

A THEORY OF CONSPIRACY

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Antidotes To The Methodological Individualism Poisons Of The Conspiracy Theory Of History And Society

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Introduction: plots and conspiracies in the society and history

The conspiracy theory is a theory that circumvents the common understanding of historical or current events, claiming that these are the result of a manipulation on the part of one or more occult powers or conspiracies. "Conspiracy Theory" is used to refer to unconventional theories about historical or current events, which may appear unfounded, outlandish or irrational. Generally, conspiracy theories claim that a particular event, such as an assassination, a revolution, or even the failure of a product, is not due only to visible actions of individuals who belong to political or market forces, but rather to collectives and usually hidden conspiracy or actions¹.

The conspiracy theory is one of the most consistent of the "Poverty of historicism" [Popper 2013]: it wants to believe that history always has an end result, more often than not, a blatant or surreptitious planning as in the perverse logic of Constructivism [Hayek 1967], due to the work of any entity more or less abstract, more or less personified – you may name Providence, Destiny, Fate, Chance, you resort to Bentham's Panopticon metaphor or to the Moloch of Big Brother Orwellian's memory or to the more recent and familiar myth of the Great Old Man, which pursues objectives of putsch and terrorist actions by the extreme left and the extreme right, or more – and that this purpose is always beyond the combination of unintended, unwanted or unforeseen effects, related to always intentional human action [Hayek 1967: 110 seq.].

In the *Open society and its enemies*, Popper himself says: «The conspiracy theory of society or the world is nothing but a modern version of Theism, belief in Gods whose whims and desires command over all. If you remove the Gods (...) then instead of them, powerful men and groups will be placed – the dark powers – which is attributed to all» [Popper 1974: 125-26]. Popper holds to reiterate that he did not believe that the plots are impossible, but rather, they are typical social phenomena that become important every time you come to power just people who believe in the conspiracy theory. Ultimately, the plots or fail and are soon in the light (the murder of Julius Caesar), or fail and are still in the light (Cicero and Catiline). In short, the plots always emerge if really exist [Eco 1988].

¹ The word "conspiracy" comes from the Latin "conspirare", ("breathing together"), and in contemporary usage refers to a situation where two or more persons agree to make an illegal or immoral act. The essential components are the involvement of at least two people, privacy and malicious intent. The current existence of countless such conspiracies is well-known and includes gangs and criminal organizations, cartels to control the market, political corruption organised and so on.

The curious thing is that despite many conspiracies have been raised, it seems that nobody has ever made, at least not in predetermined way [Id: 127 seq.]. Of course, real conspiracies and plots have always existed in history, and even in recent history we have a wealth of examples. But the plot is other: it is the tendency to indulge in some sort of conspiracy theory of history and is generally used to qualify concept in derogatory sense of paranoid propensity to build and imagine plots for any event of political, economic or social importance.

1. Conspiracy historiography

The conspiracy theory has its origins in the counter-revolutionary thought at the time of the French Revolution. From the alleged conspiracy of few enlightenment philosophes to the fictional Masonic plot behind all great historical events, to the tragic and grotesque invention of Jewish conspiracy for world domination, disclosed by the "protocols of Zion" and endorsed by Nazism and Fascism, the global conspiracy theory represents a reactionary ideology [Cohn 1959].

The idea of the conspiracy is actually as old as modernity and after the French Revolution the same theories are continuously re-examined. «In this French Revolution, everything up to mischief, scariest, everything was planned, meditated, combined, deliberated, determined; everything was [...] run by men who had just woven the threads of the conspiracy in secret societies and who have been able to choose and foster the most suitable moments for the plot». This is the opinion expressed in 1798 by the Abbot Augustin de Barruel [1989: 196]. It is therefore an ideal breeding ground for the far right and even, in one way or another, a substantial part of their programmatic corpus (conspiracy of the Jews and Freemasons, or the Bolsheviks or, finally, of Muslims).

But it is also a breeding ground for left-wing ideologies say, because of the profound and deep-rooted consciousness of modern Western culture of enlightenment and historicist inspiration that history, the great history, is made up of religious ideals, movements, from the evolution of the economy and of society, and States, by the efforts and struggles of these subjects are protagonists and together expression; and is not the work of small plots or alleged major conspiracies. On the other hand, it is precisely this collectivist vision that generates plots and conspiracies.

