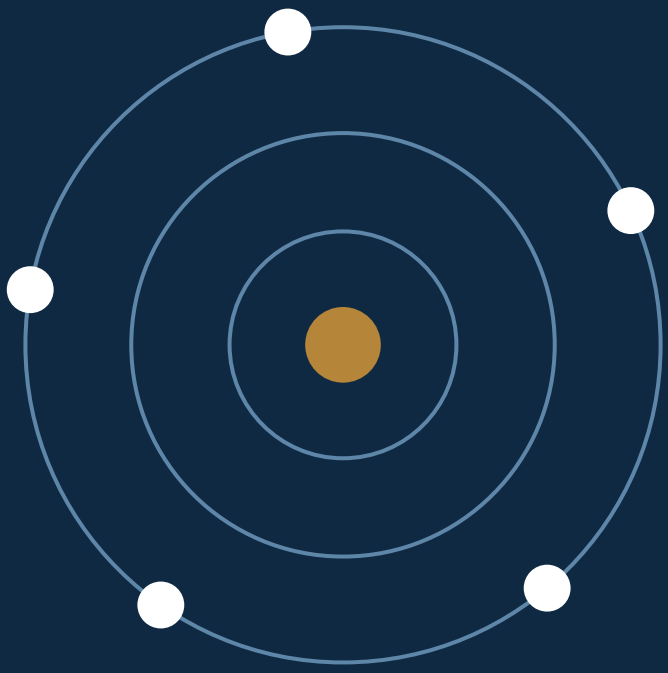
RA13

THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY & POWER NETWORK

Twenty visual case files separating documented institutions from Beter's claims of centralized covert command.



First edition · 13 October 2026 · v1.0

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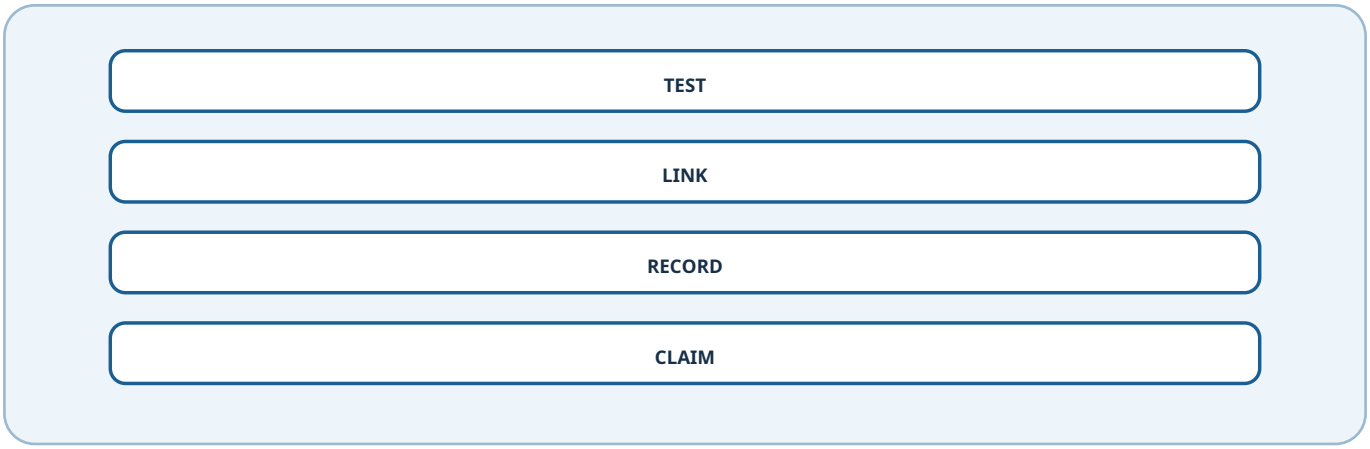
What this volume examines



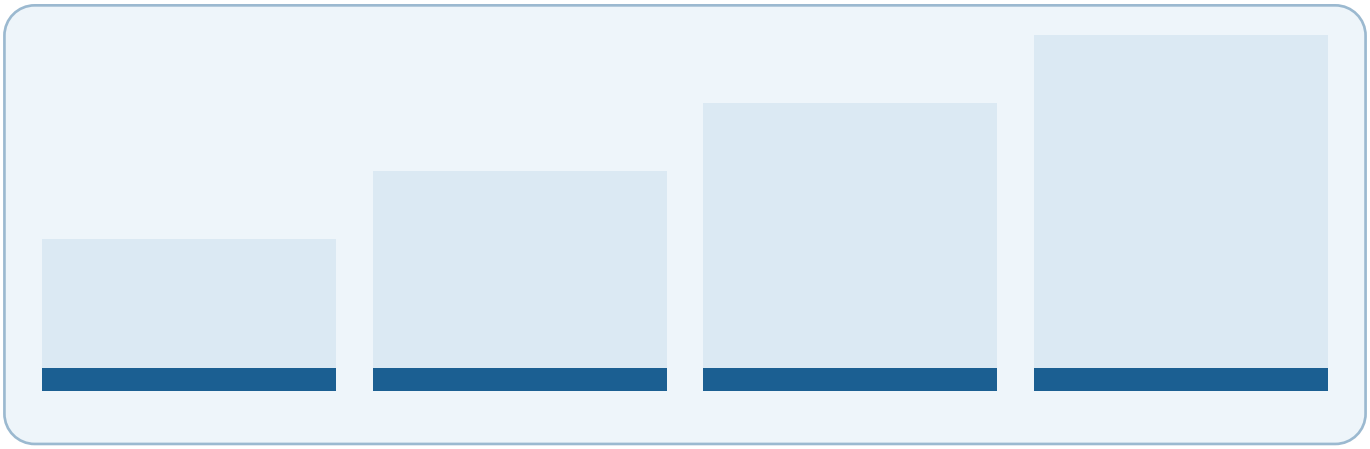
RA13 asks a narrower question than the phrase ‘Rockefeller power’ usually implies. It separates a real family, real corporations and foundations, documented political and policy roles, and Beter’s much stronger claim that these relationships formed a centrally directed covert cartel. Each proposition is tested at the level at which it can actually be evidenced.

The study therefore does not treat elite influence as imaginary merely because a universal command structure is unproven. Wealth, access, agenda-setting, philanthropy, banking and public office can create substantial influence. The analytical mistake would be to convert those different mechanisms into one undifferentiated verb — ‘control’ — without identifying who could compel whom, in which decision, at what date.

Documented influence and alleged centralized command are different propositions.

02 / 20

Method: actor, mechanism, decision, date



For every network claim RA13 records four minimum elements: the actor, the mechanism of influence, the decision or asset affected, and the relevant date. A fifth element — observable consequence — is added when available. This prevents a family relationship, a board seat, a donation and corporate ownership from being treated as interchangeable forms of command.

