

Ted Kaczynski – Wikipedia

Various

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Theodore John Kaczynski (*kə-ZIN-skee*; born May 22, 1942), also known as the **Unabomber**, is an American domestic terrorist and former mathematics professor.¹² Between 1978 and 1995, Kaczynski killed three people and injured 23 others in a nationwide mail bombing campaign against people he believed to be advancing modern technology and the destruction of the environment. He authored *Industrial Society and Its Future*, a 35,000-word manifesto and social critique opposing industrialization, rejecting leftism, and advocating for a nature-centered form of anarchism.³

In 1971, Kaczynski abandoned his academic career to pursue a primitive life, moving to a remote cabin without electricity or running water near Lincoln, Montana, where he lived as a recluse while learning survival skills to become self-sufficient. After witnessing the destruction of the wilderness surrounding his cabin, he concluded that living in nature was becoming impossible and resolved to fight industrialization and its destruction of nature through terrorism. In 1979, Kaczynski became the subject of what was, by the time of his arrest, the longest and most expensive investigation in the history of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).⁴ The FBI used the case identifier **UNABOM** (University and Airline Bomber) before his identity was known, resulting in the media naming him the "Unabomber".

In 1995, Kaczynski sent a letter to *The New York Times* promising to "desist from terrorism" if the *Times* or *The Washington Post* published his manifesto, in which he argued that his bombings were extreme but necessary in attracting attention to the erosion of human freedom and dignity by modern technologies that require mass organization.⁵ The FBI and Attorney General Janet Reno pushed for the publication of the essay, which appeared in *The Washington Post* in September 1995. Upon reading it, Kaczynski's brother, David, recognized the prose style and reported his suspicions to the FBI. Kaczynski was arrested in 1996, and—maintaining that he was sane—tried and failed to dismiss his court-appointed lawyers because they wanted him to plead insanity to avoid the death penalty. He pleaded guilty to all charges in 1998 and was sentenced to eight consecutive life terms in prison without the possibility of parole.

¹ Mahan & Griset (2008), p. 132.

² Habermeld & von Hassell (2009), p. 40.

³ Gautney (2010), p. 199.

⁴ ^a ^b Howlett1996 - Howlett, Debbie (November 13, 1996). "FBI Profile: Suspect is educated and isolated". *USA Today*. Archived from the original on June 2, 2016. Retrieved July 13, 2017. <q>The 17-year search for the bomber has been the longest and costliest investigation in FBI history.</q>

⁵ ^a ^b "Excerpts From Letter by 'Terrorist Group', FC, Which Says It Sent Bombs". *The New York Times*. April 26, 1995. Archived from the original on August 7, 2017.

Early life

Childhood

Theodore John Kaczynski was born in Chicago on May 22, 1942, to working-class parents Wanda Theresa (*née* Dombek) and Theodore Richard Kaczynski, a sausage maker.¹ The two were Polish Americans who were raised as Catholics but later became atheists.² They married on April 11, 1939.³

From first to fourth grade (ages six to nine), Kaczynski attended Sherman Elementary School in Chicago, where administrators described him as healthy and well-adjusted.⁴ In 1952, three years after David was born, the family moved to suburban Evergreen Park, Illinois; Ted transferred to Evergreen Park Central Junior High School. After testing scored his IQ at 167,⁵ he skipped the sixth grade. Kaczynski later described this as a pivotal event: previously he had socialized with his peers and was even a leader, but after skipping ahead of them he felt he did not fit in with the older children, who bullied him.⁶

Neighbors in Evergreen Park later described the Kaczynski family as "civic-minded folks", one recalling the parents "sacrificed everything they had for their children".⁷

¹ "The Unabomber's family photo album". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on April 21, 2019. Retrieved May 19, 2019.

² *a b c d e f g h i j k* McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

³ *a b c d e f g h i j k* McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

⁴ Chase (2004), p. 161.

⁵ "The Kaczynski brothers and neighbors". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on August 17, 2017. Retrieved February 23, 2021.

⁶ Chase (2004), pp. 107–108.

⁷ *a b c d e f g h i j k* McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

Both Ted and David were intelligent, but Ted exceptionally so. Neighbors described him as a smart but lonely individual.⁸⁹

High school

Kaczynski attended Evergreen Park Community High School, where he excelled academically. He played the trombone in the marching band and was a member of the mathematics, biology, coin, and German clubs.¹⁰¹¹ In 1996, a former classmate said: "He was never really seen as a person, as an individual personality ... He was always regarded as a walking brain, so to speak."¹² During this period, Kaczynski became intensely interested in mathematics, spending hours studying and solving advanced problems. He became associated with a group of like-minded boys interested in science and mathematics, known as the "briefcase boys" for their penchant for carrying briefcases.¹³

Throughout high school, Kaczynski was ahead of his classmates academically. Placed in a more advanced mathematics class, he soon mastered the material. He skipped the eleventh grade, and by attending summer school he graduated at age 15. Kaczynski was one of his school's five National Merit finalists and was encouraged to apply to Harvard.¹⁴ While still at age 15, he was accepted to Harvard and entered the university on a scholarship in 1958 at age 16.¹⁵ A classmate later said Kaczynski was emotionally unprepared: "They packed him up and sent him to Harvard before he was ready ... He didn't even have a driver's license."¹⁶

⁸ *a b c d e f g h i j k* McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

⁹ "Kaczynski: Too smart, too shy to fit in". *USA Today*. Associated Press. November 13, 1996. Archived from the original on November 11, 2020. Retrieved July 5, 2017.

¹⁰ *a b c d* AchenbachKovaleski1996 - Achenbach, Joel; Kovaleski, Serge F. (April 7, 1996). "The Profile of a Loner". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on August 11, 2017.

¹¹ *a b* MartinBecker1996 - Martin, Andrew; Becker, Robert (April 16, 1996). "Egghead Kaczynski Was Loner in High School". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on August 11, 2017.

¹² *a b c d e f g h i j k* McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

¹³ *a b* MartinBecker1996 - Martin, Andrew; Becker, Robert (April 16, 1996). "Egghead Kaczynski Was Loner in High School". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on August 11, 2017.

¹⁴ *a b c d* AchenbachKovaleski1996 - Achenbach, Joel; Kovaleski, Serge F. (April 7, 1996). "The Profile of a Loner". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on August 11, 2017.

¹⁵ Hickey (2003), p. 268.

¹⁶ *a b c d e f g h i j k* McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

Harvard University

During his first year at Harvard, Kaczynski lived at 8 Prescott Street, which was designed to accommodate the youngest, most precocious incoming students in a small, intimate living space. For the following three years, he lived at Eliot House. Housemates and other students at Harvard described Kaczynski as a very intelligent but socially reserved person.¹⁷ Kaczynski earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Harvard in 1962, finishing with a GPA of 3.12.¹⁸¹⁹²⁰

Psychological study

In his second year at Harvard, Kaczynski participated in a study described by author Alston Chase as a "purposely brutalizing psychological experiment" led by Harvard psychologist Henry Murray. Subjects were told they would debate personal philosophy with a fellow student and were asked to write essays detailing their personal beliefs and aspirations. The essays were given to an anonymous individual who would confront and belittle the subject in what Murray himself called "vehement, sweeping, and personally abusive" attacks, using the content of the essays as ammunition.²¹ Electrodes monitored the subject's physiological reactions. These encounters were filmed, and subjects' expressions of anger and rage were later played back to them repeatedly.²² The experiment lasted three years, with someone verbally abusing and humiliating Kaczynski each week.²³²⁴ Kaczynski spent 200 hours as part of the study.²⁵

¹⁷ Song2012 - Song, David (May 21, 2012). "Theodore J. Kaczynski". *The Harvard Crimson*. Archived from the original on August 19, 2017.

¹⁸ KnotheAndersen2012 - Knothe, Alli; Andersen, Travis (May 23, 2012). "Unabomber lists self as 'prisoner' in Harvard directory". *The Boston Globe*. Archived from the original on September 1, 2017.

¹⁹ "Unabomber in Harvard reunion note". BBC. May 24, 2012. Archived from the original on September 1, 2017.

²⁰ ^{a b c d} Stampfl2006 - Stampfl, Karl (March 16, 2006). "He came Ted Kaczynski, he left The Unabomber". *The Michigan Daily*. Archived from the original on January 14, 2017.

²¹ ^{a b c d e} Alston2000 - Alston, Chase (June 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 285, no. 6. Archived from the original on October 24, 2014. Retrieved November 4, 2022.

²² ^{a b c d e} Alston2000 - Alston, Chase (June 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 285, no. 6. Archived from the original on October 24, 2014. Retrieved November 4, 2022.

²³ Moreno2012 - Moreno, Jonathan D (May 25, 2012). "Harvard's Experiment on the Unabomber, Class of '62". *Psychology Today*. Archived from the original on December 21, 2017. Retrieved February 23, 2021.

²⁴ Haas2016 - Haas, Michaela (February 25, 2016). "My Brother, the Unabomber". *Medium*. Archived from the original on April 9, 2016. Retrieved April 9, 2016.

²⁵ Gitlin2003 - Gitlin, Todd (March 2, 2003). "A Dangerous Mind". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on May 8, 2018.

