

BOOK REVIEW

The Fall of Ufology: Don't Bother Me with Your Deceit by Geoffrey B. Cox. Outskirts Press, 2021. 210 pp. \$18.95 (paperback). ASIN: Bo8T1QJSGF.

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This self-published book is clearly the product of a frustrated researcher. The subtitle alone provides an accurate insight into Cox's thinking. That said, anyone who has been around these fields for any length of time can share a sense of frustration. Listening to any number of self-anointed experts, and even charlatans, who populate the fields of the paranormal, can be exasperating. Yes, tall tales abound. Unfortunately, there are no lower limits to crazy that will not attract a following. Such is the nature of studying unexplained phenomena.

The publication does not appear to have been professionally edited, as one finds both grammatical and contextual errors. Cox contracted with a company called *Outskirts Press*; one that specializes in physically printing self-published books. In checking with them, I found they do offer an editing service. The author would have been better served to have paid for that option, as there are many incomplete sentences and other grammatical errors. As an established author, I believe attempting to edit your own material is fraught with danger. That is the position I believe most frequently published and serious authors would agree with.

Mechanically speaking, *The Fall of the Ufology* appears to be designed for an e-publication, as opposed to a print format. That is because there are many Internet sites that are listed and that I suspect can be directly accessed in electronically published form. The contextual format changes significantly throughout the book. Some of

it is straight nonfiction statements of fact, but that is often followed by side commentary as if one were attending a social gathering.

While the title implies the singular topic is UFOs, it digresses into many other areas. He takes significant liberties in defining, or redefining, terms that have been around for many years, even centuries. Seemingly, Cox does view himself as the arbiter of acceptability of terms. As an example, he proffers "*Anomaly*" as a new term which he defines "as a person who studies anomalies," as opposed to parapsychology or ufology. In many ways, what Cox puts forth many of us would view as a blinding flash of the obvious. The notion of the interrelationship between various fields in the study of phenomena has been addressed for decades. Several authors, including Jacques Vallé and myself, have written extensively on this matter.

On a hypocritical note, Cox simultaneously admonishes Ufologists who present outlandish opinions at conferences, and then destroys his own credibility by accepting extreme conspiracy theories. While addressing his own UAP (unidentified aerial phenomena) sightings, he states that he believes the craft to be of man-made origin. That, even though he witnessed events that would be beyond our currently known technical capabilities. Specifically, on page 32 he states, "I believe now that somehow we on earth have been given this technology from 'Outside Intelligence.'" Here, I am admittedly biased, but have explicitly eliminated that possibility in my own UFO writings. The notion that the U.S. government has reverse-engineered a crashed UFO is not new. But as I have pointed out, if such technology existed, making small craft that flit about would be trivial compared to the fundamental understanding of an entirely new energy source. Such a capability would undeniably alter our strategic interests and geopolitical landscape forever.

Cox's commentary is even more amazing as he is a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) and states that he had considerable experience with many types of aircraft in the U.S. inventory. As such, he should be aware that the troubled F-35 has the most advanced technology available in aviation today. It is understood that there may be some advanced technology under development that has yet to be revealed to the public. However, since the U.S. has been in a state of war since 2001, if we had access to technology that would change the energy landscape of the world it would have been made public by now.

While fluffing, padding, or expanding one's bio happens too frequently, Cox has done so with this book. That is only consequential as he is relying on his background for credibility. Interestingly, in the Prologue he states, "I am going to simplify this as much as I can without writing a thesis for my doctoral degree." That was misleading at best, as he does not appear to hold any advanced degrees. He lists himself as a co-pilot of an F-16, when in reality he was in the backseat as a passenger. And later in the book he claims to be a C-5 co-pilot. While senior enlisted people (Cox was a SMSGT [Senior Master Sergeant]) are extremely important throughout the military, they are not rated as pilots of USAF aircraft. He also lists his studies with Dr. Richard Haines who happens to be a personal friend of mine. When called, NARCAP (National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena) did not support that claim. Cox notes that the C-5 Galaxy is the "Largest Military Aircraft." As a minor correction, while it is the biggest U.S. military aircraft, the "world's largest" title belongs to the Russian Antonov AN-124, which is 20% larger than the American transporter.

On several occasions Cox does employ, and credit, the work of others. However, I did find at least one example of plagiarism.

Thin places are places of energy. A place where the veil between this world and the eternal world is thin. A thin place is where one can walk in two worlds—the worlds are fused together, knitted loosely where the differences can be discerned or tightly where the two worlds become one. Thin places aren't perceived with the five senses. Experiencing them goes beyond those limits. (p. 17)

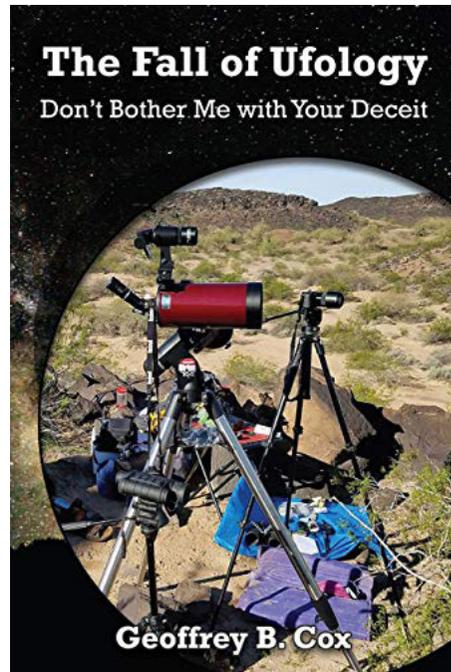
Those words are found on page 17 of his book and they are also taken word for word, without attribution, from the podcast of a travel agency (Thin Places Travel Podcast, 2015) and is the entirety of his commentary on the topic.

