

## THE JFK ASSASSINATION : DISPELLING THE MYTHS

### Dallas 1963 : What really happened?

In a thoroughly-researched book, published to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the assassination, British historian Mel Ayton examines the multitude of conspiracy theories put forward over the past 40 years and exposes how decades of misinformation have distorted the public perception of 'the crime of the century' - to the detriment of the genuine historical record.

*Mel Ayton's 2002 book is the ideal one-stop-shop for anyone who hasn't yet got into reading the JFK assassination and wants to.*

*The author's overview of the case that now bears no resemblance to the actual events of 1963 is thorough and highly reliable.*

*He addresses all of the areas that 'theorists and researchers' still desperately cling to in order to perpetuate the ultimate 'whodunit' and his intelligent assessment of all of the issues will afford any reasonable reader a satisfactory solution and a good read into the bargain.*

*I was especially gratified to see that Ayton makes frequent reference to the Warren Commission, The HSCA and the (Ramsay) Clarke panel. Far too many writers seem to feel that the diligent work of these three enquiries was either corrupt, incompetent or never happened at all. **J. P. Ryder, 2010***

*Though relatively short given the subject matter, this book is truly outstanding and deserves to be placed very highly on the list of recommended books on the Kennedy assassination. I have read over two hundred books on the subject and have been an active researcher for over 20 years. The author amazingly has found key snippets of information hitherto ignored or undiscovered in the vast available body of work on the subject and cites them persuasively. He also works in a highly competent fashion with well-known evidence and adds new insight - quite an accomplishment some 40 years on from that fateful day*

*Mel Ayton also manages to skilfully cross reference other authors works - particularly the pro-conspiracy theorists, in a very fair and balanced manner. He comprehensively destroys the very myths to which the title refers and which the conspiracy buffs continue to propagate - the Grassy Knoll Gunmen, the implausibility of the single bullet theory, the direction of the fatal head shot and the movements of Oswald prior to his arrest, to name but a few.*

*I was particularly impressed by the plain common sense applied regarding key areas of evidence and the authors insight into the mind of the alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. This book, written with the benefit of the more recent scientific investigations to hand, is very persuasive in its argument that history has not been served well by the countless misleading publications on this event. The case was never closed by the FBI and questions do remain, however Mel Ayton's contribution is compelling and is a must read for all assassination buffs and newcomers alone. It is a fine lesson in detective work and far more worthy of accolade than some of the "war & peace" works out there. I cannot recommend this book enough, it is remarkable and one worthy of the highest praise. My only criticism is that the photo's and book cover are rather poor quality. It is a shame it is not available as a hard back in larger format for reference purposes. **Patrick Collins, 2007***