Kaczynski's lawyers later attributed his hostility towards mind control techniques to his participation in Murray's study.²⁶ Some sources have suggested that Murray's experiments were part of Project MKUltra, the Central Intelligence Agency's research into mind control.²⁷²⁸ Chase and others have also suggested that this experience may have motivated Kaczynski's criminal activities.²⁹³⁰ Kaczynski stated he resented Murray and his co-workers, primarily because of the invasion of his privacy he perceived as a result of their experiments. Nevertheless, he said he was "quite confident that [his] experiences with Professor Murray had no significant effect on the course of [his] life".³¹

²⁶ *a b c d e* Alston2000 - Alston, Chase (June 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 285, no. 6. Archived from the original on October 24, 2014. Retrieved November 4, 2022.

²⁷ Moreno (2012).

²⁸ "MKUltra: Inside the CIA's Cold War mind control experiments". *The Week*. July 21, 2017. Archived from the original on November 22, 2017.

²⁹ Chase (2003), pp. 18–19.

³⁰ Jad_Abumrad2010" class="citation podcast cs1][Jad Abumrad (June 28, 2010). "Oops" (Podcast). WNYC Studios. Event occurs at 12:31. Archived from the original on January 28, 2021. Retrieved March 2, 2021.

³¹ Sperber (2010), p. 41.

Mathematics career

In 1962, Kaczynski enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics in 1964 and 1967, respectively. Michigan was not his first choice for postgraduate education; he had applied to the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Chicago, both of which accepted him but offered him no teaching position or financial aid. Michigan offered him an annual grant of \$2,310 (equivalent to \$20,693 in 2021) and a teaching post.¹

At Michigan, Kaczynski specialized in complex analysis, specifically geometric function theory. Professor Peter Duren said of Kaczynski, "He was an unusual person. He was not like the other graduate students. He was much more focused about his work. He had a drive to discover mathematical truth." George Piranian, another of his Michigan mathematics professors, said, "It is not enough to say he was smart."² Professor Allen Shields wrote about Kaczynski in a grade evaluation that he was the "best man I have seen."³ Kaczynski received 1 F, 5 Bs and 12 As in his 18 courses at the university. In 2006, he said he had unpleasant memories of Michigan and felt the university had low standards for grading, as evidenced by his relatively high grades.⁴

For a period of several weeks in 1966, Kaczynski experienced intense sexual fantasies of being female and decided to undergo gender transition. He arranged to meet with a psychiatrist, but changed his mind in the waiting room and did not disclose his reason for making the appointment. Afterwards, enraged, he considered killing the psychiatrist and other people whom he hated. Kaczynski described this episode as a "major turning point" in his life:⁵⁶⁷ "I felt disgusted about what my uncontrolled sexual cravings had almost led me to do. And I felt humiliated, and I violently hated the

¹ ^{a b c d} Stampfl2006 - Stampfl, Karl (March 16, 2006). "He came Ted Kaczynski, he left The Unabomber". *The Michigan Daily*. Archived from the original on January 14, 2017.

² ^{a b} Ostrom, _Carol _M.1996 - Ostrom, Carol M. (April 6, 1996). "Unabomber Suspect Is Charged – Montana Townsfolk Showed Tolerance For 'The Hermit'". *The Seattle Times*. Archived from the original on December 27, 2008.

³ Stampfl2006 - Stampfl, Karl (March 16, 2006). "He came Ted Kaczynski, he left The Unabomber". *The Michigan Daily*. Archived from the original on March 21, 2022. Retrieved March 21, 2022.

⁴ ^{a b c d} Stampfl2006 - Stampfl, Karl (March 16, 2006). "He came Ted Kaczynski, he left The Unabomber". *The Michigan Daily*. Archived from the original on January 14, 2017.

⁵ Wiehl (2020), pp. 78–79.

⁶ ^{a b} Booth1998 - Booth, William (September 12, 1998). "Gender Confusion, Sex Change Idea Fueled Kaczynski's Rage, Report Says". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on August 18, 2020. Retrieved July 31, 2020.

⁷ Magid2009" class="citation journal cs1][Magid, Adam K. (August 29, 2009). "The Unabomber Revisited: Reexamining the Use of Mental Disorder Diagnoses as Evidence of the Mental Condition of

psychiatrist. Just then there came a major turning point in my life. Like a Phoenix, I burst from the ashes of my despair to a glorious new hope.”⁸

In 1967, Kaczynski’s dissertation *Boundary Functions*⁹ won the Sumner B. Myers Prize for Michigan’s best mathematics dissertation of the year.¹⁰ Allen Shields, his doctoral advisor, called it “the best I have ever directed”,¹¹ and Maxwell Reade, a member of his dissertation committee, said, “I would guess that maybe 10 or 12 men in the country understood or appreciated it.”¹²¹³

In late 1967, the 25-year-old Kaczynski became an acting assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught mathematics. By September 1968, Kaczynski was appointed assistant professor, a sign that he was on track for tenure.¹⁴ His teaching evaluations suggest he was not well-liked by his students: he seemed uncomfortable teaching, taught straight from the textbook and refused to answer questions.¹⁵ Without any explanation, Kaczynski resigned on June 30, 1969.¹⁶ In a 1970 letter directed to Kaczynski’s thesis advisor Allen Shields, written by the chairman of the mathematics department, John W. Addison Jr, the professor referred to the resignation as “quite out of the blue”¹⁷¹⁸ and, markedly, added that “Kaczynski

Criminal Defendants”. *Indiana Law Journal*. S2CID 142388669. Archived from the original on August 8, 2020. Retrieved August 29, 2020 – via Semantic Scholar.

^{8 a b} Booth1998 - Booth, William (September 12, 1998). “Gender Confusion, Sex Change Idea Fueled Kaczynski’s Rage, Report Says”. *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on August 18, 2020. Retrieved July 31, 2020.

^{9 a b} Crenson1996 - Crenson, Matt (July 21, 1996). “Kaczynski’s Dissertation Would Leave Your Head Spinning”. *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on November 4, 2016.

^{10 a b c d e f g h i j k} McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). “Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect”. *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

^{11 a b c d} Stampfl2006 - Stampfl, Karl (March 16, 2006). “He came Ted Kaczynski, he left The Unabomber”. *The Michigan Daily*. Archived from the original on January 14, 2017.

^{12 a b c d e f g h i j k} McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). “Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect”. *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

^{13 a b} Ostrom, _Carol_M.1996 - Ostrom, Carol M. (April 6, 1996). “Unabomber Suspect Is Charged – Montana Townsfolk Showed Tolerance For ‘The Hermit’”. *The Seattle Times*. Archived from the original on December 27, 2008.

^{14 a b c d e f g h i j k} McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). “Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect”. *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

^{15 a b c d e f g h i j k} McFadden, _Robert_D.1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). “Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect”. *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

^{16 a b} Crenson1996 - Crenson, Matt (July 21, 1996). “Kaczynski’s Dissertation Would Leave Your Head Spinning”. *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on November 4, 2016.

¹⁷ Perez-Pena, _Richard1996 - Perez-Pena, Richard (April 5, 1996). “On the Suspect’s Trail: the Suspect; Memories of His Brilliance, And Shyness, but Little Else”. *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 19, 2017.

¹⁸ Graysmith (1998), pp. 11–12.

seemed almost pathologically shy” and that as far as he knew Kaczynski made no close friends in the department, furthermore noting that efforts to bring him more into the ‘swing of things’ had failed.¹⁹²⁰

¹⁹ Felde1996 - Felde, Marie (April 10, 1996). "04.10.96 – Unabomber Suspect Left Little Trace" (Plain text). *UC Berkeley*. The Regents of the University of California. Archived from the original on May 1, 2022. Retrieved May 1, 2022 – via Office of Public Affairs at UC Berkeley.

²⁰ Lee1996 - Lee, Henry K. (April 5, 1996). "Kaczynski's Shyness Recalled by UC Berkeley Colleagues". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Archived from the original on May 1, 2022. Retrieved May 1, 2022.

Life in Montana

After resigning from Berkeley, Kaczynski moved to his parents' home in Lombard, Illinois. Two years later, in 1971, he moved to a remote cabin he had built outside Lincoln, Montana, where he could live a simple life with little money and without electricity or running water,¹ working odd jobs and receiving significant financial support from his family.²

Kaczynski's original goal was to become self-sufficient so he could live autonomously. He used an old bicycle to get to town, and a volunteer at the local library said he visited frequently to read classic works in their original languages. Other Lincoln residents said later that such a lifestyle was not unusual in the area.³ Kaczynski's cabin was described by a census taker in the 1990 census as containing a bed, two chairs, storage trunks, a gas stove, and lots of books.⁴

Starting in 1975, Kaczynski performed acts of sabotage including arson and booby trapping against developments near to his cabin.⁵ He also dedicated himself to reading about sociology and political philosophy, including the works of Jacques Ellul.⁶ Kaczynski's brother David later stated that Ellul's book *The Technological Society* "became Ted's Bible".⁷ Kaczynski recounted in 1998, "When I read the book for the

¹ "125 Montana Newsmakers: Ted Kaczynski". *Great Falls Tribune*. Archived from the original on July 15, 2013. Retrieved August 28, 2011.

