How Did We Get From This ...
To This?

Today, we are going to try and find out ...
This presentation is going to demonstrate with facts and data that JFK’s foreign policy was not reformist but revolutionary. And when he was killed, that policy died shortly after.

But to understand why it was revolutionary and why it had to die, we have to understand what Kennedy was rebelling against.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

On the eve of the 1960 convention, Kennedy told Harris Wofford: “We have to win, because if it’s Johnson or Symington, it will be just more of Dulles/Acheson, the same Cold War foreign policy all over.”
George Ball: The Kennedy Doctrine challenged the status quo in the Third World. And by doing that, it countered the Soviets, since we were also now on the side of revolutionary nationalism.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

Until World War I, with few exceptions, America was largely an isolationist country. It didn’t need a foreign policy establishment outside the State Department, because there was not really a lot of maneuvering to do. In the rare instances of intervention, a war was involved, as with Spain.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

But after World War I, America started to create a foreign policy establishment since it now became more and more involved in foreign affairs. All you need to know about this new establishment is that it was centered at Pratt House in New York. Mr. Pratt was a former director of Standard Oil.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

This organization was called the Council on Foreign Relations. It was founded in 1921 and its journal was called Foreign Affairs. The aim of the CFR quite early was to take over leadership of Western foreign policy from Great Britain.

One of its first directors was Paul Cravath of Cravath, Swain and Moore, John McCloy’s law firm.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

What did Cravath know about world affairs? Not much, but he was a heavy duty Wall Street lawyer for the Morgan empire. And the CFR would really represent American interests in foreign affairs, rather than an understanding of particular areas and what imperialism had done to those areas.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

Within just a few years, the CFR had set up a web of influence between New York and Washington DC. The goal was to create a single world spanning political economy with the USA as its fulcrum. This would later become CFR Chairman David Rockefeller’s life-long aim.

This was achieved under Bill Clinton.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

An accompanying goal was to educate American opinion leaders in order to gain popular support for their aims and ends. Therefore, local chapters of the CFR were founded in major American cities with media leaders and businessmen on the boards.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

An example of their influence was that of the eight-man board which advised Truman to drop the bomb on Japan. Five of its members were from the CFR.
Another example was that when Eisenhower was president of Columbia, he became a part-time student in the CFR study groups, and an editorial advisor to *Foreign Affairs* magazine.
Henry Kissinger began his career as a research editor for a CFR study group. They published his best selling book on this study group called Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy.

This is how he met Nelson Rockefeller who promoted his career.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

- From 1945-72, almost 66% of State Department officers had been members of the CFR.
- CIA Directors Dulles, McConne, Helms, Colby and Bush were all former CFR members.
- Half of all CFR members in 1965 were business executives – e.g., Walter Wriston, David Rockefeller, John H. Whitney, Thomas Watson Jr. of IBM.
- During WW II, a whole committee of the CFR was incorporated into the State Department.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

Some of the policies first advocated by the CFR, which all became policies of the USA:

• The British Empire as it existed will never reappear and the USA will have to take its place. (As early as 1927, reiterated in 1942)
• America will need economic instruments to regulate a world economy, like the IMF and World Bank. (1942, well before their creation)
• Allies should go easy on Germany and not allow German reparations to supply the USSR. (1943)
• Keep low-key relations with South Africa, since whites are still in charge, in order to keep businesses engaged and working. (1965)
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

SOUTHEAST ASIA

• **1940**: War with Japan is possible over Indochina as a “cheap source of vital raw materials”; we must keep political power in the hands of those friendly to the USA, since all nations there are interdependent.

• **1953**: The loss of any further portion of the Far East could have decisive effects on the balance of world power in the years ahead. (Beginning of domino theory.)

• **1956**: In geopolitical terms, Southeast Asia is extremely significant, since it occupies a position of global strategic importance comparable to Panama and Suez.

• **1963**: CFR publishes a book saying Southeast Asia is essential to American security and economic needs.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- CFR creates a public committee to support Johnson’s Vietnam policies. Chairman of this group was John McCloy.
- Group says “Johnson acted rightly and in the national interest in committing American troops into Vietnam.”
- McCloy and David Rockefeller meet with LBJ in open support of his escalation policy.

