

Book Review: Confessions of an Economic Hit Man

Reviewed

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John Perkins is a well known American author born on January 28th 1945. His best-known book, "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," was released in November 2004. In this classic work, Perkins recounts his life in a practical and active manner, alleging that he participated in the alleged economic colonization of Third World nations on behalf of what he characterizes as a cable of corporations, banks, and the US government. The book has been written in about at least 32 different language editions.

Economic Hit Men (EHMs) are well-known, well-paid businessmen who defraud nations all over the world of trillions of dollars and make themselves wealthy at the expense of the other members of the society. They transfer funds from the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other foreign "aid" agencies into the bank accounts of massive corporations and the hands of a select group of affluent families who control the world's natural resources. They use deceptive financial reports, crooked elections, payoffs, extortion, sex crimes, and murder as their instruments. They engage in a game that dates back to the days of empire, but in the age of globalization, it has assumed new, terrifying dimensions.

John Perkins explains his secret work for a multinational consulting firm that made sure that the economies of small, oil-rich countries were destroyed by enormous debts that could not be repaid in his book *Confessions Of An Economic Hit Man*.

In a covert effort to exploit third-world countries as the US's puppets, John, who was purportedly hired by the National Security agency (NSA), later began working as an economist for Chas. T. Main, Inc. John goes on to describe his missions in 007 fashion after being persuaded to sign up for an EHM (Economic Hit Man) training course by the mysterious Claudine.

In addition to beginning to read like fiction, the book also starts to serve as a platform for John's constant gripes about his difficult childhood, portraying them as abuse while in fact he hails from a privileged upbringing. At times, this self-loathing becomes intolerable. Additionally, his frequent shows of shame appear terribly contrived and gratuitous (the mea culpas are aplenty). With his portrayal of himself as a victim, it begins to seem more and more like the confession of a man who is depressed.

Over the course of the past twenty years, Perkins has repeatedly started writing this book and has been intimidated and bribed to cease doing so. Eventually, he finds a publisher for his work.

Here is a portion of the reason why he felt driven to finish this book:

“This story must be told. We live in a time of terrible crisis – and tremendous opportunity. The story of this particular economic hit man is the story of how we got where we are and why we currently face crises that seem insurmountable. This story must be told because only by understanding our past mistakes will we be able to take advantage of future opportunities; because 9/11 happened and so did the second war in Iraq; because in addition to the three thousand people who died on September 11, 2001, at the hands of terrorists, another twenty-four thousand died from hunger and related causes. In fact, twenty-four thousand people die everyday because they are unable to obtain life-

sustaining food. Most importantly, this story must be told because today, for the first time in history, one nation has the ability, the money, and the power to change all this. It is the nation where I was born and served as an EHM: the United States of America.”

Having saying that, this book discusses significant topic matter. Globalization and privatization are actual problems, so it's a good thing if the hullabaloo surrounding this book prompts you to study more about the subject. John Perkins wrote and published an unfinished autobiography called *An Admission of an Economic Hit Man* in 2004. It provides Perkins' professional history with the Boston building counseling firm Chas. T. Fundamental.

According to Perkins, his role at Main was to convince decision-makers in developing countries to grant significant improvement credits for extensive development and designing projects that would primarily benefit the richest families and local elites, rather than the poor, while ensuring that these tasks were outsourced to U.S. organizations.

Later, these credits would allow the United States access to regular assets for American organizations as well as political influence. This is referred to as a "financial contract killer" by him. Although he claims that he has always worked for privately held companies throughout his career and advocates a combination of corporatism and greed rather than a single plan, he acknowledges the National Security Agency (NSA), which he had previously worked for as a contractor before joining Main. According to the inventor, this meeting served as a sufficient independent screening, which led Einar Greve, a vice president of the company, to engage him as a paid assassin (and asserted NSA contact).

Regarding the book's main theme, it strongly criticizes the U.S. remote approach and the widely held belief that "all financial development benefits mankind, and that the more prominent the development, the more far-reaching the advantages." It suggests that frequently, only a small portion of the population benefits to the detriment of the rest, with one example being the growing salary imbalance where large U.S. organizations abuse shabby workers.

Perkins describes the establishment of the USA as a global domain as being driven by what he terms a "corporatocracy and desire arrangement," in which he participated as a "monetary assassin" to further its influence.

Perkins' skill, according to his book, was getting developing nations to accept significant financial and political support from agencies like the World Bank and USAID. Due to financial obligations they couldn't afford, those countries were forced to yield to American political influence on a variety of problems. In his book, Perkins argues that developing nations were successfully put down politically, had their wealth holes widened, and had their economies permanently damaged. Perkins describes his interactions with some notable individuals in this context, including Graham Greene and Omar Torrijos. Perkins models the role of a financial assassin after:

Experts known as monetary assassins (EHMs) take advantage of governments worldwide by defrauding them of trillions of dollars. They funnel money from organizations like the World Bank, the U.S. Office for International Development (USAID), and other distant "guide" organizations into the coffers of massive partnerships and the wallets of a few wealthy families who are in charge of the planet's normal assets. False financial reports, predetermined outcomes, agreements, coercion, prostitution, and murder were some of their tools. They play a game that is as old as time, but that has encountered fresh and surprising challenges in this day of globalization.

In conclusion therefore, from the text, its clear that the founding fathers' beliefs, which propelled them to take courageous stands and put their own safety at danger in support of the idea of a free republic, can serve as a source of inspiration. He comes to the conclusion that those guys, as well as men and women in the modern world, have been and still are inspired by literature. The single most effective trigger for revolution is words driven by a strong desire to be free and to cast off the bonds of repression and obedience. Perkins hopes his words have had the same effect on the reader's head and heart as the words of the past did in inspiring, informing, awakening, and igniting the populace.