² ^{a b c d e f g h i j k} McFadden, _Robert_ D. 1996 - McFadden, Robert D. (May 26, 1996). "Prisoner of Rage – A special report.; From a Child of Promise to the Unabom Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 9, 2017.

³ Kifner1996 - Kifner, John (April 5, 1996). "On the suspect's trail: Life in montana; gardening, bicycling and reading exotically". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on November 4, 2015.

⁴ ^{a b c d} AchenbachKovaleski1996 - Achenbach, Joel; Kovaleski, Serge F. (April 7, 1996). "The Profile of a Loner". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on August 11, 2017.

⁵ Brooke1999 - Brooke, James (March 14, 1999). "New portrait of Unabomber: Environmental saboteur around Montana village for 20 years". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on September 4, 2017.

⁶ ^{a b c d e} Alston2000 - Alston, Chase (June 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 285, no. 6. Archived from the original on October 24, 2014. Retrieved November 4, 2022.

⁷ Chase (2003), p. 332

first time, I was delighted, because I thought, 'Here is someone who is saying what I have already been thinking.'"⁸

In an interview after his arrest, Kaczynski recalled being shocked on a hike to one of his favorite wild spots:⁹

It's kind of rolling country, not flat, and when you get to the edge of it you find these ravines that cut very steeply in to cliff-like drop-offs and there was even a waterfall there. It was about a two days' hike from my cabin. That was the best spot until the summer of 1983. That summer there were too many people around my cabin so I decided I needed some peace. I went back to the plateau and when I got there I found they had put a road right through the middle of it ... You just can't imagine how upset I was. It was from that point on I decided that, rather than trying to acquire further wilderness skills, I would work on getting back at the system. Revenge.

Kaczynski was visited multiple times in Montana by his father, who was impressed by Ted's wilderness skills. Kaczynski's father was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 1990 and held a family meeting without Kaczynski later that year to map out their future.¹⁰ On October 2, 1990, Kaczynski's father committed suicide by shooting himself in his home.¹¹

⁸ ^{a b c d e} Alston2000 - Alston, Chase (June 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 285, no. 6. Archived from the original on October 24, 2014. Retrieved November 4, 2022.

⁹ Kingsnorth - Kingsnorth, Paul. "Dark Ecology". *Orion Magazine*. Archived from the original on March 15, 2017. Retrieved February 27, 2021.

¹⁰ ^{a b c d} AchenbachKovaleski1996 - Achenbach, Joel; Kovaleski, Serge F. (April 7, 1996). "The Profile of a Loner". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on August 11, 2017.

¹¹ Kaczynski (2016), p. 50.

Bombings

Between 1978 and 1995, Kaczynski mailed or hand-delivered a series of increasingly sophisticated bombs that cumulatively killed three people and injured 23 others. Sixteen bombs were attributed to Kaczynski. While the bombing devices varied widely through the years, many contained the initials "FC", which Kaczynski later said stood for "Freedom Club",¹ inscribed on parts inside. He purposely left misleading clues in the devices and took extreme care in preparing them to avoid leaving fingerprints; fingerprints found on some of the devices did not match those found on letters attributed to Kaczynski.²[a]

Bombings carried out by Kaczynski³⁴

¹ ^{a b} John H. Richardson2018 - John H. Richardson (December 11, 2018). "Children of Ted Two decades after his last deadly act of ecoterrorism, the Unabomber has become an unlikely prophet to a new generation of acolytes". *New York*. Archived from the original on February 9, 2021. Retrieved February 14, 2021.

² ^{a b c d} <cite class="citation web cs1"Affidavit of Assistant Special Agent in Charge". Court TV. Archived from the original on December 18, 2008. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

³ As stated in the "Additional Findings" section of the FBI affidavit, where a balanced listing of other uncorrelated evidence and contrary determinations also appeared, "203. Latent fingerprints attributable to devices mailed and/or placed by the UNABOM subject were compared to those found on the letters attributed to Theodore Kaczynski. According to the FBI Laboratory no forensic correlation exists between those samples."[47]

⁴ "The Unabomber's Targets: An Interactive Map". CNN. 1997. Archived from the original on June 13, 2008.

Date	State	Location	Detonation	Victim(s)	Occupation of victim(s)	Injuries
May 25, 1978	Illinois	Northwestern University	Yes	Terry Marker	University police officer	Minor cuts and burns
May 9, 1979	Illinois	Northwestern University	Yes	John Harris	Graduate student	Minor cuts and burns
November 15, 1979	Illinois	American Airlines Flight 444 from Chicago to Washington, D.C. (explosion occurred mid-flight)	Yes	Twelve passengers	Multiple	Non-lethal smoke inhalation
June 10, 1980	Illinois	Lake Forest	Yes	Percy Wood	President of United Airlines	Severe cuts and burns over most of body and face
October 8, 1981	Utah	University of Utah	Bomb defused			
May 5, 1982	Tennessee	Vanderbilt University	Yes	Janet Smith	University secretary	Severe burns to hands; shrapnel wounds to body
July 2, 1982	California	University of California, Berkeley	Yes	Diogenes Angelakos	Engineering professor	Severe burns and shrapnel wounds to hand and face
May 15, 1985	California	University of California, Berkeley	Yes 15	John Hauser	Graduate student	Loss of four fingers and severed artery in right arm; partial loss of

Initial bombings

Kaczynski's first mail bomb was directed at Buckley Crist, a professor of materials engineering at Northwestern University. On May 25, 1978, a package bearing Crist's return address was found in a parking lot at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The package was "returned" to Crist, who was suspicious because he had not sent it, so he contacted campus police. Officer Terry Marker opened the package, which exploded and caused minor injuries.⁵ Kaczynski had returned to Chicago for the May 1978 bombing and stayed there for a time to work with his father and brother at a foam rubber factory. In August 1978, his brother fired him for writing insulting limericks about a female supervisor Ted had courted briefly.^{6,7} The supervisor later recalled Kaczynski as intelligent and quiet, but remembered little of their acquaintanceship and firmly denied they had had any romantic relationship.⁸ Kaczynski's second bomb was sent nearly one year after the first one, again to Northwestern University. The bomb, concealed inside a cigar box and left on a table, caused minor injuries to graduate student John Harris when he opened it.⁹

Driver's license photo of Kaczynski from 1978, around the time the first bombs were mailed

FBI involvement

In 1979, a bomb was placed in the cargo hold of American Airlines Flight 444, a Boeing 727 flying from Chicago to Washington, D.C. A faulty timing mechanism prevented the bomb from exploding, but it released smoke, which caused the pilots to carry out an emergency landing. Authorities said it had enough power to "obliterate the plane" had it exploded.¹⁰ Kaczynski sent his next bomb to the president of United Airlines, Percy Wood. Wood received cuts and burns over most of his body.¹¹

Kaczynski left false clues in most bombs, which he intentionally made hard to find to make them appear more legitimate. Clues included metal plates stamped with the

⁵ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

⁶ *a b c d e f g* <cite class="citation web cs1">The Unabomber: A Chronology (1978–1982)". Court TV. Archived from the original on July 20, 2008. Retrieved July 5, 2008.

⁷ "Ted Kaczynski's Family on 60 Minutes". CBS News. September 15, 1996. Archived from the original on January 24, 2016. Retrieved July 31, 2015.

⁸ "Kaczynski was fired '78 after allegedly harassing co-worker". *USA Today*. Associated Press. November 13, 1996. Archived from the original on February 5, 2021. Retrieved July 19, 2017.

⁹ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹⁰ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹¹ Johnson1996 - Johnson, Dirk (April 19, 1996). "Woman Denies Romance With Unabomber Suspect". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on May 26, 2015.

initials "FC" hidden somewhere (usually in the pipe end cap) in bombs, a note left in a bomb that did not detonate reading "Wu—It works! I told you it would—RV," and the Eugene O'Neill one-dollar stamps often used as postage on his boxes.¹²¹³¹⁴ He sent one bomb embedded in a copy of Sloan Wilson's novel *Ice Brothers*.¹⁵ The FBI theorized that Kaczynski's crimes involved a theme of nature, trees and wood. He often included bits of a tree branch and bark in his bombs; his selected targets included Percy Wood and Professor Leroy Wood. The crime writer Robert Graysmith noted his "obsession with wood" was "a large factor" in the bombings.¹⁶

Later bombings

An FBI reproduction of one of Kaczynski's bombs, once on display at the now-defunct Newseum in Washington, D.C.

In 1981, a package bearing the return address of a Brigham Young University professor of electrical engineering, LeRoy Wood Bearnson, was discovered in a hallway at the University of Utah. It was brought to the campus police, and was defused by a bomb squad.¹⁷¹⁸ In May of the following year, a bomb was sent to Patrick C. Fischer, a professor of computer science at Vanderbilt University. Fischer was on vacation in Puerto Rico at the time; his secretary, Janet Smith, opened the bomb and received injuries to her face and arms.¹⁹²⁰

Kaczynski's next two bombs targeted people at the University of California, Berkeley. The first, in July 1982, caused serious injuries to engineering professor Diogenes

¹² ^a ^b ^c ^d <cite class="citation web cs1">Affidavit of Assistant Special Agent in Charge". Court TV. Archived from the original on December 18, 2008. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

¹³ MarxMartin1996 - Marx, Gary; Martin, Andrew (April 5, 1996). "Survivors See Little Sense Behind the Terror". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on January 28, 2020. Retrieved December 12, 2020.