We must then consider the role played by the media in strengthening and disseminating of conspirative theories. The conspiracy 2.0 phagocytes and amplifies the delusions in conspiring, making use, inter alia, of computer tricks and manipulations of documentary. It is not a coincidence

that the French Education Minister, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, on the sidelines of the Islamic terrorist attacks in Paris in 2015, revealed that a boy in five believes the conspiracy theories spread through social networks. «The conspiracy is a very old phenomenon – remember Jean-Yves Camus – from the denial of the Holocaust until the Twin Towers, including the Kennedy assassination and the landing on the Moon, there is big event that has not been the subject of "alternative narratives" made of shadows and alleged counter-truths. Today, however, is being accelerated due to the Internet and to a vision of the world that is increasingly complex, favouring the multiplication of "conspiracy jackals"» [Camus 2006: 61].

2. Timeliness of conspiracy theories

Here it is a sample, absolutely indicative and non-exhaustive list of some of the most sensational cases of interpretations inspired by conspiracy theories and linked to a number of famous and infamous events (for drama and tragedy) that have left deep traces in the international public opinion over the past twenty years (sorted by date descending). On the other hand, just type on Google search any keyword related to the terms conspiracy/plot to be returned by an avalanche of references for every time and topic.

- ✓ *Attacks in Charlie Hebdo, 2015* - According to some conspiracy theories the attacks would be a case of "false flag" which is an attempt by the Government to repress minorities thanks to a catastrophic event. Such theories are based on US Patriot Act adopted by the US Congress in the wake of the attacks of 11th September. According to others, the real target was Bernard Maris, Economist author of *Antimanuel de l'Economie*. For still others, it was to strengthen the position of Holland and France at international level (within the EU and in mediating between Russia and Ukraine).
- ✓ *MH17 of Malaysia Airways Flight, 2014* - But a recent case in point: the flight carrying 298 people shot down in the skies of Donbass last July 17 would be at the center of the anti-Russian plot to unleash war against Putin and destabilize Russia's authoritarianism.
- ✓ *Death of Chavez, 2013* - The Venezuelan leader's death for many is the effect of a plot set in place to destabilize the Venezuela. The same disease of Chavez would be the consequence of a poisoning, just like that of Arafat. The whole thing would be a "disease induced" by enemies of Venezuela and its President.

- ✓ *Case Snowden, 2013* - Edward Snowden's revelations about the Nsa's methods for conspiracy would simply work of Chinese and Russians who were maneuvered to create embarrassment to the U.s. Administration and undermine the negotiations on free trade agreement (TTIP) between the United States and Europe to prevent the Western economic recovery.
- ✓ *Osama Bin Laden's Death, (presumed) May 2011* - The leader of Al-Qaeda would not have died in the raid of Abbottabad in Pakistan as told by the Americans as there is no evidence of the body. There are those who argue that the raid has served only to delete a different figure, a broker who, with the complicity of the pakistani services, working to mend relations between Pakistan and taliban Afghanistan with the blessing of China.
- ✓ *Earthquake in Japan, 2011 (and the 2004 Tsunami in Sumatra)* - The disastrous event that struck Japan in 2011 and the equally tragic Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 for some has a very specific responsible: according to the conspiracy similar events are the result of the use of systems such as the American HAARP ionospheric research, based in Alaska, operated by the Navy and U.s. Air force. To Haarp were also attributes the Haiti earthquake and floods in Pakistan.
- ✓ *The case Dominique Strauss-Kahn, 2011* - The prosecution of sexual offences would be according to some conspiracy theorists simply a ploy not to allow the former IMF Chairman to participate in the following French elections.
- ✓ *The Wikileaks case, 2010* - The American diplomatic messages stolen from the organization headed by Julian Assange would also be a conspiracy theory. There are those who see Israel's hand: it goes from political motives to technological ones. After the leaking of secrets, many Governments have had to look for new electronic defense systems, and Israel that excels in new technologies would be benefitted.
- ✓ *Terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York of September 11, 2001* - We find two theses.
 - LIHOP ("Let it happen on purpose") – the CIA was aware of but left to do for the sake of greater interest, as the Bush election victory at the next election.
 - MIHOP ("Make/Made it happen on purpose") – the Us Government commissioned the assignment to Al Qaeda. The role of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi leader's involvement in the 11 September for conspiracy theorists is a mystification, because bin Laden was a Cia agent and her family in business with Bush.
- ✓ *The disappearance of Kennedy Jr., 1999* - Kennedy, abysed in the sea with his wife and sister-in-law in 1999, while he was at the controls of a small airplane, was actually killed,

according to the founders of the conspiracy because he wanted to run for the Presidency, in the famous round in which Bush Jr. would later defeated Al Gore.

