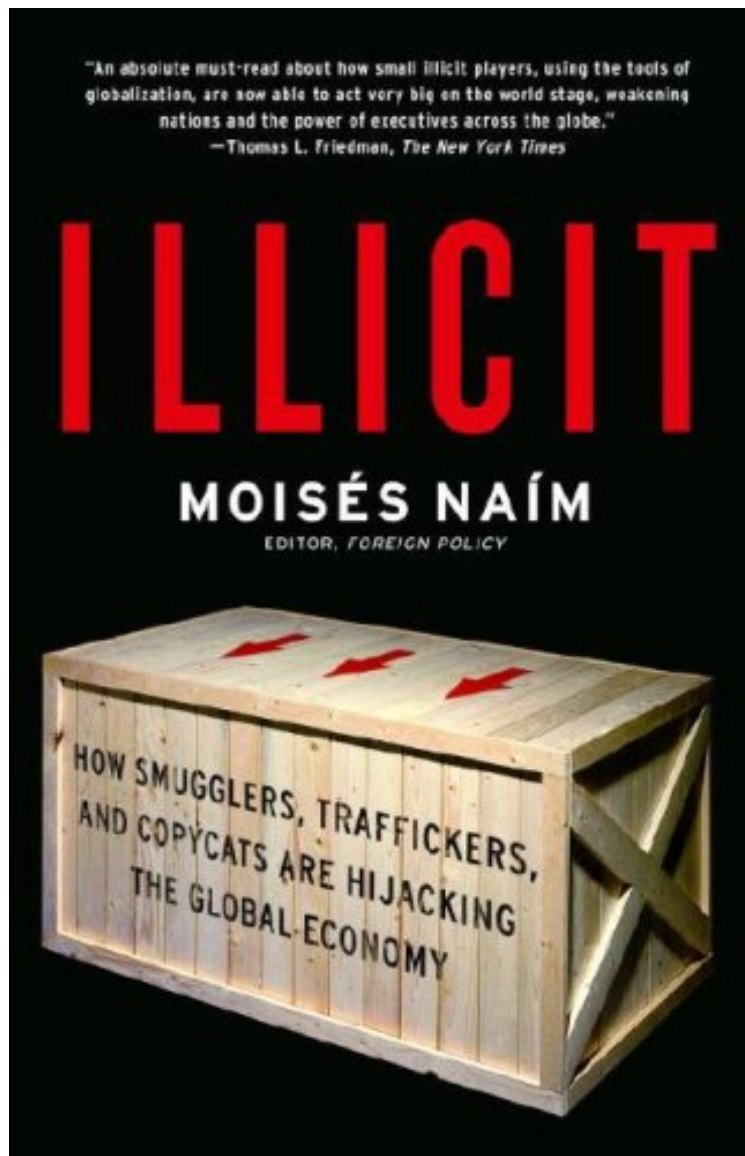


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Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy

Moises Naim

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Illicit - Moises Naim By MichaelOriginally only ordered this book as part of the required text for one of my classes, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the perspective the author provides, as it has made me reexamine a number of my stances on globalization and modern approaches aimed at addressing international crime. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Extremely eye opening. By Book wormMost of the information is not disclosed openly in the press. Very informative and eye opening. Numbers are not up to date but concepts illustrate what has been happening and developing in the trade licit and illicit. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love this book By Tara StricklandI love this book! This was required for my transnational crime class and surprisingly enjoy reading it! It is very interesting and a very easy read.

A groundbreaking investigation of how illicit commerce is changing the world by transforming economies, reshaping politics, and capturing governments. In this fascinating and comprehensive examination of the underside of globalization, Moises Nam illuminates the struggle between traffickers and the hamstrung bureaucracies trying to control them. From illegal migrants to drugs to weapons to laundered money to counterfeit goods, the black market produces enormous profits that are reinvested to create new businesses, enable terrorists, and even to take over governments. Nam reveals the inner workings of these amazingly efficient international organizations and shows why it is so hard and so necessary to contain them. Riveting and deeply informed, *Illicit* will change how you see the world around you.

