

## "Birth Certificate Enslavement - A Conspiracy theory from the archives to the internet"

### Introduction

The idea of "Birth Certificate Enslavement" is a conspiracy theory situated in North America and spread through the internet. It is connected to, among others the Sovereign Citizen-movement (SPLC 2019). There are examples of the conspiracy theory spreading, with active activists in Europe among other parts of the world. According to the believers, the creating of a birth certificate starts the life of an evil administrative doppelgänger to the newly born. A "corporate shell". This corporate shell is then sold by the State to foreign investors as a form of financial security. One of the administrative proof of this, according to the believers of the conspiracy theory, is that the birth certificate is written in capital letters and that bond papers and watermarks are used. This part of the conspiracy, the "proof in the design of the administrative document" is connected to an interpretation of Maritime law that the sympathisers believe are valid regarding birth certificates (SPLC 2010). To analyse the conspiracy three research questions have been used. **R1)** References done in the video clip to public administration and archives - How are public administration and archives viewed in the message of the video clips? How are the employees of the agencies responsible for creating, storing and administrating birth certificates viewed. Are they in any way seen as recipients of the message in the video clips? Are there any appeals to confront the agencies or their employees. **R2)** References to other conspiracy theories - Are there any references to other conspiracy theories? Do they differ from video to video depending on the creator? One of the differences between various conspiracy theorists are that they put different "masterminds" behind the execution of the conspiracy. Aliens, Freemasons, Jews, Reptiles, the Catholic church, the Red shoe men and the Bilderberg group et cetera. According to previous research, people that believe in a conspiracy theory often believe in more than one (Silva et al 2017, p. 427) I here use the definition of conspiracy theory as "an explanation of historical ongoing, or future events that cites as a main casual factor a small group of powerful persons, the conspirators, acting in secret for their own benefits against the common good." (Uscinski & Parent 2014, p. 32). **R3)** References to other political and administrative contexts than those connected to the United States of America - Are there any references to other political and administrative contexts than those of the United States of America? Do the proponents of the conspiracy theory believe that the theory interoperate with other political and administrative contexts or are they unique to the context of the United States of America?



A screenshot of one of the videos analysed in this presentation

### Material

Youtube-videos are used because they are likely to be the first encounter a person do to this kind of conspiracy. The five most viewed Youtube-videos found using the search "Birth Certificate Enslavement" were used in the analysis. They had between ~70 000 and ~6000 views (2019-12-17) and were uploaded to Youtube between 2011 and 2017. The Videos are identified below as [1-5].

### Analysis

#### R1) References done in the video clip to public administration and archives...

The use of consecutive numbers and upper case letters on certificates are discussed and given hidden meanings multiple videos[1,2]. Hospitals are not recommended when giving birth because of the risk of the child being registered. Instead just registering the child in the family Bible is recommended [2, 5]. There are examples of appeals to contact Tax agencies (to open up the possibilities to use hidden accounts connected to the administrative doppelgänger [1]. Because the number attached to the birth certificate is interpreted as a Bond number there are also appeals to contact stock brokers to try to use this hidden bond on the stock market, to earn money and to pay off debts [1, 3].

#### R2) References to other conspiracy theories Are there any references to other conspiracy theories...

The videos connects the conspiracy to the state (beginning with the founding fathers) and the military complex [1]. The "Roman cult" - Roman paganism, interpreted by the video creator as Satanism [2]. Only two of the videos mentions other conspiracies or tries to connect the birth certificate enslavement conspiracy theory to a specific conspirational elite et cetera.

#### R3) References to other political and administrative contexts than those connected to the United States of America...

Not any of the videos tries to make the birth certificate enslavement conspiracy theory into a global theory. One video mentions that "it should be the same in other countries than the US, because the stock market is global [1]. In two others, the United States of America and Canada is mentioned [3, 4]. One video is situated in Great Britain [5].

### Conclusive remarks

As it seems from the five most viewed videos on Youtube, the birth certificate enslavement conspiracy theory is a conspiracy theory that seems to be declared alone, not really connected to other conspiracy theories. At least not in the video setting – where the conspiracy theory is explained. The conspiracy theory is mostly situated in the United States, sometimes Canada and Great Britain are mentioned. There are some appeals to contact authorities trying to use the conspiracy theory to earn money or pay debts. How this is supposed to be done is rather unclear in the analysed videos. Further research could consist of...

\* Investigate how the conspiracy theory is expressed when it is situated in other political realities than the United States of America, Canada and Great Britain.

\* The use of upper case could be investigated from an administrative perspective. It is probably connected to both readability and the use of mainframe computers. One possibility could be to find pedagogical ways to explain administrative processes and administrative styles knowing that people that believe in conspiracy theories have a lower education level than the general public (Douglas et al, 2016, p. 59)

### Bibliography

Douglas, Karen M, Sutton, Robbie M, Callan, Mitchell J, Dawtry, Rael J & Harvey, Annelie J (2016) "Someone is pulling the Strings: hypersensitive agency detection and belief in conspiracy theories", *Thinking & Reasoning*, 22:1, 55-57.  
Silva, Bruno Castanho, Vegetti, Federico & Littvay, Levente (2017) "The Elite is up to something: Exploring relation between populism and belief in conspiracy theories", *Swiss Political Science Review* 23(4), 423-443.  
SPLC (2010) "The Sovereigns: A dictionary of the peculiar", viewed 2019-09-05  
<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2010/sovereigns-dictionary-peculiar>  
SPLC (2019) "Sovereign Citizens Movement", viewed 2019-09-05.  
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Uscinski, Joseph E & Parent, Joseph M (2014) "American Conspiracy Theories", Oxford: Oxford University Press.



America 2.0 Documentaries  
[1]"Birth Certificates Bond of Corporate Slavery and Debt Documentary You Decide"  
<https://youtu.be/8QICzbbmsBc>

sovereignliving  
[2]"D.I.Y. No Birth Certificate - Quit Enslaving your Sons and Daughters"  
<https://youtu.be/dnAQ4-Kd73g>

Simfinet  
[3]"Enslaved by Your Birth Certificate"  
[https://youtu.be/aMHU5ks\\_szE](https://youtu.be/aMHU5ks_szE)

TheSpoonfedtruth  
[4]"Birth Certificates - The Ticket To Your Slavery"  
<https://youtu.be/eP3X9kmm1M8>

arthurmelhuish100  
[5]"Birth certificate, common law, commercial slavery, legislative fraud, Money creation"  
<https://youtu.be/ujNePg7twXY>