

## #1: **JOHN PERKINS What's NEW?**

### **Thread 2: JOHN PERKINS MEET WITH GDC Community PODCAST**

#### **Author**

**24sevenTEAM**

Site Admin

Joined: 25 May 2004

Posts: 63

#### **Message**

Posted: Mon Dec 26, 2005 5:46 pm Post subject: JOHN PERKINS MEET WITH GDC Community PODCAST

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#### **JOHN PERKINS MEET WITH GDC Community PODCAST**

John Perkins spent a morning with members of our Global Dialogue Center Community in an open conversation, candidly answering the questions that were top of mind.

Listen in to hear a new perspective on many of the issues we've been discussing...

See PODCAST at <http://globaldialoguecenter.com/johnperkins>

Your 24seven Team

### **Thread 5: John Perkins COLLECTION at the Global Dialogue Center**

#### **Author**

**24sevenTEAM**

Site Admin

Joined: 25 May 2004

Posts: 63

## Message

Posted: Mon Dec 26, 2005 5:12 pm Post subject: John Perkins COLLECTION at the Global Dialogue Center

### **John Perkins COLLECTION at the Global Dialogue Center**

Expanded and dated for 2006 --- you'll find an array of resources, including access to books, interviews, podcasts, John Perkins BLOG and more...

<http://www.globaldialoguecenter.com/johnperkins>

Your 24sevenTEAM

## **#2: TOPIC – PERSPECTIVES ON JOHN PERKINS' BOOK**

### **Thread 1: It's happening in Nigeria - What about A BETTER DREAM ???**

#### **Author**

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005

Posts: 14

#### **Message**

Posted: Sun Feb 20, 2005 9:27 pm Post subject: It's happening in Nigeria - What about A BETTER

I read the book after going through the webcast interview. I was shocked, depressed, despondent and dejected, because what he described is happening right at this moment in Nigeria.

For the "older" group, recall that Biafra was sacrificed in the first African genocide and pogrom of continental proportions, by the British government, in order to maintain British access to Biafran oil; except that Britain preferred to work with Nigerian officials, hence she supported Nigeria in the 1967-1970 Biafra-Nigeria war and provided the weaponry and technical means to blockade Biafra, with obvious consequences, not the least of which is the haunting pictures of the Biafran Child as the "poster-child" of Kwashiokor (Protein-calorie Malnutrition). Biafra was forced back into Nigeria, and there is an ongoing policy to erase the people and spirit from the national psyche of Nigeria--but that's another story; this is just for background and context.

Today, everything Mr. Perkins described about the "curse of oil" is happening in Nigeria. But more important, the EHM mechanism is grinding away therein--just as he described it. The current (s)elected leader (more of a dictator today)--General Obasanjo--is running around asking for Debt Forgiveness for Nigeria and other African countries. Nigeria owes \$32B. But, the Paris Club has given him a list of Nigerians with foreign bank accounts where all the loot from the Oil is stashed away--to the tune of \$170B. General Obasanjo could ask the Paris Club to recover the loot (since the money is in their banks) and take what belongs to them and return the rest to Nigeria (and leave Nigeria alone?). Rather than do that, General Obasanjo chooses to implement unpopular policies dictated by IMF, and the peoples living and suffering in Nigeria have rightly categorized these policies as "anti-people." This, in fact, validates what Mr. Perkins pointed out--that the loans could be paid off, but are not: the indebtedness is designed to be self-perpetuating. That is the chilling part of all this: Mr. Perkins is correct, every step of the way.

General Obasanjo of Nigeria is trying to be an African hero. The masses don't really want a hero: they just want to survive. The General is "gaming" with the Paris Club. I believe that the General is trying to up the ante for leverage. First, he is getting in bed with China--not exactly a member of the Paris Club. Then, he is romancing Iran--not exactly the darling of the Paris Club. A few weeks ago, he actually invited the North Koreans (I think probably to run Nigeria's fledgling Nuclear Program): ANATHEMA! You get the picture, don't you?

An African proverb says that when elephants get into a fight, the bush underneath is the victim and loser. The masses in Nigeria understand that General Obasanjo's "game" with the Paris Club will result in more suffering for an already suffering and deprived population. They don't need this kind of heroism. The thing about this African proverb is really about what is not said: nobody speaks for the poor bush.

Living in the US gave me the opportunity to read Mr. Perkins' book. It at once reveals what is happening in and to the US, and (thus), explains what happened to Biafra, my ancestral land, and what is happening to Nigeria, where both Britain and the US have become equally entangled at this time. Mr. Perkins' suggestions are great for the Americans in the US. What about for Nigeria today? For sure, when we succeed in re-actualizing Biafra (in the works, even as we speak), we shall avoid the pitfalls which Mr. Perkins' book has brought to light. Until then, what can be done to help the hapless peoples of Nigeria, especially those in the oil-producing Delta region of Biafra / Nigeria, whose fate is exactly what Mr. Perkins' described wrt oil and similar groups elsewhere?

The most effective and ultimate form of protest in the Delta area of Biafra/Nigeria, when indigenous customs and traditions were respected, occurs when women deliberately bare their entire bodies on the site and or at the subject of the protest. This was done by a group of Delta women at one of the Oil drilling sites, and the Press reported this to the entire world about 1 year ago. Not much has changed since then.

Now, you can understand my dejection.

Oguchi

## **Author**

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

## Message

📅 Posted: Mon Feb 21, 2005 12:40 am    Post subject: Continuing genocide in Biafra/Nigeria

Oguchi, I am horrified by what you said in your post, but I am not surprised. Not only am I not surprised because of reading Perkins' book, but because I have been reading David Icke, a British author who has written a great deal about the plight of Africa. He believes that Britain, the Europeans, and the United States intend to, in effect, exterminate the (black) population of Africa, so as to be able to secure all of Africa's resources for themselves. Africa is incredibly rich in a huge variety of natural resources that are rare elsewhere. If it had been helped, rather than hindered, in developing these resources for the benefit of its people after World War II, Africa might today have a standard of living on a par with western Europe, but this has been denied Africans because the "First World Nations" want Africa's resources at low cost, in order to sustain their (our) bloated, exploitative standard of living, and, simply, because most Africans are black. This is the real reason, he says, for the terrible AIDS epidemic in Africa, the civil wars, even crop failures and environmental degradation that has occurred there over the past several decades. These things have all been exacerbated and promoted by the major powers in order to destroy what Henry Kissinger calls "useless eaters". Even smallpox vaccinations, which were distributed widely in Africa, were deliberately contaminated with toxins to accomplish this end.

What can be done now? What I would like to do at this moment is start a world revolution and kill the ---- of ----- that run all the world's governments, who are really two-legged monsters, rather than human beings, and replace them with real people, such as yourself. That is what I would like to do. But, you and I know that that won't happen. I don't know what to do. I would be lying if I said I did. We in America, and, to a lesser extent, Britain's and Europe's people, have been asleep for so long now, gorged with the lifeblood of the rest of the world's people, and enjoying a life of fat, indolent ignorance, that it will literally take a miracle to make us wake up and see what our greed has done to the rest of the world.. Maybe a miracle will happen.

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

📅 Posted: Mon Feb 21, 2005 11:37 am    Post subject: What to do? Pray for peace for all people.

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Dear Oguchi,

Thank you for sharing your account of what is happening in Nigeria, your homeland, helping all of us see the message of John Perkins' book from another personal vantage point. I must admit, like James, I was horrified to read your story and feel, in the distance, great sorrow for the anguish you carry.

I do feel as many here suggest that this is a time of awakening around the world...it is manifesting itself in many forms---perhaps a small sign of it is that all of us are showing up here to teach each other, coach one another and figure out what we can do. Like James, I feel empty about what to do after reading your message. Nearly everyday since I read John Perkins' book a new example surfaces to prove his truth. Certainly, while the way for change is opened, each of us can take *personal responsibility* as many have shared their ideas about here in these conversations. Personally, I think the big job right now is building awareness, interest, knowledge and your contribution in speaking up as others are doing is a start--- however, the *cancer* is so far spread and its insidious practices so far-reaching it will not be easy. It has been the way of life for so long that it is not readily accepted by people blinded by indifference, complacency and a constant stream of media propaganda until they are awakened. John Perkins' book is helping many people at last to connect all the dots. As James and others have said, this is not necessarily new thinking as much as how it was presented and the people being ready to receive its message. The harsh realities and devastating implications are being uncovered and exposed by the courageous---and people are beginning to listen.

In quiet desperation of what to do, I keep hearing Mother Teresa's wisdom, "*Don't wait for the leaders, do it alone person-to-person.*" I keep remembering the story of a reporter screaming at Gandhi one time from outside his train, "*What message can I take back to my people?*" In response, Gandhi held a piece of paper up to window with these words scratched on it, "*My life is my message.*"

I, too, pray for a **miracle** created by the power and the living example of the people coming together to reclaim their world. [Imagine](#) all the people living life in peace.

May all that we do here together be a catalyst for good for all people.

Debbe

**Let him that would move the world first move himself.**" -- Socrates

## Author

**JPPaul**

Joined: 12 Dec 2004

Posts: 5

Location: Nevada

## Message

Posted: Tue Feb 22, 2005 2:00 pm Post subject: It's happening in Brazil too ???

I read Oguchi's post on what is happening in Nigeria. Terrible! It made me think immediately of a show I saw on PBS over the weekend while I was out of town about a nun that was murdered in Brazil. I found an article on it, which I am posting below. There is a familiar ring to the story, don't you think? Is there a connection to what John Perkins is talks about?  
Is this an example?

Death of nun shows peril of Amazon activism

Posted: Tuesday February 15, 2005 6:20 PM EST

By Andrew Downie  
The Christian Science Monitor

Dorothy Stang was one of almost 1,400 people killed in the Brazilian jungle over the past 20 years.

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil - The weekend murder of an American nun who spent almost 30 years denouncing powerful logging and farming interests in the Brazilian Amazon has turned the spotlight on the unheralded and sometimes dangerous life of activists there.

Dorothy Stang, a 74-year-old Catholic nun from Dayton, Ohio, was killed on Saturday morning as she made her way to a gathering of peasant farmers near Anapu, a remote jungle town in the Amazonian state of Para.

"She was practically ambushed," Jose Geraldo da Silva, a deputy from the state and a friend of Stang's for more than a decade, said in a telephone interview from the area. "They planned it in advance, walked up to her on the street, and when she answered back [two men] shot her."

Mr. da Silva says Stang was targeted because she had spoken out against big landowners who were battling over land with small farmers in the notoriously lawless rural region of Para. Commercial farmers and loggers often dispute land ownership with local peasants. Much of the land is without title, and when the government does award deeds they are rarely respected.

Stang was a champion of the poor and their efforts to live and farm in the Amazon through sustainable methods. She dedicated her life to helping peasant farmers organize against powerful local interests, and didn't back down even when told she would be murdered if she continued to speak out. "She was a leader," da Silva says. "She was killed for defending families with no land."

Stang's death focuses attention on the struggle over land in Brazil, a country where the 37 biggest landowners own more land than the 2.5 million smallest ones. The Pastoral Land Commission, a Catholic group that Stang reported for from Para, says 1,379 rural workers have been killed in land conflicts in Brazil since the commission began keeping records in 1985. A sizable portion of them occurred in Para, a huge and largely undeveloped state on the eastern edge of the Amazon that is a magnet both for small farmers seeking land and big developers and loggers drawn to the timber-rich forests. According to Greenpeace, the international environmental organization, two-thirds of all illegal deforestation in Brazil takes place in Para.

The commission's secretary, Antonio Canuto, blamed Brazilian authorities for the violence, saying they had failed to implement an effective land-reform bill and reduce the inequity that plagues the countryside. Neither the efforts of former president Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who gave away more land to the poor in his eight years

in power than all the presidents before him, nor the promises of current President Luíz Inácio Lula da Silva, who vowed to settle 240,000 families before his term ends next year, have significantly alleviated the problem.

Of more immediate concern is the lack of an effective justice system or a responsible police force capable of investigating and stopping the violence, Mr. Canuto says.

Over the past 20 years, only 80 people have been convicted on charges stemming from the killings.

"That statistic tells you everything," says Canuto, a retired priest. "These big guys feel like they are able to do what they want without worrying over the consequences, and that includes killing. They are exempt. It's frightening."

Lula has sent two ministers to oversee the inquiry and handed control of the investigation to federal agents. Police have issued arrest warrants for the two suspected gunmen, as well as an intermediary and a rancher who is believed to have ordered the killing. No arrests have been made thus far.

Canuto and other advocates say violence in the Amazon occurs more over land than over ecology - environmentalists who simply come to study the rain forest's diverse flora and fauna are rarely hassled. Still, Canuto acknowledges that in the Amazon the two issues are closely intertwined, and he hopes Stang's murder will focus much needed attention on both problems. Some even say it could provoke the same international outcry that followed the murder of Chico Mendes, leader of the rubber tappers, whose killing in 1988 focused world attention on the plight of the Amazon.

"I think the two killings are comparable," says Adriana Ramos, the public policy coordinator with Instituto Socioambiental, an environmental organization here. "They were both victims of the Amazon's perverse violence."

URL: [http://news.spirithit.com/index/south\\_america/more/death\\_of\\_nun\\_shows\\_peril\\_of\\_amazon\\_activism/](http://news.spirithit.com/index/south_america/more/death_of_nun_shows_peril_of_amazon_activism/)

## Author

oguchi

Joined: 20 Feb 2005  
Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Wed Feb 23, 2005 2:34 pm Post subject:

### **(JP = John Perkins. CEHM = Confessions of an Economic Hit Man)**

Thank you, James for your advise. I appreciate your empathy, Debbe. JPPaul, you are right, that's what JP was describing. MP: I thank you for your sensitivity.

I add the comments below not to belabor the point, but to continue the sensitization process, not so much for these kind souls who have shared my / our grief, but for the rest of the world to whom, no doubt, some of these articles are being forwarded. And of course to reinforce what JP has said in his "confessional," in order that we lose **not** track of the global implications of CEHM in favor of JP's obviously poignant personal ordeals.

In the time since I wrote, Shell has moved its US office in charge of "Nigeria" Oil from Texas to a place in Nigeria. The implications for direct and enlarging control are

obvious.

Take a look at this screaming headline and the date:

**30 Feared Dead in Bayelsa Community Invasion** reported by Okon Bassey in Port Harcourt, 02.23.2005. in **THISDAY** Feb 23 2005:

*This is an internecine conflict, like JP described in CEHM; it has, characteristically, resulted in the invitation of "...The combined [Nigerian] military task force comprising the army, navy and local militia was said to have invaded the community, setting houses on fire while many people were killed, others seriously wounded in the process..."*

*And guess what caused the problem originally? "... attributed the cause of the crisis to the compensation Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) paid to Basambiri community that falsely claimed Owukubu land, which belongs to the Odioma community..."*

Before we blame the US and the UK and other European countries alone, remember that there a copycats bent on doing the same thing, only better. Consider this headline:

**Chinese the new economic imperialists in Africa** by Dianna Games 21 February 2005 **BUSINESSDAY** [url]<http://www.businessdya.co.za> [/url]:

*"Concerns have been raised that African governments are so busy looking over their shoulders for signs of renewed "colonial peril" from the likes of the US and UK that they have missed the onrushing Sino train and its economic imperialist momentum. Indeed, many African countries have welcomed the Chinese, seeing them as a means of lessening dependence on the hoary old enemies in the west...All over Africa, Chinese companies are doing lucrative deals with governments, many of them with major "sweeteners" thrown in — designed to clinch not just the contract being negotiated, but others down the line...China is slowly widening its African oil footprint, with big contracts in Sudan and Angola. But it has sold itself to the Nigerian government by agreeing to invest large sums in nonoil sectors in what analysts see as leverage to secure the oil stake..."*

Another take on this same subject elsewhere praises China for being the Economic Savior of Africa. Imagine that!

Did I mention that, as if Nigeria read JP's book, she has "accepted" to allow her crude oil refineries fall apart so that all crude oil from Nigeria now has to be exported to you-know-where for processing; then, the refined products and derivative goods are imported back by Nigeria—at International Oil Market Prices! for domestic consumption—if the masses can afford them any longer. What a convenient arrangement, but don't say CEHM did not alert us!

Anyways, what can / could an average Nigerian afford, by the way? Consider these statistics published by the Federal Government of Nigeria (don't forget to look at the date):

**Average national income now N.05m, expenditure n.03m**  
2005-02-22 09:22:48 **BusinessDay** February 23 2005

*"The average national income in the country is N53, 287.69, (range by State: N133, 286.12 to N27, 474) while the average national expenditure is N39, 154.97 (range by household: N105, 307.80 to N32, 208.70., says the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS)..."*



I hope that you, too, are fooled by the units in "m" (Millions), and are hoping that N or n is equal or larger than the dollar. Actually, N135 (approx) = \$1.00. So, you do the math. The average annual income in Nigeria is about \$400 (a smidgen over \$1.00 per day, with a range of 20cents to \$2.50, if broken down by States). The average expenditure by household is about 30 cents (\$0.3) a day.

Now, place this in context: Refined crude oil products are imported by, and sold in, Nigeria at market value (following IMF-mandated deregulation—sound familiar from CEHM?), based on the International pricing regime.

How unconscionable to take and grab from one who is trying to exist on this planet on the proverbial "mustard seed" of only 30 cents a day!

Now, do you begin to understand what JP has done to us with his book, CEHM? We should all be inconsolable until we find true solace. JP made excellent suggestions, but just as CEHM crux is motivational, his suggestions for change should serve to motivate us all.

We have a problem of global and colossal proportions: our reach for help, survival and rectitude can only extend beyond what we currently know, what we are presently familiar with, and what we are usually afraid of. Not only is our corrective and healing **DREAM** going to be expansive, it needs to have more clarity; and, we need to believe and stick with it, no matter the darkness.

My prayer today is not, "*Teach us how to pray...*" Rather, I ask: "**Teach us how to Dream...**," which happens to be my enduring take from John Perkins' Confessions of an Economic Hit Man. And it ties in with: "Imagine!" and "Miracle" and all the other suggestions here. I think that Cosmic forces are with us.

Thank you for your patience and your support as we continue the journey

Oguchi Nkwocha, MD  
California, USA.  
A Citizen of Biafran

## Author

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005  
Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Tue Mar 01, 2005 11:27 pm Post subject: Means to African Economic and Political Freedom

oguchi, if only there were some way to get the African states to band together in a united front to defend themselves against the economic and political predators in Europe, the United States, and now China! Perkins, in his book, tells what happens when leaders of countries try to stand alone against the onslaught, such as Torrijos in Panama, and now Chavez in Venezuela (although Chavez, so far, has managed to hold his own). Ultimately, the predators send in their intelligence agencies to conduct sabotage, stage coups, or assassinate recalcitrant leaders. The only way to beat this game is for several, ideally all, African states to form a united front against them.

Would it be possible, for example, for the African states to agree to sell their much

sought-after commodities only to each other, at prices they agreed upon among themselves? They might even barter these commodities, exchanging them, in agreed-upon equivalencies, without the exchange of money. Of course, there is probably not much of a market in Africa for some of these commodities, such as South Africa's gold and diamonds. In those cases, the African states might form a cartel to only sell them at their agreed-upon prices on the world market. What do you think?

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005

Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Thu Mar 03, 2005 10:28 am Post subject:

John:

The legacy of colonial (including Apartheid) **balkanization** policy still lives on in all African countries, and current African leadership is enmeshed in and controlled by it, and benefits from it, too. Notice, I said, "*legacy*," not "vestige." Often, we underestimate the true meaning of "*balkanization*," and no one is more ignorant of such meaning than the typical African leader or elite who thinks that balkanization means to split off units from a cohesive whole. I spend time on balkanization because that is in fact the root cause of our (African) problem. For, it is balkanization that makes it impossible to carry out your 2 meaningful and main suggestions.

When the colonialists came to Africa, there were already 1000 or so ethnicities, indigenous groupings, tribes, kingdoms, or whatever name. It was within these "entities" that each population found its identity, existential fulfillment, and it was to them that they pledged unflinching allegiance and showed fierce loyalty. The colonialists could not handle this. So, balkanization started: boundaries were re-drawn by the colonialists to reduce the thousand or so entities to the 50 or so countries that now make up contemporary Africa—and this was done without the consent of the victimized peoples--another feature of balkanization. The colonialists had only one goal in mind: divide originally cohesive groups and mix and force-merge them in such a way as to maximize the efficiency and efficacy of colonialists' administrative and exploitative imperative, while at the same time creating internecine tension and conflicts—enough to prevent the groups from banding together to recognize the common enemy and fight back. When colonialism "ended," these arrangements were left behind and intact and even often cemented with final "pacts" protecting same, signed as part of the "independence" documents. Now, you see why your excellent suggestions cannot be carried out.

General Obasanjo, the President of Nigeria, made a statement regarding the success of African leaders and bodies in brokering a settlement of the decades-old Sudan war (another result of balkanization!):

***"---this is an example of what we can do when we are left alone to do our job..."***

By "we" and "our," General Obasanjo was referring to African leadership, including

himself, of course. The innocuousness of this statement was only matched by its profundity; yet, such was lost on all. No one asked the obvious: "*Who is / are holding African leadership back, and how?*" In any case, (and in direct answer to you, John), the General is no Torrijos. First, he was part of the revolving military coupists-dictators who devastated African countries. Then, he is one of the military dictators who revert to civilian dictatorship under the guise of democracy. His Nigeria is another excellent example of balkanization at work. (Here is one of today's headlines in Nigeria: **"U.S. report scores Nigeria low on electoral system, human rights"** *From Laolu Akande, New York – Nigeria Guardian March 3 2005*). But, in fact, the US and the rest of the world still support / buttress and legitimize him and his government. And, he is one of the benefactors—in fact, an ongoing benefactor—of the lure used by former-colonialist-now-still-predator countries, which Torrijos could not be accused of. I posted the sordid picture of the sad economic lot of the average Nigerian. But, do you know that General Obasanjo's personal farm in Ottah, Ogun State, Nigeria, earns or processes \$30M each month, while he has been president of Nigeria (from near-subsistence just before he was (s)elected for the first term in 1999, and then, self-rigged himself to succeed himself for this second term starting in 2003, to which the above headline refers?). Where would the General find patronage to the tune of 30 (let me spell it out) Million Dollars each month, when the average spending of the Nigerian family is 30 cents a day? In spite of his profound statement, he is still part of the problem: he is playing the game, and the masses are the victim. Which is precisely what is happening in the whole of Africa today.

Oh yes, there are economic unions in Africa; NEPAD, ECOWAS, etc. And there are political unions: OAU which morphed into AU (African Union), etc. No one can accuse African leadership of failing to copy the developed nations in these things. But, the same leadership, like a drug addict, is hooked on the lure and has swallowed the "predators'" hook, line, and sinker. The predators have to keep this type of leadership "alive," and the leadership has to please the predators.

The solution to Africa's problem and the way to get away from the clutches of economic predators is for Africa to be "allowed" (that word again!) to revert to its original natural groupings. Such groups can then re-define their relations with one another based on mutuality, equity and respect; and if that means that colonial-drawn boundaries are removed and new ones re-drawn, so be it. But today, we have persons vehemently bucking aganstst this idea. In their "wisdom" they fail to see that Africa is about diversity and variegation--often covering the entire spectrum of possibilities, not conformity, uniformity and constraint. Where else do sand waves rule as much as sea waves at the same time, or life teem among lifellessness, or open skies coexist with cloud-blankets, a place so dry yet so wet, so hot and yet so cold? The Spirit of Afrcia is variegation and diversity: all elements had done well within this Spirit since origin, and will struggle to continue to do well in spite of the impositions of thoughtless predators and even their hapless victims. It is the friction that we see as the Africa problem today.

Let me leave you with a hint of how bad these things really are. In the year 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) settled a territorial dispute between Nigeria and Cameroun based on treaties signed by Britain, France and Germany--the colonial masters--in the late 1800's—yes, you read it right: 1800's. Which means that after pretending that colonialism is morally wrong, a modern international (not Kangaroo) court of justice(?) still respects, and bases decisions on, such colonial treaties, especially when the victim is still the same? But that's not the worst of it. In the 1800's, the colonial masters never consulted the indigenous peoples victimized by their treaties (as typified by the Berlin Balkanization of Africa Conference of 1885). In 2004, the people affected by the above ICJ ruling (the Bakassi) were never even consulted or asked what they would like; they are now saddled with a decision which they detest and protest, and which they may not be able to reverse, nor will they be

able to live with. "Wasn't asked, don't want it, can't live with it, can't change it"-- that's the quandary of balkanization, and that's what we are talking about.

Let Africa be. Let the Spirit of Africa be. The peoples of shall eventually emerge right. Until then, we are wrong and wronged by the current atmospherics.

Oguchi

## Author

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 04, 2005 12:44 am    Post subject: Promoting True Freedom in Africa

Forgive me, Oguchi, I was ignorant of the history of Africa and the ramifications of its struggle with the legacy of colonialism, and neocolonialism. I severely underestimated the extent to which the colonial powers undermined the strength of African society, as well as how the predatory "First World" continues to benefit from that undermining. I am appalled. What can be done? It appears, from what you say, that Africa cannot effectively fight what is being done to it. If that is so, the only solution that appears possible is for the neocolonialists to radically alter their policies toward Africa as a result of internal pressure from their own people.

The problem with that is that the populations of the "First World" BENEFIT from their governments' exploitation of Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and India, at least insofar as that they are able to buy consumer goods made from the resources of these areas much more cheaply than if the exploitation were not taking place. In America, however, that benefit is being increasingly offset by the exportation of American jobs overseas, a practice which does not much benefit the people of the "Third World," because they are paid a pittance for what Americans once did. I am unaware of how much job exportation affects Europe, but I am under the impression that, because of much stronger labor unions in Europe, the effect on the European population has so far been much less. The only people who benefit from such job exportation are American and international corporations, and, even then, most of the benefit goes to the corporations' top leadership and stockholders.

That ordinary Americans and Europeans are benefiting less than before from the exploitation of other countries is cause for hope that a major change in American and European foreign policy toward the exploited countries is at least possible in the future, but that possibility does nothing to immediately better the lives of people in those countries. As I see it, there must be a fundamental change in the attitude of ordinary Americans and Europeans toward the "Third World," (I put such terms as "First World," and "Third World" in quotes because I believe they are demeaning to people in exploited countries. In fact, I propose to replace them with "Predatory Countries" and "Exploited Countries) Americans and Europeans must, first of all, begin to question why Africans, for instance, should live on \$1.00 a day while they, the Americans and Europeans, live in relative ease and comfort. Then they must question why their social and political elites should have benefitted enormously from this exploitation. Next, they must be willing to put enormous pressure on their governments through massive actions of civil disobedience and tax revolt., Finally,

they must be willing to accept whatever economic and social adjustments are necessary to correct this situation., including a lowered standard of living among the "Predatory Countries."

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005

Posts: 14

## Message

## Author

## Message

Hello, James:

Yes, I indicated that "...Africa cannot effectively fight what is being done to it..."—in a way. I also hinted at how lasting and meaningful rectification can be accomplished by "*allowing*" Africans to return to their natural groupings, from there to forge new political unions and associations—of their own choice, and of their own making. If the world (aka "Predator Nations") can "allow" and support this, we will all have moved on to a new chapter and a new plane. Suppose we get one or two influential newspapers such as NYT and WallStreetJ to write about this approach once a week for several months: Nations will take notice and perhaps, start debating and or acting on it. This is how (one way, at least, that) Africa can fight its present predicament, and how we can all help.

And you are so right in your analysis of what "ordinary" folks can do. We must help them by DREAMING new dreams—those of us who can, and who are drawn to "dream"—and I will explain below.

You have already touched on—and accurately, too—the complex web holding together ordinary peoples in both "Worlds," and their governments—both the Predator and the victimized peoples' governments. It is easy to mistake it for a "pathologic relationship." I just want to add that I do not know any folks who want to survive on the blood of other folks. Gandhi has been mentioned here earlier, and while the British government of the day openly derided him on his visit to London, the "ordinary" people loved him and identified with him and flocked around him—not quite the picture of "predator-folk and prey." And, I don't see British ordinary folk supporting their government if the government's reason to them for blockading and starving millions of Biafran children, women, pregnant women and elderly to death in 1967-1970, is to provide affordable resources to the folk. When the Reagan administration refused to boycott South African Apartheid government, and an inane administration spokesman offered the shameless "reason" something like "what will American women do if diamonds are no longer affordable...?" the womenfolk of America chided and scolded him for his insensitivity and sheer ignorance of what women want or how they think.

Yes, I agree with you that the folks benefit from their government's predatory

activity, but I think not really on purpose. I think some of the problem lies in what governments "perceive" that the people's mandate to them is, and how it should be accomplished. For some reason, "predatory" governments think that they must provide affordable commodities AT ALL COSTS (translated: usually at all cost to the victimized countries) to their citizens, else...? For such governments, the "?" stands for their (governments') premature termination, but they make it appear that "?" means that their citizens will perish. Take it from one who has suffered: the folk are more resilient and more realistic than that. They will find a way to survive once the realities are explained truthfully, assuming the folk don't already know it, even though they might, in addition, also dismiss a non-performing government. In short, the predator-governments are more interested in preserving the government than in "protecting" their citizens. These governments pretend otherwise. The citizens are not children—they can usually manage on their own—successfully, too. For the reason of their own selfish self-preservation, the predator-governments follow the path of expedience and the path of least resistance—yes, even if such a path leads through serious wars which, ironically, would hurt the folks more.

What is lacking is Vision, also known as Dream. A visionary government will use its resources to look for more and other opportunities which foster co-existence rather than parasitism and predation; for cooperation rather than colonization. A visionary government is made up of visionary persons or visionary peoples dreaming "outside of the box." When persons or people who constitute the government dream the same tired dreams, we get the same "tired" results. For example, why go to war for Oil when a government can devote the same resources to looking for alternative fuel sources?

We need to dream more and better. The universe is built on abundance, diversity and co-existence rather than on scarcity and competition. How many planets are there? How many suns? How many solar systems? How many galaxies? And now, comes what Mystics have always known but Science is only just discovering: there are many universes—probably an infinite number, yes, of universes. We should dream in abundance and dream abundance. We should dream of diversity and dream diversity, where, as in the universe / nature, even diversity is all co-existing perfectly as One.

Our universe is not needs-driven: who or what needs billions of galaxies and billions of stars and billions of solar systems and a mind-aching assortment of billions of other entities, including living and non-living things, including human beings? Who or what needs the diversity and variations and permutations and combinations which the universe offers? What type of prodigality has need for such prodigious manifestations? It is thus self-evident that the universe is not needs-driven: our dreams ought not be needs-driven either. Dreams based on needs are constrained and result in scarcity, mere subsistence, and competition.

If we direct our dreams specifically to the issue of energy, and dream right, we should be encouraged, buoyed on and rewarded by the fact that unlimited and free energy is possible and available using the abundance of sea / ocean water and the abundance of the air we breathe. What of the energy of even lightning? There is enough methane-ice on the ocean floor to provide—even if not free, at least—affordable energy for many for a long time. Only the power of our dreams can unlock the secret of how to access such energy. Life on earth is powered by the sun's energy; yet, the much of the solar energy which sustains this life is only an insignificant fraction of what our sun puts out—not even a "burp." Can we capture more? Of course. But only if we dream it. Past the sun, the universe itself offers a plethora of energy sources: from streaming cosmic rays to gamma-ray bursts, to energetic jets, and to other existent phenomena which we have not even yet become aware of. Could we tap into these for our energy fulfillments? Of course. But only when we "un-constrain" our dreams.

We have it all—it's all around us: actually, it is all within us. If only we could actualize it, precipitate it at will! We do not have to grab or steal it from others. There's more than enough to go around.. That is where DREAMS or vision come in handy.

It doesn't even require that everyone do the dreaming. All that is required is a few dreamers with clarity and steadfastness.

I have used the specific example of "energy," but we can also apply the same principles of dreaming to solving other socio-biological and existential problems. We can proffer our own dreams, or we can live in others' dreams.

JFK in a speech in Dublin, Ireland on June 28, 1963, said:  
"...The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by those whose horizons are limited by obvious realities. We need men [and women] who can DREAM of things that never were..." [Emphasis, mine]

Let's start dreaming. We can do this.

## Author

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005  
Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 04, 2005 11:23 pm    Post subject: Dreaming Ourselves Awake

Oguchi, I couldn't agree with you more when you say that what the whole world needs is a new dream. Absolutely! Our needs-driven dreams are precisely the crux of the problem. We must realize that the world as it is is the one we have dreamed, and that, to change it, we must dream a different dream! It sounds so simple - and it is. The problem is, how can we get there - to dreaming a new dream - from here? How do we transform our current dream of selfishness, scarcity, competition, conflict, and war into a dream of generosity, abundance, cooperation, harmony and peace?

I have long thought that the circumstances under which this will happen - and I think it WILL happen - will depend, at least in part, on worldwide communication. The Internet, and how it is being used, is evidence that this is already happening. The fact that anyone can communicate instantaneously with anyone else on this planet who can use a personal computer will, at some point, lead to a "critical mass" of human minds and hearts which will suddenly become a new form of human consciousness. It will suddenly become clear simultaneously, to everyone on the planet, including those who are not using the Internet, that the entire human race is ONE; that all our differences are, in the end, unimportant, and that it is absolutely ludicrous for anyone to hate or fight anyone else!

However, I think that for the above to happen, humanity will have already acquired a "disposition" to unity through a realization that the suffering of one human being is the suffering of ALL. THAT will be the real miracle. But there is evidence that that is starting to happen, too. Through the speed of communication, it is possible to see

the suffering of another human being on the other side of the world AS IT IS HAPPENING. What needs to happen now is for the full impact of that suffering to reach the deepest recesses of all human hearts. Here again, I believe the result will depend on a "critical mass" of human hearts - the "hundredth monkey" effect.

Deeper spiritual factors are at work here, as well. Though there is no historical evidence that Christ ever really existed in history, "The Christ" has nevertheless always been an integral part of human consciousness, as Jung pointed out. Jung called him the archetype of the human soul. As such, his sacrifice on the cross and the Eucharist he instituted have substantively affected human consciousness, even if they never actually happened in history! Actually, I think they DID happen, but I think whether they did or not is unimportant! Humanity has, in effect, dreamed up the Christ in the first century, and He has been affecting human consciousness ever since. Combined with the other factors I listed above, I think the Christ is indeed about to come again, but that the "Second Coming" will actually be the nearly instantaneous transformation of humanity - ALL of humanity - into the "likeness of Christ." This is what I think what "St. Paul" (there is no historical evidence that HE existed either!) meant when he said: "...for we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the Last Trumpet... for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality..."

Still another factor in all of this is what I call the "Awareness of archetypal Evil," or the unmasking of the true mechanism whereby evil forces have controlled human history, and the role unwitting humans have played in that control. John Perikins' book is part of that new awareness. This new awareness, I think, will make it possible for humanity to cease cooperating with these evil forces, which, without such cooperation, will collapse.

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005  
Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Mon Mar 07, 2005 10:24 pm Post subject:

Prisilla: I am trying to get past your: **"...He who boils the dog to kill the fleas is an extremist..."** but the profundity of the statement keeps pulling me in, like the force of gravity. Yes, the statement speaks to lack of imagination, where imagination equals DREAM. No imagination, no dream at all!

I was hurrying to your other phrase, **"...to share the dreams powered by understanding, knowledge and compassion..."** because you state so well the ingredients of an enabling and uplifting dream. Understanding. Knowledge. Compassion. Nobody does it better than the "Christ" consciousness which James brought up, and there is no better personification of that that Jesus himself.

Whether Jesus or Christ existed or not, or can be proven or not, as James mentioned, is not as important as the self-evident phenomenon that both resonate



with us individually and collectively. That has to count for something.

Yet, the way Jesus Christ taught us how to dream is all but forgotten by Religion and religionists who are afraid to lose throttling control over the peoples and the world. Religion's dream is about sin and judgment—judgment based on fear, ignorance and self-preservation. Jesus' dream, on the other hand, is about love—unconditional love, an unfathomable love, a dream based on *Understanding, Knowledge and Compassion*.

How far does the Christ dream reach? Try this: Jesus said: You are God. You and God are the same (because God is being you!). At birth, Jesus was named "Immanuel" (mis-translated as "*God is with man,*" but the real meaning is actually, "**God is man,**" the word, "*with*" having been inserted therein in fear and disbelief).

"Christhood" is Oneness: God is One with what God creates; God is being God in all that is—all that God creates.

Our highest dream is that based on "Oneness." It, not just connects us all but, integrates all things, peoples--alive, dead or inanimate: all what God is being--and God into One. Oh that we had the *understanding*, the *knowledge*, and the *compassion* to countenance this!

Imagine! To Dream the Oneness Dream. What or Whom would be left out?

## Author

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005  
Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Tue Mar 08, 2005 2:40 am    Post subject: Passionate Dreams

prisilla, I like your reflections on Africa very much. I have never seen the continent, but I can imagine doing so when I read your words.

Oguchi, I agree with your comments about organized religion. It IS about fear and control, and GUILT! The Christ himself, I believe, was not concerned with any of these things, but rather about love, and above all sacrifice. God Himself took human flesh in order to restore us to the condition we had with Him at the birth of Creation. He did this by living an ordinary human life, and then dying a horrific human death. His life and sacrifice of Himself on the cross was not merely to show us how He loved us, but in order, as you suggest, to UNITE Himself with us.

I believe now that there was far more to God's act of uniting himself with humanity than is taught in the organized Christian denominations. The focus of that Divine act of sacrifice is the Eucharist. Roman Catholics believe that, at the Last Supper, Jesus gave the Apostles - the Church - His body and blood, soul and divinity in perpetuity. It was to be God's physical presence in the Church until His Second Coming, when He would return to establish His Kingdom on Earth. Catholics, when they receive the Eucharist, believe they are receiving Christ Himself under the appearance of bread and wine. I think they are right. I believe that the Christ did indeed institute the

Eucharist, but that the Church, in effect, holds It (God) prisoner. In order for you to understand why I think that, I must explain what I believe the Church to be.