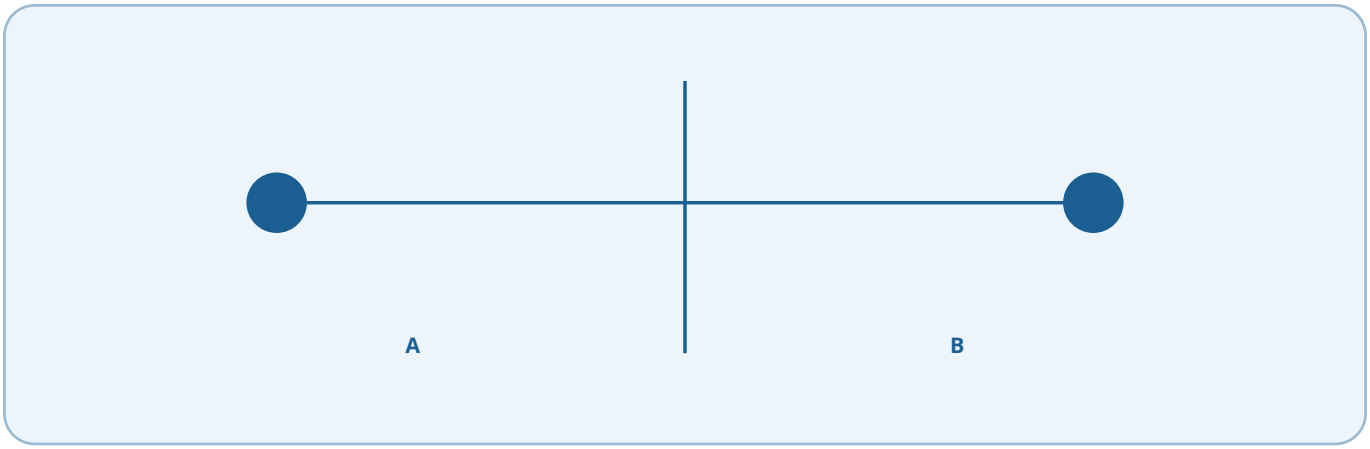
Evidence is graded proposition by proposition: documented; documented but narrower than Beter's framing; unresolved in the consulted material; or contradicted by the consulted record. 'Unresolved' is deliberately not translated as 'false'. Conversely, the existence of secrecy or incomplete archives cannot by itself select Beter's explanation from all other possibilities.

Always specify the verb: own, appoint, fund, advise, convene, pressure, block, or command.

EDITORIAL VISUALIZATION — SOURCE-BASED ANALYSIS; ILLUSTRATIONS DO NOT ESTABLISH ALLEGATIONS AS FACT.

03 / 20

1870–1911: Standard Oil is real history



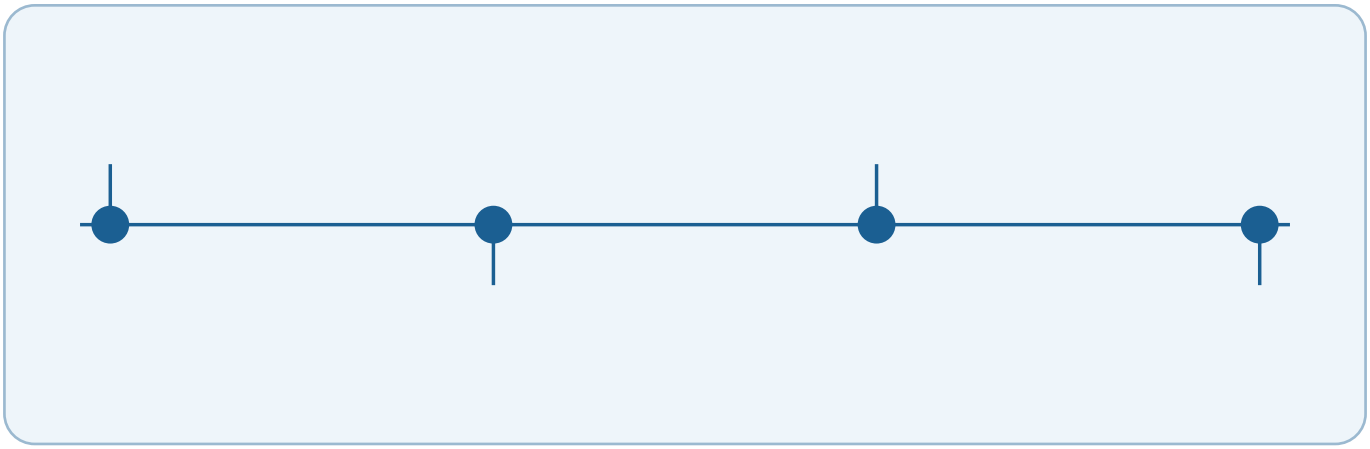
The historical foundation of Rockefeller wealth is not conjectural. John D. Rockefeller organized Standard Oil in 1870; the enterprise expanded rapidly, the Standard Oil Trust was formed in 1882, and the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately ordered the New Jersey holding company dissolved in 1911 under antitrust law. Those facts establish extraordinary concentration of industrial power in a specific sector and period.

They do not automatically establish a permanent command chain over every successor company after dissolution. The 1911 judgment matters precisely because it altered legal organization and ownership structures. A claim that coordination continued through nominees or informal relationships must identify the relevant shares, agreements, directors, voting arrangements or communications after the decree.

A documented monopoly is strong evidence of industrial concentration, not a blank cheque for later universal-control claims.

04 / 20

After antitrust: continuity must be demonstrated



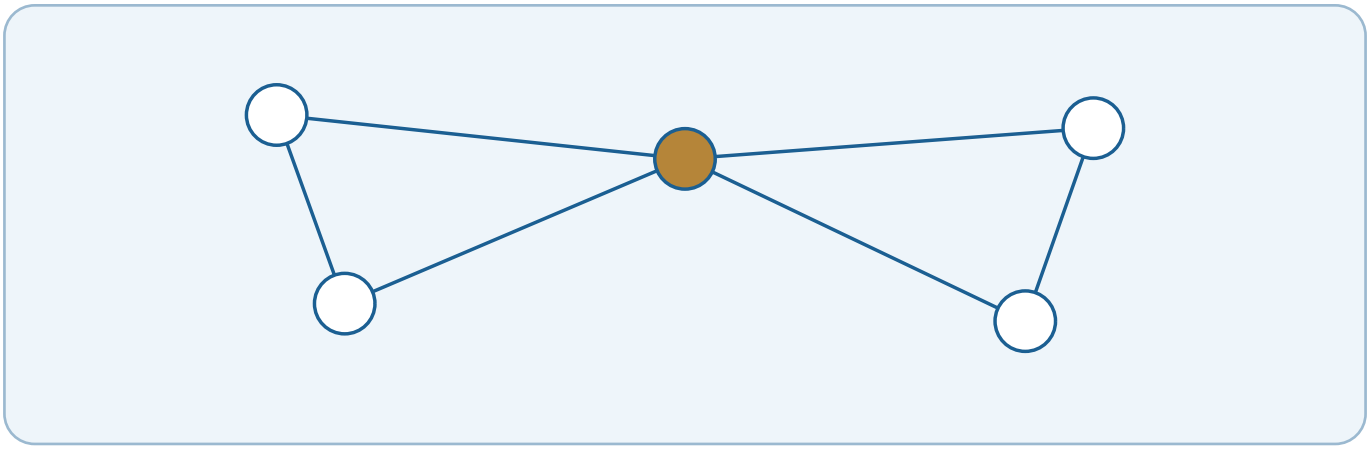
The breakup of Standard Oil did not erase the Rockefeller fortune. Shareholders received interests in successor firms, and the family remained wealthy. It is therefore reasonable to study continuing economic influence. The key methodological question is whether continuity of wealth equals continuity of centralized operational control. Those are not identical.

A network can retain influence through ownership, personal ties, financing, board service or shared strategy even when formal legal unity disappears. But each mechanism leaves a different documentary trail. Cross-directorships can be mapped. Shareholdings can be dated. Lending relationships can be read in contracts. Informal coordination is harder, yet it still requires some affirmative evidence if it is to be asserted as fact.

Continuity of wealth continuity of command.

