



THE FREEDOM FIGHTER

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RASTAFARI UNITED

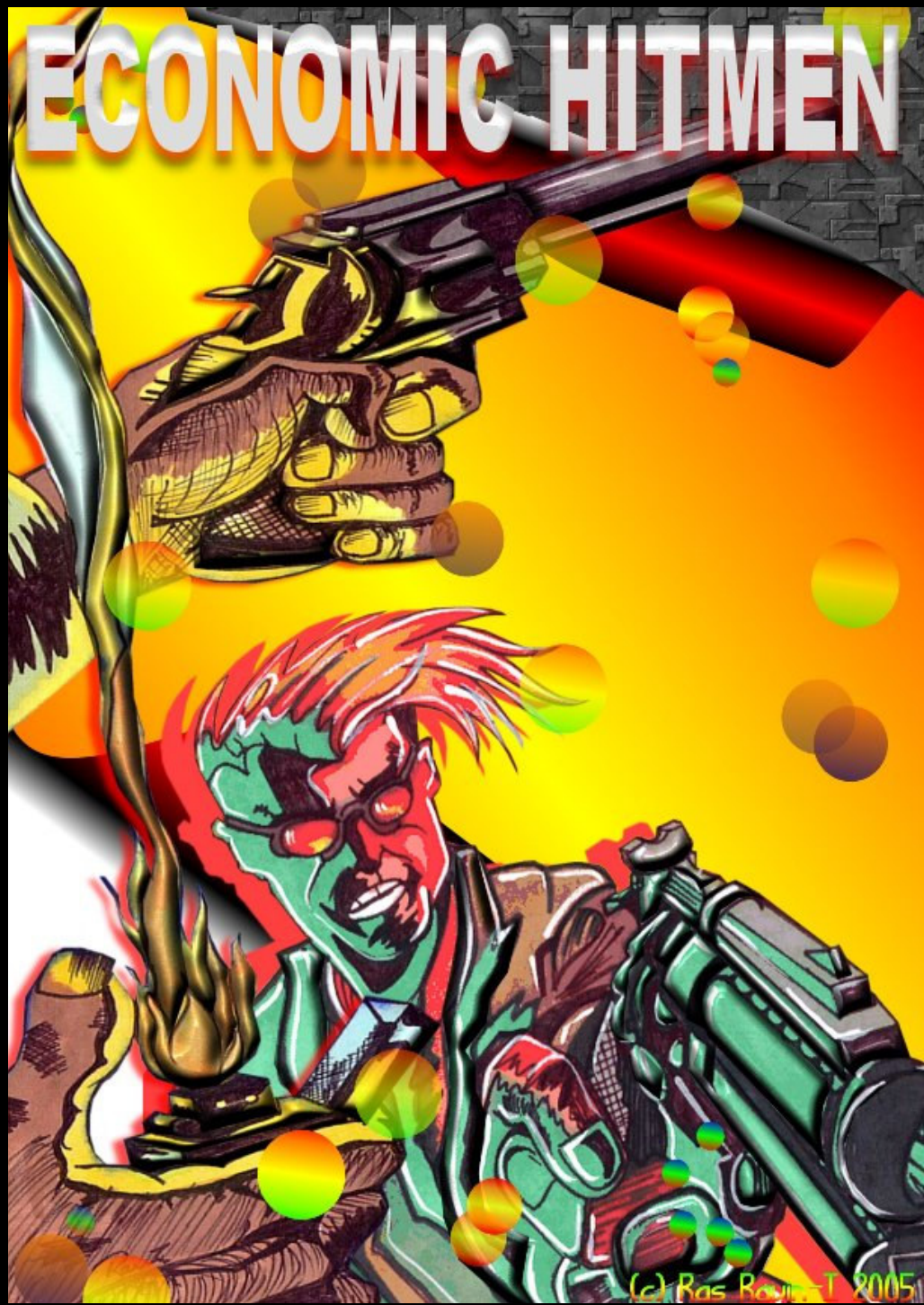
DECEMBER 2005

THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER

#12

Africa's sun is shining above the horizon clear, The day for us is rising, for black men far and near; Our God is in the front line, the heavenly battalion leads, Onward, make your banners shine, ye men of noble deeds. *Marcus Garvey*

ECONOMIC HITMEN



(c) Ras Rowley T. 2005



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**Solidarity letter to Panama
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TTRU

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RASTAFARI UNITED

Greetings Friends,

The Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United, Inc. is supported by friends like you. Thank you for your contributions in the past, as they have allowed us to advance this far.

Your contributions and support are necessary for the development of our learning center in Trinidad, West Indies.

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Respectfully
TTRU Central Committee

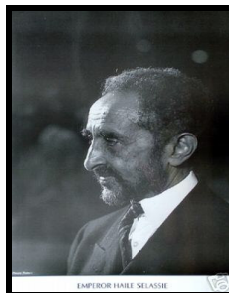


RASTAFARI SPEAKS

1962

"The ultimate resource of a nation is its people. Unless this resource is employed for the benefit of the nation, unless the latent good which it represents is exploited to the maximum for the common good, the nation will languish, poor in spirit, lacking in achievement. But no people can make their full contribution to the life of the nation to which they owe allegiance unless they possess and enjoy those few fundamental prerequisites indispensable to rendering their participation in the affairs of their country both possible and significant. The growth of a people is complex and interrelated. Man must be educated: he cannot come to grips with or cope with or understand the modern world unless he has been taught about it. He must be assured of a minimum economic security: he cannot concern himself with matters going beyond the day-to-day satisfaction of his physical needs unless he is fed and clothed and sheltered, nor can he acquire a sufficient degree of social consciousness to be able to subordinate his own personal interests to the good of the nation and the development of its society. Freedom, Liberty, the rights of man - these mean little to the ignorant, the hungry, the ill-clothed, the badly housed.