- ✓ *The triple murder in the Vatican, 1998* - Three people died in Vatican: the Swiss Guard Cedric Tornay, the Commander of the Corps, Alois Estermann and his wife, Gladis Romero. Tornay had committed suicide after the double murder. A version that conspiracy theorists do not believe: according to the alternative-triple-murder thesis would have been accomplished by a Hitman to delete Estermann, who was aware of too many secrets, according to some, while for others he was a Stasi spy, according some others he was unwelcome to a "lodge" inside the Vatican.
- ✓ The death of Lady D, 1997 - The Princess of Wales died in 1997 in Paris in an accident, together her partner Dodi Al-Fayed, is at the Centre of conspiracy theories: the involvement of British intelligence on behalf of the Royal family, against a woman's relationship with a man of Muslim faith.
- ✓ *Hiv, 80 's* - For the conspiracy the dreaded virus was created artificially in the laboratory, but there is no agreement on the reasons: deliberate weapon of mass genocide, laboratory accident or demographic control?
- ✓ *Chemtrails, 80 's* - The chemtrail conspiracy theory holds that some contrails, visible in the atmosphere and released by planes, are not trails of water vapour, but are also made from chemical or biological agents, sprayed in flight by means of hypothetical trainborne equipment on aircraft, for unspecified purposes.

3. The psychopathology of conspiracy

Who marries conspiracy theories with closed eyes is deployed in a battle against "the authors of the great deception": he doesn't buy capitalist objects, despises consumerism (except not realize that he himself as a product and a victim of "consumerism") and criticizing those who do not think like him. Who is part of the same group is his friend, regardless of the things he says.

The conspiracy is convinced that what he believes will be the truth and he, as "awakened" cannot be a victim of disinformation and manipulation, that affects others, the conspiracy does not believe himself nor manipulated nor manipulate. On the contrary he is convinced that anyone who is not part of the group is a "victim of the system". It's called "the third-person effect" (TPE, the acronym)

and defines the incorrect perception that the media have a strong persuasive effect on others but not on themselves. Are always the others who get it wrong, in short.

It is the evolution of certain personality traits, such as mistrust, insecurity, pride, until injury and fanaticism that you identify with a specific personality disorder and has a name in the mental lexicon: paranoia or persecution complex. The "real" conspiracy is simply paranoid. The paranoid conspiracy is utterly different from the dupe "gullible" that because of his ignorance doesn't understand what revolves around it takes for face value each claim that is on Google.

«The madman is immediately recognizable. He is a fool who does not know the tricks. The stupid attempts to prove his argument, he has his lopsided logic, but he has one. The madman does not bother to have a logic, proceeds to short circuits. Everything proves everything for him. He has a fixed idea, and all that he found is okay to confirm it. You can recognize the fool by freedom he takes against the duty to try, from availability to find illuminations. It seems strange, but the crazy sooner or later brings out the Templars. [...] There are crazy without the Templars, but those with the Templars are the most insidious» (Eco 1988: 14-15).

About the conspiracy, perhaps more commonly known in terms of pseudoparanoia, which differs from paranoia because almost always expresses itself not with paranoid intimate and personal thoughts and but joining membership in groups led by paranoid individuals: for ignorance, lack of culture or relationship and rationality problems. It basically relies on a "guru" that conditions with its lack of adherence to reality his followers. Moreover, conspiracy can mean both believe, more or less naively, to conspiracies (passive attitude) and make conspiracies believed (active attitude): and the latter is deliberately scheming action real worst of "passive"conspiracy.

There are "professional" conspiracy theorists that spread alarm and disseminate the "truth" but which actually have the sole purpose of finding customers for their business. These are not "paranoid" but simply smart sellers. Those who are hurt at the idea of being controlled by the "new world order" or because the Earth will be invaded by alien reptiles in a few months, probably has some sides of personality to be reviewed.