05 / 20

The family was larger than Beter’s four-man core



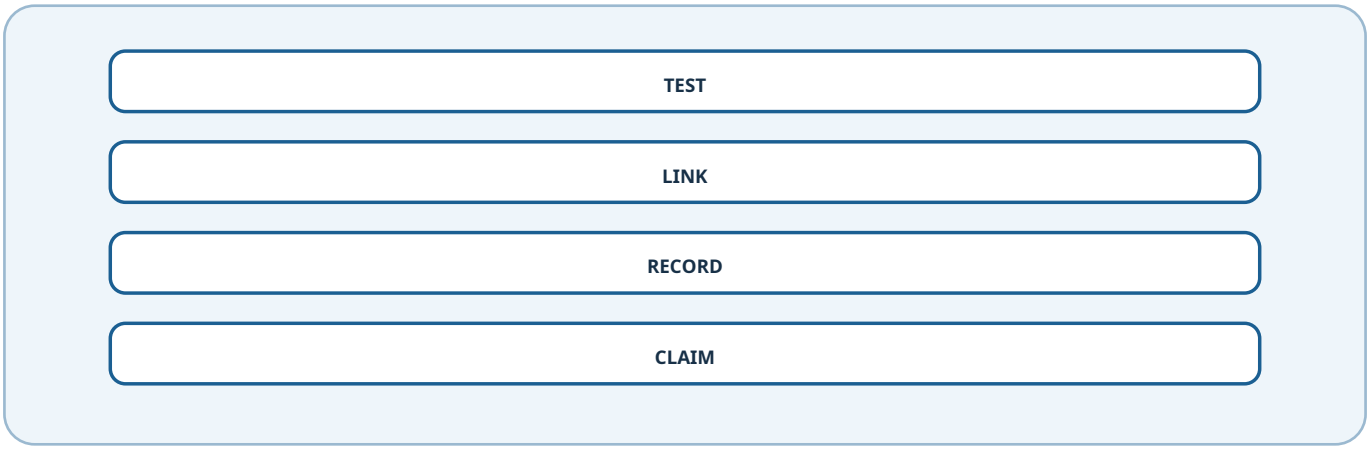
John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller had six children: Abby, John 3rd, Nelson, Laurance, Winthrop and David. Beter’s mature faction narrative repeatedly foregrounds four brothers — John 3rd, Nelson, Laurance and David — while excluding Winthrop from the supposed command core. That selection is part of Beter’s model, not the family tree itself.

This distinction matters because ‘Rockefeller family’ can refer to genealogy, while ‘Rockefeller faction’ is an analytical or conspiratorial category that selects particular relatives and associates for assigned functions. The two sets overlap but are not identical. A study that silently equates them would convert an allegation about a small inner group into a claim about every relative.

Genealogy is observable; membership in an alleged covert command group requires separate evidence.

06 / 20

John D. Rockefeller 3rd: institutions and interpretation



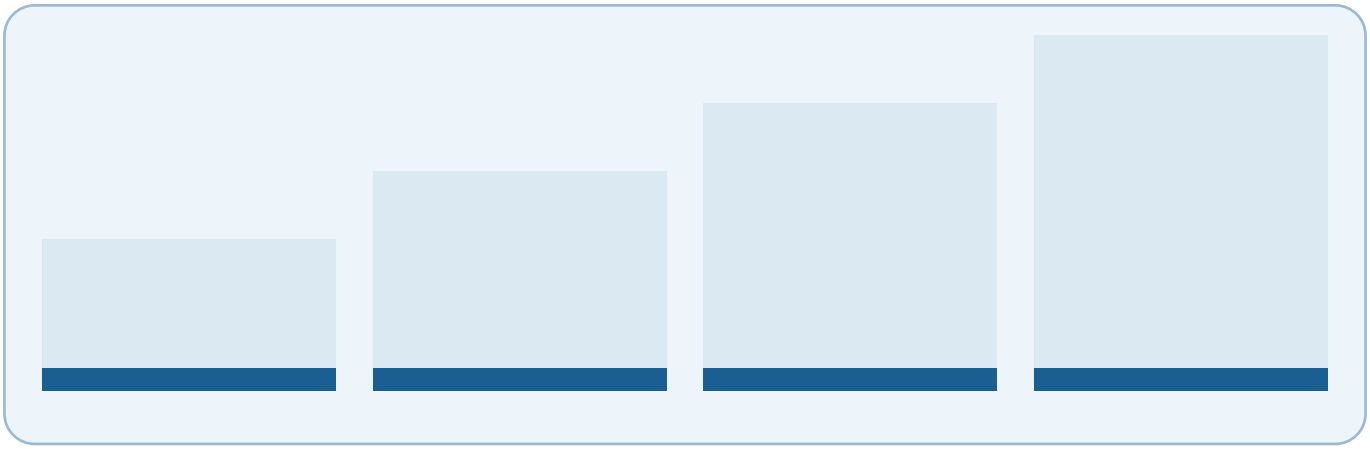
John D. Rockefeller 3rd's public record includes major philanthropic and cultural activity and long engagement with international affairs. These roles matter because they show substantial resources and institutional access without requiring speculation. A source-based analysis should begin with those documented functions before assigning hidden ones.

Beter assigns John 3rd a coordinating role in a worldwide power structure. That is a stronger proposition. To move from philanthropy and institution-building to covert strategic command would require evidence of instructions, operational authority or decision chains linking him to the claimed actions.

Event and interpretation must stay in separate columns.

07 / 20

Nelson Rockefeller: public office is not hidden office



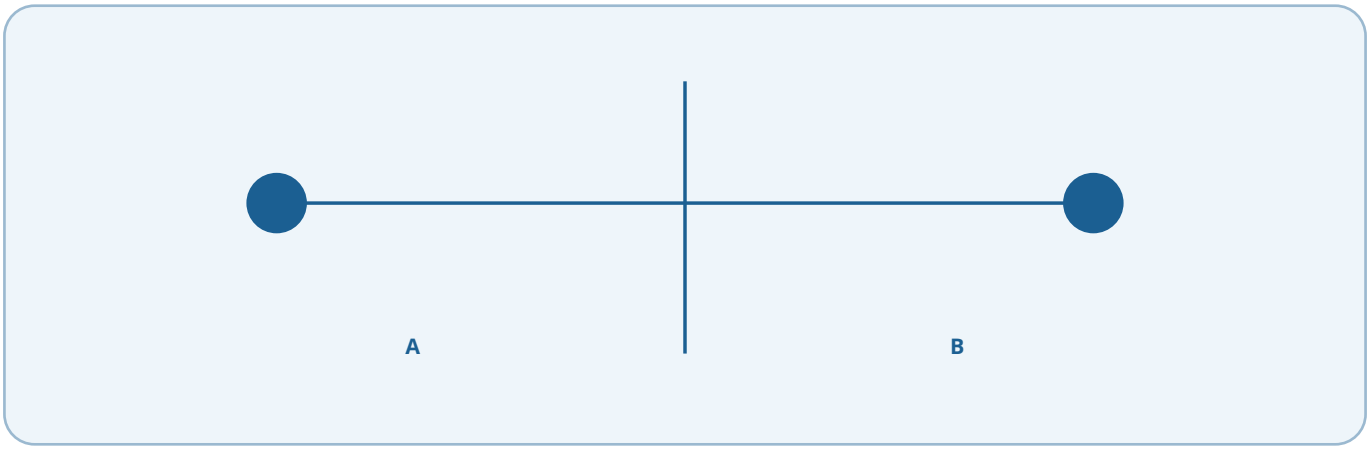
Nelson Rockefeller held unusually visible political power: he was governor of New York and became U.S. vice president after Gerald Ford nominated him under the Twenty-fifth Amendment. The Senate records his oath on 19 December 1974. These facts are strong evidence of access to executive power and national policy.