I am no longer a Catholic, or an adherent of any organized Christian denomination, because I believe that the teachings of the Christ were appropriated by the Roman Church in order to found a new religion which would use the fear of God's judgement (condemnation) in order to control people's thoughts and beliefs about God, and to provide yet another religion to promote conflict and war on Earth. Organized religions are one of the primary means whereby the Illuminati ("The Enlightened") have always promoted division and conflict on Earth. They are part of the Illuminati's "divide and rule" strategy.

The Illuminati are, I believe, a race of hybrid human/reptilians who have ruled mankind since time immemorial as our royalty, nobility, popes, presidents, prime ministers, financiers, industrialists, and even Hollywood stars. They are the descendants of the offspring of the ancient reptilian "gods," who interbred with mankind in order to be able to rule us secretly, through their hybrid proxies. The ancient reptilian "gods" are referred to in the Bible as "the Ancient Serpent," "the Great Red Dragon," "Satan," "the Devil," or simply "the Serpent." (Actually, I believe the references to the "Great Red Dragon" in the Book of Revelation are symbolic of the Illuminati bloodline of rulers stretching far back into history.) They inhabit the lower astral (the lower fourth) dimension, the realm of demons.

The Illuminati (the reptilian/human hybrid rulers) are Satanists. Satanism is the lineal descendant of the ancient pagan religions which sought to honor the "gods" with human sacrifice. In reality, these pagan religions provided the "gods" with their food: human bodies and human blood, which, as I have explained elsewhere in this forum, the "gods" must have if they are to manifest on this plane in physical form. The Illuminati, although they are partially human, must maintain an exact 50/50 ratio of human to reptilian blood in order to maintain their human appearance. Over hundreds of generations, some of them have far too much reptilian blood and must drink and eat human "energetics" constantly.

Satanism today has two levels: the level everyone thinks about when one thinks about Satanism: black and red satin robes, chanting, candles, and sometimes an animal sacrifice. Illuminati Satanism, however, is the real thing: all of the above, but with real human sacrifice, most often of small children. Some 40,000 children and adults are sacrificed in Satanic rituals every year in the United States alone. Almost nothing is ever heard about this because law enforcement agencies are heavily involved in Satanism, as are churches.

Since finding out about this, I have thought: why did God allow His teachings and Eucharist to be coopted by the Enemy? The reason, I think, is that by uniting Himself with humanity through His death on the cross, and in the reenactment of that death in the Eucharist, He has made it impossible for the Illuminati to sacrifice human beings who are not, also, God. This has at least two effects. First, it counters the Illuminati's intention to LOWER Earth's etheric vibration in order to spawn more and more evil on Earth. Instead, every human sacrifice RAISES Earth's vibration and brings the earth closer to the parousia (the Second Coming). Second, by consuming the bodies and blood of humans who are also Divine, the Illuminati are, in effect, becoming divine themselves. That is, they are being drawn toward God. In other words, they are being redeemed!

**Author**

oguchi

Joined: 20 Feb 2005

Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Tue Mar 08, 2005 10:42 am Post subject:

James: I am persuaded that God is one. God is all. God is being everything that there is. God did not "decide to take on flesh": God has always been flesh, just as God has always been inanimate, Spirit and all things in-between, and all things outside of those manifestations, because God "created" them in the first place.

As for sacrifice, who needs sacrifice when there is unconditional love? If you understand love, you will abhor sacrifice. Sacrifice is the last sigh of hopelessness, an admission of lack, a substituted loss. These are things to be associated with constricted dreams and dreamers, not with the unbounded, unbound and unlimited source and resource known as God.

Every culture has its own rituals and rites which it uses to celebrate and entrench its ignorance, fear and anxieties. Biblical cultures are no different. Human sacrifice, animal sacrifice—any sacrifice at all—all fall into this category. What Jesus did was to demonstrate that God is human—God is humanity—and God is all that there is, because that's what and how God wants to be. Yes, it is for God's own sake and by God's own will that God is being (manifesting) all there is. For this reason, "*Fear not!*" he, Jesus, advised: it is all God. But we failed to understand, and continued sacrificing.

Most of our problem is that we have inherited the dreams of religion which are based on fear and ignorance. Being the first "organized way" (Science was to come later) to interpret our world and deal with our individual and collective "ignorance," this is not surprising. We recognized our potential as human beings but felt handicapped by our weaknesses. So, immediately, we felt we were being punished—by God. We saw what we could do as persons and people, but suffered what could be done to us in the world of other operatives (other animals, uncontrollable and unpredictable weather, etc), so we figured that we must have offended Someone—God. We did not know at that time that even the stars in the firmaments are born, mature, and die—same as us (the same fate faced by planets, solar systems, galaxies, and universes, by the way). When this happened to us, we thought, in gross ignorance, that it is because we sinned against God. We get sick and we think God must be angry with us, not realizing that the "disease" we feel in sickness is the awareness of significant change in the body and mind's usual status; that sickness itself is a natural occurrence which will happen in spite of us, either because other "living" things are sharing or preferring the same physical substrate as us, or because our bodies are going through the same natural process that everything in the universe goes through: chance and motion. Turning to another profound force in our lives—procreation—we suffer infertility, miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, "multiplet" births (twins, triplets, etc), birth defects and deformities, and we immediately blame it on our sins. We had / have no inkling that all this is natural, and nature (=God) will manifest every variety and every shade and every nuance of being, and can arrest itself at any phase of that particular line of the process of being. But what we definitely knew / know how to do is to blame ourselves, assume that we have offended God, self-flagellate, and when audacious enough, get angry with God.

But for the most part, we tried to appease, to appease, and to appease "God" some more. If material sacrifice failed, then blood sacrifice. When that, too, failed, then,

human sacrifice. That is the origin and history of sacrifice. All the time, nothing changed as such: nature was and is still nature, and these "calamities" continued and continue. When Science matured and we half-understood some of these processes, we were able to change the direction and some of the outcomes; but essentially, nature continues being—change and motion; while religion remains has frozen solid, having institutionalized and codified appeasement.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, my dream is based on God being God in all that there is: I am that God because that God is being me and all else there is. It is all ONE "family": therein lies the hope, the trust, and the confidence that all is possible: even peace on Earth and in the Universe, as we dream it; and if not peace, then, the serenity and compassion that results from knowing that what is God—One—remains God—One, and we are all in there.

If there is anything else out there, or in here, which has established itself outside of, alternate to, independent of, or in parallel to, One=God, then, forget about "peace." Incidentally, that is precisely why peace is "forgotten" in our world: we think, act, believe and dream as if there is other than One—other than God. Unfortunately, Religion has contributed to this in no small way.

This, then, is what we need to change. This is the dream that we have to re-dream, basing our new dream on fresh realities of "Oneness."

## **Author**

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

## **Message**

Posted: Wed Mar 09, 2005 3:07 am    Post subject: Creation; Necessity for God's sacrifice of Himself

Oguchi, I agree with you that God is in all that there is. However, the intelligent beings He created in the Un have free will. Because of that, they can choose to oppose God ("the Good") and embrace Evil. God wanted there to be freedom in His Universe, and freedom is meaningless if there is no choice. What kind of Universe would we have if there could be no choice but the Good? It would be like a photograph with no contrast between light and darkness, no shades of grey, and no color. It would be only light, but it would be a sterile, lifeless light. The ancients knew this, and suggested this truth when they called Satan the "Shadow of the Lord."

Because intelligent beings have free will, some have chosen Evil. The Reptilians were apparently predisposed to do so. They were created on the astral level, or the lower fourth dimension, but they are able to physically manifest in this dimension because, as I have said, they ingest human blood and flesh. They were created with an overweening pride and arrogance. They consider themselves the fittest to survive among all the other beings in the Universe: destined to conquer and dominate all habitable worlds in this, and all dimensions.

They have conquered hundreds of worlds in this Galaxy alone. Many of those worlds are inhabited by human races. (Apparently, the first human race to appear in this Galaxy appeared in a star system called Lyrae, near the center of the Galaxy.) The

Reptilians' method of conquest is usually very direct: their ships appear in the skies of the target world and deliver an ultimatum to the inhabitants: submit or die. When they cannot conquer a world they desire, they exterminate its inhabitants. When they have conquered a world, they assimilate it into the Draconian Empire (named after the constellation Draco, their original home), which now comprises hundreds of habitable worlds in this and other galaxies, and in other Universes in other dimensions.

The Reptilians (known among other cultures in the Universe as the Draconians) assimilate a world by first genetically reengineering its inhabitants with reptilian genes so that they can be connected to the Draconian hive-mind. (Individual Draconians have no independent thoughts. They have a collective consciousness.) Then the assimilated world becomes a base of operations for further conquests in the immediate galactic neighborhood. This is to be the fate of humanity and of Earth. The Draconians departed from their usual direct method of conquest in the case of Earth because it was inhabited millions of years ago by a technologically powerful human race from the planet Atlan. Their colony, Atlantis, fought a long war with the Draconians of the continent of Lemuria, in which the continent was destroyed and sank into the sea. In the aftermath of that war, in which the dinosaurs became extinct, the Draconians retreated to underground bases on Earth, which they still maintain. In order to secretly infiltrate Atlantean culture and rule it from within, the Draconians decided to create a hybrid reptilian/human race: the Illuminati.

The Draconians, through the Illuminati, destroyed the culture of Atlantis from within until it finally destroyed itself in a cataclysm that resulted in the disintegration of the continent of Atlantis, several tens of thousands of years ago. The Illuminati then set about creating a new human culture on Earth, the one in which we now live, which is based on the Draconian values of domination, conquest and war. Over the past several decades, the Illuminati and several of their extraterrestrial allies have begun the process of reengineering humanity in their image in preparation for the establishment of their New World Order, a worldwide totalitarian state very similar to that predicted by George Orwell in his book, "1984". (This reengineering project is what UFO abductees are reporting.) In fact, everyone who is aware of what is going on knows that we are already living in that totalitarian state, to a great degree. All that remains for the Illuminati to accomplish is for humanity to know it and accept it openly. As I have said elsewhere, the Illuminati anticipate that that will require a catastrophic World War, after which only a remnant of humanity will have survived. The Illuminati assume that those survivors will willingly surrender their freedom for security and food. The Bush Administration is presently gauging the readiness of Americans to do precisely that.

It is likely that a staged alien invasion of Earth figures in the Illuminati's plans. The "invaders" will likely be the Draconians themselves. (There are reports that a huge Draconian ship, the size of the Moon, containing tens of millions of well-armed Draconian troops, is orbiting the earth behind the Moon, so that it cannot be seen from Earth.) The Illuminati will appear to save the earth from the "invaders," and then reveal themselves as hybrid Reptilian/humans, "Jesus," (who will look EXACTLY like all the paintings and other representations of Jesus throughout history) will come down from "Heaven" to establish his "kingdom" on Earth. This will not, of course, be the Christ, but rather the Antichrist. He will establish a new world religion which will be forced on everyone. Every human will be required to accept the implantation of a microchip in his body ("the "mark of the Beast" in the Book of Revelation) which will monitor his location at all times, and manipulate his thoughts.

I believe that these are the Illuminati's plans. Of course, the Reptilian proposes, but God disposes. God has arranged a few surprises for the Illuminati, and things will not quite work out as they envision, I'm sure. This is why God had to unite Himself with humanity by sacrificing Himself in

crucifixion, which accomplished all those things I mentioned in my last post. He had to thwart the plans of the Draconians and their Illuminati and restore to us our spiritual independence, which we had lost in the "Fall of Man." In the process, the Draconians and Illuminati will be reconciled to God and give up their program of conquest throughout Creation, and there will be peace at last –

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Wed Mar 09, 2005 7:49 pm Post subject:

James, Oguchi and Prisilla, I have been taken with this dialogue. It has captured my thoughts. The past few days it has read much like the classics---I could almost see you sitting in one of the great forums--- with the rich thought and intellect, passionate views and a willingness to listen and seek understanding from a wide range of places. Quite remarkable!

I have to admit that I am drawn to the **Light** in each of your writings. It seems to almost jump out of the pages. Interestingly, I, too, find myself hurrying by the darkness. It can be taken in --- acknowledged, but your **Light** shines brighter. There are now several thousand people who have come to VIEW these dialogues of uncommon friends. I wonder if they too are being flashed with your **Light**?

The passages that shined on me are below. They set the stage for my thoughts which follow:

### James' insights

...the whole world needs is a new dream. Absolutely! Our needs-driven dreams are precisely the crux of the problem. We must realize that the world as it is the one we have dreamed, and that, to change it, we must dream a different dream! It sounds so simple - and it is. The problem is, how can we get there - to dreaming a new dream - from here? How do we transform our current dream of selfishness, scarcity, competition, conflict, and war into a dream of generosity, abundance, cooperation, harmony and peace?

### Prisilla's insights

How wonderful to share the dreams powered by understanding, knowledge and compassion. ...God, the Creator, intimate as a lover, warm as the best of friends, who is a thoughtful teacher, the heart's guide, an antidote to troubled minds and the parent to all love and life. In our every breath we breathe, God, whose dream is loving us into being. A whisper throughout the universe, Love one another." So near is God as the light in our eyes, so far is God as the most distant star, a timeless being in infinite space. God, a river of hope, running through our lives washing away despair when all hopes had ceased. God, the source of all love, weaving our hearts and minds together as one.

### Oguchi's insights

My prayer today is not, "Teach us how to pray..." Rather, I ask: "Teach us how to

Dream...," which happens to be my enduring take from John Perkins' Confessions of an Economic Hit Man. And it ties in with: "Imagine!" and "Miracle" and all the other suggestions here. I think that Cosmic forces are with us.

Let's start dreaming. We can do this.

It is all ONE "family": therein lies the hope, the trust, and the confidence that all is possible: even peace on Earth and in the Universe, as we dream it; and if not peace, then, the serenity and compassion that results from knowing that what is God—One—remains God—One, and we are all in there.

A few thoughts:

Emmet Fox one of the most influential "New Thought" writers of the 20th Century continues to influence the lives of many. For seven years I have read and re-read one of his books seeing new insight from it each time I revisit. Reading your dialogue I could hear his echo in many of the thoughts expressed. As we all think about "**how to dream a new dream**" we seem to have brushed by the answer in these dialogues already that Emmet Fox speaks of.

"...The answer is simple ---this Power is to be found within your own consciousness, the last place that most people would look for it. Within your own mentality there lies a source of energy stronger than electricity, more potent than high explosive; unlimited and inexhaustible. ...Miracles always will happen if you believe them to be possible, and are willing to recognize the power of God, and to call upon it."

He goes on to say that once belief in God as the One is born into our consciousness, the miracle will come into our lives, not by just becoming resigned to our present circumstances, or that we will be enabled to meet the same difficulties with a higher courage or clearer brain. It means the miracle. I think James first mentioned this possibility some weeks back. "...with God all things are possible." He suggests that if we are thinking about our difficulty we do not have God in our consciousness. Your objective is to drive the thought of the difficulty right out of your consciousness, even for a few minutes at a time begins the practice of creating a new vision.

At a very tragic time in my own life (not to be compared with the tragedies we have been discussing), one passage carried me through. I think it has relevance at this time in history on a bigger scale. "Never look back. Always go right ahead. Even if you are quaking, go right ahead. ...The road ahead may be veiled from sight --- but you must teach yourself to regard the unknown as friendly. Remember that God is always on the road ahead."

**So how do we begin to dream a new dream?** A dear friend helped me answer a similar question one time. She said, "You get up in the morning and **you start.**" What seems a compelling call-to-action to us here----those of us showing up together for reasons we cannot explain----is that at the rate people are arriving here, we will have thousands of our "brothers and sisters" with us here from every walk of life. All of them will not be writing, some will just come to bring their energy and interest in reading what emerges. Our voices will set the stage and direction. How will we deal with this opportunity?

What if we dared to begin that declaring that "new dream" right here and now? Wasn't it Edward DuBono, the father of lateral thinking, that suggested it was easier to go out to the place where the future exists and look backward, than it is to struggle to see the new dream in the distance, amidst the devastating current realities.

**QUESTION: If we ventured out into the place where the "new dream", we all admit that we need, had been fulfilled, "what would be true?"** What do you

see ... not from the past...but in that place where all the hard work, the change of consciousness has taken place? **What would be true?**

I leave to ponder this question and promise to return with my contribution.

~~~~~

"Note the individual responsibility every man and woman is charged with to work goodness and shun evil as much as one can do it and thus make this world itself a blissful place to live in."

From a treasured Qur'an given to me as a gift years ago by a Sufi.

~~~~~

Debbe

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005

Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Wed Mar 09, 2005 10:04 pm Post subject:

Debbe asks:

**QUESTION: If we ventured out into the place where the "new dream", we all admit that we need, had been fulfilled, "what would be true?" What do you see?**

I see:

A world of cooperation among all the peoples, where peaceful and (especially) playful co-existence is the order of the day.

A world where individuals and peoples realize that there is always more than enough to satisfy everyone's needs; that there is always abundant room for all, and then, some more.

A world retaining and strengthening its variegation, individualities, uniquenesses, and commonalities while remaining strongly interconnected and interrelated.

A world enjoying an abundant and unlimited source and supply of energy, accessible and affordable to all.

A world where our collective gaze is coordinated, looking inward through the "innerverse," outward to the universe, solving with enthusiasm the challenges of existence, and marveling at our better understanding of creation and createdness-- *including our own very self.*

A collective world-culture which understands death and after-life, that our primal and ultimate anxieties may be finally allayed



A state of existence where everyone will wake up in the morning and proclaim: "I am alive; I am living: what a great epoch to be alive!" And when it is over, to move on in serenity and contentment with the conclusion: "I have lived!"

Thank you Debbe, for coaxing us on to state the result of our dream, because, only thus can we commit and dream and claim the dream.

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Thu Mar 10, 2005 6:06 pm Post subject: First NEW DREAM Thoughts

Okay, I admit it --- this is a much harder question to answer than to ask!

I stepped into your "new dreams". Oguchi, I read each line, allowing it to wash over my mind. I got glimpses, real glimpses. It is hard to stay in that future place with the realities looming over, but can you see how practice could make this easier? I loved looking through the "collective gaze" and imagining the mornings with a practiced proclamation of being alive! Abundance seems again to be an essential theme. It was enjoyable to break from the misery.

Prisilla, I do know Rumi! My brother gave me two volumes translated in 1930 which I cherish and led me out of the wilderness. They have been a source for years. I see the Sufi's twirling and twirling in their mystic dance.

~~~~~

"God picks up the reed-flute world and blows.  
Each note is a need coming through one of us  
A passion, a longing-pain

Remember the lips where the wind-breath originated  
And let your note be clear.

**...Be your note!**

...Let everyone climb on their roofs and sing their notes!

**Sing loud!"**

--- Rumi

This line of thinking that you shared is brilliant and will guide my next pass. Thank you. --- "Somehow our goals got confused. We believed the source of joy and well-being meant living in a technological mayhem built on the backs of strangers, and all the while it was something like Walden Pond that held our joy."

~~~~~

FIRST "NEW DREAM" THOUGHTS:

As I said, I am not finding this a one-time easy exercise---nor perfect. Just a human try at something new. It is much easier to ask the question---, but here is my first-pass thinking.

A world where love and gratitude are ingrained into our practice and consciousness, because we have experienced its power and it has carried us through much together to arrive at this place.

We are experiencing a world with abundance greater than we imagined --- abundance of courage, faith, health, energy, wealth on many levels that benefits everyone, as well as the wealth of creativity, innovation, determination and knowledge that is giving us abundant human resources to sustain all that we've worked together to create.

Across the world each of its cultures are enjoying this time of great abundance and deciding for themselves how the resources of every kind can be used for the good of all in ways that work for them.

Technology advances allow for opportunities for us to stay in touch, learning from each other ---- connecting with each other, sharing best practices ---- and reaching out to help or calling for help in order that everyone share in this new dream we have fulfilled with God's Grace. It is a world that is woven with mutualism ---- benefits for all; harm to no one.

I see new leaders ... Joshuapeaceseecker is among them! I need to think more...

~~~~~

I can see there are more parts to this tracing of how the "new dream" will be created from the **future** back to the **present**. I think it will expand the conversation too. It seems we'll get even better as we work to familiar present territory, yes? If we traced backwards, what milestones would be find and consider???

Debbe

## Author

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 11, 2005 2:59 am Post subject: Peace

Oguchi, Surely you can't deny that there is evil on Earth! All I am doing is attempting to find the SOURCE of that evil, which we must do if we hope to break its power. I have said here before that the one thing we need to do most is to stop cooperating with the evil in the world, and express that non-cooperation in as many ways as we can. However, I'm also trying to show that God anticipated all of this long ago, and that the issue is not in doubt. God, and WE, will win! There WILL be peace, not only on Earth, but throughout Creation, I'm certain of it.

Nor do I think very much of the flesh eaters and blood drinkers, but that is what they are, and have been throughout history! I'm sure it's no accident that the knowledge of the Illuminat's activities is coming out now, after being kept secret for millennia. To some extent, I'm sure that the Illuminati think it's too late for humanity to do anything to stop their New World Order, but, more importantly, it is coming out now

because people are waking up. We are at last waking up from our long dream - actually, our NIGHTMARE - and are ready to confront the Illuminati and defeat them. Non-cooperation, once again, is the key. We have always been their slaves and lackeys, as well as their food and drink, and if we withhold our cooperation - in wars, exploitation, injustice, aggression, etc., they are finished. They are helpless! The Illuminati comprise a tiny fraction of one percent of the world's population. Without us as their labor and power source, they can do nothing. Oh, they'll put persecute us, throw us in prison, and they will kill some of us. But they can't kill ALL of us!

I don't think it's silly at all for God to be willing to sacrifice Himself for us! Self-sacrifice is an act of love. In fact, it is THE act of love! "Jesus," (or Y'shua bar Yusef, perhaps) said, "Greater love has no man than this: that he lays down his life for his friends." Wouldn't you sacrifice yourself for your children, if you thought you had to? When we decided to experience life in the flesh a billion years ago, I'm sure He warned us that we might become trapped in material existence. I'm sure He foresaw exactly what would happen. But, he respected our free will and let us do it, just as a good father lets his children experience the consequences of their actions. But when he foresaw that we wouldn't be able to regain our former state of spiritual independence, He decided to be born on Earth as a human in order to show us the way back home - to Him, and to our true selves. I think His sacrifice of Himself on the cross did precisely that; it opened a path back to Him and to our true selves that would in time transfigure us into the likeness of Christ. That's why Christ is "the first-born of many brothers" and He is the seed that falls to earth and dies, so that its life may generate a vast harvest of life in the future. The day of that transfiguration is almost here.

I do not feel "doomed and despondent." I feel full of hope. Oh, I'm frightened sometimes, because I know the power the Illuminati wield, and I know how ruthless they are. I know that they have killed other people, and that they kill people all the time, and that they order the deaths of people. I know they may get me one day, especially if people start listening to what I have to say, but what I'm really afraid of is not being true to myself, and what I have learned. I'm afraid I may let fear silence me and keep me from working. I'm afraid I'll forget all those hundreds of thousands of innocent children worldwide who are their victims every year. THAT'S what I'm afraid of.

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005

Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 11, 2005 2:54 pm Post subject:

It's amazing and encouraging how far we have come considering that we started with John Perkins' book. It's equally reassuring: our problems are not primarily quantitative, even as we enumerate them—else we would be buried forever, but "qualitative" in the sense that we can eventually place them in a finite and diminishing number of categories.

Debbe: Can we extend your suggested exercise of committing in writing our ideal or dream-world—the "desired" "future-state"? James—I don't believe we got yours (and I will get to your most recent post sometime). I would suggest actually "formalizing"

the dreams: paint a picture composed of the dreams so that we can "see" what the picture is like.

Next, as an exercise, perhaps we could all DO something: Dream that picture (hold it in our mind's eye) as often and for as long as possible; even at well-publicized and coordinated times? Let's all "hold hands" on this here.

Prisilla: Oh yes: the "current state" is still very much here; it didn't take but a moment to knock Debbe back into it from her enviable "future-dream" excursion. As we speak, "they" are preparing the soldier-of-the-future. Since no weapon-system has ever been built without being rewarded by a War to prove and showcase it, as sure as day follows night, we can bet on another War in the future. And, as for that which started this particular topic—Nigeria—the heartbreak and heartache continue, daily. But, let us resolve on a couple of things:

- a) the "current-state," a result of previous dreams, is yet dreaming the "future-state" which is sure to manifest;
- b) the current-state should serve as a kick-in-the-pants for us to change the dream—I mean, rather than fight their dream, let us dream our own dream.

Let us collectively dream our dream in order that we can change our future, and even, present.

James: let's agree on a dream and let's all dream it together. Deconstruction could serve a useful purpose when it leads us to commonalities, such as common motivation to dream new dreams, or reductionalism to / revelation of a common denominator which is then easy to deal with.

I think that if we have clarity in, and of, our dreams, the dream will surely find a way to manifest. So, our task is to dream with clarity. The dream will manifest. One thing that made a huge impress on me is the process of crystallization in elementary chemistry. Here's a huge vat of liquid, but all it takes to covert it to beautiful, solid crystals in a magical moment is a tiny grain. It gives life to what Jesus said about the effectiveness of faith the size of a mustard seed. We can do this.

Speaking of Jesus, there is another view which states that he did not die on the cross as a sacrifice or to save us from sins or to reconcile us with God. His "problem" is that the people wanted him eliminated because he was messing with the people's mess—darkness. He was bringing them light—telling them that they are God. Poor Jesus: when given a choice, the people chose to have a dangerous murderer released, over him; that's how scared they were of his message. On the other hand, Jesus could have saved himself, but what for? He had spent the equivalent of a modern lifetime preparing himself to deliver his one honed message. He did--finally. His life-task was done and he was fulfilled. What would he linger around for—to become a drunk over the complete adulteration of his original message, or over the failure of even his closest friends and disciples to understand and master the message?

I mention this because as we embark on dreaming our fresh dream, do not expect accommodation: we could be stoned to death, too, for daring to have a candle brought into a dark cave; and most depressing of all, not even by the antithetical "principalities" whom/which we have already identified, but by the very "masses" whom we would "save." But, that thought never stopped anyone doing what we plan to do, anyway.

One last thing. It is about "sacrifice." While there is no doubt that in most cases, love motivates sacrifice—an act, there is also no doubt that love is not equal to sacrifice and vice versa. Sacrifice belongs to "zero-sum-game" class of acts. Not only love,

but fierce loyalty, selfishness and other things can motivate sacrifice. Prisilla's "*He who boils the dog to kill the fleas is an extremist...*" strikes me as another example of sacrifice. In fact, the suicide-bombers who have caused so much mayhem are sold on the reason of sacrifice. What is clear is that if one was convinced that there are any other viable options, sacrifice would not be the preferred act or tool. Don't forget that sacrifice elicits more indebtedness than gratitude, anyway. Yes, James: whenever I have made any "sacrifices" for my children or family, I do so biting my lips, because in my mind, I know that if I had a way to manifest the "higher truths" that I am familiar with, I would not have to do a "last resort thing" which sacrifice entails and which it is. I do not mind doing what I have to do then, however, I cannot but also chalk up another failure at the same time. Nevertheless, I am all the more motivated to try harder to see those "higher truths" be true for me. If you have options, sacrifice is not part of your consciousness. No God worth Her salt is so starved of options that She would stoop down to use the tool and act of sacrifice—or expect sacrifice of lesser-endowed subjects. When we try to use sacrifice to teach Love, we miss the point. Sacrifice means "end-of-rope." Love can do better and different: we should expect Love to do better and different than sacrifice.

Let's dream collectively. Let's dream our dreams with clarity. And, stick with them and by them.

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005  
Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Sun Mar 13, 2005 2:13 pm Post subject:

*May Day*—May 1—is coming. As we all know, it is an international Day of "inter-connecting." Allow me to propose that we make May Day our D-Day (Dream Day; Do Day; Desire Day) or call it I-Day (Imagine! Day) or H-Day (Hold-hands Day)—or all of the above or whatever else we agree upon.

On that day, let us ask "*all in the family*" to spend time **dreaming our collective dream**. And, if any of us are already involved in the march that traditionally happens on that day, let them carry placards with and displaying "D-Day" title and D-Day dream-elements.

In preparation for that day, we will need to agree on, and take stock of, our collective dream. My suggestion is to gather together all the dream-points we have recorded thus far and those that might be submitted later; and from them, to construct a picture which best represents—"*image-in*"— the collective dream. Each one of us would then study the picture and for a moment or so, actually live or become that picture. We practice this exercise on our own, and on May 1, we will project it—all together! Remember: a picture can also be just words; hence, "picture" as used here can be metaphoric or can be literal or both.

In allowing the spontaneous and ongoing unfurling of this "*thing*" started by John Perkins and his book, I am today inspired by this saying on a card which inexplicably

appeared on my desk:

**"You're not Born a Winner.  
You're Not Born a Loser.  
You're Born a CHOOSER."**

Let us be the CHOOSERS that we were born to be. Let us **choose** the type of world we want by **choosing the dream** that will materialize and manifest that world. The current world of our lament became so as a result of the dreams of others, chosen by those others. It's our turn to **DO** our part: **CHOOSING**.

Recall: it takes a tiny seed dropped in one tiny spot to crystallize an entire lake of a field—that mustard seed concept. So, even if you were so inclined, in spite of skepticism, do humor us, and just come along.

We can do this.

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Wed Mar 16, 2005 8:31 am Post subject: Inspiration for the DREAM

Dear Oguchi, James, Prisilla and others working to build a new DREAM,

I've always been drawn to the great change leaders for inspiration --- those who worked for miracles to take place for the good of all. I am especially drawn to them, when the "fog" sets in on the road ahead.

Last night, I grabbed a favorite book off the shelf of Gandhi's messages to us. His work and wisdom has been a source of inspiration and belief in the hard work of "pioneering" a new **DREAM** many times in my life and in my work. Because of our dialogue, I read some passages with new meaning, also realizing if he could talk with us in these conversations, he would share much wisdom about what we see and how to teach others to dream. I wanted to share a few of his messages that caught my eye and welcome your impressions and perspectives:

"Man must choose either of the two courses, the upward or the downward; but as he has the brute in him, he will more easily choose the downward course than the upward, especially when the downward course is presented to him in a beautiful garb. **Man easily capitulate when sin is presented in the garb of virtue.**"

""If there were no greed, there would be no occasion for armaments. The principle of nonviolence necessitates complete abstention from exploitation of any form. ...As soon as the spirit of exploitation is gone, armaments will be felt as a positive unbearable burden. Real disarmament cannot come unless the nations of the world cease to exploit one another."

"Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being. Without interrelation with society he cannot realize its oneness with the universe or suppress his egotism."

"The goal ever recedes from us. The greater the progress the greater the recognition of our unworthiness. Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory."

"The only tyrant I accept in this world is the *still small voice* within. ...He who give up action falls. He who give up only the reward rises. ...Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will. ..Joy lies in the fight, in the attempt in the suffering involved, not in the victory itself."

"It may be long before the law of love will be recognized in internal affairs. The machineries of governments stand between and hide the hearts of one people from those of another."

With visions of Oneness,

Debbe

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Thu Mar 17, 2005 2:23 pm    Post subject: Humanity's dialogue across the ages...

Dear Prisilla and James...

Thanks you for writing back and sharing your insights, questions and food for thought --- I was so glad to see you messages! I can hardly wait to write back more fully, which I will over the weekend---I've have been pulled in many wonderful directions in last few days without enough hours.

Common ground continues to unfold in this amazing conversation ... so glad you showed up! I think the willingness to keep listening to one another is opening up a new possibility. Imagine now in this great dialogue, the "great souls" are reaching across the ages to join us with their wisdom to speak to us.

Oguchi started with his prayer ---"My prayer today is not, "Teach us how to pray... " Rather, I ask: "Teach us how to Dream...," Prisilla brought Rumi to the table, then Gandhi and now James invited Socrates and Lao Tze ... This is true oneness, yes?

"Let him that would move the world move himself first." --- Socrates

Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching  
33. Knowing Oneself

He who knows others is learned;

He who knows himself is wide.  
He who conquers others has power of muscles;  
He who conquers himself is strong.  
He who is contented is rich.  
He who is determined has strength of will.  
He who does not lose his center endures.  
He who dies yet (his power) remains has long life.

"There is a place between voice and presence where information flows..."

--- Rumi

This is humanity's ongoing conversation, yes? More to come... also have an idea brewing.

Debbe

## Author

**prisilla**

Joined: 15 Feb 2005

Posts: 31

Location: bellingham, washington

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 18, 2005 12:06 am Post subject: Hillel

Debbe, A wooden statue of Lao Tse sits above me looking down, domed head of intelligence, long ears of wisdom, wearing the beard of age, a walking stick in hand. How smoothly the wisdom of Lao Tse, Socrates and Gandhi flow into our thoughts like an ever-present river, nourishing our lives.

I think often of R. Hillel

If I am not for myself  
Who will be for me?

If I am only for myself,  
Who am I then?

If not now, when?

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center



## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 19, 2005 8:11 pm Post subject: Continuing the GREAT DIALOGUE ...

JAMES: Really liked your description of Gandhi as one of the "great souls" of civilization. Hope you saw my earlier response to your question about the source of the two great quotes you mentioned and asked about. I still marvel at the common connection we have in those sages connecting with us in some way. This dialogue of the "great souls" has always had my ear. Yours too? On your statement regarding ... **"The quote "Man easily capitulates when sin is presented in the garb of virtue" ----** your examples are right on! ...and others come to mind. It is quite amazing that this fits most of the evil in the world, yes? ...and we don't have to look far to point fingers ... Next door? Across the street? I keep hearing that old adage, "When you point the finger, there are three pointing back at you." Each of us in some way carries the responsibility and accountability for the current realities...who else do we blame? As much as I would like to blame all those at the top, I keep hearing, "Let him who has not sinned, cast the first stone." Through this dialogue, there has been so much knowledge and insight shared that indicates, we own this situation by our inattention, indifference, self-interest, our denial, our unwillingness to bend and listen to a different perspective, our ease in "discrediting the messenger" of truth et al. As you said, "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will..." ...who said this Socrates? Plato? I wonder if Oguchi's prayer is the beginning ... "Teach us to DREAM...and then if complete by your suggestion to let "the Christ" work through us to create a new world. This is the optimist and believer in miracles speaking in me.

PRISILLA: I loved learning of our other common ground with Lao Tzu. His wisdom has been "my partner" through many difficulties. I've looked to it to simplify the complicated in solving problems and working my way through "troubled waters." Many years ago, a student, gave me a book of Lao Tzu, saying he thought we should meet and was certain we would be great friends. He was right! Today after re-reading your message, I opened the book at random and this is what came up. Interestingly, the message seemed fitting to our great dialogue...

**"Learn to unclutter your mind. Learn to simplify your work. As you rely less and less on knowing just what to do, your work will become more direct and more powerful. You will discover that the quality of your consciousness is more potent than any technique or theory or interpretation. Learn how fruitful the blocked group or individual suddenly becomes when you give up trying to do just the right thing." --- Lao Tzu**

GETTINGINVOLVED: Welcome! I'm not sure what "last comment" caught your eye...but my answer to your question, "Isn't our collective self image powerful?" is **YES!** I do believe our collective self image is and will be a powerful catalyst for change." Actually, I think our collective **BELIEF** is even more powerful. What about you? What do you think?

~~~~~

The CHANGE LEADER'S path is rarely without sweeping twists and turns with dissenters to convince and a constant challenging of the new possibilities. I found a great passage in a very old book that I found among my dad's things when he died. He had marked this page. It has given me courage ... and affirmed that being a **change leader** makes you somewhat different ... a difference you learn to be proud of ...

