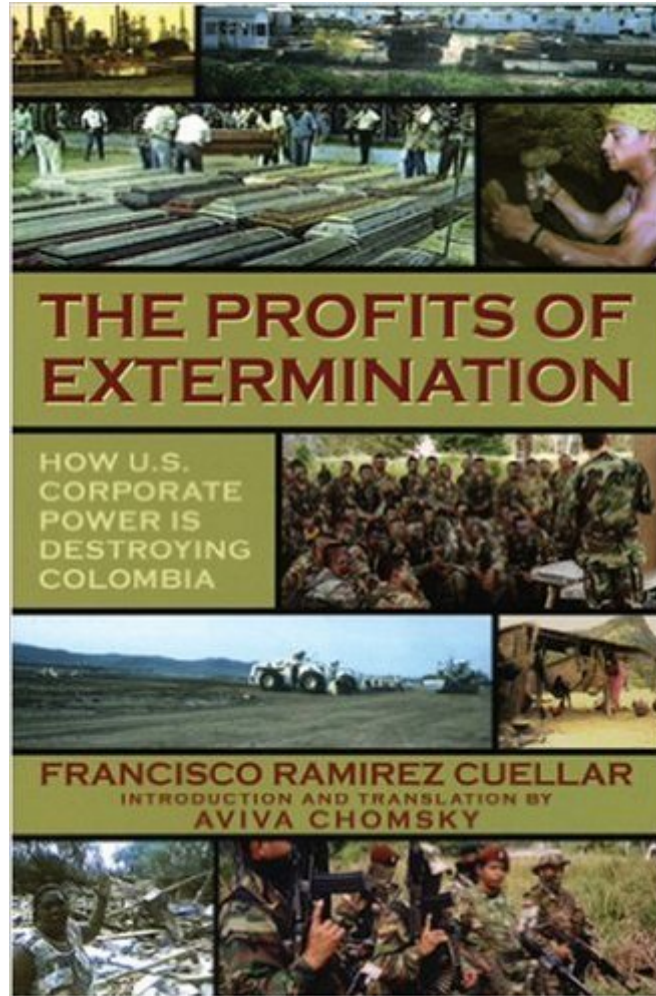


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The Profits Of Extermination: Big Mining In Colombia



Synopsis

The Profits of Extermination uncovers the costs of foreign investment, privatization and neo-liberalism in Colombia. US corporations have manipulated the law and worked hand in hand with right-wing death squads and the US government to ensure profits at the cost of the rights and lives of workers, peasants and miners. Colombia is the third-largest recipient of US military aid. According to this study by Chomsky and the Colombian mineworkers union, both US military aid and human rights violations are disproportionately concentrated in Colombia's lucrative mining and energy zones, where large foreign corporations use military and paramilitary forces to secure their investments. Aviva Chomsky is a professor of history at Salem State College. Francisco Ramirez Cuellar is president of the Colombian mining union Sintraminercol.

Book Information

Paperback: 150 pages

Publisher: Common Courage Press (April 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1567513220

ISBN-13: 978-1567513226

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,813,839 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in [Books > History > Americas > South America > Colombia](#) #489 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Mining](#) #1558 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America](#)

Customer Reviews

"The Profits of Extermination" by Francisco Ramirez Cuellar discusses struggles for justice in Colombia. The book focuses on the strategic importance of Colombia's mining and energy sectors to explain how powerful interests have conspired to wreak havoc on the lives of workers and the environment. In the Introduction, Aviva Chomsky contends that intervention by the U.S. into Colombia's affairs is driven by the need to secure corporate profits by preserving social inequality. We learn how Colombia's corrupt ruling class has partnered with major transnational corporations to exploit its labor and resources largely for the benefit of the few. The Prologue by Javier Giraldo is a passionate indictment of the violence inflicted upon Colombian human rights and labor activists by

the Colombian military and private paramilitaries. Mr. Giraldo paints a damning portrait of an entire nation that appears to have lost its moral compass through its wholesale servitude to the interests of capital. Mr. Cuellar's description of how native peoples have been dispossessed of their lands is reminiscent of the movie "The Rundown". Multinational corporations have been granted privileges by the Colombian state within specially-designated economic zones where civil liberties have been suspended and rule is enforced by paramilitary force. Through such arrangements, international investors and corporations such as Conquistador Mines, Exxon-Mobil and Harken Energy have been allowed to extract Colombia's wealth at criminally low tax rates. Mr. Cuellar urgently requests support from the international community to help end the violence in his country. The author notes that U.S.

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