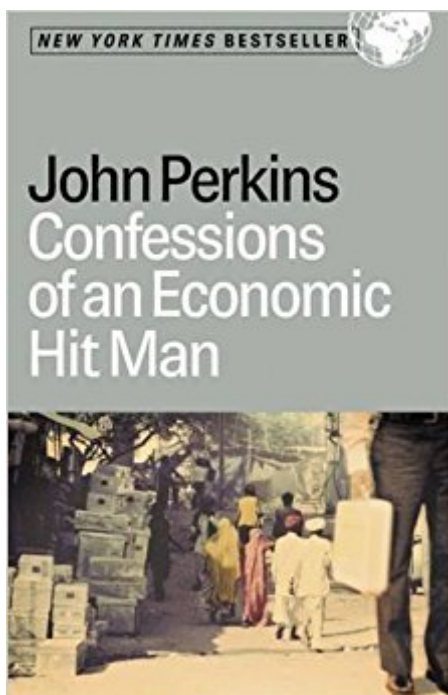


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# Confessions Of An Economic Hit Man



## Synopsis

"Economic hit men," John Perkins writes, "are highly paid professionals who cheat countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars. Their tools include fraudulent financial reports, rigged elections, payoffs, extortion, sex, and murder." John Perkins should know—he was an economic hit man. His job was to convince countries that are strategically important to the U.S. from Indonesia to Panama to accept enormous loans for infrastructure development, and to make sure that the lucrative projects were contracted to U. S. corporations. Saddled with huge debts, these countries came under the control of the United States government, World Bank and other U.S.-dominated aid agencies that acted like loan sharks dictating repayment terms and bullying foreign governments into submission. This New York Times bestseller exposes international intrigue, corruption, and little-known government and corporate activities that have dire consequences for American democracy and the world. It is a compelling story that also offers hope and a vision for realizing the American dream of a just and compassionate world that will bring us greater security.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Perkins started and stopped writing Confessions of an Economic Hit Man four times over 20 years. He says he was threatened and bribed in an effort to kill the project, but after 9/11 he finally decided to go through with this expose of his former professional life. Perkins, a former chief

economist at Boston strategic-consulting firm Chas. T. Main, says he was an "economic hit man" for 10 years, helping U.S. intelligence agencies and multinationals cajole and blackmail foreign leaders into serving U.S. foreign policy and awarding lucrative contracts to American business. "Economic hit men (EHMs) are highly paid professionals who cheat countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars," Perkins writes. *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* is an extraordinary and gripping tale of intrigue and dark machinations. Think John Le Carr, except it's a true story. Perkins writes that his economic projections cooked the books Enron-style to convince foreign governments to accept billions of dollars of loans from the World Bank and other institutions to build dams, airports, electric grids, and other infrastructure he knew they couldn't afford. The loans were given on condition that construction and engineering contracts went to U.S. companies. Often, the money would simply be transferred from one bank account in Washington, D.C., to another one in New York or San Francisco. The deals were smoothed over with bribes for foreign officials, but it was the taxpayers in the foreign countries who had to pay back the loans. When their governments couldn't do so, as was often the case, the U.S. or its henchmen at the World Bank or International Monetary Fund would step in and essentially place the country in trusteeship, dictating everything from its spending budget to security agreements and even its United Nations votes. It was, Perkins writes, a clever way for the U.S. to expand its "empire" at the expense of Third World citizens. While at times he seems a little overly focused on conspiracies, perhaps that's not surprising considering the life he's led. --Alex Roslin

Perkins spent the 1970s working as an economic planner for an international consulting firm, a job that took him to exotic locales like Indonesia and Panama, helping wealthy corporations exploit developing nations as, he claims, a not entirely unwitting front for the National Security Agency. He says he was trained early in his career by a glamorous older woman as one of many "economic hit men" advancing the cause of corporate hegemony. He also says he has wanted to tell his story for the last two decades, but his shadowy masters have either bought him off or threatened him until now. The story as presented is implausible to say the least, offering so few details that Perkins often seems paranoid, and the simplistic political analysis doesn't enhance his credibility. Despite the claim that his work left him wracked with guilt, the artless prose is emotionally flat and generally comes across as a personal crisis of conscience blown up to monstrous proportions, casting Perkins as a victim not only of his own neuroses over class and money but of dark forces beyond his control. His claim to have assisted the House of Saud in strengthening its ties to American power brokers may be timely enough to attract some attention, but the yarn he spins is ultimately

unconvincing, except perhaps to conspiracy buffs. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Brilliant behind the scenes account of how things work at the highest levels of economic diplomacy.

The only reason I bought this book was for a Argumentative Writing class. This book did not teach me how to write a argumentative paper. It did however, open my eyes to a world I knew nothing about. I normally only read paranormal romance but this book I actually wanted to read and finish! Even if what Perkins says is the truth or a lie, it does open to some great debates. I never heard of the Panama Invasion in high school. After reading and doing a paper on it for my class I learned there are a lot of cover ups for what was really the plan. Thousands and thousands of innocent people died during the invasion. It was said they were going after one guy but a few days before Christmas thousands of people, men, women, and children were murdered. Some even had their hands tied behind their backs. Why, because they said they were going after a man who was dangerous. When in reality the U.S. was losing their grip on Panama and needed it back. I always wondered why people around the world hated the U.S so much. This book is worth the read. If you want to educate yourself, I suggest you pick this book up and start reading.

It's a gripping tale of Western Civilization's power game over, helpless and defenseless third world countries. It describes treachery, cruelty and dirty tricks as to how the American Empire controls, dominates and exerts economy power to entangle a nation for its resources. The author does a great job of naming government officials and other players in the web of deceit. The book is well written and intriguing to read, a good purchase.

The impact of this book will change your world view forever. Perkins shows us how the ruthless bank mafia works, and how it manages to keep opponents drowned in debt, and at the same time keep a low profile by controlling the media. Even as a globalist, the world needs to know the truth about how the empire is built. This book answers many of those questions. Now that America has been more or less destroyed by debt, it will be interesting to see where the banks will operate from. Many signals point to China, where banks are run by the same people, and using the same tactics to flood countries with cheap and dirty loans. I fear Perkins will not survive many more books, seeing as several questioners of the banking system has died under strange circumstances. Luckily this book is of utmost importance, and is already read by thousands of people. However this book is a true

masterpiece, with even an intense pace and excitement on every page. This book should be in every kid's backpack - on every curriculum - in every country. Its importance can't be overstated.

Brilliant book. This has enabled me to make sense of so many suspicious events over the years. I recommend this to anyone who wants to know how the world works.

Amazing book I bought in hard copy too! Helps to explain exactly what has been happening in 3rd world countries and what I feel will eventually happen in America.

This book could be an eye opener if you're unfamiliar with many of the economic practices of the later half of the 20th century. There are some interesting tidbits, but ultimately the confession is very shallow. The author spends too much of the first half of the book over detailing his inner soul searching and struggle, how often he met and befriended locals that he was actively working against, and dropping names. I was hoping for more insight into how the actual 'economic hit' was performed, but it's mostly boiled down to overinflated economic figures.

I found this book truly thought provoking. The author reveals a wealth of information about foreign policy that should have been front page news for all Americans. This is a wake up call and I am looking forward to reading the next books in the series. I only wish I had read this earlier and that these issues were more visible in public discussion.

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