The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam

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Assassination

Assassination is the act of deliberately killing a prominent or important person, such as heads of state, heads of government, politicians, royalty, celebrities, journalists, or CEOs. An assassination may be prompted by political and military motives, or done for financial gain, to avenge a grievance, from a desire to acquire fame or notoriety, or because of a military, security, ideological motive.

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During the medieval period, Western scholarship on the Isma'ilis contributed to the popular view of the community as a radical sect of assassins. By the 10th century, European scholarship on the topic had not advanced much beyond the work and tales of the Crusaders.

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