

The Shadow World "Inside the Global Arms Trade"

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The Book "The Shadow World : Inside The Global Arms Trade" issued recently in S. Africa Republic. It was edited by Andrew Feinstein. He was as an African national Congress member of South Africa Parliament. It was published by Jonathan Ball House, in Johanthberg & Cape Town.

The book is printed in 672 pages. It is provided by footnotes, references names, a prologue and introduction and material of the book. It includes 6 divisions that contains toll ally 21 Chapters.

The book talks in details about the international real players of arms trade and uncover the secrecy of the shadow world, that no country or international organization could subject any member of the shadow to real prosecution. Here, emerge the importance of the book, which registers facts about a divesting and scrupulously documented account of the greed venality and rampant corruption pervading the global arms trade. Thus thebook is in fact addition to Arabian library.

The 1st Division: Comes under the heading "The Second-Oldest Profession". It contains two chapters and each has its own title: (1) Sins of Commission, (2) The Nazi Connection

- The author begins this chapter by historical review of how did the arms trade develop by Basil Zahroff in the 19th century privately? How the international public opinion agitated against the arms trade companies? The agitation led to the amalgamation of most of small arms trade companies. One of these companies is BAE "British Aerospace" which came into being in 1987. It is a collection of nationalized arms factories.
- The author tells us the story of another arms trade company, that is named" Merex" it is a German company, which its genesis dates back to in early June 1945. Its real coming began in 1965, in the next years, Merer sealed a series of controversial deals that would spell an end to Mertins's the owner of Merex- nascent career as arms dealer through .
- His selling one deal of fighter planes to two sides- Pakistan & India – at the same time.

- His involvement in "Iran- Contra" scandal in the seventies.
- He was arrested in 2005 for bribing a UN official, who was controlling the operation of "Oil for Food" for Iraqi people.

The 2nd Division: It has a general heading "Nice work , If you can get it". It has six chapters: (3) Saudi Connection, (4) Defense of Humanity, (5) the Ultimate Dealer the Ultimate Crime, (6) Diamond and Arms, (7) Buckle to Bandar, (8) Justice for None

- The author talks about "Al-Yamamah Deal" that was signed between the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the Saudi Arabian government in 1985. It was arms deal of miscellaneous types. The Al-Yamamah deal netted British companies, predominantly BAE, over \$ 43 bn. In return, The Saudi Would not pay in cash, but in oil (\$ 400,000 bn) . The reason is that the paying by oil makes bribes away from financial scrutiny.
- Then the author makes a flashback on Prince Bandar's life, the star of Al-Yamamah deal and before the AWACS deal, with which he became the Saudi Ambassador in Washington.
- In this chapter, the author talks about the impact of the fall of Berlin Wall that put an end to the cold war and led to a new world

status. But it broke ever more complex armed conflicts. Merex company took advantage of the explosion of civil war and ethnic conflicts across the African continents.

- Hereafter the author tries to display the argument within British community, which was led by the mass media , but nothing was revealed.
- Once again, the author reveals how arms traders scatter the death, mass killing, knitting their networks of arms dealing, diamond smuggling and most of them are thuggish criminals moving in African continent in crevices of internal legal Jurisdiction. Some were linked to Merex and the web of Al-Qaeda demands dealer. He gives an examples of Leonid Minin and his role in the civil war of Liberia and in other parts of Africa.
- The author tells in this chapter , the efforts of SFO (Serious Fraud Office) to investigate Al-Yamamah deal trying to condemn BAE company, after the SFO had found the company guilty. But in Dec. 2006, the daily telegraph reported that the Saudis had given Britain ten days to halt the SFO's investigation or close the prospective Al-Salaam contract, that worth of \$ 40 bn. Allegedly, he was prince Bandar who made threat. In April 2008 the court

decided to stop the investigation.

- Finally the author shows that by the 2000s, some of Merex network's nefarious activities had been exposed by the UN and the NGO's And yet not single member of the network had faced a successful prosecution for their bad activities. The author is reckoning that to the weakness of international regularity.

The 3rd Division: "Business as Usual". It has three chapters : (9) Things Fall Apart- with the Help of BAE, (10) After the wall : Capitalism BAE Style, (11) The Ultimate Cop Out

- In this chapter, the author tells us about the motto which BAE has learned from the Al-Yamamah deal experience, i.e., how to work the system : bribe and corrupt as necessary and then rely on your political friend for protection. A clear example, and arms deal was signed between BAE and South Africa Republic, that estimated roughly \$ 3 bn, from which the total sum \$300 millions was paid in commission and in bribes. SFO was seeking permission to prosecute BAE for overseas corruption in Africa and Eastern Europe. But at the end the SFO was compelled to reach settlement with BAE, and the boss of the SFO was fired.
- This chapter concentrates on clear-

ing up the role of count Alfons Mensdorff rouilly as BAE's notorious agent in Eastern and Central Europe.

- The chapter refers to the US's effort to settle the matter concerning BAE's plead.

