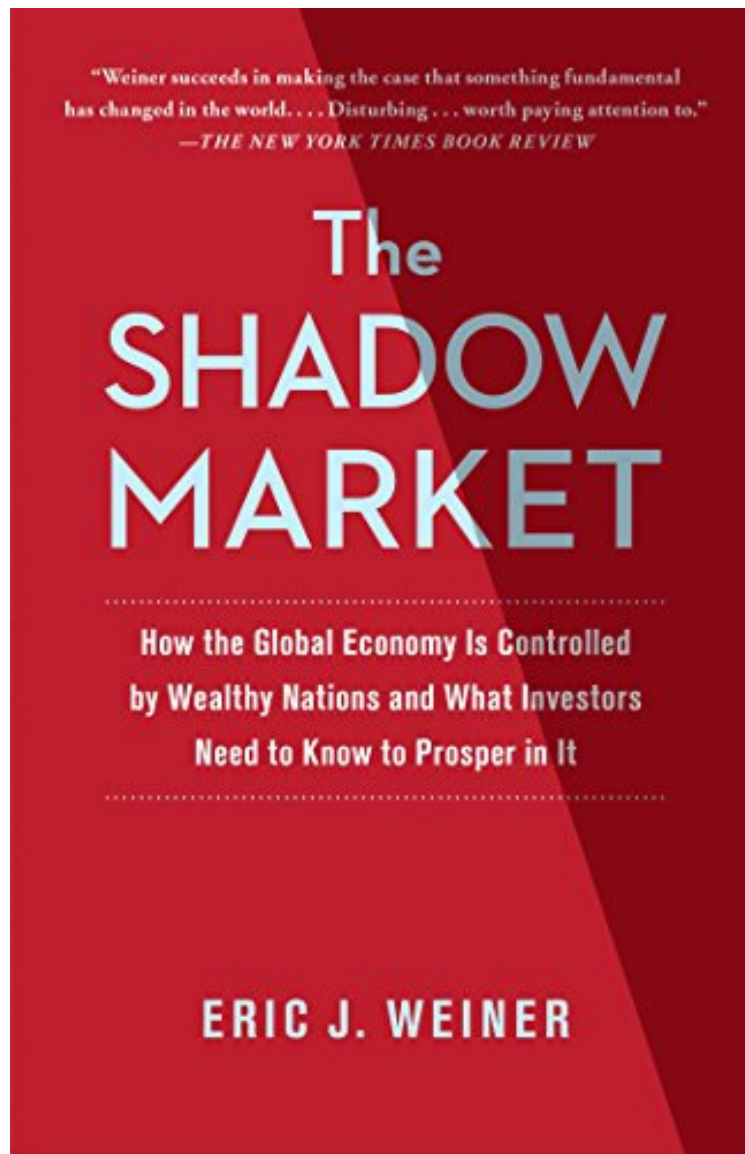


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The Shadow Market: How a Group of Wealthy Nations and Powerful Investors Secretly Dominate the World

Eric J. Weiner

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Eric J. Weiner : The Shadow Market: How a Group of Wealthy Nations and Powerful Investors Secretly Dominate the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shadow Market: How a Group of Wealthy Nations and Powerful Investors Secretly Dominate the World:

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market strategies could upset the monetary plans that have already flooded the sacred meadow with contingency. Being poor is one excuse for thinking that a book could outline the suicide of a social reality that was expecting to have its day at a bad time. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The Shadow Market By DALBY If you feel like something is happening and you can't quite put your finger on it, then you may want to grab a copy of the Shadow Market. Mr Weiner does a great job of connecting the dots on a number of trends that are becoming increasingly obvious. We all know that China has been growing at a superheated pace for nearly two decades, and that the United States has been living well beyond its means as indicated by our massive budget deficits. Add the worst economic conditions since the great depression (for us) and voila, you have numbers moving so dramatically that the entire world economy is reshaping faster than our understanding of it. This book is particularly timely, given the recent undulation in the currency markets and the dawning realization that oil needs to be priced in something other than \$. There is a massive shift in economic power underway. And, it will have consequences. This book reads like a long newspaper article, in that it is packed with data and numbers in support of the premise. I'm sure the fact checkers worked a lot of overtime on this piece. I think it is important to note, this is not the same phenomenon we witnessed in the 80's, when a sclerotic US economy was deathly afraid of the Japanese economy and Micheal Keaton made a movie about it. Japan promptly went on to endure a 'lost decade' and the social consequences of an aging population while our economy grew and prospered. History rhymes, but does not repeat itself. This is another phenomenon altogether: We are about to cede control of world finances from institutions we know and understand (The G7, the IMF and The Federal Reserve) to institutions and societies that are opaque, and sometimes even hostile to the United States. To pretend this will not have consequences is absurd. But Weiner is the lone voice in the wilderness on this phenomenon! I found this book to be incredibly informative to my understanding of America and her place in the world. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Will wars of the future be fought with financial weaponry? By Athonia Cappelli Many governments have a "sovereign wealth fund" (SWF) that they control. These multi-billion dollar cash accounts are mostly used for investing and tend to bring countries a lot of money in interest. The accounts can be used for financial warfare as Eric Weiner points out. It's a large enough threat that the U.S. government actually did a new type of war game in 2009 to simulate what would happen in situations where these SWFs were used for adversarial purposes. For instance, China is currently the owner of roughly 10% of the U.S. bonds that it bought with its SWF. If China wanted to devalue the U.S. Dollar all it would have to do is dump those bonds back into the market. This would have such a deleterious effect on the dollar that it would likely lose its status as a trusted worldwide currency. China's currency would quickly take its place. This book was probably written with the American investor as the target audience. I've never owned a publicly traded stock in my life but nonetheless found Weiner's work engaging. The writing style was crisp and reminded me a bit of Jeremy Rifkin's non fiction. I believe this book will prove prophetic. If nothing else, it's the most entertaining book on macroeconomics that I've ever read.