.com Illicit activities are exploding worldwide. The onslaught of globalization has unleashed a tidal wave of bad stuff--everything from arms trafficking, human smuggling, and money laundering to music bootlegging. Here is the dark side of globalization: the mushrooming underground economy. Moiss Nam explores this murky world in his book *Illicit*. Nam is the editor of the relaunched magazine *Foreign Policy* and a former executive director of the World Bank and Minister of Trade and Industry of Venezuela. In *Illicit*, he unties the connections between the Colombian cocaine dealer, the New York banker steering money to offshore tax havens, the Albanian forcing women into prostitution, and the Chinese market stall-holder selling counterfeit DVDs. Nam reports that legitimate global trade has doubled since 1990 from \$5 to \$10 trillion. Meanwhile, money laundering has gone up tenfold, exceeding \$1 trillion a year. Smuggling and money laundering have always existed, but Nam shows how they have increased at a staggering pace in the wake of globalization, despite new government controls since 9/11. The main culprits are the collapse of the Iron Curtain and state deregulation. As the reach of organized crime has expanded, governments have failed to keep up. Nam illustrates the problems with stories about A.Q. Khan, the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb who sold nuclear technology to North Korea and Libya; Walter C. Anderson, an American who was accused of hiding \$450 million in offshore accounts to evade taxes; and Vladimir Montesinos, the Peruvian intelligence czar who is on trial for trafficking drugs and arms. The book, while a little dry, will be interesting to policy buffs and aspiring crooks alike. -- Alex Roslin From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . In this sweeping and informative work, *Foreign Policy* editor Nam demystifies the global trade in illegal goods and services and, in the process, presents an original portrait of globalization that skillfully eschews the utopian doggerel that often characterizes such accounts. Nam provides a detailed tour of the major globalized criminal activities--drug production and distribution, illegal arms dealing, human trafficking, counterfeiting, money laundering and so on--and introduces a host of criminal networks that profit from them. The book is regrettably devoid of the kind of firsthand reporting from the field that would have made the subject matter really jump off the page. Yet Nam creates a picture of illicit trade which demonstrates that, far from taking place in a shadowy underworld, such activity is inextricably linked to legitimate commerce and directly affects all of us. In Nam's view, globalization's "diffusion of power to individuals and groups" and away from sovereign states has created a "smuggler's nirvana," in which the lines between legitimate and illegitimate economic activity are blurred and criminal networks possess an unprecedented degree of political influence. Making matters worse, the widening gap between global haves and have-nots--what Nam calls "geopolitical bright spots and black holes"--has increased the incentive for individuals and groups on both sides of the divide to participate in illicit activities. The remedy? In addition to offering a bevy of specific policy ideas, Nam urges readers to move away from simplistic moral denunciations and to focus, instead, on reducing the demand for criminals' goods and services and on weakening the incentives for ordinary people to become involved in their enterprises. (On sale Oct. 18) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* Naim explores the massive trade in illegal goods and services that has ballooned in recent years along. The black-market trade in drugs, counterfeit goods, and the trafficking in human slaves is nothing new, but the digital age has opened up whole new avenues of exchange. Copies of software, CDs, and DVDs are as perfect as the original. Money laundering takes place through complex international electronic transfers that are difficult to trace to their source. Illicit wares are also a favorite source of funding for terrorist organizations, which use the proceeds to buy arms and influence. Naim points to the U.S. war on drugs as an example of how governments are wholly ineffective in stopping illegal trade. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that have a stake in the outcome, such as the Business Software Alliance and the Motion Picture Alliance, may stand a better chance of gaining international cooperation than government bureaucracies. Naim also

focuses on demand-side reduction and decriminalization as options to the forceful tactics of government law enforcement. David Siegfried Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved