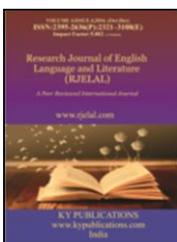




THE NOVEL FORM OF ENSLAVING THIRD WORLD NATIONS IN THE GUISE OF
CORPORATOCRACY: A STUDY OF *THE CONFESSIONS OF AN ECONOMIC HIT MAN* AND *THE
SECRET HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE* BY JOHN PERKINS

Dr.R.SIVADITHYA

Faculty member, PG Centre, Gadwal, Palamuru University Mahabubnagar & A life member of
Osmania University Centre For International Programs



ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to show the existence of slavery in a different light and as a worse form than chattel slavery in the guise of corporatocracy which is the result of globalization. Slavery in America began when the first African slaves were brought to the North American colony of Jamestown Virginia. The traditional form of slavery was called chattel slavery because the African Americans were treated as the personal property of the owner and were purchased and sold like commodities. The slave population increased considerably from 1600 to 1800.

During the era of globalization, slavery assumed a new form which is radically different from chattel slavery. The modern form of slavery is not based on racial discrimination but is related to economic disparities between the developed and the developing nations. This article argues that modern day slavery is the result of the practices of globalization. The practices of body shopping and the concepts of developmental projects proposed by the first world nations to the third world nations are promoting financial dependence of third world nations. This phenomenon of third world nations depending on first world nations is depicted by John Perkins in his work *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (2004) and *The Secret History of The American Empire: The Truth About Economic Hit Men, Jackals and How To Change The World*(2007). This article aims to show how modern day slavery increases economic disparities and how the third world nations are entrapped in modern day slavery through the works *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (2004) and *The Secret History of The American Empire* (2007) by John Perkins

Key Words: John Perkins Modern Day Slavery, Globalization

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INTRODUCTION

The introduction states the link between globalization and the modern forms of slavery and how the practices of globalization have promoted modern day slavery. Globalization refers to the emergence since the 1980's of a single world market dominated by multinational companies leading to a diminishing capacity for national governments to

control their economies. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term globalization was first used in a 1930 publication entitled "Towards a New Education" to denote a holistic view of human experience in education. However it was only in the 1960's that the term began to be widely used by economists and other social scientists. Although there are different and differing definitions and

interpretation of the term “Globalization,” most of them note the greater movement of goods, capital and ideas due to increased economic integration which in turn is propelled by increased trade. While the World Bank describes globalization as “an inevitable phenomenon in human history”, and “a catalyst for” and “a consequence of human progress”, it acknowledges that globalization is also a messy process that requires adjustment and creates significant challenges and problems. While the Transatlantic Slave Trade is often regarded as the “First System of Globalization” (Transatlantic Slave Trade), the post 1980’s globalization “has provided for an easier means of those living in poverty and who are seeking better lives.” (Modern Day Slavery).

Although globalization may appear to be an effective means of bringing wealth to the developing countries, it has in fact resulted in unintended consequences—the enslavement of the workers and human trafficking. Shocked by the wide prevalence of “this modern day form of slavery” Senator Hillary Clinton described Human trafficking as “The dark underbelly of globalization.” (Dying to Leave).

Focusing on the nexus between Globalization, slavery and human trafficking Devin Brewer argues that

It must be acknowledged that forms of slavery and human trafficking are not just out comes of globalization; they are a part of globalization process itself. An increasingly integrated world economy enables human trafficking to thrive. Just like the slavery of old, modern day trafficking of humans is a lucrative business that has only become more rewarding for traffickers with the advent of globalization. (Brewer 46)

Finding that economic conditions are decisive in the formation of slavery, Justin Guay uncovers not only the link between globalization, capitalism and slavery but also the spurious processes by which modern forms of slavery are legitimized.

The modern set of economic conditions on which slavery now firmly rests have arisen through the monolithic pillars of capitalism and free trade.

Massive inequality and poverty have set the stage for the most profitable form of slave trading ever seen. Slaves today are, in purely economic terms, short term low capital investments with incredibly high rates of return...a common link in many forms of contemporary slavery is the use of illegal contracts... the vulnerability of the world’s poor is a key ingredient to the successful implementation of this type of slavery... despite the illegality of the practice a lack of international enforcement allows the problem to persist. (Guay 72-73).

