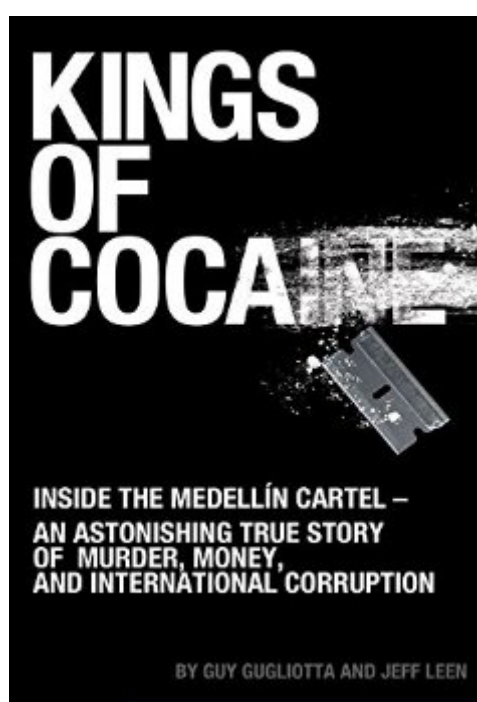


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# Kings Of Cocaine: Inside The Medellín Cartel - An Astonishing True Story Of Murder, Money And International Corruption



## Synopsis

This is the story of the most successful cocaine dealers in the world: Pablo Escobar Gaviria, Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, Carlos Lehder Rivas and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. In the 1980s they controlled more than fifty percent of the cocaine flowing into the United States. The cocaine trade is capitalism on overdrive -- supply meeting demand on exponential levels. Here you'll find the story of how the modern cocaine business started and how it turned a rag tag group of hippies and sociopaths into regal kings as they stumbled from small-time suitcase smuggling to levels of unimaginable sophistication and daring. The \$2 billion dollar system eventually became so complex that it required the manipulation of world leaders, corruption of revolutionary movements and the worst kind of violence to protect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book about what I would call "phase 1" of the history of Colombian cocaine trafficking. Or maybe it would be better called "The Cessna Era" since it was really in this time that cocaine was moved mostly in small planes, through Central America and the Caribbean, and then eventually through South Florida and on to parts various in the US. When the narrative in this

book ends, in 1988, Pablo Escobar still had five years to live, the worst of the inter-cartel wars were still to come (which I suspect would have shocked the authors and readers when this book was released), and the Zetas and Sinoloa Cartel were but figments in the imaginations of young Mexican men. Both the strength and the weakness of this book lie in the fact that it is comparatively dated at this point. The title gets it very right; this was the Wild West, cowboys and Indians, lawmen and outlaws time for cocaine trafficking. Much of the interest in the book is reading about how long it took the DEA to understand just how vast and profitable the cocaine trade had become, pretty much without them even noticing. In one excellent, long section of the book, the Colombian national police and DEA agents make a bust almost by accident of a huge jungle production lab for turning paste coca into powder cocaine for transport. The cops had assumed the cartels were aggregating output from dozens or hundreds of mom-and-pop labs and shipping that to the US. What they found was a huge complex with tons, not kilos of cocaine, generators, barracks, an industrial kitchen, a sewing shop for uniforms, and earth moving gear to maintain the professional looking airstrip.

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