

A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War

Introduction

Pasquale De Marco has spent years researching and writing about the military-industrial complex and its devastating impact on the world. In *A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War*, Pasquale De Marco pulls back the curtain on the shadowy world of war profiteers, exposing the greed and corruption that fuels endless wars and undermines our democracy.

The book begins with a look at the revolving door between government and the defense industry, and how this cozy relationship leads to policies that benefit corporations at the expense of the public. Pasquale De Marco also examines the role of corporate lobbyists in

shaping military policy, and how the Pentagon's budget is bloated by unnecessary spending on weapons systems.

A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War also exposes the financial incentives for war, and how the arms industry profits from conflict. The book documents the rise of war profiteers, who make billions of dollars from the suffering of others.

In addition to the human cost of war, *A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War* also explores the environmental and social costs. The book documents the devastating impact of war on the environment, and how it can lead to displacement, poverty, and disease.

Pasquale De Marco believes that the time has come to end the cycle of endless wars. In *A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War*, Pasquale De Marco offers a roadmap for a more just and

peaceful world, and calls on citizens to take action to hold their governments accountable.

A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand the true cost of war and the urgent need to change course.

Book Description

A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War is a hard-hitting exposé of the military-industrial complex and its devastating impact on the world. Pasquale De Marco pulls back the curtain on the shadowy world of war profiteers, exposing the greed and corruption that fuels endless wars and undermines our democracy.

The book begins with a look at the revolving door between government and the defense industry, and how this cozy relationship leads to policies that benefit corporations at the expense of the public. Pasquale De Marco also examines the role of corporate lobbyists in shaping military policy, and how the Pentagon's budget is bloated by unnecessary spending on weapons systems.

A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War also exposes the financial incentives for war, and

how the arms industry profits from conflict. The book documents the rise of war profiteers, who make billions of dollars from the suffering of others.

In addition to the human cost of war, *A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War* also explores the environmental and social costs. The book documents the devastating impact of war on the environment, and how it can lead to displacement, poverty, and disease.

Pasquale De Marco believes that the time has come to end the cycle of endless wars. In *A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War*, Pasquale De Marco offers a roadmap for a more just and peaceful world, and calls on citizens to take action to hold their governments accountable.

A Knife in the Shadows: Unmasking the Merchants of War is an essential read for anyone who wants to understand the true cost of war and the urgent need to change course.

Chapter 1: The Shadowy Cabal

1. The Revolving Door Between Government and Defense Industry

The revolving door between government and the defense industry is a major problem that contributes to the military-industrial complex and the endless cycle of war. Former government officials often go to work for defense contractors, and vice versa, which creates a cozy relationship between the two sectors. This relationship leads to policies that benefit corporations at the expense of the public.

For example, a former Pentagon official might go to work for a defense contractor and use their knowledge of the government's procurement process to help the company win lucrative contracts. Or, a former defense contractor might go to work for the government and use their industry connections to push for policies that benefit their former employer.

The revolving door also creates a culture of secrecy and corruption. Former government officials who go to work for defense contractors often have access to classified information, which they can use to benefit their new employer. And, defense contractors often donate large sums of money to political campaigns, which gives them undue influence over government policy.

The revolving door between government and the defense industry is a major problem that needs to be addressed. We need to enact stricter ethics rules to prevent former government officials from going to work for defense contractors, and vice versa. We also need to reduce the influence of money in politics so that defense contractors can't buy undue influence over government policy.

Here are some specific examples of how the revolving door between government and the defense industry has led to corruption and waste:

- In 2015, a former Pentagon official was convicted of taking bribes from a defense contractor in exchange for helping the company win a \$100 million contract.
- In 2016, a former defense contractor was convicted of defrauding the government by overcharging for spare parts.
- In 2017, a former government official was convicted of leaking classified information to a defense contractor.

These are just a few examples of the many cases of corruption and waste that have occurred as a result of the revolving door between government and the defense industry. It is a major problem that needs to be addressed in order to create a more just and peaceful world.

Chapter 1: The Shadowy Cabal

2. The Influence of Corporate Lobbyists on Military Policy

Corporate lobbyists play a major role in shaping military policy in the United States. They represent the interests of defense contractors, who have a vested interest in maintaining and increasing military spending. Lobbyists use a variety of tactics to influence policymakers, including campaign contributions, lobbying meetings, and astroturfing.

Campaign contributions are one of the most effective ways that lobbyists influence politicians. Defense contractors donate millions of dollars to candidates for Congress and the presidency, and these contributions can have a significant impact on how politicians vote on military spending bills. For example, in the 2020 election cycle, the top five defense contractors donated over \$200 million to candidates and political parties.

