

Why They Killed Him: A Dozen Ways JFK Defied The Powers That Were

(see also *John F. Kennedy's Vision of Peace*,
http://dickatlee.com/issues/assassinations/jfk/jfk_peace_vision_rfk_jr.pdf)

This list is derived from a 2009 talk given by James Douglass, author of the remarkable book *JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why it Matters* (<http://amazon.com/dp/1439193886>). The talk, offered in text, excellent mp3 audio, and video, is available at

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/Unspeakable/COPA2009.html>

It describes the process -- shown clearly in documents declassified during the past 50 years -- by which JFK changed from a Cold-Warrior candidate to a President seeking world peace, and how, unlike Truman and Eisenhower before him (and none since), he confronted the military-intelligence-industrial complex head-on. The results are familiar to all, though not the reasons or perpetrators. JFK himself, in a conversation in the summer of 1962, told friends that a coup such as portrayed in the book *Five Days In May* would be possible against a young and inexperienced President such as he, but only if *three* events such as the Bay of Pigs (which alienated the military and the CIA) were to occur. Ironically, he then said, "But it won't happen on my watch."

Those who can look at the following chronological list of *twelve* (not just three) "Bays of Pigs" events and can still conclude that a lone gunman with a faulty rifle and an interrupted line of sight did the job, and that assertion of any other scenario is a conspiracy theory, had best forget all of these points as soon as possible, because otherwise they will keep nagging...

1. 1961: Support for Indonesia's President Sukarno

By doing so, JFK implicitly endorsed Sukarno's policy of Third World neutrality (his phrase). The CIA had been trying to kill Sukarno for that very reason. Before he died, JFK had announced a state visit to Indonesia for Spring 1964. In 1965, the CIA succeeded in overthrowing Sukarno, during which between half and one million Indonesians were slaughtered.

2. 4/61: Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba

The CIA and military maneuvered JFK into a situation in which they thought he would have to order an invasion (see also item #4). When he realized this, he withdrew military support, dooming the invasion. The enraged CIA, military, and radical Cubans didn't forget this.

3. Summer/61: JFK threatens CIA

As a result of the Bay of Pigs manipulation, JFK said he wanted to "splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it into the winds." He fired the top three officials and instituted progressive CIA budget cuts.

4. 3/62: Operation Northwoods (not mentioned by Douglass)

The Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed a set of false-flag operations (some involving killing Americans) to create another opportunity to invade Cuba. JFK refused. The JCS were literally livid. The underlying reason for an invasion of Cuba was the opportunity for a war with the Soviet Union. The JCS felt (insanely) that U.S. superiority could win such a war at that time, but that the window of opportunity for a win was closing.

5. 4/62: Steel price-fixing crisis

Big steel violated an agreement on prices. JFK took government contracts away from them. They eventually backed down. Fortune Magazine warned him in a not-so-veiled threat to "beware the Ides of April" (re: the murder of Julius Caesar on the Ides of March).

6. 10/62: Cuban missile crisis

During the preceding year, Khrushchev had opened a secret back channel of letters with JFK. Over the course of these exchanges, a sense of trust grew, in which both acknowledged the dangers of the military situation and difficulties with their military officials. When the crisis started, JFK asked Khrushchev for help in preventing a war -- an action which many would have called treason. JFK's refusal to go to war and secret withdrawal of missiles from Turkey was another blow at the military's perceived shrinking opportunity to defeat the Soviet Union

7. 6/63: American University speech

Avoiding the State Department, JFK laid out the framework for an end to the Cold War, portraying the Russians as humans with dreams of their own and unilaterally declared an end to atmospheric nuclear testing. The famous speech was perhaps the ultimate thumb in the eye of the military/intelligence/industrial complex. But he didn't stop there.

8. 8/63: Limited Test Ban Treaty

Again quietly, JFK negotiated this treaty over the phone with Khrushchev, using Averill Harriman in Moscow as an intermediary. The initial judgment was that the treaty was not passable in the Senate, but JFK enlisted peace movement people to do a national public education campaign. The resulting public pressure produced an overwhelming passage of the treaty later that fall.

9. 9/63: Joint US/Soviet moon trip proposal

An anathema to the military, the sharing of rocket secrets would essentially eliminate ballistic missiles as a weapon. The Russian military pressured Khrushchev to reject it, but his son later revealed that a week before JFK's death, Khrushchev had decided to accept it.

10. 9/63: Normalizing US/Cuba relations

While at the UN for a speech, JFK arranged for secret ongoing meetings between a messenger and Castro (who had been persuaded by Khrushchev to trust JFK). The meetings were well on the way to normalizing relations when JFK was killed.

11. 10/63: Plans for Withdrawal from Vietnam

JFK's National Security Action Memorandum 263 called for withdrawal of 1000 troops by December 1963 ("including helicopter pilots"), the rest by 1965. This was overturned four days after JFK's death by LBJ's NSAM 273, which *had been already drafted by McGeorge Bundy, one of JFK's staffers-turned-enemy, the day before JFK was shot.*

12. Fall/63: Sale of wheat to the Soviet Union

JFK agreed to sell wheat to a famine-stricken Soviet Union. He was attacked for treasonous "feeding of the enemy," including in a full-page ad in Dallas paper the morning he was shot)

He ended up surrounded by enemies. And the person LBJ put in charge of the Warren Commission to investigate his death was Allen Dulles, the CIA head who Kennedy had fired.