

## Acknowledgments

Sparking the idea to make this 2017 edition of *False Mystery* was the approaching 100th anniversary of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's birth. His aborted term snuffed out the developing prospect to end the Cold War. That train of thought included recognition that people born and living in what, in the present age, is called the United States of America, still have not come to terms with the reality, as Vincent Salandria frames it, of the extra-constitutional firing of the thirty-fifth U.S. President. Ten presidents later, in the current scoundrel time of mind-numbing incoherence and evermore suffocating subterfuge, it is deeply life-affirming to high-light this treasury of essays on the inescapable meaning of one of the most seminal moments of the twentieth century and its continuing relevance in the present day.

Vincent Salandria's life-long devotion to exercising his intelligence with clarity and coherence, of following his conscience and remaining rooted to his moral anchor, provide the basis on which this extraordinary record of critical analysis rests. We are all in his debt, and fortunate to be so. He expresses this succinctly in the Foreword:

[My work] on the assassination ... reflected a willingness to bear witness to the truth irrespective of the consequences. In my responsibility to adhering to the truth as I saw it, I have been and will continue to be, oblivious to all the consequences of its expression.

John Kelin's dedication to *veritas* assembled the contents of this book in its original published form beginning in 1999. John provided a copy of the 2001 printing, as well as the priceless and essential archival copies of *The Legal Intelligencer* article, its Draft version, the 11-23-64 Addendum, the 1992 reprint, the January 1965 and October 1966 *Liberation* articles along with the image of Vincent now included in the latter, the original typewritten copy of the 1968 Central Park speech, and his copies the films of Vincent and Marty Schotz during their respective 1998 COPA addresses and the 1995 David Starks interview.

In addition to writing the original Introduction, I am exceedingly grateful to Christopher Sharrett for his new contribution of the 2017 Addendum.

Many other people contributed to this 2017 edition: [Joe Green](#) produced the new cover with the statue of Pierre de Wissant, helped with issues of presentation and organization; both Joe and Ed Curtin assisted with references and editing in "The Role Of The Paines In History"; [Gene Smirnov](#) for permission to include his four 2014 photographs; [Max Good](#) for permission to include a transcript of Vince's 19-page statement—which has been adapted for presentation herein—made during his interview for the [upcoming](#) feature documentary, "[The Assassination & Mrs. Paine](#)"; David Starks for permission to include his 1994

interview with Vince; [Robert Ellsberg](#), publisher of Orbis Books for permission to include the section on James Wilcott from *JFK and the Unspeakable*; and [Michael Morrissey](#) for permission to include pages 279-302 from his 2007 book, *Correspondence with Vincent Salandria*.

Reconnecting with Jim Douglass in 2012 activated the train of events leading to this station. Jim integrated the parallel tracks that jointly distilled the *why* of the assassination. Previously, I was aware of many of the elements comprising this dynamic. However it was only by looking through the lens of Jim's framework that for the first time I understood the relationship of many of the significant parts to the whole. It was through Jim that I met Marty Schotz.

Marty has been a radiant beacon expanding understanding of the historical significance on the meaning of *why* President Kennedy was killed and the conundrum of how psychological denial blocks the exercise of critical thinking.

I had known of the names Vincent Salandria and Marty Schotz for years from [John Judge](#). John's deep, unwavering devotion to historical truth imparted a profound appreciation of the critical necessity of learning about the collective history of the life of our time and producing archival digital representations before there was a world wide web. Before meeting Vince and Marty I was made more keen on their significance by Jim Douglass' dedication in *JFK and the Unspeakable*:

*To Vince Salandria and Marty Schotz  
teachers and friends*

Working with Jim to create [an archive](#) of his works and words, then with Marty to do likewise with *History Will Not Absolve Us*, the circle is now joined with this edition of *False Mystery*. It is profoundly life-affirming and thrilling that the nonpareil historical record Vincent Salandria has produced is now freely available for study and understanding. In conferring with Marty about this, he offered the following summation:

As Karl Marx saw, capitalism involves a “metabolic rift” in the relationship of mankind and the rest of nature, a rift which today threatens all mankind and nature. Combining what Marx saw with the descriptions of the modern capitalist system by [David Korten](#) and [Seymour Melman](#) portrays a system which inevitably leads to President Kennedy's murder. Indeed, it was business as usual for our system from the perspectives of David Talbot's *The Devil's Chessboard* and Fidel Castro's 1995 speech, “[With Hegemony and Intervention There Can Be No Peace or Social Development](#).” It is our faith that, testifying to historical truth, can contribute to transforming this system, and this is what I think is inspiring and enlivening. It helps make our lives worth living.

Others who have provided illuminating and inspired insight in this field of critical analysis documenting historical truth are Emanuel Garcia, Gary Schoener, Joseph Martines, Vincent Feldman, Gary Corseri, and Karen Croft.

I also wish to specifically thank John Judge, a dear friend, and Aaron Swartz who I only knew impersonally as a champion of making all published information in human history freely available and not locked up within for-pay legal subordinate fictions known as corporations. Both men devoted their lives to reclaiming our collective history which has increasingly been hidden and incarcerated within the monetized social fabric of corporate governance we live under in the present era. This digital book, like all the archived data on [ratical.org](http://ratical.org), is freely available and will always be so, with neither advertisements nor paywalls.

For the first time on [ratical.org](http://ratical.org), this complete digital book is designed to present well on mobile devices as well as desktop and laptop computers. I am indebted to [Amie Tracey](#) for her technical assistance and patience with me in learning how to code these files so they, at last, contain basic elements to render in a user-friendly way on smartphones.

I especially wish to thank my wife, Nina Vansuch. Through her counsel and advice she helps me see a wider perspective engendering more constructive communication. She is an advocate for and champion of the children in our community and their families and her devotion and dedication to serving our community is an inspiration to all who know her.

*David Ratcliffe*  
*May, 2017*