Beter's early Audio Letters go much further. He portrays Nelson as the political operator of a family command structure and links his vice presidency to a plan for dictatorship. That proposition is testable only through evidence of the alleged plan — documents, participants, instructions and implementation — not through the mere fact that a wealthy politician became vice president.

Real public power can be substantial without proving an additional secret chain of command.

08 / 20

Laurance Rockefeller: capital, technology and conservation



Laurance Rockefeller's biography documents a broad but intelligible portfolio: venture-capital investment, aviation and aerospace interests, science and technology, conservation, resort development and leadership in major nonprofit organizations. These are genuine connections worth mapping because they place one family member at the intersection of capital and emerging technologies.

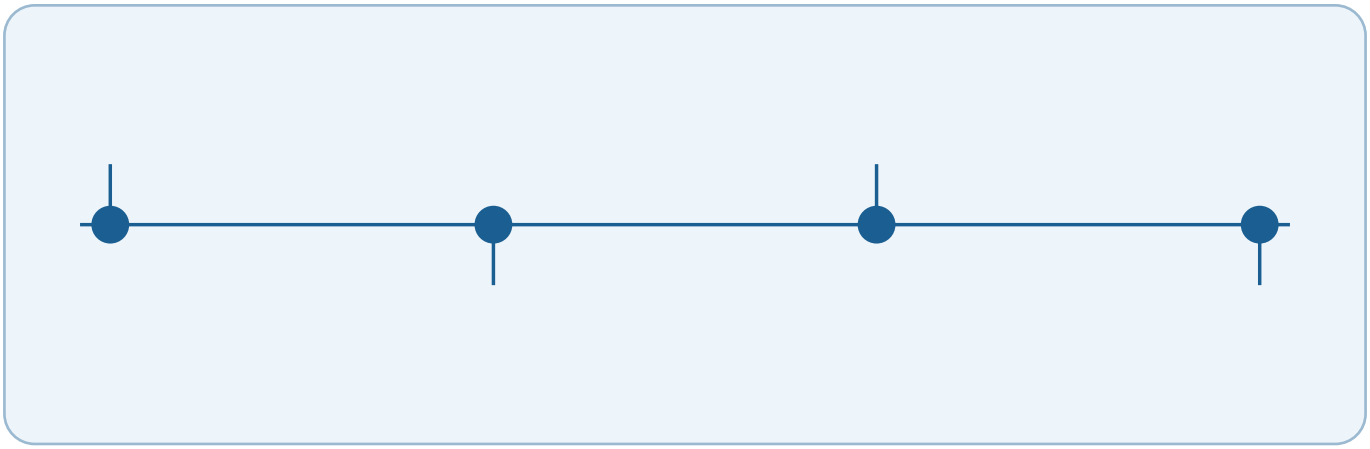
Beter expands those connections into a covert strategic role within the alleged cartel. The evidentiary step is therefore not whether Laurance had technology investments — he did — but whether those investments were directed as components of a centralized clandestine political program. Public sector breadth is not the same as covert operational unity.

A broad investment portfolio is evidence of reach, not by itself evidence of one hidden mission.

EDITORIAL VISUALIZATION — SOURCE-BASED ANALYSIS; ILLUSTRATIONS DO NOT ESTABLISH ALLEGATIONS AS FACT.

09 / 20

David Rockefeller: banking and international access



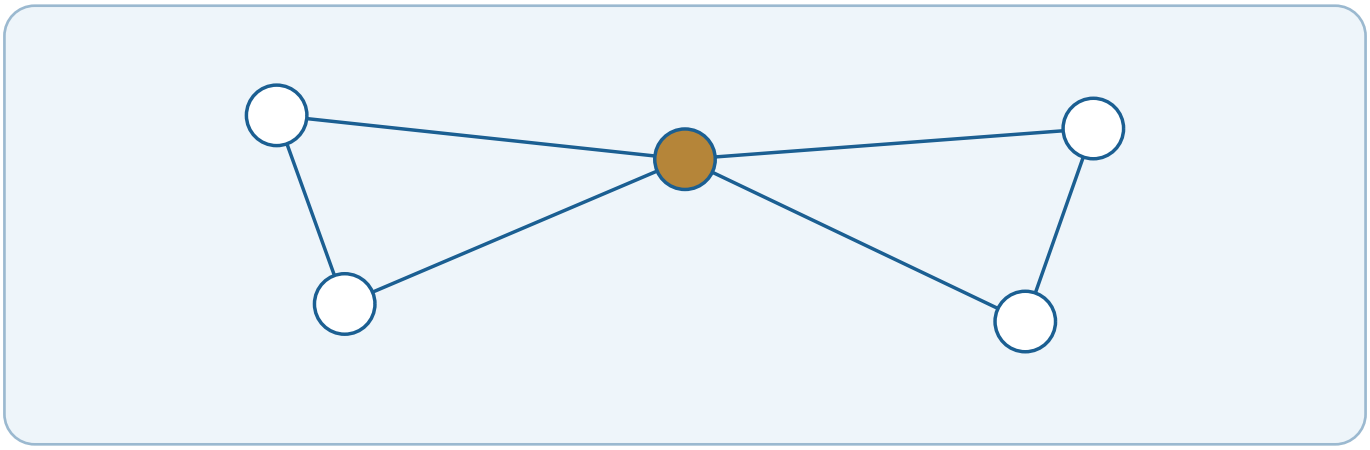
David Rockefeller's documented career provides the strongest public example of international financial influence in the family's generation. He rose through Chase Manhattan, became chairman and chief executive in 1969, and developed extensive relationships with political and business leaders around the world. His biography supports the proposition that he was an unusually connected banker.

Beter's model treats those connections as components of a wider command structure. The distinction is crucial: a bank can finance, advise, negotiate and create dependence without owning the borrower or directing every political decision. A banker can have privileged access without possessing unilateral authority over the governments he meets.

Access and leverage are measurable; omnipotent command is a different claim.

10 / 20

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund: real coordination, bounded scope



The Rockefeller Brothers Fund is an important control case because it documents actual family coordination. Its history states that five brothers created the Fund in 1940, pooled resources and initially made grant decisions collectively. This is not an inferred network; it is an institutional arrangement with a stated purpose and governance history.

That very clarity shows how evidence should work. We can name the organization, founding date, participants, decision mechanism and philanthropic object. Later non-family trustees and generational transitions are also documented. A covert-command claim should ideally approach the same specificity, even if surviving records are necessarily less complete.

Where coordination is real, identify the institution and its decision mechanism.