The "demolition of opponent" is called FUD (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt): insinuate doubt, create panic, uncertainty about the official "certainties": medicine is not so sure, the Government does not want our good, the vaccine is poisonous, the cops are violent, the magistrates are corrupt, the food is poisoned, the air we breathe as well. In practice: don't trust anyone or anything. The conspiracy does not trust even the other conspiracy (could be an infiltrator).

4. The epistemology of conspiracy

In conspiracy theory is frequent the use of generalization. Like *all politicians are corrupt, all secret service plot to obtain authoritarian solutions, all the pharmaceutical companies spread diseases to sell their products*. Each conspiracy, each mystery behind such a fact is automatically activated, becomes complicated, it magnifies. If the "definitive proof of the existence of aliens" is removed and is a hoax, the conspiracy hasten to divert all attention on the upcoming "definitive proof". There is no partial plot: the plot is total, destructive of reality as we know it. That is the apotheosis of verificationism and generalization (all statements are "made real", but they have never stood the "crucial" test of falsification).

Is the explanation given by thesis the only possible? Often the conspiracy thesis asserts that the only way it can be an anomalous event is through a conspiracy. Let's see if there are other possible explanations. If there are, then the conspiracy did not assert evidence nor is a trial in itself.

The conspiracy is the elimination of irreducible truth to the theory. Namely that it is impervious to counter-demonstration and takes into consideration only what is in favour of the presence of the conspiracy. From this point of view, the plot is virtually unstoppable. For example, the exposure of philological evidence that "the protocols of the sages of Zion" are an apocryphal does not affect the zealous supporters. Their argument is that the "protocols" may be materially false, but are authentic spirit.

Take for example Alain Soral (2011), French Socialist. Through his analysis Soral assimilates the bourgeoisie with Jews in a almost mystical way: a way to rehabilitate the "our" good bourgeois and to propel, under an anti-system coverage, its visceral anti-Semitism. For Soral the religion of capital worships Israel and the Empire, its hidden priests are Jews. The final objective of the Empire would be the creation of a "greater Israel" and world domination. The society would be infiltrated by the Empire which would organise a conscious and secret disintegration of the social fabric. Soral sees Jewish conspiracy everywhere, supported by the occult power of the USA.

The "*campismo*" considers the evolution of the world essentially as the result of the comparison between two or more geopolitical fields – full of plots on one side and on the other – sharing with the conspiracy the negation of the character (over) determinant of socio-economic contradictions, relationships and socio-political conflicts, masses and action of class struggle on the history. In this

context, we must now be wary of the term "Empire", used by some left – sometimes neostalinist, but not always – that from the far right, and also by fascist ideologues as Soral. The use of the term allows you to hide the real contradictions and struggles, favouring conspiracy explanations.

Until you analyze current events (and even the passed and historical ones) leaving methodically analyzing the exploitation of wage earners for the added value and competitive accumulation of profit and an analysis of the dominant structure of the bourgeois state (bourgeois states), everyone can finally find to end his "evil empire" which in turn can be played by the United States, Islamic States, the alleged International plot of Jew, by Putin, and so on.

In 2006 the French philosopher Taguieff in his book on "the imaginary world plot " lays down four main cornerstones of modern plot theories: 1) nothing happens by chance; 2) what happens is the result of secret will; 3) nothing is as it seems and. ..4) ... everything is connected [Taguieff: 2006].

The political scientist Michael Barkun [2003] in his essay on the culture of conspiracy in contemporary America, identifies three types of conspiracies: conspiracies theories limited to individual events (e.g. born conspiracy theory around the assassination of John F. Kennedy or the accident of Lady Diana), systemic conspiracy theories, where an organisation like the Masons or the Jews acted to take control of a State or of the whole world, and finally the conspiracies “super”, like that of the new world order, and lastely "fantasy political conspiracies theories" that use the movie "The Matrix" as a metaphor for today's world, a fake world, a world built by few to enslave the majority. The conspiracy is usually believed to be the bearer of a new "conscience", its mission is to awaken the consciences of the population still dormant and manipulated by occult powers.

It is impossible not to notice an extremely Manichean view world in the eyes of a conspiracy. Two fronts are to form: on the one hand we have the "we" (small community, Italian citizens or inhabitants of the Earth), victims of conspiracy and basically good, and on the other we have "they", the villains, motivated by lust for power and profits.

