**Coincidence Theory**

**From The Black Vault Encyclopedia Project**

The term **coincidence theory** is used by proponents of controversial theories (often called [conspiracy theorists](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Conspiracy_theory)) to counter those who dismiss their claims; they mean to express thus that these dismissals rely on too many [coincidences](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Coincidence&action=edit&redlink=1) to be plausible. The term is sometimes used to ridicule or dismiss an argument by implying that the theory is unworthy of serious consideration.

The dispute arises when, after a complex or controversial historical event, a more-or-less simple explanation is officially stated which is accepted by the general population but which some people find unsatisfactory. Those argue that the explanation for the events has been oversimplified, sometimes to the extent of becoming a [fallacy of the single cause](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fallacy_of_the_single_cause&action=edit&redlink=1). They maintain that suspicious loose ends, [anomalies](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Anomaly) or [mysteries](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Mysteries&action=edit&redlink=1) not explained by the official version were ignored and dismissed as mere [coincidence](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Coincidence&action=edit&redlink=1).

Proponents consider that these elements were overlooked, or [covered up](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Cover-up) on purpose. They argue that a *coincidence theory* was disseminated by means of [propaganda](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Propaganda&action=edit&redlink=1) and [media manipulation](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Media_manipulation&action=edit&redlink=1) to advance the social or economic interest of a party and/or to hide another version of the facts that might damage that party's [credibility](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Credibility&action=edit&redlink=1) or [public image](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Public_relations&action=edit&redlink=1), as by establishing that party's [guilt](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Guilt&action=edit&redlink=1) in an instance of [crime](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Crime&action=edit&redlink=1) or [scandal](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Scandal&action=edit&redlink=1). They can make use of many propaganda [tactics](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tactics&action=edit&redlink=1), including [scapegoating](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Scapegoat&action=edit&redlink=1) a person or group to shift blame. Coincidence theories, according to those who identify and denounce them, are calculated to exploit the gullibility and [ignorance](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Ignorance&action=edit&redlink=1) of those to whom they are [communicated](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Communication&action=edit&redlink=1).

Critics of this approach argue that the term "coincidence theory" is employed by conspiracy theorists as a way to justify a [conspiracist](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Conspiracism&action=edit&redlink=1) approach. The term *coincidence theory* is a [pun](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Pun&action=edit&redlink=1) on the term "[Conspiracy theory](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Conspiracy_theory)". Identifying something as a coincidence theory may be an instance of using the fallacy of the *law of truly large numbers* (see external links).

**See also**

* [Cock-up theory](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Hanlon%27s_Razor&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Conspiracy theory](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Conspiracy_theory)
* [Disinformation](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Disinformation)
* [Kennedy Curse](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Kennedy_Curse)
* [Index of coincidence](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Index_of_coincidence&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [null hypothesis](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Null_hypothesis&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Intelligent Design](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Intelligent_Design&action=edit&redlink=1)

**External links**

* [Justly or Otherwise](http://www.popmatters.com/columns/ward/030814.shtml)
* [Son of 'An Interesting Day'](http://www.skepticreport.com/mystics/conspiracy911b.htm)
* [Coincidence Theory vs. Conspiracy Fact](http://www.oilempire.us/conspiracy.html)
* [Coincidence Theorist's Guide to 9/11](http://rigorousintuition.blogspot.com/2004/08/coincidence-theorists-guide-to-911.html)
* [Establishment Media Plagued by 'Coincidence Theorists'](http://www.propagandamatrix.com/articles/september2004/270904coincidencetheorists.htm)
* [A Wild Coincidence Theory](http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2003/11/274274.shtml)
* [Law of truly large numbers from Mathworld](http://mathworld.wolfram.com/LawofTrulyLargeNumbers.html)
* [Law of truly large numbers from SkepDic](http://skepdic.com/lawofnumbers.html)
* [Coincidences: Remarkable or Random?](http://www.csicop.org/si/9809/coincidence.html)

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**Author Interpretation**

Some people, mostly out of personal ignorance, don’t believe in coincidence and readily state so. Contrary to such claim, I do, otherwise some causes would not make much sense. I’ll make an attempt to explain what I mean. The woman and her husband had an altercation at home. She was frustrated and decided to take a walk in the rain. Some distance from her home she tripped on the wet pavement, hit her head on the concrete and as a result passed out. I came along sometime later to find her unconscious, alerted her husband and together helped her home. It was a cause of events, initiated by what? To clarify further what I mean, I’ll present two cases.

Case One:

Mary, who lives in Dallas, TX, was driving north on I-25 to visit her friend in Denver, CO. Half way along the drive she was hit by a speeding vehicle on an intersection rushing the red light. Where Mary survived with a broken arm and bruised head, the other driver was killed. Was the accident a coincidence or planned by spiritual intervention? The cause could have been by either means through coincidence or spiritual intervention targeting the speeding driver for termination.

Case Two:

An airliner takes off from New York Kennedy airport headed for Paris with 450 passengers on board. Thirty minutes into the flight, the craft loses both engine power and as a result crashes into the ocean. There are no survivors. Was it a coincidence or planned by spiritual intervention? The crash was caused by coincidence like most accidents unless consciously initiated by an instigator with evil intentions. If not, what power could have selected 450 passengers originating from different locations and directions, brought together on the specific flight only to get killed? I play out scenarios like it from a logical perspective to explain events. It keeps my brain alert with a clear mind in a cluttered world.