The introduction has dealt with the concept and form of modern slavery as a continuation to chattel slavery to demonstrate that slavery like practices continue even till date. The discussion of the article details the dominance of modern day slavery through the practices of globalization which are put forward by eminent political thinker John Perkins in his work *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* and *The Secret History of The American Empire: The Truth About Economic Hit Men, Jackals and How To Change The World* (2007)

Discussion

The discussion begins with the text *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* and its main argument. It is the exclusive personal story of John Perkins. In this work he tells about his own journey into the corporate world. His job was to implement policies that promoted the interests of US corporatocracy while professing to remove poverty in the third world nations.

This work explains the effects that he and his colleagues could create in the third world nations as Economic Hit Men. He was warned by many people not to write this book as it exposes the little known inner working of a system that fosters globalization and leads to millions of people across the world becoming poor. It is a story that offers hope and vision for realizing the American dream of true success and a compassionate world that would bring greater security to all the people of the world.

Perkins presently writes and teaches about achieving peace and prosperity by expanding our personal awareness. This work describes his travels and meetings with the leaders of the nations the

Economic Hit Men aim to destroy. It is divided into four parts: Part 1 describes the situation from 1963 to 71 and the nation of Indonesia which he visited. Part 2 describes the situation from 1971-75 and the nations of Panama and Saudi Arabia. Part 3 1975-81 describes the travels by Perkins to the nations of Panama, Columbia and Ecuador. Part 4 describes the situations from 1981 to the early 2000's and the nations of Ecuador Panama Iraq and Venezuela.

This paper argues about how the nations visited by Perkins were affected to show the prevalence of Economic Hit Men and their designs to cheat the nations to benefit the interests of the US. At the very beginning of the work Perkins describes the work of Economic Hit Men.

Economic Hit Men (EHMs) are highly paid professionals who cheat countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars. They funnel money from World bank US Agency for International Development and other foreign aid organizations into the coffers of huge corporations and the pockets of a few wealthy families who control the planet's natural resources. Their tools include fraudulent financial reports, rigged elections, pay offs, extortion, sex and murder. They play a game as old as empire, but one that has taken on new and terrifying dimensions during this time of globalization. I should know; I was an EHM (ix).

These practices elaborated by John Perkins are present in this work in the four parts mentioned. John Perkins had a good vision about Indonesia. The history of the nation had explained many facts about the situation in Indonesia. The firm that Perkins worked for was called MAIN. In the work *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, the name of the firm and its activities occur repeatedly. The firm was owned by five percent of its total employees and those employees were termed as Economic Hit Men. The work of these Economic Hit Men was to justify huge international loans for developmental projects that would funnel money to the corporation through massive engineering and construction projects. The second work of these Economic Hit Men was to see that the nations like

Indonesia which have taken the loans become totally bankrupt.

Perkins had the introduction to the job of an Economic Hit Man in Indonesia from a woman called Claudine who explained the true nature of his job.

A large part of your job is to encourage world leaders to become part of a vast network that promotes US commercial interests. In the end, those leaders become ensnared in a web of debt that ensures their loyalty. We can draw on them whenever we desire—to satisfy our political economic or military needs. In turn these leaders bolster their political positions by bringing industrial parks power plants and airports to their people. Meanwhile the owners of US engineering and construction companies become very wealthy.(17)

This work had an original title *Conscience of an Economic Hit Man* and was dedicated to presidents of two nations who influenced him very much. They were Jaime Roldos, the President of Ecuador and Omar Torrijos, the President of Panama. Both of these leaders were assassinated as they opposed the fraternity of the corporate government and banking heads whose goal is global empire. This article shall discuss the assassinations of the two leaders and the other ill effects associated with them.

