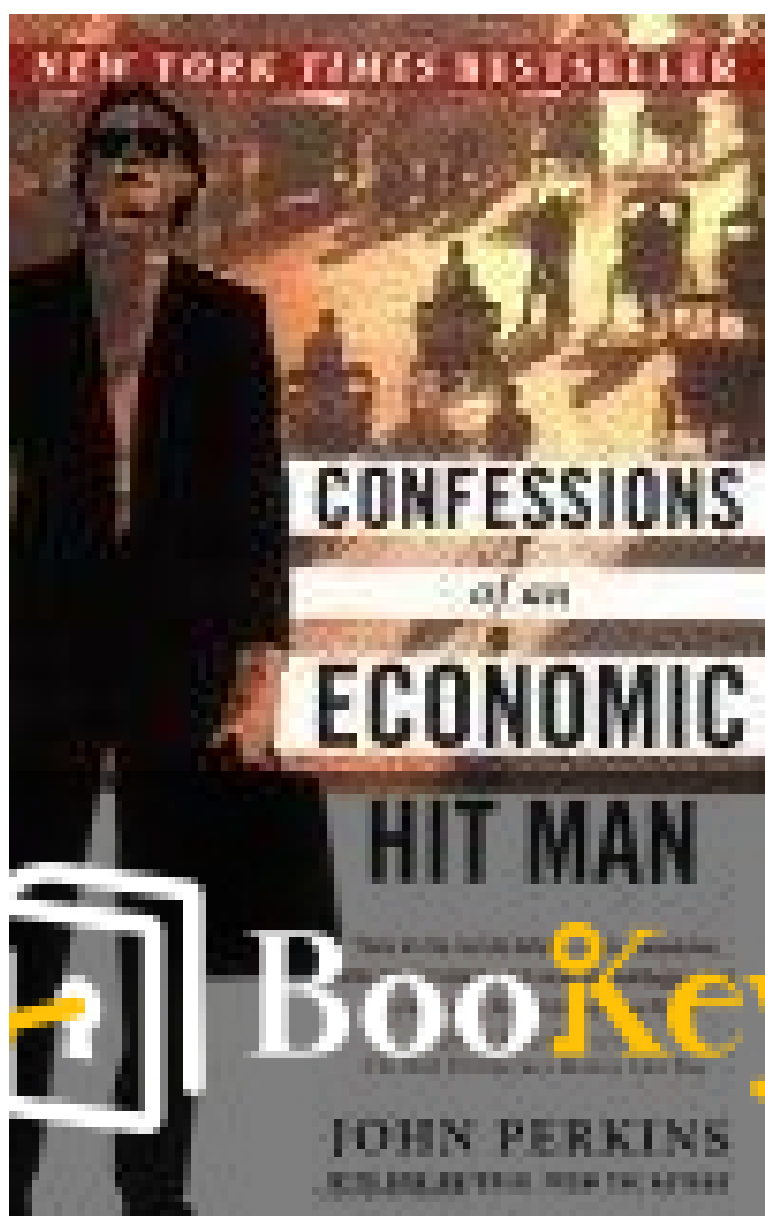


Confessions Of An Economic Hitman PDF (Limited Copy)

John Perkins



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Confessions Of An Economic Hitman Summary

"The Inside Story of Global Corporate Exploitation."

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About the book

In a world where the façade of international development is often shrouded with promises of prosperity and progress, John Perkins' "Confessions of an Economic Hitman" unveils a gripping exposé on the dark underbelly of global economic strategies. Through his firsthand account as a former "economic hitman," Perkins pulls back the curtain on how nations are ensnared into a web of debt and dependency, manipulated by powerful interests masking as benefactors. His narrative not only challenges our perception of modern imperialism but also throws light on the ethical dilemmas faced by those embroiled in this covert empire. As power dynamics shift and nations grapple with sovereignty and sustainability, Perkins' confessions serve as a clarion call, confronting readers with a stark reality often veiled by diplomacy and economics. Prepare to embark on a journey rife with intrigue, moral quandaries, and a relentless pursuit of truth that compels us to question the true cost of economic domination in the name of progress.

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About the author

John Perkins is an American author and former economic consultant who has become known for his writings that expose intricate web of alliances and deception in the global economic arena. Born on January 28, 1945, Perkins started his career as an economic and development consultant, ultimately rising to the position of chief economist at a major international consulting firm. During his tenure, he claimed to have been an "economic hitman," a professional tasked with convincing leaders of developing countries to take on substantial development loans, leading them into debt traps that benefitted U.S. interests and corporations. His breakthrough book, "Confessions of an Economic Hitman," delves into his experiences in this shadowy world and serves as a candid expose of economic manipulation and exploitation. Perkins' insights challenge readers to view global economics and power dynamics through a critical lens, urging deeper scrutiny and accountability in the financial and political decisions that shape our global society.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1963–1971

Summary:

Chapter 1: Dirty Business

In 1968, after graduating from business school, the protagonist, determined to avoid the Vietnam War, joins the Peace Corps with his wife, Ann. They are assigned to Ecuador, aiming to help develop savings cooperatives and improve local living conditions. However, they encounter extreme poverty and a social hierarchy dominated by a few wealthy families. A conversation with a Texaco seismologist reveals the impact of oil discovery on Ecuador's future and hints at global economic manipulation, referred to later as the Economic Hit Man (EHM) system. This experience, combined with the injustices faced by local communities, plants the seeds of doubt in the protagonist's mind about the role of US corporations in developing countries. Despite initial justification of his actions through the guise of economic development, he eventually becomes disillusioned with the corporate practices that contribute to widespread poverty and inequality.

Chapter 2: An Economic Hit Man Is Born

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The protagonist, born into a middle-class family in 1945, grapples with feelings of inadequacy and societal pressure. After various educational pursuits and a struggle with his own values during the Vietnam War era, he is recruited by the National Security Agency (NSA). This recruitment leads him to the Peace Corps to gain experience in indigenous cultures, eventually transitioning him into becoming an EHM. His role becomes clear through training and insights from influential figures like "Uncle Frank," an NSA executive. The protagonist begins to realize the covert ties between international corporations and US government strategies to exert control over foreign countries, setting the stage for his involvement in larger global economic manipulation.

Chapter 3: "In for Life"

The protagonist joins Chas. T. Main, Inc. (MAIN), an international consulting firm, where he is trained by Claudine Martin to become an EHM. MAIN specializes in influencing developing countries to take on massive infrastructure loans, which benefits US corporations while indebting these countries, granting the US significant geopolitical influence. The protagonist learns that his real job is to produce forecasts supporting this agenda, reinforcing dependence on US economic interests. Despite internal conflict and doubts, his desire for success and acceptance within this elite circle



prevails, and he continues down the path of an EHM, with the understanding that there's no turning back.

Chapter 4: Indonesia: Lessons for an EHM

Assigned to work in Indonesia, the protagonist learns about the country's complex history and its importance as a non-Communist ally in Southeast Asia. Despite his romanticized expectations, he encounters stark realities of poverty and corruption. His role is to forecast economic growth linked to infrastructure projects, which would justify large loans. The potential for personal success continues to overshadow his growing awareness of the ethical implications of his work as an EHM.

Chapter 5: Saving a Country from Communism

Now in Indonesia, the protagonist joins a team responsible for developing a plan to modernize the country's electrical system. The mission is framed as a means to prevent Indonesia from falling into communism. Team leader Charlie emphasizes the geopolitical importance of the project. However, the protagonist's nights are plagued by inner conflict as he grapples with the realization that his work benefits a corporatocracy, exploiting developing nations for profit while undermining their economies. His loyalty to his job

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is bolstered by the personal success it promises, but the moral cost begins weighing on him.