In Chapter 10 titled "God Has No Religion," Cox diverges into almost unintelligible discussion regarding religions and UFOs. In one paragraph he states, "The mysteries of parapsychology, astrology, UFOs/UAP's crossing over, life after death, and numerous cults were occults 'in these times' are considered the norm while Christianity is considered 'out of place' or possibly criminal." In that chapter Cox goes

on to explain his understanding of the interrelationships among UFOs, angels, demons, and what he calls the *final invasion*. His notion is supported by a full page of biblical references that I suspect many readers will have problems with. Cox questions whether those events are “really demonic spirits that are playing games with us.” He notes, “It is either extraterrestrial, from another planet, who are looking down and observing us, or is it just demons masquerading as friendly aliens trying to come to us as Angels of Light.”

Throughout the book Cox handles information about related phenomena in a very uneven manner. Crop circles are brushed over in three pages followed by 24 pages addressing animal responses to UFOs. This is mostly a compendium of anecdotes and materials from other sources. Included are ten pages of material by Joan Woodward. That is a summarization of the original 2005 paper titled *Animal Reactions to UFOs: A Preliminary Investigation from the Animals' Perspective* (Woodward, 2005). Of concern to some SSE readers might be his chapter on alternatives to medicine which he addresses in less than two pages. Then, cryptozoology, another complex subject, is covered in three pages.

The author is prone to interjecting his opinions which often include huge leaps over logic, without scientific foundation. As an example, on page 127, in a short chapter titled *Mutes* (referring to animal mutilations), he states, “My theory, until proven wrong, is that the blood is taken from these animals (normally bovines) as a food source for the Greys.” From personal experience, I can state that cattle mutilations do occur and in some of the cases defy traditional explanation. However, his proposition is so far beyond the pale that



that should serve as a warning for other opinions throughout the book. For the record, exsanguination has been observed in a few cases of cattle mutilation, but hardly enough to be considered a “food source” for any contingent of alien entities.

Cox discusses orbs in several sections of the book and does mention known causes such as ball lightning. In reality, orbs are both controversial and a complex topic as they have been reported in many UFO cases, but they are also observed in association with other phenomena. In a chapter titled *Great Balls of . . . Light*, he informs the readers about some of the characteristics attributed to them. He goes on to classify them, including noting the different colors of some orbs and what that might imply. As an example, he states an amber orb means, “watcher from above” while a white orb means “general reconnaissance.” While little of that makes any sense, Cox claims that his classification of orbs is based on studies of 10,000 case reports. He notes that by his classification he is showing his appreciation for clarification of questions he, and other researchers, had about orbs. According to Cox, the information provided through the orbs, “is taught to them by the Greys themselves.”

Cox rightfully raises concerns that might be found in the reporting of UFOs inside the Air Force. For decades it has been known that this is not a career-enhancing topic to discuss. On page 131 he addresses the Personal Reliability Program (PRP), which is administered to ensure the psychological stability of all airmen involved in certain sensitive programs. He incorrectly states that if one reported seeing such objects to their commander or to the Office of Special Investigation (OSI), they “would automatically be transferred out of the program.” Because of the case at Bentwaters Air Force Base in the UK, we know that is not accurate. Many of the USAF observers in that incident were participants in the PRP. While some were harassed, they were not transferred.

Other, seemingly random topics include a cursory overview of kinesics, known to most people as nonverbal communication, and a two-page recanting of the mythology of orbs that he ascribes to various indigenous people. There is also a semi-conspiratorial chapter called *Dugway—You Can’t Handle the Truth*. Those eleven pages cover a brief description of events at Dugway Proving Grounds, including mention of the infamous nerve agent accident that killed a number of sheep in

1968 and a few additional incidents that do not seem to be related to the main topic.

As an experienced field investigator, Cox does include material on what he believes are the qualities needed to enter into UFO research. He rightfully suggests that fundamental understanding of astronomy would be useful. Regarding equipment and other personal gear, he suggests what should be available to field researchers. Those pages appear to be quite similar to content in *The MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*. There are also form letters and reports that he suggests be followed during an investigation.

The most egregious flaw, in my view, is the author's castigation of fellow ufologists, while elucidating conspiracy theories that are at least as scientifically implausible as any of theirs. Therefore, unfortunately, my conclusion must be that this book would not be a benefit to the members of the SSE.

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