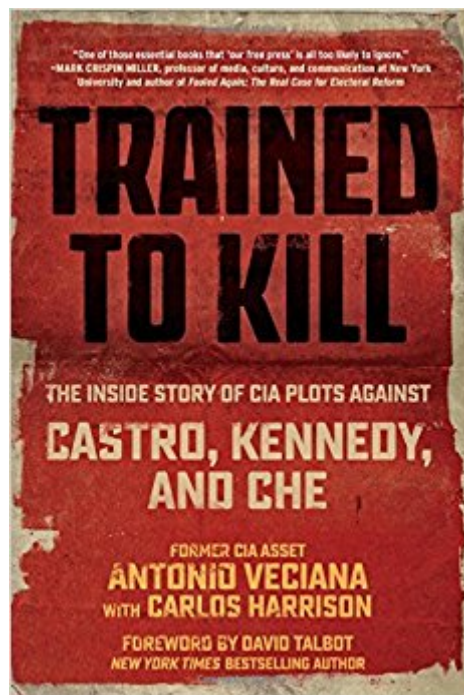




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# Trained To Kill: The Inside Story Of CIA Plots Against Castro, Kennedy, And Che



## Synopsis

Antonio Veciana fought on the front lines of the CIA's decades-long secret war to destroy Fidel Castro, the bearded bogeyman who haunted America's Cold War dreams. It was a time of swirling intrigue, involving US spies with license to kill, Mafia hit men, ruthless Cuban exiles; and the leaders in the crosshairs of all this dark plotting, Fidel Castro and John F. Kennedy. Veciana transformed himself from an asthmatic banker to a bomb-making mastermind who headed terrorist attacks in Havana and assassination attempts against Castro, while building one of the era's most feared paramilitary groups; all under the direction of the CIA. In the end, Veciana became a threat; not just to Castro, but also to his CIA handler. Veciana was the man who knew too much. Suddenly he found himself a target; framed and sent to prison, and later shot in the head and left to die on a Miami street. When he was called before a Congressional committee investigating the Kennedy assassination, Veciana held back, fearful of the consequences. He didn't reveal the identity of the CIA officer who directed him; the same agent Veciana observed meeting with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas before the killing of JFK. Now, for the first time, Veciana tells all, detailing his role in the intricate game of thrones that aimed to topple world leaders and change the course of history. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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## Customer Reviews

"A tale with all the twists, turns and action sequences of a [Bourne](#) film." [New York Post](#) "Trained to Kill is not another tinfoil hat Kennedy-conspiracy book; declassified CIA cables confirm Veciana's working relationship with the agency and even his code name, AMSHALE-1. The book is a soldier's story about what he saw on the front lines of the Cuban-American struggle for power." [Newsweek](#) "Astonishing." [Daily Mail](#) "Trained to Kill is one of those essential books that our free press is all too likely to ignore, because of all the awful truth between its covers; especially its shattering confirmation that David Attlee Phillips of the CIA did introduce the author to Lee Harvey Oswald just weeks before the assassination of John Kennedy. While thus exploding the old myth of Oswald as 'lone gunman,' this chilling memoir also sheds new light on Che Guevara's murder, Operation Condor, and the fanatic amorality behind the management of US covert operations." [Mark Crispin Miller](#), professor of media, culture, and communication at New York University and author of *Fooled Again: The Real Case for Electoral Reform* "Antonio Veciana's Trained to Kill is one of the most important historical documents to have emerged in the U.S. in the past decade. This inside story of the CIA plots to kill Fidel Castro, President John F. Kennedy and Che Guevara not only makes for riveting reading, it also shines a stark light on the darkest corners of U.S. covert operations in the 1960s and '70s. In one of the most dramatic episodes in a book filled with them, Veciana confirms that his CIA handler; a smooth and ruthless rising star at the agency named David Atlee Phillips; was also running Lee Harvey Oswald. This is a real history of American power, one that is destined to disturb and enlighten any citizen who can handle the truth." [David Talbot](#), founder of Salon and New York Times bestselling author of *The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government* "Antonio Veciana is a witness to history who cannot be ignored. Laconic and lucid, this crafty accountant tells the story of his deadly operations against Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. He details the intimate dealings he had with top CIA officers. And his story culminates in a perilous series of events that exposed a dangerous truth and changed Veciana's way of thinking: his suave CIA handler, David Phillips, had played a role in the ambush of President Kennedy in Dallas. In telling his story