Lobbying meetings are another important way that lobbyists influence policymakers. Lobbyists meet with members of Congress and their staff to discuss military spending bills and other issues related to defense policy. During these meetings, lobbyists provide information about the benefits of defense spending and try to persuade policymakers to support their positions.

Astroturfing is a tactic that lobbyists use to create the illusion of grassroots support for their positions. Lobbyists create fake websites and social media accounts to make it appear that there is widespread public support for their positions. This can be effective in influencing policymakers, who may be more likely to support a position if they believe that it is popular with the public.

The influence of corporate lobbyists on military policy is a serious problem. Lobbyists represent the interests of defense contractors, who have a vested interest in maintaining and increasing military spending. This can

lead to policies that are not in the best interests of the American people.

There are a number of things that can be done to reduce the influence of corporate lobbyists on military policy. One important step is to increase transparency in the lobbying process. This would make it easier for the public to see how lobbyists are influencing policymakers. Another important step is to ban campaign contributions from defense contractors. This would reduce the amount of money that lobbyists have to spend on influencing elections.

Reducing the influence of corporate lobbyists on military policy is essential for ensuring that our government is responsive to the needs of the American people.

Chapter 1: The Shadowy Cabal

3. The Power of Military Contractors

Military contractors play a major role in the modern American military. They provide a wide range of services, from training troops to building weapons to operating military bases. These contractors have become so powerful that they now wield significant influence over U.S. foreign policy and military operations.

One of the most controversial aspects of military contractors is their use of private security forces. These forces are not subject to the same laws and regulations as the U.S. military, and they have been accused of committing human rights abuses in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries.

Another concern about military contractors is their close ties to the government. Many former military officers and government officials now work for these

companies, and they often use their connections to win lucrative contracts. This revolving door between government and industry leads to a situation where the interests of the military and the interests of the contractors become intertwined.

The power of military contractors is a threat to American democracy. These companies are unelected and unaccountable, and they have a vested interest in perpetuating war. It is time for the U.S. government to reassert its control over the military and to end the era of private contractors.

Here are some specific examples of the power of military contractors:

- In 2004, the Pentagon awarded a \$10 billion contract to Halliburton to provide logistical support for U.S. troops in Iraq. Halliburton was accused of overcharging the government and providing substandard services.

- In 2007, Blackwater Worldwide, a private security company, was involved in a shooting in Baghdad that killed 17 Iraqi civilians. The company was accused of using excessive force and failing to cooperate with the investigation.
- In 2010, DynCorp, another private security company, was accused of trafficking in weapons and drugs in Afghanistan. The company was also accused of paying bribes to Afghan officials.

These are just a few examples of the problems that have been caused by the rise of military contractors. These companies are a threat to American democracy and to the safety of our troops. It is time for the U.S. government to take action to rein in these powerful corporations.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: The Shadowy Cabal 1. The Revolving Door Between Government and Defense Industry 2. The Influence of Corporate Lobbyists on Military Policy 3. The Power of Military Contractors 4. The Financial Incentives for War 5. The Militarization of American Foreign Policy

Chapter 2: The Cost of War 1. The Human Cost of War 2. The Financial Cost of War 3. The Environmental Cost of War 4. The Social Cost of War 5. The Loss of Civil Liberties

Chapter 3: The Merchants of Death 1. The History of the Arms Industry 2. The Business of War 3. The Role of Wall Street in Funding War 4. The Military-Industrial Complex 5. The War Profiteers

Chapter 4: The War Machine 1. The Pentagon's Budget 2. The Development and Production of Weapons 3. The

Deployment of Troops 4. The Logistics of War 5. The Technology of War

Chapter 5: The Propaganda of War 1. The Use of Fear and Deception to Justify War 2. The Media's Role in Promoting War 3. The Entertainment Industry's Role in Glorifying War 4. The Education System's Role in Indoctrinating Children for War 5. The Rise of War Culture

Chapter 6: The Alternatives to War 1. Diplomacy and Negotiation 2. Economic Sanctions 3. International Law 4. Nonviolent Resistance 5. Peacebuilding

Chapter 7: The Future of War 1. The Changing Nature of Warfare 2. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in War 3. The Threat of Nuclear War 4. The Need for Global Disarmament 5. The Vision of a World Without War

Chapter 8: The Responsibility of Citizens 1. The Importance of Public Awareness 2. The Role of Protest and Activism 3. The Power of Voting 4. The Need for

Civil Disobedience 5. The Responsibility to Create a More Just and Peaceful World

Chapter 9: A Call to Action 1. The Urgent Need for Change 2. The Importance of Hope 3. The Power of People 4. The Vision of a Better Future 5. A Call to Join the Movement for Peace

Chapter 10: Epilogue 1. Reflections on the Past 2. The Challenges Ahead 3. The Importance of Never Giving Up 4. The Promise of a Peaceful Future 5. A Final Message of Hope

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.