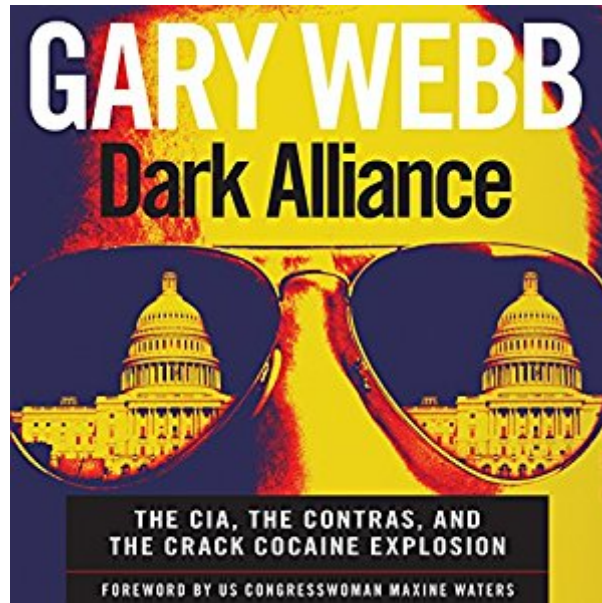


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# Dark Alliance: The CIA, The Contras, And The Crack Cocaine Explosion



## 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 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

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 20 hours and 27 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: December 24, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00GSXMRIG

Best Sellers Rank: #35 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events >

International Relations #87 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Language Arts & Disciplines #95 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Law Enforcement

## Customer Reviews

To many the idea that the CIA was somehow involved in bringing large quantities of cocaine into the United States would seem like a wild conspiracy theory. In fact the CIA during the 80s helped Contra agents bring cocaine into the United States to help fund the Contra's guerilla war against the Sandinista government. The money from the cocaine became necessary as a result of the Boland amendment which expressly forbid US funding of the Contra movement. The journalist Gary Webb was working for the San Jose Mercury Times when he broke this story. This book is not the result of irresponsible speculation, but of a dedicated and thorough journalist. The articles that would later become a book are well-researched and backed up by documentation. Unfortunately, after immense pressure from other papers the Mercury-Times retracted elements of Webb's story. Webb was considered a quack by the mainstream media and eventually committed suicide. It is extremely unfortunate that such a hard-working and brave journalist is no longer reporting. The book is worth reading despite its length. For those interested in the War on Drugs or the Iran Contra scandal, I would recommend this book.

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.

If it were not for Americas constant interference in other countries business (stop them darn communists) since World War 2, this book would scare the crap out of you. I just read "The Bluegrass Conspiracy" and you should read it first. The Bluegrass Conspiracy by Sally Denton is a lead up to Dark Alliance and her book might be construed as a prologue to Webb's book. Both are very well written and will keep you in your favorite reading chair for many hours. What you do not know about drugs in the USA, these two writers will put it in perspective. And it seems the wealthy have much more involvement than the average Joe or poor. Of course we knew that anyway.

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 book is great from start to finish, sometimes it does get bogged down a little but I think it is necessary to prove his case. Well written and even better researched. Yet another reason never to trust Uncle Sam. READ THIS BOOK and educate yourself on some real and ugly American history. Gary Webb did what he thought was right and died a martyr. RIP, Gary Webb you are an American hero.

This book (Kindle version) is so rife with spelling errors that it is absurd to the point of distraction. Too bad- the story itself is a good one. This is not nitpicking. Whereas a book of this length from a reputable publisher may have as many as a small handful of spelling and punctuation errors (or none)- this book has perhaps as many as 1000. The 4 stars are for the story- the editing gets negative stars. 5 black holes. Who does get to do this stuff? People who flunked the third grade?

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