

**A  
Scientist  
Explains**

# Why Presidents Die

## Every Twenty Years



JFK thought he could escape the 20-year cycle.

By J. NEWTON

Are there cycles in history? Some scientists think so.

Soon after the tragic death of President Kennedy, strange speculations began to circulate about a presidential death cycle.

History shows that since 1840, when William Henry Harrison was elected President, every U.S. chief executive, elected at 20 year intervals, has died in office.

Harrison died of pneumonia in 1840. Abraham Lincoln, elected in 1860, was assassinated five years later. James A. Garfield, elected in 1880, was assassinated in 1881.

William McKinley, re-elected to the presidency in 1900, was murdered the following year.

Warren G. Harding, re-elected in 1920, died in 1923 of food poisoning.

### JFK Knew

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, re-elected in 1940, died in office in 1945 of cerebral hemorrhage.

It has been reported that John F. Kennedy was aware of this mysterious presidential death cycle.

He hoped to break the pattern, but it was beyond his control.

Fulfilling the destiny of all American Presidents since Harrison who had been elect-

ed at 20-year-intervals, he died in office, cut down by a sniper's bullet in Dallas, Texas.

"The belief that recurring events and historic cycles are not coincidental but an actual pattern of history is alien to our western culture," said Dr. Stanley Krippner, Director of Re-



Dr. Stanley Krippner

search of the Department of Psychiatry at the Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

"Our approach to history has traditionally rejected the possibility that the flow of history might follow a cycle pattern," the young scientist told me.

### Historical Cycles

"However, the existence of these cycles cannot be denied, although as yet we have no conclusive evidence to prove why they exist, what they depend on or how they form.

"The most obvious example is

the alternating cycles of conservatism and liberalism in American politics."

He also noted that there is a 22-year cycle in international conflict and evidence of a 400-year cycle in human creativity.

In an article in "Cycles," the publication of the Foundation



Franklin D. Roosevelt

for the Study of Cycles, Dr. Krippner proved mathematically that the 20-year Presidential death cycle is not just coincidence, for there is less than one chance in 10,000 for events to repeat themselves with such regularity.

While it is easy to observe history's cycle patterns, it is not such a simple matter to explain it.

"Some scientists have attempted to relate historical events to the rhythmic activity of the sun," Dr. Krippner said.

"Others investigated the relation of lunar and solar day

fluctuations to changes in the behavior of living organisms."

Dr. Krippner approaches the problem from a psychological angle.

## Schizophrenia

He speculates that all presidential assassins, from Booth



Abraham Lincoln

who killed Lincoln, to Oswald who was accused of Kennedy's murder, suffered from the same mental disorder: paranoid schizophrenia.

These deranged people despise authority, so it is natural that they direct their hatred against the American who so uniquely represents authority.

"Leaders of other democracies have much more shadowy images," observes Dr. Krippner.

He speculates that this may be the reason why assassination attempts on heads of other democratic states occur

less often than in the U.S.

"At any moment there are thousands of seriously disturbed schizophrenics in America, many of them potential presidential assassins.

"As the President is the nation's most prominent father image and authority figure, he would be a likely target of hostility and aggression.

"Much of his hostility is siphoned off in fantasy, conversation or insulting letters to the White House.

"When an assassin successfully strikes at the President, it is possible that these hostile individuals derive satisfaction from the President's death.

## Tension Builds

"Perhaps the assassination is relished by these aggressive individuals for years following the event.

"Once the presidential death fades into the past, the tension builds up again until another successful assassination provides emotional relief."

To illustrate his point, Dr. Krippner said that in the cases of Harding and Roosevelt, the two Presidents since Lincoln who died from natural causes, there was speculation that in reality they had been killed.

"This speculation may have been wishful thinking, an attempt to derive some satisfac-

tion from the murder of an authority figure."

## Mental Energy May Kill

Admitting that his theory may be far-fetched, Dr. Krippner speculates that if the hostility of the nation's paranoid schizophrenics does not have an outlet in the violent death of a President, perhaps the psychokinetic energy accumulated over 20 years, can affect the President's health to such an extent that it causes his death.

Psychokinetic energy is mental energy that has the power to influence objects.

Examples would be the dice which obeys its player's command, the plant which withers and dies after being cursed, and the object which flies across a room following someone's hostile thoughts about its owner.

Dr. Krippner's theory, in simple terms, is as follows:

Either a paranoid schizophrenic kills the President, the symbol of his hatred.

Or else the nation's paranoid schizophrenics build up such a large amount of hostile psychokinetic energy that it kills the President.

After his death, the psychokinetic energy begins building up again, reaching its peak exactly 20 years later.

If Dr. Krippner's theory is correct, the next president to die in office will be elected in 1960.