



Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World (California Series in Public Anthropology)

By Carolyn Nordstrom

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Carolyn Nordstrom explores the pathways of global crime in this stunning work of anthropology that has the power to change the way we think about the world. To write this book, she spent three years traveling to hot spots in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the United States investigating the dynamics of illegal trade around the world—from blood diamonds and arms to pharmaceuticals, exotica, and staples like food and oil. *Global Outlaws* peels away the layers of a vast economy that extends from a war orphan in Angola selling Marlboros on the street to powerful transnational networks reaching across continents and oceans. Nordstrom's extraordinary fieldwork includes interviews with scores of informants, including the smugglers, victims, power elite, and profiteers who populate these economic war zones. Her compelling investigation, showing that the sum total of extra-legal activities represents a significant part of the world's economy, provides a new framework for understanding twenty-first-century economics and economic power. *Global Outlaws* powerfully reveals the illusions and realities of security in all areas of transport and trade and illuminates many of the difficult ethical problems these extra-legal activities pose.

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Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World (California Series in Public Anthropology) By Carolyn Nordstrom Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #521252 in Books
- Published on: 2007-06-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .55" w x 5.51" l, .89 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 260 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"An ethnographically rich, peopled account of the global economy."
(Tim Hall *Times Higher Education* 2010-06-30)

From the Inside Flap

"A deeply insightful book that connects the dots of the hidden systems that have subverted democracy and caused the type of desperation and anger that result in a 9/11. A book that opens our awareness."—John Perkins, author of The New York Times bestseller *Confessions Of An Economic Hit Man*

"Anyone interested in global economic crime should read this book."—Charmian Gooch, a founding director of Global Witness

"*Global Outlaws* is a revealing book about a global trend whose importance is still far from being fully recognized."—Moises Naim, Editor in Chief of *Foreign Policy Magazine* and author of *Illicit: How Smugglers Traffickers and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy*

"Carolyn Nordstrom's important new book takes us on a dark journey through war-torn landscapes riddled with corruption, violence, and gross inequalities. It is a compelling study—one guided by the norms of scholarly research but also written out of deeply felt experience. A book infused by anger, compassion, but also hope."—Andrew Mack, University of British Columbia

"This is a fascinating, insightful, and important ethnographic study of the intersection of crime, finance, and power in the illegal, 'informal', or underground economy. I have read all of Carolyn Nordstrom's books, and this is the best one yet."—Jeff Sluka, Massey University

"Carolyn Nordstrom's *Global Outlaws* is a rare and remarkable fusion of economic anthropology and travel writing. The prose is highly engaging without being sensationalistic. This is a timely and fascinating read for anyone looking for an on-the-ground account of the clandestine underside of globalization."—Peter Andreas, co-author of *Policing the Globe: Criminalization and Crime Control in International Relations*

"Carolyn Nordstrom is the best fieldworker in anthropology, bar none. Yet again she has pioneered new fieldsites and new forms of ethnography in this book, as well as presented a new framework for viewing economics and economic power. This is undoubtedly a highly important work that sets new frontiers for anthropology."—Monique Skidmore, Australian National University

About the Author

Carolyn Nordstrom is Professor of Anthropology at Notre Dame and author of several books including *Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profiteering in the Twenty-First Century* and *Fieldwork Under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Culture*, both from UC Press; and *A Different Kind of War Story*.

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