

# Why I Am Convinced 9/11 Was an Inside Job

**By David Chandler**

The events of 9/11 were huge. The body of evidence that the administration, or other agencies within the US government, were involved is also huge. The problem with summarizing the information is that the scale of the operation and its cover-up are so vast. Finding smoking guns is like picking up litter on a field. It's hard to move in a straight line. It is difficult to create a simple narrative.

My personal questioning of the events of 9/11 began when my sister went to a 9/11 conference and brought back books, DVDs, and enthusiasm. I watched the DVDs and became especially fascinated with one clip where the North Tower appeared to be literally erupting as it fell. One streamer caught my eye because I was able to follow its trajectory. I did some measurements right on the TV screen and estimated that the horizontal ejection velocity of that stream of debris was over 60 mi/hr. This hooked me. I later analyzed the same video clip with the Physics Toolkit software and found the horizontal component of velocity for that stream to be in excess of 70 mi/hr. ([YouTube: High Speed Ejection from WTC1](#)) These ejections of material were from high in the building, which seemed inconsistent with purely gravitational collapse.

Several videos of the collapse of both towers show [waves of horizontal mass ejections](#) that race down the faces of the buildings, keeping pace with material falling outside the building, well in advance of the actual collapse of the structure. (YouTube: [South Tower Coming Down](#) and [Race with Gravity](#)) The ejections appear to come from many floors at the same time, which contradicts the idea that the ejections consisted of debris blown out as the floors pancaked together. In addition to the [massive waves of ejections](#), there are many photographs and videos showing individual "spurts" of material

many floors below the point of collapse, identified by experts familiar with demolitions as ["squibs,"](#) [which are commonly seen during controlled demolitions.](#)

The lack of sufficient cause for the collapse has been thoroughly documented, disputed, rationalized, and obfuscated. The jet fuel would have burned off within the first ten minutes. In the case of the South Tower, most of the fuel burned up in a fireball outside the building. The fires in the buildings, beyond the first few minutes, were essentially office fires, and not very large ones at that.

Temperatures from kerosene fires are insufficient to melt, or even catastrophically weaken, the massive steel columns running up the core of the building. Even if the flames were maximally hot, the large mass of steel would wick away the heat energy and not raise the steel temperature sufficiently, especially since the duration of the fires was only on the order of an hour. Furthermore, there are photographs and video footage of a [woman leaning on a girder and waving in the hole where one of the airplanes crashed into the building.](#) This would seem to be direct testimony that the fires, by that point, at least, were relatively localized and certainly not large enough or hot enough to cause failure of the structural steel columns. The fact that the fires were emitting black smoke is a sign that they were not burning at high efficiency, so high estimates for fire temperatures are unwarranted. Furthermore, no steel beams recovered during the investigation showed temperatures over a few hundred degrees, far below the weakening point. (The small sample of steel studied after the event is a problem in establishing this conclusion definitively, but by the same token it speaks to the rapid and near total destruction of the crime scene.)

On the other extreme of temperatures, the research of Steven Jones and others has established that there were [very high temperatures](#) present in the building, not just enough to weaken steel, but to melt it. He has found [evidence for Thermate](#) (Thermite + accelerant), pools of molten steel under the rubble piles of all three buildings that remained molted for weeks after the building collapses, indicating a



been set up for demolition by the fire department in a matter of hours. Demolitions require weeks of preparation. If the demolition was planned, then the incidents of 9/11 had to have been known, and planned, in advance.

I presented a talk on the physics of 9/11 at a physics teachers' conference at Occidental College in early 2008. The physics teachers in the audience certainly represent a sample of the population with above average intelligence and intellectual curiosity. Yet approximately one third of the audience had never heard of the collapse of Building 7. Anyone who is "into" 9/11 has seen endless discussion of Building 7, but for those who depend on the mainstream media for their information, it never happened. Given that this was one of the most anomalous events of 9/11, there seems to be a clear conspiracy of silence in the media. Video footage was broadcast on the day of 9/11 itself, but whereas videos of the falling towers persisted on TV for weeks, Building 7 immediately disappeared from the scene.

As blatant as any of the events of 9/11 themselves is the existence of a cover-up. The security cameras at local gas stations and hotels that would have recorded the Pentagon crash were immediately confiscated and withheld from public view. [Two New York firefighters have stated that three of the four flight recorders at the World Trade Center were recovered, but the FBI told the 9/11 Commission that they were not.](#) The steel from the World Trade Center site was quickly disposed of: placed on barges and reportedly taken to Asia for recycling. The official investigators managed to salvage only a few unrepresentative samples. A structural engineer from UC Berkeley who went to the site as soon as planes were allowed to fly was banned from Ground Zero. He had to do his research in recycling yards as the evidence was being destroyed. The destruction of evidence was not mere oversight or carelessness by the Giuliani administration: it was done in the face of a public outcry from fire fighters and others who published angry complaints in the New York Times.

Not only was the physical evidence destroyed, the blueprints of the buildings were made secret and withheld from public view. They were not even made available to the investigators. Copies of the blueprints were only recently made public by a whistle blower. They are published on the [AE911Truth.org website](http://AE911Truth.org). They confirm the existence of massive columns in the core of the building and cross bracing between the columns, contradicting claims of the buildings' architectural inadequacy.

There is abundant testimony from hundreds of eyewitnesses who reported explosions in the buildings long before they fell. There is video footage of burn victims who were involved in some of these explosions. There is a video of firefighters using a pay phone interrupted by a loud, startling explosion in Building 7 long before it fell. There is eyewitness testimony of bomb damage and dead bodies in Building 7 even before the two towers fell. [The fire department had the presence of mind to interview hundreds of firefighters, who clearly would have some standing as expert witnesses](#), in the weeks after 9/11. Many of them testified to explosions in the buildings prior to the collapse. Their testimony was locked away, and only released through recent court action.

The 9/11 commission itself was a result of long and loud pressure by the families of 9/11 victims. Launching an immediate investigation would seem to be a no-brainer, but it was resisted for over a year by the administration. When the administration finally acquiesced, it appointed Henry Kissinger to head the commission...one of the least transparent figures in American History. Public outcry resulted in his withdrawing his name. The commission was overtly balanced, with five Republicans and five Democrats, but the Executive Director, who tipped the balance and steered the commission behind the scenes, was [Philip Zelikow, a close associate of Condoleezza Rice. In violation of the rules of the commission he now appears to have remained in contact with the Whitehouse during the investigation.](#)

Also, the commission adopted rules that it would present a "consensus" report, meaning no controversial or dissenting opinions would appear. As mentioned above, they made no mention

whatsoever of Building 7 and they suppressed any testimony that would call the official account into question.

Reasons for suspicion go on and on. [The scientific investigators for 9/11 have come under scrutiny](#). A suspiciously large fraction of the lead investigators were also the investigators of the Oklahoma City bombing, [another incident with similar paradoxes and unanswered questions](#). [Multiple war games](#) were going on during 9/11, some of them involving hijackings and terrorist attacks on buildings. [Some presumably involved injecting false blips on radar screens that may have made tracking the actual hijackings difficult or impossible](#). There were the notorious [anomalous "put options" on UA and AA](#) stock, indicating apparent foreknowledge, and the subsequent whitewashing of this fact. There were the [totally unbelievable personal artifacts of the hijackers \(including a passport\)](#) supposedly found on the streets of New York City [and at the Shanksville crash site](#), when much more durable artifacts vanished entirely. To plant such false artifacts implies complicity in a cover-up of the facts and a spinning of the facts to justify targeting Arabs. To plant them within a day of 9/11 implies preparation and therefore foreknowledge.

[There is no public evidence that any of the supposed hijackers were actually on any of the planes.](#)

There are informed opinions by flight instructors that some of the purported pilots were virtually unable to fly. Some of the supposed hijackers had been trained at CIA facilities in Florida, taken courses at Monterrey Naval Postgraduate School, were allowed into the US with questionable credentials, and were under FBI surveillance. How is it that the 19 supposed hijackers, some of them reportedly still alive, were identified almost immediately, when the other side of the official story is we were taken by complete surprise?

Add to the facts of the day the potential motives of the administration and others involved. The Bush

administration, which started out with record low approval ratings, because of the contested 2000 election, appeared literally out to lunch with consistently sinking approval ratings through the first eight months of their term. All the while the Neocon think tank, [Project for a New American Century](#), made no secret of its ambitions to stir up an aggressive US foreign policy, even saying in its own literature that achieving their goals would require a "new Pearl Harbor." They got their Pearl Harbor, Bush got the biggest shot in the arm [approval rating jump](#) in US history, the [Patriot Act](#), [which was prepared in advance and awaiting an incident](#), made its instant debut, the Neocons got their wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, both of which were planned long in advance, and they had a War on Terror which could be (and was) used to justify any act they desired. The elder George Bush had stellar approval ratings while the Gulf War was in progress, but lost ground as soon as it ended. George W. Bush has repeatedly and publicly reveled in being a "war president"... in a war of his own making, which from the outset he declared would last for decades.