¹⁴ ^a ^b BlumenthalKleinfield1994 - Blumenthal, Ralph; Kleinfield, N. R. (December 18, 1994). "Death in the Mail – Tracking a Killer: A special report.; Investigators Have Many Clues and Theories, but Still No Suspect in 15 Bombings". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 10, 2017.

¹⁵ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹⁶ "The end of anon: literary sleuthing from Shakespeare to Unabomber". *The Guardian*. August 16, 2001. Archived from the original on September 5, 2008. Retrieved July 5, 2008.

¹⁷ Graysmith (1998), pp. 286, 289.

¹⁸ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹⁹ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

²⁰ DougallJackson_Thomson1998 - Dougall, Courtney; Jackson Thomson, Lisa Ann (Fall 1998). "English Grad Student Plays Detective in Unabomber Case". *Y magazine*. Brigham Young University. Archived from the original on January 22, 2021. Retrieved June 10, 2022.

Angelakos.²¹ Nearly three years later, in May 1985, John Hauser, a graduate student and captain in the United States Air Force, lost four fingers and the vision in one eye.²² Kaczynski handcrafted the bomb from wooden parts.²³ A bomb sent to the Boeing Company in Auburn, Washington, was defused by a bomb squad the following month.²⁴ In November 1985, professor James V. McConnell and research assistant Nicklaus Suino were both severely injured after Suino opened a mail bomb addressed to McConnell.²⁵

In late 1985, a nail-and-splinter-loaded bomb placed in the parking lot of his store in Sacramento, California, killed 38-year-old computer store owner Hugh Scrutton. A similar attack against a computer store took place in Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 20, 1987. The bomb, disguised as a piece of lumber, injured Gary Wright when he attempted to remove it from the store's parking lot. The explosion severed nerves in Wright's left arm and propelled over 200 pieces of shrapnel into his body.[b] Kaczynski was spotted while planting the Salt Lake City bomb. This led to a widely distributed sketch of the suspect as a hooded man with a mustache and aviator sunglasses.²⁶²⁷

In 1993, after a six-year break, Kaczynski mailed a bomb to the home of Charles Epstein from the University of California, San Francisco. Epstein lost several fingers upon opening the package. In the same weekend, Kaczynski mailed a bomb to David Gelernter, a computer science professor at Yale University. Gelernter lost sight in one eye, hearing in one ear, and a portion of his right hand.²⁸

In 1994, Burson-Marsteller executive Thomas J. Mosser was killed after opening a mail bomb sent to his home in New Jersey. In a letter to *The New York Times*, Kaczynski wrote he had sent the bomb because of Mosser's work repairing the public image of Exxon after the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.²⁹ This was followed by the 1995

²¹ LardnerAdams1996 - Lardner, George; Adams, Lorraine (April 14, 1996). "To Unabomb Victims, a Deeper Mystery". *The Washington Post*. p. A01. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

²² "Patrick Fischer dies at 75; target of Unabomber". *Los Angeles Times*. September 3, 2011. Archived from the original on November 1, 2017. Retrieved February 4, 2021.

²³ a b c <cite class="citation web cs1">The Unabomber: A Chronology (1985–1987)". Court TV. Archived from the original on February 26, 2009. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

²⁴ "Patrick Fischer dies at 75; target of Unabomber". *Los Angeles Times*. September 3, 2011. Archived from the original on November 1, 2017. Retrieved February 4, 2021.

²⁵ "Patrick Fischer dies at 75; target of Unabomber". *Los Angeles Times*. September 3, 2011. Archived from the original on November 1, 2017. Retrieved February 4, 2021.

²⁶ Lavandera, _Ed2008 - Lavandera, Ed (June 6, 2008). "Unabomber's brother, victim forge unique friendship". CNN. Archived from the original on December 17, 2008.

²⁷ Kaczynski's brother, David—who would play a vital role in Kaczynski's capture by alerting federal authorities to the prospect of his brother's involvement in the Unabomber case—sought out and became friends with Wright after Kaczynski was detained in 1996. David Kaczynski and Wright have remained friends and occasionally speak together publicly about their relationship.[62]

²⁸ Locke1996 - Locke, Michelle (April 7, 1996). "Not Knowing Where to Look, Unabomber Hunters Looked Everywhere". *Associated Press*. Archived from the original on October 9, 2020. Retrieved October 5, 2020.

²⁹ Yates1998 - Yates, Nona (January 23, 1998). "Recap of the Unabomber Case". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on October 9, 2020. Retrieved October 5, 2020.

murder of Gilbert Brent Murray, president of the timber industry lobbying group California Forestry Association, by a mail bomb addressed to previous president William Dennison, who had retired. Geneticist Phillip Sharp at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology received a threatening letter shortly afterwards.³⁰

³⁰ Locke1996 - Locke, Michelle (April 7, 1996). "Not Knowing Where to Look, Unabomber Hunters Looked Everywhere". *Associated Press*. Archived from the original on October 9, 2020. Retrieved October 5, 2020.

Manifesto

Main article: Unabomber Manifesto

In 1995, Kaczynski mailed several letters to media outlets outlining his goals and demanding a major newspaper print his 35,000-word essay *Industrial Society and Its Future* (dubbed the "Unabomber manifesto" by the FBI) verbatim.¹² He stated he would "desist from terrorism" if this demand was met.³⁴⁵ There was controversy as to whether the essay should be published, but Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh recommended its publication out of concern for public safety and in the hope that a reader could identify the author. Bob Guccione of *Penthouse* volunteered to publish it. Kaczynski replied *Penthouse* was less "respectable" than *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and said that, "to increase our chances of getting our stuff published in some 'respectable' periodical", he would "reserve the right to plant one (and only one) bomb intended to kill, after our manuscript has been published" if *Penthouse* published the document instead of *The Times* or *The Post*.⁶ *The Washington Post* published the essay on September 19, 1995.⁷⁸

Kaczynski used a typewriter to write his manuscript, capitalizing entire words for emphasis, in lieu of italics. He always referred to himself as either "we" or "FC" ("Freedom Club"), though there is no evidence that he worked with others. Donald Wayne Foster analyzed the writing at the request of Kaczynski's defense team in 1996 and

¹ ^a ^b <cite class="citation web cs1">The Unabomber: A Chronology (1988–1995)". Court TV. Archived from the original on February 26, 2009. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

² "U.S. v. Kaczynski Trial Transcripts". Court TV. Archived from the original on March 12, 2009. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

³ ^a ^b "Excerpts From Letter by 'Terrorist Group', FC, Which Says It Sent Bombs". *The New York Times*. April 26, 1995. Archived from the original on August 7, 2017.

⁴ Kaczynski - Kaczynski, Theodore. "Industrial Society and Its Future" (PDF). *editions-hache.com*. Archived (PDF) from the original on November 11, 2011. Retrieved January 17, 2021.

⁵ Chase (2004), p. 84.

⁶ Boxall, Bettina; Connell, Rich; Ferrell, David (June 30, 1995). "Unabomber Sends New Warnings". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on May 1, 2011.

⁷ "A Delicate Dance". *Newsweek*. April 21, 1996. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

⁸ Elson, John (July 10, 1995). "Murderer's Manifesto". *Time*. Archived from the original on September 25, 2013.

noted that it contained irregular spelling and hyphenation, along with other linguistic idiosyncrasies. This led him to conclude that Kaczynski was its author.⁹

Summary

Industrial Society and Its Future begins with Kaczynski's assertion: "The Industrial Revolution and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race."¹⁰¹¹ He writes that technology has had a destabilizing effect on society, has made life unfulfilling, and has caused widespread psychological suffering.¹² Kaczynski argues that most people spend their time engaged in useless pursuits because of technological advances; he calls these "surrogate activities", wherein people strive toward artificial goals, including scientific work, consumption of entertainment, political activism and following sports teams.¹³ He predicts that further technological advances will lead to extensive human genetic engineering, and that human beings will be adjusted to meet the needs of social systems, rather than *vice versa*.¹⁴ Kaczynski states that technological progress can be stopped, in contrast to the viewpoint of people who he says understand technology's negative effects yet passively accept technology as inevitable.¹⁵ He calls for a return to primitivist lifestyles.¹⁶ Kaczynski's critiques of civilization bear some similarities to anarcho-primitivism, but he rejected and criticized anarcho-primitivist views.¹⁷¹⁸¹⁹

⁹ Kurtz1995 - Kurtz, Howard (September 19, 1995). "Unabomber Manuscript is Published: Public Safety Reasons Cited in Joint Decision by Post, N.Y. Times". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹⁰ "Statement by Papers' Publishers". *The Washington Post*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹¹ Crain1998" class="citation journal cs1][Crain, Caleb (1998). "The Bard's fingerprints". *Lingua Franca*: 29–39. Archived from the original on June 24, 2016.

¹² ^a ^b <cite class="citation web cs1"Excerpts from Unabomber document". *United Press International*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

¹³ ^a ^b <cite class="citation web cs1"Excerpts from Unabomber document". *United Press International*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

¹⁴ ^a ^b <cite class="citation web cs1"Excerpts from Unabomber document". *United Press International*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

¹⁵ Kaczynski (1995), p. 1.