5. Democracy, occult and invisible powers

Democracy, said Bobbio, «is ideally the visible Government, the ruling power whose acts are carried out in public, under the supervision of public opinion» [Bobbio 1981: 187-90].

In order to not confuse secrets and occult powers, you have to clear the field from all sorts of offices and institutions that even in democratic regimes retain their secrets and act in secret (historical

archives of the Government, the secret service or police and military espionage, etc.). To speak properly of occult powers are necessary three requirements: the secret enveloping the entire organization and its members, sometimes even its purposes; the function of counterbalancing power against the legitimate authority; illegal character (for example, *ex art. 18* of the Italian Constitution). Based on these elements and judicial feedback about, you can find the main occult powers that acted in our country in the years after World War II. Namely: the secret service or for diverted domestic or foreign sectors, clandestine subversive political organizations (red or black are), Masonic Lodges (P2 and other "covered"), organised crime that contends the State political power.

The more democracy spreads, the more you the map of invisible powers is enlarged. But these are examples of really existing proved powers. Coming to the story of Republican Italy, all major political movements – Catholic, Socialist, Communist, Liberal – had to deal with the tendency of popular belief especially in conservative thinking to dismiss them as the work of a few bad professional agitators [Ventura 2010].

The links between Italian secret services and the Cia are documented. But are also proven links with the intelligence of the Communist countries, for example the relationship between Feltrinelli and Czechoslovakia at the end of the Sixties, which is the origin of the Italian and even European terrorism. It is known, moreover, umbilical cord that ties to Eastern Europe several national and international terrorist organizations. Not to mention of the bulgarian connection, whose story of Ali Agca, which it is, but especially drug-trafficking weapons that have been revealed by the judges in Palermo.

Giorgio Galli (1974) puts up with deductive reasoning, often neglecting the sifting of sources, a whole series of episodes that connect the Italian crisis to international Right: from deviations of Sifar to the "strategy of tension", from P2 to Gelli, to mysterious "suicides" of two affiliated, Sindona and Calvi, and from Camorra-linked Red Brigades to Cirillo kidnap.

The most usually followed policy to find an explanation for these facts, in Italy as in other parts of the world, is the paralogical "who benefits?" (*cui prodest?*), objective conveniences that someone could draw from voluntary or not consequences to these actions: and if founded, it would give account of events, tragic, which usually lack plausible reasons.

This policy will never be falsifiable, so you do not configure like in Popper's thought as or scientific or logical statement, for the simple reason that the criterion of "*cui prodest?*" (or *cui bono?*) belongs to the list of "fallacies" in moral and practical *arguments ad personam* which is to disprove a thesis

denigrating the person who argues it. For example: it is not true, as Leopardi asserts, that nature is stepmother. Leopardi argued him because he was a frustrated (rather than a hunchback or an atheist or an exhibitionist, etc.).

This particular *ad personam* argument is called "poisoned source". In the history of philosophy "*ad personam*" examples abound. One for all: Epicurus had denigrated Democritus as a "*lerocrito*", i.e. a sort of charlatan, and Aristotle to be a "drug dealer" (which reflects, inter alia, the topic of *tu quoque*, i.e. "you too?"). Another popular version of *ad personam* is one that relies on the alleged interest of who supports a thesis, such as that "it is not true that Islamic fundamentalists aspire to dominate the Arab world: who supports it wants to actually appropriate the oil wells of those countries".

This version of *ad personam* is usually defined precisely *cui prodest?* (the "who benefits?"), because it refutes an argument merely to point out that anyone who supports it has an interest to do so. However, if a Sachertorten salesman said to sell the best cakes, he would certainly be interested, but would you say that his thesis is false a priori (at least not before having tasted one of his Sacher). An example of *cui prodest?*, taken from the history of philosophy, can be found in the accusation to Hegel from Schopenhauer to be a philosopher "bribed by the State" — by the King of Prussia. These theories which feed the conspiracy syndrome, as it is easy to realize, are either tautological (if true) or elliptical (if false) in the sense that, at most, they only or say a small part of the truth or instrumentally use the truth to assert the contrary.

6. Objections and confutations of methodological individualism against conspiracy theories

Historians and sociologists generally use the term to indicate a conspiracy made real, tried or at least plausible and seriously with some supporting elements. When conspiracy theories combine inconsequential items with the lack of evidence, we refer to them as a form of world view that sees the most important events and trends in history as primarily the result of secret conspiracies.