**"God's marching orders always involve sacrifice and courage.**

**The drumbeat of the DIFFERENT DRUMMER calls for bravery.  
It is not for dancing.  
It does not appeal to the blood---but to the heart of a person.  
It calls for will and sacrifice.  
It is a stirring drum, and they who hear it are always in a minority.**

**Those who answer it may perchance hear the words of a new Beatitude...**

**Blessed are they who are thought *strange*, for they have taken the gospel to heart."**

**Peter Marshall, Chaplain, US Senate 1940s  
*The Best of Peter Marshall***

~~~~~

The GREAT DIALOGUE continues...

Debbe

## **Author**

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005  
Posts: 45

## **Message**

Posted: Sun Mar 20, 2005 12:35 am Post subject: Having what others do not

All our dialogue here about Ghandi, Lao Tsu, and others, has caused me to think about a quote from one of them, (I think it was Ghandi.) to the effect that "One must absolutely refuse to have what is denied to millions." This, in turn, caused me to think about the ancient Maya of Central America.

The magnificent Mayan civilization came to an abrupt end. and no one, as I understand it, has been able to determine just why. Some anthropologists seem to think that it was because of overpopulation, which their primitive agricultural techniques were finally unable to feed. Other researchers have pointed to a string of crop failures, climate change, environmental degradation, invasion, popular revolution, and many other scenarios. What compounds the mystery, at least in the minds of some, is that the Maya still live in the same area, the Yucatan in Mexico, and in Guatemala. They still speak a recognizably Mayan language, and their culture still practices what are thought to be ancient Mayan practices.

I wonder if the ancient Maya just got tired of supporting their elite. I wonder if there came a day when the Mayan commoners approached their rulers and said something like this: "We are tired, o king, of providing you and your nobles with food and clothing, and seeing to it that you have the finest of everything. We are tired of providing our children to you for sacrifice to the God of War, tired of going hungry and without clothing in order to provide for your military campaigns, which never bring any benefit to us, but only to you. We have come here today to tell you that we refuse to do all these things for you any longer. We will grow our own food, keep our children, and trade with each other, but we will not support you any longer."

With that, they probably just turned their backs and walked away. The king probably shouted to them, "Fools! What will you do when the anger of the gods consumes you, when foreign armies come and burn your crops, and carry your children away as slaves? Besides, look at all these beautiful monuments and temples, these rich carvings, and all the knowledge of the sages, which we, WE, your kings and nobility, have preserved since the time of the gods! What will become of them?" The leader of the commoners then turned around and said, "We have thought of all those things, but then we thought, one cannot eat monuments, or wear temples on his body, or use the knowledge of the sages to keep the rain out of his house. All those things benefit YOU, not us! We will be sad when trees grow up and break these monuments apart, when the knowledge of the sages is forgotten, but they are not important to us anymore. As for the foreigners, we think they want a better life for their children, too. They will not come here. Why should they? Perhaps when they see what we have done, they will do the same, and all you kings and nobles will have to work to feed your families! Just like us! As for the gods, we have never seen them. It is YOU who speak always of the gods, and how they care for us, and how we must keep them contented. But it is you who eat what we provide for the gods. YOU are the gods! We will go back to the gods we used to have. They did not always want more from us, as you do. They did not eat our children, either!"

I wonder, then, if the Maya just walked away from their civilization because it became too much for them to bear. Ghandi's quote suggests that the world will change when people in exploiting nations will no longer consent to have what most people in the exploited nations can't have: when they, in effect, just walk away from their "civilization" to create, presumably, a new more just and equitable civilization.

I think that that has in fact happened many times in the true human history of this planet. Paleoanthropologist Michael Cremo presents evidence in his "Forbidden Archaeology" that human beings very much like ourselves existed on Earth at least one billion years ago, in the Devonian Era. If that is so, I suspect that human beings have walked away from their civilizations many, many times. We may be about to do it again. All that may be necessary for that to happen is that we become tired enough of it and want a change badly enough.

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Tue Mar 22, 2005 10:56 pm Post subject:

JAMES: I think you are right about creating a new civilization. In George Ainsworth Lands landmark book, Grow or Die, he discusses the phases of growth. When you reach the end of a phase, it requires jumping the gap to a new beginning. There it requires the visionary, forging of new paths, creativity and pioneering a new time. The qualities needed are very different than those needed final stages of growth in the old regime. I believe we are at that place where we are ready to "jump the gap" ... at this time in history we are being called upon to open the way for a world that is broken. Could this be? What could we learn from the Mayans or other civilization that would help up forge the new paths? I wish I knew my history better. Help me here. I

do think that new paths are often forged by having the courage to start, following your intuition and being willing to stay with it long enough to see small new beginnings taking root.

Do you?

Debbe

### **James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

Posted: Wed Mar 23, 2005 12:56 am Post subject: jumping the gap

I believe we are certainly in a transitional phase between earthly civilizations. The people of ancient civilizations could certainly help us to at least weather this transitional period, if not use it dynamically to, in fact, create a new civilization. The descendants of the ancient Maya would fit that bill. "Primitive" peoples might be able to teach us how to get back to the original relationship we had with nature, and with each other. That's why I intend to read John Perkins' book, "Shapeshifting," in which he apparently discusses these very themes. However, after having previewed the book on Amazon.com, I can tell that John's view of shapeshifting is very different from mine!

I learned something about shapeshifting at university in connection with the ancient traditions of "primitive" peoples. But in recent years, I've learned about a completely different side of the practice. I now think that the most prevalent form of shapeshifting on our planet is that of members of the Illuminati during Satanic human sacrifice rituals, when, overcome by the excitement of watching their victims' throats being slashed, and rushing to get under the still writhing victim so that they can bathe in the gushing blood, they completely leave their human genetics and manifest their reptilian physiology. When the Illuminati attain their goal of their "New World Order," their worldwide totalitarian state, I'm sure they intend to reveal themselves publicly as reptilian-human hybrids and shapeshifters. Then they fully intend to make all their practices public, including human sacrifice! We'll probably see Satanic human sacrifice rituals, executions, gladiatorial combats, and God knows what other horrifying, unimaginably bloody spectacles, on television! Won't THAT be wonderful!

This is why I'm just a tad suspicious when someone promotes shapeshifting as a means for humanity to "jump the gap" to a new civilization, as John apparently does. In fact, after reading about John's familial relationship to Tom Paine and other famous figures of the American Revolution in "Confessions...", I'm wondering how he got so interested in shapeshifting. The American Illuminati can also count famous Revolutionary figures among their ancestors, and I know where THEIR interest in shapeshifting comes from! However, I do intend to read his book.

## **Author**

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 25, 2005 6:50 am Post subject: JUMPING THE GAP

James and Tom,

I read that the "shape-shifter" has the ability to change the form at will. Instantly, I recalled a photo of a young man I knew when I was very young. He had been broken by a motorcycle accident at 24--- a paraplegic---it was a photo of him climbing the University of Washington Climbing Rock. He was the first disabled person to have this achievement. He had been deserted by all his family and friends ---- at the time as I recall this happened to 97% percent of people with seemingly hopeless, broken bodies ---- not always permanently, but much like we feel at the moment, they are left alone to their inner strength ---- their own truth ---- to discover that they have been given dominion of their existence. In the photo, he had sweat pouring down his face, his look one----resolute determination as he was hoisting himself up the side of the rock, grabbing at all his strength to make it to the top. The caption on the photo said, "**The biggest engineering feat is that of human will.**"

This is the essence of "jumping the gap" to me. It is as, Tom, you say --- opening up to see one's own truth --- as this young man did ---- willing to see and accept WHAT IS all around us and having the courage to forge the new path. When I think of people "jumping the gap" what comes up for me is courage, human will, personal action, loving, healing, INNOVATION on the current state..

I am held between earth and heaven in the hands of God."  
-- Mayan adage

What do we do with this opportunity before us?

Debbe

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005  
Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 25, 2005 9:15 am Post subject:

Debbe:

Your post reminds me of a show I saw on TV, **The Quilt's of Gee's Bend** hosted by Jane Fonda. If ever there was personification of all that is evil, this was it, and it was unleashed on these *hapless* African American womenfolk. But, the greater point of this story for me is the **total** victory of these women over their situation—not because their art was finally and fully recognized as pioneering and of the highest order, but: there was no vestige of hatred or negativism or indignation or "you-owe-me" in their demeanor and carriage. Oh what I would give to emulate these women!

As you bring up, Debbe, the issue today is not an endless deconstruction of our Demon. There is really only one Demon, but it has different faces for different folks; we can describe it with various languages and various ideologies, but it is self-

evident that it remains the same one Demon, as *Confessions* must remind us of. But, if we fail to find a way to get the Demon off our back, we have in fact failed.

The women of Gee's Bend had exorcised the Demon, as it were: it was not by *deconstruction*—not to say that they lacked the courage, sophistry, or analytical power, as their Quilt will prove when you see the work. How they did it—*what they did*—is discover their own individual identity, where they saw that it is the One Identity; whence to draw a fresh and refreshing life and living which had no room for, and no recognition, empowering, or mention of, demons, or the Demon—not any more. It's not about the Demon. It's about YOU. ME. Who are you; who am I; where is your / my SOURCE, strength, BEING?

We have Gee's Bend everywhere today—Nigeria / Biafra, all the countries and places mentioned in *Confessions*—the different faces of the same Demon. What we would like to do is **be like the women of Gee's Bend**, the ones who found a correct answer. Was that—finding a correct answer—not the concluding message of *Confessions*, also?

On the table on this forum is a suggestion of a means—Dreaming or Vision or Envisioning or Imagine! whereby we hold hands across the Globe and Dream a shared collective vision of what we would rather have our world be. I would like to invite all, once more, to participate in the exercise.

**"...Without vision, the people perish..."** It's not, per se, about intelligence or intellect or wisdom, not about knowledge; not about power or principalities, or sacrifice. It's about Vision—Dream, Imagination. The real meaning of *hopelessness* is the lack of will to dream or envision or imagine!

We cannot, and should not, resemble that last remark. Because, we **are** all in a way the women of Gee's Bend; we already must share their destiny: we shall overcome—we HAVE overcome! Why not "*image in*" it? Let's DREAM it!

We can do this.

Oguchi

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 25, 2005 5:52 pm Post subject: A new dream...

While pondering the notion of this new dream...by chance, I opened a book and Rumi spoke to us again loudly across the ages...

**"Though we seem to be sleeping, there is a wakefulness that directs the DREAM and that will eventually startle us back to the TRUTH of who we are."**

--- RUMI

Imagining...  
Debbe

## Author

**oguchi**

Joined: 20 Feb 2005  
Posts: 14

## Message

Posted: Thu Apr 28, 2005 8:44 am Post subject:

In dreaming the design of our future world by designing the dream in this current dispensation, I and others have taken an active step to redress our lot in the present and to fulfill our hope for a better world tomorrow.

So, we invite you to join us at our global dream workshop and machine. World Vision Dialogue (<http://globaldialoguecenter-socrateshall.blogspot.com>)

When I started my lamentations on the present, real-life, actual-place ongoing impact of what John Perkins wrote about in his book, I had no intention of letting it stop at that—a mere gripe merely shared with commiserators. My solace was not in being heard or sympathized and empathized with, by a sensitized, sensitive, nurturing and compassionate group. No: my hope was always and is always that we could find an effective way to “fight back.” John Perkins did not forget that either, as the section on “Dreams”—dreaming the future world—in his book bears out.

It is said that “...without vision, the people perish...” Dream is vision; Vision is dream.

As I write this my last post (most likely) on this forum, I shift my focus, emphasis and efforts to Vision: dreaming, envisioning, imagination, creativity. Do, come join us there. Let us replace our tears of sorrow and despondency with tears of joy and wonderment. It’s all in the dreaming; and in the participation. What is your dream for a desirable world?

World Vision Dialogue (<http://globaldialoguecenter-socrateshall.blogspot.com>),

Oguchi Nkwocha.  
April 28, 2005

## Thread 4: Dr. Ira Sohn – John Perkins Pro+Con

## Author

tiny

Joined: 17 Oct 2005

Posts: 1

## Message

Joined: 17 Oct 2005

Posts: 1

Posted: Mon Oct 17, 2005 10:26 pm Post subject: Dr Ira Sohn: John Perkins, Pro+Con 

Summary: An overdue critique of John Perkins' "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man"

Dr. Sohn holds degrees in physics and economics and currently teaches economics at universities in both the U.S. and China

[http://www.radio4all.net/index.php?op=program-info&program\\_id=14519](http://www.radio4all.net/index.php?op=program-info&program_id=14519)

MP3, approx. 17mins.

## Thread 5: Improving the World

### Author

**BrianEWilliams**

Joined: 23 Feb 2005

Posts: 1

### Message

Posted: Wed Feb 23, 2005 2:05 pm Post subject: Improving the World

I am about a 100 pages into Mr. Perkins book, "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," and I find it very interesting. A thought came to mind, and I wanted to see how others react to it. In the book, Mr. Perkins talks about ending some of the world's misery by diverting money spent in Iraq.

My question is this: Exactly how do you end world misery, say hunger for example? On a simple level, if you just send people food, that would tend to increase population and thus require even more food. On a more complex level, exactly how do you send people food? Just look at the corruption that is happening with the tsunami relief effort. Unfortunately human nature tends to derail much of charities' intent.

On a deeper level altogether, I think there is an argument to be made that almost all charity actually hurts people more than helps in the long run. Look at the rise of the underclass in this country. Only after the Great Society programs provided the economic foundation did we see the development of a persistent underclass.

Economic failure has a way of regulating itself if the market is not distorted. People who fail will not have children and the issue is resolved in a generation. Supporting



economic failures merely gives them the means to procreate and thus perpetuate the misery through generations. Is this charity or perverse torture?

You might try to sneer at this point of view and call it social Darwinism, but I would take that as a compliment. We did not evolve out of primordial muck buy coddling failures. We tamper with billions of years of evolutionary incentives and constraints at our peril, and I, for one, do not want to see our society polluted as a result of misguided charity.

I suspect this view will be unpopular here, to state the obvious, but I want people to at least admit that solving the world's problems is not like waving a money wand and Presto! the problem is solved. This economic naiveté is the source of much of liberalism's most damaging precepts, and I think the gradual development of a conservative majority in this country is the result of ordinary people beginning to realize this.

## Author

debbekennedy

**Joined: 27 Oct 2004**

**Posts: 96**

**Location: global dialogue center**

## Message

: Thu Feb 24, 2005 8:50 pm Post subject: Food for thought...

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Brian,

First, keep reading John Perkins' book...all the way to the end!

I read your post a couple of times since last night. You are right, I see things very differently, but what I appreciate most is that you were willing to share your view and wondered how others might react to it.

As I have pondered your thoughts, two specific learnings from my life came to me. Neither are to debate your views, but to offer a little additional "food for thought" for your consideration as you think of the possibilities for a world that is better for everyone than the one John Perkins exposes.

### 1. WEALTH, INNOVATION & DIVERSITY

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to work with Joel Barker, futurist and author on his film, Wealth, Innovation & Diversity. In the film, he highlights the work of George Ainsworth Land on the three stages of growth of all things. The part that came to mind when I read your POST was the Third Phase of Growth called MUTUALISM, where diverse individual elements join together and all of them benefit. Personally, I believe our world is ready for this stage of growth and through a change in our consciousness, thinking and actions, it is possible.

In Joel Barker's film, he contends we can learn much from nature how MUTUALISM works and could benefit our organizations, our marketplaces, our communities and our world. To illustrate the benefits of "mutualism" from Barker's work, I've summarized one of his examples from the film. As you read it, imagine how much better our world would be if all of us were so good to one another:

PINE FOREST --- Vancouver, Canada

Research led by Suzanne Simard, British Columbia Ministry of Forests

--- Fungi and the trees have developed a mutualistic relationship --- just like we might do as one human family.

---Fungi is very good at liberating certain nutrients from the soil that the trees need.

---The trees are very good at making sugars that the fungi needs;

---Neither is good at doing the other's work.

---They cooperate.

---They collaborate.

---They work mutualistically, using their differences to help one other.

---The fungi has the power to borrow excess carbon from trees getting plenty of sunlight.

---The fungi moves the carbon through its filaments to fir seedlings not getting enough sun.

---The deciduous trees and the fir seedlings have no "family" connection.

---The exchange mediated by the fungi guarantees the seedlings survival.

---The exchange keeps the forest diverse and healthy over the long term.

---There are no immediate benefits for the deciduous trees to give up excess carbon, but they make this contribution for the benefit of all.

---The fungi is the broker, making sure elements needed for growth go to those in need.

---The whole forest benefits.

**IMAGINE how different our world would be if all of us worked more like this  
---- more mutualistically for the benefit of all.**

Barker goes to make the points that "collaboration between very different species is necessary for everyone to do well. No one species can survive, for long, all by themselves----that's MUTUALISM."

2. My second example also came from an earlier film that I worked with Joel Barker called The Power of Vision. In it, he retells Loren Eiseley's Starfish Story. Your thoughts and questions about the value of "charity" made me think of it. I found a copy on the Internet to share with you. Reading the story again myself made me reflect on how I've learned through my own work over the years that you can't really measure good deeds, done with love, gratitude and good intent by macro or micro economic theories... This story illustrates a different view of the possibilities for good deeds and mutualistic thinking...

The Starfish Story  
by Loren Eiseley

"I awoke early, as I often did, just before sunrise to walk by the ocean's edge and greet the new day. As I moved through the misty dawn, I focused on a faint, far away motion. I saw a youth, bending and reaching and flailing arms, dancing on the beach, no doubt in celebration of the perfect day soon to begin.

As I approached, I sadly realized that the youth was not dancing to the bay, but rather bending to sift through the debris left by the night's tide, stopping now and then to pick up a starfish and then standing, to heave it back into the sea. I asked the youth the purpose of the effort. "The tide has washed the starfish onto the beach and they cannot return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun rises, they will die, unless I throw them back to the sea."

As the youth explained, I surveyed the vast expanse of beach, stretching in both directions beyond my sight. Starfish littered the shore in numbers beyond calculation. The hopelessness of the youth's plan became clear to me and I countered, "But there are more starfish on this beach than you can ever save before the sun is up. Surely you cannot expect to make a difference."

The youth paused briefly to consider my words, bent to pick up a starfish and threw it as far as possible. Turning to me he simply said, "I made a difference to that one."

I left the boy and went home, deep in thought of what the boy had said. I returned to the beach and spent the rest of the day helping the boy throw starfish in to the sea."

~~~~~

Like you, I'm not sure how you and others will view this perspective. This is the great value of dialogue at work. I look forward to learning from you and others that may read it and have an opinion.

Debbe

## Author

**James M. Buels**

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Thu Feb 24, 2005 11:27 pm Post subject: "Social Darwinism;" "Mutualism;" starfis

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Dear Brian,

I, too, am pondering the question you formulated: "Exactly how do we end world misery?" Perkins' book points up the fact that many of the economic activities of U,S. and multinational corporations worldwide that most Americans thought were helping to end human misery have not had that effect at all. In fact, those activities seem to have exacerbated the problems of the Third World, particularly, and have contributed to dramatic increases in Third World crime, urban blight, environmental degradation, poverty, malnutrition, pollution, social disparity, and exploitation of the poor by a tiny group of very wealthy entrepreneurs, and have promoted authoritarian regimes which deny human rights. Even worse, Perkins holds that such results are the desired goals of American foreign economic policy, which is designed to exploit the resources and labor of the Third World in order to sustain America's overconsumptive national lifestyle and imperial preeminence as the world's only superpower.

I think it is very clear from Perkins' book that if we really want to end misery in the world, we have to recognize our role in causing that misery, and then change our foreign economic policies fundamentally and completely. First of all, we must stop our exploitation of the Third World by helping them develop their resources in order to raise their own standard of living. Second, we must help them develop their natural resources in a way that causes the least environmental damage and that preserves their indigenous cultures. Third, we must promote democratically elected regimes which promote human rights. Fourth, we must discourage corporations from exploiting Third World Labor and bring American jobs back home. Fifth, we must stop extending loans to Third World countries which we know they can't repay in order to establish a stranglehold on their political and economic life, and instead only offer them loans we know they can repay Even better, we should help them get on their economic feet in such a way as to make it UNNECESSARY to ask other countries for

loans, and In many cases, that is possible. Sixth, we must stop sending CIA hit squads into Third World countries to kill leaders who may not be promoting policies of which we absolutely approve, and we must stop using our CIA and Special Forces to train indigenous death squads to enforce our will vicariously.

Of course, if we do all these things as we should, life in America will have to change. Our standard of living will be lowered significantly. Our economic and political empire will come to an end. We will no longer be able to consume most of the world's natural and human resources as we have done in the past. We will have to get used to interacting with other governments on a more equal basis, rather than in our former imperious "vassal - feudal lord" way. We will have to get used to not always getting our way. Perhaps then, with a vastly reduced military budget, which we would no longer need, we would be able to concentrate our efforts, and our resources, on making the lives of ALL our people better and more fulfilling, encouraging political and economic participation by everyone, building an educational system that would be the envy of the world, and building a true democratic republic that would be the example to the world America was intended to be. We wouldn't be as wealthy as we were, but, I think, we would be much happier, and the world could then evolve into a true community of nations in which freedom and justice could flourish. In time, poverty, disease and hunger would disappear from the world, and peace would reign on Earth, permanently.

## **Author**

amjay

**Joined: 05 May 2005**

**Posts: 1**

**Location: Texas, USA**

## **Message**

**Posted: Thu May 05, 2005 4:59 pm    Post subject: Perspective**

Very interesting discussion - I am from a third world country and have travelled the region and am 47 years old spent my 40 years in the third world.now settled in USA for almost 6 years.

Unfortunately we try to be understood before we understand and in our pursuit we start imposing our values which mostly meet with resistance. Change imposed is always change opposed.

MUTUALIST approach is something we require but that is an ideal situation and in the history of the world so far has never been achieved as self interest and greed is human nature regardless the human are in first or third world.

first of all we will have to work seriously on DISARMAMENT. we need a paradigm shift there. We have to create better jobs for people in Arms industry presently. This can be done by creating pressusre groups all over and serious lobbying. Target should be 50% reduction in arms & wmds all over the world whether it is united states, russia, isreal, india or pakistan or china.

secondly, thru local participation, promote education - make it accessible to all over the world - real education - a uniform international curriculum should be devised and available to the whole world easily rather than protecting it and selling it at an unreachable price. an international organization of education(UNICEF is not much effective and is being politicised) may be created by mobilizing resources throughout

the world. Every country should spend at least 10% of their GDP on education.

thirdly, health should also be made accessible to everyone - again thru local participation - a global community may be created and health should be a right not a favour. Drinking water is a serious problem in various parts of the world and it will worsen with the time unless an immediate action is not taken.

Recently I came across the website of Aga Khan Development Network. AKDN is doing a marvelous job by involving local population in developing countries to promote health and education without involvement or with very limited involvement of governments - in fact it is supplementing the efforts of various governments and is well respected for their work in developing countries like India, Pakistan, Egypt, East Africa.

this organization is a great example to follow and supported.

Let us create more institutions - it is in the benefit of USA, Europe, & ofcourse of the third world at large.

## **Author**

**Joshuapeaceseeker**

Joined: 16 Feb 2005

Posts: 12

## **Message**

Posted: Tue May 10, 2005 9:48 am Post subject: End the worlds misery

I agree that charity does not always work and possibly hurts in the long run. But I think you miss the real problem. We would not need to give charity if we did not suck the life out of the third world. We take and take and then when we decide it is time to give something back it looks like charity.

Just about any African or Middle eastern country has it riches. Generations of land grabbing and slavery has destroyed their ability to pull themselves up. We must help because we caused it to begin with.

Sending them food or aid is not the best answer. Giving them the revenues from their own oil and letting them pour that into agriculture would be a good start.

Ending the world hunger is as simple as you and I sacrificing some of our comforts for the greater good. Maybe you can't purchase the cheap chocolate that comes from slaves. Or cheap coffee. The list goes on and on.

We choose everyday in our purchases who we starve to death.

## **Author**

00IAM

Joined: 20 Sep 2005

Posts: 6

## Message

Posted: Mon Oct 17, 2005 5:16 pm Post subject: ALL DEBT IS AN ILLUSION INCLUDING THIRD WORLD DEBT

The real hidden factor is the way money and centralized banking was set up under free-market capitalism.

"Banking was conceived in iniquity and was born in sin. The Bankers own the Earth. Take it away from them, but leave them the power to create deposits, and with the flick of the pen they will create enough deposits to buy it back again. However, take it away from them, and all the great fortunes like mine will disappear, and they ought to disappear, for this would be a happier and better world to live in. But if you wish to remain the slaves of Bankers and pay the cost of your own slavery, let them continue to create deposits." - Sir Josiah Stamp, President of the Bank of England in the 1920's, the second richest man in Britain

Federal Reserve is privately owned by mostly foreign shareholders.

STOP DEBT\_SLAVERY NOW BY UNDERSTANDING FRACTIONAL RESERVE BANKING WHERE USURY (CHARGING COMPOUND INTEREST ON FIAT MONEY--MONEY NOT BACKED BY ANY PRECIOUS METAL ANYMORE)  
Third World Debt & Foreign Aid

Third World Debt: \$2000 billion (up from \$100 billion 30 years ago) (UN's World Development Report)

¶ Debt Payments Flowing from the Poor to the Rich Countries: approx 1400 billion (from 1960 to 1993)

¶ Foreign Aid Flowing from the Rich to the Poor Countries: approx 140 billion (from 1960 to 1993)

Percentage of Foreign Aid that Reaches the Poor in the Poor Countries: approx 5 %

**Foreign Aid Given by Canada as a Percentage of GDP: .29 % (.09 % for U.S.)**

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Distribution of World Income (UN Human Development Report)

¶ Richest 20 percent of the World's Population: 85 % (up from 75 % over the past 30 years)

¶ Poorest 20 percent of the World's Population: 1.4 % (down from 2.3 % over the past 30 years)

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Annual Cost of Alleviating Poverty (UN Human Development Program)

For Food, Clean water, Clothes, Education, Health Care & Sanitation for 4.4 billion people: \$60 billion

For Food and Basic Health Care for 4.4 billion people: \$19.5 billion

What Americans and Europeans spend annually on pet food: \$25 billion (for

comparison)



## Thread 6: Are YOU Helping to Saddle Your Grandchildren with TRILLIONS?

### Author

**William B. Martin, Jr.**

Joined: 16 Oct 2005

Posts: 1

### Message

Posted: Sun Oct 16, 2005 11:38 am Post subject: Are YOU Helping to Saddle Your Grandchildren with TRILLIONS?

#### **Are YOU Helping to Saddle Your Grandchildren with TRILLIONS of RECENT National Debt of War and Disasters which Make Wealthy Still Richer ?**

It is abundantly clear that oil ( and thus gasoline) will not come down in price . This in spite of the fact that gasoline manufacturers are reported to be making windfall profits.

The list of early administration energy advisors was not released despite many requests for the same . It is tempting to think that " ignoring the capture" of Osmar Ben Laden and attack on Iraq may have been a premeditated combination.

Related in sinister action is the combination of "seducing" third world leaders to privatize WATER . The book "Blue Gold ----" by Barlow and Clarke shows what has occurred in South America's poorest country , Bolivia. when a combination of NAFTA-like pressure of privatization-for a World Bank loan led Cochabamba's water system to be bought by a Bechtel subsidiary . The ensuing riots were not pretty . Suing Bolivia by the Bechtel-related company for "profits not realized" follows in European courts .

Now tie that in with Bechtel's contract given by this administration for "reconstruction" in Iraq , despite the latter's HUGE cost overrun in the Boston "Big Dig" . Then I read John Perkins' book , "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man----". That was enough to make me request from each of our NH Senators and our regional US Representative about their oversight of spending on this Iraq contract for Bechtel . The letters of last November were NOT answered, despite the fact that they generally make a rather non-definitive response to most of my letters .

About two months later I repeated the requests to the three for information on the oversight by Congress. Still there was no answer from any of the three ! Finally again , I sent a third set of letters to the same congressmen , with exactly the same lack of response ! To me that says a lot !

As an active member of volunteers who test lake and tributary water for quality , I have been concerned with continued quality of this water which serves as the drinking water supply for Lebanon , NH. This became more of a concern when residents of the town of Nottingham , NH voiced concern about the company ( U.S.Water ? ) which had bought land and planned to bottle the

groundwater and sell it wherever it might bring in the best prices . Residents feared for their own well waters for both quality and more important, reliable supply due to potential lower water tables.

At the same time , I saw and heard ads saying that the best investments for future finances would be water . Keep in mind that buying of water stock gives money to the issuers of that stock, allowing more purchasees of promising lands in many watersheds .

One should note that profits would leave the region of these watersheds . Note also that CEO's of corporation have boards which include many CEO's of other corporations . That certainly can lead to board votes for Large salaries and bonuses for any given corporation. All of which says that investors who are satisfied to get a modest return may see few jobs created locally and the local economy does not see much ( if any ) of the profits of such water companies . AND the investor in such an area may find his own water threatened.

Do such companies ignore the fact that ANY LIVING plant or animal cannot do without potable water ? Water has been the underlying cause of conflict ( legal or war ) in many locations such as the Golan Heights of the mideast . It is even now a major problem in our West , where demand-conflicts are common between agriculture ,cities (population ) and environmentalists (e.g in need for sufficient water flow in streams with their formerly abundant fish ). Water quality and quantity is one of the major health problems in places like Africa .

What can anyone concerned individual do about the impending crisis in water supply for the world where even with lowered population GROWTH , we shall have 9 billion people in place of 6 billion of recent years ?

Pursue the water issue with your elected representatives , and replace them on the next ballot if their answers are devious or not answered . Generate local laws without delay which preserves ( or even improves ) water quality . Such laws should insure current water table levels . Do such without delay before multinationals buy up watershed lands and start production before protective laws are in place . Stockholders , insure that your Boards are not moving to monopoly of water which is an absolute necessity for life ; you have a vote which you should employ judiciously !

William B. Martin , Jr. , Enfield, NH  
Science Professor Emeritus

## **Thread 7: America's Third World War and -CIA-**

### **Author**

**00IAM**

Joined: 20 Sep 2005  
Posts: 6

### **Message**

Posted: Wed Sep 21, 2005 4:23 pm Post subject: America's Third World War and -CIA-



I sent the first link to John Perkins congratulating him, thought I post them here. There are organizations within US that are subverting democracy everywhere and undermining US constitution to uphold NWO Corporatocracy.

-----  
John Stockwell, former CIA Station Chief in Angola in 1976, working for then Director of the CIA, George Bush. He spent 13 years in the agency. He gives a short history of CIA covert operations. He is a very compelling speaker and the highest level CIA officer to testify to the Congress about his actions. He estimates that **over 6 million people have died in CIA covert actions, and this was in the late 1980's**. This will perhaps explain why we need to continually create an external threat of an enemy. May be the enemy is within.

THE SECRET WARS OF THE CIA:  
by John Stockwell  
A lecture given in October, 1987

Part I - Part II

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article4068.htm>

See More links on CIA here

<http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=CIA>

Interestingly the motto of CIA is "And the Truth will set you free" but their job is to spread lies and untruth on both sides, so people never know the truth. David Icke also wrote a book by the same name to expose elite agenda and networks.

Peace

## Author

**00IAM**

Joined: 20 Sep 2005  
Posts: 6

## Message

Posted: Sun Oct 02, 2005 7:42 am Post subject: EHM Are Active Here too! Real Estate-Stock Trading Prior 911

The below language was taken form another blog, whose link is below. The article suggests a prior knowledge of the 911 attacks as evidenced by a series of real estate transaction involving the World Trade Center.

**Some of the players implicated are: Peter G. Petersen, Chair of both the Fed Reserve Bank of New York and the Council on Foreign Relations; Steven Schwartzman, Council on Foreign Relations; Henry Kissenger, former Sec. of State.** There is a civil RICO lawsuit filed against George W. Bush et al., by Ellen Mariani pending based on the below events.

*On October 17, 2000, eleven months before 9/11, **Blackstone Real Estate Advisors, of The Blackstone Group**, L.P, purchased, from Teachers Insurance and*

Annuity Association, the participating mortgage secured by World Trade Center, Building 7.1

*April 26, 2001* the Port Authority leased the WTC for 99 years to **Silverstein Properties and Westfield America Inc.** The transaction was authorized by Port Authority Chairman Lewis M. Eisenberg.

This transfer from the New York and New Jersey Port Authority was tantamount to the **privatization of the WTC Complex** . The official press release described it as "the richest real estate prize in New York City history". The retail space underneath the complex was leased to Westfield America Inc.<sup>2</sup>

*On 24 July 2001*, 6 weeks prior to 9/11 Silverstein took control of the lease of the WTC following the Port Authority decision on April 26.

Silverstein and Frank Lowy, CEO of Westfield Inc. took control of the 10.6 million-square-foot WTC complex. "Lowy leased the shopping concourse called the Mall at the WTC, which comprised about 427,000 square feet of retail space."<sup>3</sup>

Explicitly included in the agreement was that Silverstein and Westfield "were given the right to rebuild the structures if they were destroyed".<sup>4</sup>

In this transaction, Silverstein signed a rental contract for the WTC over 99 years amounting to 3,2 billion dollars in installments to be made to the Port Authority: 800 million covered fees including a down payment of the order of 100 million dollars. Of this amount, Silverstein put in 14 million dollars of his own money. The annual payment on the lease was of the order of 115 million dollars.<sup>5</sup>

*In the wake of the WTC attacks, Silverstein is suing for some \$7.1 billion in insurance money, double the amount of the value of the 99 year lease .*<sup>6</sup>

**Silverstein Properties Inc. is a Manhattan-based real estate development and investment firm that owns, manages, and has developed more than 20 million square feet of office, residential and retail space.**

**Westfield America, Inc. is controlled by the Australian based Lowy family with major interests in shopping centres. The CEO of Westfield is Australian businessman Frank Lowy.**

**The Blackstone Group, a private investment bank with offices in New York and London, was founded in 1985 by its Chairman, Peter G. Peterson, and its President and CEO, Stephen A. Schwarzman.**

In addition to its Real Estate activities, the Blackstone Group's core businesses include Mergers and Acquisitions Advisory, Restructuring and Reorganization Advisory, Private Equity Investing, Private Mezzanine Investing, and Liquid Alternative Asset Investing.<sup>7</sup>

Blackstone chairman Peter G. Petersen is also Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Chairman of the board of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). His partner Stephen A. Schwarzman is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Peter G. Petersen is also named in widow Ellen Mariani's widow civil RICO suit filed against. George W. Bush, et al.

**Kissinger McLarty Associates, which is Henry Kissinger's consulting firm has a "strategic alliance" with the Blackstone Group "which is designed to help provide financial advisory services to corporations seeking high-level**

**strategic advice." (www.blackstone.com) .**

<http://www.talkaboutgovernment.com/...ages/15925.html>

\* \* \*

For details on the insurance claims pertaining to the WTC, see Centre for Research on Globalization, The WTC Towers Collapse: an Enormous Insurance Scam (selected articles),

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/WTC312A.html>

, 19 December 2003

#### NOTES

1 Business Wire, 17 October 2000

2. See Paul Goldberger in The New Yorker, May 20, 2002.

3 C. Bollyn, "Did Rupert Murdoch Have Prior Knowledge of 9/11?" Centre for Research on Globalization, globalresearch.ca, 20 October 2003.

4. Goldberger, op cit

5, Associated Press, 22 November 2003. See also Die Welt, Berlin, Oct 11, 2001. 6. Alison Frankel, The American Lawyer, Sept 3 2002

7 Business Wire, op cit

Posted from Forum at:

<http://www.prwatch.org/forum/showthread.php?t=4558>

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**Also see criminal insider trading in Airline Stocks prior to 9-11 leading directly to CIA Executive Director**

<http://www.hereinreality.com/insidertrading.html>

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/illegaltrades.html>

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While we must keep our attitude and hopes positive amid lies and deception, we must acknowledge that the Capitalist financial-Banking networks/interests have created a mafia of economic-political-media-thinktank hitmen (hitmen come in all different appearances) supported by the military-industrial-intelligence complex and a financial Casino of global proportions.

WHY is this happening? What is the root cause of the myriad symptoms we see? Until we are asking the right questions we may never know the answer or real solution to these problems.

Peace 🙏

## **Thread 10: MESSAGE FROM JAN COLEMAN-- -JOIN IN!!! Everyone is welcome!**

### **Author**

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

### **Message**

Posted: Fri Jan 14, 2005 5:52 am Post subject: MESSAGE FROM JAN COLEMAN----JOIN IN !!!  
Everyone is welcome!

## **MESSAGE FROM JAN COLEMAN**

### **Welcome!**

What a privilege it is to have been asked to moderate the conversation around John Perkins' new "bombshell" book, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man! The book is already #9 on the NY Times Bestseller list and is in its sixth printing in only nine weeks!

Over the last 35 years, Mr. Perkins has been a successful business executive, an author, a lecturer, the founder of a non-profit called Dream Change--and an Economic Hit Man (EHM). In his book, he courageously breaks the code of silence and tells all about his experience of being sent as an EHM by the NSA (a branch of the CIA) into developing countries. Under the guise of being a "humanitarian", he actually assisted in creating unrest and the gradual economic bankruptcy of those countries--all part of an orchestrated plan to expand the U.S. empire.

This book isn't an attack on any particular administration or political party, but is an expose of some of our long-held US policies. To me, it is a "must read" for all Americans and will give the reader a greater understanding of how those policies have led to the current situations we are experiencing in the world today--and why so many populations in the world hold such hatred and contempt for us.

It is my belief that only when we as a nation look at our collective "dark side" and take responsibility for what we have created will we begin to heal and move in a direction that will open the door to our leading the world in a more positive, creative, inclusive, loving, generous and peaceful manner.

I encourage you to read the book and join us here with your thoughts and comments. Here are a few questions to consider to get the conversation started:

- \* What were your reactions to the book?
- \* How did you feel about America after reading the book?
- \* Did anything surprise you?
- \* If you don't approve of the policies exposed in the book, what would you suggest be done to change them?

I look forward to a stimulating dialogue with all of you!

Best regards,  
Jan Coleman

## **Author**

debbekennedy

**Joined: 27 Oct 2004**

**Posts: 96**

**Location: global dialogue center**

## **Message**

Posted: Sun Jan 16, 2005 8:12 am Post subject: How has your behavior perhaps contributed?

Hi everyone...

I actually read John Perkins' interviews on Democracy Now first before reading the book. I must admit they made me want to read the book, longing to learn more right away. For me, it set into motion a heightened level of awareness about the happenings in the world, causing me to think and more seriously question a lot of things---to feel a sense of responsibility I probably should have accepted long ago.

Additionally, I've found myself asking deeper personal questions and now I ask you too to consider this one: "How has your own behavior over the years ---- whether it be from indifference, disinterest, a sense of perceived helplessness, willingness to overlook or go along, care to protect your own position/salary/investments ---- contributed to perpetuating the growth of the economic plague that appears to have ravished the world and American businesses for the sake of a few?" Have any immediate flashbacks? I have.

Yesterday, I was stunned when I heard reports on CNN about the transition that would soon be taking place in Indonesia as they move from "recovery" to "reconstruction"---from donations to BUSINESS DEALS. They first mentioned that Indonesia wants the US to leave by a certain date. Our response was something like, "We hope this is more of a goal, not a deadline." Then they began naming the corporations who would be involved in bidding for the contracts. Hmmm, Halliburton was at the top of the list (after reportedly making a very modest donation) along with other corporations that have been part of the reality John Perkins has defined in Confessions... Sadly, it appears we have still another living example unfolding before our eyes.

How many of us will be bystanders again?

Debbe

## **Author**

Judy Schreiber

**Joined: 21 Dec 2004**

**Posts: 8**

**Location: L.A.**

## **Message**

Posted: Fri Jan 21, 2005 11:52 am Post subject:

I read John Perkins interviews a few days ago. I'm reading the book. What sums up my thoughts is that I am shocked. Can't believe I've been so asleep.

The question I have is now what? I have opened my eyes, but as a reforming bystander, where does one person begin?

Judy

## Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005  
Posts: 49  
Location: Sausalito

## Message

Thanks for your thoughts, Judy!

I think we start by carrying on conversations with others--sharing the information and our feelings about what we now know. It is important for this information to be heard/read by all Americans. Here are some ideas:

Start conversations about this where your friends gather--clubs, schools, churches/synagogues, universities. Create a Book Circle to read and discuss the book. Write an editorial for your local newspaper. Take the story to any media contacts you may have. John Perkins is available for media interviews and public appearances. (I would be happy to put you in touch with those setting up his schedule.)

Conversations about this topic are springing up all over the country--and in other countries, too. It is important that we let our government leaders know that we are opposed to these activities--and that we want this activity to STOP!

Bring your friends to the Dialogue Center and we can get the conversation started right here!

## Author

**brentnhunter**

Joined: 14 Feb 2005  
Posts: 3

## Message

Posted: Mon Feb 14, 2005 10:25 am Post subject:

Hello everyone, I just wanted to stop by and say hello and join the conversation. This book is in my top 3 books about money, economics and finance. The first is the Soul of Money, by Lynne Twist. Confessions of an Economic Hitman is #2, and Running on Empty by Peter Peterson is #3. All three are must-read books!

In any case, this book is such a gift to humanity. The one thing that keeps coming up for me is how brave and courageous John is for writing the book and being ensuring that it got published. This is exactly the kind of information that needs to be out there in the world, being discussed, talked about and acted upon. It is only through knowledge that things can change, and this book is a real good grounding point for some serious conversations about the state of our world, what we want our world to be and how we can take steps to get there. I'm glad to see conversations are also taking place here at the Global Dialogue Center!

Brent N. Hunter  
Earth Communications Center

## Author

Judy Schreiber

**Joined: 21 Dec 2004**

**Posts: 8**

**Location: L.A.**

## Message

Posted: Mon Feb 14, 2005 8:58 pm Post subject:

I just finished John Perkins' book and also watched him on CSPAN yesterday. The recent posts from James, Dave and Brent were comforting to read. I have to admit, when I heard Mr. Perkins' interview on Democracy Now, I was shocked as I wrote earlier. After reading the book, I am overwhelmed with how familiar this message is and how blind I have been in putting the facts together.

It seems to me that James is correct that perhaps some of us have not been "ready" to hear this message. What I feel is that I was "conditioned" so I wasn't ready to listen and hear the truth. I was taught that things are "nice." Speaking out was radical and inappropriate. Those who did it had some bad motive. This question of motive came out in the CSPAN questions to John Perkins. Did you hear it? He handled it well, but I suppose I have in the past with Dick Clark and Paul O'Neill for example passed instant judgment on them even when they seemed so credible.

Now that I have been given this wake-up call, I find the whole mess unsettling. What I would be interested in knowing is how you all feel about the pattern that seems to be continuing from the Bush campaign to his new administration? There seems to be a deliberate constant stream of talking points to divert our attention from the most important issues of our time. After reading John Perkins' book, this seems so clear and yet confusing. Maybe I am wrong, but the aim seems to be to keep people all upset about the fringe issues or off talking about "sex in the city" while the whole world is falling apart. Have you noticed how of words in recent speeches like trust, honesty, God and family are repeated over and over. There is never a set of facts any topic. Perhaps there never was. How do we overcome this reality?

## Author

**brentnhunter**

Joined: 14 Feb 2005

Posts: 3

## Message

Posted: Tue Feb 15, 2005 7:13 am Post subject:

Hi Judy, my opinion is that just by this awesome book being published, it is already changing our reality. Sometimes change comes slowly and in ways that we cannot see. This book is sending ripples and waves of energy across the planet as we speak. Just as the book has spawned conversations in places like this online, for every

online conversation taking place there are probably many more conversations taking place in the "real world". As conversations take place, new realizations occur, veils of illusion are torn down and more of the old paradigm begins to crumble. Just like a caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly, the old needs to die. I think at some level we all know this. The challenge, I am imagining, for a creature that is no longer the caterpillar it was and is not yet a butterfly, is to not have fear, and to constantly be thinking, imaging, intending and focusing on the future that it wants. With that in mind, I believe it is ever so important to keep in our minds the future we wish to create. What does this future look like? How would it be different than our world is now? Can we see it?

The slow and steady evolution and changing of our reality has already begun. And just like any 50 trillion ton freight train, once it begins, it is very difficult to stop. That is why this book appearing in our consciousness at this unique time is so incredibly exciting!

## Author

**prisilla**

Joined: 15 Feb 2005

Posts: 31

Location: bellingham, washington

## Message

Posted: Wed Feb 16, 2005 12:52 am Post subject: Unfriendly Take-Overs of Countries

It's not the Republicans, the Democrats or the " neo-con-liberals" or even the latter-day Straussians that use governments to wage unfriendly take-overs of sovereign nations, it's the corporations using the governments and its resources. The major trade agreements since the 1947 Uruguay Rounds, set the stage: then GATT, the rules: the banks, the IMF : the players, the WTO. Borders stand in the way of a multinational mega-merger of nations that will no longer enjoy national identities, but trade sector significance. The military forces to back up the changing world order, will more and more be private forces. The ideology is economic , veiled by religion and patriotism. and other colorings. Call it gobal feudalism, if you will, or plantation economics, the lords of the castles , if successful, will find government, an impediment once government has served its purpose. Congress is practically irrelevant currently, and the constitution ,nearly a quaint relic of history. To a great degree,sovereignty lives only in the imagination of the uninitiated.

Perikins' book does a service, but the revelations of an economic hit-man come a bit late in the game. We ought to ask what alternatives are viable. Unless change comes from the bottom upward, the future does appear glum.

## Author

James M. Buels

Joined: 13 Feb 2005

Posts: 45

## Message

Posted: Wed Feb 16, 2005 8:14 pm Post subject: prisilla's thoughts



I think you're absolutely right, prisilla, when you say that the world is ruled, not by governments, but by corporations and "major players," who use governments, and even groups of governments, to establish their feudal empires. Governments are merely vassals, and their populations serfs obedient to the will of the feudal lords. That is exactly the kind of world predicted by Aldous Huxley in his book "Brave New World," and George Orwell, in "1984." Those feudal lords meet every year in a secret meeting to determine the world's political and economic fate. The meeting is called the "Bilderburg Group" after the site of the first meeting, at the Hotel Bilderburg in (if memory serves) Brussels, Belgium, in 1954. Most of the world's top politicians, media, corporate and financial leaders participate, including, from the United States, generations of Rockefellers, Henry Kissinger, future presidents of the United States (such as the young Bill Clinton), and future British Prime Ministers (such as the young Tony Blair). European movers and shakers are heavily represented, including royal heads of state, such as the late Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, a former SS officer, and other members of European royal houses, such as Lord Carrington of Britain.

The "Bilderburgers" created the European Union, which they have designed as the model for the New World Order that is emerging. After the United States, Russia, and China have been drawn into a catastrophic war with each other (which will be the ultimate result of the current U.S. actions in the Middle East), and the world's population is decimated by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and resultant famines, the remnant of humanity will embrace the peace and security offered by the worldwide superstate. It is to be a worldwide superstate comprised, eventually, of all the countries of the world. National sovereignty and the frightful dreams of nationalism will be an ancient memory, and the world's population will have microchips emplanted in their bodies that will not only monitor their whereabouts and activities constantly, but eventually control their thoughts and actions, as well. Such microchips were developed long ago, and are now being touted by the world's press as aids in "security." What the establishment really means by "security," however, is THEIR security from US.

I do, however, disagree with you on one point. It may well be that our Constitution is only a "quaint relic" of the past. If we don't defend it from the attacks that are now being leveled against it by this Administration, it WILL be nothing but a relic! In fact, it is becoming so practically before our eyes. However, before we let it suffer that fate, we should reflect that, if this country has contributed anything worthwhile to the history of the world, it has been the Constitution. It is admittedly imperfect, and, in many ways, has allowed the circumstances we now find ourselves in to develop. But it is worth preserving, even at the price of our lives.

## **Author**

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## **Message**

Posted: Thu Feb 17, 2005 7:40 am    Post subject:

Hello to everyone,

I've been following this conversation all week. Each distinctly unique perspective and

every thought-provoking idea or question expressed is a learning experience on many levels. I know I can't be alone in this thinking, because nearly three hundred people have stopped here to take it in already. John Perkins' book was the common ground that brought us here. The miracle is that all of you showed up, obviously caring deeply enough to share your knowledge, experience, fears, views of the realities and rays of hope and promise. Even more, being willing to be unseen and without the sound of your physical voice, you have come with your differences to blaze a trail for others across the world to think, question and awaken their consciousness. The words of [Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo](#), 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate are coming alive in this critical conversation of our time, *"Believe in the power of dialogue among yourselves...It requires courage, patience and determination. It requires mutual respect. The way of dialogue is the most mature, human way---the most effective way for producing solutions."*

At time of great change many years back, I remember sitting in a room and being thrust back into my chair when the man speaking to this select group looked straight into my eyes and said, *"You are here at this time in history because of all you've enjoyed."* This, too, is true for all of us. We've been blessed or we wouldn't be having this conversation. Now it seems a similar calling is coming to us at this moment in history. I look forward to seeing where this conversation leads as others join and thank each of you for opening the way for this exchange to take place.

May all that is starting here be a powerful catalyst for change.

Debbe

Debbe Kennedy  
Founder, Global Dialogue Center

## Author

prisilla

**Joined: 15 Feb 2005**

**Posts: 31**

**Location: bellingham,Washington**

## Message

Posted: Fri Feb 18, 2005 1:57 am    Post subject: Coincidence and Choice

John Perkin's speaks about coincidence and choice in his "Confessions of an Economic Hitman," about how throughout his life, seemingly, coincidental happenings presented life choices. Perkin's life choices are value selections which work to form the man and his character. He is talking about the crossroads in life that we all face at different times, and the direction we choose at each point becomes our path to self-truth or away from self-truth. Recognizing the intersections of our lives is important both personally and socially. To consciously choose our path, is to choose the meaning of our lives. If we are not awake, that is, also, a choice. We need to notice with intention to live our values. As we pay more attention, our values become clarified. The more we act with clarity, listening to our inner-voice....the voice of our spirit,the more our intentions and actions become one. This is true, because humans are creatures of habit: The more we do something, the more it becomes a part of us. For example, the more I pay attention to knowing and

noticing, the more I understand. The understanding widens and deepens, there is more connection to my surroundings. Life is growing in meaning. Of course, the opposite will happen if I numb myself to those around me and to my environment. Native peoples often distinguish between those who are two-leggeds and those who are humans. To walk upright physically is not enough to qualify as human. A human-being has a mind and a spirit. A person who chooses to live in a struggle of might, survival of the fittest, the end justifies the means, is living as a dinosaur tearing at other dinosaurs in a constant bloody battle over territory. It is the nature of animals to live in survival-mode, while humans are capable of contemplating their actions in terms of good and evil. As humans, we are capable of knowing something about our history and learning from our personal and social histories.

The corporate world-model is a poor model for civil society. The corporation ought to serve the society, not society the corporation. As world-model corporations act aggressively to take the place of government, making economics, not only the bottomline, but the political framework, the intrinsic value of national and individual sovereignty is endangered. The US Constitution is a document which supports the sovereignty of individuals and the nation in a manner which is designed to prevent both mob-rule and rule by a powerful elite. Even so, the document is worthless when unconstitutional laws go unchallenged and the people and their representatives rest in an appeasing silence. When the people rise by their own spirit and intention, empires may fall, as did the British Empire. Remember Ghandi?

## **Author**

**Joan Galt**

Joined: 16 Feb 2005  
Posts: 2

## **Message**

Posted: Fri Feb 18, 2005 5:51 am Post subject: Bilderberg, corporations, and conspiracy

Excerpted from the BBC News website;

Formed in the spirit of post-war trans-Atlantic co-operation, the idea behind Bilderberg was that future wars could be prevented by bringing power-brokers together in an informal setting away from prying eyes.

Here's what Britain's Lord Healy had to say;

"Bilderberg is the most useful international group I ever attended. The confidentiality enabled people to speak honestly without fear of repercussions.

"In my experience the most useful meetings are those when one is free to speak openly and honestly. It's not unusual at all. Cabinet meetings in all countries are held behind closed doors and the minutes are not published."

That activists have seized on Bilderberg is no surprise to Alasdair Spark, an expert in conspiracy theories.

"The idea that a shadowy clique is running the world is nothing new. For hundreds of years people have believed the world is governed by a cabal of Jews.

"Shouldn't we expect that the rich and powerful organise things in their own interests. It's called capitalism."

Corporations have a dual mission; make a profit and provide jobs. Governments, unions, and think tanks of any stripe don't create wealth. And paychecks don't grow on trees.

## Author

prisilla

Joined: 15 Feb 2005

Posts: 31

Location: bellingham, washington

## Message

Posted: Sat Feb 19, 2005 2:47 pm Post subject: The World in Our Hands

Contemplating the weight of responsibility for changing the direction of our world, we can open our conversations with the Creator, ask for help and direction. Our inspiration need not be dampened by the horrific acts committed in the Creator's name. We can see there is no purpose served in quarrelling about the organized religion. The connection of our spirits through our prayers, our meditations and our actions strengthen us. Humble respect for each other's sense of human dignity and for the Creator's great design will keep us from imagining we can build a utopia on earth. What we can build is awareness, gratitude for life in the garden of good and evil, knowing that our ability to make spiritual choices cannot be taken away by any person or event. This is the great freedom. Every time we make a choice on the side of good, we increase our humanity and clear the path for others to act in a like manner. Such thoughtfulness expands our ability to touch lives. While caring for one another, we can see that listening to the lonely child in another person may have more effect than putting change in a beggar's hand.

All throughout human history men have conspired to live as gods and build empires on the blood of others. Secret societies are nothing new. People often don't want the masks pulled from the monsters' true faces, preferring to live with illusions rather than choices. Further, when the monsters are revealed, there are discomfoting revelations. The most discomfoting is, that all people share some of the traits of the monsters. Those Nazis who committed monstrous acts could not have done so acting alone. Perhaps, today we can better understand the fear that kept mouths shut as the Third Reich assumed its power. Moreover, the propaganda of the times, not only made the Jews the scapegoat, propaganda served to persuade the German people that evil was good. Propaganda pushed the idea that Germany was fighting a defensive war against a pernicious enemy. Nationalism, purity of race, patriotism, even Christianity, were among the excuses for war and vile acts against humanity. One of the worst impressions that came out of that time was the notion that the Jewish peoples' suffering throughout history, had to be their own fault, deserved punishment for an innate evil carried in the blood. Super-nationalistic propoganda, super-patriotism formed great lies which people could hide behind and go about their lives half-conscious to reality.

John Perkins book shows this process in one man and in our society. When we buy South American coffee, for instance, do we consider the working conditions of coffee plantations? As we consume our imports, do we consider child labor and sixteen hour days in dangerous working conditions, paid for in pennies, are part of the over-all price for our living the good life? In our busy lives, haven't we assumed that poor people in foreign lands are those whose fate it is to live with poisonous chemicals and filth in their water, untreated diseases and slavery. Don't a majority of us believe there is nothing that can be done to prevent destruction of the rain forests and the lives of indiginous people? It doesn't make the news when whole cultures are murdered, their land stolen. Haven't we all assumed the same horrible work conditions, lack of human dignity and confiscation of property, poisonous chemicals in our water and plagues would never happen here?

## Author

prisilla

**Joined: 15 Feb 2005**

**Posts: 31**

**Location: bellingham, washington**

## Message

Posted: Tue Feb 22, 2005 1:38 am Post subject:

mpriggs, john, joan, debbe, joshua and all the rest, the conversations here are a wonderful dialogue.. There is a lot of searching of life paths and values. Words do have force. Opening to the social and personal subjects of our times in an inquiring manner is unusually energizing. We are realizing personal choices depend upon our awareness and intentions. The rhetoric of politics and corporate-spin has left many of us muddled. In many ways, the marketing of a public mind-set have anesthetized our abilities to choose our values for ourselves. The mass of media networks and newspapers and magazines have done little to educate us and much to do our thinking for us. Thus, we may ask, "Who is doing our thinking for us?" It takes time to research the salient issues of our time. Popular resources of information tend to be shallow. Television has promoted short attentions spans not only for children, but for adults with busy lives and multiple obligations. In competition with television, newspapers and magazines make an effort to pay attention to popular subjects in an abbreviated manner. Popular available sources of information tend to focus on a particular subject without linking to related issues and subjects in the larger, long-term picture. Fragmented thinking is the result.

In inquisitive discussion, we are putting puzzles together and drawing out the meanings as the pictures form. We know we are living in troubled times, what we actions we take need to be directed by informed choices, and no one path is right for all. When making value choices, our self-respect is involved. Any choice which causes anxiety and a sense of shame and unease, causes us to rationalize the basis of that choice is, probably, not a choice on the side of good. Perkins' own journey demonstrates this very clearly.

Writing on other forums, we may choose to discuss the significance of "Confessions of an Economic Hitman." Because the book is based on one man's journey to principled awareness, mentioning various aspects of the book on other forums may raise the level of discussion.

## Author

James M. Buels

**Joined: 13 Feb 2005**

**Posts: 45**

## Message

Posted: Tue Feb 22, 2005 1:40 am Post subject: Waking Up; Personal Responsibility.

mpriggs, you should have known me when I "woke up." I was a basket case. It began about ten years ago, when I first began to realize what American foreign

policy has done in the world! At first, I refused to believe it. "They're just a bunch of whining liberals," I said to myself. (I was a conservative Republican in those days.) "America stands for what is the best in the world. This is Communist propaganda!" But then, I began to find more and more evidence and figures that corroborated each other. I started reading Noam Chomsky, "Another whining liberal!" Bit by bit, fact by fact, the conclusion was finally unavoidable.

I had read the conspiracy literature for many years already, ever since the Kennedy Assassination, when I was sixteen years old. Conspiracy writers have long written about America's victimization of the third world,, and I came across a lot of information about it. But in those days I was convinced that there was a vast Left-wing, Communist -inspired conspiracy that sought to convert America into a copy of the Soviet Union. As I got into it more deeply, it became evident to me that there was indeed a worldwide conspiracy, but that it had nothing to do with "Left" or "Right," "Communist" or "Fascist." "Republican," or "Democrat." I saw that these labels were merely instruments someone was using to make people think in certain ways. They were like a large set of train tracks which, although each pair of tracks took a different route, they all seemed to be heading in the same direction!

Then I started reading the books of David Icke, a brilliant British author. Everything I had been reading over the previous twenty years, about conspiracy and America's role in the world, suddenly came together! It all made sense - finally. But...it was horrible. Absolutely horrible! For a time, I put Icke's books away and wouldn't read them. Finally, I went back to them. I felt as though my mind was being turned inside out! As what I read settled into my consciousness, a deep conviction began to surface inside me: to do something about what I had read.

I'm not surprised Perkins' book isn't being mentioned in the mainstream media. Even though I think the Illuminati want the information to come out now, it still conflicts very much with the sanitized, propagandized version of America's actions in the world that the media always gives us: "Gee! Isn't it wonderful how America is spreading democracy throughout the world? I know the world is just overflowing with gratitude for that! Only those pesky insurgents seem to be ungrateful... when our President is doing so much FOR them!"

I also think that the Illuminati want some of the information about America's real activities abroad to come out now in order to hurt the image of America in the minds of its people. That is part of their strategy to destroy America. Our country has outlived its usefulness to them. Superpowers, as Icke says, are incompatible with a world state with absolute power. That's also why the Illuminati are bringing the U.S. into conflict with Russia and China, both incipient superpowers. The idea is to destroy all three as world powers in a global conflagration to make way for world government.

prisilla, John Perkins' book is a noble attempt to halt our country as it careens toward the abyss. He is a noble and courageous man. Let's all hope that his book will have a profound impact on our country's future, and the future of the world.

## Author

prisilla

**Joined: 15 Feb 2005**

**Posts: 31**

**Location: bellingham, Washington**

## Message

Posted: Tue Feb 22, 2005 3:29 pm Post subject: The Politics of Fear and Hatred

James,

I was first involved with the Republican Party at age, sixteen, when I became secretary of the Young Republicans for the county. I gave speeches, met and spoke with Jerry Ford and other congressmen. At age, eighteen, I was secretary of the young Republicans at college. I introduced a future goverenor, Dan Evans, to the public. I wrote articles and hosted events and helped choose the Attorney General for our state. The first state convention was an eye-opener: The dirty tricks were getting their first foothold within the party. The president of the state young Republicans had his drink laced with LSD at the convention by members from a competitive caucus. The young man was very ill and had to be raced by helicopter from Spokane to Seattle.

The next year, I became publicity campaign manager for a Democrat running for senator. He won. I met labor leaders and was introduced to what Democrats hoped to acheive for the country. Yet, I didn't settle into becoming a Democrat. Like you, I was convinced that communist influence was a threat to our nation. I wanted to know more about all political paths. I created a political/religious awareness month for the college and invited speakers from the far-right to the far-left, along with Republicans and Democrats. I invited religious leaders from every major religious persuasion to speak at the college. This became a real learning time for me and was my first introduction to the globalists.

Even so, throughout the Vietnam War, I was convinced of a communist agenda for America. How Fighting in Vietnam was going to push back that agenda was unclear. The Kennedy assassination prior to heavy involvement in the war, was almost cheered by some Republicans who saw JFK as a communist dupe, who would lead the nation down the road to socialism. A week before Dalles, almost everyone believed there would be an attempt upon Kennedy's life in Dalles. Powerful, militant super-patriots from Texas with their own private agendas were extremely vocal about the dangers they believed Kennedy brought to the country. Of course, these people believed a huge military effort was needed in Southeast Asia to stem the growth of communism. No doubt, the military/industrial complex stood to benefit from a hot and prolonged war.

Gradually, as the war progressed with no end in sight, people began to wonder about the Kennedy assassination. Conspiracy theories arose as people felt the whole truth was being withheld from the public. Of course, people began to doubt the purpose for the Vietnam war at the same time. Without enough clear information on either subject, it was natural for the public to try to fill in the blanks themselves, giving more emphasis to conspiracy doctrines.

Then came Watergate. If anything could cause the nation to lose faith in their leaders and government, it was an ego-centric and paranoid president. Nixon had some reason to be paranoid, since he wasn't getting all the information he should from the Pentagon. An enclave under the direction of a rogue general withheld from Nixon some of the facts he needed to make a decision to pull back or push forward in

the war. Nixon, himself, became a conspiracy theorist, without crucial information, he filled in the blanks and began to see enemies everywhere. We know the rest of the story as Nixon sought to gain control through building the powers of the executive office and claim executive privilege. At this time, though I didn't like Nixon's heavy-handed approach to power, the stealing and publication of the Pentagon papers didn't seem right. It was Nixon's insistence on hurrying Red China into the United Nations that was the final straw for me. Doing a bit of research, I discovered through UN minutes, that Nixon had worked on this goal for many years before his presidency. To the public, Nixon was strongly anti-communist, a friend to Whitaker Chambers, the nemesis of Alger Hiss. In private, Nixon worked to unhinge the anti-communist/anti-UN policy of his most ardent supporters in the Republican Party. What Nixon left behind for Americans was doubt and unease and our own paranoia about our highest leaders.

Ronald Reagan brought back unity to the nation as an anti-communist who stood up to the big Soviet bear. With the blessings and enormous financial support of political action committees, Reagan sailed forth as a crusader for family, church and American values. Those values were defined by the "Moral Majority," whom many saw as neither moral nor a majority. The Reagan years set a precedent for deficit spending...1.3 trillion dollars. I had returned to university a year before Reagan took office. I was pursuing a history degree in an interesting time when Reagan so wanted to end the welfare system of the past, he sought to refurbish the WWII Japanese detainment camps to house welfare recipients, who would earn their keep in the camps. He did not believe it necessary to house families together. This pro-family advocate lost his battle in this regard. The issue was forgotten as Reagan went on to court Gorbachev and convince him of a new economic agenda which surpassed politics; the economics would set the political agenda. At this point, I was studying the economics of the new system, going back to its roots in the Vienna Circle and Ludwig von Mises. The Reagan version, I could see, would lead to unbridled corporate power, private armies and people living on the economic edge; it would lead to weakening and dissolution of the unions and create harsh working conditions. Called Reaganomics or Supply-Side economics, the system posed no less than a revolution on a global scale, which threatened to do away with national sovereignty, replacing nations with trading sectors.

George H.W. Bush followed Reagan as a president whose actions in Central America, demonstrated more clearly, a plan for corporate hegemony and a lack of respect for national sovereignty. But it was Clinton who pushed through the GATT and Gore who supported NAFTA as essential trade agreements along the path to the new global power configuration.

Here we are today, right in the middle of the finalization of the global-corporate state. We are inundated with messages of fear and hatred for unseen enemies, told we are in a war which has no end, educated to spy on our neighbors and suspect dark-skinned people as terrorists. We are becoming, on one hand, a terrified nation, hating a mostly invisible enemy...and on the other hand, suspicious of any move our government makes. How many times have you felt it necessary to preface a comment on the Iraq war with..I'm a patriot, don't get me wrong? Why should any of us feel the necessity to voice an opinion with such a preface? Why can't we be heard when we don't agree? Often when we list the facts, the other person's eyes are uneasily glazing over with suspicion? So many people appear only comfortable following the generic line from our leaders, which suggests everything they do is for our own security. So war is good, the enemy infinite. How many times have you heard someone say to you in person, or on the Internet, we should just nuke the bastards? A lot of those same people don't care who the bastards are, merely that they are living in the Middle-East. And while we are nuking the Moslem nations, why not have at it and nuke North Korea? Killing is patriotic. This is where fear has brought us. We need to inform one another of facts, we need to build community



and friendships and learn about our spiritual natures. It isn't possible to trust government, we must build trust among ourselves. We can put our faith in our Creator and not in "savior-politicians." Throughout history, there has always been some schnook coming down the road as the messiah with a bunch of idiots trotting along behind, chanting his blessings. As that good Book says, "You'll know them by their works." the same message is for all of us.

## Author

**24sevenTEAM**

Site Admin

Joined: 25 May 2004

Posts: 63

## Message

Posted: Wed Feb 23, 2005 9:11 pm Post subject: New Topics

### **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR YOU**

The John Perkins' conversation is branching out. Just in case you have this particular conversation bookmarked and may not have noticed, several people have posted **New TOPICS** and **New POSTS** under Conversations 1, 2 and 3.

To check them out, click the direct links BELOW (or return to the **Forum Index** to see complete selection.)

### **Conversation 1**

<http://globaldialoguecenter.com/forum/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=32&sid=565754a70ae7ff6b77338dbffe8c1552>

### **Conversation 2**

<http://globaldialoguecenter.com/forum/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=39>

### **Conversation 3**

<http://globaldialoguecenter.com/forum/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=33>

Amazing dialogue you've created here!! Didn't want you to miss anything!

**Your 24seven TEAM**

## Author

**mpriggs**

Joined: 13 Dec 2004

Posts: 9

Location: Portland

## Message

Posted: Sat Feb 26, 2005 11:00 pm Post subject:

Hi again. A lot has happened in this discussion! It took quite a while to read everything. I took one very small positive step this week because of this dialogue. I gave three friends a copy of John Perkins book, who badly needed it by the way to open their minds.

Prisilla, you are so right about this being like "putting puzzles together" and about how energizing it is to find others to think with you. "Being in troubled times" as you termed it is something where everyone can all relate, regardless of who we are. Everyday seems to bring more bad news or am I just seeing it differently? John Perkins' book is bringing people together in conversations we probably wouldn't have a chance to have otherwise. I am very appreciative of this.

James, thank you for telling about how you "woke up" so openly. You have really had an interesting tour through life. Between you and Prisilla, as well as, what I've learned in posts from Oguchi, Brent, Joshua, Joan and others, I realize my life has been sheltered or shamefully unaware life is probably more the case. Reading and re-reading some the posts tonight has been history "refresher" and provided much more to consider. The range of experiences and ways of seeing things is certainly interesting. Where I am still feeling very lost and inadequate with such monumental problems is what to do. This question has been asked and there are some good suggestions in John's book and from people in the discussion, but I still keep thinking "what difference can these things make?" in changing such a big mess. I read the specific examples Oguchi posted tonight and it makes you feel so helpless. I am working on this attitude, just being honest at the moment and look forward to learning more from all of you.

mp

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

Posted: Sun Feb 27, 2005 12:41 am Post subject:

Hello to each of you who has been involved in this intriguing conversation! I have been following it from the beginning but have found no need to "moderate" the discussion as it has taken its own course in a compelling way.

I have been very impressed with the depth of thought expressed here and the openness of each of your comments. There are several points in particular with which I agree: James, I, too, wish that more Americans would have the experience you had of viewing American policy from OUTSIDE the country.

Mpriggs, I empathize with the feeling of helplessness that you expressed. Whenever John gives a talk, the question is asked: "Now that we know about this, what can we do?" He, of course, is the "messenger" and encourages all of us to look inward and to each other to find that answer. As Brent has so eloquently suggested, we have to visualize the world we want and collectively hold that vision. We are our thoughts-- our thoughts become our reality.

Priscilla has suggested that "writing on other forums" may raise the level of

discussion. It is clear that spreading the knowledge about our foreign policies--and emphasizing that this is not a partisan issue--and making people aware of its effect on the world is essential. Taking a look at our own lives and assuming responsibility for our own actions each day, as has been proposed here, is an excellent way to start.

Other ways? We all have experienced the power of the Internet. Let's use it! If each person writes to ten others and encourages their reading the book, that exercise multiplies into unbelievable numbers very quickly.

Mpriggs, you asked if the mainstream is dismissing the book. Major media has been VERY slow in taking on the subject and now, largely after pressure from their constituents around the country, are beginning to ask for interviews. CSPAN has aired his talk at a bookstore twice--and will do so tomorrow (Sunday) at 1 pm ET. Next Friday night David Brancaccio will interview John on the NOW show on PBS. Brancaccio told John that his is the most requested interview they have ever had on the show.

There have been many radio interviews--but we need to contact our major media shows and make the request for John's appearance. He is receiving many requests to speak at universities--an audience (and age group) he really likes to reach. Many requests from intl media are now coming in and he has been asked to do a press conference at the UN. If you have contacts to media or possible speaking engagements for John, please let us know. We have an excellent PR team!

Oguchi, my heart bled to hear your story. I heard John speak of the Nigerian situation--that the original loan to Nigeria about 10-15 years ago was \$5 billion, at least 80% of which stayed in the US to pay the Bechtel and Halliburton organizations. The Nigerians have already paid \$16 billion interest on the original \$5 billion and today still owe another \$32 billion!! It is unconscionable!

What suggestions do you have to bring more people to this site to participate in this dialogue? What other ideas do you have to correct this situation?

I look forward to reading more of your thoughts. Thanks once again for joining in and contributing so generously to this conversation!

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Sun Feb 27, 2005 10:38 pm Post subject:

Prisilla,

Jan Colman contacted me about your question regarding copying and passing out messages from 24seven Conversations.

**I think it is a wonderful idea!!!** This is meant to be a gathering place for an open dialogue for everyone. The only thing we would ask is that anyone copying the

dialogues be sure the copies include crediting [Global Dialogue Center-24seven Conversations](#) and url, so people can find us to join in if they want to do so. If you copy from the forum directly, it will be included. Personally, I've also been incorporating excerpts from some of the comments in my personal blogs and when writing in other places, including an invitation and link to participate. So all of you are also encouraged to find creative ways to spread the word and share the powerful messages here with others.

Thank you, Prisilla, for the significant contribution you've personally made in this dialogue. You are an inspiring writer, have obviously used your passions for good and have offered a great deal of insight for us all.

It is truly rewarding to see this amazingly diverse group coming together to listen and learn from one another. Both you and James have given generously to others. ---and MP, JUDY, JOAN, JOSHUA, BRENT, DAVE, OGUCHI, BRIAN, ED and others, thank you for leading the way for this meaningful dialogue. We've had hundreds of VIEWERS coming to be inspired by your openness and knowledge.

We welcome other your creative ideas! This place is for all of you, so know that we look forward hearing from you.

Debbe

Debbe Kennedy  
Founder, Global Dialogue Center  
[dkennedy@globaldialoguecenter.com](mailto:dkennedy@globaldialoguecenter.com)

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined:** 13 Jan 2005  
**Posts:** 49  
**Location:** Sausalito

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 11, 2005 12:26 am Post subject:

Hello to all of you--and thank you for continuing to come back and contribute so much to this dialogue--and to the others taking place on this site.

I thought you might be interested in knowing that John Perkins has become the speaker most in demand in this country at present--even though major TV media other than C-SPAN and PBS's NOW have not yet included him on their schedules. He is being heard on at least 3 to 6 radio shows a day along with speaking engagements all over the country. Universities, one of his favorite venues, have been requesting him--Harvard, Princeton, U of Michigan, U of Wisconsin, U of Colorado, Pace University, NYU, Dartmouth, etc etc. He is receiving hundreds of emails a day and is frustrated at not being able to read an respond to each one.

This week the international press has been at John's "door"! The BBC, Der Spiegel, the leading Malaysian publication, etc etc. The book is being sold in several countries and translations are in the works. And there is talk of his giving a press conference at the UN! What do you think will be the effect of pressure exerted from outside our country?

Mpriggs, the question you posed, "Where do we start?" is usually asked at every one of his appearances. He is the messenger and not necessarily the one to give the answer to that question, but rather he looks to each of us to individually and collectively come up with answers.

Joshua, you have chosen a way to begin--you are to be commended--and if those of us at the Global Dialogue Center can be of help to support your efforts, we would certainly like to find ways to do so. Personally, like you all have mentioned, I believe that making the people of this country aware of this situation is of top priority. Once they are aware, I believe in the strength of moral values and the greater good--am I a dreamer?--that will hasten the conversations around the subject.

I also believe in the synchronicity of an idea and therefore expect to see other Joshua's in the country doing just as he is doing--the energy of the creative idea is picked up and is transmitted throughout the country. Linking them to create power from the greater whole will further the awareness that can bring about change.

Since this is a MORAL and ETHICAL issue, I would like to see the information placed in the hands of religious leaders across the country who will speak to it from their pulpits in their churches, synagogues, mosques and any other place where people gather. Today I read an article from the NY Times commenting on the association of Evangelical leaders in the US and their plan to influence their followers to accept global warming on the basis that God asked everyone to be stewards of the land. They have 30 million followers! Just one example of identifying the places of power and influence. Let's make this the next important topic for a dramatic shift!

What about in your communities? Would you consider contacting your local media with a request to have this book/story covered? Are there large venues that would invite John to speak? Universities, etc?

I'd like to hear your ideas of other ways we can get out the message and advance the "shift".

## **Author**

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## **Message**

Posted: Sun Mar 13, 2005 7:38 pm    Post subject:

James and Priscilla--thanks once again for your thoughtful dialogue! James, it is true that much of what John writes about in his book has been suggested and/or written previously. I think the reason this book is getting such a response is because he is the first to write about these moments in history from a first-person and "insider's" perspective and, in so doing, brings together all the "pieces" of the story.

Another reason is the timing of this information--post-9/11--when people began questioning why such a thing would/could happen in our country. Too often we've heard this naive answer: "because they are so envious of all that we have". It is SO important that we Americans realize what we have done and what we continue to do

that creates such hatred toward us in the world.

The policies of the current administration have intensified it--and the blatant "control" being exercised over media, rights, etc. is causing people to speak out. (Just today I read an article outlining the facts/pattern/scope of the administration's paid-for TV "news" clips.) Isn't it interesting to see the number of whistle-blowers who are emerging??

## Author

**Joshuapeaceseeker**

Joined: 16 Feb 2005

Posts: 12

## Message

ted: Tue Mar 15, 2005 10:11 am Post subject: Fighting the want

Fighting the desire to have what other Americans have is a tough one. Our culture of consumption is the biggest problem we face as a people. If we would all just put those credit cards away. Or hold off on the new car, clothes and TV's we would find our lives to be a lot less stressful. The use of slave labor to build our façade will doom us to deal with the ripple effect of abusing and using people. We will fail in our journey as a people if we ignore the truth. Failing our own children in the long run, but failing children of every country right now, today!

[joshuachess2002@yahoo.com](mailto:joshuachess2002@yahoo.com)

## Author

debbekennedy

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Tue Mar 15, 2005 10:34 pm Post subject:

Johuapeaceseeker, I agree too. It does take time to transform. After reading your post, it made me question what more I could do myself. Thank you. Not long after reading your post, I just happened to open a favorite book of the Words of Gandhi -- - no reason --- to get inspired. I opened to this quote and thought of your insight:

**"The golden rule...is resolutely to refuse to have what millions cannot. This ability to refuse will not descend upon us all of a sudden. The first thing is to cultivate the mental attitude that will not have possessions or facilities denied to millions, and the next immediate thing is to rearrange our lives as fast as possible in accordance with that mentality."**

**"... My life is my message."**

**Gandhi**

From all your messages and actions, it appears you are working to set this example with you life decisions. It made a difference to me.

~~~~~

James and Priscilla, I continue to be in awe of your knowledge and perspectives and thank you for generously sharing and keeping us thinking. One statement that came on an early tapes after 9/11 has haunted me. Bin Laden said, "This will be a war of minds." At least in a visible way, there is little evidence that anyone heard this --- so many poor judgments. Do you remember this statement?

~~~~~

Debbe

## Author

**prisilla**

Joined: 15 Feb 2005

Posts: 31

Location: bellingham,washington

## Message

Posted: Wed Mar 16, 2005 1:18 pm Post subject: War of Minds

Debbe, I do remember that "war of minds" statement by bin Laden. What do you think it means? Do you think a dis-information war is being fought by our country, as well as, Muslim extremists? Could it be that religious propaganda is employed by both Christian fundamentalist political leaders and fundamentalist Muslim leaders in this war of minds? I think there is enough evidence to support the concept that the leaders, themselves, are more interested in pragmatic objectives, than in winning souls. Al Qaeda has been supported by both North Korea and The Peoples' Republic of China. Perhaps, state sponsorship reaches further than these two.

Waging political wars in the name of God is, of course, nothing new. The belief that God is on your side, that the war is a battle against evil and evil-doers, is much more seductive than believing the war is for more material and political assets and is being waged on the premis of greed. Religious wars are, also, about maintaining a way of life, a culture.

Multinationals threaten other cultures as corporations take-over in countries , bringing new ideas and habits contradictory to the ideals of traditionalism. The United States is seen, by a majority of the world, as a power-hungry bully, whose only real culture is consumerism. We are often feared for our violent society, our lack of family stability, our rampant drug addiction and the way we treat our poor. Our freedom is feared by many Muslims, who see chaos, and gross misuse of personal freedoms. Orthodox Judaism and ultra-conservative Christians view our great personal freedom as a threat to morality. Fear of anarchy immorality and social chaos is leading toward a re-brith of paternalistic authoritarianism from conservative Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

Are these the things Usama means when he speaks of a "war of minds?" Is he right? In the polarization of cultures, China and Russia are moving toward a greater

authoritarian center; but, so is the United States. Are our choices moving toward a new age of paternalistic traditionalism vs unbridled materialism? If so, what choices are there is stimulating religious, social and commercial moderation?

## Author

debbekennedy

**Joined: 27 Oct 2004**

**Posts: 96**

**Location: global dialogue center**

## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 19, 2005 4:51 pm Post subject: Qualities of the Great Mind in a "War of Minds"

Hi everyone...

I am a little delayed in getting here this week. Time is good as it allows for contemplation, yes?

PRISILLA: On your comment and question... **"Debbe, I do remember that "war of minds" statement by bin Laden. What do you think it means?"** First, I was so glad to know you remember this comment. It has haunted me and I've never run into anyone else who heard it. I've wondered at times if I imagined it. My response to your questions is offered with great humility as I admit it coming from my heart and gut.

Your questions caused me to think about lots of things, including observing what seems to be my natural process of problem-solving. I found myself almost immediately thinking more about if this were a "war of minds" as he contended, what would the attributes be of the "great mind" in the war? What do we need to participate in such a war? ---- I can't explain why I went there instead of working harder to figure out who is at fault or the cause of certain specifics actions in this global mess----I suppose it is mostly because I don't know enough personally about all the intricacies to make a meaningful opinion. My observation is that through tragedies in my own life, I learned that rising above, looking out, figuring out WHAT I COULD DO and moving ahead seem to yield the best results.

Interestingly, this contemplation exercise seemed to point out how much we need to engage our "great mind attributes" to begin the process of real change at all levels...with all people. It also seemed to expose some of the places we are currently vulnerable. It will be interesting to see if you also see this? Additionally, it has been hollering at me all week as a personal call-to-action ... HOW WELL IS MY MIND IN POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE?

**I am interested in yours and others thoughts and how you might expand the list below or enhance it from your knowledge and experience?**

It would seem that in a "war of minds" what you would want and need most is the largest army of great minds to be working for your cause ... in our case, the good of all. As Oguchi, James, Joshua, Jan and yourself and others, including the "great change leaders" of the past have suggested, we have great power to change humanity's consciousness by first changing our own and when banding together, we are exercising man's Gift of dominion over his life in a powerful way. So this is my humble offering for conversation...



## **What are the Qualities of the Great Minds that Will Change the World?**

--- Ability to "look OUT" and "UP" ... not "DOWN" in order to envision the road ahead even in the face of conflict, current realities, setbacks and doubters.

--- Ability to see beyond the obvious and work outside the existing perceived limitations.

--- Ability to develop an idea, plan it out, implement it and achieve **SUPERIOR RESULTS**

--- Ability to look at a problem and see the implications of behavior and actions several generations or layers of action out --- both positive and negative ---- making sound decisions based on that knowledge.

--- Ability and discipline to choose and measure worthiness of every action and all behaviors based on whether they are goal-directed in fulfilling the new world "dream". If it isn't goal-directed, it is not done!

--- Ability to not only call upon and trust one's personal courage and intuition to guide the way, but also to have a steadfastness to stay the course in the face of difficulties, setbacks, doubters et al.

**As we have seen throughout history, "qualities of a great mind" can be used for GOOD or EVIL.**

**What qualities are missing???**

**What other qualities are essential for the leaders of every kind at all levels that will change the world for the good of all?**

**What contribution will be all make starting right here? This question has kept me awake at night...how about you?**

~~~~~

**JOSHUAPEACESEEKER ...**

**Bless you for setting the example!!!** I am making a big noise!

Debbe

## **Author**

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## **Message**

Posted: Tue Mar 22, 2005 10:44 pm Post subject: My life is bound up with yours!

Tonight before reading your latest posts, I opened a journal I've kept for some years when I visit Grace Cathedral, the House of Prayer for all people. I opened it up to some notes I had written five years ago. Interestingly, they were written about this

time five years ago. They read...

Look for "the Easter" in our lives...my life is bound up with yours. Yours is bound up in mine. This is a time for rebirth, resurrection, a call for solidarity of humanity to come together...a call for loving one another. Imagine if I could raise you up to the newness of a new life...the promise of a new world...and you could do the same for me and other too.

PRISILLA: How beautiful your thoughts were..."Right intention, right mind, right action, the spirit flows like water over rock, without effort, following its natural course, the water wears down the rock. Obstacles in life are like boulders in the river; spirit, like water, moves without thought and attains its goal. Every person has a natural path that is in harmony with the universe." May we all come together wearing the right intention, right mind and right actions. I am holding these thoughts.

JAMES: Oh, there is so much that is wrong and unjust and sad. I grieve inside for it all too. I do find it difficult, not to acknowledge, but to hold in my thoughts. I want to grab your arm and put our commonness together and work on that new dream. What if the power of your brilliant mind ... all our brilliant minds were focused like a laser beam on the bringing about the beginnings of a new "second coming" right now ... a rebirth, a renewal, a resurrection of thinking and action. I imagine the power of this multiplied across the world could change things, yes? How do we do what Plato suggested --- learn to work in the dark and to get others to trust us enough to come out into the light of the new world as you've described it?

JOSHUA:

By chance, I read a quote from Bono in a Vogue magazine...imagine the unique audience he is reaching? ...and thought of you insights shared. "This is the end of the sixties idea that revolution is around the corner. People now know it's not. It's in their kitchen. It's in their footsteps, in the choices they make to buy this and not that."

~~~~~

Last week, a man I didn't know sent me a wonderful piece of ancient Chinese wisdom...he must have heard us talking. He wrote, "I thought you might like this." How did he know?

### **The Red Thread**

"An invisible red thread connects those who are destined to meet, regardless of time, place and circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but never break."

IDEA TO THINK ABOUT:

What if we could work on this "new dream" together? The Global Dialogue Center has a "live meeting" online conference room. What if we started with a core group with a dialogue where we could actually talk for an hour or so. Would you be interested in getting together to see what we might do together?

Debbe

## **Author**

**tom logan**

Joined: 14 Mar 2005

Posts: 3  
Location: atlanta

## Message

Posted: Wed Mar 23, 2005 11:06 pm Post subject:

james b. wrote...

### Quote:

What I've tried to do on this forum is point to the fact that this world is a far darker place than even John imagines, and that we are responsible for perpetuating THAT darkness, as well.

and i believe the modus operandi is the unseen role of denial... denial as the causal factor. so i think james is right-on.... we are responsible for our individual roles (which add up to the collective consciousness [and the collective subconsciousness as the case may be]).

denial empowers the power-over agenda. we have to wake up and begin to see the role denial in general is playing and then begin to look for our own personal roles in it. a good place to start is by watching for reflections of this. notice how some of our so-called leaders deny everything in one way or another. sometimes it is elusive but more often than not it is in-our-face obvious. in fact they have gotten very arrogant about it. and it is well known now that certain actions are only taken as long as there is an element of "plausible deniability" present. this is not a coincidence !!

whether you agree with james or not about the form of it (illuminati. reptillion, etc) its apparent that there is definitely a power-over agenda at work.

power-over was a main theme in john's stories. this agenda is being empowered by our own denials. sader yet is what that denial is doing to the individual self and the loss of consciousness on earth. we cannot love another unless we have unconditional, loving acceptance for the self no matter what guilt or some clever message on the neon sign on the lawn of the neighborhood church might say or what some form of judgement/belief system might hold different... ie, i shouldn't be so selfish as to put myself first. see what i mean!! empowerment of the power-over agenda of evil, unloving forces is far from the only result.

tom

## Author

billyg

Joined: 25 Mar 2005  
Posts: 1  
Location: Brooklyn, NY

## Message

Posted: Fri Mar 25, 2005 8:39 am Post subject:

John Perkin's fascinating confession forms part of a well-worn genre of repentant former hit-men confessions: former Cia agents, World Bank execs, and other assorted ex-mercenaries of the Corporatocracy. I sympathize and empathize with John's position, although I can't help feeling sometimes that he's crying (of guilt) all the way to the bank. And I wonder if, at this point, he has really divorced himself from the material benefits and perks of his EHM past, or has a new set of "new age" rationalizations now kicked in. Has he gone from being a destroyer of peoples lives and the world to now being their saviour?

US history is not very long, nor is it very pretty: genocide, slavery, the brutal occupation and theft of other peoples lands, Jim Crow, lynchings, and massive incarceration, etc, etc, etc. Almost 200 years of Manifest Destiny, invading countries that did us no harm, incurring the mass murder of innocent men, women and children with weapons of mass destruction. An Ecuadorian once told me, "The USA fighting a war on terrorism, is like the KKK fighting a war on racism". Compared to the US government, Osama and his friends are bungling amateurs.

So John rightly discovered, apparently years ago, that WE ARE NOT THE GOOD GUYS, and his insider viewpoint gives his very clear arguments great force. Of course, the one thing US citizens don't want to hear, and will most certainly never, ever believe, is that they, and their government, are not the good guys. For many, it's a battle between good and evil, and just guess who represents the good. I applaud John Perkins for his efforts and thank him for his book.

My main problem with "Confessions..." is his solution. It sounds a little too "new age" and individualistic. Although changes in our individual lifestyles are laudable, and necessary, I believe they will hardly be enough to save the planet. He talks about the more subtle forms of imperialism (or perhaps colonialism), and he's right. But these more subtle forms also include the smiling Gringos going into the "developing" countries to help these poor defenseless people. As Carlin would probably say: when an "American" shows up in your country talking about "freedom" and "democracy" and offering you help, you can be certain that you are about to be screwed, and big time! And besides, the Gringos can't even help themselves, and they have even bigger problems, at home. So the "missionary" solution is not really the best, I believe.

I feel that we must first and foremost clean up the garbage in our own back yard, and there's tons of it, as I'm sure you know. Of course, cleaning up our own mess is much more difficult, and maybe even less satisfying, than going south of the border "to help those poor innocent souls". In any case, I believe that "those poor innocent souls" are very capable of solving their own problems, IF WE WOULD JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE! So, for them, our first priority must be to get our government, and the corporations our government works for, to leave them alone. And that also includes the Instituto Liguistico de Verano! I would be surprised if John did not agree. Needless to say, getting the US government to leave them alone is a daunting task if there ever was one. Perhaps Gramsci had the motto of our times: "Pessimism of the intellect, optimism of the will".

Please forgive this most presumptuous response. Blame it on "The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man".

## **Author**

Jan Coleman

Joined: 13 Jan 2005  
Posts: 49  
Location: Sausalito

## Message

Posted: Sun Apr 03, 2005 8:30 pm Post subject:

Thanks, Tom and Billy, for joining this conversation. As James just acknowledged, you both have brought good points "to the table" and I appreciate your candor.

Billy, not to defend John Perkins (he is quite capable of doing that when necessary) but to give some insight since I know him, I think you would be pleased to find that he is a very kind, thoughtful person who is genuine in his beliefs and "redemption". He certainly wouldn't want to be thought of as anyone's Saviour--and any profits derived from his book are going to his non-profit, Dream Change. He would have had many opportunities to go "to the bank" had he remained taking bribes and using his old "connections"--and has risked his life by breaking the code of silence of the NSA and writing this book.

I believe that each of us taking a stand in the way we live our lives and make decisions in the marketplace will have an effect--but the collective is far more powerful. You might be interested in taking a look at the scientific research that is being done at the Institute of Noetic Sciences on the power of collective consciousness ([www.noetic.org](http://www.noetic.org)).

The Pachamama Alliance, which was founded by Lynne and Bill Twist, is doing amazing work in the Amazon with the indigenous in the Rainforest and have recently developed a program called "Awakening the Dream".

It is a one-day workshop held in cities in the US and based on the Mayan belief of the coming together of the Condor (the southern hemisphere) and the Eagle (the northern industrialized hemisphere) by the year 2015.

It is an experience which brings the collective group to the shared dream of peace and harmony on the planet. It may sound "new age-y" to some but has been reported as a very powerful experience and is attracting highly intellectual and purposeful individuals.

As to "leaving other countries alone"--I don't see it happening as long as the perpetrators profit so successfully.

Yes, Tom--DENIAL and the "power-over" construct is so prevalent! Of course it is being reinforced by a very powerful propaganda machine at work. I would like to see the subject of this book explored from the pulpits of the churches, synagogues, temples and mosques around this country--for it is a moral and ethical issue. What do you think would happen? What would be the reaction of the Religious Right? Anyone interested in taking the subject to your neighborhood place of worship? Let me know and perhaps we can arrange to get a book to the clergy.

## Author

tom logan

Joined: 14 Mar 2005

Posts: 3

Location: Atlanta

## Message

Posted: Thu Apr 07, 2005 5:22 am Post subject:

### Quote:

I would like to see the subject of this book explored from the pulpits of the churches, synagogues, temples and mosques around this country--for it is a moral and ethical issue. What do you think would happen? What would be the reaction of the Religious Right?

explored from the pulpit? i'm going to answer your question with a question jan. but first a story...

i listened to an interview with catherine austin fits on coast to coast the other night. for anyone not familiar with her and her story it could be argued that it is even more shocking than john's (not to diminish john's story in any way). y'all can do your own due diligence... she's been around for years and is all over the internet. she has been under attack. both overt and covert, for years and has lost, had stolen from her, and/or spent over

a quarter of billion bucks over the years in her attempt to defend herself and survive the attacks on her. she's had the justice dept come in and steal her computers and files in an effort to destroy evidence. she has been under threat to her life and credits mike ruppert (from the wilderness) with literally saving her life by teaching her what she needed to do to keep from going down.

the bottom line is her's and john's stories validate each other and reveal that america's climb to power has been and continues to be fueled by DIRTY MONEY! TRILLIONS AND TRILLIONS OF IT!!

some who are wise to the ways of the current times say if you want to know whats going on just follow the money!

fitts campaigned hard for papa bush back in the 80's, was part of the republican power structure, and became his assistant secretary of housing under jack kemp following an immensely successful career on wall street. kemp's order to her was, "go downstairs and clean this place up... its a mess." little did she know that she would gradually discover over the course of twelve years that hud is a criminal organization laundering billions and billions of dollars. we're talking real dirty money here. if we're even half awake we know about drugs for guns. she discovered drugs for real estate... and a whole lot more. for example, in 1998 she discovered there was 59 billion MISSING from hud (<http://www.wherethemoney.org/59billion.htm>). by then she was doing contract work for the clinton administration and was subsequently fired for doing her job.

59 billion. stolen! from our own government by our own government in collusion with government contractors and the big banks! these are explained away ("accounted for") as "undocumentable adjustments". i did a google on that phrase and got 562 hits.

can you say u.s. treasury notes.? thats right! take your dirty money (obtained by doing real estate mortgages with narco-traffickers. i won't go into the details here but there is plenty of documentation on the web) and buy treasuries then re-sell them. instant wash. and the scam was so pervasive in certain areas it destroyed entire communities. (if you soprano fans find this idea reminiscent its because the show's story was based on real life hud charrades).

she's been working this since that first day back in the late 80"s and now believes we are under a financial coup d'etat. she has substantial financial and business expertise and has accounted for and documented hundreds of transactions and deals.

those "official statements" are unaudited. in 1994 fitts was part of a group who lobbied mightly for omb to produce audited financial statements and got laws passed to require it. starting in 95 omb is required by law to produce those statements. to date they have never once produced an audited statement.

in 2000 the dod reported 2.3 trillion "missing" as undocumentable adjustments and right after the 04 election treasury increased its liabilities in a rightup of 11 trillion against a refusal to produce an audited financial statement. at least enron cooked the books. these people don't even bother to cook books. they just refuse to produce them.

she believes this money has been moved out of the country and believes that eventually... after the credit and real estate bubbles explode, this money will come back into the country and buy up the resources and utilities at deflated prices. there will be no more middle class.

she has documented involvement at the highest levels.... both the bush administrations and the clinton administration, the federal reserve, the inspector general, the cia and nsa, wall street, central banks, the justice department, citicorp, chase, various and assorted government contractors like the carlyle group, the treasury dept, it goes on and on. hud is run and managed by the depts of justice and treasury, dyncorp, harvard, jp morgan chase, and lockheed/martin had a 150 million contract to administer to hud. no way these highly honored perveyers of the american dream didn't know what was going on. more than that even, they had to be participatory.

she says if you look at the centralization of political and economic power in this country over the last thirty years the primary mechanism is financial fraud and organized crime... all of which is deeply connected to the black budget. google those two words and you'll get 11.5 MILLION hits!

here's the point jan (and finally getting to answering your first question). fitts told the story that in the summer of 2000 she spoke to a group of wonderful people called the spiritual frontiers international foundation. they go out into the woods once every year to talk about how they can help our society evolve spiritually... a very intelligent dedicated group of people. she was talking to them about some of this hud stuff of laundering huge drug money through a system of mass uninsured (totally contrary to compliance with the law as a mortgage lending institution)mortgage defaults and the cia, iran-contra drug dealing and the fact that the dept of justice, when the inspector general reported through stanley sporkin in 1998, had said that the us financial system laundered between 500 billion to a trillion dollars a year.

all these lovely god-fearing, socially concerned people were real dismayed by these revelations so she asked them what would happen if suddenly we got out of the super power and world wide leader business and stopped laundering dirty money and stopped narco trafficking in the neighborhoods of america? a long discussion followed

that evolved into speculations of economic impact and if its so rampant and so many are involved could it have an bad impact on national security and how many corporations would be involved and so how many jobs would be lost and then mortgages couldn't be paid so houses would be lost. and pension funds destroyed and medical insurance policies cancelled and cars repoed and even the government checks would quite coming plus those ultra secure treasuries could default and taxes would go up and interest rates on their credit card debt would go through the roof because citybank, amex,et al are all documented to be involved too, and on and on and on the discussion went.

so fitts said, imagine there's a big red button up here and to stop all this corruption and get all the drugs out of your neighborhoods and out of your country along with every crooked politician and corrupt government official, banker, and corporate exec... imagine all you had to do was walk up here right now and push this button, who here would push the button?

of that group of 100 spiritually motivated, ethicly and morally concerned leaders how many do you think chose to push the button jan? that wasn't a "what if" situation even though she presented it as hypothetical. it actually happened just like all the corruption is happening and... i'll take you off the hook and answer the question... of those 100 self-proclaimed spiritually dedicated people gathered to consider how to contribute to the collective consciousness of spiritual evolution of the society they live in only 1 stood up. and i dare say these were likely more esoteric thinkers than typical traditional religionists who are likely much more inclined to the advancement of their ideologies, held images, and self interests than the realities that are the reflections of their own denials. particularly the ones preaching from the pulpit.

i have no interest in promoting coast to coast anymore than i have interest in putting down preachers and those that follow them. but i do have an intrereat in getting stories like john's and fitts' to anyone who might listen. everyone here has likely read john's book. you can go to c2c and for 6.95 suscribe for 30 days and listen to fitts nearly 3 hour interview. it was done monday the 4th and well worth the price of admission.

<http://www.coasttocoastam.com/shows/2005/04/04.html>

as a bonus you can even find their interview with john in the archives.

[http://www.coasttocoastam.com/search\\_results.html?query=john+perkins&x=11&y=6](http://www.coasttocoastam.com/search_results.html?query=john+perkins&x=11&y=6)

as for the potential reaction of the christian right to john's story i think the answer is painfully obvious but i will share a story in my next post that i think is pertinent.

a final note... looking at stories like john's and fitts' in the context of the world we live in today it is obvious we are in deep trouble in this country. indeed the planet is in deep trouble and life literally hangs in the balance. and i don't mean life as we know it, i mean life itself.

if we are going to survive we have some hard choices to make for they will require each individual to search deeply within themselves to find and then change where we have been and continue to be in alignment with the power-over agenda, often times in very subtle ways or in ways that masquerade and present as honorable, that is hell-bent on destroying life and all in the name of advancing it. life as we know it is going to change drastically in a very short time. looking at it that way can actually make hard choices easier when we really begin to see the alternative of letting sociopathic killers make the choices for us. in this case no action is an action.



i wish i could have painted a brighter picture for you jan. some will take issue with me for being so pessimistic. fitts is optomistic. i've listened to john and he is as well. i am optomistic but i am also a realist and i think we absolutely must recognize the extent of the disease in order to begin to heal it.

john and catherine point to our heritage. our tenacity in the face of adversity, as reason to be optimistic. i point to our ever escalating adversity as evidence of our imbalance that has been swinging ever further away from the balance point. we have to own it before we can change it. if thats pessimistic then i embrace it.

## **Author**

timbuktu

**Joined: 07 Apr 2005**

**Posts: 3**

## **Message**

Posted: Thu Apr 07, 2005 9:41 am Post subject:

assalamu aleikum

may peace be upon you

perhaps this may have indcated to you that I am a Muslim, one from the third world.

This is a very interesting, and in a way an uplifting, thread. I had posted our country's experiences on an Islamic Forum, where the Americans had simply refused to believe this.

I write here to let you know that John Perkins has confirmed what we have known and experienced at first hand.

Please forgive me if I am unable to be exact, for I don't remember the year, I don't even remember who was incharge in Pakistan. It is rather difficult to remember when for decades all your energies have been devoted to trying to survive. I do remember that we took around \$6 billion dollar aid (read loans). The loans were not for capital investment. We were inundated with useless and addictive consumer goods and services.

Iran had undergone a revolution, and we were the subject of studies by young American postgraduates. They came here in droves, and tinkered with our syatem to do social and economic ecpériences. We were told to assist them, not to question them, even if what they did went against our wisdom.

They were doing studies on Muslim peoples, on how to control them, as the case of Iran had shown new studies were required. I think they learnt the how.

As long as the Afghan war of independence from the Soviet Union lasted, loans were flowing in. When it ended, the flow stopped and the screws were turned on Pakistan.

Life became more difficult for the common man here than before.

This country found it impossible to service its loans.

Then we were again the subject of interest by the Americans, this time they came in to offer private loans to the government, to tide us over. They bought some journalists, and they bought some high-ups in the government, and our newspapers reported and published letters and articles extolling the virtues of taking loans.

Then India exploded the Bomb, and Pakistan followed suit as it was threatened, and then the screws were tightened even some more.

Life became so difficult that for the first time that I know of, suicides started happening in Pakistan. Let me explain that according to Islam, suicide leads to a painful repetition in Hell, forever, so there is a built-in system against the contemplation of suicide. And Islamic charity means anyone wanting food was never denied.

Yet, suicides from hunger rose from almost nil to 400 a year. It means that housewives could no longer afford to give the odd bread away. It means that life had become such a hell for many,

Our \$6 billion dollar loan had become \$40 billion, although we had managed to be on time for our repayments.

We had no hope of ever paying the debt, for it was growing at a faster rate than we could muster repayment with all our belt-tightening, and our slide further into poverty.

We sold the family silver, we raised the utility rates, we raised the price of bread, the staple diet, all the while our jobs declining, and we had no security net.

Our undocumented part of the economy helped us somewhat. I shudder to think what would have happened in its absence. As it is, we had started experiencing suicides due to hunger.

Then 911 happened.

So we started killing our own people.

I am sure you all know the mythology of the monster that needed to be fed fine young men (or women) to spare the city. We had a similar choice, and our President chose to throw our people at the monster to devour. As I said earlier, I don't remember the details these days. We were living with the terror:

of having a choice of either paying our electricity or our gas bill,

of either keeping up with our mortgage payments or keeping our children in schools that will give them a fighting chance of finding jobs when they graduate,

of knowing that if we lose our jobs once, we will forever be on the rubbish heap,

that despite us being full-time workers, we cannot afford to be sick enough to undergo an operation, for our pockets will just never be able to afford it,

of going without insurance of any kind, because the choice then is of either having insurance or food on our tables.

When you have such stark choices, your memory and your mind become numb.

What Perkins has said, we have known and experienced at first hand.

That is all I wanted to tell you. And that in order to survive, we kill our people, and tell your President we have killed some al-Qaida.

The monster needs fresh human sacrifice on a regular basis, or it will come attack us.

What choice do our leaders have? This way at least they are saving some lives.

## Author

**prisilla**

Joined: 15 Feb 2005

Posts: 31

Location: bellingham, washington

## Message

Posted: Thu Apr 07, 2005 5:22 pm Post subject: Justice and Peace

Timbuktu, Much of what your country is experiencing, the ever-expanding bottom rung of America is experiencing. Whatever has been brought about by the evil corporate industrial take-overs of weaker countries, is no longer a matter of countries, but of the weak against the strong all over the world. Remember Pope John Paul II said, "If you want peace, work for justice." We should all learn the lessons of solidarity, first realized in Poland. However, once something is realized, and changes are made, there must be continuity of purpose, or the goal is lost.

All who participate in extreme capitalism are supporting a godless movement of material, coercive power over society, not to be differentiated over fascism or communism; they are all the same. The inner-worth of human-beings is extinguished from society by such totalitarian movements, whereupon, the state becomes all, and the individual, nothing.

A universal corporate state is on the way to encompassing all humanity in its evil embrace. It is evil, since the value of any one human life is an absolute zero. Under this system, anyone and everyone is a replaceable number, a part in a machine, a machine which has no ultimate end, other than to perpetuate itself. It is a culture of taking, not giving. It is a culture where the aged, the physically and mentally fragile and the poor can be dispensed with at will. No one has intrinsic worth. Thus, even those at the top, are expendable quantities in the machine works. The state will determine who, and for how long, has the right to live. Want to save money? Send the worthless mouths to feed to the death house. Too, much objection over starvation methods of extermination? Give them a lethal injection. That is the mercy of this machine. We've seen it before. Yet, we have been slow to recognize it for what it is. We have been convinced that, sometimes, power must do inhumane things to sustain the whole. Where has this brought us? It's brought us to an abyss, where we must either choose to value human life, each and every human life, or not. Some of us are awakening out of the scrambling of "relative values" to realize there must be some absolutes or all values are destroyed in the relativity of extreme utilitarianism.

If we want peace, we must work for justice, if we want justice, we must value the intrinsic worth of every human-being. We must work together with a clear understanding about what is happening and its implications for the life of the planet,

for the life of every human-being, for any viable future. Solidarity.

Blessings, be upon you

## Author

debbekennedy

**Joined: 27 Oct 2004**

**Posts: 96**

**Location: global dialogue center**

## Message

Posted: Mon Apr 11, 2005 9:14 pm Post subject:

Dear Prisilla, Tom, Jan and Timbuktu,

I printed out your posts and carried them with me on travel. How wonderful to be in connection and dialogue across the world as we work together to help one another absorb the truth and find our way out of the darkness of so many troubles. Together your voices it create a balanced view of HARSH CURRENT REALITIES we must take in, accept and OWN IT, so we CAN CHANGE it. I too believe if we truly want a world that is healthier, more generous, productive and respectful for all people, we will have to work very hard to begin this transformation. It will come more from our collective thought, action and conviction, yes?

Today, Gandhi again spoke to me in the distance. He reminded me of the traits he considered to be the most spiritually perilous to humanity and to the charge we all have. I share it with you, my friends in peace.

Wealth without Work  
Pleasure without Conscience  
Science without Humanity  
Knowledge without Character  
Politics without Principle  
Commerce without Morality  
Worship without Sacrifice

Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man

It may be long before the law of love will be recognized in international affairs. The machinery's of government stand between and hide the hearts of one people from those of another.

To forgive is not to forget. The merit lies in loving in spite of the vivid knowledge that the one that must be loved is not a friend.

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

What kind of victory is it when someone is left defeated?

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Glad to see you, Prisilla. Welcome, Tom. Hi Jan and Peace be upon you, Timbuktu.

Debbe

## Author

Sami

**Joined: 04 Jun 2005**

**Posts: 1**

**Location: San Francsico**

## Message

Posted: Sat Jun 04, 2005 5:02 pm Post subject:

In 1948, fresh out of college, I spent a year in Central and South America. It was widely recognized and accepted that the US controlled United Fruit and huge plantations, workers, resources in many countries.

In 1977 - 2005 I have been creating a small business founded on love and human equality. My response to the pain I feel from my government is to create and model the kind of world we want instead.

My model, in which every day of my life is invested, is in San Francisco. One of our web sites, [www.peacefulworldtravel.com](http://www.peacefulworldtravel.com) introduces other places around the world and awaits participation of small businesses and meeting places with specific addresses, locations, times where travelers can connect with each other and with locals. ie: the Global Brain: we who travel are the neuron messengers; our hosts in over or under developed countries, are the synapses where we meet, converse, plan the relationships and world we can build together.

I say the peace makers of the world need to be as well connected as the multinational corporations!

I seek other cultural innovators to join with me, and to allow me to collaborate with them, in building a global network where local people are hosts of their own meeting places, mainly small hotels, b&bs, cafes, where, when peace makers (aka mindful travelers) are visiting their country, they are hosted by locals who connect them with the culture and environment, and travelers' hotel fees go directly to the hosts and into the local economy. I visualize thousands of these meeting places all over the world and would so much welcome your ideas and strengths and co-creation.

Salaam, Shalom, Peace from Sami Sunchild

PS

Have you seen the bumper sticker "We don't have a democracy. We have an auction"

## Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49  
Location: Sausalito

## Message

Posted: Fri Jun 24, 2005 4:38 pm Post subject:

Robert,

You post was thought-provoking and I agree that Confessions of an EHM is helping people all over the world connect many things they had long suspected, but couldn't quite put together.

I agree with your conclusion that the action "must be made by those who are uncorruptable." Doesn't it feel good to know you are one of those? Many others have shown up here and hopefully together we can get some of the work started.

With that thought in mind, what ideas to you have about engaging more of the uncorruptables. What is the action that "must be made" by us all. Where would you start?

Look forward to you answer...and welcome others to respond. All of us need all the help we can get.

Also, Joshua Peace Seeker regularly sharing ideas of "what we can do." Have you seen the his World Vision Dialogue. He has offered practical ideas and I know would welcome your thinking too.

<http://www.globaldialoguecenter.com/JohnPerkins.html>

Jan

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

Posted: Fri Jun 24, 2005 4:50 pm Post subject: EHM ALERT ---- JUNE 24

Hi everyone,

This came today and I thought I would share it.

It includes supporting information to the personal message John Perkins left for all of us on this topic earlier this week.

Jan

Berrett-Koehler  
Special Report on the High Cost of Debt Relief

Last week, after years of urging by Third World advocacy organizations, the leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized nations agreed to cancel 100% of the debt owed by eighteen of the world's poorest countries to international lending institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, and African Development Bank.

John Perkins, self-described "Economic Hit Man" whose actions once helped create third-world debt in the first place, argues that while the initiative may have good intentions, its hidden costs suggest that there's much more at stake than is being acknowledged.

"Debt cancellation is of course a good first step in the right direction," says John. "But \$40 billion is really a drop in the bucket compared to how much debt is still owed. Not only that, but in order to receive debt relief, all eighteen countries have been made to swallow draconian economic policies. Many were put in the position of having to privatize resources and sell them off to European and US companies—in addition to agreeing to dropping subsidies on home-grown products and ending trade barriers, while at the same time allowing the US to keep subsidies and barriers. In other words, there's a catch—and it serves the big corporations. What needs to happen is for Americans to get up in arms in support of true debt cancellation—get the G8 to drop the debt, no strings attached."

The G8's method of drawing the line between qualifying countries and non-qualifying countries has also come under scrutiny. As the [BBC](#) reported, the small African country of Malawi, which does not qualify for initial debt relief, spends more on debt than on health—and this in a country where one out of every five people is infected with HIV. [Reuters](#) quoted Kenyan Planning and National Development Minister Peter Anyang Nyongo as saying, "Those faithful in servicing their debt like Kenya are being ignored while HIPC (Highly Indebted Poor Countries) who have failed to service the debt are getting more attention. This is not good for Africa."

And debt relief is, of course, only part of the equation. Another issue up for discussion is aid—while Britain, France, and Germany have committed to increasing their aid to 0.7% of national income by 2015, the US contribution remains a paltry 0.16%. [The New York Times](#) stated that the Bush administration's approach to aid is "to focus assistance on countries that meet minimum standards of good governance and sound economic policy." By "sound economic policy," of course, the administration means state-sponsored movements toward privatization and "free" trade. If you've read *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*—or even if you've just followed the news—you know how well that works out.

Please email Jenny Williams at [jwilliams@bkpub.com](mailto:jwilliams@bkpub.com) with comments, questions, and suggestions for future EHM alert topics.

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**  
**Posts: 49**  
**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

Posted: Thu Jul 21, 2005 7:57 am Post subject: People are spreading the word

Hello to everyone,

John's book continues to stir the passions of people around the world and the "wake-up call" is spreading in interesting ways. Here are a few facts:

--- Over 150,000 copies sold in the first 8 months

--- Beacon Picture, a division of Disney, have contracted for a feature film based on the book.

--- HBO --- On Six Feet Under apparently one of the characters was in bed reading Confessions in one of the recent episodes.

--- In San Francisco, the SFO Mime Troupe has based their summer production, [\*\*DOING GOOD\*\*](#) on John's story.

--- and don't miss [\*\*JOHN PERKINS at the GLOBAL DIALOGUE CENTER\*\*](#), a central place to connect with related Confessions information.

Isn't it interesting that the international press has covered the book extensively--it is printed in five languages--and we are yet to hear much about it in our major media??!!

### What are your thoughts?

Jan Coleman

## Author

Francesco

**Joined: 12 Jun 2005**  
**Posts: 1**  
**Location: Switzerland**

## Message

Posted: Wed Aug 17, 2005 7:41 am Post subject: becoming a distant observer of the world

Hello everyone,

I am a hospitality industry student that, after having read CONFESSIONS OF AN ECONOMIC HIT MAN, started to look at the world surrounding us in a totally different way. The exceptionality about my personal relationship with Mr. Perkins' findings and



confessions is based on the fact that until the day I opened the book on the library shelf I really did not realize the real purpose of my life on this planet. Indeed, after reading such book, my eyes suddenly opened up completely, not scared anymore of what they could see, but rather I'd say that I became a more distant and cold observer of this system that, in my opinion, is reaching the collapse status. Why? Well, since history repeats itself over and over again, and overall considering the nature of human kind (which unfortunately is projected towards power and possession rather than responsibility and reflective analysis), what happened to previous successful civilizations (think about the Romans, for instance) should teach that willingness to own the world is simply suicidal, driving the entire society into a catastrophic situation that eventually leads to self destruction. I am not saying that within a couple of days our Western-American based system is going to collapse, but I am quite concerned about it on the relative long run. Quoting the words of a person that I truly admire, when a system is approaching its end, it tends to accelerate exponentially, in order to keep up with the unsustainable rhythm it self imposed over its development. That rhythm suddenly becomes simply too fast, and everything falls apart.

Well, it is quite obvious that this world is no longer human-focused but business-oriented, where the only considered value during the decision making process of any micro-macro system (from families to corporations, that's the only thing that matters...) is the monetary one. Our richness is ONLY measured over this material value associated to our existence. How disturbing is that? A criminal that becomes rich enough can buy the power to decide what will happen on the big picture. Discussing this issue with other persons I could draw the conclusion that for the large majority of us (and I talking about young people who will in a near future take the vital decisions regarding our survival on the world) is just not willing to think about it. However, I know that somewhere more and more people are recognizing the brutality with which the, by far, smaller part of the world population greedily imposes behavioral patterns to follow in order not to be killed (see the big picture, please). In a way or another, either by jackals or by cruel Western withdrawals of resources from countries that neglected certain agreements, the worst is expanding. And the crucial information organs are - similarly to Orwell's BIG BROTHER - shaping the masses' black box in order to make them believe what they have to believe. Freedom has never been so exposed to extinction - yes, like the rhinos, or the pandas - but nobody realizes that because we do not know what we are doing. More and more people skip voting over political issues, and that is frustrating for the ones that are fighting for a better world but they cannot communicate as they would like to, simply because that would alterate the political reliability citizens feel over our politicians.

Ok, I am not American, and I am only 24 years old, but I have been to America, I have been in countries where the American empire (to put it as Perkins did) expanded and I need to shout loud my disgust and rebellion. But how? I thought that the best way to do so was to open up and just share my views with others that share the same feelings.

If anyone is out there reading my post, I would really appreciate if you get in contact with me to give me some feedback, maybe based on personal experiences and/or on other keys to read Perkins in different ways.

Thank you.

**Thread 11: A rough book tour is not punishment enough for Perkins**

## Author

kurowski

Joined: 05 Jul 2005

Posts: 1

## Message

Posted: Tue Jul 05, 2005 7:22 am Post subject: A rough book tour is not punishment enough for Perkins

I just read the Confessions of an Economic Hit Man by John Perkins. It is a repulsive autobiography, I guess about the mother of all mid-life crises, as the author describes his remorse with the active role he played in a conspiracy aimed at inducing developing countries to incur excessive debts so as to subjugate them and control their natural resources. That individuals could on purpose miscalculate in order to gain benefits is a fact of life, but that this would be happening with malice on a worldwide scale and as part of an American conspiracy is just too much to fathom—and then just sit back.

