

Suspects in the JFK Assassination

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Motive _____

Does the author think this theory is probable, why or why not?

Suspect #2 _____

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Suspect #3 _____

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The CIA

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When Kennedy learned South Vietnam's dictator Ngo Diem had been murdered by a coup, against his express wishes, he was outraged. Kennedy was no fan of Diem's, but he did not want to see him murdered. General Maxwell Taylor wrote that upon learning of Diem's death JFK "leaped to his feet and rushed from the room with a look of shock and dismay on his face" (18:334). Senator George Smathers reported that Kennedy blamed the CIA for Diem's murder. According to Smathers, Kennedy said he had to "do something about" the CIA and that the Agency should be stripped of its exorbitant power (18:334-335). Kennedy backed the coup, admittedly, but these reports, and others, suggest he did not intend for Diem to be killed in the process.

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