Jean Guittou in his book on "the pure and the impure" speaks of a consciousness conspiracy: «I call pure party each group which take origin inside a society considered corrupt, unclean, and which seeks to bring purity different phenomena, ranging from the political to the religious Congregation conspiracy, via intermediate forms, as can be and sects and parties. Most of these societies came from a separation of a wider society: family, city, nation or church. This separation was based on

the desire to preserve an essence that could become contaminated due to a mix with impure elements. Let's say the party of Puri is the cause inside of its effect, to reduce this effect to the purity of that cause.

From this point of view you may already understand that there are two species of parties of the pure. On one side, there is who's acting to improve society and to cooperate inside it, as prophetism in Israel, the Cavalry of the Middle Ages, the Communist Party in the so called People's Democracies. In this case the party of Pure has the same end of the ruling authority: is at the service of society, keeps it in a dynamic state, reminds it of its origins, remarks its purposes. In this case the center of the "party of the pure" coincides with the center of the community, as nobility and clergy in the Ancient Regime, as the parties in popular bureaucracies. But this coincidence is highly unlikely.

On the other side, two authorities with the same purpose, as they do not have the same kind of action, may not work for a long time together, especially as the Pure party, when it is detached from, cannot avoid contemplating the power from the outside, to criticize it at the same time as that it serves. Inevitably then the two centres move away, then all passes trough imperceptible degrees by the service to the attack, by the collaboration to the dispute, by the party to the conspiracy. The Pure, instead of serving power, work to destroy it, in order to replace it. The "Pure" party has become "the party of the conspiracy" or "consciousness conspirator". It has become the party of "impure"» [Guitton: 1993, 72-3].

We have already pointed out how the methodological individualism and critical rationalism constitute the most effective remedies against “conspiratorial syndrome” (of the Pure and the Impure). From the epistemological point of view, the conspiracy theory is at the heart of the fundamental asymmetry between verification and falsification of scientific assertions: in fact, as many can be the experimental observations in favour of a theory can never prove it definitively but only one counterexample can refute it. The Falsifiability is also the criterion of demarcation between science and non science: a theory is scientific if and only if it is falsifiable. Critics of conspiracy theories argue that many of these, not being subject to forgery, cannot be sustainable scientific and even logically. Which depends essentially on the same logical structure of one type of such theory. This usually takes the form of a reasoned Declaration of existence in respect of any action or object, without specifying time and place in which they can be observed. The inability to observe the phenomenon can be attributed to the result of observations made at the time or in the wrong place or deceit from conspiracy, making impossible any demonstration that the conspiracy

does not exist (that is, the falsification of theory). To determine a negative is philosophically problematic, and it is particularly in this context.

Supporters of Falsifiability assert that this makes such non-scientific theories. For example, consider how it is demonstrated the widely believed UFO conspiracy theory, following the official denials (perhaps because some Government is hiding evidence) that has never happened anything like it. Since the theory does not specify when or where the visits or the plot took place, it is not possible to prove the untruth. Although, for example, it could be freely access to the archives of the Pentagon (or some other government agency), there is always the possibility of being told that there is another store somewhere, which contains documents detailing the plot, but we do not have access. This will lead to think that everything that happens in the society, including things that people normally don't like, such as wars, poverty, famine, are the result of a precise purpose pursued by some powerful groups or individuals.

Popper himself, in his book "the open society and its enemies", attacked the idea that the future is somehow predictable considering the past and called this "conspiracy theory of society". This theory is uncritical, because it doesn't consider that human intentional actions have unintentional effects, that it is under the responsibility of the social sciences to analyze. Believe that studying the past can predict the future means believing that there is a precise design with regard to the evolution of things. According to Popper, the social theory of conspiracy is similar to that found in Homer, who understood the power of the Gods so that everything that happened in the plain in front of Troy, was only a reflection of the many conspiracies warps woven in Olympus. The belief in the Homeric Gods, whose conspiracies were responsible for the vicissitudes of the Trojan war, has failed, but the place of Homeric Gods in Olympus is now occupied by the Elders of Zion, by monopolists, by capitalists or by imperialists, or, conversely, by the Communists.