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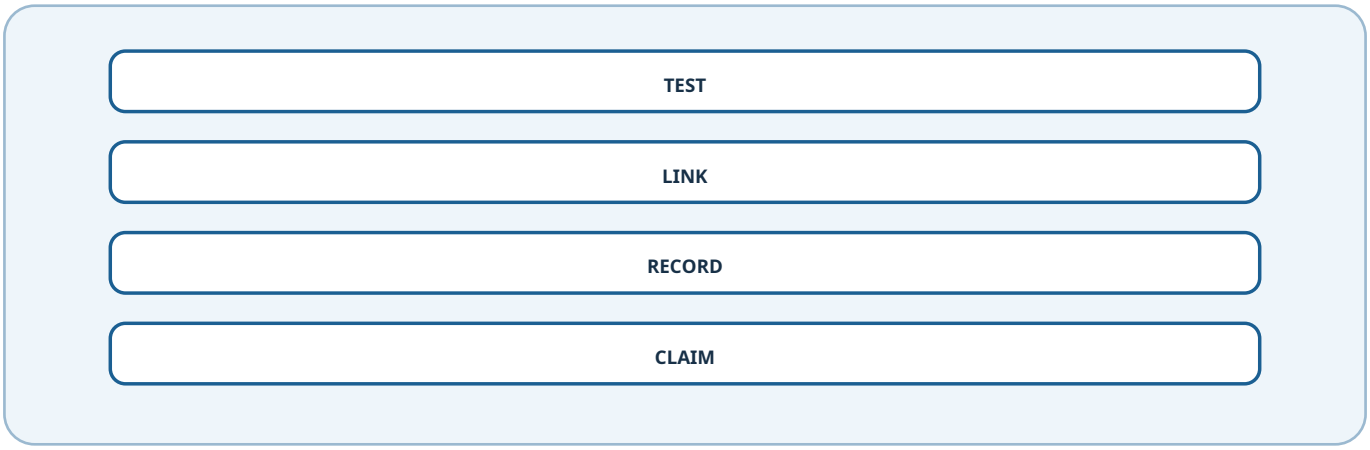
The Rockefeller Foundation: a name is not a command chain



Organizations carrying the Rockefeller name are often treated in popular diagrams as if they were departments of one headquarters. That inference is unsafe. The Rockefeller Foundation states that it is legally independent, with its own resources, trustees and mission, and that it does not control other Rockefeller-named entities.

A current governance statement cannot settle every historical question, but it establishes a critical default distinction: common origin, family association or name does not itself demonstrate common operational control. Historical periods still need their own trustee lists, grants, correspondence and legal documents.

Common name common command.

EDITORIAL VISUALIZATION — SOURCE-BASED ANALYSIS; ILLUSTRATIONS DO NOT ESTABLISH ALLEGATIONS AS FACT.

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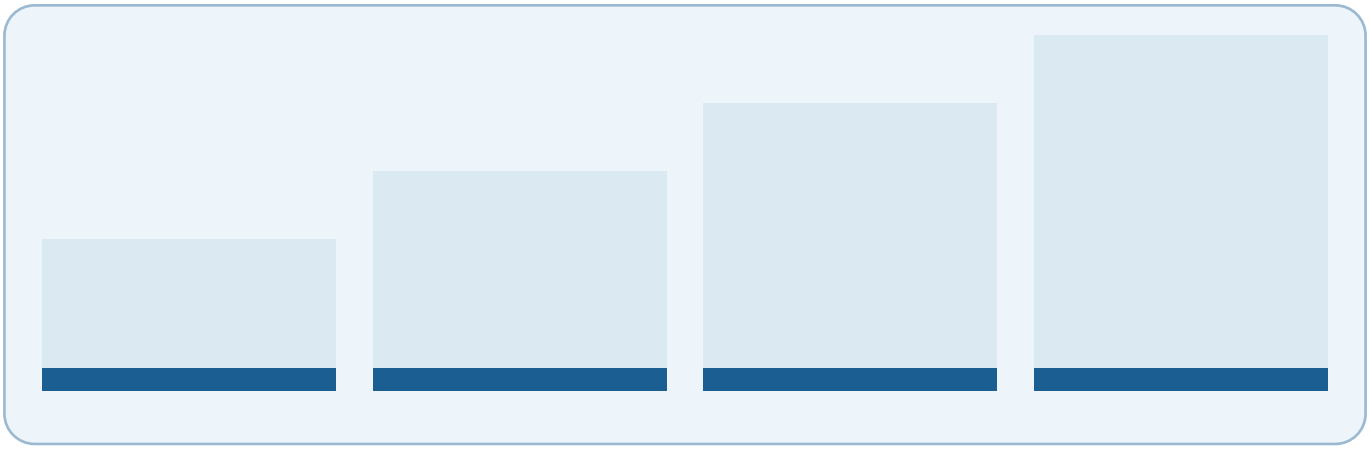
CFR: documented elite networking



David Rockefeller's Council on Foreign Relations role is not speculative. CFR's historical roster records him as a director from 1949 to 1985 and chairman from 1970 to 1985. That is significant institutional access over decades, and it supplies a concrete basis for studying how private policy forums connect business, government, academia and media.

What the roster does not establish is that CFR members receive orders from a Rockefeller command center or that the organization controls U.S. foreign policy. A forum can shape agendas, circulate ideas, provide social capital and reduce the cost of coordination without becoming a sovereign chain of command.

A network can matter greatly without being a government.

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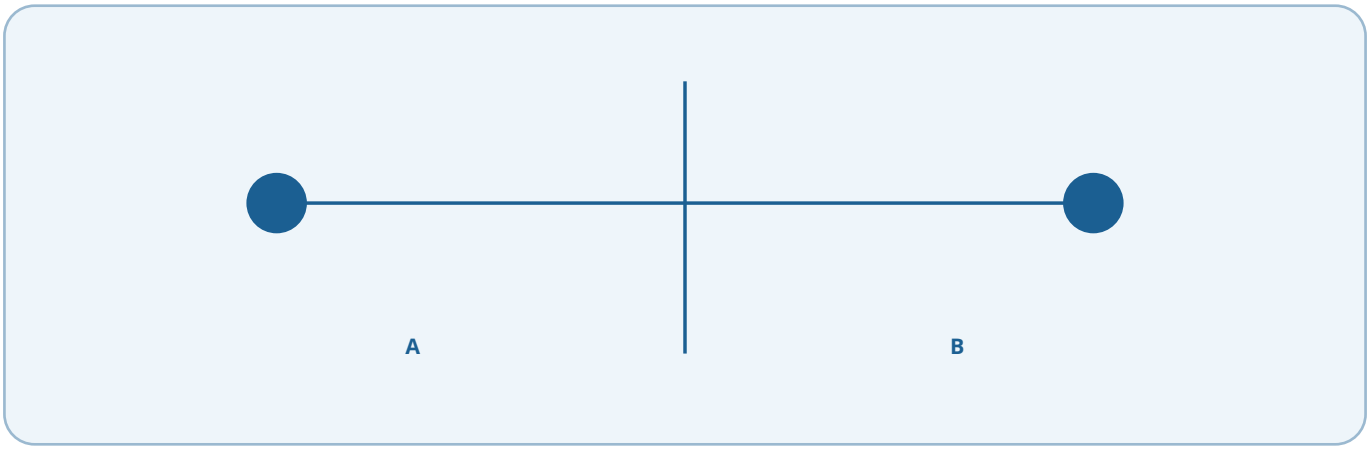
The Trilateral Commission: founding is documented, control is not inferred



The Trilateral Commission's own history says it was founded in 1973 by David Rockefeller. That establishes personal initiative in creating a transnational policy forum. It also establishes a legitimate subject for research into elite networks: membership, reports, convenings and movement of people between private and public roles can all be tracked.

The evidentiary mistake would be to treat founding a forum as equivalent to commanding everyone who participates in it. Members can disagree, governments can reject proposals, and a report can influence debate without being an executed instruction. The mechanism has to be shown rather than assumed from membership.

Founding a forum proves initiative; it does not prove command over every participant.