Chapter 6: Selling My Soul

The protagonist moves to Bandung to start his assignment. Despite the luxurious lifestyle provided, he is confronted by the poverty surrounding him. He feels the pressure to deliver optimistic economic projections, central to the plan that supports US corporate interests. A critical confrontation with Howard, a veteran load forecaster, challenges the protagonist's justifications. Howard's refusal to participate in the corporate deception serves as a catalyst for the protagonist. Faced with personal guilt and the broader implications of his role, he experiences a moment of introspection, but the realization that he has constrained options drives him to continue down the EHM path. The chapter concludes with Howard's abrupt departure due to illness, leaving the responsibility squarely on the protagonist's shoulders.



Chapter 2 Summary: 1971–1975

In Chapters 7 to 16 of the book, the narrator, a member of a consulting team, embarks on a journey to several countries under the guise of developing economic infrastructure plans. The story begins in Indonesia, where the narrator faces difficulties gathering data due to suspicion and hesitance from local officials. He forms a bond with Rasy, a local student with whom he explores Indonesian culture and begins questioning American actions abroad. During this time, he feels compelled by the experience and the perspectives of the local population, contrasting sharply with the world he left behind in the United States.

Chapter 8 explores the tension between Western ideology and local resentment as the narrator attends a puppet show in Indonesia that caricatures American policies, illuminating the vestiges of colonial attitudes. The locals are politically conscious and aware of the deeper conflicts between Western capitalism and global Muslim identity. This insight causes further reflection on the effects of his country's policies.

In Chapter 9, upon returning to Boston, the narrator is promoted but is left feeling disconnected and questioning the moral implications of his work. He reflects on the Vietnam War and the parallels with his mission, realizing his role in an imperialistic model that values economics over humanity. He begins to see the complex machinery of global politics influencing decisions



at the top, where economic projections are manipulated to justify interventions that seldom benefit the local populations they target.

As Chapter 10 unfolds, the story shifts to Panama where the narrator meets General Omar Torrijos, a leader intent on securing true independence and social reform for his country. Torrijos challenges the narrator's previous assumptions, being a figure who stands against both US and Communist spheres of influence. This encounter further deepens the narrator's internal conflict about his work and the real intentions of global projects masked as development aid.

Chapter 11 delves into the opulence within the U.S.-controlled Canal Zone juxtaposed with the poverty of the Panamanian slums, accentuating disparities that fuel resentment. The chapter reveals the everyday lives of American residents in the Zone, who are isolated from the struggles endured by local Panamanians, yet dismissive of Torrijos's efforts for sovereignty.

In Chapters 12 and 13, the narrator is slowly introduced to the cultural and socio-political landscape of Panama, including experiences with local customs and establishments that cater to American soldiers. Torrijos's vision for Panama's future is presented—a radical, sovereign development path that defies typical American exploitative models.

Chapter 14 provides context on the oil crisis of the 1970s, elaborating on



how it reshaped global economics. This era introduced the power of OPEC and showcased the growing challenge to American economic dominance. Despite such disruptions, the narrator learns that the corporatocracy adapts and tightens its grip on global systems, revealing the trends toward a tightly woven network of governmental and corporate interests.

In Chapters 15 and 16, the narrative shifts to Saudi Arabia. After the 1970s oil embargo, the U.S. devised a strategy to recycle petrodollars to cement political and economic ties. This arrangement would see Saudi wealth funneled into U.S. economic interests through modernization projects—a win-win strategy for the U.S. empire as it ensured continuing control over oil resources. The tale uncovers unsavory aspects of this cooperation, linking global economic policy and personal misconduct, as well as highlighting the systemic patronage that fuels entities such as terrorism.

Through personal experience and time within these systems, the narrator becomes increasingly aware of the pervasive manipulation and moral complexities inherent in his role as an Economic Hit Man, provoking doubt about the legitimacy and ethics underlying international economic decisions.

Chapters	Summary
7 & 8	The narrator begins his journey in Indonesia, gathering economic data amid suspicion from locals. He forms a bond with Rasy, who helps him explore Indonesian culture, prompting questions about American actions abroad and revealing local resentment towards Western ideology.