"All of this We have, from Our earliest days, recognized, and in the years during which We have guided and directed the destinies of the Ethiopian people and nation, We have endeavored to accommodate and give due consideration to this basic truth. To you the legislators of the Empire, has been confided the high responsibility of ensuring that the needs and the desires of those who chose you as their representatives are well and truly served in the legislative programmes which will be placed before you. You must ensure that in your desire to achieve immediate goals, long-term considerations of equal or greater importance are not ignored or irrevocably prejudiced. Those who will prepare your Government's programmes will do so honestly and sincerely, seeking thereby to secure the further progress of Ethiopia and her people. But you, as well as they, share in the responsibility for guaranteeing that this progress is not only apparent but real and that each step forward paves the way for the next. May Almighty God grant you wisdom, understanding and judgment."



ECONOMIC HIT MEN

For many years we have spoken of these economic vampires that have raped and plundered our resources. They have been responsible for the continued economic deprivation suffered by our people. They operate without care for the world's population, their only care is for the continued survival of their people and society.

Controlled by the IMF and the WORLD BANK these vampires are sent in to resource rich developing countries, their aim is to lend money that these countries will never be able to repay.

Their job is to convince countries that are strategically important to the United States to accept enormous loans for infrastructure development and to make sure that the lucrative projects were contracted to U.S. corporations.

These highly paid vampires who cheat countries around the world of billions of dollars. They put money from the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other foreign 'aid' organizations into the bank accounts of huge corporations and the pockets of a few wealthy families who are in control of the world's natural resources. They use fraudulent financial reports, rigged elections, payoffs, extortion, sex, and murder. *.Ras Ravin-*

This is the story of one such vampire named John Perking as he reveals in his book, "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man."

John Perkins' reveals his career as an economist for an international consulting firm. Perkins says he was actually an "Economic Hit Man" and his job was to convince countries that are strategically important to the United States to accept enormous loans for infrastructure development and to make sure that the lucrative projects were contracted to U.S. corporations.

He explains how he created economic projections for countries to accept billions of dollars in loans they surely couldn't afford.

What Is An Economic Hit Man?

Perkins defines economic hit men as "highly paid professionals who cheat countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars. They funnel money from the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),

and other foreign 'aid' organizations into the coffers of huge corporations and the pockets of a few wealthy families who control the planet's natural resources. Their tools include fraudulent financial reports, rigged elections, payoffs, extortion, sex, and murder. They play a game as old as empire, but one that has taken on new and terrifying dimensions during this time of globalization."

In Perkins' case, he was hired as an economist for the international consulting firm of Chas. T. Main, Inc. (MAIN). He was told in confidential meetings with "special consultant" to the company Claudine Martin that he had two primary objectives:

1. He was supposed to justify huge loans for countries. These loans would be for major engineering and construction projects, which were to be carried out by MAIN and other U.S. companies such as Bechtel, Halliburton, Stone & Webster and Brown & Root.
2. He was supposed to help bankrupt the countries that received these loans after the U.S. companies involved had been paid. This would make sure that these countries would remain in debt to their creditors and would then be easy targets when the U.S. needed favors such as military bases, UN votes and access to natural resources like oil.

Perkins' job was to produce economic growth projections that would make the case for a variety of major projects. If the U.S. decided to lend a country money (in order to persuade its leaders not to align with the Soviet Union, for example), Perkins would compare the economic benefits of different projects such as power plants or telecommunications systems. He would then produce reports that showed the economic growth the country would experience due to these projects.

These economic growth projections needed to be high enough to justify the loans. Otherwise, the loans would be denied. The gross national product (GNP) was always the most important factor in these economic projections. The project expected to increase the GNP the most would be chosen. In the cases where there was only one project under consideration, it needed to be shown that the project would greatly benefit the GNP. Luckily for the economic hitman, GNP figures can be quite deceptive. "For instance, the growth of GNP may result even when it profits only one person, such as an individual who owns a utility company, while the majority of the population is burdened with debt."

All of these projects were meant to make huge profits for the contractors.

ECONOMIC HIT MEN

The U.S. engineering and construction companies involved would be assured of great wealth. At the same time, a few wealthy families and influential leaders in the receiving countries would become very happy and very rich thanks to these loans. The leaders of these countries would also have bolstered political power because they were credited with bringing industrial parks, power plants and airports to their people.

The problem is that these countries simply cannot handle the debt of these loans and their poorest citizens are deprived of health, education and other social services for several decades as these countries struggle economically to overcome their huge debts. Meanwhile, the huge American media conglomerates portray these projects as favors being provided by the United States. American citizens in general have no trouble believing these messages, and in fact are led to perceive that these actions are unselfish acts of international goodwill.

Ultimately, due to the large debts, the U.S. is able to draw on these countries for political, economic and military favors whenever desired. And of course, the U.S. corporations involved with the expensive projects become extremely wealthy.