¹⁶ ^a ^b <cite class="citation web cs1"Excerpts from Unabomber document". *United Press International*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

¹⁷ ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e Adams1996 - Adams, Brooke (April 11, 1996). "From His Tiny Cabin to the Lack Of Electricity And Water, Kaczynski's Simple Lifestyle in Montana Mountains Coincided Well With His Anti-Technology Views". *Deseret News*. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

¹⁸ Katz1998" class="citation magazine cs1][Katz, Jon (April 17, 1998). "The Unabomber's Legacy, Part I". *Wired*. Archived from the original on August 13, 2017.

¹⁹ Malendowicz2020" class="citation journal cs1][Malendowicz, Paweł (2020). "The Concept of 'the Return to the Past' as an Inspiration for the Anti-Civilization Project of Utopian Primitivist Thought". *Studia Politologiczne*. **53**: 200–214. doi:10.33896/SPolit.2019.53.11. ISSN 1640-8888. Archived from the original on April 1, 2022. Retrieved May 28, 2021. <q>Kaczynski himself negated primitivist thought, claiming that all primitive communities fed on some kind of animal food, none of them was vegan, there

Kaczynski argues that the erosion of human freedom is a natural product of an industrial society because "the system has to regulate human behavior closely in order to function", and that reform of the system is impossible as drastic changes to it would not be implemented because of their disruption of the system.²⁰ He states that the system has not yet fully achieved control over all human behavior and is in the midst of a struggle to gain that control. Kaczynski predicts that the system will break down if it cannot achieve significant control, and that it is likely this issue will be decided within the next 40 to 100 years.²¹ He states that the task of those who oppose industrial society is to promote stress within and upon the society and to propagate an anti-technology ideology, one that offers the "counter-ideal" of nature. Kaczynski goes on to say that a revolution will be possible only when industrial society is sufficiently unstable.²²

A significant portion of the document is dedicated to discussing left-wing politics, with Kaczynski attributing many of society's issues to leftists.²³ He defines leftists as "mainly socialists, collectivists, 'politically correct' types, feminists, gay and disability activists, animal rights activists and the like".²⁴ He believes that over-socialization and feelings of inferiority are primary drivers of leftism,²⁵ and derides it as "one of the most widespread manifestations of the craziness of our world".²⁶ Kaczynski adds that the type of movement he envisions must be anti-leftist and refrain from collaboration with leftists, as, in his view, "leftism is in the long run inconsistent with wild nature, with

was no gender equality in most of them ... there was rivalry, which often assumed violent forms, some communities protected nature, but others devastated it through excessive hunting or careless use of fire.</q>

²⁰ Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1][Fleming, Sean (May 7, 2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

²¹ Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1][Fleming, Sean (May 7, 2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

²² Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1][Fleming, Sean (May 7, 2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

²³ Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1][Fleming, Sean (May 7, 2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

²⁴ Moen2018" class="citation journal cs1][Moen, Ole Martin (August 23, 2018). "The Unabomber's ethics". *Bioethics*. **33** (2): 223–229. doi:10.1111/bioe.12494. hdl:10852/76721. ISSN 1467-8519. PMID 30136739. S2CID 52070603. Archived from the original on April 1, 2022. Retrieved May 28, 2021.

²⁵ ^a ^b <cite class="citation web cs1"Excerpts from Unabomber document". *United Press International*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on August 12, 2017.

²⁶ Moen2018" class="citation journal cs1][Moen, Ole Martin (August 23, 2018). "The Unabomber's ethics". *Bioethics*. **33** (2): 223–229. doi:10.1111/bioe.12494. hdl:10852/76721. ISSN 1467-8519. PMID 30136739. S2CID 52070603. Archived from the original on April 1, 2022. Retrieved May 28, 2021.

human freedom and with the elimination of modern technology”.²⁷ He also criticizes conservatives, describing them as “fools who whine about the decay of traditional values, yet ... enthusiastically support technological progress and economic growth”, things he argues have led to this decay.²⁸

Contemporary reception

James Q. Wilson, in a 1998 *New York Times* Op-Ed, wrote: “If it is the work of a madman, then the writings of many political philosophers—Jean Jacques Rousseau, Tom Paine, Karl Marx—are scarcely more sane.”²⁹

“The Unabomber does not like socialization, technology, leftist political causes or conservative attitudes. Apart from his call for an (unspecified) revolution, his paper resembles something that a very good graduate student might have written.”³⁰

Alston Chase, a fellow alumnus of Harvard University wrote in 2000 for *The Atlantic* that “It is true that many believed Kaczynski was insane because they needed to believe it. But the truly disturbing aspect of Kaczynski and his ideas is not that they are so foreign but that they are so familiar.” He argued that “We need to see Kaczynski as exceptional—madman or genius—because the alternative is so much more frightening.”³¹

Other works

University of Michigan–Dearborn philosophy professor David Skrbina helped to compile Kaczynski’s work into the 2010 anthology *Technological Slavery*, including the original manifesto, letters between Skrbina and Kaczynski, and other essays.³² Kaczynski updated his 1995 manifesto as *Anti-Tech Revolution: Why and How* to

²⁷ “Statement by Papers’ Publishers”. *The Washington Post*. September 19, 1995. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

²⁸ Moen2018” class=”citation journal cs1”][Moen, Ole Martin (August 23, 2018). “The Unabomber’s ethics”. *Bioethics*. **33** (2): 223–229. doi:10.1111/bioe.12494. hdl:10852/76721. ISSN 1467-8519. PMID 30136739. S2CID 52070603. Archived from the original on April 1, 2022. Retrieved May 28, 2021.

²⁹ ^a ^b ^c ^d Sale1995 - Sale, Kirkpatrick (September 25, 1995). “Is There Method in His Madness?”. *The Nation*. p. 306.

³⁰ ^a ^b ^c Didion1998” class=”citation magazine cs1”][Didion, Joan (April 23, 1998). “Varieties of Madness”. *The New York Review of Books*. Archived from the original on August 13, 2017.

³¹ Finnegan2011” class=”citation magazine cs1”][Finnegan, William (May 20, 2011). “The Unabomber Returns”. *The New Yorker*. Archived from the original on April 28, 2017. Retrieved August 31, 2021.

³² Wilson1998 - Wilson, James Q. (January 15, 1998). “Opinion: In Search of Madness”. *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on June 15, 2022. Retrieved August 31, 2021.

address advances in computers and the internet. He advocates practicing other types of protest and makes no mention of violence.³³

According to a 2021 study, Kaczynski's manifesto "is a synthesis of ideas from three well-known academics: French philosopher Jacques Ellul, British zoologist Desmond Morris, and American psychologist Martin Seligman."³⁴

³³ Chase2000 - Chase, Alston (June 1, 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic*. Archived from the original on August 21, 2014. Retrieved August 31, 2021.

³⁴ ^a ^b Young2012" class="citation journal cs1][Young, Jeffrey R. (May 25, 2012). "The Unabomber's Pen Pal". *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The Chronicle of Higher Education Inc. **58** (37): B6–B11. ISSN 0009-5982. Archived from the original on October 9, 2017. Retrieved November 16, 2018.

Investigation

Because of the material used to make the mail bombs, U.S. postal inspectors, who initially had responsibility for the case, labeled the suspect the "Junkyard Bomber".¹ FBI Inspector Terry D. Turchie was appointed to run the UNABOM (University and Airline Bomber) investigation.² In 1979, an FBI-led task force that included 125 agents from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service was formed.³ The task force grew to more than 150 full-time personnel, but minute analysis of recovered components of the bombs and the investigation into the lives of the victims proved of little use in identifying the suspect, who built the bombs primarily from scrap materials available almost anywhere. Investigators later learned that the victims were chosen indiscriminately from library research.⁴

In 1980, chief agent John Douglas, working with agents in the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit, issued a psychological profile of the unidentified bomber. It described the offender as a man with above-average intelligence and connections to academia. This profile was later refined to characterize the offender as a neo-Luddite holding an academic degree in the hard sciences, but this psychologically based profile was discarded in 1983. FBI analysts developed an alternative theory that concentrated on the physical evidence in recovered bomb fragments. In this rival profile, the suspect was characterized as a blue-collar airplane mechanic.⁵ The UNABOMB Task Force set up a toll-free telephone hotline to take calls related to the investigation, with a \$1 million reward for anyone who could provide information leading to the Unabomber's capture.⁶

Before the publication of *Industrial Society and Its Future*, Kaczynski's brother, David, was encouraged by his wife to follow up on suspicions that Ted was the Un-

¹ Bailey2016 - Bailey, Holly (January 28, 2016). "The Unabomber takes on the Internet". *Yahoo News*. Archived from the original on February 14, 2016.

² ^a ^b Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1|[Fleming, Sean (2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

³ ^a ^b Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1|[Fleming, Sean (2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

⁴ Graysmith (1998), p. 74.

⁵ ^a ^b ^c ^d Taylor1998 - Taylor, Michael (May 5, 1998). "New Details Of Stakeout in Montana". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Archived from the original on September 14, 2018.