The 4th Division: takes the following heading "the Arms Super Power". It has seven Chapters. Each chapter has its own address: (12) Legal Bribery, (13) In the Name of Uncle Sam, (14) Taking the Mickey, the Toilet Seat and the Hammer.... In a Galaxy Far, Far Away, (15) Illegal Bribery, (16) Behind Utopia, Hope, (17) America's ShopWindow, (18) The Industry of Killing: Iraq and Afghanistan

- The author says- in this context- after the Cold War, the US was dependent strategically on belligerence in her foreign policy in order to keep defense spending high for the domestic own sake,... so, every American president enters the Oval Office, faces enormous pressures from industry-men and their lobbyists from both sides of the congress and the military, to keep virtuous circle spinning with continual increases in the defense spending . At the same time, to keep the bribes rates indirectly high.
- The author adds here another dimension of the legal bribery, which takes various forms, including: subsidies and loans. The ne-

cessity of such subsidies and loans are to be given to many countries to bribe the officials.

- Once again, the author shows in this chapter the struggle for increasing the defense budget, but this time in Bush's presidency term, especially after 9/11 attacks in America, to mobilize the whole world against terrorism and Iraq war.
- In this chapter, the author focuses on the story of some agents as (John Murtha, Chalic Wilson, Durlee Duryun and Rondy Cunningham) and how did they play a covert role in promoting arms deals by bribery, and how they have been involved in countless scandals within the congress and defense contracts.
- The author reflects the same scenario, with the attempts of the congress-men to increase the defense budget, but this time with President Obama taking office.
- In summary, the author displays how does Israel's arms industry play a unique role in the Middle East in favour of US. At the same time, it plays the role of client and intermediary in the region for US, too. It means simply that Israel is the shopwindow of US arms trade.
- In the last chapter, the author illustrates, how the decision of Iraqi and Afghanistan wars was

taken, in addition to Prince Bandar's role in the exhortation of his close friend President G. W. Bush to wage war against Iraq, its consequences on US and the arms dealers.

The 5th Division: comes under the following heading " the Killing Fields" it has only one chapter: (19) Cry , the Beloved continent

- In this single chapter, the author makes it clear that the history of Africa, its struggle for independence, the cold war battles , the weak state formation, etc... proved continuous conflicts, violence and poverty. All these factors opened the door of Africa widely for arms trade. One of the clear examples is the creation of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) in early 2007 which arose the Africans' fears of further militarization of the African engagement with US . The author gave many examples for dramatic political events. One of these countries is Egypt. Most Egyptian believe that the ousted President Mubarak has been using his position to feather his nest; taking cuts from arms deals and making a good use from his relations with Israel.

The 6th Division: is the last division takes the heading " The End Game" it has two Chapters: (20) Bringing Peace to the World and (21) Future Imperfect

- Here , the author confined on the story of two arms dealers (Andan Khashoggi and Ghossan Al-Kassr) and how these arms dealers were after used as an instrument of Geopolitics.
- In the last chapter, the author ends his book by saying that the material of the book was sucked from hundreds of thousands of documents, archives sources, the author collected them over ten years on the topic arms trade. He concluded that arms industry receives unique treatment from governments. Arms companies and individuals involved in the arm trade belong to the shadow world , are very seldom face justice, etc..., because of political intervention that is usually justified in the name of the national security.

The Shadow World is the harrowing behind-the-scenes tale of the global arms trade, revealing the deadly collusion that all too often exists among senior politicians, weapons manufacturers, felonious arms dealers, and the military—a situation that compromises our security and undermines our democracy. Pulling back the curtain on this secretive world, Andrew Feinstein reveals The Shadow World is the harrowing behind-the-scenes tale of the global arms trade, revealing the deadly collusion that all too often exists among senior politicians, weapons manufacturers, felonious arms dealers, and the mi SHADOW WORLD reveals the shocking reality of the global weapons trade, a business that counts its profits in billions and... Join Andrew Feinstein and thinkindia.org for a conversation on Corruption in the Global Arms Trade tomorrow at 12.30pm UK time. Shadow World. 22 April. Challenging the arms trade and the militarism that supports it The global arms trade accounts for around 40% of all corruption in world trade and is responsible for over half a million deaths a year. Shrouded in national-security-imposed secrecy the trade is conducted by a tiny elite of politicians, shadowworldinvestigations.org. Challenging the arms trade and the militarism that supports it “Shadow World Investigations. The Shadow World exposes both the formal government-backed trade in arms as well as the illicit deals and lays bare the shocking links between the two. Essential reading for anyone who cares about justice, transparency and accountability in both the public and private spheres, and for anyone who believes that it is more important to invest in saving lives than in the machinery of death’ Archbishop Desmond Tutu’Andrew Feinstein has written an authoritative guide to the business of war. Chilling, heartbreaking and enraging’ Arundhati Roy’The nobility and justice of Feins... A gripping and urgent investigation into the secretive world of the global arms trade - from a former member of the African National Congress.