Chapters	Summary
9	Back in Boston, the narrator reflects on the Vietnam War and faces a moral crisis as he questions the imperialistic nature of his work, realizing the deeper global political manipulation driving economic decisions.
10	In Panama, meeting General Omar Torrijos challenges the narrator's assumptions, presenting a leader aiming for true independence and casting doubt on global projects disguised as development aid.
11	The narrator witnesses the stark contrast between the affluent U.S.-controlled Canal Zone and impoverished Panamanian slums, revealing the resentment towards U.S. control and indifference to local struggles.
12 & 13	The cultural and socio-political landscape of Panama comes into view as the narrator experiences local customs. Torrijos's vision offers a sovereign path for Panama, diverging from exploitative American economic models.
14	The oil crisis of the 1970s transforms global economics, showcasing OPEC's power and challenging American dominance, while the corporatocracy adapts to maintain its hold over global systems.
15 & 16	In Saudi Arabia, the U.S. recycles petrodollars post-oil embargo to forge strong economic ties, maintaining dominance over oil resources in a scheme that highlights unsavory global economic policies.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The impact of reflection on moral consciousness

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 9, the narrator experiences a poignant moment of inner reflection, drawing powerful parallels between his role in the global economic machinery and the broader, moral questions raised during the Vietnam War. This introspection requires you to confront the true intention behind your actions and the structures you uphold. Engaging in sincere self-examination can help you identify ethical conflicts in your life and spark a transformative change, pushing you to align your life choices with a more authentic, human-centric approach. By bravely reassessing the impact of your actions, you have the power to drive meaningful change, both personally and socially, creating a ripple effect that transcends the superficial layers of economic gain.



Chapter 3 Summary: 1975–1981

In Chapter 17, John Perkins reflects on his flourishing career in Saudi Arabia, where his role as an economist and planner has allowed him to amass wealth and recognition, despite personal sacrifices like his collapsed marriage. He discusses an innovative econometric model developed with Dr. Nadipuram Prasad, which bolsters his firm's ability to convince countries to take on unmanageable debts. However, his work in Panama diverges from past practices; he honors a secret agreement with Panama's leader, Omar Torrijos, to ensure honest economic forecasts that consider the poor. Amidst Panama Canal negotiations, Perkins writes an op-ed advocating for Panamanian control, defying his firm's conservative ethos. This bold move garners mixed reactions from colleagues but aligns him with Torrijos's push for sovereignty. Perkins meets novelist Graham Greene, whose critique of US-Panama relations highlights the geopolitical stakes, reinforcing Torrijos's commitment to Panamanian self-determination.

In Chapter 18, Perkins shifts focus to Iran, where he works amidst the shah's regime. Unlike debt-ridden nations, Iran, rich in oil, becomes a showcase for Western political and corporate interests. The shah is presented as a progressive ally, despite his undemocratic leadership. Perkins describes grand projects aimed at fostering economic growth but uncovers deep societal resentment masked by apparent stability. A clandestine meeting with Yamin, a British-educated radical, reveals local animosity toward the



shah's Western-backed policies. Yamin's insights underscore the tensions between Iran's leadership and its people, foreshadowing the shah's eventual downfall.

Chapter 19 delves deeper into Iran's socio-political fabric as Perkins meets "Doc," a former close adviser to the shah now reduced by torture to anonymity. Doc warns of the shah's unsustainable rule, predicting Iran's inevitable upheaval. He describes a Persian reality starkly different from Western perceptions, urging Perkins to abandon the projects that he believes will not endure the coming revolution. Doc's account highlights the intricate and volatile dynamics in Iran under the shah's regime.

In Chapter 20, the narrative shifts to 1978 as Perkins encounters Farhad, a college friend, in Tehran. Farhad, seemingly linked to US intelligence, warns Perkins of imminent danger and facilitates his evacuation from Iran.