with candor and humility, Veciana demonstrates the courage of a now-peaceful warrior. —Jefferson Morley, author of *The Ghost: The Secret Life of CIA Spymaster James Jesus Angleton* "At long last, the primary leader of the CIA-backed, anti-Castro group of Cuban exiles has come forward to shatter the Warren Commission's finding that the assassination of President Kennedy was the work of a 'lone nut.' Antonio Veciana's story should revise the history books." —Dick Russell, New York Times bestselling author of *The Man Who Knew Too Much* "From Havana to Santiago to New York, Antonio Veciana plotted to kill Castro. This book describes those plots and his other attempts to reverse Cuba's Marxist revolution. His was a true terrorist campaign before the phrase became a commonplace of journalism. But Veciana planned his acts of murder and mayhem as an agent of the American government, more specifically the CIA. This well-written, candid, and exciting book describes his Agency career and provides a memorable portrait of his recruiter and manager. The legendary David Phillips—the man who likely had a role in the conspiracy to kill JFK—comes alive and inhabits these pages as he does in no other book you will read." —James DiEugenio, author of *Reclaiming Parkland* "As was once said about him and the words in these pages confirm, Antonio Veciana is one of history's most important individuals. Whether as the CIA's point man in Havana in post-revolutionary Cuba, the mastermind behind the legendary anti-Castro exile group Alpha 66, or the unwitting witness to Lee Harvey Oswald's meeting with his CIA handler at an office building in Dallas days before the JFK assassination, Mr. Veciana's unflinching and courageous confessional memoir definitively answers so many of the baffling questions raised by CIA's operations in the twentieth century—and his answers both illuminate and disturb." —Fernand R. Amandi, Bendixen & Amandi International "Antonio Veciana had a compelling mission in life, to help free his countrymen from a ruthless dictator. His long, painful path towards freedom intersected with my husband's passion to help solve the mystery of the death of President Kennedy. Veciana's startling revelation that he saw his CIA mentor, Maurice Bishop, with Lee Harvey Oswald, led my husband on his own mission to identify Bishop." —Marie Fonzi

Antonio Veciana is one of the most swashbuckling figures from the underground war against Fidel Castro in the 1960s and '70s. A former bank accountant in pre-revolutionary Havana, Veciana turned himself into a daring leader of the anti-Castro movement, organizing multiple assassination attempts and founding one of the most militant Cuban exile groups, Alpha 66, under the secret guidance of the CIA. He lives in Miami, Florida. Carlos Harrison is a former reporter for

the Miami Herald, where he won the Pulitzer Prize, and has worked as a national and international correspondent for Fox News. He is the author of fourteen books in English and Spanish, and has written numerous magazine articles and award-winning television documentaries. He lives in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

In this brave account, Antonio Veciana discloses how the secret government of the US really operates. His confession supports Jim Garrison's conclusions that Lee Harvey Oswald was indeed a member of the intelligence community and that there was a plot to kill Kennedy that was planned by members of that community. Veciana met Oswald at a meeting with his own CIA handler, a man he knew as Maurice Bishop, in a Dallas bank in September of 1963, a few weeks before the assassination. In this book, Veciana positively identifies "Bishop" as David Atlee Phillips, the CIA's chief of operations for the Western Hemisphere, who recruited Veciana to organize the terrorist group, Alpha 66, to kill Castro. This is a devastating story of how the CIA trains its operatives to lie, cheat, steal and kill, and to put the loyalty to the Company above their families, their religion and moral values to commit acts of sabotage and violence. At the end of the book, Veciana registers some regret at neglecting his family. "Now I am old. My wife is gone. My children are grown. I have survived cancer and a heart attack. Now I can reveal the truth about my double life." This account should revise our history books that wrongly claim our President was killed by a "lone nut" and prompt the government and the MSM to tell the truth at last. Other books on to consult about the the coup of 1963: Jim Garrison's ON THE TRAIL OF THE ASSASSINS; James Douglass' masterpiece JFK AND THE UNSPEAKABLE; DESTINY BETRAYED by Jim DiEugenio; BREACH OF TRUST by Gerald McKnight; and for further information on Veciana, Gaeton Fonzi's THE LAST INVESTIGATION. Other important authors who have written about the Deep State include David Talbot, John Newman and Peter Dale Scott. We are entitled to know our history and 54 years is too long to wait for the truth from our government officials and journalists who have been part of the cover-up since November 22, 1963. The JFK Records Act of 1992 requires that all assassination-related materials still held secret in the National Archives, calculated to be thousands of pages, be released by October, 2017. Only our current chief executive can veto the release and further obscure the the truth.

Introducing Antonio Veciana's book - "Trained to Kill: The Inside Story of CIA Plots Against Castro, Kennedy and Che." I couldn't help thinking when reading Veciana's riveting account of his licensed-to-kill days

as a CIA asset: Will our country's bloody past now come back to haunt us as our politics continues to badly splinter the nation? First, this preamble: Donald Trump is our President! He is a very controversial figure. We live in an era where Democrats and Republicans are daily at each others' throats and little gets done to benefit the 99 %. Meanwhile, growing numbers of our fellow citizens are living on the edge of the abyss. This is a sure formula for more confrontations or worse! Talks of impeachment are also in the air, along with - bullets! On Wednesday morning, June 14, 2017, in northern Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C., a demented gunman, who is also a Republican/Trump hater, "targeted" Republican Congressmen and opened fire on them. They were participating in a baseball practice. One Congressman, Rep. Steve Scalise, (Rep. LA), was wounded. His condition is listed as "critical." The gunman, who was using an assault rifle, was killed by the return fire of the Capitol Police's security detail. He was identified as James T. Hodgkinson, age 66, from Belleville, IL. In the last presidential election, he had campaigned passionately for Bernie Sanders for president! (The "Bernie" immediately disowned the head case, Hodgkinson.) Our America, via its "Deep State" operatives, has a notorious record of removing foreign leaders, whose politics our elite insiders oppose, by any means necessary, including - murder. A case in point was the CIA-orchestrated assassination in 1973, of Chile's Socialist President, Salvador Allende. The fingerprints of then-President Richard M. Nixon and his alter-ego, Henry Kissinger, are all over that foul deed. A sage once warned: "Karma is a bitch!" This brings us back to Veciana. He is a native of Cuba, who now resides in Miami, FL. He is 88 years old and in failing health. He insisted that he wrote the book because he no longer feared a Cuban-inspired assassination attempt on himself. Veciana said it was time to reveal "the truth about his double life." In his book, written with Carlos Harrison, Veciana recounts his amazing transformation, beginning in 1959, from a mild manner accountant in Havana, to a paid CIA asset, a spy, a wannabe Fidel Castro assassin and a terrorist. (Veciana was raised in the "Old Town" part of Havana, which I visited in May of last year. His book was published before the death of Castro. I couldn't help noticing while I was in Cuba, that the iconic Che Guevara was held in higher esteem than Castro.) Like many of his fellow Cubans, Veciana opposed the dictator Fulgenico Batista, who came to power in 1952. On January 1, 1959, Batista fled Cuba for Spain. Castro and his supporters then took over. At first, Veciana added, "Everyone saw Castro as a hero." In the end,

however, he became just another "dictator," like Batista. He only wanted "power for himself." Veciana soon joined the Castro opposition. Veciana then met a man known as "Maurice Bishop." His real moniker was David Atlee Phillips. He would later become the CIA's chief of Western Hemisphere operations and Veciana's handler. For all the failed hit jobs on Castro, Bishop supplied Veciana with the "training, the money, the intelligence and the weapons." Veciana details all of the assassination attempts in his book. Some of the capers, however, read like a "keystone cop" operation, including the one where they were going to kill Castro with a (double gasp) - "poison pen!" When Veciana finally ran out of gas as a CIA asset, in July, 1973, Bishop retired him. He then gave him \$253,000 as a "honorarium." Gee, a nice deal if you can get it! A failed attempt, in Miami, on Veciana's life soon followed. Eventually, both Bishop and Veciana testified, in the late 70s, before a Select House Committee investigating the JFK assassination. Bishop died in 1988. There is also an embarrassing incident in Veciana's background that is revealed. The most shocking revelation in this memoir is the author's claim that he met Lee Harvey Oswald, in a Dallas, Texas, hotel lobby, with Bishop, only days before JFK's assassination, on November, 22, 1963. If true, it would give credence to Oswald's final words, "I'm a patsy" and put the CIA, and Bishop/Phillips, in the center of that crime of the century. "Trained to Kill" covers a lot of our country's darkest chapters. It's a darn good book, but without corroboration in key parts, its plausibility should be weighted carefully by the discerning reader.

Mr. Veciana has produced an autobiographical history of his involvement in Alpha 66. One does not sense that the author exaggerates his role in any of the events and may even be de-emphasizing his own importance. That most significant Veciana addition to the knowledge of who Oswald was is absolutely underplayed and it would seem that more might be added about roles played by others in Alpha 66. Be that as it may, this is an easy to read, almost conversational discussion of Veciana's dedicated work. The reader should develop an appreciation of why Veciana remained in the background of assassination investigation. I also am left wondering if he might have indicated more regarding others associated with the events so many people wonder about.

The first hand testimony of key dark operative for the CIA in Latin America and the fight against communism. Insider viewpoint of the CIA's tactics to disrupt, assassinate, create coup d'etat's. Veciana has always been an important link to Lee Harvey Oswald's connection to the intelligence world and the plot to kill Castro. Great information and a good read....

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