

Destiny Betrayed
JFK, Cuba, and the Garrison case
James DiEugenio

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This is the second edition of DiEugenio's book. The first edition is among the hundreds of JFK assassination books I have not read. DiEugenio is very good indeed, as a quick perusal of some of his writing at <www.ctka.net/> will show. However, this is not a book for a beginner: this is a book written for other JFK buffs. Nor is this an attempt at another grand synthesis of the material. DiEugenio is presenting the case suggested by his subtitle: JFK was killed by the CIA and its Cuban clients, and Jim Garrison was on the right track when he pursued David Ferrie and Clay Shaw. Thus, for example, while he does refer once to John Armstrong, he does not attempt to incorporate into his thesis Armstrong's 'two Oswalds' material, nor, for that matter, the 'LBJ-dunnit' evidence.

Nonetheless, this is full of fascinating material, on Garrison's career, the inquiry his office conducted, and, of particular interest, on how it was penetrated and sabotaged by the CIA. For in his innocence Garrison opened his doors to volunteers and in came the CIA's people. For what did the CIA do when Garrison began his inquiry? They formed a committee to decide how to nobble it. Well, they would, wouldn't they? But in 1967, before much was known about the Agency and its methods, that this would happen did not seem to occur to Garrison and his staff.

DiEugenio presents Garrison's investigation in detail and I still cannot see that he had a case against Clay Shaw. He had some evidence that Shaw had a conversation about killing Kennedy (him and a thousand others) and - less certainly - some evidence that Shaw and Ferrie had advance knowledge of the events in Dallas. (Them and at least half a dozen others we know of.) There is nothing else. Yes, Shaw and Ferrie lied to Garrison and his investigators; but this means what? DiEugenio does not seem willing to acknowledge that the fact that X lied, or that the CIA screwed the inquiry, might not imply involvement in the assassination. Shaw and Ferrie had all manner of connections to US intelligence that they did not want to discuss; and Garrison's inquiry was heading off into areas the CIA did not want examined: to name the obvious two, their role in the anti-Castro

Cuban groups and their illegal domestic activities. At that point there had been no independent investigations into the CIA's activities; of course nobbling Garrison's inquiry would be top of the Agency's agenda.

The general case against the Cubans/CIA is, of course, quite persuasive: yes, the Cubans were associated with Oswald and were involved in creating one of the Oswald *personae*, the gung-ho ex-Marine. But we don't know what this meant. It may have had nothing to do with killing JFK. And as we get close to Dealey Plaza, there is nothing linking either the Cubans or the CIA to the events that day in Dallas. The only member of the cast of characters definitely identified around the assassination is Jack Ruby; and while in prison Ruby identified LBJ as the man behind the shooting.

Although I disagree with DiEugenio's thesis, this is a really good book, with much new and newish material. Highly recommended.

Robin Ramsay