



# A Game as Old as Empire: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption

*Steven Hiatt (Editor) , John Perkins (Introduction)*

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## **A Game as Old as Empire: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption**

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John Perkins's sensational New York Times bestseller Confessions of an Economic Hit Man (more than 300,000 sold) revealed just the tip of the iceberg of the secret world of economic hit men and the web of global corruption. Now more economic hit men and investigators tell the whole shocking story.

## **A Game as Old as Empire: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption Details**

Date : Published March 11th 2007 by Berrett-Koehler Publishers (first published 2007)

ISBN : 9781576753958

Author : Steven Hiatt (Editor) , John Perkins (Introduction)

Format : Hardcover 310 pages

Genre : Economics, Nonfiction, Politics, History, Business

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## From Reader Review A Game as Old as Empire: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption for online ebook

### Kalle Wescott says

The John Perkins books are better, but after reading all his books this is a nice addition to knowledge and perspective.

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### Dave says

A good but slightly repetitive collection of essays explaining how screwed the world is, who's screwing it and how

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### Begüm says

besides the other first and second book, this book does not contain perkin's writings , just he wrote introduction. The book contains articles about being an economic killers which been written by other economic killers

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### Hendri sabeth says

economic hit men merupakan salah satu buku yang cukup mencengangkan saya ketika membacanya, ternyata buku ini mengungkap tentang konspirasi amerika terhadap negara-negara berkembang salah satunya indonesia.....dimana dengan kekuasaan ekonomi,politik,media dll telah memberangus negara-negara berkembang untuk di jadikan sapi perah bagi amerika...

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### Joy Gucci says

Not for those who can't take a hard hit from reality.

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### Laura says

One of the most important books anyone can read.

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## Mac says

Better than the memoir that "inspired" it, this is a set of essays about globalization, off-shore finance, and corporate greed destroying most of the developing world and a sizable chunk of the developed one. None of them are particularly great, and I don't know that I learned anything extraordinary, though I did get a handful of sources to back up things I pretty much already knew, in spirit if not in particular.

Similar to Naomi Klein's "No Logo" from a few years back, the book ends its cataloging of globalization's damages with a section on hope, and movements against the tide. But, just as Klein seemed to place her faith in graffiti artists and "Adbusters" magazine, the organizations and movements described here seem piecemeal and inconsistent. There was really no consensus or solidarity among people, and the problem has grown so large that it's never quite clear where to start. Some of the stories are quite inspiring, and deserve to be told, but it's hard to become too inspired when the previous 270 pages are so bleak.

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## Marcus Laws says

I was really enjoying this book until it was stolen out of my car.

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## Arlo says

An amazing collected work that brings together such different experiences and viewpoints yet also ties them all together into a single shocking, even piercing, description of economic abuses. It was difficult to focus on certain chapters, because they are admittedly over my head, but the beautiful thing about the book is it was edited to be read in whatever order or even picked through by the reader to find what is of interest at the time. It further has an extensive collection of notes and appendices which will lead to other reading and resources to further the study and understanding of the reader! All in all a very handy book for those interested in having a better grasp of global finance and the impact of our current system.

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## Elizabeth says

pp to copy: TOC, 1, 2, 4

from the library

TOC:

Introduction: Confessions and Revelations from the world of economic Hit men

Ch 1 Global Empire: The web of control by John Perkins

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man

ch 2 Selling Money--and Dependency:Setting the Debt trap

ch 3 Dirty MoneyInside the secret world of offshore banking

ch 4 BCCI's Double Game: banking on America

ch 5 the human cost of cheap cell phones

ch 6 Mercenaries on the Front Lines in the New Scramble for Africa

ch 7 Hijacking Iraq's Oil Reserves: Economic Hit men at work

ch 8 The World Bank and the \$100 Billion Question  
ch 9 The Phillipines, the World Bank, and the race to the bottom  
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Hegemony or Survival America's Quest for Global Dominance

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### **Steve says**

Capitalist extraction and control of global resources is actually a foreign policy philosophy, known as "corporatocracy". This book sprang out of John Perkins' "\_Confessions of an Economic Hitman".