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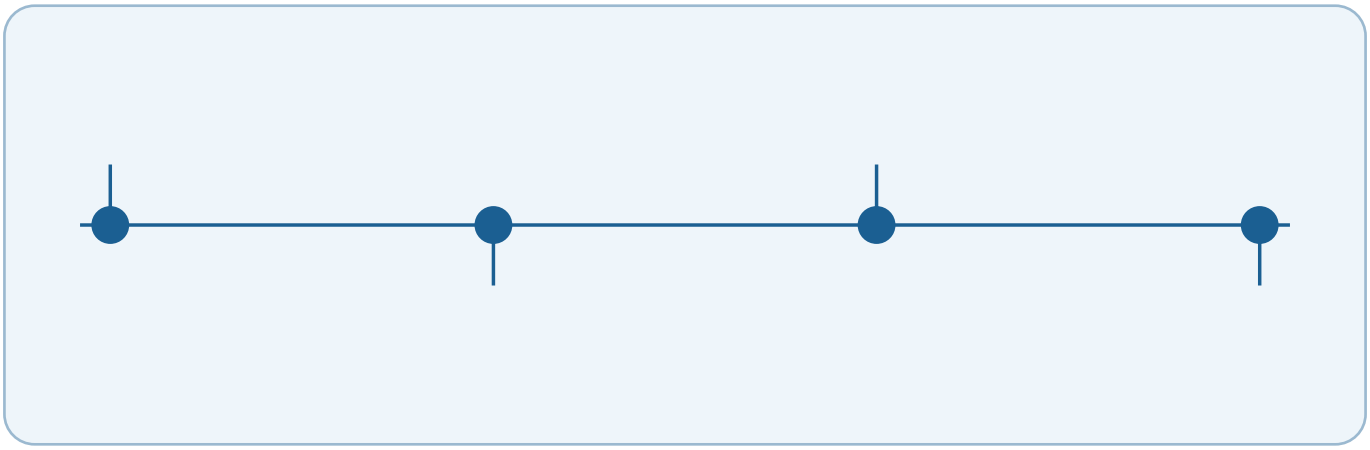
AL02: an early 1975 model of political and economic control



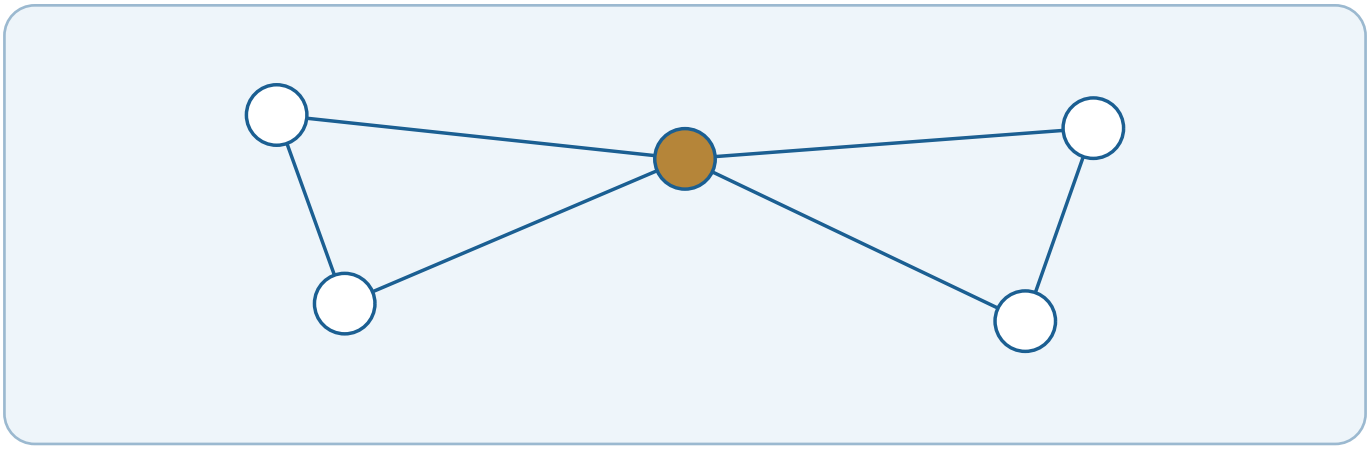
Audio Letter 2, dated 15 July 1975, is important because it captures Beter's model near the beginning of the series rather than after later events had accumulated. He portrays the four brothers as a coordinated unit whose plans for economic dislocation and dictatorship were already encountering setbacks.

The letter's evidentiary value has two layers. It is primary evidence that Beter publicly advanced these claims at that date. It is not, by itself, evidence that the alleged plan existed. Verification therefore turns to the specific events he connects to the plan: Nelson's vice presidency, economic conditions, Fort Knox, media behavior and later political outcomes.

Date the claim first; then test the mechanism.

15 / 20

AL36: the mature “dynasty” narrative



By Audio Letter 36 in July 1978, Beter presents a much more explicit historical theory. He describes the Rockefeller dynasty as a multi-generation power structure and depicts the four brothers as a coordinated leadership group over major Western economic and political interests.

Some components of the background are independently strong: enormous family wealth, prominent institutions, senior political office, global banking and policy networks. Other components are much stronger causal propositions: that those assets answered to one hidden command and that the command could direct wars, governments and intelligence operations.

A mixed verdict is more informative than “all true” or “all false.”

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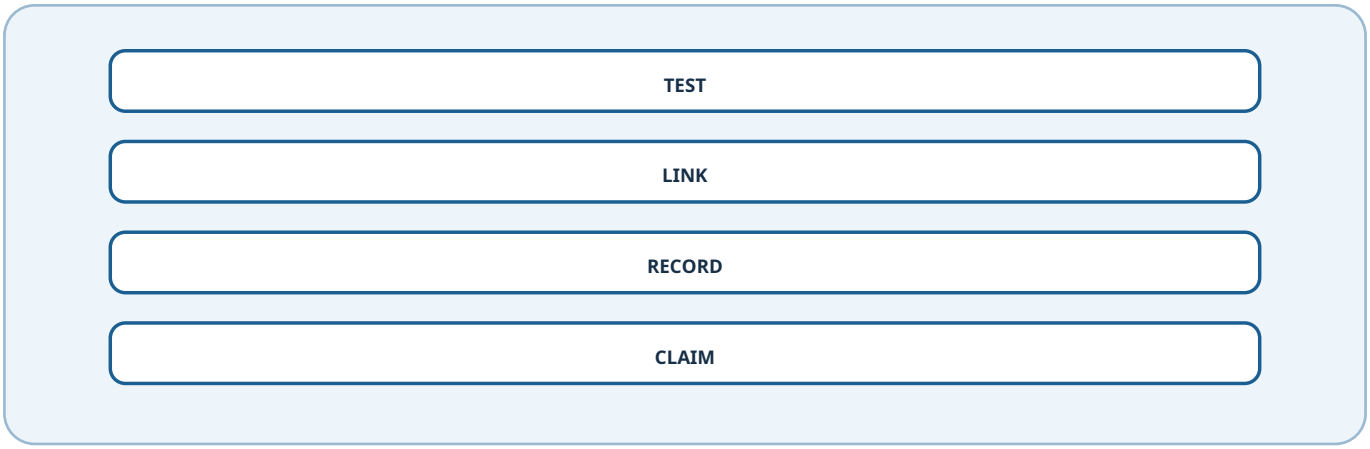
10 July 1978: John 3rd’s death as a test case



John D. Rockefeller 3rd died in an automobile accident on 10 July 1978. This is independently documented. Beter’s subsequent treatment turns that public event into evidence of a deteriorating command structure. The chronological sequence is real; the causal interpretation is not contained in the death record.

