Why US is the only 'Superpower'

In a controversial book, John Perkins narrates a real life tale. His personal journey from the member of international community of highly paid professionals who are employed to cheat poor countries around the globe to maintain US monopoly. Eventually he calls himself as a former economic hit man and deconstructs international intrigue and corruption, the sinister mechanics of imperial manipulations and control who stand to benefit from it get hooked to the ideology. If they fail, then there are the more dangerous 'jackals', who use violent underworld methods to achieve their goals. If they too fail, then the time-tested military methods come in handy to the war-happy American government, and the military industry is always too happy with the growth opportunities opened up by conflicts and wars.

Unlike the author, not all of them are recruited as a part of an organised conspiracy, nor are all of them clearly aware of their role. This is what makes the global economic exploitation system a lot more subtle, robust, widespread and dangerous, as the individuals and corporations who serve as the agents of US corporatocracy. Perkins assures us that people who play similar roles are more abundant now, have more euphemistic titles, and walk the corridors of every major corporation in the world. EHM is not a designation but a nickname for managers, engineers, economists etc., in private corporations who serve as the agents of US corporatocracy. Perkins assures us that people who play similar roles are more abundant now, have more euphemistic titles, and walk the corridors of every major corporation in the world.

The author describes his own baptism into an EHM during one of his first jobs as an economist at MAIN (Chas T. Main Inc.), a low-profile but hugely successful Boston-based International consultancy company that was involved with World Bank's infrastructure projects in Ecuador. With only a bachelors degree from Boston University "which did not seem to warrant a position as an economist with such a lofty consulting company" he visualised himself as a "dashing secret agent heading off to exotic lands, lounging beside hotel swimming pools, surrounded by gorgeous bikini-clad women, martini in hand". Through his descriptions of his many subsequent assignments, he convinces us that there is a lot of truth in this imagination.

In Indonesia of the 1970s, Perkins describes how the EHMs were used to make exaggerated projections to serve the US foreign policy and corporatocracy - to seduce Indonesia away from communism, coupled with the insatiable American thirst for oil resources. His bosses made it all very explicit to him, suggesting that it is "better to err on the higher
side than to underestimate”, and he obliged. Interestingly, he continued to do such things against his conscience for over three decades, fully aware of what he was doing, before he quit and decided to write it all as his confessions in this book. Though his meteoric career growth explains why he drifted along this path, three decades is too long a time to suppress such strong contradictions, and equally difficult to evoke them again after such a long period of suppression. Nevertheless, for the purpose of enjoying the book and benefiting from its revelations, it is “better late than never”.

The main chapters of the book range from controlling Indonesian infrastructure and oil to controlling Panama Canal, the Saudi Arabian money laundering affair, the financing of Osama Bin Laden, the Shah of Shahs and the great Iranian flop show, the Columbian gateway to Latin America, Ecuador’s oil, the alleged CIA assassinations of the Presidents of Ecuador and Panama, the ‘wild West of energy’ era, the US invasion of Panama, the EHM failure in Iraq followed by the Iraq war, the Venezuelan triumph. Through these chapters, John Perkins deconstructs the official American view of the world with his own personal anecdotes and revelations of events and conversations to which he was privy.

In many ways, this book explains how USA, a country that doesn’t have gold to back its currency, has an annual trade deficit of over 800 billion dollar presently, has debts of over five trillion dollar from the world, recklessly spends more than it earns and makes the world economy dependent on American consumption, manages to rule the world. India itself keeps its foreign currency assets of over 100 billion dollar in US securities. China has sunk over 600 billion dollar in US securities. Japan’s stakes in US securities is in trillions. The US has invested in China less than half of what China has invested in US. The same is the case with India. We have invested in US over 100 billion dollar while the US has invested less than 20 billion dollar in India. As calculated by some economists, today, to keep the US consumption-centric economy going, other countries have to remit 180 billion dollar every quarter, which is two billion dollar a day, to the US!

This book is an essential reading for anyone interested in knowing about the US influence in their country or the world at large, not only in terms of economics and politics, but much more. It is a must for everyone who believes in the “free market” ideology, and that US epitomises it. Also a must for both who strongly support or oppose liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

—The writer is Reader, School of Biotechnology, GGS Indraprastha University, Delhi

आप जागरूक और जिम्मेदार नागरिक हैं इसलिए पढ़ें
हिंदी और अंग्रेजी में कॉम्बेट लॉ
मानवविधिकार के मोचें पर डॉट ट्रम्पासिक पत्रिका
• कानून अदालतों और फैसलों के संस्थान से नहीं होता यह हमारे जीवन के हर क्षेत्र की प्रभावित करता है हमारी हर तय करता है
• जब है कानून जानना, समझना और इसकी पैचोपियों को तोड़ना कानून जानना हर नागरिक का अधिकार है तभी संभव है जन निर्धारित कानूनों का प्रतिरोध और मानवविधिकारों की रक्षा

एक प्रति: हिंदी – 20 रुपये अंग्रेजी – 40 रुपये
वार्षिक : हिंदी – 100 रुपये अंग्रेजी – 220 रुपये
आजीवन सदस्य: हिंदी – 3000 रुपये अंग्रेजी – 5000 रुपये

नोट : सदस्यता शुल्क, चेक/ड्राफ्ट द्वारा
केवल कॉम्बेट लॉ (Combat Law) के पक्ष में भेजें

पत्रिका की सदस्यता के लिए लिखें कॉम्बेट लॉ
576, मस्जिद रोड, जंपुरा, नयी दिल्ली 110014
dराजस्थान - 011-65908842, 24378854 फैक्स - 011-24374502
dईमेल - editor@combatlaw.org, combatlaw.editor@gmail.com, letters2combatlaw@gmail.com
dवेबसाइट - www.combatlaw.org