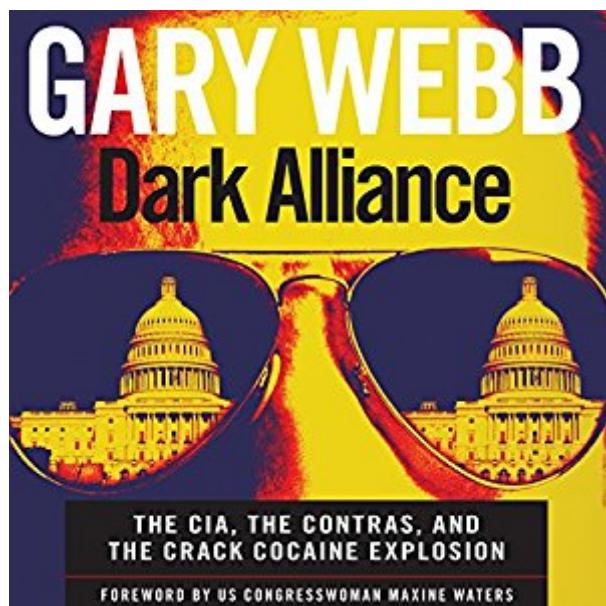


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# Dark Alliance: The CIA, The Contras, And The Crack Cocaine Explosion



## Synopsis

In July 1995, San Jose Mercury-News reporter Gary Webb found the Big One - the blockbuster story every journalist secretly dreams about - without even looking for it. A simple phone call concerning an unexceptional pending drug trial turned into a massive conspiracy involving the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, L.A. and Bay Area crack cocaine dealers, and the Central Intelligence Agency. For several years during the 1980s, Webb discovered, Contra elements shuttled thousands of tons of cocaine into the United States, with the profits going toward the funding of Contra rebels attempting a counterrevolution in their Nicaraguan homeland. Even more chilling, Webb quickly realized, was that the massive drug-dealing operation had the implicit approval - and occasional outright support - of the CIA, the very organization entrusted to prevent illegal drugs from being brought into the United States. Within the this audiobook version of *Dark Alliance*, Webb produces a massive amount of evidence that suggests that such a scenario did take place, and more disturbing evidence that the powers that be that allowed such an alliance are still determined to ruthlessly guard their secrets. Webb's research is impeccable - names, dates, places, and dollar amounts gather and mount with every page, eventually building a towering wall of evidence in support of his theories. After the original series of articles ran in the Mercury-News in late 1996, both Webb and his paper were so severely criticized by political commentators, government officials, and other members of the press that his own newspaper decided it best not to stand behind the series, in effect apologizing for the assertions and disavowing his work. Webb quit the paper in disgust in November 1997. This audiobook serves as both a complex memoir of the time of the Contras and an indictment of the current state of America's press; *Dark Alliance* is as necessary and valuable as it is horrifying and grim.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After Gary Webb, a Pulitzer Prize winning investigative reporter finished his superb articles about the Reagan/Bush Administration's drug running and it was initially widely acclaimed he was marginalized at the San Jose Mercury News and finally quit. This was an earth shattering report at the time, The first full account of the "Dirty Wars" in Central America, conducted by Reagan/Bush through Oliver North, using almost every branch of the U.S. government as accomplices in running cocaine into South Central L.A. initially and then spreading it across the country. Even less known is the fact that the CIA/DEA operatives in Peru and Bolivia found out how crack was made in that region of South America and imported the technology to the United States because it lowered the cost and increased the addictiveness, and therefore the profits for our drug running government. Much of the proceeds went to the Contras but a lot of it disappeared along the way as it passed through multiple hands. Crack also had the ability to separate the rich powdered cocaine users from the poor crack users and that allowed the institution of the terribly unfair sentencing guidelines for powdered cocaine compared to crack cocaine that we are still dealing with today. So Ronnie brought it in and sold it to our people and Nancy said "Just Say No!" To tell the entire documented story Gary Webb wrote this book, naming many names and agencies. He was found dead in 2004. A "suicide" said authorities. Perhaps, but what determination- he had shot himself in the head-twice.

This book should be mandatory reading in schools. Webb's research was detailed and it provided enough evidence that should have imprisoned many of those responsible for allowing the CIA to work directly with the largest drug dealers on the planet. Oliver North has been exposed as the ringleader of one of the dirtiest chapters in American history. This book is a must read!

Gary Webb is a truth seeker and American hero. As with anyone in the U.S. who works to uncover truth, he was brutally punished for his efforts. Webb is an expert researcher. His unrelenting persistence in search of the facts underlying the CIA/Contra/Reagan/cocaine connection reveals the hypocrisy and corruption driving U.S. government operations. Dark Alliance reads like an action thriller. Webb is a superb story teller.

This is an intense and detailed review of the evidence associated with the crack cocaine drug trade, CIA intrigue, Iran-Contra, politics, and general corruption (plus others). Focus is on testimony and behind the scenes information of the many characters and their deeds which are involved. Well written! Most of the 'facts' had been buried over many years and the 'threads' when revealed make all the dots interconnect for all the intertwined alliances. It is frightening to see how power, drugs, crime, and control corrupt absolutely. I had no idea how deep and mired these alliances actually were. 'Dark Alliance" should read 'Darkest' and that would be an understatement!

The author of this book is dead, he died of an "apparent" suicide in the late nineties. His exposé of CIA and DEA involvement in Nicaraguan Contra cocaine smuggling into South Central LA was first published in a California regional newspaper as a series after a year of research. He and the paper were targeted by the Washington Post and the LA Times. among others in order to white wash the story and debunk his claims. The author was driven out of his job. He completed this book and died shortly afterwards. The book is dense and a bit difficult with so many characters and links. The story demands attention.

The book is so disturbing that I can't say I loved it as five stars prompts. A watershed of understanding into the corruption of the US government that had just begun a disastrous journey that has led to where the US is today. It's hard to think that so many twisted people serve in the State Department, CIA and FBI. Although the drug trafficking target was South LA, the same methods continue throughout the world with the only possible difference being that in the 1980s drug laundering wasn't a mainstay of international banks as it is today. Gary Webb's assassination means evil is so endemic that truth must be crushed by all possible means.

This is one of the most detailed non fiction books I have ever read and one that continuously left me in awe of its contents. It was as if I couldn't believe what I was reading. But it's all true. The saddest thing about this case to me is Webb's suicide. I truly wish he were still around as historians in reporting and writing would have been greatly needed today. Thankfully the truth and history have absolved Webb of the accusations and smears against him. He is an American hero.

Just finished it yesterday. I pretty much know firsthand how the price of cocaine dropped through the floor in the 80's while the quality went through the roof. Almost overnight from being a rich man's high to a poor man's first choice. A poor man's affordable first choice. Should be required reading for

every cop in America.

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