A rigorous test would ask whether decisions attributed to John 3rd changed measurably after his death, whether documents from other participants identify a leadership vacuum, and whether institutions supposedly controlled by the four brothers altered behavior in a coordinated way. Without such links, the event remains compatible with many interpretations.

A date can anchor a claim without proving its causal story.

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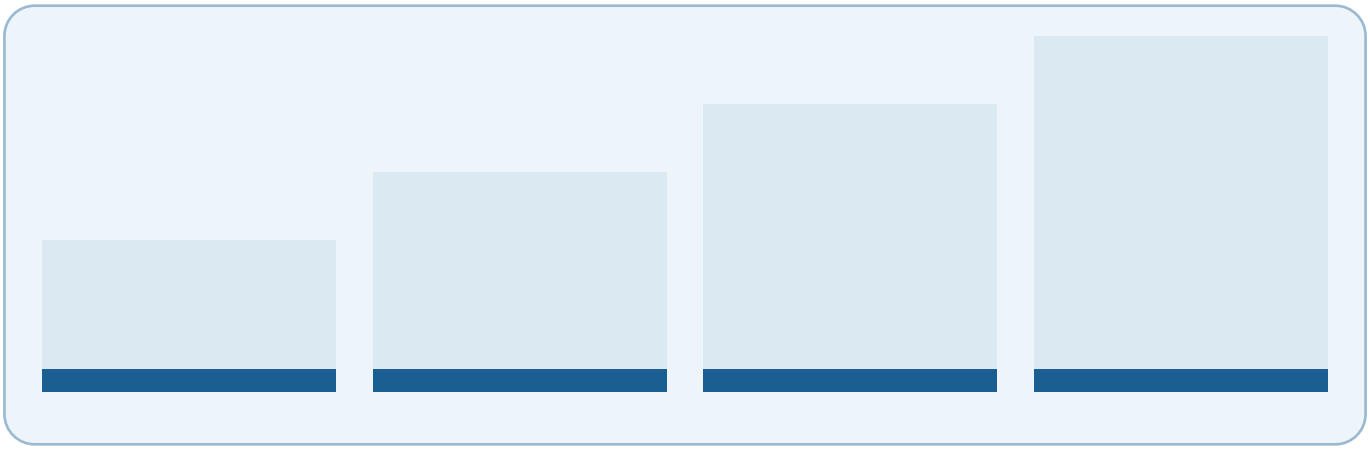
26 January 1979: Nelson’s death and competing accounts



Nelson Rockefeller died on 26 January 1979. Public biographical records identify a heart attack. In Audio Letter 42, Beter alleges instead that Nelson was shot and that the public account concealed the real circumstances. Here the disagreement is direct and therefore analytically useful.

The burden of proof is asymmetric. An official or biographical account is not infallible simply because it is official, but overturning the recorded cause of death requires affirmative contrary evidence: medical documentation, credible eyewitness testimony, forensic evidence or contemporaneous records that survive independent scrutiny.

Contradicting the recorded cause of death requires positive contrary evidence.

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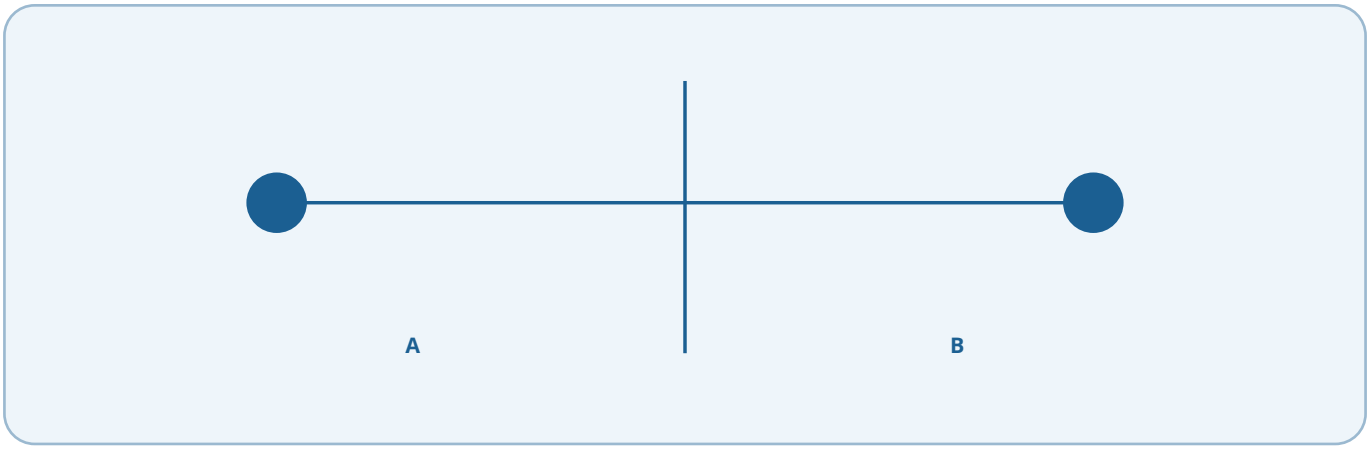
AL42: a weakened faction is still a moving hypothesis



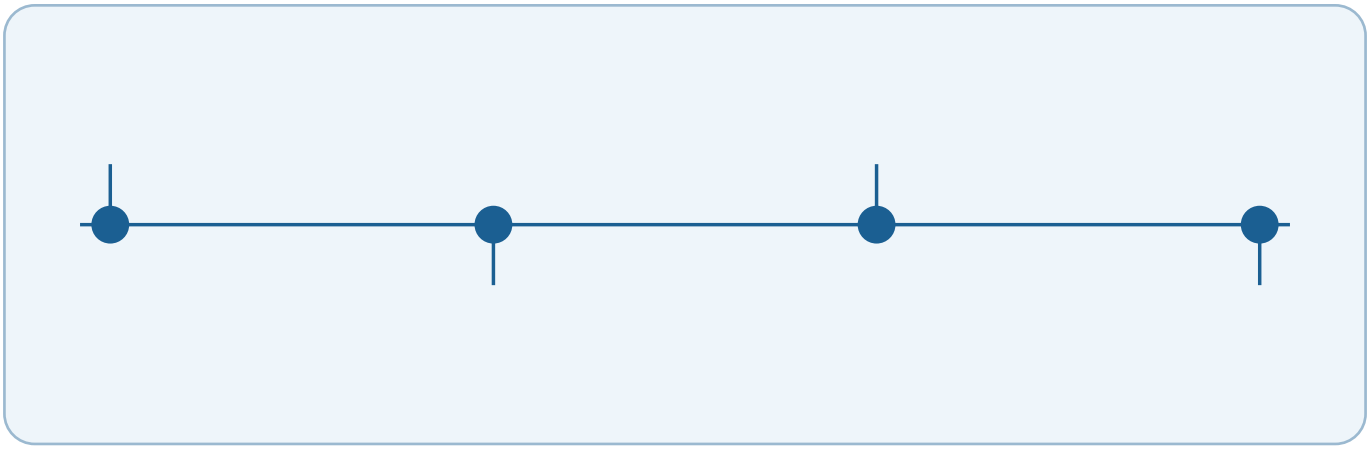
After John 3rd and Nelson were gone, Beter did not abandon the cartel model. Audio Letter 42 reframed it as a weakened leadership structure centered on the surviving brothers and possible substitutes. This adaptability is important when assessing falsifiability.

A model can legitimately evolve when new evidence appears. The problem arises when every adverse event can be absorbed without specifying what observation would count against the model. If deaths prove weakening, survival proves continuity, criticism proves loss of control and silence proves concealment, the hypothesis risks becoming difficult to test.