Conversations with Farhad's father in Rome reveal the underlying tensions and resentment stewing within Iran, stemming from historical grievances and growing popular dissatisfaction. As the Iranian Revolution unfolds, the shah is overthrown, and Perkins reflects on Iran's distinct trajectory away from US influence, marked by the hostage crisis and repercussions for American interests.

Chapter 21 explores Colombia, a country pivotal to US interests in Latin America. Compared to oil-rich regions, Colombia presents a typical



exploitation scenario where vast loans are justified by projected infrastructure benefits. Perkins grapples with ethical dilemmas as a "man in the middle," torn between promoting large-scale engineering projects and acknowledging their socio-economic impact. Colombia's precarious balance between democratic ideals and the brutal legacy of colonialism and modern economic pressures becomes a backdrop for Perkins's internal conflict over his role in furthering imperialist objectives.

In Chapter 22, Perkins's relationship with Paula, a politically aware Colombian, deepens his dissonance over his work's implications. Paula's connection to guerrillas opposing US-backed corporate interests in Colombia highlights the ethical quandaries facing Perkins. Their candid discussions about power dynamics and exploitation force him to confront personal and professional turmoil, ultimately leading him to reevaluate his allegiance to the empire he serves.

Chapter 23 continues the introspection as Perkins examines his professional identity through his résumé and promotional materials, realizing how they obscure the moral complexities of his job. The façade of his role as a chief economist contrasts with the exploitation and deceit underpinning his successes. Encountering his résumé's omissions prompts Perkins to acknowledge his complicity in promoting a system prioritizing corporate profits over genuine development, echoing empire-building tactics akin to organized crime.



In Chapter 24, Perkins revisits Ecuador, reflecting on its exploitation by foreign oil interests and the rise of Jaime Roldós, a nationalist leader challenging the status quo. Roldós's Hydrocarbons Policy aims to leverage Ecuador's oil for broader societal benefit, clashing with corporate interests and echoing Torrijos's endeavors in Panama. Throughout these encounters, Perkins grapples with shifting power dynamics, conscious of the vast political and corporate forces shaping developing nations.

Finally, Chapter 25 sees Perkins reaching a turning point. Disillusioned by corporate politics, particularly Bruno's removal from the firm, and emboldened by personal revelations during a sailing trip in the Virgin Islands, Perkins resolves to leave MAIN. Embracing a new sense of responsibility and freedom, he resigns, marking a critical departure from his role as an economic hit man and his quest for personal integrity outside the corporate empire.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Standing for Sovereignty and Independence

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 17 of 'Confessions of an Economic Hitman,' Perkins takes the surprising and bold step of supporting Panama's sovereignty over the Panama Canal through an op-ed. This choice, though controversial, embodies an inspiring moment of courage and authenticity. It teaches you the importance of standing up for what's right, even when it goes against the grain. Like Perkins, embracing integrity and aligning your actions with genuine values can empower you to challenge established norms and advocate for justice and independence. This crucial decision shows how your voice and actions can contribute to broader societal changes, inspiring others to pursue truth and fairness in their own contexts.

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Chapter 4: 1981–2004

The chapters cover the personal and political experiences of the author, particularly focusing on the global socio-political landscape influenced by economic hit men, or EHMs, and the geopolitics surrounding resource-rich countries like Ecuador, Panama, Iraq, and Venezuela.

Chapter 26: Ecuador's Presidential Death

The chapter begins with the author, an ex-EHM, recounting his departure from MAIN, a consulting firm where he had been involved in exploitative economic practices for corporate and governmental interests. He seeks to pursue a career as a writer instead. Despite leaving MAIN, he is quickly pulled back into a lucrative role as an expert witness for U.S. utility companies. Meanwhile, Jaime Roldós, Ecuador's president, takes a stand against oil corporations by proposing a reformative hydrocarbons law, leading to tensions with foreign oil companies and accusations of them conspiring against him. Roldós's stance marks him as a target, and he eventually dies in a plane crash, leading to widespread suspicion of assassination by vested interests, namely the CIA.