[Larry Silverstein](#) owner of the destroyed buildings of the WTC complex also had adequate motivation. He purchased the World Trade Center towers from the New York Port Authority in the summer of 2001, just months before the attack. His contract had an escape clause so he would owe nothing if the buildings were attacked by terrorists. Furthermore, he insured the buildings against terrorism for twice the purchase price. As of 2004 he had collected \$4.6 billion from insurance for an out-of-pocket investment of \$124 million down payment. On the surface it was a terrible investment. The occupancy was chronically low, and the buildings required asbestos cleanup that would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The Port Authority had tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to get demolition permits.

Many people I have talked with are unwilling to consider any of the facts discussed so far on the premise that massive conspiracies just can't happen because someone would be sure to blow the whistle. With all the talk of conspiracy theories recently, I decided to go back and look at the incident

that brought that term into our lexicon: the JFK assassination.

One of the videos I watched was "[JFK: The Case for Conspiracy](#)" by Robert J. Groden. One of the core sections of the video is a series of interviews with a nurse and eight doctors from the Parkland Hospital in Dallas where Kennedy was taken immediately after being shot, and three technicians at the Bethesda Naval Hospital who were eyewitnesses to the autopsy. All twelve of these people gave virtually identical accounts of John F. Kennedy's wounds. They all described a massive exit wound at the rear of the skull, with a large chunk, about the size of a fist or a baseball, entirely missing from the back of his head, implying that the shot came from the front. This meshes perfectly with the Zapruder film which shows the fatal shot hitting Kennedy in the forehead with material being blown backward. The X-ray and photograph in the Warren report, however, show the back of the head intact. The Warren Commission was urged to show these to the doctors at the Parkland Hospital, but they refused. When the makers of the film years later confronted the doctors with these photographs all but one of the doctors stood by their accounts and said the photographs and X-rays were faked. (One doctor, Dr. Marrion Jenkins, said he must have been mistaken and would not contradict the official photographs, although up until seeing the official photograph his account was completely consistent with the other doctors.) Several described with clinical detail exactly which bones of the skull were shattered and which parts of the brain they saw through the opening or on the table. (See also [this History Channel clip](#) that covers much of the same information.)

This film left no question in my mind that the assassination of JFK involved multiple shooters, including at least one from the front, a direction incompatible with Oswald's supposed location in the upper floor of the Texas School Book Depository, above and behind Kennedy. The Warren Commission swept aside all of this strong evidence for a second shooter, and apparently faked evidence to cover up the discrepancy. Dissenters from the official explanation were branded as "conspiracy

theorists" or "conspiracy nuts" and presumed to be mentally unstable.

People today pooh-pooh conspiracy theories on the premise that with so many people involved it would be impossible to avoid spilling the beans. The flaw in that reasoning is that both in the case of JFK's assassination and 9/11 the beans have been spilled all over the table. Video evidence shows a shot from the front, and hundreds of eyewitnesses to the assassination place the shooter(s) behind the fence on the grassy knoll, to the front of Kennedy's car. Multiple doctors' expert testimony corroborates this conclusion but is excluded from the record. To succeed, a massive government conspiracy need not go flawlessly. It can succeed through sheer bluster, raw political power, falsified evidence, an intimidated or otherwise compliant press, mindless denunciations of dissenters as lunatic fringe conspiracy theorists, and repeated application of the BIG LIE.

We see this same methodology in the repeated Black Box Voting scandals, going to war with Iraq based on lies, and in the events of 9/11 themselves. Truth is more or less irrelevant, since raw power prevents it from being acted upon. Contradictions are buried, covered up, or simply left uninvestigated. Therefore it doesn't matter if the truth comes out. All they need is some pretext to dismiss it, no matter how flimsy. The only way the 9/11 truth movement, the Black Box Voting movement, the Out of Iraq movement, etc. can succeed is to muster the political power to prevail. Without that, all the administration has to do is act as though nothing is amiss and do nothing. The inattentive public can be counted on to go along with whatever they are told. Truth can play a role to the extent that it helps galvanize the movement, but fighting Fox News style propaganda to win the minds of the masses is an uphill battle even for truth.