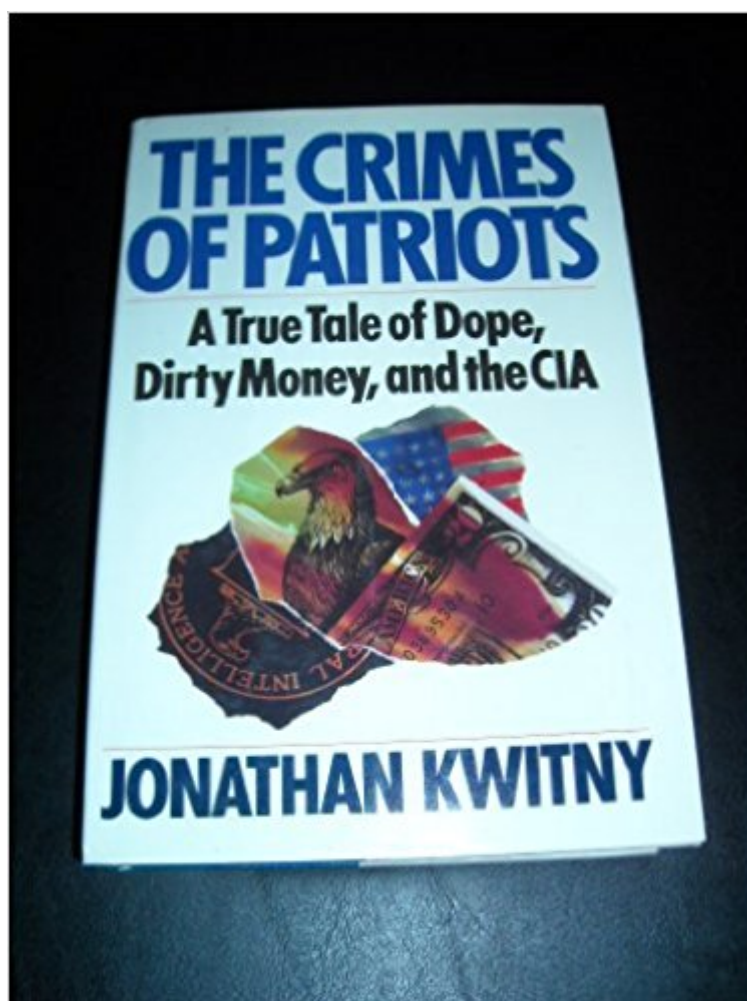


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The Crimes Of Patriots: A True Tale Of Dope, Dirty Money, And The CIA



Synopsis

The Crimes of Patriots will reveal how an obscure Australian bank, Nugan Hand Ltd., came to occupy the central position in a vast network of drug transactions, fraud, secret arms deals, and covert intelligence operations. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Kwitny, a Wall Street Journal reporter who now also conducts a very unorthodox TV-interview show, has become one of our most important investigative journalists. He is endlessly thorough, eminently fair but appropriately skeptical and writes with welcome touches of humor. His last book, *Endless Enemies*, remains the best-researched critical account of current U.S. foreign policy. This time his subject, loaded with topical significance in the wake of the Iran-contra scandal, is the Nugan Hand Bank, an Australia-based institution top-heavy with high-ranking retired U.S. military men and CIA operatives, which failed spectacularly in 1980, leaving one of its cofounders dead (whether by suicide or murder is still unclear) while the other vanished. With remarkable patience and industry, Kwitny has pieced together the whole sordid story, involving an institution clearly designed to facilitate the laundering and rapid movement of dubious money (much of it originating in arms deals and dope smuggling) around the Far East and even the Middle East. Lured by the big names on the masthead, many Australian and American citizens, including numbers of U.S. servicemen, were bilked out of their life savings when the bank failed and it was discovered that the entire edifice was largely a masterly exercise in shuffling paper; a few large and aggressive customers got paid, several officers got rich, most depositors lost everything. Australian investigators were either

respectfully inclined to accept absurd explanations or the more energetic of them were stonewalled by American authorities. The bank's chief executive, retired U.S. Navy Adm. Earl Yates, having ducked Kwitny's attempts to interview him, is allowed to contribute his own rebuttal to the author's findings as an afterword. It suggests either an inconceivable degree of naivete on the part of such a senior officer or complete duplicity, and the flag-waving in which he indulges (his Nugan Hand associates including names like William Colby, Guy Pauker and Gen. Edwin Blackare "the True Patriots," and Kwitny is merely serving "the interests of the Soviet Union") fails to impress. Much of the book was being written as the Iran-contra scandal began to unravel, but Kwitny is able to point up many fascinating correspondences, in both methods and personnel. One can only hope that in time he will turn his formidable talents to a book on that debacle. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

When the Tower Commission concluded that the Iran-contra affair was an aberration, it was wrong. Those who doubt the existence of what David Wise and Thomas Ross in 1964 called the "Invisible Government" should read Kwitny's detailed, chilling expose of the network of current and former military men and intelligence operatives who conducted a far-reaching "covert" operation behind the cover of an Australian bank. After the Nugan Hand bank collapsed in 1980, what emerged (according to this book, not the official investigation) is a web of crime, corruption, drugs, and CIA complicity in undermining a friendly nation's politics and defrauding ordinary people that makes Watergate, if not Contra-gate, look like a Sunday school picnic. Wall Street Journal correspondent Kwitny is the author of *Endless Enemies*. H. Steck, Political Science Dept., SUNY Coll. at Cortland Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

On the advice of a friend who knows one of the "Cast Of Characters" (a "Yank In The Bank"), I ordered a used copy of this long out of print book. What an eye opener. It's amazing what a group of "former" senior military officers and spooks can get up to when allowed to run amok overseas. You name it and they got away with it. Even though some of the principals are dead, nobody has been held accountable for the myriad of crimes that have occurred abroad. With the lack of support rendered by the U.S. government (especially the F.B.I.), it makes one wonder how "former" some of these players really were. It's also amazing how many of these same people reared their ugly heads years later during "Iran-Contra". Read the book and then decide for yourself.

Thirty years old, still the essential text on the Nugan Hand scandal, along with 'Merchants of

Menace".

Jonathan Kwitney's research of the Australian connection was extremely accurate. I knew some of the people, I read the book over ten years ago and was surprised at the accuracy. I am having difficulty putting it down this time also.

Details CIA operations and how they set up a world-wide heroin smuggling operation, and how they expanded into other drug markets. The "War on Drugs" is nothing but a way to get rid of CIA's competition.

Read this book when it first came out, and again now as a refresher of sorts. Been one of those folks in my past. It is just interesting. The book was way ahead for its time.

who knew?

Very interesting reading about corruption and crime in governments, FBI, CIA, In Australia and the USA.

finding book excellent so far after only six chapters. extremely well researched and well written, especially in relation to explaining to readers the slight differences between the government systems and cultures of Australia and America.

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