160
7	Conclusion	165
	<i>Why conspiracy theories and conspiracists matter</i>	165
	<i>Responding to conspiracism and conspiracists</i>	169
	<i>Looking ahead</i>	171
	 <i>Bibliography</i>	 173
	<i>Index</i>	195