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### **Abby says**

My dad lent me this book to read the section about the Philippines, but I ended up reading the whole thing. The book is a sequel to John Perkins' "Confessions of an Economic Hitman" (which I also read). It's a series of essays from several ex-"economic hitmen" and people involved with global politics and finance. Little does anyone know how deeply entrenched multinational corporations are in the manipulation of politics in countries of the Global South. "Saving" the Third World cannot be done simply by foreign aid or loans/debt forgiveness. The neoliberal economic policies espoused by American conservative politicians are forcibly applied to developing countries while the industrialized countries enjoy protectionist economic policies creating an uneven playing field in which the revered free market is supposed to play out. Tax shelters, corrupt dictators, export-rich/import-dependence and the one-track-minded race to acquire oil are only some of the factors that play into the complex system that is purposely built to keep impoverished countries that way.

The book itself is somewhat uneven, as is often the case for collections of writings. Because there are so many essays about different aspects of the same thing, a lot of time is spent reiterating concepts that are explained in other sections, which is good if you are reading the book piecemeal, but a little tedious if you read it straight through. Some of the essays are written by people who are clearly not writers and can come off a little like first year college papers. That said, the large number of perspectives allows a broad coverage of several countries and the different players involved in the global corruption, from lawyers to bankers to CEOs to global agencies to contractors to foreign dictators to average citizens who are just cogs in the corporate machines.

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## Justin Tapp says

This book is a compilation of essays written by former international bankers, development economists, foreign aid workers, and others. It's about offshore banking, bad loan schemes, "debt relief," tax evasion, incompetent World Bank projects. It's about the people who profit from these things, and the developing countries who get hosed by them.

I thought about writing a post entitled "Who was raped in order to make your cellphone?" One chapter explains the war in the Congo and the quest for an element called "coltan" used in cell phones, computers, PlayStations, etc. You can read the link instead for a full story. Some of the ingredients in your cellphone probably comes from the Congo....

The chapter about coltan starts with the story of a Congolese woman who gives birth to a still-born son (the pregnancy was the result of a rape) and minutes later is raped and tortured by men from the plundering Rwandan army. Really messed-up stories from Christian aid workers in the Congo. Why was she raped?

American and European multinationals who are in desperate need of the high-priced ore helped fund the Rwandan and Ugandan armies in their invasion of the Congo, where the ore is located, in order to help facilitate its mining. The armies systematically rape women of all ages and conditions in the villages they come across, like a hate crime. The ore is then exported via Rwanda to the West and the proceeds go mostly to the government who sponsor the atrocities. The multinational firms basically just look the other way at how it's acquired. Many Western companies acquired the mines when the Congolese government sold them off. Many former elected government officials serve on the boards of these firms, like Alcatel. Firms like Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Nokia, etc. claim not to use coltan from the Congo, but it's impossible for them not to.

Think Blood Diamond except with coltan. The violence has really warped these Congolese societies, as you might imagine. Truth is always much more unbelievable than fiction ever could be.

\*UPDATE\* Nicholas Kristof has an op-ed from the Congo today.

None of the other chapters are this graphic and emotional, however. Most are much more academic and it would help you to have an extensive economics background to read and critique them.

Confessions blew my mind 2 years ago, shook me to the core of my being like few books ever have. If you want an intriguing and sometimes suspenseful read, it's your book. If you're looking for more information and a more academic read then Empire is your book.

The 2 books together have taught me to always be aware of who I'm working for and be careful how I pursue a career in development. It's also made me think again about putting faith in models and being dogmatic about market efficiencies when there are so many caveats out there.

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## Nadezhda says

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## **Anthony Xing says**

As much as I like critiques of trans-national capitalism. This book is poorly organized, does not have a core message, sometimes self contradictory, occasionally unduly militant.

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