A good hypothesis states what would count against it.

19 / 20

AL44 versus the later lives of David and Laurance



Audio Letter 44 provides RA13's clearest hard contradiction. Beter states that all four Rockefeller brothers in his core group were dead and gives February 1979 dates for David and Laurance. Independent biographies record Laurance living until 2004 and David until 2017, with extensive public activities across the intervening decades.

One can preserve Beter's larger narrative only by adding another proposition — that later public David and Laurance were replacements or doubles. But an auxiliary claim does not erase the contradiction; it creates a new claim with its own burden of proof. It would require evidence capable of distinguishing replacement from ordinary continued life.

This is a direct chronological contradiction, not merely an unresolved mechanism.

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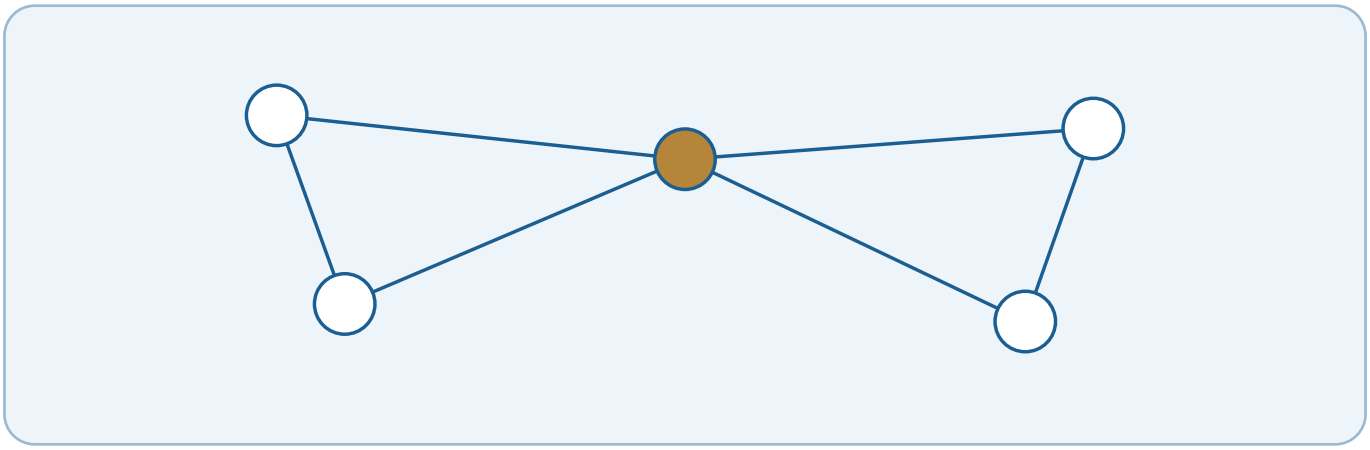
Influence: ownership, credit, appointments and agenda-setting



RA13 distinguishes four mechanisms that can create real power without requiring a single secret headquarters. Ownership can convey voting and economic rights. Credit can impose contractual conditions and create bargaining leverage. Appointments can place people in decision-making positions. Agenda-setting can determine which ideas receive resources and elite attention.

These mechanisms can reinforce one another. A wealthy banker who chairs a policy institution may meet ministers, finance projects and support research. That combination is analytically important. But the resulting network remains a set of relationships until evidence shows a common command directing specific decisions.

Network density can be measured; command requires evidence of direction.

EDITORIAL VISUALIZATION — SOURCE-BASED ANALYSIS; ILLUSTRATIONS DO NOT ESTABLISH ALLEGATIONS AS FACT.

Source key · 1/3

S01 — Peter D. Beter — Audio Letter 02 · 15 Jul 1975
Primary archive transcript for early claims about the four brothers, economic control and Nelson Rockefeller.
https://www.peterdavidbeter.com/docs/all/dbal02.html

S04 — Peter D. Beter — Audio Letter 44 · 29 Mar 1979
Primary transcript containing claims that David and Laurance Rockefeller had died in February 1979.
https://www.peterdavidbeter.com/docs/all/dbal44.html

S07 — Rockefeller Archive Center — John D. Rockefeller 3rd, 1906–1978
Biography and institutional roles of John D. Rockefeller 3rd.
https://rockarch.org/resources/about-the-rockefellers/john-d-rockefeller-3rd/

S10 — Rockefeller Archive Center — David Rockefeller, 1915–2017
Biography documenting Chase leadership, international activity and death in 2017.
https://rockarch.org/resources/about-the-rockefellers/david-rockefeller/

S13 — Council on Foreign Relations — Board of Directors / historical roster
Official roster recording David Rockefeller as director 1949–1985 and chair 1970–1985.
https://www.cfr.org/board-directors

S16 — U.S. Senate — Vice Presidents of the United States
Official chronology of Gerald Ford’s nomination and Nelson Rockefeller’s oath on 19 Dec 1974.
https://www.senate.gov/about/officers-staff/vice-presidents.htm

Source key · 2/3

S02 — Peter D. Beter — Audio Letter 36 · 27 Jul 1978
Primary transcript for Beter's mature dynasty/cartel model after John D. Rockefeller 3rd's death.
https://www.peterdavidbeter.com/docs/all/dbal36.html

S05 — Rockefeller Archive Center — John D. Rockefeller, 1839–1937
Institutional biography covering Standard Oil's 1870 organization, 1882 trust and 1911 dissolution.
https://rockarch.org/resources/about-the-rockefellers/john-d-rockefeller-sr/

S08 — Rockefeller Archive Center — Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1908–1979
Biography and documented public career of Nelson Rockefeller.
https://rockarch.org/resources/about-the-rockefellers/nelson-a-rockefeller/

S11 — Rockefeller Brothers Fund — RBF Founded
Institutional history: five brothers founded the Fund in 1940 and initially made grants collectively.
https://www.rbf.org/about/our-history/timeline/rbf-founded

S14 — The Trilateral Commission — About Us
Commission's own history stating that it was founded in 1973 by David Rockefeller.
https://www.trilateral.org/about/

S17 — Rockefeller Brothers Fund — Mission / philanthropic tradition
Institutional account of coordinated philanthropy, later non-family trustees and generational continuity.
https://www.rbf.org/about-us

Source key · 3/3

S03 — Peter D. Beter — Audio Letter 42 · 31 Jan 1979
Primary transcript for Beter's interpretation of Nelson Rockefeller's death and the faction's weakened leadership.
https://www.peterdavidbeter.com/docs/all/dbal42.html

S06 — Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey v. United States, 221 U.S. 1 (1911)
U.S. Supreme Court decision establishing the antitrust judgment and ordered dissolution.
https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/221/1

S09 — Rockefeller Archive Center — Laurance S. Rockefeller, 1910–2004
Biography documenting venture-capital, science, conservation and nonprofit roles; death in 2004.
https://rockarch.org/resources/about-the-rockefellers/laurance-s-rockefeller/

S12 — Rockefeller Brothers Fund — Generational Transition
Documents deaths in the 1970s and the continuing leadership transition; identifies Laurance and David as surviving founders after 1979.
https://www.rbf.org/about/our-history/timeline/generational-transition

S15 — The Rockefeller Foundation — About Us / independence statement
Current institutional statement that the Foundation is legally independent and does not control other Rockefeller-named entities.
https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/about-us/

S18 — Council on Foreign Relations — Century timeline
Institutional chronology identifying Rockefeller's chairmanship and the Council's organizational development.
https://www.cfr.org/celebrating-a-century/timeline/