Major Assignment Analysis: Review of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion Journal Analysis

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This article confronts a document of conspiracy theories that have been in circulation for decades and concepts covered in this document date back centuries. This document is *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and the conspiracy theories outlined in these *Protocols* are thematically recurring and have proven to withstand the test of time. The author of this article analyzes the authenticity of the *Protocols* and applies a scrupulous structured analytical methodology in determining the accuracy of this document and the commonalities with contemporary conspiracy theories. The author outlines the factors that contribute to "master myths" (Hlaváčová, 2021) in conspiracy theories presented in the *Protocols* and other theories alike. A large percentage of the article are direct quotations from the chosen *Protocols* reference for analysis. A comparison is made with Christian apocalyptic views and how these conservative and fundamental views have been accepted by many groups as factual in Western culture.

The argument against the authenticity, or lack thereof, of the *Protocols* is verified by the numerous citations in the article. The author covers the elements outlined in the document that claim to reveal an overarching conspiracy theory and narrative of a Jewish Cabal implementing a scheme of events aimed at global domination, while maintaining their

prolonged control of the masses and global economy. The *Protocols* was allegedly the minute notes taken from a secret meeting of Jewish elders and emerged in Russia in the 20th century. Some modern-day conspiracies are briefly mentioned but the focus of the article was primarily on the *Protocols* and its relationship to reemerging theories. The themes outlined in the protocols are covered with some depth and the contribution these theories made to the Nazi party is clearly made. The implementation of Nazi and Russian autocracy propaganda presenting themselves as those divinely ordained to stop this nefarious agenda reflects the *Protocols* essence of mysticism and overall agendas covered within and throughout the document.

While many conspiracists have agreed with the theories presented in the *Protocols*, based on numerous testimonies of online social media influencers ¹, the validity of this document is lacking scholarly support. While supernatural or spiritual guidance are difficult to verify, factual evidence or reliable sources remain a requirement when analyzing documents as influential as the *Protocols*. Looking at the direct evidence of contemporary rhetoric, I cannot help but agree with the author, as she stated "the enormous influence that the Protocols have achieved goes beyond unmediated experience with the text "(Hlaváčová, 2021). Some conspiracies glanced over are chemtrails, anti-vax, Masonic Lodges, and a one-world government plan. These conspiracies are merely mentioned but not explained with

any depth. The possible validation of some of these theories isn't mentioned and I think that would have made for a more objective analysis.

There is little argument to be made regarding the motifs that contemporary conspiracy theories share with the *Protocols*, but there are some authentic claims to some conspiracy theories. The criminal charges of Jeffrey Epstein (1953-2019) and Ghislaine Maxwell (1961) and their involvement with trafficking young women to an island for lascivious encounters with rich and powerful leaders is one example of a conspiracy reality². Regarding vaccines, some state government agencies and health departments have disagreed with federal and international organizations' (i.e., CDC, WHO) recommendations after conducting their own scientific research and analysis of the COVID-19 vaccine. These are just two examples of case studies and factual evidence refuting conspiracy theories with verifiable data and results, as in investigative and scientific quantifiable analysis. This does not take away from the fact that extremist views do not contribute to inhuman extreme ideologies, but although many conspiracies are rooted in fundamentalist views, some contain a large variety of truth. To give a more objective analysis of a subject matter we should recognize the opposing view on our position and acknowledge them with the equivocal effort of research supporting our thesis. The author of this article defended their position well but lacked a proper amount of

¹ YouTube Channel Truth2LoveInsideYou has 9.09k followers and the owner/operator of that channel claims to be guided by the Holy Spirit. This is one example of the many social media influencers guided by intuition or spiritual inspiration, which is the primary source of their revelations, rather than peer-reviewed research.

recognition in anti-theoretical concepts. Her thesis was clearly defended but I would have preferred more in-depth research of contemporary conspiracies. In this age of information and sharing, it will be interesting to see how many conspiracy theories are proven to be conspiracy realities, or at least how much of the theories themselves will be revealed as facts.

References

Hlaváčová, K. (2021). Structural Analysis of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. *Central European Journal for Contemporary Religion*, 1, 47–65.

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² On June 28, 2022, The United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York announced that "GHISLANE MAXWELL was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court by United States Circuit Judge Alison J. Nathan to 240 months in prison for her role in a scheme to sexual exploit and abuse multiple minor girls with Jeffrey Epstein over the course of a decade. MAXWELL was previously found guilty on December 29, 2021, following a one-month jury trial of conspiracy to entice minors to travel to engage in illegal sex acts, conspiracy to transport minors to participate in illegal sex acts, transporting a minor to participate in illegal sex acts, sex trafficking conspiracy, and sex trafficking of a minor." The later revelation of the flight logs has made an uproar in 'conspiracy circles.' The names mentioned and the number of trips made to that island are evidentiary and proves multiple conspiracies that were once theories are factual and real.

³ Florida Department of Health's website stated "This analysis found that there is an 84% increase in the relative incidence of cardiac-related death among males 18-39 years old within 28 days following mRNA vaccination. As a result, the State Surgeon General recommends against the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for males ages 18-39 years old." Many people who refused to get the vaccine were ostracized and labeled as 'conspiracy theorists' and 'anti-vaxers' by mainstream media and many other organizations.

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