The U.S. Government's Role

Economic hit men don't actually work for a United States government organization such as the Central Intelligence Agency. The risk with such a direct association is obvious. For example, if an EHM was working to put a country in debt to the U.S. with the main reason being for favorable military and political positions against the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union would be quite likely to take military action against the U.S. if that EHM were found to be working for the U.S. government. In the 1960s, America found a way to use economic hitmen without directly implicating Washington.

It was during the 1960s that we saw the empowerment of international corporations and multinational organizations such as the World Bank. This allowed for governments, corporations and multinational organizations to form mutually beneficial relationships. United States intelligence agencies were able to use these relationships to their advantage. Government organizations such as the National Security Agency (NSA) were now able to screen for potential economic hitmen (as they did with Perkins) and then have them hired by international corporations such as MAIN.

"These economic hitmen would never be paid by the government; instead, they would draw their salaries from the private sector. In addition, the corporations that hired them, although paid by government agencies and their multinational banking counterparts

(with taxpayer money), would be insulated from congressional oversight and public scrutiny, shielded by a growing body of legal initiatives, including trademark, international trade, and Freedom of Information laws."

Perkins' Story of Being Recruited as an Economic Hit Man

Perkins married a former college classmate in 1967. A good friend of her father's, referred to as "Uncle Frank", was a top-echelon executive at the NSA. Uncle Frank immediately took a liking to Perkins and informed him that a job with the NSA would make him eligible for draft deferment, meaning he could avoid fighting in the Vietnam War.

After extensive interviews with the NSA, Perkins was offered a job, but declined it to instead join the Peace Corps. Surprisingly, Uncle Frank supported this decision, largely because it meant that Perkins would have the opportunity to go to Ecuador and live with the indigenous people of the Amazon region.

It was with the Peace Corps in Ecuador when a vice president of Chas. T. Main, Inc. approached Perkins about working for MAIN. The man explained that he sometimes acted as an NSA liaison, which made this job opportunity a perfect fit for Perkins, who had intended on accepting the NSA job when his Peace Corps tour was over.

Upon returning to the U.S., Perkins was hired as an economist for MAIN. He was told that MAIN's primary business was engineering, but that their biggest client, the World Bank, had insisted that the company keep economists employed in order to produce the "critical economic forecasts used to determine the feasibility and magnitude of engineering projects.

Shortly after being hired, Perkins was trained confidentially by Claudine Martin, a special consultant to MAIN. It was Martin who explained to Perkins what his real job was. It was Martin who explained that he was now an "Economic Hit Man" and that once he accepted this job, he could never leave it.



ECONOMIC HIT MEN

Indonesia

Perkins' first assignment took him to Indonesia. Indonesia was an oil-rich country and had been described as "the most heavily populated piece of real estate on the planet." Perkins' job was to produce very optimistic economic forecasts for the country, showing that by building new power plants and distribution lines, the country's economy would explode. These projections would allow USAID and international banks to justify huge loans for the country, which would then be paid to U.S. corporations to build the projects.

In 1971, Indonesia had become even more important to the U.S. in its battle against Communism. Potential withdrawal from Vietnam had the U.S. worried about a domino effect of one country after another falling under Communist rule. Indonesia was viewed as the key. If the U.S. could gain control of Indonesia (with the debts that would incur thanks to the loans for these huge projects), they believed it would help ensure American dominance in Southeast Asia.

While spending three months in Indonesia to conduct interviews and study the economic potential for the country, Perkins was exposed to the drastic discrepancy between the wealthy and the extremely poor in Indonesia. While there were certainly signs of a striving economy with first-class hotels and mansions, Perkins also personally saw the tragic side of Indonesia where women and children bathed in wretched, sewer-filled water and beggars packed the streets. He also met some of the country's native citizens and learned of their resentment of American greed and extravagance in the face of their starving children. These close encounters with the Indonesians created a struggle of conscience for Perkins. He wondered if American capitalism was really the answer for the people of Indonesia. He wondered if the population as a whole would really benefit from the infrastructures the U.S. wanted to build in Indonesia, or would it only be a wealthy few who became even wealthier while the rest of the country became more entrenched in poverty and became even more anti-American?

While conducting his studies in Indonesia, Perkins was encouraged by his superiors to create strong forecasts for economic growth. He was told that growth rates of 17 percent per annum were expected. Also providing economic forecasts for MAIN was an older employee named Howard Parker. Parker told Perkins not to be pressured by his superiors, he told him not to buy into the game, not to create unrealistic projections. He told Perkins that the electrification project could not create economic growth rates of more than 7-9 percent.

Conversations with Parker led to more conscience battles for Perkins. Ultimately, he told himself that the decision wasn't really his to make, it would be up to his bosses and they could simply choose between his high economic forecast and Parker's lower forecast. When the final projections were presented to the executives at MAIN, Perkins' figures pleased his bosses with 17-20 percent growth rate projections while Parker's forecast came in at eight percent. Parker was promptly fired and Perkins was promoted to Chief Economist at MAIN and received a nice raise.

Panama

In 1972, Perkins was sent to Panama to close the deal on MAIN's master development plan with the country. "This plan would create a justification for World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and USAID investment of billions of dollars in the energy, transportation, and agricultural sectors of this tiny and very crucial country. It was, of course, a subterfuge, a means of making Panama forever indebted and thereby returning to its puppet status."

Again, Perkins experienced the enormous differences between the wealthy and the poor. However, in Panama, the differences were most extreme in one area, the Canal Zone. In the Canal Zone, Americans lived in beautiful homes and enjoyed golf courses and firstclass shopping. Just outside of the Canal Zone, Panamanians lived in wooden shacks and among overflowing sewage. These harsh differences created high levels of animosity between the Americans living in the Canal Zone and the natives of Panama. It was not uncommon to see graffiti messages demanding that the U.S. leave Panama. On his trip, Perkins met with Panama's president and charismatic leader, Omar Torrijos. Perkins was very impressed with Torrijos and became friends with the leader. Torrijos was well aware of the EHM practices and knew fully how the game was played. He knew that he could become a very wealthy man by cooperating with the U.S. companies that wanted to build their projects in his country, but he worried about Panama losing its independence and not taking care of its many citizens living in poverty.

Torrijos made a peculiar deal with Perkins and MAIN. He wanted Panama to take back control of the Panama Canal and in doing so he wanted to build a more efficient canal, a sea-level one without locks that would allow for bigger ships. The Japanese, the Canal's biggest clients, would be interested in financing this construction, which would anger Bechtel Group, Inc. Bechtel was a company closely connected to Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush.

ECONOMIC HIT MEN

Omar Torrijos was concerned that these actions might send the wrong signals internationally. He wanted to make sure that Panama was recognized as an independent country and was not dictated by Russia, China or Cuba. He did not want Panama to be perceived as against the United States. Instead, he wanted it known that they were simply protecting the rights of the poor.

Torrijos did want to invest in huge advancement projects in electricity, transportation and communications for Panama, but he wanted to make certain that these projects benefited his entire country, including those living in extreme poverty. To do so would require huge amounts of money from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Torrijos worried that his commitment to taking back the Canal would anger the top people at Bechtel so much that it would make it nearly impossible to achieve his plans for these projects.

So, Torrijos made a deal with Perkins and MAIN. He told Perkins that if he could secure the financing for these projects, MAIN could have all the work they wanted on this master development plan. Perkins agreed to the deal and would do Torrijos' bidding.

Saudi Arabia

In response to the power of the international oil companies, which collaborated to hold down petroleum prices, a group of oil-producing countries formed OPEC in the 1960s. The huge impact OPEC was capable of became evident to the world with the 1973 oil embargo. This embargo was a result of the United States' support of Israel when Egypt and Syria launched attacks on the country. As the U.S. provided Israel with more financial aid, Saudi Arabia and other Arab oil producing countries imposed a total embargo on oil shipments to the U.S. While the embargo was short-lived, its impact was huge as Saudi oil prices jumped from \$1.39 per barrel on January 1, 1970 to \$8.32 on January 1, 1974.

As a result, Wall Street and Washington became obsessed with protecting American oil supplies and the U.S. was forced to recognize Saudi Arabia's importance to its economy. "For Saudi Arabia, the additional oil income resulting from the price hikes was a mixed blessing." Suddenly, the country's conservative religious beliefs were being replaced with a sense of materialism. Washington recognized this movement and negotiated with Saudi Arabia for assurance that there would never again be an oil embargo from the country. The result of these negotiations was the United States-Saudi Arabian Joint Economic Commission, known as JECOR. The unprecedented agreement was the opposite of the norm, where countries had to borrow from the U.S. until it could never get out of that debt. Instead, this agreement relied on Saudi Arabia's own money to hire American

firms to build up the country.

The U.S. wanted Saudi Arabia to guarantee to maintain oil supplies at prices that would be acceptable to the U.S. and its allies. Due to Saudi Arabia's vast petroleum supplies, this guarantee would protect the U.S. even if other countries threatened oil embargos. In exchange for the guarantee, the U.S. offered the House of Saud a commitment to provide complete political and military support (this would guarantee that the royal family would continue to rule in Saudi Arabia). The condition would be that the Saudis buy U.S. government securities with their petrodollars and that the interest earned on these securities would be used to pay U.S. companies to convert Saudi Arabia into a modern industrial power.

Perkins was brought in as an adviser in the early stages of these negotiations. His job was "to develop forecasts of what might happen in Saudi Arabia if vast amounts of money were invested in its infrastructure, and to map out scenarios for spending that money." He was told that not only would this job result in huge profits for MAIN, but that it was also a matter of national security.

This job was different for Perkins as the final objective was not to burden Saudi Arabia with debts it could never repay, but instead to "assure that a large portion of petrodollars found their way back to the United States." Basically, MAIN and other U.S. corporations needed to convince Saudi Arabia of the importance and benefits of transforming their country to a more modern nation. This would ultimately make Saudi Arabia more dependent on U.S. corporations and make U.S. corporations extremely wealthy.

For his part, Perkins convinced a key player within the House of Saud, a man he calls Prince W., that these projects would benefit his country as well as him personally. Perkins was able to eventually persuade Prince W. by arranging for a beautiful prostitute to live with him. By arranging for the prostitute to live with Prince W., Perkins was able to gain his trust and eventually convinced him of the value of the deal. The entire package was finally approved by the royal family of Saudi Arabia and MAIN was rewarded with one of the first highly lucrative contracts, which was actually administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. "The deal between the United States and Saudi Arabia transformed the kingdom practically overnight." It also marked the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the House of Saud, the bin Laden family and the Bush family, which benefited greatly from a financial standpoint thanks to the deal.