In other words, within a year of the Warren Report, McCloy was on board with an official reversal of JFK’s Vietnam policy.
What was Kennedy Rebelling Against?

In 1967, Bayless Manning was an advisor for CBS while he was Dean of Stanford Law School. CBS president Richard Salant sent two CBS managers, who were hoping for a fair debate about the Warren Report to air on CBS, to visit him.

Manning told them that such a program was not in the “national interest” since it had “political implications”. His advice was taken and CBS did a hatchet job on the critics.

In 1971, David Rockefeller made Bayless Manning first president of the Council on Foreign Relations.
JFK was *not* “Eastern Establishment”

Owing to his Irish heritage, which he never forgot, Kennedy was not a part of the Eastern Establishment.

He *never* joined the CFR.

He *didn’t like working intel* in WW II.
JFK was not “Eastern Establishment”

To show how much apart he was from this club, consider his treatment of Jock Whitney.

Whitney was a firm ally of the Rockefellers who published the Herald Tribune. Eisenhower appointed him ambassador to England.

After Kennedy was inaugurated he wrote Whitney a rather terse termination telegram:

**JOCK, PACK. JACK**

The night of the assassination, Whitney went to work as a copy editor [sic!]. His was the first paper to propagate the Oswald-as-sociopath fairy-tale.
Important Sources on JFK’s Foreign Policy
(likely unfamiliar to most researchers of the assassination)

Richard Mahoney
*JFK: Ordeal in Africa*

Philip Muehlenbeck
*Betting on the Africans*

Robert Rakove
*Kennedy, Johnson, and the Non-Aligned World*

Greg Poulgrain
*The Incubus of Intervention*

If you have not read those books, you do not really know who John Kennedy was.

Mahoney’s book, especially, completely changed my thinking about how Kennedy's foreign policy was formed.
JFK’s Foreign Policy Education

Kennedy’s foreign policy was formed in large part by 1961. Why do I say this?

Because he met a certain diplomat many years before he became president.

To show how far behind the learning curve the research community had been, this man’s name was not in a Kennedy assassination book until JFK and the Unspeakable in 2008. Which means it was bottled up for 44 years.

A bit astonishing, considering the influence this man had on young Kennedy.
State Department Official

Edmund Gullion
Since Gullion spoke French, he was transferred to Vietnam.
On a visit to Saigon in 1951, Congressman Kennedy had a meeting with Gullion.
The 1951 Saigon Meeting

France will never win the war in Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh inspired the young men to die rather than be under the yoke of the French.

France could never win a war of attrition.

The French home front would never support it.
Gullion changed forever JFK’s thinking on foreign policy.
Congo

Gullion became Kennedy's point man on the great Congo struggle, which began before Kennedy was president, and continued until after his assassination. This episode is disgracefully ignored by the JFK research group.

Why is it important?

It shows Gullion's immense influence on Kennedy, in JFK's undying attempt to keep Congo free of European influence, and keep the rich region of Katanga part of Congo and not a colony of Belgium.

All three protagonists for freedom were murdered by 1963.
There is an old cliché, “A picture is worth a thousand words.”

To me, there is no picture in all of Kennedy’s presidency worth more than the one Jacques Lowe shot unbeknownst to Kennedy in the Oval Office.

It was unrehearsed and it was a surprise call; that is why it reveals so much about the man and who he was.
Kennedy getting the news of Lumumba’s death
We know that neither Eisenhower nor Johnson would have reacted remotely like this.

How do we know this?

Because Eisenhower, after conferring with Allen Dulles, ordered the assassination of Lumumba.

LBJ reversed Kennedy's policy in Congo and ordered CIA Cuban exile pilots to strafe the last of Lumumba's followers.
Congo: Three Murders, 1961-63

Patrice Lumumba
Murdered by the Belgians with the help of the CIA in 1961.

Dag Hammarskjold
Murdered. Likely by the Belgians with CIA support in a faked plane crash.

John F. Kennedy
Murdered. By the CIA and its allies, including the Mob, in 1963.
Harry Truman in 1961: “Dag Hammarskjold was on the point of getting something done when they killed him. Notice that I said: *When they killed him.*”

Why did Truman say this?
Because it was later revealed to Greg Poulgrain that Hammarskjold and Kennedy had made a secret alliance to keep both Congo and Indonesia out of the hands of imperial powers.

