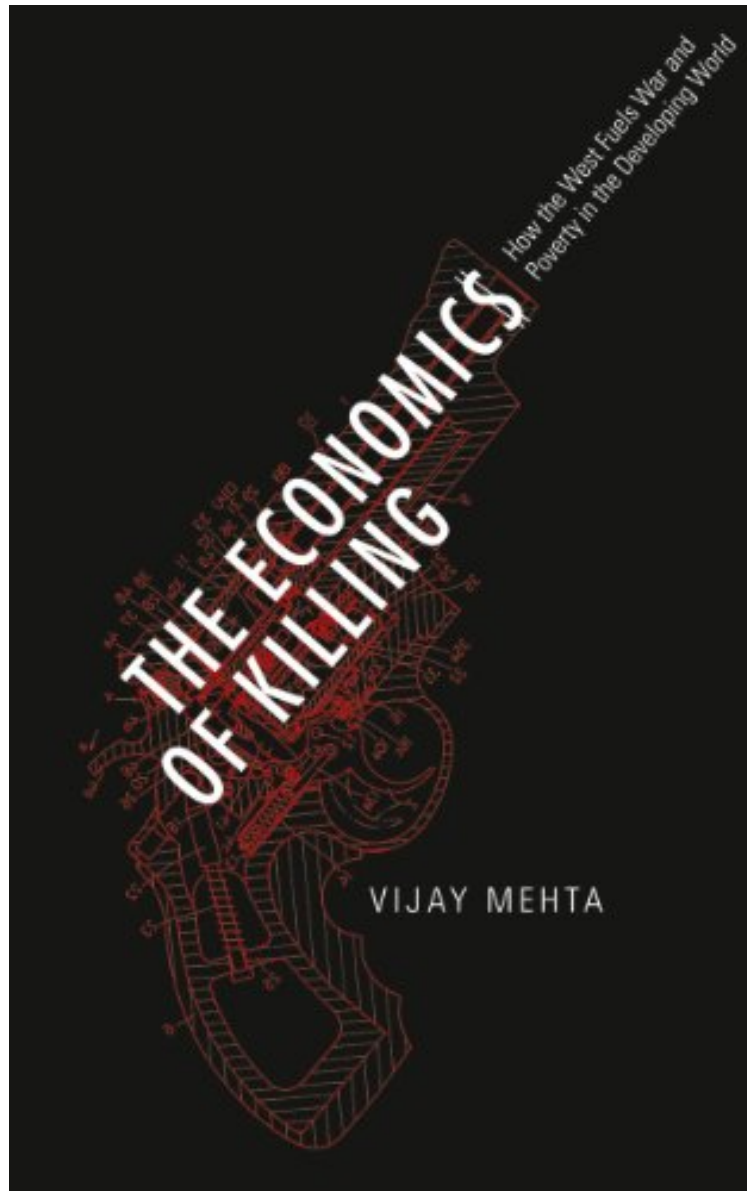


[Download free pdf] The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels War and Poverty in the Developing World

The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels War and Poverty in the Developing World