I haven't the faintest clue whether the book is true or not and in fact I don't care because, in either case, Mr. Perkins needs to be prosecuted. Either by American or international courts for committing fraud and crimes against humanity, or, by the same courts, for seeding that kind of distrust that makes it so much harder for good people to trust good people—a basic requisite if the world is to stand a chance.

Something should be done, soon, before it gains more credibility. The book is already a New York Times Bestseller and even though it states that the "World Bank doesn't help them [the poor countries] to defend themselves. In fact, it forces them into this position," on the back cover we read a former lead economist of The World Bank saying that it "succeeds as a wake up call because the reader cannot help but assess his or her role on a personal level, thus providing impetus for change." Pearson ends his book with, "Like all confessions, it is the first step toward redemption." Good for you! But, pal, a rough book tour is not punishment enough!

I have been vociferously arguing against the Debt Sustainability Analysis of poor developing countries which is currently so much in vogue, basically because I feel that debt should always be contracted because it is productive, not because it might be sustainable. Nonetheless, against Perkins' Confessions my arguments do sound hollow and naïve though, come to think of it, I much prefer to live out my life with this kind of naïveté than to live with the cynicism otherwise obligatory. Perkins says he wrote so that his daughter could have a future. So do I—for my daughters and for his.

## Thread 12: My "awakening"

## Author

**rmh**

Joined: 20 Apr 2005

Posts: 1

Location: Maryland, USA

## Message

Posted: Wed Apr 20, 2005 12:10 pm Post subject: my "awakening"

For the last six years I have studied Economics. I have always received praise for good grades, excellent papers, great research abilities, etc... I am ashamed to admit just how naive I have been all of these years. Yes, graphs and equations are easy to learn, we can "massage" numbers to prove any point. Yet in the end what good am I really doing? I have always thought that eventually I wanted to work for some type of economic development agency or consulting firm. I was born in a LDC and always dreamed and imagined that after I got my American education I would be able to go back to my country and do "right". Now I'm starting to re-think my career path very seriously.

I want to thank Mr. Perkins for opening up my eyes to many issues that are not taught in school. I am not really asking anything in particular, I just needed to be heard, I needed my thoughts to float around in space instead of just bouncing around in my head. It has been an interesting couple of weeks for me and I am looking forward to learning and reading different viewpoints and ideas.

Thank You.

## Author

Bill

Joined: 23 May 2005

Posts: 2

## Message

Posted: Mon May 23, 2005 2:07 pm Post subject:

I'm responding quickly here, for the first time on this site, just to reassure you that LDCs such as your homeland need progressive economists also; here in the states Paul Krugman is a critical resource for us.

What we need are economic models that incorporate human values as well as strictly economic ones. As a citizen of an LDC, you may well be able to affect some beneficial change just because you have an education in economics. That's what Torrijos tried to do in Panama.

Don't give up just yet; your real challenge will be to resist selling out.

## Author

CherylBrighton

Joined: 31 May 2005

Posts: 1

## Message

Posted: Tue May 31, 2005 3:47 pm Post subject: Awakening too.

I am awakening too. I studied economics and John Perkins taught me what I didn't learn in school. Although I haven't labled it "progressive economist" this is a nice term for what I decided I could do. Be different.

Glad I saw the posts, it made me feel not so alone and also had a bit of encouragement that perhaps it is needed. Not sure where to start at the moment, but without people willing to do things differently how will anything change?

Cheryl

## Author

Bill

Joined: 23 May 2005

Posts: 2

## Message

Posted: Wed Jun 01, 2005 8:12 am Post subject: My awakening

If you are not already familiar with them, I urge you to buy and read Joel Bakan's ***The Corporation***, and either buy or rent the 2-DVD set by the same name. Probably available at your local vidoe outlet, or purchase through CoolStuff.com.

There is a segment in it where an industrial spy effectively corroborates Perkins's allegation that the U.S. clandestine services and corporate America work hand-in-glove.

If you do rent The Corporation, please publicize it as much as possible; have a house-party viewing.

And, again, we need progressive economists; not so much to tell us about the workings of the market, which are pretty much understood, but to counter from an expert point-of-view one of the market-worshipper's most effective cons: that hyper-individualism—effectively an anti-social pathology—should be seen as the highest moral value, where "moral" includes a concern for future generations. They have to be lying when they say that the unregulated market will ensure abundance forever. If they were honest, they would admit that they care nothing for the future.

# Thread 13: Creating a better, safer, healthier, more equitable world

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

Posted: Sun Apr 10, 2005 8:04 am Post subject: Creating a better, safer, healthier, more equitable world

### Creating a better, safer, healthier and more equitable world

Hello to everyone,

Everyday we hear about the "state of our world" and we've been talking about it here. It is easy for all of us to fall into a state of hopelessness at what we hear. We often feel frustrated and don't know what we can do or where to begin to effect a change.

I am often asked when I share articles on current issues, if I could please send some "good news". Here is one. If you read nothing else, please take time to read the following editorial.

Here's to Catherine Sundberg for reminding us that each of us can play a role in creating a better, safer, healthier and more equitable world!

I invite you to respond back...what do you think?