Chapter 27: Panama: Another Presidential Death

The author reflects on the death of Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos, a



known crusader against corporatocracy, shortly after Roldós's demise. Torrijos, unlike his predecessor, refuses to bow to pressure from the U.S., particularly over the Panama Canal treaty, leading to hostile relations. Like Roldós, Torrijos dies in a plane crash under suspicious circumstances, leading to accusations of CIA involvement. His death significantly alters Panama's trajectory, allowing control of significant political and infrastructural development to return to U.S. interests, setting a precedent for future foreign policy dealings in Central America.

Chapter 28: My Energy Company, Enron, and George W. Bush

Following the fallouts in Ecuador and Panama, the author establishes an energy company focused on environmentally sustainable practices during a period marked by deregulation and corporate manipulation in the energy sector. Enron emerges as a powerhouse using clever financial tactics similar to EHM techniques. Additionally, George W. Bush's ventures in oil are scrutinized, especially his unlikely successes attributed to his presidential lineage, demonstrating the intersection of politics and corporate interests.

Chapter 29: I Take a Bribe

Amidst industry volatility, the author grapples with guilt over participating in perpetuating systemic exploitation. The rise of free-market capitalism as the dominant economic ideology results in vast social disparities, worldwide



privatization, and a ruthless pursuit of profits. The author also faces personal threats as he contemplates exposing the system but is drawn into a high-paying consulting role to maintain his silence on the inner workings of international economic policy-making.

Chapter 30: The United States Invades Panama

The chapter delves into the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, justified publicly by Manuel Noriega's associations with drug trafficking. However, the underlying motive is suggested as the control over the strategic Panama Canal and curbing Japan's influence in its expansion. The author laments this overt exhibition of military power as an assertion of U.S. dominance, a stark reminder of the corporatocracy that engineered his past EHM missions.

Chapter 31: An EHM Failure in Iraq

The intricacies of U.S. relationships with Iraq during the 1980s are discussed, highlighting U.S. interests in oil, water resources, and geopolitical positioning. Saddam Hussein's reluctance to comply with foreign economic designs leads to Bush's military intervention, branding Iraq a future target for corporatocracy economic manipulation, much like Panama.

Chapter 32: September 11 and Its Aftermath for Me, Personally

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The 9/11 attacks profoundly affect the author, urging introspection on the far-reaching consequences of actions instigated by economic imperialism. He reflects on global poverty as a result of such exploitation, seeing parallels between the grievances of other nations and those in the Middle East, which fueled anti-American sentiments. The event rekindles his motivation to

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Chapter 5 Summary: 2004–TODAY

Chapter 34: Conspiracy: Was I Poisoned?

The chapter opens with the author reflecting on how the economic and political landscape has drastically worsened since the initial publication of "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man." The global economic system, shaped by Economic Hit Men (EHMs) and the corporatocracy, has fueled conflicts, debt, and environmental degradation, leading to a failing death economy that even the rich cannot escape. Despite some global awareness and movements for change, such as Occupy and the Arab Spring, the entrenched EHM system remains dynamic and determined to protect its interests.

The author recounts a personal near-death experience involving severe internal bleeding after an encounter with a suspicious freelance journalist, raising questions about a possible poisoning attempt. Despite medical reassurances, the incident propels him into researching conspiracy theories, leading to a deeper understanding of numerous decentralized conspiracies driven by short-term, illegal objectives rather than a grand global plan. He delves into historic events like the 1953 Iranian coup and the 1981 assassinations of Ecuadorian and Panamanian leaders as examples of EHMs' destructive influence.

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Haunted by his past actions as an EHM — bribing and threatening leaders, inducing guilt — the author admits the difficulty of leaving the profession, citing societal narratives and the allure of wealth and prestige. He recalls childhood propaganda that equated buying American goods with patriotism, revealing how societal messaging skewed his moral compass.

