

Home Page

[home : portada : p.1 : aujourd'hui](#)

Global News & Information, Culture, Media Critique & Video
Logo

- [About Café Sentido](#)
- [Electoral Maps](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [Video: Health News](#)
- [Video: Political News](#)
- [Video: World News](#)
- [write for us](#)
- [Archives 2000-2007](#)



-

• Categories

• Meta

- [Register](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

• Tags

[Al Gore](#) [arms proliferation](#) [authoritarianism](#) [balloting irregularities](#) [Bill Clinton](#)
[Building the Green Economy](#) [Burma / Myanmar](#) [carbon emissions](#)
[cash / price pressures](#) [Cave Painting](#) [China](#) [climate change](#) [comment](#)
[conflict resolution](#) [Congressional oversight](#) [Constitutional liberties](#) [credit crisis](#)
[earth policy institute](#) [economic slowdown](#) [electoral process](#)
[Environment & Ecology](#) [español](#) [ethnic cleansing](#) [financial markets](#)
[First Amendment](#) [food supply](#) [France](#) [freedom of information](#) [free press](#)
[fuel sources](#) [generative economics](#) **George W. Bush** [Georgia](#)
[Guantánamo prison facility](#) [Guantánamo tribunals](#) [Hillary Clinton](#)
[interrogation policy](#) [Iran](#) [Iraq conflict](#) [Israel](#) [Kenya](#) [land use](#) [law / justice](#)
[Lester Brown](#) [market forces](#) [martial law](#) [mass migration](#) [McCain](#) [media freedoms](#)
[Mideast peace](#) [nuclear proliferation](#) **Obama** [Obama transition](#) [Ohio 2004](#)
[Pakistan](#) [petroleum](#) [policy-making](#) [political speeches](#) [public health](#)
[renewable economy](#) [renewable energy](#) [renewable resources](#) [reports: election](#)
[resource depletion](#) [Russia](#) [Sarah Palin](#) [security](#) [surveillance powers](#)
[sustainable development](#) [Tibet](#) [United Kingdom](#) [US economy](#)
US election 2008 [use of state power](#) [US legislation](#) [verifiable voting](#)
[video embeds](#) [water scarcity](#) [Zimbabwe](#) [Zimbabwe transition](#)

• Archives

- [November 2008](#) (48)
- [October 2008](#) (35)
- [September 2008](#) (13)
- [August 2008](#) (39)
- [July 2008](#) (33)
- [June 2008](#) (22)
- [May 2008](#) (11)
- [April 2008](#) (9)
- [March 2008](#) (31)
- [February 2008](#) (34)
- [January 2008](#) (36)
- [December 2007](#) (27)
- [November 2007](#) (33)
- [October 2007](#) (44)
- [September 2007](#) (41)
- [August 2007](#) (7)
- [July 2007](#) (2)
- [June 2007](#) (1)

- o [May 2007](#) (7)
- o [April 2007](#) (1)
- o [March 2007](#) (3)
- o [February 2007](#) (6)
- o [October 2006](#) (3)
- o [September 2006](#) (2)
- o [August 2006](#) (2)
- o [June 2006](#) (1)
- o [May 2006](#) (2)
- o [January 2006](#) (4)
- o [December 2005](#) (2)
- o [November 2005](#) (1)
- o [October 2005](#) (1)
- o [December 2004](#) (1)
- o [March 2003](#) (1)
- o [February 2003](#) (1)
- o [June 2000](#) (1)

November 2008

M T W T F S S

[1](#) [2](#)

[3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) 8 9

[10](#) [11](#) 12 [13](#) [14](#) 15 [16](#)

[17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) 21 [22](#) 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

• [« Oct](#) [«-»](#)

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[Hundreds Gather to Remember John F. Kennedy, on 45th Anniversary of Assassination](#)

[Congressional Oversight](#), [History-US](#), [Politics-US](#)

22 November 2008 :: staff

[According to the Associated Press](#), around 500 people gathered in Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, to honor President

John F. Kennedy, exactly 45 years after he was assassinated there. The nature of the killing has been in doubt from the moment it was carried out, and the official history of a lone gunman, one Lee Harvey Oswald, has been disputed by independent investigators, a New Orleans prosecutor, numerous conspiracy theorists, Oswald himself initially, the US Congress and the Oscar-winning film, JFK, by Oliver Stone.

The Warren Commission, named for then Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, investigated the case, and has long been criticized for missing evidence and not questioning irregularities in the autopsy record and coroner's report. Leading the investigation was Gerald Ford, later to become the only US president not elected, when Richard Nixon, defeated by Kennedy in 1960, appointed him to replace his disgraced vice-president, then resigned himself.

The US Congress would explore a number of theories attacking the Warren report's much-maligned "magic bullet" theory, which posited that an incredible number of injuries resulted from one single bullet, out of three fired by Oswald—one of the two striking Kennedy—, with the first of the three known to have missed entirely. [The House Select Committee on Assassinations found in 1979 that it was likely a conspiracy including Oswald that was responsible for the death of Pres. Kennedy, 16 years earlier.](#) To date, there has been no official federal investigation of that conspiracy.

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According to the [House Select Committee on Assassinations](#) report, the conspiracy was likely not linked to the FBI, CIA or Secret Service, or the governments of Cuba or the Soviet Union, but the supposed conspirators were not named, and conclusive demonstrations against the theories accusing these groups were not made public. Given the findings of the House committee, the government's position regarding the assassination leaves the killing at least in part unresolved.

45 years later, [a routine Google search for the president's initials](#) turns up a host of videos exploring the historical record

in greater or lesser depth, showing the key amateur film footage by Abraham Zapruder—which shows the exact moment of impact of the fatal shot—, footage illustrating security failures, and alleging a wide variety of conspiracy theories involving a diverse range of potential conspirators.

In 2003, 40 years after the assassination, ABC News ran a special report—criticized by many observers—in which then news chief Peter Jennings asserted that “there has never been any credible evidence” to suggest a conspiracy. Numerous response videos and critiques have shown how the ABC report cut footage from original press conferences that contradicted Jennings’ claims about the evidence known from the first hours after the president was killed.

Fully 45 years after the death of Pres. John F. Kennedy, the most significant evidence from the day of the assassination itself has yet to be tied to an actual investigation and prosecution. Oswald was never prosecuted, but was murdered within days of the killing. The US justice system has never proven guilt beyond reasonable doubt for any accused individual. Many suspect that responsibility for Kennedy’s death will remain a mystery, indefinitely—even assuming Oswald was involved—, due to the amount of time that has passed and the lack of political will in Washington, DC, to re-open the case.

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