⁶ "Unabomber". *Federal Bureau of Investigation*. Archived from the original on February 21, 2021. Retrieved February 15, 2021.

abomber.⁷ David was dismissive at first, but he took the likelihood more seriously after reading the manifesto a week after it was published in September 1995. He searched through old family papers and found letters dating to the 1970s that Ted had sent to newspapers to protest the abuses of technology using phrasing similar to that in the manifesto.⁸

Before the manifesto's publication, the FBI held many press conferences asking the public to help identify the Unabomber. They were convinced that the bomber was from the Chicago area where he began his bombings, had worked in or had some connection to Salt Lake City, and by the 1990s had some association with the San Francisco Bay Area. This geographical information and the wording in excerpts from the manifesto that were released before the entire text of the manifesto was published persuaded David's wife to urge him to read it.⁹¹⁰

After publication

After the manifesto was published, the FBI received thousands of leads in response to its offer of a reward for information leading to the identification of the Unabomber.¹¹ While the FBI reviewed new leads, Kaczynski's brother David hired private investigator Susan Swanson in Chicago to investigate Ted's activities discreetly.¹² David later hired Washington, D.C. attorney Tony Bisceglie to organize the evidence acquired by Swanson and contact the FBI, given the presumed difficulty of attracting the FBI's attention. Kaczynski's family wanted to protect him from the danger of an FBI raid, such as those at Ruby Ridge or Waco, since they feared a violent outcome from any attempt by the FBI to contact Kaczynski.¹³¹⁴

⁷ Franks, _Lucinda1996" class="citation magazine cs1][Franks, Lucinda (July 22, 1996). "Don't Shoot". *The New Yorker*. Archived from the original on December 26, 2008.

⁸ Labaton, _Stephen1993 - Labaton, Stephen (October 7, 1993). "Clue and \$1 million Reward in Case of the Serial Bomber". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 19, 2017.

⁹ ^a ^b Kaczynski, _David2007 - Kaczynski, David (September 9, 2007). "Programme 9: 9th September 2007". RTE Radio 1. Archived from the original on October 13, 2007. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

¹⁰ Johnston, _David1996 - Johnston, David (April 5, 1996). "On the Suspect's Trail: the Investigation; Long and Twisting Trail Led To Unabom Suspect's Arrest". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 10, 2017.

¹¹ Johnston, _David1996 - Johnston, David (April 5, 1996). "On the Suspect's Trail: the Investigation; Long and Twisting Trail Led To Unabom Suspect's Arrest". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 10, 2017.

¹² Perez-Pena, _Richard1996 - Perez-Pena, Richard (April 7, 1996). "Tapestry of Links in the Unabom Inquiry". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 10, 2017.

¹³ ^a ^b Claiborne, _William1998 - Claiborne, William (August 21, 1998). "FBI Gives Reward to Unabomber's Brother". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹⁴ KovaleskiThomas1996 - Kovaleski, Serge F.; Thomas, Pierre (April 9, 1996). "Brother Hired Own Investigator". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on April 19, 2021. Retrieved March 21, 2021.

In early 1996, an investigator working with Bisceglie contacted former FBI hostage negotiator and criminal profiler Clinton R. Van Zandt. Bisceglie asked him to compare the manifesto to typewritten copies of handwritten letters David had received from his brother. Van Zandt's initial analysis determined that there was better than a 60 percent chance that the same person had written the manifesto, which had been in public circulation for half a year. Van Zandt's second analytical team determined a higher likelihood. He recommended Bisceglie's client contact the FBI immediately.¹⁵

In February 1996, Bisceglie gave a copy of the 1971 essay written by Ted Kaczynski to Molly Flynn at the FBI.¹⁶ She forwarded the essay to the San Francisco-based task force. FBI profiler James R. Fitzgerald¹⁷¹⁸ recognized similarities in the writings using linguistic analysis and determined that the author of the essays and the manifesto was almost certainly the same person. Combined with facts gleaned from the bombings and Kaczynski's life, the analysis provided the basis for an affidavit signed by Terry Turchie, the head of the entire investigation, in support of the application for a search warrant.¹⁹

David Kaczynski had tried to remain anonymous, but he was soon identified. Within a few days an FBI agent team was dispatched to interview David and his wife with their attorney in Washington, D.C. At this and subsequent meetings, David provided letters written by his brother in their original envelopes, allowing the FBI task force to use the postmark dates to add more detail to their timeline of Ted's activities. David developed a respectful relationship with behavioral analysis Special Agent Kathleen M. Puckett, whom he met many times in Washington, D.C., Texas, Chicago, and Schenectady, New York, over the nearly two months before the federal search warrant was served on Kaczynski's cabin.²⁰

David had once admired and emulated his older brother but had since left the survivalist lifestyle behind.²¹ He had received assurances from the FBI that he would remain anonymous and that his brother would not learn who had turned him in, but

¹⁵ ^a ^b Claiborne, William1998 - Claiborne, William (August 21, 1998). "FBI Gives Reward to Unabomber's Brother". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011.

¹⁶ ^a ^b Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1|[Fleming, Sean (2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

¹⁷ ^a ^b Belluck1996 - Belluck, Pam (April 10, 1996). "In Unabom Case, Pain for Suspect's Family". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 10, 2017.

¹⁸ Kovalski2001 - Kovalski, Serge F. (July 15, 2001). "His Brother's Keeper". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on July 6, 2022. Retrieved March 21, 2021.

¹⁹ ^a ^b Fleming2021" class="citation journal cs1|[Fleming, Sean (2021). "The Unabomber and the origins of anti-tech radicalism". *Journal of Political Ideologies*. **27** (2): 207–225. doi:10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940. ISSN 1356-9317.

²⁰ Davis2017 - Davis, Pat (January–February 2017). "Historian Spotlight – James Fitzgerald". *The FBI National Academy Associates Inc*. Archived from the original on February 22, 2018.

²¹ Davies2017 - Davies, Dave (August 22, 2017). "FBI Profiler Says Linguistic Work Was Pivotal in Capture Of Unabomber". National Public Radio, Inc. Archived from the original on September 10, 2018.

his identity was leaked to CBS News in early April 1996. CBS anchorman Dan Rather called FBI director Louis Freeh, who requested 24 hours before CBS broke the story on the evening news. The FBI scrambled to finish the search warrant and have it issued by a federal judge in Montana; afterwards, the FBI conducted an internal leak investigation, but the source of the leak was never identified.²²

FBI officials were not unanimous in identifying Ted as the author of the manifesto. The search warrant noted that several experts believed the manifesto had been written by another individual.²³

Arrest

FBI agents arrested an unkempt Kaczynski at his cabin on April 3, 1996. A search revealed a cache of bomb components, 40,000 hand-written journal pages that included bomb-making experiments, descriptions of the Unabomber crimes and one live bomb. They also found what appeared to be the original typed manuscript of *Industrial Society and Its Future*.²⁴ By this point, the Unabomber had been the target of the most expensive investigation in FBI history at the time.²⁵²⁶ A 2000 report by the United States Commission on the Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement stated that the task force had spent over \$50 million throughout the course of the investigation.²⁷

After his capture, theories emerged naming Kaczynski as the Zodiac Killer, who murdered five people in Northern California from 1968 to 1969. Among the links that raised suspicion was that Kaczynski lived in the San Francisco Bay Area from 1967 to 1969 (the same period that most of the Zodiac's confirmed killings occurred in California), that both individuals were highly intelligent with an interest in bombs and codes, and that both wrote letters to newspapers demanding the publication of their works with the threat of continued violence if the demand was not met. Yet Kaczynski's whereabouts could not be verified for all of the killings. Since the gun and knife murders committed by the Zodiac Killer differed from Kaczynski's bombings,

²² Davies2017 - Davies, Dave (August 22, 2017). "FBI Profiler Says Linguistic Work Was Pivotal in Capture Of Unabomber". National Public Radio, Inc. Archived from the original on September 10, 2018.

²³ ^{a b c d} <cite class="citation web cs1"Affidavit of Assistant Special Agent in Charge". Court TV. Archived from the original on December 18, 2008. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

²⁴ Johnston, _David1998 - Johnston, David (May 5, 1998). "17-Year Search, an Emotional Discovery and Terror Ends". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on August 19, 2017.

²⁵ ^{a b} Howlett1996 - Howlett, Debbie (November 13, 1996). "FBI Profile: Suspect is educated and isolated". *USA Today*. Archived from the original on June 2, 2016. Retrieved July 13, 2017. <q>The 17-year search for the bomber has been the longest and costliest investigation in FBI history.</q>

²⁶ ^{a b} Dubner, _Stephen_J.1999" class="citation magazine cs1|Dubner, Stephen J. (October 18, 1999). "I Don't Want To Live Long. I Would Rather Get The Death Penalty Than Spend The Rest of My Life in Prison". *Time*. Archived from the original on December 4, 2002. Retrieved February 4, 2009.