What is remarkable is that JFK shouldered that burden himself after Hammarskjold was murdered.
Jonathan Kwitny:

Patrice Lumumba became a hero in Africa, “not because he promoted socialism, which he didn’t, but because he resisted foreign intervention, he stood up to outsiders, if only by getting himself killed.”
Why are those three murders so important?

Because once they were completed, Kennedy's policy was completely reversed. The CIA took over the American embassy and started a secret air war to eliminate the last of Lumumba's followers.

Congo became a vassal state to Belgium and England, and the riches of Katanga did not go to the Congolese people as Kennedy wanted.

They went to dictator Mobutu and his imperial employers.
The exact *same pattern* occurred in Indonesia as in Congo.

Eisenhower and the Dulles brothers approved a coup attempt to overthrow Sukarno.

When Kennedy became president, he asked for a report on this action. Dulles gave him a *redacted* version.

But once he read it, Kennedy exclaimed, “No wonder Sukarno doesn’t like us. *We tried to overthrow his government.*”
Kennedy was determined to make an alliance with the leftist Sukarno.

He assigned RFK and Ellsworth Bunker to negotiate the return of West Irian to Indonesia from Netherlands.
West Irian

West Irian is even richer than Katanga. Kennedy wanted this wealth to go to the people of Indonesia.

Just one mine in that area, the Grasberg Mine, does almost three billion dollars a year in gold, silver and copper deposits.

*And that was in 2006!* Multiply that sum by about 40 years and you will see what was at stake there for the Power Elite.
So the familiar pattern repeats itself

After Kennedy befriends a Third World leader, and in fact promises to visit him in his homeland, the CIA and LBJ reverse this policy – with disastrous results for the native population.

• Within 18 months of JFK’s assassination, the CIA plots to overthrow Sukarno and decimate the PKI, his communist base party.

• This takes place in the fall of 1965, and is the bloodiest CIA coup in history. Perhaps as many as 400,000 of the PKI are murdered. Another brutal dictator, Suharto, comes to power.

• The wealth of West Irian does not go to Indonesia, but to Suharto and his imperial allies.
Kennedy continued and expanded the CIA program to arm Tibetan rebels to fight against the Chinese invasion of 1952. A program that Mao thought India was backing by giving asylum to the Dalai Lama.
When Mao invaded India in October, 1962 over this program, Kennedy began a daily airlift of arms and supplies to prevent China from overrunning India: Eight flights a day into Calcutta, each flight made up of 20 tons of arms and ammo.
JFK got England to go along with him in this program, and they both warned Pakistani leader Ayub Khan not to encourage or join Mao in his attack on Nehru and India.
JFK increases air-lifted supplies through November, and proposes sending the Navy into the Bay of Bengal, and an aircraft carrier fleet into Madras province. The day after this, Mao decides to withdraw and offer a truce.
This policy of favoring India over Pakistan is reversed when JFK is killed. Both Johnson and Nixon will tilt toward Pakistan.
Tibet, India and China

This will lead to two momentous events:

1. The genocide in East Pakistan (Bangladesh) in 1971, which Nixon and Kissinger did not just ignore, but actually aided.
2. The use of Pakistan as a base to battle the Soviets in Afghanistan, which leads to the rise of a man named Osama Bin Laden.
Middle East

The tilt toward Pakistan brings us now to what is perhaps most relevant for today’s world, Kennedy’s Middle East policy.

How many of you knew he had a Middle East policy? (After all, all that matters is Cuba and Vietnam, right?)

Well, he did have such a policy. And he built it, as he usually did, in opposition to what came before him: Dulles/Eisenhower.
JFK’s Overall Middle East Policy

1. Freeze out Saudi Arabia and Iran: too dictatorial and backward looking.

2. Create a bond with Nasser who Kennedy perceived as being more secular, democratic and progressive.

3. By doing this, create the impression of fairness and not favoring either side.

4. Together with Nasser form a union with other Arab moderate states, and move toward a solution to the Palestinian problem in a second term.

