

CONSPIR'ACY, n. [L. *conspiratio*, from *conspiro*. See *Conspire*.]

1. A combination of men for an evil purpose; an agreement between two or more persons, to commit some crime in concert; particularly, a combination to commit treason, or excite sedition or insurrection against the government of a state; a plot; as a *conspiracy* against the life of a king; a *conspiracy* against the government.

More than forty had made this *conspiracy*.
Acts xxiii.

2. In *law*, an agreement between two or more persons, falsely and maliciously to indict, or procure to be indicted, an innocent person of felony. *Blackstone*.

3. A concurrence; a general tendency of two or more causes to one event.

Sidney.

THE'ORY, n. [Fr. *théorie*; It. *teoria*; L. *theoria*; Gr. *θεωρία*, from *θεωρεω*, to see or contemplate.]

1. Speculation; a doctrine or scheme of things, which terminates in speculation or contemplation, without a view to practice. It is here taken in an unfavorable sense, as implying something visionary.
2. An exposition of the general principles of any science; as the *theory* of music.
3. The science distinguished from the art; as the *theory* and practice of medicine.
4. The philosophical explanation of phenomena, either physical or moral; as Lavoisier's *theory* of combustion; Smith's *theory* of moral sentiments.

Theory is distinguished from *hypothesis* thus; a *theory* is founded on inferences drawn from principles which have been established on independent evidence; a *hypothesis* is a proposition assumed to account for certain phenomena, and has no other evidence of its truth, than that it affords a satisfactory explanation of those phenomena. *D. Olmsted*.