Torrijos was known across the globe; he was respected as a man who had forced the United States to relinquish the Panama canal to its rightful owners and who continued to stand up to Ronald Regan. He was a champion of the human rights, the head of the state who had opened his arms to the refugees across the political spectrum including the Shah of Iran, a charismatic voice for social justice who many believed would be nominated to the Nobel Peace Prize. Now he was dead. "CIA Assassination!" once again headlined the articles and editorials. (159)

The second work to be discussed in the essay is *The Secret History of The American Empire* (2007) by

John Perkins. This work starts where *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* ends. In this work the issue of corporatocracy is taken further. The canvass of *The Secret History of The American Empire* is broader because it includes the experiences of others like Perkins. This work is divided into 5 parts and it deals with a wide range of themes including the phenomenon of sweat shops, the fruits of corruption, how the American dollar rules the world and how the United States continues to control the third world nations. As the Kirkus Reviews states "Perkins follows up the best selling *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (2004) with a still repentant but now broader view of the unconscionable plundering of the planet and endangerment of its future by the "corporatocracy" (304).

At the very beginning of the Secret History Perkins states the reasons why the US is termed as the Global Empire and how America has devastated the nations of the world.

The United States represents less than 5 percent of the world's population and it consumes more than 25 percent of the world's resources. This is accomplished to a large degree through the exploitation of other countries primarily in the developing world. (5)

In this work Perkins shows the true conditions of the Nike Factory Workers and their deplorable state of living. Perkins visited the workers and documents their style of living to demonstrate the ill effects of Sweatshops.

In one month, Leslie lost 15 pounds and Jim lost 25 pounds. Like Nike's workers, we lived in a small 9x9 cement box with no furniture and no air conditioning---in this steaming hot city. We slept on thin mats on an un even cement floor covered in one shelf paper which had a constant layer of ash and grit from the burning garbage, factory pollution and car exhaust fumes. The toilets drained into open sewers on both sides of every street. Because of the sewers, the village was infested with fist sized rats cockroaches and the biggest rats we'd ever seen. Some

people say to us, "You can live like a king on \$1.25 a day in a place like Indonesia. It is a statement filled with apathy and mis information. Most people Who make such claims have never even been to Indonesia. (41)

The Secret History shows how the dollar rules the world and how America makes the third world nations subservient to it.

Conclusion

The conclusion states the ill effects of the designs of economic hit men in the nations mentioned in both the texts and how those nations have become subservient to America. The assassinations of the two presidents have marked the beginning of the work of Economic Hit Men and the developmental projects proposed by the economic hit men have devastated the nations mentioned in the text and made them financially dependent on the US. The Economic Hit Men form a corporate fraternity to entrap the third world nations and try to persuade those leaders to accept loans for developmental projects. These practices are the forms of slavery that have been in vogue recently which have increased the economic disparities and resulted in a financial crunch which the third world nations have to endure to accept the US as the economic super power. This is the reality that Perkins has explained in these works which has served as an eye openers to many people who are un aware of the actual realities behind the developmental projects. The conclusion also states the present financial conditions in the nations of Indonesia Panama Saudi Arabia Columbia Ecuador Iraq and Venezuela. The present conditions are mentioned in the conclusion to state the effect of the policies implemented by the leaders of the nations which serve as evidences to the real story of *The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*.

The description of the financial conditions start with Indonesia in 2004 and 2016 to show how the nation's economy developed during the period. In late 2004 Indonesia faced a mini crisis due to international oil price rise and imports. The currency reached up to 12000 USD before stabilizing. The government was forced to cut massive fuel subsidies which were planned at a cost of 14 billion dollars for

2005 in October. This led to doubling in the price of consumer fuels [en.wikipedia.org / wiki / economyofindonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/economyofindonesia).

The financial conditions of Panama in 2016 are as follows. Growth is projected to remain around 6% in 2016 and over the medium term. The economy will be supported by the expected opening of the expanded canal and lower fuel prices which will counterbalance the effect of slowing global growth. www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2015/09/28/04/52/mcs03/8.

The Secret History of The American Empire also throws light on the corporate empire extended by America and shows the true working conditions of the factory workers as an example of the dominance of America over the third world nations. These two works are very fine examples to show that the dollar and the United States continue to rule the world. This work narrates how American Companies have constructed the global American Empire which exploits and enslaves third world nations of the world. America has thus become a global empire when kings and emperors are thought of as belonging to the past. The present American Empire rules the third world nations which are subservient and exhibit loyalty to America's supremacy.

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