Conversations with Howard Zinn, a reform activist, counsel the author to seek redemption by admitting guilt and actively working for systemic change. The author also reconnects with the teachings of indigenous cultures and the idea that the world's current state is a result of the collective human mindset. He underscores the necessity of a transformational change away from fear and debt-driven paradigms toward a more equitable and sustainable global economy.

Chapter 35: A Jackal Speaks: The Seychelles Conspiracy

The author introduces Jack, a skilled martial artist and presumably a "jackal," employed for clandestine operations. A jackal handles the dirty work for EHMs — including assassinations and coup attempts. Through a chance connection at a dojo, the author learns of Jack's involvement in a failed assassination attempt against Seychelles' President René in the 1970s. The plan aimed to secure US strategic interests by replacing René, who



threatened to reveal secrets about a nearby US military base, Diego Garcia.

Jack's background includes growing up in conflict-ridden Beirut and joining elite military units like the notorious Recces, making him an ideal jackal.

The story of the Seychelles coup attempt highlights how the revelation of potentially deadly conspiracies can shift leaders' allegiances without actual success; René was not assassinated, but intimidation and subsequent bribery secured his compliance with US interests.

The disclosure underscores the lengths to which the CIA and corporate interests would go to secure strategic advantages globally. The author remains circumspect on further questioning Jack about his covert work but uses this encounter to frame the clandestine layers of international conspiracy influenced by Western political and economic interests.

Chapter 36: Ecuador Rebels

Reflecting on personal threats to his life, possibly by poisoning, the author describes his transformative experiences with the Shuar, an indigenous Amazonian tribe, who taught him the power of mindset in healing. This encounter catalyzed a shift in his perception, propelling him toward activism against the system he once served.



Returning to Ecuador, the author witnesses a potential paradigm shift with Rafael Correa, then a presidential candidate. Correa's platform mirrors that of former Ecuadorian President Jaime Roldós, advocating for autonomy from US influence and oil company overreach. Despite historical assassinations shaping Ecuador's past leadership changes, Correa demonstrates awareness and resilience against EHMs. Once elected, Correa challenges debt systems by intervening in oil contracts, prioritizing Ecuador's national interest over foreign corporations.

Setting about enacting reforms similar to past reformist leaders who met tragic ends, Correa suspends debt payments, moving Ecuador into default and incurring backlash from international financial institutions. The author aligns with environmental and indigenous movements, supporting efforts to curtail oil exploitation in the Amazon, ultimately highlighting mutual global efforts in protecting Ecuadorian sovereignty.

Chapter 37: Honduras: The CIA Strikes

Exploring the implications of the Honduran coup that ousted President Zelaya, the author observes the broader geopolitical ripple effects—US corporate actions to preemptively quash any movement toward higher wages, which threatened their economic interests in Latin America.



During a trip to Panama, interactions with regional leaders reveal local discontentment with manipulative US policies historically entrapping sovereign nations into economically exploitative positions, leading to coups and assassinations.

Conversations illustrate the perpetuated nature of empire through hired operatives — EHMs and jackals — to repress progressive movements challenging corporate and imperialist agendas. Serving as cautionary tales, these events reflect on the power of ordinary versus corporate-backed influence in shaping Latin America's political landscape, warning looming threats to leaders antagonizing the empire model.

Chapter 38: Your Friendly Banker as EHM

The author encounters a Chase bank executive who equates modern banking practices to EHM methods. The story shifts from sovereign debt manipulations to domestic economic exploitation, primarily through increased mortgage debt offered under shady pretenses. Bank employees oversell loans to individuals, securing financial structures binding borrowers into endless debt cycles, a practice mirroring the EHM techniques but directed towards domestic citizens.

Discovering parallels between the past freelance EHM operations and

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present-day banking practices reveals how deeply entrenched exploitation extends into American life. The author contrasts modern bankers' coercive strategies against personal narratives of integrity within banking, questioning societal values glorifying monetary gains over ethical action. Overall, he reflects upon the systemic scale of profiteering at others' expense, revealing the EHM system's expansion, unshackling corporate interests from moral constraints, thus fueling a death-driven economy model.

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