²⁷ "Unabomber suspect is caught, ending eight-year man-hunt". CNN. 1996. Archived from the original on October 8, 2008.

authorities did not pursue him as a suspect. Robert Graysmith, author of the 1986 book *Zodiac*, said the similarities are "fascinating" but purely coincidental.²⁸

The early hunt for the Unabomber portrayed a perpetrator far different from the eventual suspect. Kaczynski consistently uses "we" and "our" throughout *Industrial Society and Its Future*. At one point in 1993 investigators sought an individual whose first name was "Nathan" because the name was imprinted on the envelope of a letter sent to the media.²⁹ When authorities presented the case to the public, they denied that there was ever anyone other than Kaczynski involved in the crimes.³⁰

Guilty plea

A federal grand jury indicted Kaczynski in June 1996 on ten counts of illegally transporting, mailing, and using bombs.³¹ Kaczynski's lawyers, headed by Montana federal public defenders Michael Donahoe and Judy Clarke, attempted to enter an insanity defense to avoid the death penalty, but Kaczynski rejected this strategy. On January 8, 1998, he asked to dismiss his lawyers and hire Tony Serra as his counsel; Serra had agreed not to use an insanity defense and instead promised to base a defense on Kaczynski's anti-technology views.³²³³³⁴ After this request was unsuccessful, Kaczynski tried to kill himself on January 9.³⁵ Sally Johnson, the psychiatrist who examined Kaczynski, concluded that he suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.³⁶ Forensic psychiatrist Park Dietz said Kaczynski was not psychotic but had a schizoid or schizotypal personality disorder.³⁷ In his 2010 book *Technological Slavery*, Kaczynski

²⁸ "The Unabomb Trial". CNN. 1997. Archived from the original on June 18, 2006.

²⁹ MarxMartin1996 - Marx, Gary; Martin, Andrew (April 5, 1996). "Survivors See Little Sense Behind the Terror". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on January 28, 2020. Retrieved December 12, 2020.

³⁰ Franks,_Lucinda1996" class="citation magazine cs1|[Franks, Lucinda (July 22, 1996). "Don't Shoot". *The New Yorker*. Archived from the original on December 26, 2008.

³¹ Federal_Commission_on_the_Advancement_of_Federal_Law_Enforcement2000 - Federal Commission on the Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement (2000). "Law Enforcement in a New Century and a Changing World". NCJ 181343. Archived from the original on April 14, 2021. Retrieved March 11, 2021.

³² FaganWallace1996 - Fagan, Kevin; Wallace, Bill (May 14, 1996). "Kaczynski, Zodiac Killer – the Same Guy?". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Archived from the original on April 29, 2011.

³³ Gladstone1996 - Gladstone, Mark (June 19, 1996). "Kaczynski Indicted in 4 Unabomber Attacks". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on April 13, 2021. Retrieved February 23, 2021.

³⁴ Glaberson1998 - Glaberson, William (January 8, 1998). "Kaczynski Tries Unsuccessfully to Dismiss His Lawyers". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on December 5, 2013.

³⁵ "Kaczynski Demands to Represent Himself". *Wired*. Reuters. January 8, 1998. Archived from the original on October 3, 2017.

³⁶ Glaberson1998 - Glaberson, William (January 8, 1998). "Kaczynski Can't Drop Lawyers Or Block a Mental Illness Defense". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on May 24, 2013.

³⁷ "Suspected Unabomber in suicide attempt". *BBC News*. January 9, 1998. Archived from the original on October 3, 2017.

said that two prison psychologists who visited him frequently for four years told him they saw no indication that he suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and the diagnosis was "ridiculous" and a "political diagnosis".³⁸ Some contemporary authors suggested that multiple people, most notably Kaczynski's brother and mother, purposely spread the image of Kaczynski as mentally ill with the aim to save him from execution.³⁹

On January 21, 1998, Kaczynski was declared competent to stand trial by federal prison psychiatrist Johnson, "despite the psychiatric diagnoses".⁴⁰ As he was fit to stand trial, prosecutors sought the death penalty, but Kaczynski avoided that by pleading guilty to all charges on January 22, 1998, and accepting life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. He later tried to withdraw this plea, arguing it was involuntary as he had been coerced to plead guilty by the judge. Judge Garland Ellis Burrell Jr. denied his request, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld that decision.⁴¹⁴²

In 2006, Burrell ordered that items from Kaczynski's cabin be sold at a "reasonably advertised Internet auction". Items considered to be bomb-making materials, such as diagrams and "recipes" for bombs, were excluded. The net proceeds went towards the \$15 million in restitution Burrell had awarded Kaczynski's victims.⁴³ Kaczynski's correspondence and other personal papers were also auctioned.⁴⁴⁴⁵⁴⁶ Burrell ordered the removal, before sale, of references in those documents to Kaczynski's victims; Kaczynski

³⁸ Suzanne1998 - Suzanne, Marmion (September 12, 1998). "Unabomber's Psychiatric Profile Reveals Gender Identity Struggle". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on December 15, 2020. Retrieved February 23, 2021.

³⁹ Diamond2008 - Diamond, Stephen A. (April 8, 2008). "Terrorism, Resentment and the Unabomber". *Psychology Today*.

⁴⁰ Kaczynski (2010), p. 42.

⁴¹ Alston2000 - Alston, Chase (June 2000). "Harvard and the Making of the Unabomber". *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 285, no. 6. Archived from the original on October 24, 2014. Retrieved November 4, 2022. "Michael Mello, a professor at Vermont Law School, is the author of He and William Finnegan, a writer for The New Yorker, have suggested that Kaczynski's brother, David, his mother, Wanda, and their lawyer, Tony Bisceglie, along with Kaczynski's defense attorneys, persuaded many in the media to portray Kaczynski as a paranoid schizophrenic. To a degree this is true. Anxious to save Kaczynski from execution [...]"

⁴² Possley1998 - Possley, Maurice (January 21, 1998). "Doctor Says Kaczynski Is Competent For Trial". *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original on October 3, 2017.

⁴³ Weinstein2001 - Weinstein, Henry (February 13, 2001). "Retrial Rejected for Unabomber". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on April 13, 2021. Retrieved February 27, 2021.

⁴⁴ "The Unabomber: A Chronology (The Trial)". Court TV. Archived from the original on June 30, 2008. Retrieved July 5, 2008.

⁴⁵ Taylor,_Michael2006 - Taylor, Michael (August 12, 2006). "Unabomber's journal, other items to be put up for auction online". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Archived from the original on December 27, 2008.

⁴⁶ Prendergast2009" class="citation journal cs1][Prendergast, Catherine (2009). "The Fighting Style: Reading the Unabomber's Strunk and White". *College English*. **72** (1): 10–28. ISSN 0010-0994. JSTOR 25653005. Archived from the original on April 3, 2021. Retrieved February 23, 2021 – via JSTOR.

unsuccessfully challenged those redactions as a violation of his freedom of speech.⁴⁷⁴⁸⁴⁹
The auction ran for two weeks in 2011, and raised over \$232,000.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Perrone2005 - Perrone, Jane (July 27, 2005). "Crime Pays". *The Guardian*. Archived from the original on January 13, 2017.

⁴⁸ Hong-GongLee2005 - Hong-Gong, Lin II; Lee, Wendy (July 26, 2005). "Unabomber 'Murderabilian' for Sale". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on January 24, 2016.

⁴⁹ ^a ^b Kovaleski, _Serge_F.2007 - Kovaleski, Serge F. (January 22, 2007). "Unabomber Wages Legal Battle to Halt the Sale of Papers". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on April 24, 2009.

⁵⁰ Trescott, _Jacqueline2008 - Trescott, Jacqueline (August 13, 2008). "Unabomber Objects to Newseum's Exhibit". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on September 10, 2008.

Incarceration

Kaczynski in prison (1999)

Kaczynski is serving eight life sentences without the possibility of parole at ADX Florence, a supermax prison in Florence, Colorado.¹² Early in his imprisonment, Kaczynski befriended Ramzi Yousef and Timothy McVeigh, the perpetrators of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, respectively. The trio discussed religion and politics and formed a friendship which lasted until McVeigh's execution in 2001.³

In October 2005, Kaczynski offered to donate two rare books to the Melville J. Herkovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University's campus in Evanston, Illinois, the location of his first two attacks. The Library rejected the offer on the grounds that it already had copies of the works.⁴ The Labadie Collection, part of the University of Michigan's Special Collections Library, houses Kaczynski's correspondence with over 400 people since his arrest, including replies, legal documents, publications, and clippings.⁵⁶ His writings are among the most popular selections in the University of Michigan's special collections.⁷ The identity of most correspondents will remain sealed until 2049.⁸⁹ In 2012, Kaczynski responded to the Harvard Alumni

¹ Perrone2005 - Perrone, Jane (July 27, 2005). "Crime Pays". *The Guardian*. Archived from the original on January 13, 2017.

² Egelko2009 - Egelko, Bob (January 9, 2009). "Unabomber's items can be auctioned". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Archived from the original on July 15, 2009.

³ Kravets2011" class="citation magazine cs1][Kravets, David (June 2, 2011). "Photo Gallery: Weird Government 'Unabomber' Auction Winds Down". *Wired*. Archived from the original on June 9, 2012.

⁴ "Theodore John Kaczynski Register Number: 04475-046". Federal Bureau of Prisons. Archived from the original on April 30, 2011. Retrieved January 17, 2021.

⁵ Bailey, _Holly2016 - Bailey, Holly (January 29, 2016). "The Unabomber's not-so-lonely prison life". Yahoo!. Archived from the original on October 11, 2017.

⁶ Pond2005 - Pond, Lauren (October 31, 2005). "NU rejects Unabomber's offer of rare African books". *The Daily Northwestern*. Archived from the original on October 24, 2008.

⁷ Wilson1998 - Wilson, James Q. (January 15, 1998). "Opinion: In Search of Madness". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on June 15, 2022. Retrieved August 31, 2021.