5. Keep atomic weapons out of the area (JFK was adamant on this point).
Kennedy was firmly opposed to monarchies like the Shah in Iran, and also King Saud in Saudi Arabia.

The Kennedy brothers were very dissatisfied with the Shah of Iran. As with Saud, they saw his monarchy as being out of touch with the masses, cronyish, and opposed to civil rights.
Kennedy commissioned a State Department study of the costs and liabilities of returning Mossadegh to power in Iran.

The Shah knew the study about Mossadegh was not just talk. The Kennedys wanted the Shah to expand economic opportunity and civil rights.

So in 1963, the Shah launched a reform movement called the White Revolution to give land to peasants and grant more rights to women.
The Aftermath of Dallas

But as James Bill notes in his fine book, *The Eagle and the Lion*, the pressure on the Shah was *greatly lessened* by Johnson, and especially Nixon and Carter.

**Why?**

Because of **all three presidents’ connections to the Rockefellers**, who had much invested in the Shah’s survival by any means.

LBJ was close to Nelson Rockefeller. Henry Kissinger, Nixon’s national security adviser, owed his career to David Rockefeller. As did Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter’s national security adviser.
After JFK’s death, the Shah felt close enough to the White House to request that dissidents in the USA be deported back. RFK interceded to halt the proceedings. The students wrote him later that he probably saved their lives.
Kennedy never cared for David Rockefeller’s globalist designs.

But there is no doubt that Allen Dulles and John McCloy were Rockefeller’s disciples.

It was not Jimmy Carter’s decision to let the Shah into the USA. That decision was pushed on him by John McCloy, who was being paid royally to do so by David Rockefeller.
Since Carter resisted his overtures, McCloy decided to pick off his advisors one by one – Warnke, Vance, and Mondale now joined Brzezinski.

Carter was now cornered. But before he caved in, he turned and asked:

“All right. But just answer me this: What are you guys going to advise me to do when they invade our embassy and take our employees hostage?”
That move by Rockefeller and McCloy, which did so much to bring us Ronald Reagan, was previewed back in 1964.

In the fall of 1963, David Rockefeller wanted to meet with JFK about planning an overthrow of the government of Brazil. Kennedy refused to take that meeting.

But in December, Johnson did.

The coup in Brazil started in spring, 1964. The point man for Rockefeller and the CIA was McCloy, at the same time he was sitting on the Warren Commission.
The reversals of Kennedy's policies had cataclysmic results.

Because Saudi Arabia became a secret sponsor to terrorism.

And the explosion of Islamic religious fanaticism Kennedy feared broke out in Iran in 1979.
Because it was important to his policy, JFK was intent on keeping nuclear arms out of the Middle East. When he learned that Ben Gurion and Golda Meir were lying to him about the Dimona reactor, he was furious and vowed he would obstruct it with every means at his disposal.
This policy was also overturned upon Kennedy’s death. He wrote letters to Ben Gurion specifically warning about this issue. But neither LBJ nor Nixon voiced any objections to Israel acquiring atomic weapons.
This betrayal of Kennedy’s policy was made even worse because Israel likely stole the uranium for its first bomb from a nuclear processing plant in America. It was called NUMEC and was located north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
The Legacy of Policy Reversal

The switching of JFK’s policies in the Middle East was completed by the tilting toward Saudi Arabia, and the overall imbalance toward Israel.

Therefore, when the outburst of Islamist radicalism exploded in 1979 in Iran – as Kennedy predicted – there was no real check on it.

In fact, all the conditions were there to make it grow and mushroom. And has it ever.
The Legacy of Policy Reversal

These reversals were consciously begun by LBJ, and completed by Nixon, after the death of RFK.

Jerry Ford supplied the final coup de grace: Cheney and Rumsfeld thought Kissinger and Nixon were too moderate, especially toward the Soviets. Therefore, people like Wolfowitz and Nitze were brought in to do battle with and steer the CIA to the right on the threat posed by the USSR. This was called Team B.
The Legacy of Policy Reversal

Ford did this with the help of CIA Director Bush. Thus began the Neocon Revolution and the rise of the likes of Richard Perle. They thought that not only Kissinger, but also Haig was too moderate.

With this, JFK’s foreign policy became a relic in the museum. Something to be excavated and explicated by future scholars for historical study and comment.