Jan

~~~~~

Published on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 by CommonDreams.org

#### **What They Can't Control**

by Catherine Sundberg

When the fate of the big beautiful world and its inhabitants really matters to you there is so much to be concerned about. War, famine, pollution, disease, dwindling natural spaces, super speeds and super sizes; we are hypnotized by the drone of too much of everything. It's so much to compute that we become desensitized and disconnected. This overload makes it easy to be so distracted that we are unable to discern the underlying continuity of an unhealthy system of attitudes and behaviors. Maybe we need a radically new way of understanding our predicaments and considering our options because these seemingly different issues are beginning to look more and more like symptoms of an ailing paradigm than they are individual problems to be solved separately. Our lifestyles are getting the best of us. We feel no connection so we assume no responsibility as individuals. There are so many folks who care and yet we seem to be assuming that any lasting improvements will have to be developed and instigated by our leaders in government and industry, after all 'what can little ole me do?'

The very institutions we are looking to for answers are the same ones who perpetuate our predicament. However, it is our sheer numbers as citizens and consumers that make their leadership and power possible. What would happen if we began to take matters into our own hands regarding our own lives and actions? What if we stopped buying the belief systems and products they sell? What if we learned to slow down, simplify, savor and make the best of our lives with a little less? What if we had an awareness of our intrinsic interdependence to all the resources that create the conveniences we so take for granted? What if we began making changes in our own lives instead of waiting for our authorities to deem them right and necessary through legislation?

Those who profit from our dwindling attention spans and unabated consumption will do all they can to keep the status quo. They do not want us to know the true costs of continuing as we are. Therefore it should be of little surprise monitoring the utter lack of mainstream newspaper and television coverage in the U.S. of the recent Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report's release. It's big news in other parts of the world but we must not have time for such trivialities.

1300 experts from 95 countries spent 4 years on an unprecedented study of the state of the earth's ecosystems and what they discovered is sobering for anyone who has been determined enough to ferret out the information through alternative news sources.

What is quite distressing is the fact that Americans are being given little opportunity to weave this tidbit of momentous information into their cache of awareness. According to the report 60 % of the earth's ecosystems are degraded and it looks like it will only get worse. Our habits, our processes, our unexamined consumption and need for speed are disrupting the earth's ecosystems upon which we rely completely for our continued survival as a species. One has to question the level to which those in power will strive, connive and cover in order to manufacture our consent.

Being aware of this con-job however does not negate our individual obligation to continue searching for answers as well as mindfully assessing and incorporating constructive adjustments into our own daily habits and actions. So far no one can force me to drive somewhere I can walk nor can I be forced to purchase unethical products with poisonous effects on the environment. Those we believe to be in control cannot make me stop buying organic produce from local growers and they cannot stop me from deciding not to jump on the newest gadget bandwagon. I am free to exercise my curiosity about the world as a vehicle for further understanding and I am free to put my compassion into action. I am free to find the most suitable ways to go about adjusting my own lifestyle to that of a more earth-centered sustainable approach and they cannot do a thing about it. I believe Gandhi when he said to "Be the change you wish to see in the world," I take it literally, because I can control nothing else but my own behavior.

6 billion pounds of plastic would not be overloading landfills, littering our streets and filling our skies with toxic fumes across the globe each year if we, the purchasers, were not buying it. What kind of difference would simply refilling a reusable stainless steel canteen have on plastics disposal alone? Can we use a little less power in our homes than we did last year, maybe make a point to turn off our lights when we leave the room? Could we possibly try to purchase products and materials that are less disposable and have longer life spans? Think of everything disposable we have woven into the fabric of our lives: pens, napkins, plates, cups, lighters, grocery bags, and trendy fashion. We all have the opportunity to make incremental adjustments to our personal routines without experiencing a great sense of sacrifice or going back to a primitive existence. Each little step we take towards more sustainability is amplified by the accumulated actions of others choosing to do the same in their own

way.

Are any of us looking at the big picture?

Can any of us stop long enough to step back and view the broader perspective of who we are and what we are truly facing as human beings on the cusp? The answers lie within us and around us in the living world but they do not lie in what has positioned itself between us and the natural world; commercial culture. Commercial culture in the form of mainstream media, hyper advertising and power politics has tried to tell us what is important and what counts but it refuses to take into account that which counts most to our physical survival, the earth's ecosystems. To continue our lives with little regard for its true cost is to proceed down the path of the doomsday economy. Without healthy ecosystems that provide our clean air, fresh water, nutritious food and safe shelter, the ipods, stock options, facial tissues with lotion and Go-gurt are superfluous.

It's a paradox to imagine that by beginning within our selves any worthwhile progress can be made. But if we do not take the time and the risk of examining what motivates us versus what moves us we make terrible mistakes that affect us all. What, after all, is driving us to believe we need so much?

"If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth can save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you."

--Gnostic Gospel of Thomas

In his new book *The Science of Disorder*, Dr. Jack Hokikian eloquently describes our general lack of awareness of one of the most basic tenants of modern physics; the laws of thermodynamics. Many of us may be familiar with these laws from high school or college science classes but how they relate to our inability to take into consideration the consequences of our actions is worth the reminder. The second law of thermodynamics, also known as the law of entropy, states that for every use of energy or process there is a side effect or consequence, often unexpected. Without a working understanding of this basic law of nature we do great harm by not taking the time to consider the potential ill effects of the technologies and processes we have come to depend on and continue to employ. A further rush to faster and "smarter" technology will not ease our threat to the planet; it will increase the effects of entropy in action.

Our current economies consider these side effects to nature as externalities, in other words, something that is not taken into consideration. Our government leaders and politicians who are bought into places of power with the money of their big-industry counterparts may not yet be ready or willing to incorporate an awareness of what entropy is doing to our ecosystems and to our personal health, but we can. We can begin to think of our brothers and sisters across the globe and out of curiosity and compassion strive to better understand the cost of our consumption. We can begin to look at the living world around us and strive to behave more gently and more gratefully for the resources and natural services we share in common and cannot live without. When we walk across our homes and turn on our water taps, or wake up and inhale deeply of fresh air, or eat fresh wholesome food or use electricity to power our laptops for work, we can take a moment and simply feel awareness and appreciation for the most vital of life's elements upon which we so intrinsically depend. The earth gives them freely and it is up to each and every one of us to decide whether we are willing to protect these for our future generations. Do we have the courage to look at the big picture? Are we brave enough and determined enough to look within ourselves for the roots of our habits?

We need to stop waiting for our so-called representatives in government and

commerce to project the progressive American values we hold so dear and begin to project them ourselves. Many of us care even if the mainstream newspapers do not yet have the courage to tell it like it is. We each have the power to change our own attitudes and actions; the choice is ours and 'they' cannot do a thing about it.

Catherine Sundberg is a writer and artist living in Los Angeles and she can be contacted at [suncat66@aol.com](mailto:suncat66@aol.com)

## Thread 14: Get John Perkins on national media

### Author

**Tyler**

Joined: 02 Apr 2005

Posts: 1

### Message

Posted: Sat Apr 02, 2005 8:08 am Post subject: Get John Perkins on national media

On the Lehrer News Hour Thursday, March 31, Lehrer held a fawning, obsequious "interview: with Paul Wolfowitz, who carried on about his concerns for alleviating world poverty and what he will be doing for the poor in his new role as World Bank president. It was so disgusting, and Lehrer fed him such marshmallow questions that I e-mailed Lehrer to suggest that he has a responsibility to tell the other side of the story, and he should invite Perkins to do that. I quoted Perkins's summary of what happened in Ecuador, on page 203 of his book. No response from PBS or Lehrer, of course, but I am going to pursue the quest, and suggest that others do the same.

### Author

debbekennedy

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

### Message

ed: Sun Apr 03, 2005 7:37 pm Post subject: It Made a Difference for that One

Tyler,

It is so frustrating to see the guarded interviews even on PBS. What happened to the beloved "follow-up question"? It makes me truly appreciate when an event is covered by C-SPAN ... wish they covered more. What I appreciated most about reading your post is knowing you took action. Sometimes I think taking the time doesn't matter, but every ACTION we all take soon adds up to being a catalyst for change.



That's what great about us getting chance to share what we are each doing, because it keeps us all inspired speak up! Take what action we can.

Have you ever heard Loren Eisley's Starfish Story. I posted it a while back on another them I think...but it flashed in my mind when I read your message:

The Starfish Story  
by Loren Eiseley

"I awoke early, as I often did, just before sunrise to walk by the ocean's edge and greet the new day. As I moved through the misty dawn, I focused on a faint, far away motion. I saw a youth, bending and reaching and flailing arms, dancing on the beach, no doubt in celebration of the perfect day soon to begin.

As I approached, I sadly realized that the youth was not dancing to the bay, but rather bending to sift through the debris left by the night's tide, stopping now and then to pick up a starfish and then standing, to heave it back into the sea. I asked the youth the purpose of the effort. "The tide has washed the starfish onto the beach and they cannot return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun rises, they will die, unless I throw them back to the sea."

As the youth explained, I surveyed the vast expanse of beach, stretching in both directions beyond my sight. Starfish littered the shore in numbers beyond calculation. The hopelessness of the youth's plan became clear to me and I countered, "But there are more starfish on this beach than you can ever save before the sun is up. Surely you cannot expect to make a difference."

The youth paused briefly to consider my words, bent to pick up a starfish and threw it as far as possible. Turning to me he simply said, "I made a difference to that one."

I left the boy and went home, deep in thought of what the boy had said. I returned to the beach and spent the rest of the day helping the boy throw starfish in to the sea.

Debbe

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

d: Sun Apr 03, 2005 7:46 pm Post subject:

Hi Tyler--

Thanks for "stepping up to the plate" and following your reactions! You will be pleased to know that John Perkins was scheduled to be on the Lehrer Show last week but had to cancel because he was sick.

He will be on sometime in the future--watch our postings for his appearance--and respond again with your thoughts.

# Thread 16: Tommy Landers Letter to JOHN PERKINS

## Author

LTR TO JOHN PERKINS

Joined: 01 Feb 2005

Posts: 1

## Message

Posted: Tue Feb 01, 2005 5:54 pm Post subject: Tommy Landers Letter to JOHN PERKINS

**Tommy Landers wrote John Perkins the insightful letter below on [Berrett-Koehler's CONFESSIONS...Blog](#). With his permission, we have reprinted it to INSPIRE YOUR THINKING and seed the next phase of our conversation...**

### LETTER FROM TOMMY LANDERS

Dear Mr. Perkins,

My first glimpse of you was a couple days ago when I saw you speak on C-SPAN about Confessions of an Economic Hit Man. Your humble, confident, and compassionate presence reminded me of a quote from the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius: "Benevolence is invincible if it be genuine."

I went to your website and was shocked, in a good way, to see this statement: "When you look around, you know that this world of human societies was created by sleeping people, because awake, aware, conscious people would create a very different world." I also saw the website for Dream Change, and I appreciated the simple and humble attitude of "serving the earth." Marcus Aurelius also said, "The good and simple and benevolent show all these things in the eyes, and there is no mistaking."

I never imagined that someone like you might exist. That is, a citizen of a first world nation who is so well traveled and so appreciative of the ancient wisdom of indigenous peoples across the world. Furthermore, I saw in you no malice, no ill will. I believe that angry, negative statements only encourage further negative, destructive, and malicious energy. Your energy, on the other hand, to me seemed sincerely affirmative and positive. You are full of critiques of our society, certainly, but you put them in such a way that they do not come across as complaints or angry rants. Perhaps your message, at least in my mind, is one of community, of mutual listening and respect.

I am 25 years old. Right now my focus is on reaching out to people with a message that perhaps is not unlike yours. For example, I have a blog ([www.livejournal.com/~youarepeterpan](http://www.livejournal.com/~youarepeterpan)), but it has very little to do with my daily life. Rather, in it I say things like, "Live every day like it's your last, and treat your neighbors with respect, because it's their last day too," and "You always have countless addictions; willpower is limiting yourself to the useful ones." In response, people have written me comments like, "Your entries wake up the thing inside me that gets covered by all the crap life throws my way, so thank you," and, "Your post is very touching. I think that there are a lot of people who feel this way. I think that all of them, including myself, should get together and start something, change

something...but what can we do?"

Recently in the blog I mentioned you and your efforts. I also mentioned the tsunami disaster and how, rather than offering money, I want to offer myself and my actions. In response, somebody wrote: "The tsunami disaster made me question how large of a disaster it would take to actually motivate people to contribute more than their money. How many children have to be orphaned before everyone resolves to adopt? What good is money if not enough people are using it to help others?"

Thank you, and fare well.

<http://www.physics.ucla.edu/~tlanders>

<http://www.livejournal.com/~youarepeterpan>

## **Thread 17: JOHN PERKINS --- CSPAN SUNDAY FEB 13 AND FEB 27; NOW MAR 4**

### **Author**

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

### **Message**

Posted: Fri Feb 11, 2005 4:12 pm    Post subject: JOHN PERKINS ---CSPAN SUNDAY FEB 13 AND FEB 27

### **JOHN PERKINS INTERVIEW ON CSPAN SUNDAY FEB 13 AND FEB 27...**

Greetings!

An interview with John Perkins, author of the "bombshell" book, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man was aired on C-SPAN this Sunday morning, February 13th and 27th.

**Don't miss his interview with David Brannacio (who took over as host when Bill Moyers retired) FRIDAY, MARCH 4 on PBS on the NOW show.**

John's book hit #12 on the NY Times bestseller list this week, is on all the other major lists in the US and is in its **8th** printing in 14 weeks. John spoke at the World Social Forum in Brazil last week to thundering applause and has an unbelievable schedule of radio and personal appearances across the country (see posts with links to articles, transcripts and upcoming events).

People across the country are demonstrating the amazing interest in the powerful message:

--- It is heartening to know that the major business schools in the country are

requesting him to speak.

--- At the NOW show, he was told he is the most-requested guest they've had.

--- A woman in Denver who went to the Public Library to sign out the book was told that ordinarily they have 10 to 12 people on the waiting list for a book, but there are over 900 people waiting for *Confessions of an Economic Man*!!

We are just beginning conversations at the Global Dialogue Center-24seven Conversations. We would welcome your participation, so join in...

I would love your feedback on the book, articles and interviews, as well as your thoughts in general related to this topic.

What would you like most to see in to stimulate a meaningful conversation???  
Share your thoughts!

Jan Coleman

## Thread 18: Corruption in FOREIGN AID --- John Perkins Comments

### Author

stevepiersanti

**Joined: 09 Nov 2004**

**Posts: 9**

**Location: Berrett-Koehler**

### Message

Posted: Sun Jan 23, 2005 5:55 pm    Post subject: Corruption in FOREIGN AID --- John Perkins Comments

Hi to everyone,

In an article, *Author: Tsunami aid may line U.S. pockets* printed January 17 in the TUCSON CITIZEN, John Perkins warns about the potential for corruption in foreign aid in South Asia Tsunami. Here is the link to the article:

[http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=local&story\\_id=011705a1\\_tsunamiaid](http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=local&story_id=011705a1_tsunamiaid)

After reading the article, I asked John Perkins to clarify a few questions. His responses help us all better understand how "foreign aid" works:

**Question:** How much of the economic development that you discuss in *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* was called "foreign aid"?

**John:** We referred to most all of it that way, not sure if there is some legal definition.

**Question:** Are the loans from the World Bank and other international development institutions considered foreign aid?

**John:** Yes, per the above.

**Question:** How much of the foreign aid is loans, and how much is grants that don't have to be repaid?

**John:** Very few grants in my day. They were sometimes given to fund pr-feasibility studies that allowed us to go in and decide whether a country was really worth our efforts. After that, mostly loans, ncluding the feasibility studies and actual project development. Joe Stiglitz, former World Bank senior vp and chief economist, now professor at Columbia, raised a lot of eyebrows when he wrote about the harmfulness of loans. Ken Rogoff, former IMF Chief Economist and now at Harvard, attacked Stiglitz but when on Hazel Henderson's TV show with me admitted that he now believes loans are not a good policy. I was shocked -- and believe Hazel was too -- because he would not dispute my allegations.

Also, independent of John's responses to my questions, I asked the same questions to another expert who also confirmed these practices.

**I would be interested to know your thoughts about foreign aid practices and welcome you sharing other specific examples.**

Steve

---

Steve Piersanti  
President and Publisher  
Berrett-Koehler Publishers

## **Thread 19: Must Read/Listen: John Perkins Interviews with Democracy Now**

### **Author**

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

### **Message**

Posted: Thu Jan 13, 2005 12:33 am    Post subject: MUST READ/LISTEN: John Perkins Interviews with Democracy Now

Hello!

As a result of the success of "Confessions", John Perkins is receiving an overwhelming number of requests for radio interviews and speaking engagements. Amy Goodman of Democracy Now was the first of the major radio/TV hosts to interview him on November 9th shortly after the book came out. The program engendered so much feedback from listeners that Amy did a full hour with him two

weeks later--something she rarely does. The show aired on December 31st.

To read, listen or "live stream" the December 31 interview go to:

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=04/12/31/1546207&mode=thread&tid=25>

You can also access earlier interview on November 9:

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=04/11/09/1526251&mode=thread&tid=25>

Let us know what you think.....

Jan

## #2 Topic: RELATED QUESTIONS & REVELATIONS

### Thread 1: Things not quite adding up?

#### Author

**ctong**

Joined: 11 Jun 2005

Posts: 1

#### Message

Posted: Sat Jun 11, 2005 9:35 am Post subject: Things not quite adding up?

I recently read Perkin's Hit Man book. I liked the general theme of raising awareness about questioning US motives in "helping" other less developed countries. However, a part of me wondered if the "hit man" part of the story was fictional (Chas Main no longer exists, so we can't confirm with them, etc.). Carlos Casteneda's works have been questioned in much the same way: some genuine wisdom communicated, but in the context of a possibly partially fabricated story.

But apart from the reality of the stories related in the book, my big question is: does the main point -- this grand conspiracy and massive cover-up -- actually ring true? Or does it lean a little too much to the "paranoid" side of the truth? A headline story in the NY Times today reads: "Finance Chiefs cancel debt of 18 Nations":

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/12/international/12debt.html?hp&ex=1118548800&en=8bd63a58eddf726a&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

"Finance ministers from the Group of 8 industrialized nations agreed Saturday to cancel at least \$40 billion worth of debt owed by the world's poorest nations. The British chancellor of the exchequer, Gordon Brown, said that 18 countries, many in sub-Saharan Africa, would benefit immediately from the deal to scrap 100 percent of

the debt they owe to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank."

Why would they do this, if they were the completely ruthless, nefarious businessmen depicted in Perkin's book, hell-bent on keeping all these countries financially dependent? "A publicity stunt to continue the cover up?" \$40 billion is a rather big publicity stunt! That and similar "explanations" would seem to me like a really big stretch. . .

It just doesn't square. Can anyone enlighten me on any or all of the questions I've raised? Thanks!

## **Author**

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## **Message**

Posted: Wed Jun 15, 2005 5:47 pm    Post subject: Believe that some good things do happen

Ctong, thank you for bringing up this questions. We will all look forward to hearing John Perkins' and others' perspectives on these announcements.

The debt forgiveness is something that has been worked on for a long time--Bono has certainly been out there "leading the charge" and been successful with several national leaders of key nations. I think also Jeffrey Sachs' work on poverty has also had an effect. Guess we have to believe that some good things do happen when people have the courage to step out and ask for support for reasonable things from reasonable people! We just need more of it!

So, we need to keep talking, thinking, questioning and speaking up to keep the positive momentum going toward positive change.

Jan Coleman

## Author

EvilDick

**Joined: 30 Dec 2005**

**Posts: 1**

## Message

Posted: Fri Dec 30, 2005 6:34 am Post subject: Re: Things not quite adding up?

Follow the strings attached to the deal and you will likely find that they are actually ropes with which Big Money intends to further bind the people so that they (BM) can continue their practices of looting, polluting, and killing to satisfy their greed.

<http://www.worldpress.org/Africa/2107.cfm>

## Author

Arnold

**Joined: 19 Jan 2006**

**Posts: 1**

## Message

Posted: Thu Jan 19, 2006 6:00 am Post subject: Following the money

I agree. The greed and warprofiteering is far greater than any of us hear about on mainstream media. Check this out:

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11234>

Arnold

## Thread 2: THEME – HOW AWARE HAVE YOU BEEN?

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

Posted: Sun Feb 13, 2005 4:42 pm Post subject: THEME - HOW AWARE HAVE YOU BEEN?



## CONVERSATION THEME: HOW AWARE HAVE YOU BEEN?

**On Sunday, February 13th on CSPAN, with the room filled and people gathered outside, John covered highlights of his story and call-to-action message. Here is an excerpt from John Perkins' message today as told in CONFESSIONS...**

"That is what we EHM [Economic Hit Men] do best: we build a global empire. We are an elite group of men and women who utilize international financial organizations to foment conditions that make other nations subservient to the corporatocracy running our biggest corporations, our government, and our banks. Like our counterparts in the Mafia, EHMs provide favors. These take the form of loans to develop infrastructure---electric generating plants, highways, ports, airports or industrial parks. A condition of such loans is that engineering and construction companies from our own country must build all these projects. In essence, most of the money never leaves the United States; it is simply transferred from banking offices in Washington to engineering offices in New York, Houston, or San Francisco.

Despite the fact that the money is returned almost immediately to corporations that are members of the corporatocracy (the creditor), the recipient country is required to pay it all back, principal plus interest. If the EHM is completely successful, the loans are so large that the debtor is forced to default on its payments after a few years. When this happens, then like the Mafia we demand our *pound of flesh*. This often includes one or more of the following: control of United Nations votes, the installation of military bases, or access to precious resources such as oil, or the Panama Canal. Of course, the debtor still owes us the money ---- and another country is added to our global empire."

### QUESTIONS UP FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1. How aware have you been about the realities that John's story exposes?**
- 2. Are you surprised? or is it helping you connect the dots on experiences and events you been observing for a while? Do you have a different view?**
- 3. What examples of this do you see going right now?**
- 3. What now? What do you think about what you are learning? What ideas do you have about using these realities as a positive catalyst for change?**

**Let's talk about this together! Join me in seeing how we can help one another make a difference. POST YOUR INSIGHTS, STORIES and SUGGESTIONS.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jan

## Author

**deepwaters**

Joined: 04 Feb 2005

Posts: 6

## Message

Posted: Sun Feb 13, 2005 11:10 pm Post subject: Theme: Intentions of EHM

This is a startling passage, as I had always assumed that most people are well intentioned, even if self-interested. I find the explicit pattern of deception and pretense disconcerting.

Last month I traveled through Ecuador where I spoke with a well educated, thoughtful community leader. I asked him about economic aid programs, and he said that the IMF and World Bank were viewed largely as outreach arms of U.S. economic dominance. But I never thought of this as a web that was intentionally woven to foster dependency.

A question for John Perkins: To what extent are people in international AID agencies like IMF and World Bank operating CONSCIOUSLY with the intention to exploit and dominate? Perhaps more importantly, what is their version of the story? What is the theory and philosophy of aid projects that allow them to legitimately feel proud of their work? (although you might argue that they are ill-informed or in denial of the negative effects.)

And what is THEIR reaction, as insiders, to the book?

Thanks,  
DW

## Author

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**  
**Posts: 49**  
**Location: Sausalito**

## Message

Posted: Mon Feb 21, 2005 11:19 pm Post subject:

Deepwaters,

My regrets for the delay in getting back with you. Thank you for sharing from your experience of traveling to Ecuador and for posing a few interesting questions for John Perkins. I will make every effort to forward these to him and see what comments he might have to share. As you might imagine, his travel schedule is heavy, so this may be somewhat difficult in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I would like to invite others to comment on these questions to see what knowledge might be out there that we can all learn from:

**To what extent do you think people in international AID agencies like IMF and World Bank are operating CONSCIOUSLY with the intention to exploit and dominate?**

**How do you think people in international AID agencies would tell this story from their perspective? Any thoughts or personal experiences?**

Welcome all opinions and knowledge from joining us for this conversation.

Jan Coleman

## **Thread 3: Grassroots efforts are having an impact!!!**

### **Author**

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

### **Message**

Posted: Wed Jun 15, 2005 6:11 pm Post subject: Grassroots efforts are having an impact!!!

#### **Grassroots efforts are having an impact!!!**

The work being done at the grassroots level around the world IS having an effect! Read on...and perhaps you will be inspired to join the movement if you haven't already done so through the article below...

Jan Coleman

#### **NGOs: The 'World's New Superpower' Seeks 'Better World'**

by Thalif Deen

Published on Saturday, June 4, 2005 by the [Inter Press Service](#)

MONTREAL - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's characterization of civil society as "the world's new superpower" reverberated through the corridors of McGill University here this week as 350-plus representatives of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) met to hatch strategies to prod world governments on crucial political, social, and economic issues that plague the world's poorer nations.

"After decades of undemocratic and ineffective global governance on key global issues -- ranging from development and environment to human rights, trade, and security -- now is the time to privilege and highlight the visions and views of civil society leaders around the world," said James Riker of the University of Maryland, USA.

**The United Nations is not simply an inevitable 'tool of U.S. foreign policy' like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), even if it often gets used in that way...We have to reclaim the United Nations, not destroy it.**

**Phyllis Bennis  
Institute for Policy Studies**

Playing an important role in this new vision for a better global society should be the estimated 40,000 international NGOs who comprise today's civil society, he said.

NGOs have increased in numbers and have begun to fill essential gaps in global leadership on key issues, he added, citing successes including the international campaign to ban landmines and the Kyoto Protocol to curb global warming.

Riker said that civil society also played a watchdog role by mobilizing to oppose secret negotiations over proposed rules governing foreign direct investment through the Multilateral Agreement on Investment.

They also undertook advocacy campaigns that compelled global institutions to act on debt relief and acknowledge serious problems in their backing for dams.

Kathryn Mulvey, executive director of the U.S.-based [Corporate Accountability International](#), said the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which came into force last February, also was a major NGO achievement.

More than 200 NGOs were directly or indirectly involved in the entire three-year process, she said.

"The FCTC is the first global health and corporate accountability treaty that challenged the abusive practices by transnational corporations," Mulvey told IPS.

The treaty, backed by civil society organizations as well as countries from Asia, the Caribbean, Middle East, and Pacific, was a collaborative effort that ultimately will save millions of lives and change the way tobacco giants like Altria, British American Tobacco and Japan Tobacco International operate globally, she added.

Rajesh Tandon, chair of the [Montreal International Forum](#), said that while NGOs should continue to critique governments and their policies, "we should also look for opportunities to collaborate because you cannot move forward without collaboration."

Asked if he was confident that civil society could successfully link up with governments on public policy issues, Tandon said yes, "because there is more maturity in the NGO movement now than five years ago."

The World Social Forum ([WSF](#)) -- held annually since 2001 in Porte Allegre, Brazil and Mumbai, India -- drew over 75,000 people and hundreds of NGOs last January.

Created in response to the World Economic Forum held annually in Davos, Switzerland -- which represents the world's big business interests -- the WSF has continued to spearhead the campaign against what participants call corporate-led globalization, which they say has had a devastating impact on the economies of developing nations.

Cashing in on their collective track record, the NGOs meeting in Montreal this week agreed to promote regional integration to enhance the role of civil society on issues relating to debt, hunger, development assistance, the environment and changes they say are needed at multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The first test will come June 23-24 when the United Nations hosts two days of civil society hearings to discuss poverty eradication and U.N. structural reforms.

"We should treat the U.N.'s civil society hearings as a prototype of an annual global civil society forum we seek to institute at the United Nations," said Rob Wheeler of the [Association of World Citizens](#), a U.S.-based association claiming affiliates in at least 30 countries.

The NGO hearings will precede a U.N. summit meeting of world leaders scheduled to take place in mid-September.

Benton Musslewhite of [One World Now](#), a group promoting international studies among high school students in the Seattle, USA region, said that he, along with Wheeler, planned to establish an NGO steering committee to campaign to revise the U.N. charter and make it what activists groups would consider a more responsive instrument of global governance.

He challenged -- but did not disagree with-- the U.S. neo-conservative view that the United Nations had to be written off as "irrelevant."

"Frankly, it is hard to disagree with that view when it comes to really dealing with our global problems in an effective way. But this is not the fault of those who run the present United Nations," he added.

The people who have run the United Nations for the last 60 years have done wonderful things, he said, adding, "look at the U.N. children's agency UNICEF and the vaccination of millions of children."

But the fact remains that the present United Nations "simply does not have the power to take globally effective steps to deal with global warming, save rainforests, protect oceans, keep the peace, generate disarmament, end poverty, prevent terrorism, stop genocide, control pandemics, provide aid when natural disasters occur, and address the many other serious global problems we face," he said.

Phyllis Bennis of the Washington-based think tank Institute for Policy Studies said there is "a big challenge ahead within the anti-globalisation and peace movements around the world".

And that challenge, she told IPS, is to educate people about why "the United Nations is not simply an inevitable 'tool of U.S. foreign policy' like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), even if it often gets used in that way."

She emphasized that "we have to reclaim the United Nations, not destroy it."

Nigel Martin, president of the Montreal International Forum, which organized this week's talks here, said that NGOs increasingly are mobilizing their resources to campaign for a better global society, as evidenced at the WSF meetings in Brazil and India.

He also singled out the rising interest of youth in political, social and economic issues. "We had to turn down over 100 youth volunteers worldwide who wanted to participate in our seminar," Martin said.

"They came with extraordinary understanding of the issues we were going to discuss. The demand was overwhelming. We plan to tap this source and this energy for the future," he added.

## Thread 4: John Perkins book showing up on a PR site

### Author

WesleyT

Joined: 30 May 2005

Posts: 3

### Message

Posted: Mon May 30, 2005 6:21 pm Post subject: John Perkins book showing up on a PR site

i found Perkins' book on a pr blog. it was encouraging to see it is being referenced on a public relations news site not for his pr reasons, but to ask a question about the claims he made and how they might relate to what the US machine is doing. people seem to be making connections.

<http://prmachine.blogspot.com/2005/05/confessions-of-pr-hit-man-prhm.html> -wesley

## Thread 5: Who's to blame?

### Author

Jan Coleman

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

### Message

Posted: Mon May 23, 2005 3:17 pm Post subject: Who's to blame?

Thought this perspective might be valuable in putting things into perspective:

Jan Coleman

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### Don't Blame Newsweek

By Molly Ivins

Creators Syndicate

Tuesday 17 May 2005

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Austin, Texas -- As Riley used to say on an ancient television sitcom, "This is a revoltin' development." There seems to be a bit of a campaign on the right to blame Newsweek for the anti-American riots in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other Islamic countries.

Uh, people, I hate to tell you this, but the story about Americans abusing the Koran

in order to enrage prisoners has been out there for quite some time. The first mention I found of it is March 17, 2004, when the Independent of London interviewed the first British citizen released from Guantanamo Bay. The prisoner said he had been physically beaten but did not consider that as bad as the psychological torture, which he described extensively. Jamal al-Harith, a computer programmer from Manchester, said 70 percent of the inmates had gone on a hunger strike after a guard kicked a copy of the Koran. The strike was ended by force-feeding.

Then came the report, widely covered in American media last December, by the International Red Cross concerning torture at Gitmo. I wrote at the time: "In the name of Jesus Christ Almighty, why are people representing our government, paid by us, writing filth on the Korans of helpless prisoners? Is this American? Is this Christian? What are our moral values? Where are the clergymen on this? Speak up, speak out."

The reports kept coming: Dec. 30, 2004, "Released Moroccan Guantanamo Detainee Tells Islamist Paper of His Ordeal," reported the Financial Times. "They watched you each time you went to the toilet; the American soldiers used to tear up copies of Koran and throw them in the toilet. ..." said the released prisoner.

On Jan. 9, 2005, Andrew Sullivan, writing in The Sunday Times of London, said: "We now know a great deal about what has gone on in U.S. detention facilities under the Bush administration. Several government and Red Cross reports detail the way many detainees have been treated. We know for certain that the United States has tortured five inmates to death. We know that 23 others have died in U.S. custody under suspicious circumstances. We know that torture has been practiced by almost every branch of the U.S. military in sites all over the world -- from Abu Ghraib to Tikrit, Mosul, Basra, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay.

"We know that no incidents of abuse have been reported in regular internment facilities and that hundreds have occurred in prisons geared to getting intelligence. We know that thousands of men, women and children were grabbed almost at random from their homes in Baghdad, taken to Saddam's former torture palace and subjected to abuse, murder, beatings, semi-crucifixions and rape.

"All of this is detailed in the official reports. What has been perpetrated in secret prisons to 'ghost detainees' hidden from Red Cross inspection, we do not know. We may never know.

"This is America? While White House lawyers were arguing about what separates torture from legitimate 'coercive interrogation techniques,' the following was taking place: Prisoners were hanged for hours or days from bars or doors in semi-crucifixions; they were repeatedly beaten unconscious, woken and then beaten again for days on end; they were sodomized; they were urinated on, kicked in the head, had their ribs broken, and were subjected to electric shocks.

"Some Muslims had pork or alcohol forced down their throats; they had tape placed over their mouths for reciting the Koran; many Muslims were forced to be naked in front of each other, members of the opposite sex and sometimes their own families. It was routine for the abuses to be photographed in order to threaten the showing of the humiliating footage to family members."

The New York Times reported on May 1 on the same investigation Newsweek was writing about and interviewed a released Kuwaiti, who spoke of three major hunger strikes, one of them touched off by "guards' handling copies of the Koran, which had been tossed into a pile and stomped on. A senior officer delivered an apology over the camp's loudspeaker system, pledging that such abuses would stop. Interpreters, standing outside each prison block, translated the officer's apology. A former

interrogator at Guantanamo, in an interview with the Times, confirmed the accounts of the hunger strikes, including the public expression of regret over the treatment of the Korans."

So where does all this leave us? With a story that is not only true, but previously reported numerous times. So let's drop the "Lynch Newsweek" bull. Seventeen people have died in these riots. They didn't die because of anything Newsweek did -- the riots were caused by what our government has done.

Get your minds around it. Our country is guilty of torture. To quote myself once more: "What are you going to do about this? It's your country, your money, your government. You own this country, you run it, you are the board of directors. They are doing this in your name. The people we elected to public office do what you want them to. Perhaps you should get in touch with them."

## Thread 6: "Reconstruction" of Countries Not Yet Destroyed

### Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

### Message

Posted: Sun Apr 17, 2005 2:39 pm Post subject: "Reconstruction" of Countries Not Yet Destroyed

### "Reconstruction" of Countries Not Yet Destroyed

Dear 24seven friends,

This article from *The Nation* is, in my opinion, a "must read" for every American! Frankly, it sickened me! Certainly, it is timely considering the recent Wolfowitz appointment to the World Bank--and confirms the furtherance of the US globalization efforts described in John Perkins' book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*.

I welcome your comments and thinking after you read it. Pass it on!

Jan

Excerpt From **THE NATION**

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20050502&s=klein>

### The Rise of Disaster Capitalism

Last summer, in the lull of the August media doze, the Bush Administration's doctrine of preventive war took a major leap forward. On August 5, 2004, the White House created the Office of the



Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, headed by former US Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual. Its mandate is to draw up elaborate "post-conflict" plans for up to twenty-five countries that are not, as of yet, in conflict. According to Pascual, it will also be able to coordinate three full-scale reconstruction operations in different countries "at the same time," each lasting "five to seven years."

Fittingly, a government devoted to perpetual pre-emptive deconstruction now has a standing office of perpetual pre-emptive reconstruction.

Gone are the days of waiting for wars to break out and then drawing up ad hoc plans to pick up the pieces. In close cooperation with the National Intelligence Council, Pascual's office keeps "high risk" countries on a "watch list" and assembles rapid-response teams ready to engage in prewar planning and to "mobilize and deploy quickly" after a conflict has gone down. The teams are made up of private companies, nongovernmental organizations and members of think tanks--some, Pascual told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in October, will have "pre-completed" contracts to rebuild countries that are not yet broken. Doing this paperwork in advance could "cut off three to six months in your response time."

The plans Pascual's teams have been drawing up in his little-known office in the State Department are about changing "the very social fabric of a nation," he told CSIS. The office's mandate is not to rebuild any old states, you see, but to create "democratic and market-oriented" ones. So, for instance (and he was just pulling this example out of his hat, no doubt), his fast-acting reconstructors might help sell off "state-owned enterprises that created a nonviable economy." Sometimes rebuilding, he explained, means "tearing apart the old."

Few ideologues can resist the allure of a blank slate--that was colonialism's seductive promise: "discovering" wide-open new lands where utopia seemed possible. But colonialism is dead, or so we are told; there are no new places to discover, no terra nullius (there never was), no more blank pages on which, as Mao once said, "the newest and most beautiful words can be written." There is, however, plenty of destruction--countries smashed to rubble, whether by so-called Acts of God or by Acts of Bush (on orders from God). And where there is destruction there is reconstruction, a chance to grab hold of "the terrible barrenness," as a UN official recently described the devastation in Aceh, and fill it with the most perfect, beautiful plans.

"We used to have vulgar colonialism," says Shalmali Guttal, a Bangalore-based researcher with Focus on the Global South. "Now we have sophisticated colonialism, and they call it 'reconstruction.'"

It certainly seems that ever-larger portions of the globe are under active reconstruction: being rebuilt by a parallel government made up of a familiar cast of for-profit consulting firms, engineering companies, mega-NGOs, government and UN aid agencies and international financial institutions. And from the people living in these reconstruction sites--Iraq to Aceh, Afghanistan to Haiti--a similar chorus of complaints can be heard. The work is far too slow, if it is

happening at all. Foreign consultants live high on cost-plus expense accounts and thousand-dollar-a-day salaries, while locals are shut out of much-needed jobs, training and decision-making. Expert "democracy builders" lecture governments on the importance of transparency and "good governance," yet most contractors and NGOs refuse to open their books to those same governments, let alone give them control over how their aid money is spent.

Three months after the tsunami hit Aceh, the New York Times ran a distressing story reporting that "almost nothing seems to have been done to begin repairs and rebuilding." The dispatch could easily have come from Iraq, where, as the Los Angeles Times just reported, all of Bechtel's allegedly rebuilt water plants have started to break down, one more in an endless litany of reconstruction screw-ups. It could also have come from Afghanistan, where President Hamid Karzai recently blasted "corrupt, wasteful and unaccountable" foreign contractors for "squandering the precious resources that Afghanistan received in aid." Or from Sri Lanka, where 600,000 people who lost their homes in the tsunami are still languishing in temporary camps. One hundred days after the giant waves hit, Herman Kumara, head of the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement in Negombo, Sri Lanka, sent out a desperate e-mail to colleagues around the world. "The funds received for the benefit of the victims are directed to the benefit of the privileged few, not to the real victims," he wrote. "Our voices are not heard and not allowed to be voiced."

But if the reconstruction industry is stunningly inept at rebuilding, that may be because rebuilding is not its primary purpose. According to Guttal, "It's not reconstruction at all--it's about reshaping everything." If anything, the stories of corruption and incompetence serve to mask this deeper scandal: the rise of a predatory form of disaster capitalism that uses the desperation and fear created by catastrophe to engage in radical social and economic engineering. And on this front, the reconstruction industry works so quickly and efficiently that the privatizations and land grabs are usually locked in before the local population knows what hit them. Kumara, in another e-mail, warns that Sri Lanka is now facing "a second tsunami of corporate globalization and militarization," potentially even more devastating than the first. "We see this as a plan of action amidst the tsunami crisis to hand over the sea and the coast to foreign corporations and tourism, with military assistance from the US Marines."

As Deputy Defense Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz designed and oversaw a strikingly similar project in Iraq: The fires were still burning in Baghdad when US occupation officials rewrote the investment laws and announced that the country's state-owned companies would be privatized. Some have pointed to this track record to argue that Wolfowitz is unfit to lead the World Bank; in fact, nothing could have prepared him better for his new job. In Iraq, Wolfowitz was just doing what the World Bank is already doing in virtually every war-torn and disaster-struck country in the world--albeit with fewer bureaucratic niceties and more ideological bravado.

"Post-conflict" countries now receive 20-25 percent of the World Bank's total lending, up from 16 percent in 1998--itself an 800 percent increase since 1980, according to a Congressional Research Service study. Rapid response to wars and natural disasters has traditionally

been the domain of United Nations agencies, which worked with NGOs to provide emergency aid, build temporary housing and the like. But now reconstruction work has been revealed as a tremendously lucrative industry, too important to be left to the do-gooders at the UN. So today it is the World Bank, already devoted to the principle of poverty-alleviation through profit-making, that leads the charge.

And there is no doubt that there are profits to be made in the reconstruction business. There are massive engineering and supplies contracts (\$10 billion to Halliburton in Iraq and Afghanistan alone); "democracy building" has exploded into a \$2 billion industry; and times have never been better for public-sector consultants--the private firms that advise governments on selling off their assets, often running government services themselves as subcontractors. (Bearing Point, the favored of these firms in the United States, reported that the revenues for its "public services" division "had quadrupled in just five years," and the profits are huge: \$342 million in 2002--a profit margin of 35 percent.)

But shattered countries are attractive to the World Bank for another reason: They take orders well. After a cataclysmic event, governments will usually do whatever it takes to get aid dollars--even if it means racking up huge debts and agreeing to sweeping policy reforms. And with the local population struggling to find shelter and food, political organizing against privatization can seem like an unimaginable luxury.

Even better from the bank's perspective, many war-ravaged countries are in states of "limited sovereignty": They are considered too unstable and unskilled to manage the aid money pouring in, so it is often put in a trust fund managed by the World Bank. This is the case in East Timor, where the bank doles out money to the government as long as it shows it is spending responsibly. Apparently, this means slashing public-sector jobs (Timor's government is half the size it was under Indonesian occupation) but lavishing aid money on foreign consultants the bank insists the government hire (researcher Ben Moxham writes, "In one government department, a single international consultant earns in one month the same as his twenty Timorese colleagues earn together in an entire year").

In Afghanistan, where the World Bank also administers the country's aid through a trust fund, it has already managed to privatize healthcare by refusing to give funds to the Ministry of Health to build hospitals. Instead it funnels money directly to NGOs, which are running their own private health clinics on three-year contracts. It has also mandated "an increased role for the private sector" in the water system, telecommunications, oil, gas and mining and directed the government to "withdraw" from the electricity sector and leave it to "foreign private investors." These profound transformations of Afghan society were never debated or reported on, because few outside the bank know they took place: The changes were buried deep in a "technical annex" attached to a grant providing "emergency" aid to Afghanistan's war-torn infrastructure--two years before the country had an elected government.

It has been much the same story in Haiti, following the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In exchange for a \$61 million loan, the bank is requiring "public-private partnership and governance in the education and health sectors," according to bank documents--i.e.,

private companies running schools and hospitals. Roger Noriega, US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, has made it clear that the Bush Administration shares these goals. "We will also encourage the government of Haiti to move forward, at the appropriate time, with restructuring and privatization of some public sector enterprises," he told the American Enterprise Institute on April 14, 2004.

These are extraordinarily controversial plans in a country with a powerful socialist base, and the bank admits that this is precisely why it is pushing them now, with Haiti under what approaches military rule. "The Transitional Government provide[s] a window of opportunity for implementing economic governance reforms...that may be hard for a future government to undo," the bank notes in its Economic Governance Reform Operation Project agreement. For Haitians, this is a particularly bitter irony: Many blame multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, for deepening the political crisis that led to Aristide's ouster by withholding hundreds of millions in promised loans. At the time, the Inter-American Development Bank, under pressure from the State Department, claimed Haiti was insufficiently democratic to receive the money, pointing to minor irregularities in a legislative election. But now that Aristide is out, the World Bank is openly celebrating the perks of operating in a democracy-free zone.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been imposing shock therapy on countries in various states of shock for at least three decades, most notably after Latin America's military coups and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Yet many observers say that today's disaster capitalism really hit its stride with Hurricane Mitch. For a week in October 1998, Mitch parked itself over Central America, swallowing villages whole and killing more than 9,000. Already impoverished countries were desperate for reconstruction aid--and it came, but with strings attached. In the two months after Mitch struck, with the country still knee-deep in rubble, corpses and mud, the Honduran congress initiated what the Financial Times called "speed sell-offs after the storm." It passed laws allowing the privatization of airports, seaports and highways and fast-tracked plans to privatize the state telephone company, the national electric company and parts of the water sector. It overturned land-reform laws and made it easier for foreigners to buy and sell property. It was much the same in neighboring countries: In the same two months, Guatemala announced plans to sell off its phone system, and Nicaragua did likewise, along with its electric company and its petroleum sector.

All of the privatization plans were pushed aggressively by the usual suspects. According to the Wall Street Journal, "the World Bank and International Monetary Fund had thrown their weight behind the [telecom] sale, making it a condition for release of roughly \$47 million in aid annually over three years and linking it to about \$4.4 billion in foreign-debt relief for Nicaragua."

Now the bank is using the December 26 tsunami to push through its cookie-cutter policies. The most devastated countries have seen almost no debt relief, and most of the World Bank's emergency aid has come in the form of loans, not grants. Rather than emphasizing the need to help the small fishing communities--more than 80 percent of the wave's victims--the bank is pushing for expansion of the tourism sector and industrial fish farms. As for the damaged public infrastructure, like

roads and schools, bank documents recognize that rebuilding them "may strain public finances" and suggest that governments consider privatization (yes, they have only one idea). "For certain investments," notes the bank's tsunami-response plan, "it may be appropriate to utilize private financing."

As in other reconstruction sites, from Haiti to Iraq, tsunami relief has little to do with recovering what was lost. Although hotels and industry have already started reconstructing on the coast, in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and India, governments have passed laws preventing families from rebuilding their oceanfront homes. Hundreds of thousands of people are being forcibly relocated inland, to military style barracks in Aceh and prefab concrete boxes in Thailand. The coast is not being rebuilt as it was--dotted with fishing villages and beaches strewn with handmade nets. Instead, governments, corporations and foreign donors are teaming up to rebuild it as they would like it to be: the beaches as playgrounds for tourists, the oceans as watery mines for corporate fishing fleets, both serviced by privatized airports and highways built on borrowed money.

In January Condoleezza Rice sparked a small controversy by describing the tsunami as "a wonderful opportunity" that "has paid great dividends for us." Many were horrified at the idea of treating a massive human tragedy as a chance to seek advantage. But, if anything, Rice was understating the case. A group calling itself Thailand Tsunami Survivors and Supporters says that for "businessmen-politicians, the tsunami was the answer to their prayers, since it literally wiped these coastal areas clean of the communities which had previously stood in the way of their plans for resorts, hotels, casinos and shrimp farms. To them, all these coastal areas are now open land!"

Disaster, it seems, is the new terra nullius.

## #3 TOPIC --- WHAT QUESTION WOULD YOU ASK?

### Thread 1: You're late to the confessional: convince me.

#### Author

**gberke**

Joined: 05 Mar 2005

Posts: 5

Location: woodstock, ny

#### Message

Posted: Sat Mar 05, 2005 6:52 pm Post subject: You're late to the confessional: convince me.

Now, a question comes up: is this going to be "discredited" by the "Swifties", by Rove, by whatever... what are this mans motives? why now? Is it that nobody ever talks until their career is over, and can be counted on to lie absolutely until they leave office, public or private?

If they have lied all of their working lives, isn't it a little late for posing on the cross? They certainly have not nailed themselves up there and they certainly don't plan to die for any reason. Indeed, one absolutely has to ask: will the profits from the sale of the book and appearances be part of the contrition? That's not even asking that some of the ill gotten gains be returned, just the new money.

Maybe there is no other way: if you refuse the job, you don't know. If you quit early, you have no credit. On the other hand, this has really been obvious: did anyone really think Nafta and globalization was a good thing for the people? Really?

(By the way, Canada does the very same thing that the US does. So does France, England, Japan: every country that can, does. Sorry, I haven't the URL that tracks Canada's exploitation...)

## Author

rdst49

**Joined: 05 Mar 2005**

**Posts: 3**

**Location: Nice (Clearlake), CA**

## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 19, 2005 12:34 pm Post subject:

Here, Here! To Skepticism! That being said, how would anyone believe someone who was REALLY trying to expose these kids of horrendous acts against humanity? It's kinda like "not joining any group that would have (me) as a member"! There are always ways to dismiss even "informed expert" opinion. One can invalidate the "messenger", thereby negating the "message". When is it really the "right time" to come forward? The Bush Administration has been very efficient at not only downplaying, but even capitalizing off, the long stream of ex-cabinet members, Generals, Under-Secretaries, etc. that have come forward over the last few years to "tell" what they know. But did people REALLY believe the spin? Well, over half this country (that voted) decided to put Bush back in for another go at it!

Maybe we have to look within. Does it really sound true? Are there too many gaps, in the timelines or whatever? What is it's cumulative effect on your belief system? Do you really think Mr. Perkins is just trying capitalize from the sensational aspect of his "story"? Do you think some or ANY part of it is true? If so, please don't "shoot the messenger"!

I understand how easy it is to become cynical. I'm over 50 y/o now and I fight it with almost every breath. But if even part of what he has said is true, as with all the others that have tried, what are we as rational forward-thinking human beings doing to change it; and what do you think the ultimate outcome will be if we don't? That is one of the most important questions each one of us MUST be asking ourselves, as well as those we choose to be our leaders! I encourage you to give that some thought.

## Author

stevepiersanti


Joined: 09 Nov 2004

Posts: 9

Location: Berrett-Koehler

## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 19, 2005 9:08 pm Post subject: Veracity of John Perkins' Accounts

 RE: Veracity of John Perkins' Accounts

After reading your posts, I thought you and others might find this information interesting.

Recently, I published a response to address the questions raised about the veracity of John Perkins accounts in *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. I invite you to consider the facts and supporting documents that substantiate his story.

Click here to read [Is John Perkins for Real?](http://www.economichitman.com/pages/veracity.html)  
<http://www.economichitman.com/pages/veracity.html>

All the Best,

Steve Piersanti  
President and Publisher  
Berrett-Koehler Publishers

## Author

**gberke**

Joined: 05 Mar 2005

Posts: 5

Location: woodstock, ny

## Message

Posted: Sun Mar 20, 2005 8:07 am Post subject: Here are some real books...

This is from the publisher, books that "support" Perkins. Nonsense. These books merely point to the utter irrelevancy of Perkins. Perkins book shouldn't be on the same shelf as any of these books... his is more the level of "My Weekly Reader". .

"Numerous books and studies have supported John's principal allegations of the corruption, excesses, waste, overlending, fraud, looting, and money laundering in the international development business. See, for example, *Sleeping with the Devil: How Washington Sold Our Soul for Saudi Crude*, by Robert Baer; *Inside the Mirage: America's Fragile Partnership with Saudi Arabia*, by Thomas Lippman; *The Blood Bankers: Tales from the Underground Global Economy*, by James S. Henry; *The Global Debt Crisis: America's Growing Involvement*, by John H. Makin; *Overexposed: U.S. Banks Confront the Third World Debt Crisis*, by Raul Madrid; *Development Debacle: The World Bank in the Philippines*, by Walden Bello, D. Kinley, and E. Elinson; *Global Dreams: Imperial Corporations and the New World Order*, by Richard

J. Barnett and John Cavanagh; American Dynasty: Aristocracy, Fortune, and the Politics of Deceit in the House of Bush, by Kevin Phillips; Globalization and Its Discontents, by Joseph Stiglitz; One World, Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism, by William Greider; When Corporations Rule the World, by David Korten; and The Case Against the Global Economy, edited by Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith."

## Author

### Judy Schreiber

Joined: 21 Dec 2004  
Posts: 8  
Location: L.A.

## Message

Posted: Sun Apr 10, 2005 10:14 am Post subject: Torn between cynicism and optimism

In reading the recent posts, I find myself torn in how I feel. There is enough evidence and circumstance to make me cynical along with some of you about John Perkins intentions. However, I also feel a sense of frustrated concern and responsibility as an individual. It is hard to be optimistic on some days with what we see all around.

If I could talk with John Perkins, I would say we know how you explained your situation in the book. You left us with a list of "I could have told you..." statements and some questions in our minds. Can you update us by answering these two questions?

1. What is your response now to those of us wanting further explanation for your sudden confession, the intentions around the book and the personal gain you stand to reap from all of its success?
2. Could you share specific examples from your travels of what others are doing to create the change you suggest vs. just talk about it?

Judy

## Thread 3: Energy alternatives

## Author

### Ken Johnson

Joined: 16 Aug 2005  
Posts: 1  
Location: Ohio

## Message



Posted: Tue Aug 16, 2005 12:00 pm Post subject: Energy alternatives

JP said in his book that the new alternative energy companies had a very poor survival rate. Even his energy company got bought out by an oil company. While teaching environmental science, I found out that diesel engines can run on any vegetable oil, with much less wear-and-tear on the engines and practically no pollution from the exhaust pipe.

I've read that soybean farmers and others in our country are aware of this new market and waiting for real demand to begin. How aggressively, and by what methods, are the oil companies suppressing and stopping this development of alternative energy sources? It seems obvious that, if all the commercial and private diesel engines in this country were to change over to a vegetable oil fuel, it would be devastating for the corporatocracy.

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Sun Aug 21, 2005 7:56 am Post subject: Veggie Oil Power

Ken,

Have you visited JoshuaPeaceSeeker's blog at the Global Dialogue Center? It was inspired by John Perkins' book. He's actually converted his car to bio diesel, running on veggie oil. He has written about it recently:

WORLD VISION DIALOGUES

WHAT YOU CAN DO with Joshua Peace Seeker

<http://globaldialoguecenter-socrateshall.blogs.com/wvdyou/>

Debbe

## Thread 5: What QUESTION would you ask John Perkins?

## Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

## Message

Posted: Tue Mar 01, 2005 2:05 am Post subject: What QUESTION would you ask John Perkins?

### What QUESTION would you ask John Perkins?

Hi everyone,

As we explore possibilities for expanding our conversations, I would like to get an idea what questions are on your mind. Here is a question for you:

**If you had an opportunity to meet with John Perkins in an interactive dialogue and ask just one question or explore one topic further, what would it be?**

Look forward to hearing from you!

Jan Coleman

## Author

jacarey



