



Book Review: “Speculator” by Doug Casey and John Hunt

From Mickey the Mercenary Geologist

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“**Speculator**” is a new novel about our business: the junior resource sector of the Toronto Venture Exchange, the world’s highest risk/reward venture capital stock market. Well-known author, libertarian, and “international man” Doug Casey, in his first attempt at fiction, is joined by fellow author, medical doctor, and geology-degreed John Hunt. Their effort is a resounding success.

The tale of money, adventure and intrigue contains obvious overtones from the real life and stranger-than-fiction story of the Bre-X gold scandal in 1997 that destroyed the old Vancouver Stock Exchange and ushered in a six-year bear market for mining stocks:

Its setting in a steamy jungle in Gondwanaland, a dysfunctional 3rd World hell hole (Kalimantan); discovery of the world’s largest gold deposit on the Banga River (Busang), a seasoned geologist who is perpetrator of the scam, VP-Exploration Dan Smolderhof (rhymes with Felderhof); an unwitting stooge, CEO Washerman (Walsh); and a major American mining company that eventually determines the “100 million ounce deposit” contains *no gold*.

As a mercenary (professional for hire), I also found analogues to arguably the best book by one of my favorite authors, Frederick Forsyth’s “Dogs of War”.

The novel combines plausible geology set in a fictional but typically corrupt and war-torn West African country, an innovative method of gold-salting that makes physicochemical sense to this economic geologist, white African mercenaries, child soldiers, stolen arms, emotive investors plagued by greed, fear, and panic, stock market manipulation, and amoral US government bureaucrats. All this is sprinkled with a healthy dose of American libertarian and entrepreneurial principles emanating from young protagonist Charles Knight and his anarcho-capitalist cohorts.

“**Speculator**” is both an easy and entertaining read. I devoured its 420 pages in two evenings and one early morning session and eagerly look forward to the next in this six-book series of novels. Here’s a link to the authors’ [website](#).

Ciao for now,

Mickey Fulp
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The [Mercenary Geologist Michael S. “Mickey” Fulp](#) is a Certified Professional Geologist with a B.Sc. Earth Sciences with honor from the University of Tulsa, and M.Sc. Geology from the University of New Mexico. Mickey has 35 years experience as an exploration geologist and analyst searching for economic deposits of base and precious metals, industrial minerals, uranium, coal, oil and gas, and water in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Mickey worked for junior explorers, major mining companies, private companies, and investors as a consulting economic geologist for over 20 years, specializing in geological mapping, property evaluation, and business development. In addition to Mickey’s professional credentials and experience, he is high-altitude proficient, and is bilingual in English and Spanish. From 2003 to 2006, he made four outcrop ore discoveries in Peru, Nevada, Chile, and British Columbia.

Mickey is well-known and highly respected throughout the mining and exploration community due to his ongoing work as an analyst, writer, and speaker.

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