⁸ Bailey, _Holly2016 - Bailey, Holly (January 29, 2016). "The Unabomber's not-so-lonely prison life". Yahoo!. Archived from the original on October 11, 2017.

⁹ ^a ^b Herrada2003–2004" class="citation journal cs1][Herrada, Julie (2003–2004). "Letters to the Unabomber: A Case Study and Some Reflections" (PDF). *Archival Issues*. Madison, Wisconsin: Midwest Archives Conference. **28** (1): 35–46. Archived (PDF) from the original on December 21, 2020. Retrieved January 19, 2021.

Association's directory inquiry for the fiftieth reunion of the class of 1962; he listed his occupation as "prisoner" and his eight life sentences as "awards".¹⁰

In 2011, it was reported that Kaczynski was a person of interest in the Chicago Tylenol murders. Kaczynski was willing to provide a DNA sample to the FBI, but later withheld it as a bargaining chip for his legal efforts against the FBI's private auction of his confiscated property.¹¹

The U.S. government seized Kaczynski's cabin, which they put on display at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., until late 2019, before it was transferred to a nearby FBI museum.¹²¹³

On December 14, 2021, 79-year-old Kaczynski was transferred from the supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, to the Federal Medical Center, Butner, North Carolina, for health reasons.¹⁴ Prison staff have not disclosed the precise reason for this transfer.¹⁵

¹⁰ Bailey2016 - Bailey, Holly (January 25, 2016). "Letters from a serial killer: Inside the Unabomber archive". *Yahoo News*. Archived from the original on January 25, 2016. <q>It has been almost 20 years since Ted Kaczynski's trail of terror came to an end. Now a huge trove of his personal writings has come to light, revealing the workings of his mind—and the life he leads behind bars.</q>

¹¹ "Labadie Manuscripts". Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Library. Archived from the original on February 23, 2017. Retrieved August 27, 2013.

¹² Knothe2012 - Knothe, Alli (May 23, 2012). "Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber, lists himself in Harvard 1962 alumni report; says 'awards' include eight life sentences". *The Boston Globe*. Archived from the original on April 26, 2020.

¹³ Ryan - Ryan, Jason. "FBI Probes Unabomber Connection to Tylenol Murders". *ABC News*. Walt Disney Television. Archived from the original on April 12, 2022. Retrieved April 12, 2022.

¹⁴ "Newseum – Unabomber". Newseum. Archived from the original on December 1, 2014. Retrieved April 1, 2015.

¹⁵ Manning2021 - Manning, Tyler (April 4, 2021). "Unabomber's cabin remains on display in DC". *Independent Record*. Archived from the original on April 4, 2021. Retrieved October 13, 2021.

Legacy

Kaczynski has been portrayed in and inspired multiple artistic works in the realm of popular culture.¹ These include the 1996 television film *Unabomber: The True Story*,² the 2011 play *P.O. Box Unabomber*,³ *Manhunt: Unabomber*, the 2017 season of the television series *Manhunt*⁴ and in 2021 the movie *Ted K*. The moniker "Unabomber" was also applied to the Italian Unabomber, a terrorist who conducted attacks similar to Kaczynski's in Italy from 1994 to 2006.⁵ Prior to the 1996 United States presidential election, a campaign called "Unabomber for President" was launched with the goal of electing Kaczynski as president through write-in votes.⁶ He was portrayed by Sharlto Copley in the 2021 film *Ted K*.⁷⁸⁹

In his book *The Age of Spiritual Machines* (1999), futurist Ray Kurzweil quoted a passage from Kaczynski's manifesto *Industrial Society and Its Future*.¹⁰ In turn, Kaczynski was referenced by Bill Joy, co-founder of Sun Microsystems, in the 2000 *Wired* article "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us". Joy stated Kaczynski "is clearly

¹ Zapotosky2021 - Zapotosky, Matt (December 23, 2021). "Ted Kaczynski, the 79-year-old Unabomber, transferred to prison medical facility". *The Washington Post*. Archived from the original on December 22, 2021. Retrieved December 23, 2021.

² Zapotosky2021 - Zapotosky, Matt (December 22, 2021). "Ted Kaczynski, the 79-year-old Unabomber, transferred to prison medical facility". *The Washington Post*. ISSN 0190-8286. Archived from the original on December 22, 2021. Retrieved February 8, 2022.

³ Gabriel1996 - Gabriel, Trip (April 21, 1996). "Popular Culture Sets Sights on Unabomber". *The New York Times*. Archived from the original on April 14, 2021. Retrieved March 2, 2021.

⁴ Canton - Canton, Maj. "Unabomber: The True Story". *Radio Times*. Archived from the original on April 13, 2021. Retrieved March 21, 2021.

⁵ "P.O. Box Unabomber". *36 Monkeys*. Archived from the original on April 14, 2021. Retrieved March 21, 2021.

⁶ Pedersen2017 - Pedersen, Erik (June 5, 2017). "'Manhunt: Unabomber' Trailer: FBI Profiler Hunts An Unusual Serial Killer". *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived from the original on June 5, 2017. Retrieved March 21, 2021.

⁷ "Italian 'Unabomber' strikes again". *BBC News*. April 26, 2003. Archived from the original on January 25, 2021. Retrieved January 19, 2021.

⁸ Winokur1996 - Winokur, Scott (September 17, 1996). "The 'Unabomber for President' campaign". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Archived from the original on February 5, 2021. Retrieved January 19, 2021.

⁹ "Ted K". NZIFF. Archived from the original on November 19, 2021. Retrieved November 19, 2021.

¹⁰ *Ted K* at IMDb

a Luddite, but simply saying this does not dismiss his argument”.¹¹¹² Professor Jean-Marie Apostolidès has raised questions surrounding the ethics of spreading Kaczynski’s views.¹³ Various radical movements and extremists have been influenced by Kaczynski.¹⁴ People inspired by Kaczynski’s ideas show up in unexpected places, from nihilist, anarchist and eco-extremist movements to conservative intellectuals.¹⁵ Anders Behring Breivik, the perpetrator of the 2011 Norway attacks,¹⁶ published a manifesto which copied large portions from *Industrial Society and Its Future*, with certain terms substituted (e.g., replacing ”leftists” with ”cultural Marxists” and ”multiculturalists”).¹⁷¹⁸

Over twenty years after Kaczynski’s imprisonment, his views have inspired an online community of primitivists and neo-Luddites. One explanation for the renewal of interest in his views is the television series *Manhunt: Unabomber*, which aired in 2017.¹⁹ Kaczynski is also frequently referred to by ecofascists online.²⁰ Although some militant fascist and neo-Nazi groups idolize him, Kaczynski described fascism in his manifesto as a ”kook ideology” and Nazism as ”evil”.²¹

An April 22, 1998 episode of *Law & Order* entitled ”Disappeared” appears to have been inspired by the Kaczynski case.

¹¹ Lodge2021 - Lodge, Guy (March 6, 2021). ”’Ted K’ Review: Sharlto Copley Is the Unabomber in a Slow-Burning True-Crime Study”. *Variety*. Archived from the original on November 19, 2021. Retrieved November 19, 2021.

¹² Diamond2017” class=”citation magazine cs1”[Diamond, Jason (August 17, 2017). ”Flashback: Unabomber Publishes His ’Manifesto’”. *Rolling Stone*. Archived from the original on April 13, 2021. Retrieved February 17, 2021.

¹³ Joy2000” class=”citation magazine cs1”[Joy, Bill (April 1, 2000). ”Why the Future Doesn’t Need Us”. *Wired*. Archived from the original on March 18, 2014. Retrieved February 17, 2021.

¹⁴ ^{a b} Young2012” class=”citation journal cs1”[Young, Jeffrey R. (May 25, 2012). ”The Unabomber’s Pen Pal”. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The Chronicle of Higher Education Inc. **58** (37): B6–B11. ISSN 0009-5982. Archived from the original on October 9, 2017. Retrieved November 16, 2018.

¹⁵ ^{a b} John_H._Richardson2018 - John H. Richardson (December 11, 2018). ”Children of Ted Two decades after his last deadly act of ecoterrorism, the Unabomber has become an unlikely prophet to a new generation of acolytes”. *New York*. Archived from the original on February 9, 2021. Retrieved February 14, 2021.

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¹⁸ Hall2012 - Hall, John (April 16, 2012).

¹⁹ Hough2011 - Hough, Andrew (July 24, 2011). ”Norway shooting: Anders Behring Breivik plagiarised ’Unabomber’”. *The Daily Telegraph*. Archived from the original on July 24, 2011.

²⁰ Van_Gerven_Oei2011” class=”citation journal cs1”[Van Gerven Oei, Vincent W. J. (2011). ”Anders Breivik: On Copying the Obscure”. *Continent*. **1** (3): 213–223. Archived from the original on July 16, 2020. Retrieved March 15, 2019.

²¹ Hough2011 - Hough, Andrew (July 24, 2011). ”Norway shooting: Anders Behring Breivik plagiarised ’Unabomber’”. *The Daily Telegraph*. Archived from the original on July 24, 2011.

See also

- Industrial Society and Its Future
- Ted K
- Downshifting
- Green Scare
- Operation Backfire
- How to Blow Up a Pipeline
- Philosophy of Technology
- Jacques Ellul
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- The Question Concerning Technology

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Notes

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