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Book Review: "Drug Lord" by Doug Casey and John Hunt

From Mickey the Mercenary Geologist

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September 4, 2017

"Drug Lord" is the new High Ground novel by Doug Casey and John Hunt and the second in a six-book series featuring young venture capitalist and libertarian protagonist Charles Knight. He along with several returning characters on both sides meet again in this fast-moving tale of money, intrigue, and violence.

Charles is now seven years older and has been self-exiled from the United States until the statute of limitations expires on trumped-up charges of insider trading. He returns to the US with a brilliant plan to once again book windfall profits. This seemingly ever-lucky man intends to take on big pharma by selling legal drugs *illegally* to Americans; i.e., without a doctor's prescription, at very cheap prices via an underground network of street dealers.

His scheme involves importing assayed and authenticated but generic versions of viagra and rogaine from India to his contacts in Gondwana and from there, smuggling them to the United States for distribution to the demanding masses.

In a separate venture, Charles has over a period of time taken a controlling position in a small biotech company with an anti-depressant inhalant on the verge of obtaining FDA approval. However, when taken in massive doses, it becomes a mind-opening psychoactive drug that allows the user to view the true nature of his surroundings and relationships with amazing insight and clarity. The experience soon leads to a revolution of individualism and freedom of thought by a rapidly increasing proportion of middle-class Americans. Meanwhile, the company's share price soars and the savvy Charles plays the market smartly.

This two-pronged exercise in capitalistic principles and supply-demand fundamentals inevitably draws the attention and ire of entrenched politicos and bureaucracies in Washington, D.C. They collectively view the drug as a significant threat to their power base and that leads Congress to ban it as an illegal narcotic. But government attempts at eradication soon devolve into another violent drug war against everyday Americans that includes breakdown of the rule of law, immoral acts of contamination with fatalities, and gross violations of the formerly inviolable Bill of Rights

Of course, Charles and his compatriots are caught in the middle facing military attacks, manhunts, and torture that may result in long prison sentences or death.

I will stop there with the story setting because revealing any more would require spoilers.

Drug Lord is an incendiary critique of the American drug, medical, and insurance industries and no doubt reflects the views of retired medical doctor John Hunt. It is also an indictment of the tyranny wielded by a government no longer "of the people, by the people and for the people". There are healthy doses of Doug Casey's libertarian philosophy, principals, and ideals included at times as paragraph- to page-long digressions.

As with its predecessor, **Speculator**, this book will be a big hit among the free-thinking libertarian and entrepreneurial populace of America.

I found **Drug Lord** to be an entertaining read consumed over a couple of days. I trust that Casey and Hunt are already working on book three and eagerly anticipate finding it in my mail box about this time next year.

Here's the link to the authors' website.

Ciao for now,

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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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