Popper holds to reiterate that he did not believe that the plots are impossible, but rather, they are typical social phenomena that become important every time come to power just people who believe in the conspiracy theory. The curious thing is that despite many conspiracies have been raised, it seems that no one has ever made, at least not in predetermined ways.

Why, in which sense, the methodological individualism can be seen as an "antidote" to visions and conspiratorial deviations in society? Because it is against the view of historicism, against utopianism, against psychologism (and ideological thinking): which constitute – together with constructivism – the essential ingredients of the deadly mixture of conspiracy and plot.

Everything is planned, everything was calculated by agents more or less covered, and everything obeys to an immense occult plan. And if everything obeys to a destiny programmed does nothing act, because we cannot oppose this plan. Here we find, in other words, the expropriation of human actions in favour of transcendence or otherwise of a dominant group.

It is evident that so you deny any effectiveness or usefulness to the concept of democracy and its institutional articulations and even more you deny every activity of self-organisation of citizens in the field of social resistance.

Many sociologists and economists seem to share the objections raised in the article by Calance et al. (2014), which offers the difference between conspiratorial thinking and conspiratorial reasoning. According to the authors, conspiratorial reasoning is misled by two mistakes typical of methodological individualism: 1) fail to take into account in its analysis all the facts, including conspirators' plans and that are indeed successful and 2) not adequately consider reasons and purposes as determinants of human action. We must respond as follows. 1) Only a tiny minority of social and institutional phenomena are the result of conspiracies and projects: more commonly social and economic structures are the unanticipated, and in some case unpredictable, result of human interaction. According to the Austrian school of methodological individualism, the main task, if not exclusive task, of social sciences is to analyze these unintended effects. 2) Reasons, purposes, interest certainly weigh on human actions, but they cannot be investigated and interpreted according to a specific view. What social scientists can analyse is only the congruence between means and ends (i.e. the problem of "instrumental" rationality) [Mises 1966].

Also there are some points that are common to all conspiracy theories, on which you can set arguments taken from individualist thinking. The control of information is the most important part of the conspiracies. Evil people would be hiding valuable information to the public to change some behaviors, and ultimately dominate them. On the other hand, the dissemination of information, bastion of Hayek's theory on liberal democracy, would protect against this threat, but not quite as ignorance is a condition for Hayek diffused anthropologically in the humanity.

Conspiracy theories are nothing more than a falsified version of history, are used to redirect the hatred towards a certain group (ethnic, political, religious or other). Always Hayek speaks about "tribalism" inherent in the concept and practice of community and surmountable only with liberal society (the "Great Society").

Conspiracy theories are always populist pretending to stand on the side of the "common man" against the "power": despise the elite, highly placed people, the rich, the powerful, the educated, including scientists. Both the populists, both those who believe in the conspiracy are convinced that science represents the élite and would be contrary to the interests of the "common man".

Science is hard to understand and requires study, but the conspiracy agents and the populists consider it as an elitist phenomenon, hence conventional and traditionalist (they instead would be "revolutionary"). On the contrary, for the individualist thinking science is guaranteed by the methodological rules and not by the social class related to the alleged membership of élite scientists who are called to front a paradigm and a competitive mechanism similar to the logic of the market.

Conspiracy theories are always reactionary. Often linked to extreme right (the Nazis were paranoid about a "world conspiracy"), these hurl themselves against any novelty, cause a mythical world before the "occult" powers spread, while Hayek, putting on guard against the "*false individualism*", in that «the fundamental attitude of *true individualism* is an attitude of humility toward the process by which mankind has achieved things that were not understood or planned by anyone» [Hayek 1997], and to conceive the plots need a constructivist mentality that all authors of the Austrian School define conservative and reactionary to the extent that they have as a priority the political control of the society [Ibidem].

The reconstruction of a historical event through the use of conspiracy hypotheses can give life to the logical processes of "counterfactual" judgment [Weber 2001: 263 et seq.], by the negation of "efficient cause" that really brought about the event and its replacement with a cause that is derived from a "concoction" or from an external intervention noted more or less mysterious and perverted. If the effects of the two event classes are the same, it means that the conspiracy hypotheses can have their own logic and plausibility to be supported.

In conclusion, we can say that the adoption of the conspiracy theory can hardly be avoided by those who believe they know how to make Heaven on Earth. The only explanation that they would, as conspiracy agents, about the impossibility of achieving this paradise is the wickedness of the devil, who has an interest in promoting the hell.

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