

UP CLOSE

Rob Zaleski

Is JFK shooting really solved?



Zaleski

Finally.

After enduring 30 years of some of the wildest assassination theories imaginable — theories that fingered everyone from Jimmy Hoffa to Col. Mustard in the pantry with a revolver —

the American public has learned the truth about who killed John F. Kennedy.

It was Lee Harvey Oswald and Lee Harvey Oswald alone, says Gerald Posner, a one-time Wall Street lawyer whose new book, "Case Closed," is being hailed as the definitive investigative account of what really happened on that grim day in Dallas three decades ago.

In fact, the response from critics has been so overwhelmingly positive that some historians are suggesting it's time for many Americans to give up their obsession with the assassination and get on with their lives.

What's a confused public to think?

(Which, to be sure, would be a major relief to millions of other Americans whose bodies go numb at mere mention of the name "Kennedy.")

The book — one of 10 out or due out this fall, just in time for the 30th anniversary of the shooting — hit the nation's bookstores just three weeks ago and already ranks No. 8 on the New York Times' best sellers list.

U.S. News and World Report devoted nearly an entire issue to the book and unabashedly declared that Posner, 39, had achieved the unprecedented.

"He sweeps away decades of polemical smoke, layer by layer, and builds an unshakable case against JFK's killer," it boozed.

Author Jeffrey Toobin, reviewing for the Chicago Tribune, called it "utterly convincing in its thesis, which seems, in light of all that has transpired over the past 30 years, almost revolutionary."

And Stephen Ambrose, the distinguished University of Wisconsin alumnus and biographer of Nixon and Eisenhower, calls the book "absolutely flawless" and says it should, in fact, put an end to the who-killed-JFK controversy once and for all.

"I don't know the guy (Posner), I've got nothing at stake here," Ambrose said in a phone interview from Rutgers University, where he teaches a course on the Cold War.

"But this is a wonderful, fabulous book. He has meticulously taken every point and broken it down and examined it thoroughly."

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