ECONOMIC HIT MEN

Struggling with His Conscience

Perkins saw his career take off as he was promoted again and became the youngest partner in the history of MAIN. He would go on to head major projects all over the world while taking home a huge salary. However, Perkins could not stop struggling with his conscience over the negative outcomes he believed he was causing as an EHM. In 1978 and 1979, the consequences of EHM empire building became clear to Perkins by what he saw happen in Iran.

While the U.S. had supported the shah, the results had led to class wars and passionate animosity towards the "corporatocracy" being implemented in Iran. Perkins had seen this hostility first-hand in several of the countries where he had helped to create similar situations with his EHM practices. Citizens of these countries hated U.S. policy and blamed it for their corrupt leaders and despotic government. In Iran, the situation escalated and led to the shah fleeing the country for his own safety and Iranians storming the U.S. Embassy and taking 52 hostages.

It was then that Perkins fully realized that "the United States is a nation laboring to deny the truth about its imperialist role in the world" and he became overwhelmed with guilt over his role in this global movement. Perkins sank into a depression and quit his job at MAIN in 1980.

The Impact of the Economic Hitman Continues

Perkins would continue to be haunted by the impact of economic hitmen even as he started his own company (a company that committed to producing environmentally friendly electricity), did special consulting for MAIN and other corporations, and became involved with nonprofit organizations and their efforts to work with and help indigenous people in Latin America.

In 1981, Perkins became deeply disturbed by the death of his friend and the leader of Panama, Omar Torrijos. Perkins believes that Torrijos' death in a plane crash was a CIA assassination because of his positions on the Panama Canal (Torrijos had achieved his goal of taking back the Canal) and his unwillingness to cooperate with American corporations. Torrijos was replaced by Manuel Noriega, who "became a symbol of corruption and decadence." Eventually, in 1989, the United States attacked Panama and the Arias family and the pre-Torrijos oligarchy, which had served as U.S. puppets from the time when Panama was torn from Columbia until Torrijos took over, were reinstated.

Perkins also watched closely throughout the '80s and '90s as the U.S. tried to get Iraq and Saddam Hussein to buy into the EHM scenario as Saudi Arabia had done before. Hussein refused and when he invaded Kuwait, the U.S. wasted little time and attacked Iraq. The economic hitmen failed again in their efforts following the invasion of Iraq and in 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq once again.

Perkins began to write *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* on several occasions, but stopped due to bribes or threats. But after 9/11, Perkins knew he could no longer wait and felt he had to expose these practices and the devastating consequences they create.

What to Do Now

Perkins now spends his life trying to educate people about the role of the economic hitman and how we can end their practices and achieve more global peace and prosperity by transforming our institutions. He believes "we have convinced ourselves that all economic growth benefits humankind, and that the greater the growth, the more widespread the benefits." We must realize that the American capitalism we are trying to push on other countries may not be what's best for the rest of the world.

We can't just blame this movement on a conspiracy. "The empire depends on the efficacy of big banks, corporations, and governments – the corporatocracy – but it is not a conspiracy.

This corporatocracy is ourselves – we make it happen – which, of course, is why most of us find it difficult to stand up and oppose it. We cannot bring ourselves to bite the hand of the master who feeds us."

SOURCE :

WANTTOKNOW.INFO

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man

Author: John Perkins

Concise summary

Publisher: Berrett-Koehler

Date of Publication: November 2004

ISBN: 1576753018





Marcus Garvey - The Image of God

If the white man has the idea of a white God, let him worship his God as he desires. If the yellow man's God is of his race let him worship his God as he sees fit. We, as Negroes, have found a new ideal. Whilst our God has no color, yet it is human to see everything through one's own spectacles, and since the white people have seen their God through white spectacles, we have only now started out (late though it be) to see our God through our own spectacles. The God of Isaac and the God of Jacob let Him exist for the race that believes in the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. We Negroes believe in the God of Ethiopia, the everlasting God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, the One God of all ages. That is the God in whom we believe, but we shall worship Him through the spectacles of Ethiopia.

Marcus Garvey - Traitors

In the fight to reach the top the oppressed have always been encumbered by the traitors of their own race, made up of those of little faith and those who are generally susceptible to bribery for the selling out of the rights of their own people. As Negroes, we are not entirely free of such an encumbrance. To be outspoken, I believe we are more encumbered in this way than any other race in the world, because of the lack of training and preparation for fitting us for our place in the world among nations and races. The traitor of other races is generally confined to the mediocre or irresponsible individual, but, unfortunately, the traitors among the Negro race are generally to be found among the men highest placed in education and society, the fellows who call them selves leaders. For us to examine ourselves thoroughly as a people we will find that we have more traitors than leaders, because nearly everyone who essays to lead the race at this time does so by first establishing himself as the pet of some philanthropist of another race, to whom he will go and debase his race in the worst form, humiliate his own manhood, and thereby win the sympathy of the "great benefactor", who will dictate to him what he should do in the leadership of the Negro race. It is generally "You must go out and teach your people to be meek and humble; tell them to be good servants, loyal and obedient to their masters. If you will teach them such a doctrine you can always depend on me to give you \$1,000 a year or \$5,000 a year for the support of yourself, the newspaper or the institution you represent. I will always recommend you to my friends as a good fellow who is all right." With this advice and prospect of patronage the average Negro leader goes out to lead the unfortunate mass. These leaders tell us how good Mr. So and So is, how many good friends we have in the opposite race, and that if we leave everything to them all will work out well. This is the kind of leadership we have been having for the last fifty years. It is nothing else but treachery and treason of the worst kind. The man who will compromise the attitude of his country is a traitor, and even so the man who will compromise the rights of his race can be classified in no other way than that of a traitor also. Not until we settle down as four hundred million people and have let the men who have placed themselves in the lead of us realize that we are disgusted and dissatisfied, and that we shall have a leadership of our own and stick by it when we get it, will we be able to lift ourselves from this mire of degradation to the heights of prosperity, human liberty and human appreciation.