**Joined: 05 Mar 2005**

**Posts: 3**

**Location: Minneapolis**

## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 05, 2005 3:29 am Post subject:

hello Jan Coleman, i posted some thoughts on the Broadcast of John perkins which was aired this evening on PBS NOW i hope you get a chance to review it . i decided to explore other posts and comments on the Forum and came across your Posit; What would i ask Mr Perkins if only one qustion could be asked? I would ask Him if Our political System as it currently exists was still Capable of Turning the tide against these forces of Tyranny? i would then Quickly Follow that up with a 2nd  in the hopes he would address it as well  and that would be Where do We start?

## Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

## Message

Posted: Thu Mar 10, 2005 11:43 pm Post subject:

Hi James--and thanks for joining us in dialogue! Your questions are good ones--and echo those that are being asked everywhere people are talking about the book. I can't speak directly for Mr. Perkins--he is frustrated not to be able to respond to each person who is contacting him but he is receiving thousands of emails each day!--but I have heard him say that he definitely believes that we can turn the situation

around. We have to if we wish to survive as a nation--everything about our existence is interrelated with all other living things on this planet. Just think what we COULD be doing in a positive way to lead the world--with all our knowledge, technologies, and resources.

Where do we start, you ask? I think we each have to start with ourselves, being more conscious of the decisions we make every day about our use of resources, the items we purchase, our attitudes toward others who may be or think a little different from us. I think we have to SPEAK OUT when we see or hear things that do not further tolerance and equality. And I think we have to make people aware of the situation--I don't think many people in our country realize what is or has been going on. We have been taught that our country is compassionate and fair and we have trusted our leaders to make good and fair decisions on our behalf.

I think it would be valuable to get the religious leaders in this country to begin speaking about it from their pulpits--this is a moral and ethical issue that affects us all. There is a lot of AWAKENING to do! What kind of conversation is taking place in your community about this book/subject? Who do you know in the media in your area who would like to discuss this topic or want to speak with John on the radio or TV? or at a local university, one of John's favorite audiences? What other ways might you have to assist in getting these conversations started?

You might join the conversation elsewhere on this site, too, and read the conversations that have been taking place as there has been considerable "talk" on this question. Thanks again for participating!

Yes, Linkette, there is talk of a movie and several queries have been made from people wanting to do documentaries. Who would you like to see playing the role of John Perkins?? And how do you think the story should be "positioned"?

## Thread 8: [Poll] Universal Labor Standards' Labeling

### Author

prisilla

**Joined: 15 Feb 2005**

**Posts: 31**

**Location: bellingham,Washington**

### Message

Posted: Sat Mar 05, 2005 2:14 pm Post subject: Universal Labor Standards' Labeling

I would like to know what John Perkins' would think about a universal labor standards' labeling for every product on a numerical-scale. For example, the product label would show country of origin and a numerical-rating. The rating, for instance, 1-5, would have labor condition significance: Perhaps, a five, means child labor, four, hazardous working conditions..and so on. A labeling system could identify if the producing country was on a gross environmental violations and/or a human-rights' violations list, as well. Every time I bought a product I would know if a child made my product, a person working sixteen hour days, or a person whose pay was

subsistence or worse.

What rating system would you use?

What standards would you choose?

## #4 TOPIC --- WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING? Your thoughts?

### Thread 2: HURRICANE HALLIBURTON

#### Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

#### Message

Posted: Thu Sep 15, 2005 8:34 pm Post subject: HURRICANE HALLIBURTON

Here is what John Perkins enlightened us. Now we get an example closer to home:

Published on Monday, September 12, 2005 by The Nation  
Hurricane Halliburton  
by John Nichols

Having finished the search for a luxury vacation home on the eastern shore of Maryland – which preoccupied him during the critical initial days of what is being called the worst natural disaster in American history – Vice President Dick Cheney jetted south late last week to inspect the damage.

With the wheels rolling for the purchase of his own \$2.9 million home on the east coast, the Cheney was more or less ready to commiserate with the folks who had lost their homes on the Gulf Coast. Unfortunately, not all of the locals were prepared to thank the vice president for finally showing up.

Cheney was greeted in Gulfport, Mississippi, by a survivor of the disaster who – recalling the veep's blunt salutation for Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy during a visit to Capitol Hill last year – repeatedly shouted: "Go f--- yourself, Mr Cheney."

After Secret Service agents dragged the local man away, Cheney was asked by a reporter: "Are you getting a lot of that Mr. Vice President?"

Cheney answered: "First time I've heard it."

If Cheney had actually interacted with anyone on the ground, however, he would have heard a lot more. But the vice presidential visit was merely the latest in a series of photo opportunities by administration aides who are scrambling to undo the

damage done by their plodding and disengaged response to a catastrophe that was made much worse by initial federal neglect and incompetence.

Gulf Coast residents may be in shock. But they haven't lost their sense of outrage. As Cheney posed for the cameras, Gulfport resident Lynn Lofton approached reporters and told them: "I think the media opportunity right here is a complete waste of time and taxpayer money. They should have been here last week."

In fact, Cheney arrived just in time to, as he put it, "make certain that we're doing everything that needs to be done."

The former CEO of Halliburton needn't have worried. As has been the case since the Bush-Cheney administration took office: When trouble hits, Halliburton hits it big.

The firm that has collected more than \$10 billion in Iraq-war related revenues is just

One of the first corporations to be awarded a reconstruction assignment after the hurricane hit was Halliburton's KBR (Kellogg Brown & Root) subsidiary, which has been tapped to repair damaged naval facilities in Louisiana and Mississippi.

KBR, which according to the able watchdogs at HalliburtonWatch.org has an ongoing \$500 million contract with the Navy, will be in thick of the reconstruction process. And don't doubt that there may be more work coming KBR's way.

Joe Allbaugh, the former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has a new job. He's lobbying for the Halliburton subsidiary in Washington and elsewhere. Conveniently, Allbaugh showed up in Louisiana on the day before Cheney's visit with the purpose, in the words of a Washington Post report, of "helping his clients get business."

Even if Allbaugh drops the ball, Halliburton is well covered.

The vice president can always be counted on to "make certain that we're doing everything that needs to be done."

John Nichols is author of Cheney, Dick: The Man Who Is President

## **Thread 3: John Mark Ministries in Australia adds Human Perspective**

### **Author**

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

### **Message**

Posted: Sun Aug 07, 2005 6:48 am    Post subject: John Mark Ministries in Australia adds Human Perspective

## **JOHN MARK MINISTRIES in Australia adds a human perspective in reviewing "Confessions of An Economic Hit Man"**

This is a review that adds a different slant to John Perkins' book, addressing the human elements that have come into question and discussion at the Global Dialogue Center and leaving a compelling call-to-action for us all. --- Debbe Kennedy

### **A Book that Reads Like a 'James Bond' Version of "Pilgrim's Progress"**

by Rev. Alan Wright

I use the 'James Bond' and 'Pilgrim's Progress' images advisedly. Jenkins himself suggests the former—he had those fantasies when he was an adolescent, and the role of the Economic Hit Man (EHM.) was for him a wish-fulfillment. But the EHM role increasingly induced in him such self-hatred because of its moral bankruptcy that it led to his 'repentance', (a word he does not use, but a process he understood very well), to his resignation from a lucrative job, and after some years and the events of 9/11, to this book of his "confessions". So he writes with passion, as did John Bunyan, author of "Pilgrim's Progress". Let us be in no doubt as to his purposes--:

"Believe me when I say that the writing of this book has been deeply emotional,, and often a painful and humiliating experience. It has been frightening in a way nothing I ever faced before. But it has opened me to a sense of relief I have never known until now, a feeling I can only describe as ecstatic.

"Ask yourself these questions. What do I need to confess? How have I deceived myself and others? Where have I deferred? Why have I allowed myself to be sucked into a system that I know is un-balanced? What will I do to make sure that our children, and all the children everywhere, are able to fulfil the dream of our Founding Fathers, the dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? What course will I take to end the needless starvation, and make sure that there is never again a day like September 11? How can I help our children understand that people who live gluttonous unbalanced lives should be pitied but never ever emulated, even if those people present themselves, through the media they control, as cultural icons and try to convince us that penthouses, and yachts bring happiness? What changes will I commit to making in my attitudes and perceptions?" (p.224)

Before reading the book myself, I submitted it to a friend with long experience in Third World development.work , a person now on the Australian Steering Committee of the Micah Challenge, a world -wide group of evangelical churches committed to the U.N. Millenium Development Goals. His comment was: "From my perspectives, this is no ego trip by a man over-stating his personal role; it is a credible account of how development loans were often made during the cold war era. More recently, as Perkins recounts, the system is more subtle, and the driving roles are more widely distributed, but many of the perverse consequences remain."

Exposing his own vulnerabilities. This book really is a confession. A great friend of his father-in-law, known as "Uncle Frank", was in the high echelons of NSA, the National Security Agency, with large responsibilities for screening and selecting spies. Perkins was thus 'screened', and as time went on, he realized the NSA's role in his meteoric career rise. In the screening process, all the things "that seemed so negative to me, marking me as an NSA reject, suggested otherwise. From the NSA viewpoint these negatives actually are positives. Their assessment had less to do with issues of

loyalty to my country than with the frustrations of my life. Anger at my parents, an obsession with women, my willingness to lie to police, and my ambition to have the good life gave them a hook; I was seducible." (p.7). All that became resource material that the mysterious agent named Claudine used during his meticulous grooming into the 'secret society' of Economic Hit Men (EHM) in 1971, once he was employed as an economist at MAIN, an engineering and planning corporation enjoying frequent contracts financed by the World Bank.

There was, of course, a sanitized version of his role as an economist:, drawing up for MAIN and for World Bank client governments, projections of growth in a particular country's GNP during the cold war. Perkins was encouraged by his handlers to prepare inflated scenarios, enabling the justification of gigantic loans for infrastructure development-- as well as making the US. And other construction companies, like Halliburton and Bechtel, fabulously wealthy! But a more sinister purpose was also made perfectly clear by Claudine: "I would work to bankrupt the countries that received the loans (after they had paid MAIN and the other US contractors, of course) so that they would be forever beholden to their creditors, and so they would present easy targets when we needed favours, including military bases, UN votes, or access to oil and other natural resources."(p.15)

That was the sinister, underlying strategy for US empire building, the reality of which gradually unfolded to Perkins. It was the corporatocracy: the marriage of convenience between the corporations, the financial institutions, and the government, the institutions of real power operating behind the façade of democratic institutions. (p.79). When the corporations own the media as well,( he lists that ownership in chapter 35, "Piercing the Veneer"), the media's role is simply to "perpetuate, strengthen and expand the system they have inherited". They also promote the myth upon which the system of domination rests, that everyone benefits from growth in GNP, while keeping the reality of the underlying power games hidden from the public.

The whole book, chapter by chapter, documents how this same strategy of global empire was played out, with endless variations as required within different countries. I will give details of only one, Panama, and the demise of its President, Omar Torrijos,; a man whom Perkins greatly admired for his integrity, courage, and commitment to the welfare of his people. What happened to men like Torrijos brought Perkins to moral crisis point. I quote Torrijos, with Jenkins comment: (p.75)

" Panama needs your help. I need your help ...We must also serve as a model, showing that we care about our poor, and demonstrate beyond doubt that our determination to win independence is not dictated by Russia, China, or Cuba. We must prove to the world that we stand not against the U.S. but for the rights of the poor ..I understand your company wants more work, and usually gets it by inflating the size of projects, wider highways, bigger power plants, deeper harbours. This time is different though. Give me what's best for my people, and I'll give you all the work you want."

"What he proposed was totally unexpected, and it both shocked and excited me. It certainly defied all I had learned at MAIN. Surely he knew that the foreign aid game was a sham-he had to know. It existed to make him rich and to shackle his country with debt, so Panama would be forever obliged to keep the U.S. and the corporatocracy. It was there to keep Latin America on the path of Manifest Destiny and forever subservient to Washington and Wall Street. I was certain that he knew

that the system was based upon the assumption that all men in power are corruptible, and that his decision not to use it for his personal benefit would be seen as a threat, a new form of domino that might start a chain reaction. He was in a precarious position. He had established himself as a leader, (and so) like his hero, Arbenz (of Guatemala), he would be watched. Latin American history is littered with dead heroes."

Before Perkins left, both men understood that MAIN would get the contract for the master plan, and that Jenkins would attempt to act on Torrijos' bidding. But events were soon out of Perkins' hands; a bomb was planted in Torrijos' private aircraft, and he died, effectively removed like so many before-democratically elected Mossadegh in Iran, replaced by a puppet Shah; Arbenz in Guatemala; and Allende in Chile that ushered in the brutal reign of Pinochet. Jaime Roldos, President of Ecuador, also was soon to die in circumstances which exactly paralleled those of Torrijos. It was a Columbian woman, Paula, who dared to hold up a mirror in front of Perkins-to confront the real man behind his official, sanitized Curriculum Vitae.

The pattern, and his role in it, was now staring him in the face, as Claudine had once told him: if he, as an EHM fails to deliver, via corruption, the control that is desired, then the next wave, the "jackals" move in-the CIA-led and paid riot squads and assassins. If they fail, as they did in Panama, and later in Iraq, (after years of compliance by Saddam Hussein), then the military moves in. The demands of the global empire for control are relentless. In 1980, suffering deep depression and guilt, Jenkins resigned from MAIN. He kept his vow of silence until 9/11, after which he felt an imperative to "tell it like it is". He understood the deep hatred of the US.

According to the "exit polls," the Nov. 2004 US election was won with the support of the Christian Right, on "moral values" issues-narrowly defined around issues of personal morality, homosexuality, gay marriage, and abortion. But what Perkins has now revealed should create a profound moment of truth for Christian leaders in the US, indeed the world. Like the prophet Habakkuk in the Old Testament, from his own personal experience and observation as an economic "insider", Perkins sees that no nation, however apparently religious like ancient Israel, and no empire, however apparently powerful, wealthy, and invincible like Babylon, or communist USSR, or the US, can be built upon the basis of moral corruption and not bring about its own destruction. In my terms,(not Perkins), the moral order of God brings about its own judgments,.

As long as the fundamental issues documented by Perkins remained hidden-one of the corporation-owned media's unspoken roles -then evangelical leaders in the US. could, with some integrity, within their "pre-millennium" or other narrow theological parameters, support George W. in his religious articulation of the Manifest Destiny of the US in world affairs. But not any longer. Now only something like the Micah Challenge for Millennium Development Goals carries any universal moral credibility. But only the leaders and "prophets" within the churches, particularly those under the influence of the Christian Right, can now say what needs to be said, and with the appropriate humility for their past lack of discernment. Since Vietnam, there have been forces within the corporatocracy which have subtly "moved the goal posts" , from national dreams about "the land of the free", to dreams of Empire, and with it all the corruption, untold suffering and crushing hopelessness to so many of the world's poor.

**Perkins' message is crystal clear to all the world, but to his fellow Americans in particular: now is the time to "wake-up", confess their**



**complicity in the global empire's domination system, and do battle for their nation's soul.**

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**<http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/14854.htm>**

## **Thread 4: Third World Economy: Is Foreign Aid Destructive?**

### **Author**

Sepp

**Joined: 06 Jun 2005**

**Posts: 1**

**Location: Rome, Italy**

### **Message**

Posted: Mon Jun 06, 2005 5:29 am    Post subject: Third World Economy: Is Foreign Aid Destructive?

I have posted an article on my site two days ago under this title, referring to **Confessions** and linking the book (actually an interview by Amy Goodman) to the view of a journalist from Zambia, who sees the matter from the other end - from the viewpoint of an aid-receiving country

### **[Link to article](http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/sepp/2005/06/04/third_world_economy_is_foreign_aid_destructive.htm)**

[http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/sepp/2005/06/04/third\\_world\\_economy\\_is\\_foreign\\_aid\\_destructive.htm](http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/sepp/2005/06/04/third_world_economy_is_foreign_aid_destructive.htm)

Today I found a message with a link to this forum. So I thought I would let you all know.

Just a little contribution to spreading the word...

# Thread 5: John Perkins "meets" Butler Smedley

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Mon May 30, 2005 4:33 pm Post subject: John Perkins "meets" Butler Smedley

Today is Memorial Day ... we honor the lives lost in the name of freedom and worry about those still living in the escalating violence.

However, iinterestingly, I just happened to bump into this article highlighting a story about Smedley Butler, notably the most decorated US Marine in history, who wrote a book called ***War is a Racquet.*** The article draws profiles the connection to John Perkins' expose in Confessions of an Economic Hit Man.

Debbe Kennedy

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Originally Published on Friday, November 19, 2004 by CommonDreams.org

### **Smedley Butler, Meet John Perkins**

by Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman

Remember Smedley Butler?

He was perhaps the most decorated Major General in Marine Corps history.

In the early part of this century, he fought and killed for the United States around the world.

Butler was awarded two Congressional Medals of Honor.

Then, when he returned to the United States he wrote a book titled "[url=http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0922915865/leadershipsoluti/002-2273239-2178436War is a Racket[/url]" which opens with the memorable lines: "War is a racket. It always has been."

"I was a high class muscleman for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers," Butler said. "In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism."

In a speech in 1933, Butler said the following:

"I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua

for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested."

Smedley Butler, meet John Perkins.

Perkins has just written a book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (Barrett Koehler, 2004).

It is the War is A Racket for our times.

Some of it is hard to believe.

You be the judge.

In 1968, after graduating from Boston University, Perkins joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Ecuador. There, he was recruited by the National Security Agency (NSA) and hired by an international consulting firm, Chas. T. Main in Boston.

Soon after beginning his job in Boston, "I was contacted by a woman named Claudine who became my trainer as an economic hit man."

Perkins assumed the woman worked for the NSA.

"She said she was sent to help me and to train me," Perkins said. "She is extremely beautiful, sensual, seductive, intelligent. Her job was to convince me to become an economic hit man, holding out these three drugs -- sex, drugs and money. And then she wanted to let me know that I was getting into a dirty business. And I shouldn't go off on my first assignment, which was going to be Indonesia, and start doing this unless I knew that I was going to continue doing it, and once I was in I was in for life."

Perkins worked for Main from 1970 to 1980.

His job was to convince the governments of the third world countries and the banks to make deals where huge loans were given to these countries to develop infrastructure projects.

And a condition of the loan was that a large share of the money went back to the big construction companies in the USA - the Bechtels and Halliburtons.

The loans would plunge the countries into debts that would be impossible to pay off.

"The system is set up such that the countries are so deep in debt that they can't repay their debt," Perkins said. "When the U.S. government wants favors from them, like votes in the United Nations or troops in Iraq, or in many, many cases, their resources - their oil, their canal, in the case of Panama, we go to them and say - look, you can't pay off your debts, therefore sell your oil at a very low price to our oil companies. Today, tremendous pressure is being put on Ecuador, for example, to sell off its Amazonian rainforest -- very precious, very fragile places, inhabited by indigenous people whose cultures are being destroyed by the oil companies."

When a leader of a country refuses to cooperate with economic hit men like Perkins, the jackals from the CIA are called in.

Perkins said that both Omar Torrijos of Panama and Jaime Boldos of Ecuador -- both men he worked with - refused to play the game with the U.S. and both were cut down by the CIA -- Torrijos when his airplane blew up, and Roldos when his

helicopter exploded, within three months of each other in 1981.

If the CIA jackals don't do the job, then the U.S. Marines are sent in -- Butler's "racketeers for capitalism."

Perkins also gives lurid details of how he pimped for a Saudi prince in the 1970s, in an effort to get the Saudi royal family to enter an elaborate deal in which the U.S. would protect the House of Saud. In exchange, the Saudis agreed to stabilize oil prices and use their oil money to purchase Treasury bonds, the interest on which would be used to pay U.S. construction firms like Bechtel to build Saudi cities.

For years, Perkins wanted to stop being an economic hit man and write a tell-all book.

He quit Main in 1980, only to be lured back with megabucks as a consultant. He testified in favor of the Seabrook Nuclear power plant ("my most infamous assignment") in the 1980s, but the experience pushed him out of the business, and he started an alternative energy firm. When word got out in the 1990s that he was starting to write a tell-all book, he was approached by the president of Stone & Webster, a big engineering firm.

Over seven years, Stone & Webster paid Perkins \$500,000 to do nothing.

"At that first meeting, the president of the company mentioned some of the books that I had written about indigenous people and said -- that's nice, that's fine, keep doing your non-profit work," Perkins told us. "We approve of that, but you certainly would never write about this industry, would you? And I assured him that I wouldn't."

Perkins assumes the money was a bribe to get him not to write the book.

But he has written the book.

You be the judge.

Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Corporate Crime Reporter, <http://www.corporatecrimereporter.com>. Robert Weissman is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Multinational Monitor, <http://www.multinationalmonitor.org>. They are co-authors of the forthcoming *On the Rampage: Corporate Predators and the Destruction of Democracy* (Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press; <http://www.corporatepredators.org>).

## **Thread 6: John Perkins CSPAN Interview Now Available on DVD**

### **Author**

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Mon May 30, 2005 3:29 pm Post subject: John Perkins CSPAN Interview Now Available on DVD

### John Perkins CSPAN Interview Now Available on DVD

Just noticed today that the popular John Perkins CSPAN Interview in Coral Gables, Florida was recently published on DVD for \$29.95.

It's EXCELLENT!

[Learn more...](#)

Debbe

## Thread 7: John Perkins Interview from Malaysia

### Author

**carmina**

Joined: 11 May 2005

Posts: 2

## Message

Posted: Wed May 11, 2005 5:22 am Post subject: John Perkins Interview from Malaysia

Just want to plug an interesting and very lengthy interview with John Perkins, conducted by a Malaysian business magazine, Off the Edge. The interview recently appeared in the April issue of the magazine.

Unfortunately, the published interview is not available online but the unedited interview can be accessed for free, courtesy of the writer at her blog:

[www.smallacts.blogspot.com](http://www.smallacts.blogspot.com)

### Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Thu May 19, 2005 7:13 am Post subject: OFF THE EDGE INTERVIEW WITH JOHN PERKINS

## **OFF THE EDGE INTERVIEW WITH JOHN PERKINS**

Malaysia

Carmen,

Thank you for generously sharing your wonderful unedited interview with John Perkins. The questions and discussion were much more open, provocative and interesting than what is typically reported in a business magazine in the US. It is thought-provoking on a new level and it not only gives a refresher on John Perkins' key messages, but it also is an invitation to learn from John's experience since Confessions of an Economic Hit Man were published, [Berrett-Koehler](#) 2004, 9th printing.

We were so moved here at the Global Dialogue Center by the interview, we have also given your important work key place at the [World Vision Dialogues](#) that have emerged from those stirred by John Perkins book at 24seven Conversations. These new dialogues are just starting and involve both working as a catalyst to help all of us learn and re-learn how to dream a new dream --- create a new collective vision for a different world as John suggests. Also, a second dialogue is focused on taking the practical approach to WHAT WE CAN DO today to be catalysts for change in how we live, what we do, how we treat the environment and how we work together for the good of all.

The [World Vision Dialogues](#) emerged from the grassroots passions of people moved by John Perkins' expose. Thousands of people from over 30 countries have come to take in and participate in the CONFESIONS.conversations in their own ways ... and now we recognize we must join together to do more than talk.

### **TO ALL READING THIS MESSAGE** **TWO ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TODAY:**

1. Go read the OFF THE EDGE UNEDITED INTERVIEW with John Perkins' at [www.smallacts.blogspot.com](http://www.smallacts.blogspot.com). Off the Edge is a Malaysian business magazine.
2. Come join in the [World Vision Dialogues](#) at <http://www.globaldialoguecenter.com/socrates-hall-dialogue.html> at Socrates Hall at right here at the Global Dialogue Center. You can also read a brief excerpt of the Off the Edge interview that leads to the full text and learn more about the story behind the grassroots effort stirred by these Confessions' conversations.

We must all MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTIONS, everything else is a DISTRACTION which we cannot afford at this time in the world.  
We welcome you. Your passions, wisdom, insights and action are needed!

Debbe Kennedy

"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision and action can change the world."

----Joel Barker, Author, futurist and filmmaker, [Power of Vision](#)

## Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Mon May 30, 2005 3:20 pm Post subject: Small Acts ???

We appreciate your contribution Carmen. Your interview provided a badly need update here in the US and always asked questions that would not have been asked. As I think I have expressing it has again stoked the flames of people that John Perkins message has stirred in people all over the world from many vantage points. There is much work to do ---- every person's contributions however small is essential.

QUESTIONS:

From where you are, what ideas can you share with us about how we can contribute to "being the change we want to see in the world." What **small acts** are you witnessing there? Have any suggestions of what others can do from where you sit?

With gratitude,

Debbe

## Thread 9: NOW Program Description for John Perkins' Interview

## Author

**24sevenTEAM**

Site Admin

Joined: 25 May 2004

Posts: 63

## Message

Posted: Thu Mar 03, 2005 7:53 am Post subject: NOW Program Description for John Perkins' Interview

### **NOW Program Description**

Below is the PBS description **NOW** on Friday, March 4. Check local listings for times in your area.

### **NOW**

This episode features interviews with former FBI whistleblower Coleen Rowley and former self-described "economic hitman" John Perkins, two fascinating former insiders with something unique to say about the way our government works. Rowley

is a recently retired career FBI agent who wrote a blistering memo accusing the FBI of squandering a chance to unravel the September 11th plot. Perkins rose to stardom in the world of international finance by persuading Third World countries to take on large public works projects. He claims that the process not only enriched US corporations, but also put these countries in heavy debt, effectively turning them into American client states. David Brancaccio gets a one-of-a-kind perspective from Rowley on the balance between fighting terrorism effectively and civil liberties; and talks to Perkins about economic empire building and its impact on the world view of America in the global marketplace.

Your 24seven TEAM

## Author

**rdst49**

Joined: 05 Mar 2005

Posts: 3

Location: Nice (Clearlake), CA

## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 19, 2005 1:21 pm Post subject:

I am new to this also; but what do you think!? Can we get some more attention on the situation in South America? Can people out there start contacting their local PBS stations and NOW, to ask about the story; and "if they aren't going to cover it, WHO IS?" Let's start stirring things up a bit! You know the corporate-run "mainstream" network media aren't .

Ask YOURSELF, if I'm not going to do something about this, WHO IS?  
----OR you can say (much like Steve Martin did on several skits on SNL),  
Naaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

We can assist each other to "make a difference"!

## Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

## Message

Posted: Sat Mar 19, 2005 6:27 pm Post subject:

Great ideas! Getting in contact with media contacts who WILL follow such stories and speak out about them is important. I might add a few other media outlets to the ones that you have suggested. Contact the producers of Democracy Now!, Amy Goodman's acclaimed radio/TV show. Amy was the first to interview John about the



book--she has a very large audience and is presenting the REAL news that we are not finding many other places. (212-431-9090)

LinkTV is doing good work in this area, too. They have offices in NYC and San Francisco. On the web, truthout.org and Common Dreams.org collect news articles of importance that are not always found on the major media stations. All of these organizations are non-profit and need our support so let's all do what we can.

## **Thread 14: PEOPLE ARE BEING EFFECTED - -- READ THEIR COMMENTS**

### **Author**

stevepiersanti

Joined: 09 Nov 2004

Posts: 9

Location: Berrett-Koehler

### **Message**

Posted: Sun Feb 27, 2005 8:18 am Post subject: PEOPLE ARE BEEING EFFECTED --- READ THEIR COMMENTS

### **PEOPLE ARE BEING EFFECTED --- READ MORE COMMENTS**

Hello to everyone

Another indication of the momentum that Confessions of an Economic Hit Man is gaining and the effect that it is having on people is the customer reviews on Amazon.com. Pasted below are the last six reviews, which were posted over the past few days. Note the strength and magnitude of the themes of these reviews, as suggested by their headlines:

"One of the most insightful political books I've read."

"One of the most important books out there."

"An important story to be told."

"Everything makes sense now."

"Now it all makes sense."

"If economics & truth interest you — you must read this book!"

This is an amazing book that is speaking to people in ways that no previous book has spoken to them. The first phase of this book was its becoming a national bestseller in the U.S. I believe that we are now entering the second phase — its becoming an international movement. Through the vehicle of John's story, this book is pulling together many themes that now all make sense for tens of thousands of people. That

number will soon swell to hundreds of thousands of people.

Tim Johnson in Australia writes (see below), "If you read no other book for the remainder of your life, read this one. Every person alive deserves to know what is happening."

How often does a book come along that elicits that kind of passion? Truly we are dealing with something special here.

I would encourage you to read through the messages below to understand why "this book is life changing," as many of the reviewers are stating.

Steve

**Excerpts from Comments on Recent Comments on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)  
Confessions of an Economic Hit Man  
by John Perkins**

Reviewer:

Tim Johnson (Fremantle, Australia)

I just finished reading this tremendous book and I am a little shaken-Perkins has set out a vision of how the world works that is staggering, even for somebody like me who looks under the carpet of contemporary events. I have made it my business over these past years to attempt to come to grips with the world we live in and most importantly to try to see how the world picture is put together-how does the world work; what makes it work; who is pulling the strings of this planet at the turn of the third millennium.

As opposed to previous commentators I take all that Perkins has written at face value. I don't think he is a mad conspiracist; I don't think he is an embittered man who is raging because of missed promotions; I don't think his story is fiction and I don't think that he was low on the totem pole of power and really had no clear picture of all that was taking place. All of these accusations against his book have been cited as reasons for discounting what Perkins writes and I believe those conclusions are ludicrous.

I virtually used up a marker underlining passages from this powerful book. Perkins admits early on page 15 that his job was to convince developing countries that they could afford the massive debt burden needed to buy the infrastructure for their economic expansion. I could never understand why developing countries put themselves into such massive debt-debt so large that they could never pay it off. Countries are not stupid-they would not do something so heinous to their people's future. Now I see why it happened-Economic Hit Men [EHM] like Perkins cooked the books. They were trusted to provide accurate economic forecasts for those countries future expansion and the Empire then ensnared them because of this false data. These countries will never pay off this monstrous debt. As perkins points out-they are not supposed to pay it off because that indebtedness is what binds them to the Empire.

Perkins writes about those leaders who have recognised the ploy and refused to play the Empire's game: Arbenz in Guatemala, Mossadegh in Iran, Allende in Chile and Torrijos in Panama. As Perkins writes, if the EHM can't persuade you, then the Jackels move in to eliminate you and if that fails then invasion happens. The pattern is all too obvious in our contemporary world.

If you read no other book for the remainder of your life, read this one. Every person alive deserves to know what is happening.

Reviewer:

NYC Reader "gberges" (New York City) - See all my reviews

There is little that I can say that has not been said in all of these reviews other than this book is life changing. It really puts things in perspective and it makes so much sense. Why is world the way it is? Who benefits? What are the consequences to our consumerism? Why is there perpetual poverty in the developing world? All of these questions and more are answered by Mr.Perkins, this book is a valuable asset to anyone who wants to learn about how imperial power can be exerted (with dire consequences) without invasions.

Reviewer:

Stevie\_D. "Stedes" (New Jersey) - See all my reviews

Perkins needed to tell his story and we should listen. Many people will find it hard to believe. Especially those of us who have strong love of this country and believe we are a force for good. America does not look good, but it is not an hate America Book. It tells another side of corporations and US foreign policy that I found quite upsetting. Especially how we all live in ignorance and have no idea what really goes on. To me, it puts the Iraq war in a different perspective as to why we really went to war. The story and players in Iraq has been played out before in other third world countries that did not give us access to their resources. My only complaint - (why not 5 stars?), I thought he dragged it out a bit and I am surprised he did not have more examples of his intervention to other countries.

Reviewer:

Gen Res (America)

Guys, if you have time to just read one book, this is the one. If you read this book, I guarantee, you will be able to answer these questions:

- Why we are at war with Iraq
- Why people in other countries don't like us
- Why we have and still do support dictators
- Globalization
- Our foreign policy
- Why the problems inside our country are going to take much more effort to solve than simply voting for a candidate to be President

This book is about a man who wanted to make money, feel prestige and travel all over the world. Him and his company purposely would make exaggerated economic forecasts to make poor countries indebted to us. Basically, once these countries signed onto our projects, they would have to keep paying us back and they wouldn't be able to spend that money on their own people so those people would get poorer and poorer. If we later needed favors from these countries or needed their military space, they would have to give it to us. The author says that there are many people like this in many American companies who hold prestigious titles but what they do is wrong. Of course, in our country if you make a lot of money, you are thought of as "successful", if you don't question the morals and ethics of companies and our countries dealings - you are rewarded.

If you are not sure if you want to buy the book, you can read an excerpt at this website: [www.bkconnection.com](http://www.bkconnection.com) or go to [www.johnperkins.org](http://www.johnperkins.org) to find out about the author. Or you can read it from the library or the bookstore.

Here are some important parts of the book:

1. Did you ever wonder why we went to war with Vietnam? Why was communism so

bad? - Because we can't do business in a country that has communism (unbelievable!!) (And if communism was so bad, why does China hold up our U.S. economy now? That is pretty hypocritical isn't it?)

2. The highly popular, democratically elected Iranian President, Mohammad Mossadegh was overthrown by our CIA. The reason for this was that BP (British Petroleum) wanted to exploit Iran's oil and sought the help of the U.S. President Mossadegh would not allow the British and Americans to exploit Iran's oil and nationalized all of the oil. So an American CIA operative went into Iran and won over people through payoffs and threats - which in turn led to street riots and violent demonstrations that gave the impression that President Mossadegh was not popular. In the end Mossadegh went down. (Again, for all our talk of democracy, we certainly don't let it happen in other countries)

3. In retaliation for U.S. aid to Israel, Saudi Arabia imposed an oil embargo on the U.S. The embargo did not last long but Wall Street, our government and corporations decided that never again would they tolerate an oil embargo. Immediately our government made Saudi Arabia an ally and offered all sorts of technical support, military training, etc. (Even though the women there can vote or drive and one person is (still) beheaded every week for a "crime" like drinking alcohol) Guys, Idi Amin, this brutal dictator from Uganda who ordered the killing of 200,000 civilians was exiled from Uganda in 1979 and he lived happily in Saudi Arabia until he died in 2003. The White House protested slightly but not too much because, hey, we don't want to make the Saudi monarch angry.

How does this relate to Iraq? Well Saddam played our game throughout the 80s. So when he gassed the Kurds, Shiites and Iranians (with weapons we gave him) we didn't mind as long as he was generous with Iraq's oil. Then he crossed the line when he invaded Kuwait so we put sanctions on the people of his country. We tried to persuade him, hey just give us your oil and we'll leave you alone. But he didn't want to play our game anymore - so out he goes. Pretty scary, huh? If he shared his oil, he would still be in power.

Finally, here's a good quote from the book:

"Stop being so greedy and so selfish. Realize that there is more to the world than your big houses and fancy stores. People are starving and you worry about oil for your cars. Babies are dying of thirst and you search the fashion magazines for the latest styles. Nations like ours are drowning in poverty, but your people don't even hear our cries for help. You shut your ears to the voices of those who try to tell you these things. You label them radicals or Communists. You must open your hearts to the poor and downtrodden, instead of driving them further into poverty and servitude. There's not much time left. If you don't change, you're doomed."

After 9/11, if we really wanted to prevent another terrorist atrocity, here's what we should have done:

1. Caught Bin Laden
2. Created forms of mass transportation and reduced our dependency on oil as if our life depends on it - because it does.
3. Given our foreign policy a massive overhaul

And please, before you call people from developing countries "backwards", read this (this happened to me): I was in a developing country and this boy who was severely disabled and could barely walk was selling pencils for one rupee (a couple of pennies) each. I gave him some money but told him he doesn't have to give me the pencil. Then I went on my way. About a mile later when I stopped, the boy was running after me. He told me that he wasn't going

to just take the money like that, and he gave me a pencil. This boy could barely walk and he was about 14 years old.

Reviewer:

JC (New York, NY)

Yes, it's hard to believe such a level of disgusting greed and moral destitution exists in our beloved USA, but let's remember, Mr. Perkins is not saying that this is some mass concerted effort by our entire country. It's those few captains of industry who are behind all of this, and that, I'm afraid, is all too familiar. I live in Manhattan & can think of 3 friends right off the bat who exhibit the same characteristics of pure greed who take advantage of the less fortunate on a regular basis (albeit on a much smaller scale). Our culture says wealth is good, the more money you have the more worthy you are as a person. Are most of us disgusted & annoyed by our greedy friends? YES. Maybe it's time we stood up, said to the captains of industry & others who do things like this, IT IS NOT OK TO FLEECE US, AND IT NOT OK TO FLEECE OTHER COUNTRIES. How come so many of us can't afford health insurance? How come the middle class keeps getting poorer? Obviously all those countries being taken advantage of - that money isn't coming to most of us. It's going to the wealthy 1% of our country. Oh sure, we can buy clothes for next to nothing thanks to H&M and its slave-produced garments - but that's about the only benefit I can think of to US, the MAJORITY of the USA. With our inflation-adjusted shrinking paychecks we couldn't even afford clothes at a real price - if they cost what they used to cost (I remember paying \$28, \$50 for shirts back in the 80's) - then we might stand up & demand higher salaries. I hope this book serves as a wake up call - I no longer tolerate my greedy friends, I no longer make excuses for them. And I'm certainly not going to tolerate corporate greed, either. Let's stand up and say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Oh, and thanks to THEIR greed, we can't even safely & peacefully visit other countries. Other countries hate us, hate our foreign policy, hate our ignorance of it. And they're right, because we don't say NO, we just passively let the greedy few take over & ruin everything for the rest of us.

Reviewer:

Rucy (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) - See all my reviews

I just finished this book after underlining something on almost every page. Every page is astonishing. Once started, this book is hard to put down.

Many of us knew that this type of outcome (hate against the U.S./or U.S. foreign policy) was caused by Corporate and/or CIA (the "Jackals") interference in the governments of other countries,...but we didn't know exactly how & why it all came about, especially in countries very different from each other. This book really ties all the loose ends together. Mr. Perkins explains how the foundation of our economic policies have metamorphosized into a "system that promotes the most subtle and effective form of imperialism the world has ever seen". He says that effects of Corporatocracy go way beyond greed and materialistic goals that generally define "empires", but go directly into the soul of our civilization at this point in time. I would hope that every American would read this book,... (unfortunately, few Americans read, I've heard). Most Americans get their news from our media, which as Mr. Perkins has said, - has become part of the "Corporatocracy" (banks, corporations, government & media). We don't get the same "news" about the same events that is reported in other countries. Sad, but true. He says we have to get beyond the "third grade view of history, which runs: "They" will take care of it,.....it will all turn out for the best...".

His book is a wake-up call for all Americans who still believe in the country our founding fathers envisioned, a country "Of, for and by the people!". It is time we all turn off the tv, etc. - and actively participate in our democracy. Write and tell your

elected officials exactly what type of country you want - or don't want. Participate. Discuss. AND READ THIS BOOK! It truly is ...astounding!

Learn more at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

## Thread 16: OTHER VOICES: ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

Posted: Thu Feb 03, 2005 10:27 am Post subject: OTHER VOICES: ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

 **I found this article this morning, representing still another voice. *What are your thoughts? ---- Jan Coleman***

Another World Is Possible  
By Marjorie Cohn  
t r u t h o u t | Perspective

Wednesday 2 February 2005

The Fifth Annual World Social Forum (WSF) held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from January 26-31 garnered almost no media coverage in the United States. Timed to coincide with the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the WSF drew 155,000 activists from 135 countries, who assembled to challenge Bush's agenda.

The weeklong happening, called "Another World Is Possible," kicked off with a "march for peace." An estimated 200,000 people, many with turbans or indigenous clothing, carried bright flags and marched to the beat of omnipresent drums. Several bore posters with pictures of Bush ("The World's No. 1 Terrorist"). The mood was festive but purposeful as old and young, black, brown, yellow and white, prepared to strategize about how to create a just and peaceful world.

One of the most compelling speakers at the WSF was John Perkins, a former CIA operative and self-described economic hit man for U.S. imperialism. It was Perkins' job to meet with a leader of a targeted country and encourage him to accept a large loan for a project that both the CIA and the leader knew the country could not afford. The money would go to a bank in the United States and U.S. corporations would get the contract to do the job. The country was then beholden to the United States, manipulated to support U.S. policy and make its natural resources available to U.S. corporations. This is the model of "neo-liberalism."

Where a head of state refused to accept the CIA's offer, Perkins would remind him that several leaders had been assassinated or become the victims of a coup and removed from office (e.g., Chile, Haiti). In such a situation, the CIA would back opposition movements within the target country, support corrupt military leaders, or undermine the country's economy. The CIA often sent in "jackals," or "hit men," who

plied their trade when other methods failed. Omar Torrijos, former president of Panama, was one victim of these jackals.

When both the economic hit men and the jackals were unsuccessful in bringing the country under U.S. domination, the tactic of last resort was war. This is what happened in Iraq after the U.S. was unable to convince Saddam to support its policies.

Notwithstanding Bush's rhetoric about creating democracies throughout the world, the United States has tried mightily to facilitate the overthrow of twice democratically-elected Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. But it has thus far failed. (See my editorial, Chavez Victory: Defeat for Bush Policy). There was talk last week at the WSF that the U.S. is attempting to get Colombia to invade Venezuela, but Chavez and other Latin American leaders are trying to diffuse the situation. Likewise, Dick Cheney lobbed out the possibility that Israel might attack Iran (thereby using Israel as a U.S. surrogate to enable the installation of an Iranian government more receptive to U.S. policies).

Hugo Chavez, who also spoke at the WSF, received a hero's welcome. He highlighted the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), a proposal made by Venezuela as an alternative to the Free Trade of the Americas. The ALBA emphasizes social and cultural exchanges over profit-based economic deals. Chavez noted, "We can't wait for a sustained economic growth of 10 years in order to start reducing poverty through the trickledown effect, as the neoliberal economic theories propose."

Chavez criticized Condoleezza Rice's recent assertion that Chavez was "a negative force in the region." He said relations between the U.S. and Venezuela will remain unhealthy as long as the United States continues its policy of aggression. "The most negative force in the world today is the government of the United States," Chavez said.

Significantly, Chavez maintained, "We must start talking again about equality. The U.S. government talks about freedom and liberty, but never about equality." Indeed, Bush told the Congressional Black Caucus a few days ago that he was "unfamiliar" with the Voting Rights Act.

Walden Bello, executive director of Focus on the Global South and professor of sociology and public administration at the University of the Philippines, analyzed the role that cultural oppression played in the U.S. presidential election. Bello said that although neo-liberalism and militarism are significant problems, "the cultural dimension is what led the Bush administration to victory by drawing its support largely based on white people in the U.S." He noted, "The Bush administration in fact appeals to traditional forms of cultural oppression through traditional forms of cultural ethnocentrism and of traditional and old forms of racism." The people who voted for Bush, according to Bello, "were voting against blacks, they were voting against immigrants, the feminist movement, foreign imports and foreign ideas that are not American."

The American Association of Jurists (AAJ), in association with the Latin American Association of Labor Lawyers, sponsored three days of panel discussions on Law, Public Order and Social Integration at the WSF. As the U.S. representative to the AAJ, I gave a presentation on Human Rights and the New World Order, in which I noted that Bush told his advisors on the evening of September 11, 2001, that the terrorist attacks provided a "great opportunity" for the United States. Likewise, when the tsunami devastated Asia, Condoleezza Rice used almost the same words. She said the tsunami was a "wonderful opportunity" for the U.S. I presented an analysis of how the neoconservatives have hijacked United States foreign policy and the resulting decimation of human rights, including the torture of prisoners in U.S.

custody.

Another speaker at the AAJ conference was Arnel Medina Cuenca, president of the National Union of Cuban Jurists. Discussing the U.S. policy of neo-liberalism, he said, "Matan a los pobres pero no a la pobreza" ("They kill the poor but not the poverty.")

The AAJ passed a resolution in support of the five Cuban political prisoners incarcerated in New York for what was, in effect, their anti-terrorist actions against terrorists in the U.S. who sought to overthrow the Cuban government. Another AAJ resolution calls for the return of Vieques, a United States military installation on the land of the U.S. colony Puerto Rico. The resolution also calls on the U.S. government to finance the decontamination of Vieques, which has been poisoned by depleted uranium and heavy metals from U.S. weapons testing and military training exercises. As a result the people of Vieques have the highest incidence of cancer in Puerto Rico.

Programs at the WSF advocated sustainable development, cancellation of Third World debt, an end to corporate abuse, struggle against United States imperialism, and termination of the occupation of Iraq.

In Bush's State of the Union address this evening, we can expect to hear more rhetoric about "freedom," "liberty" and "spreading democracy throughout the world." For most of the people of the world, however, Bush's words signal the spread of neo-liberalism, aggression and regime change, to their detriment. The World Social Forum is one small step toward uniting progressives from around the world to defy Bush's agenda which threatens us all.

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Marjorie Cohn, a contributing editor to *t r u t h o u t*, is a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, executive vice president of the National Lawyers Guild, and the U.S. representative to the executive committee of the American Association of Jurists.

## **Thread 18: People are LISTENING and SPREADING THE WORD PERSON-TO-PERSON**

### **Author**

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

### **Message**

Posted: Tue Feb 01, 2005 11:17 pm    Post subject: People are LISTENING and SPREADING THE WORD PERSON-TO-PERSON

**Two great articles to share that again demonstrate how people are connecting with John Perkins' message and spreading the word across the country and the world:**



John Perkins speaks at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil  
<http://www.indybay.org/news/2005/01/1718546.php>

Confessions ... Review by Dr. Jude Wanniski on Wanniski.com  
<http://www.wanniski.com/showarticle.asp?articleid=4127>

### **LET'S TALK**

When you read them, come back and share your perspective with others. Let's get a discussion going about this thought-provoking expose. I'm looking forward to hearing what you think.

**Jan Coleman**

## **Thread 19: Dragonfly REVIEW by David Korten**

### **Author**

Jan Coleman

**Joined: 13 Jan 2005**

**Posts: 49**

**Location: Sausalito**

### **Message**

Posted: Tue Feb 01, 2005 10:40 pm Post subject: Dragonfly REVIEW by David Korten

#### **CONFESSIONS OF EMPIRE**

*How the Richest of the Rich Steal from the Poorest of the Poor*

David Korten gives a compelling review of *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* by John Perkins, citing from his own experience:

"During my own 30 years as a development worker in Africa, Latin America and Asia, I came to realize that the institutions of the aid system and the global economy persistently serve the interests of the rich at the expense of the poor. I sometimes wondered whether the outcome might have been orchestrated by some secret inner circle of power brokers who knew exactly what they were doing."

READ MORE...

<http://www.dragonflymedia.com/review/2004/nov/lead.html>

David C. Korten is the author of *WHEN CORPORATIONS RULE THE WORLD* and *THE POST-CORPORATE WORLD: Life After Capitalism*. Both are published by Berrett-Koehler.

# Thread 21: People Are Telling Other People --- It's Connecting the Dots

## Author

**stevepiersanti**

Joined: 09 Nov 2004

Posts: 9

Location: Berrett-Koehler

## Message

Posted: Sun Jan 16, 2005 8:40 am    Post subject: People Are Telling Other People --- It's Connecting the Dots

We are excited that John Perkins' new book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, has become a national bestseller. It is one of the top 10 bestselling books in the U.S. on 10 different national and regional bestseller lists, including:

#9 on The New York Times Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#3 on the Denver Post Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#5 on the San Francisco Chronicle Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#6 on the BookSense (American Booksellers Association) Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

What has made this book so popular?

Part of the answer is the sheer intrigue, mystery, and insider revelations of this book:

A "gripping tell-all book . . . Perkins reveals how the U.S. machine works behind closed doors and how America has exploited others for its own needs" – Rocky Mountain News.

"This riveting look at a world of intrigue reads like a spy novel" – Library Journal.

"True insider reveals the inner workings of world empire" – headline of online customer review.

"An insider has finally exposed the system" – headline of online customer review.

But the story of this book's appeal is much bigger and deeper than the fact that it is such a fascinating read. For tens of thousands of people, it has become the book that best explains what is really going on in the world.

**PEOPLE ARE TELLING OTHER PEOPLE.**

*Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* has become not only a bestseller but also a phenomenon, with the sales driven by people telling other people about the book. To better understand this phenomenon, I have read many of the hundreds of email

messages and letters that John Perkins has been receiving in response to the book as well as the comments that are being posted on the internet. Here are the principal themes of these messages, letters, and comments:

#### THE BOOK FINALLY IS CONNECTING THE DOTS.

The most common theme throughout the comments is that this book "really helped connect the dots in an easy-to-understand way and illustrate clearly how we got to where we are today," as one reader states. Another reader writes, "This is the book I have been waiting for, the book that fills in the blanks left behind by the writers of global theories, the book that tells us how it really happens." "Your book seemed to tie together all the circumstances and events of the last fifty years into a seamless tapestry of clear vision and awareness," writes another.

#### READER'S ARE MAKING SENSE OF THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES.

The book that makes sense of the readers' own experiences and observations. Another main theme is how readers connect Perkins' revelations to their own experiences and now see their experiences in a new light that reveals them as part of a bigger pattern. As one reader writes, "I have always suspected many of the things you write about, although I must admit I never thought (or probably didn't want to accept) how deep they actually went."

#### READERS FEEL COMPELLED TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES.

This book does not just change readers' views of the world, it also changes their own lives, as many of the messages attest: "This book has truly changed the way I think and ultimately how I will live my life." "I know my skills can be put to good use in the area of aiding a cause that means something, and I am ready to make that change in my life."

#### READERS ARE STIRRED TO ACTION IN TELLING OTHER PEOPLE

What is striking is how much people express a need to tell others about this book. "I am recommending your book to all my friends and sending copies out as gifts as well," is a typical comment. And particularly striking is the diversity of the audience that feels this compulsion to share this book: it's fathers giving the book to daughters, sons giving the book to their parents, university students passing the book to professors, business people giving it to their associates, and many other links.

#### NOT JUST A BOOK --- IT'S AN EVENT

One cannot read through these messages without realizing that this book has become bigger than life. As one reader wrote to his network of change agents, "I decided to share my excitement about this with you because I feel that this is not just a book – it is an event, with powerful cultural and political ramifications. This book turns our understanding of history upside down, and I implore you to read it as soon as you possibly can. The more people who are aware, the more easily change can be brought about."

I hope that you, too, will read this book. And I hope that you will not only read it, but also become involved in conversations with others about it.

We appreciate all of the people who have been telling their friends and colleagues about this amazing book. And we hope that you will do so also, to spread the word about this book and its messages even farther and wider in the world.

All the best,

Steven Piersanti  
President and Publisher  
Berrett-Koehler Publishers

## Thread 22: REVIEW from Rich Flanders

### Author

**Jan Coleman**

Joined: 13 Jan 2005

Posts: 49

Location: Sausalito

### Message

Posted: Sun Jan 16, 2005 8:26 am Post subject: REVIEW from Rich Flanders

I thought it might be helpful for you to see first-hand the kinds of personal responses that have come from readers. Below is an email John Perkins recently received.

What's your reaction to John Perkins' message? How has it influenced your thinking?

Jan Coleman

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Dear Mr. Perkins -

I can't thank you enough for your book, and for your integrity and courage in writing it. I wanted to share with you what I wrote a few days ago to my own little network of change-agents.

With deepest appreciation and best wishes always - Rich Flanders  
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RICH FLANDERS MESSAGE TO HIS "NETWORK OF CHANGE-AGENTS":

I haven't yet finished it, but that isn't stopping me from urging everyone I know to go out and get Confessions of an Economic Hit Man as soon as possible!

If knowledge is power, then this book takes you to a whole new level of empowerment. It is a bombshell between two covers, and like Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, it blasts open a whole new public awareness. Confessions of an Economic Hit Man - "the inside story of how America turned from a respected republic into a feared empire" - may even turn out to be one of those rare events that actually shakes the system to its core.

Amy Goodman must have felt the same, because on Friday morning, December 31st, she did something very unusual - she interviewed the author, John Perkins, for the entire hour of Democracy Now!

Evidently, none of the commercial networks will have Perkins on, as of yet. He reports that each time he's booked (Kudlow & Kramer, etc.) he gets bumped at the last minute. The big corporations that own the networks are connected to the massive fraud the book reveals, and no doubt will try for as long as possible to hold back this information. But even just with minimal exposure - on AirAmerica Radio and Democracy Now! - the book is already hitting the bestseller lists, which gives you an indication of its power and relevance.

It turns out that the author had four earlier versions of the book ready to go over the

past several years, but bribes and threats succeeded in silencing him. September 11th changed all that. Knowing what he did about the background to that tragedy, he determined to get this material out, no matter what. The major publishers wouldn't risk publishing the explosive manuscript, but finally a small, independent firm (Berrett-Koehler Publishers) snapped it up.

I decided to share my excitement about this with you because I feel this is not just a book - it is an event, with powerful cultural and political ramifications. The book turns our understanding of history upside down, and I implore you to read it as soon as you possibly can. The more people there are who are aware, the more easily change can be brought about.

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man is available in most bookstores and evidently has reached Number One at Amazon.com. In just seven weeks it is in its fifth printing.

Please let me know your response! - Rich

## Thread 23: John Perkins' book makes 12 bestseller lists

### Author

**stevepiersanti**

Joined: 09 Nov 2004

Posts: 9

Location: Berrett-Koehler

### Message

Posted: Thu Jan 13, 2005 12:05 am Post subject: John Perkins' book makes 12 bestseller lists

Hi everyone,

We are pleased to share this exciting news with you.

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man by John Perkins, a New York Times Bestseller has also climbed into the top ten on many other bestseller lists across the country, including:

#6 on the BookSense (American Booksellers Association) Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#3 on the Denver Post Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#5 on the San Francisco Chronicle Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#4 on the Mountains & Plains Booksellers Association Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#2 on the Southern California Booksellers Association Hardcover Nonfiction

Bestsellers List

#6 on the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#9 on the New England Booksellers Association Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

#2 on the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Hardcover Nonfiction Bestsellers List

All told, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man is currently on 12 different national and regional bestseller lists that we know about.

We look forward to your comments, perspectives on the topic and reading your reviews of the book.

All the best,  
Steve

Steve Piersanti, President  
Berrett-Koehler Publishers

Learn more:

<http://www.bkconnection.com/confessions>