Vijay Mehta

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Vijay Mehta : The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels War and Poverty in the Developing World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels War and Poverty in the Developing World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Some useful facts, but a faulty, misleading analysis
By William Podmore
Clearly, the end of the 'Cold war' has not brought a peaceful or prosperous world. In fact, its dangers, economic and military, have worsened. In this interesting book, Mehta tries to analyse our current situation and to propose a way forward. Empires are waging wars for profit, resources and domination. There is economic warfare - class against class, imperialism (the USA and the EU) against the peoples of the world, and the USA against China. He points out that NATO's wars against Iraq and Afghanistan have cost an estimated \$3 trillion. A war against Iran, with a population of 70 million (more than Iraq plus Afghanistan) would cost at least as much. It would also raise oil prices yet more and cut incomes and jobs. Mehta quotes South Africa's health minister: "if there is a single major threat to our overall health effort, it is the continued outward migration of key health professionals, particularly nurses." There are more Malawian doctors in Birmingham than in Malawi. The British Medical Association has compared EU poaching of African medical staff to rape. The EU impounds shipments of the cheap generic anti-AIDS drugs produced by India and Brazil. Obama's quantitative easing inflates the dollar, cutting the USA's \$1.2 trillion debt to China. China's currency is pegged to the dollar, so inflation in the USA causes inflation in China, making China's exports dearer. Mehta points out, "No matter how much NATO blows on defence expenditure, it only acts in countries that cannot retaliate with the atomic bomb. What greater incentive is there for threatened regimes to develop their own nuclear weapons?" Libya didn't develop the bomb and got invaded. North Korea has learnt the lesson. Yet Mehta too often thinks he knows something, as when he just takes for granted that North Korea attacked the South in 1950, or that China attacked India in 1962. If he had read Bruce Cumings books on the Korean War, or Neville Maxwell's book, India's China war, he would not have assumed that what is 'common knowledge' is true. Again, Mehta writes that North Korea is 'a threat to world peace'. But to call a country a threat to world peace is to justify attacking it. He then further encourages a repeat US attack on Korea by forecasting that the USA would win such a war. But after depicting the ruthless warmaking of the imperialist states, Mehta fosters the illusion that they will, when faced with popular pressure, just give up power peacefully. He claims that "Knowledge and power ultimately cohere at the same point. As the diffusion of knowledge devolves power from the elite to the masses, the grip of the military-industrial complex will finally end, not in a bang but in the peaceful murmur of prosperity." This is idealism, a liberal myth that would disarm the working class. He claims that the internet produces a "shift in the balance of knowledge that offers the best hope of ending the destructive cycle of militarism and war." Sources of knowledge are accessible, but this does not mean that they are accessed more than the far more numerous sources of propaganda lies. Mehta claims that the 'military-industrial complex' caused the crisis, so removing the military-industrial complex', while leaving capitalism intact, would solve the crisis. No, capitalism caused the crisis and until the working class acts to end capitalism, capitalism will also cause wars without end.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good title - Great book
By Anne R
This book couldn't have come my way at a more opportune time. The scales have fallen from my eyes following events in Syria and the Middle East, a decade of war and its aftermath in Iran and Afghanistan, not to mention the disproportionate military operations in Gaza and Palestine, the shameful disregard for the lives and rights of ordinary civilians by so many ruling elites around the world and the interventionist policies of Western powers on the pretext of bringing peace, security and stability to "us". The book gives a superb handle on the current state of global economic politics, starting with the trade imbalance between China and the USA - the underlying reason, Mehta argues, why the economic bubble burst in 2008 - showing that "in its present form, the American economy cannot survive without permitting unfettered sales of arms and dual-use items, even to its enemies". It also gives an interesting and detailed analysis of spending on arms manufacturing in the USA, which has become a "deadweight around the necks of productive and progressive economic forces", and of the use of tax revenue to fund arms manufacturers, so that "while smaller American companies have to endure capitalism, Lockheed can purchase socialism". Mehta casts an incisive eye over every cultural, social, psychological and economic aspect of militarism, including the reverence reserved for the military, criticism of which is portrayed as "unpatriotic" and "disastrous for anyone seeking election", the exploitation of public sympathy for soldiers by the officer class to protect its own privileges, and the absence of media discussion of the "necessity of war in general or of the many trillions spent each year prosecuting conflict and maintaining military hardware and personnel". The scope of the book is broad and comprehensive, exhaustively researched and yet compellingly readable, culminating in the final chapter entitled: "Replacing the military-industrial complex - Making the 21st century the century of soft power". Here, Mehta condenses many of the points made in previous chapters and looks at where immediate cuts can be made in military spending and diverted into the "green collar" sector, along with the introduction of tough new mechanisms to prevent the "wholesale theft of wealth from Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East and Russia...", because "it is when the fruits of corruption mysteriously find their way to the West that development grinds to a halt". Ultimately, Mehta's vision is to promote the three Ds of Development, Democratization and Disarmament to secure peace and security through reform and grassroots pressure.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Be informed
By c lewes
This book is clear and well-written, and packed with information about the underlying causes of malaise in the world's economy, and the terrible gulf between rich and poor countries, and rich and poor people the world over. Anyone with satellite tv or access to internet news can't help but realise that this gulf isn't just 'the way it is'. How do these evils persist decade

after decade? What are the underlying causes? How much longer can we bear watching people suffer such utter devastation through war? . Mr Mehta, with his formidable memory and grasp of world affairs helps us to connect facts and figures from past and present in a way that brings great clarity to these questions, and he offers possible ways forward. Every journalist should read this book and start reporting with more context than they currently do. They need to follow Mr Mehta's lead in connecting the vital dots which help us to be more roundedly informed. Americans in particular would be well-advised to read it, as virtually all media in the USA, both left and right, woefully under-informs the American public..Read this book and recommend it to a friend. If we are all better informed, we can debate our world with one another, change some of our attitudes which we don't realise are out-of-date or entrenched, and begin to use our public power to influence politicians and corporate leaders.

Globalisation has created an interconnected world, but has not diminished violence, militarism and inequality. The Economics of Killing describes how the power of global elites, entrenched under globalisation, has created a deadly cycle of violence. In this groundbreaking work, Vijay Mehta shows how attempts at peaceful national development are routinely blocked by Western powers. He locates the 2008 financial crisis in US attempts to block China's model of development. He shows how Europe and the US conspire with regional dictators to prevent countries from developing advanced industries, and how this system has fed terrorism. Mehta argues that a different world is possible, based on policies of disarmament, demilitarisation and sustainable development. This original and thought-provoking book will be of great interest to anyone concerned about the consequences of endless war fuelled by the West.