Ras Jahaziel The Revelator

The present resurfacing of the call for BLACK REPARATIONS must be seen like the miraculous survival of a victim who has long been thrown off the ole pirate ship and left to drown. The re-emergence of this victim from beneath the waves of political and religious mis-education marks the blossoming a new level of political maturity amongst the Black peoples of the world today.

Before the development of such political maturity, the people who were bred in bondage had long forgotten what freedom is all about, and therefore their vision of FREEDOM was confined to any new paint-job on the old slave house. But who could blame them? The only place where some of them had ever seen FREEDOM was on paper, and the vast majority could not even read, so they had little chance of even seeing it there. They had long grown accustomed to being treated like dogs, and many had come to believe the lie that Africa's poverty was a result of some form of intrinsic inferiority. They were encouraged to blame themselves for their situation, and many preachers had explained "that was the way "GOD" made it to be."

In those times it was easy to pull a veil over the eyes of the people, and many were led to believe that the gaining of political independence and having a new flag and not singing "God save the Queen" anymore was the real attainment of freedom. Having a Black Prime minister and a Black government looked very much like the children of slaves were now free at last. Just like they did on emancipation day, there was dancing and singing when the new flag was raised. In some quarters it was really believed that the provision of MORE JOBS, the building of better roads, and the right to sit at desegregated lunch counters would have meant an end to the downward slide of the carriage of protracted genocide. Little did the "ex-slaves" know that after the excitement, the "better roads" would lead to nowhere.

Aside from the wide-spread political ignorance that governed the people, there was also another factor that always made them cautious about their demands. They were quite aware of the long history of THE TERRORISTS and their capacity for becoming BEASTS. Even an attempt at registering to vote could bring down the lynching party, and if just a simple demand for the right to cross the segregated line could be met with such TERRORISM like the murder of little children, they well understood that the hour of history was not yet on their side.

To be continued next issue.



BY RAS JAHAZIEL
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 919-244-5808 in Garner, NC.



Solidarity Letter from the TTRU to the Panama Alliance Summit Conference held in Panama in May 2005

This letter had made it to Panama, unfortunately time and unforeseen events prevented it from being read to the congregation. However, we find it necessary to reprint it in the Freedom Fighter.

15 B P.C.O.L
Gowers Well Rd ,
Fyzabad,
Trinidad, West Indies.

To the Rastafari Alliance of Panama, Delegates, and participants of the Panama Diasporic Rastafari Summit 2005.

Greetings and Heartical Irits, in the Name of I-n-I Royal Highnesses, H.I.M Haile I Selassie I, and H.I.M Waizero Menen.

On behalf of the TTRU, US/ TRINIDAD HOUSE.

I-n-I of the TTRU humbly apologizes for Our absence at this historic conference. Due to travel restrictions and legal ramblings, I-n-I are unable to have a physical presence at this time within the conference gate., Nevertheless, we are with you in spirit, and give I-n-I support wholeheartedly.

It is good to be in the House of Rastafari.
How good and pleasant it is for I-n-I to gather in
The tabernacle of Jah Rastafari Selassie-I

This is a great moment in the development of the Rastafari Nation.

As I-n-I forward into the future, let us keep in mind the detrimental and mis-guided information, and forced education that we have received at the hands of the European plantation owners, during our still illegal incarceration here in the Americas and the Caribbean. We cannot allow this blatant disregard for the basic truthful and upright education to continue. Let us also keep in mind, the purpose of our gathering. Let us focus on this purpose, and generate the inity that we need to succeed in this fight for collective freedom and global security.

Today, as we gather under the roof of the Panama Rastafari Alliance, with one voice, we demand our freedom and independence to develop as a sovereign nation. Today; we demand the return of I-n-I basic human rights given to us by the Almighty God. This Gathering will forever be written into I-n-I I-story for the forwarding generations.

The time is here, and the Rastafari nation now needs to conduct the basic guidelines for a global census, and the Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United strongly urges the Idren and Sistren to make the move to see that such a census is done. We need to know I-n-I strengths and weaknesses, so as to better apply our abilities to international Rastafari development.

At this juncture, the Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United would like to table a proposal for global inity, a proposal that is very cost effective, and would only require the endorsement of the Rastafari Nation. We propose a day of international solidarity, one day a week that will become the official day of worship or a day of Rastafari centered activities, that one day will be in accordance with ancient scriptural texts and reasonings. With the solidarity consciousness, there will come an international energy, simply by one and one's observance. On that day, we will all be of the same mind at the same time, in our respective countries. Distance is removed by the proximity of our hearts.

The TTRU, through its US office has had meetings and have developed an ongoing relationship with the Issembly for Rastafari Iniversal Education (I.R.I.E) and the Organization of African American Rastafari Unity (O.A.A.R.U) to conduct and implement a Rastafari census, (the guidelines has already been developed by Ras Nathaniel and I.R.I.E.) I n I sincerely urge the Rastafari Family in Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct said census.

Solidarity Letter from the TTRU to the Panama Alliance Summit Conference held in Panama in May 2005

The need to construct and implement the basic guidelines of economic development is of vital importance. We know and we understand the poverty that our people endure, yet, it is not too difficult to contribute to the welfare and development of the Rastafari nation. We contribute on a daily basis to the upkeep of the Babylon system, by way of purchases made; some of these purchases are not necessary and can be diverted away from Babylonian businesses and our money used to purchase goods and services from Rastafari owned businesses.

Translation of Rastafari books and literature into our communal languages are necessary and vital, and can be done on a small scale, so as to allow the flow of information at a contributable, and at an affordable price. Monetary exchange rates make it difficult for some of these books to reach I-n-I people. The remedy for this situation can come in the form of book excerpts as opposed to full scale printing. Therefore, for a small contribution of whatever the reader can afford, and that will create a revenue flow to allow for the reprinting of such papers and reading material.

Health care for our elders and children are of the utmost importance. Since it is not easily attainable by many of our people, we must ensure that the working professionals amongst I-n-I, are clear in their understanding and contribution of their skills to be used for the greater good of the Rastafari Nation.

Today the Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United calls on the Rastafari Professionals and educators to make a serious effort toward the development and security of the Rastafari Nation. Today, we ask that you reconsider your positions and re-adjust your lifestyles to accommodate the works that has been laid down in front of us, for His Imperial Majesty Haile I Selassie I has asked of I-n-I, "THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE EDUCATED FEW, TO FACILITATE THE EDUCATION OF THE LESS FORTUNATE

The Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United has purchased a considerable amount of land for the purpose of erecting and establishing a free learning center in Trinidad. On February 19th 2005 we launched our truebrary on the land. It is free, and local Rastafari community is starting to make use of the existing opportunity, to read and educate ones. We are in the process of establishing a place of business and also free health care workshops. We work toward the development of a free retreat where Rastafari from any part of the world can come and rest up and rejuvenate-- the only requirement asked is that the Idren and Sistren, who visit, lend a hand with ongoing projects. All of the necessary parts are in place and the implementation has begun, despite the negative forces.

Let us stand firm in the commitments and convictions that will come out of this historic conference, and let us forward into the future collectively and securely in the name of our father Qadamawi Haile I Selassie I Abbajanhoi, Jah Rastafari. We give thanks for being part of this historical gathering.

May Jah guide I-n-I in our efforts
Peace be upon you
Misgana

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RASTAFARI UNITED.

Central Committee.



WHAT DE PEOPLE SAYING

"Greetings in the blessed name of HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I.

Thanks for sending me a copy of your excellent and beautiful newspaper. The articles were full of interesting information, especially the first one about the way the Internet is being abused by those who distort the teachings of Rastafari. Thanks gain, and keep up the good work. BLESSINGS and ISES"

Makeda Blake - Hannah / Jamaica

"Greetings to T.T.R.U and Rastafari Blessings, These are upfull works that can not escape recognition in Zion. InI in Zion are happy to be associated with the Rastafari Idrins and Sistrens in Triny. Keep up the good works. Give thanks."

General Salem (R.Y.I.) RSA / South Africa

Greetings Ras Ravin
"What a great cover for the latest TTRU newsletter. Great job!"

Ras Nathaniel, I.R.I.E / Chicago .USA

"Greetings, Ras Ravin I
Please be sure to post on I site. I had trouble last time, it said the file was too large. Also, is there possibly and internet link that can post when these are not able to load?"

Great issue!
Issa / Florida. USA
Haile Sisters International

From TTRU fundraiser Providence, Rhode Island.

"Greetings TTRU.

Attached are the pictures from the Providence Black Repertory Theatre.
What a great night and venue. I had the best feelings leaving; the vibes were right Tuesday night. Selassie I dwelt amongst the assembly for sure."

Jessica Lider / Boston. USA

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From Trinidad

Rastafari group lobbies for marijuana law reform

Trinidad Guardian Newspaper By Nicole St John



Victoria Bisnath presents an award to Makandal Daaga on behalf of the group.



Junior Bisnath and Ronald Sammy, chairman of Rastafari Co-operation.

It is high time Government legalises the use of marijuana. This is a widely held view, especially amongst the Rastafarian community in T&T.

Contrary to popular belief, all Rastas do not smoke marijuana. For many of them smoking is a matter of personal choice, despite the fact that marijuana is an illegal drug in this country.

To them, marijuana (also called weed because of its ability to thrive in adverse conditions), is not a drug but a herb.

According to Rastafarian priest Winston Edmund, marijuana is from creation and nothing that comes from creation can be considered a drug.

Edmund, who said he has done research on the uses and effects of marijuana, insists that research has shown it to be a plus.

Supporting this view is Junior Bisnath, of Constructive Termites, who says that whilst he does not smoke marijuana, he supports its use for spiritual and medicinal reasons.

Marijuana has been used in the treatment or relief of asthma, arthritis, anorexia, glaucoma, wasting syndrome from Aids and a number of other illnesses.

Both Bisnath and Edmund belong to the Rastafari Co-operation in San Fernando, which was registered with the Ministry of Community Development and Gender Affairs four years ago as a community-based group.

The Co-operation was formed to deal with the subject of reparation and to put an end to the negative stigma attached to Rastafarianism.

The chairman of the Co-operation is Ronald Sammy and, to date, there are about 100 members.

When the Co-operation began, meetings were held at the Motown Pan Theatre. However, following the discovery of marijuana in the pan yard the group was asked to relocate. They are presently at the Mon Repos Community Centre.

But members of the Co-operation believe that government stands to gain if marijuana remains illegal, hence the reason the law has not been modified.

“The amount of money generated when they charge one man for weed is more than they could get if it was legal,” said Bisnath.

Producing research to prove his point, Edmund said that the entire marijuana plant, cannabis, was useful.

A priest in the Nyabingi order of the Rastafari movement, Edmund pointed out that the stalk of the cannabis produces a fibre that is supposedly ten times stronger than cotton fibre.

Research taken from The Orange County Register (May 1990) points to the fact that a type of cannabis known as hemp is used in the manufacturing of canvas, linen, rope and thread. The seed is used to make oils.

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According to Edmund, another advantage of legalising marijuana would be a reduction in the crime situation in the country.

And they insist that the need to deal with crime is of great concern.

“Rastas are not about harming people. If you see someone sporting a dread being arrested for a crime then he/she is not a true Rasta,” Bisnath said.

Edmund seconded this statement, saying, “Crime could be solved because the street knows everything, but when they already criminalise you for a weed seed, you become sceptical to get involved.”

For these men, Rastafarianism is a spiritual thing and involves living according to the teachings of Haile Selassie.

Referring to a number of prominent Rastas in T&T who, he believes, have helped to fight the negative label, Bisnath said, “There are Rastas in all walks of life. Many of them, like Roy Cape in the field of music, Junior Minister in the Ministry of National Security Fitzgerald Hinds, Brian Williams in football and Makandal Daaga who was instrumental in the Black Power Movement, have achieved greatness.”

Because of this, the Co-operation hosted a special awards ceremony for some of these Rastas three years ago.

“These people have contributed to the upliftment of the country. We need to recognise that.”

At present there are a number of factions of Rastafari movement in T&T. They include the Nyabingi House, the 12 Tribes of Israel, the Boboshanti House, African Unity, The Ethiopian Orthodox and the Ethiopian Peace Foundation.

The Boboshanti House follows the Nazarine order and consider themselves to be a Government as opposed to a religion. Their dreadlocks are always covered and they do not eat flesh. They are also believed to know a lot about herbal remedies.

Neither the 12 Tribes of Israel nor the Nyabingi House hold sabbath. However the 12 Tribes eat flesh and food growing on vines like grapes, while the Nyabingi refrain from this as well as from salted foods. The Nyabingis also play drums in worship.

The Ethiopian Orthodox grow dreadlocks when they are initiated into the religion but the men cut their locks as their faith deepens. They also guard the Ark of the Covenant (Moses’ law).

Rastas do not attend funerals.

All Rastas, except Boboshantis who believe in Emmanuel, hail Haile Selassie I as their God.

The Rastafari Co-operation falls under the heading of the Ethiopian Peace Foundation.

Within the Rasta community in Trinidad, the Rastafari Co-operation say they decided to be the unifying force.

“We wanted to be the binding force since there was a time when each faction kept to themselves. So we invited them to our house. The heads met and talked and this brought everyone together.”

“The Co-operation felt the need to work together on a way forward.

“We also want to form links with Africa for those who want to live there and for trade purposes.”

In fact, at present there is a delegation of Rastas coming out of the leading factions of the Rastafari movement in Africa on what Edmund called a fact-finding mission.

This is part of a cultural exchange and the intention is to encourage Nigerians, Ghanians and others to come to T&T.

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“We want to look at different ways of life and culture.” Making up the delegation are Carol Rocke, chairperson for the Peace Foundation in T&T, Simeon Cudjoe from the 12 Tribes of Israel, Bongo Ifold from the Nyabingi House and Priest Knolly from the Boboshanti House.

The delegation has already visited Nigeria and Ghana and are presently in Ethiopia.

According to Sammy, the idea is to gain residential status and citizenship in these African countries with the intention of mobilising people to make use of the opportunity.

“Before we do this, we need to enhance people and we have been doing this with skills training and education.”

So far, they have been providing training in woodwork. They also teach remedial reading.

The Co-operation holds rallies, parties and other fund-raising events to generate funds for various projects.

One such project is the recent registering of the Rastafari General Contractors. By setting up their own contracting company, these Rastas hope to be given contracts for work which they say will assist their communities.

They also say that this would be a means of lowering unemployment in the area.

Members of the Co-operation say the Ministry of Community Development has been instrumental in a lot of their projects and they want to thank the Minister of Community Development for this help.

“It would not have been possible without them. They assisted us in hosting the Crown Prince of Ethiopia at the Motown Pan Theatre when he came to Trinidad and visited San Fernando,” Bisnath said. “There was a motorcade at which he was greeted by the Mayor of San Fernando and we, the Rastafari Co-operation, had the honour of hosting him.

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