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For Immediate Release

***A Game As Old As Empire***  
**The Secret World of Economic Hit Men**  
**and the Web of Global Corruption**  
**Edited by Steven Hiatt**  
**Introduction by John Perkins, author of**  
***Confessions of an Economic Hit Man***

*“If my **Confessions** could send such a strong message to the public, it made sense that multiple confessions—or the stories about people who need to confess—might reach even more people...The intrepid contributors to this book uncover events that have taken place across a wide range of countries, all Economic Hit Man game plans under a variety of guises. Each sheds more light on the building of an empire that is contrary to American principles of democracy and equality.”*

—from the introduction by John Perkins

John Perkins' controversial exposé, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, came out of nowhere in late 2004 to become an international word-of-mouth sensation. The book hit two *New York Times* bestseller lists, as well as thirty other national and regional lists across the country. To date, it has sold over 500,000 copies in the United States alone.

But *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* revealed just the tip of the iceberg of the secret world of economic hit men. Now Perkins is joined by a dozen contributors—journalists, investigators, activists, and even other economic hit men in *A Game As Old As Empire: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption*.

In chapters covering countries all across the globe the authors tell how multinational corporations, governments, powerful individuals, banks, other financial institutions, and quasi-governmental agencies operate to enrich small elites and corporate coffers while often impoverishing masses of people and creating debt and dependency that economically enslave countries for generations.

Each chapter focuses on a particular case from around the world, offering concrete examples of how the economic hit man game is still being played:

- An officer of an offshore bank tells how he hid hundreds of millions of dollars in embezzled money from around the world
- A former staffer exposes how and why the World Bank looks the other way when corrupt elites steal international aid funds

## *More...*

- Investigative reporters tell the first-person story of a British mercenary in Nigeria hired to defend a European oil company from local people desperate to share in the wealth being extracted from their land—and what happened to him after he was taken hostage
- A nonprofit aid worker offers an eyewitness account of the atrocities committed by militias in Congo—militias financed in part by multinationals in exchange for access to the coltan ore used to make cellphones and laptops
- An oil industry researcher profiles an unlikely Economic Hit Man—a consultant who is quietly writing oil production sharing agreements that will cost the Iraqi people \$200 billion

The methods that the authors describe range from the clearly sinister (such as bribery, fraud, looting, money laundering, threats, and even the use of “jackals” and other means of violence) to the seemingly altruistic (such as many types of debt relief, development assistance, and foreign aid) that are in fact highly exploitative and onerous. Together these authors and others show how this system of corruption and plunder operates in real life, and reveal the price that the rest of the world pays as a result.

*A Game As Old As Empire* provides the first full inside look at how this dark and dirty world functions. It shows that the economic hit man game and the web of global corruption are far more widespread, pervasive, and destructive than Perkins described in *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. It concludes with a call to action offering ordinary citizens as well as activists advice about what they can do to confront and change this destructive web of control.

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*"A wide variety of in-the-know authors corroborate and expand upon Perkins' story. And it's frightening stuff. A Game As Old As Empire is well referenced, very readable and perversely entertaining. Hard data is combined with first-person narratives and the machinations of international economics are made accessible for the layperson.*

*—Common Ground, Whole Life Times, Conscious Choice and EverGreen Monthly (syndicated review)*

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**Steven Hiatt** has worked as an editor and writer for several Bay Area companies, including Apple Computer, Netscape, Progressive Asset Management, and Stanford Research Institute. He is the editor (with Mike Davis) of *Fire in the Hearth: The Radical Politics of Place in America* and is president of Editcetera, a cooperative of publishing professionals.

BK Currents titles advance social and economic justice by exploring the critical intersections between business and society. Offering a unique combination of thoughtful analysis and progressive alternatives, BK Currents titles promote positive change at the national and global levels.

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