Acclaimed financial journalist Eric J. Weiner reveals how foreign countries and private investors are increasingly controlling the global economy and secretly wresting power from the United States in ways that our government cannot reverse and about which the average American knows nothing. The most potent force in global commerce today is not the Federal Reserve, not the international banks, not the governments of the G7 countries, and certainly not the European Union. Rather, it is the multi-trillion-dollar network of super-rich, secretive, and largely unregulated investment vehicles—foreign sovereign wealth funds, government-run corporations, private equity funds, and hedge funds—that are quietly buying up the world, piece by valuable piece. As Weiner's groundbreaking account shows, the shadow market doesn't have a physical headquarters such as Wall Street. It doesn't have a formal leadership or an index to track or a single zone of exchange. Rather, it comprises an invisible and ever-shifting global nexus where money mixes with geopolitical power, often with great speed and secrecy. Led by cash-flush nations such as China, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, and even Norway, the shadow market is hiring the brightest international financial talent money can buy and is now assembling the gigantic investment portfolios that will form the power structure of tomorrow's economy. Taking advantage of the Great Recession and subsequent liquidity problems in the United States and Europe, the major players of the shadow market are deploying staggering amounts of cash, controlling the capital markets, and securing not only major stakes in multinational companies but huge tracts of farmland and natural resources across the world. Yet that's not all; they're also pursuing political agendas made possible by their massive wealth and are becoming increasingly aggressive with the United States and other governments. Highly informative and genuinely startling, *The Shadow Market* moves the conversation from "international competition" to "global financial warfare," and stands as an urgent must-read for anyone interested in the future of the global economy, America's position in the world, or how and where to invest money today.

"Succeeds in making the case that something fundamental has changed in the world ... Disturbing...worth paying attention to." -The New York Times Book From the Inside Flap
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power from the United States in ways that our government cannot reverse and about which the average American knows nothing. The most potent force in global commerce today is not the Federal Reserve, not the international banks, not the governments of the G7 countries, and certainly not the European Union. Rather, it is the multi-trillion-dollar network of super-rich, secretive, and largely unregulated investment vehicles--foreign sovereign wealth funds, government-run corporations, private equity funds, and hedge funds--that are quietly buying up the world, piece by valuable piece. As Weiner's groundbreaking account shows, the shadow market doesn't have a physical headquarters such as Wall Street. It doesn't have a formal leadership or an index to track or a single zone of exchange. Rather, it comprises an invisible and ever-shifting global nexus where money mixes with geopolitical power, often with great speed and secrecy. Led by cash-flush nations such as China, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, and even Norway, the shadow market is hiring the brightest international financial talent money can buy and is now assembling the gigantic investment portfolios that will form the power structure of tomorrow's economy. Taking advantage of the Great Recession and subsequent liquidity problems in the United States and Europe, the major players of the shadow market are deploying staggering amounts of cash, controlling the capital markets, and securing not only major stakes in multinational companies but huge tracts of farmland and natural resources across the world. Yet that's not all; they're also pursuing political agendas made possible by their massive wealth and are becoming increasingly aggressive with the United States and other governments. Highly informative and genuinely startling, Eric J. Weiner's up-to-date account gets out in front of daily events, with proof of his argument destined to appear in the news for years to come. The Shadow Market moves the conversation from "international competition" to "global financial warfare," and stands as an urgent must-read for anyone interested in the future of the global economy, America's position in the world, or how and where to invest money today. From the Back Cover If you care about the American economy, you need to read The Shadow Market. If you care about American political power around the globe, you need to read this book. If you want to make money in the global financial markets, you really need to read this book. Did You Know? ***The Pentagon has run elaborate simulations of global financial war. Result: America lost, and the shadow market won. ***The U.S. dollar is under siege as a global currency; oil-producing nations have already begun secret discussions about replacing it in oil trading. ***While Greece was burning in the spring of 2010, the shadow market nations were spending hundreds of billions of dollars all over the world rather than helping to fix the European crisis. Why? Because it wasn't their problem. ***With its wealth of natural resources, Brazil may be more powerful than Germany, France, and Great Britain put together, and may soon rival the United States for economic supremacy in the Western Hemisphere. ***In April 2009, China told the International Monetary Fund to sell 3,217 tons of gold. How much did China buy? That's a secret. What else is China buying? As many of the oil reserves in non-Middle Eastern countries as it can, including in Canada. It has bought so many Australian natural resource companies that Australia is getting nervous. And some would say that China has, in effect, already purchased Taiwan. ***Many of the shadow market countries are racing to improve their food-security risks by buying large swaths of farmland in other countries, potentially at the risk of starving the local citizens. Saudi Arabia has a farm the size of Connecticut in Indonesia, and Korean industrial giant Daewoo controls half the arable land of Madagascar. ***Iran is China's third largest oil supplier and in return receives significant protection from Chinese diplomats, who are increasingly important players on the geopolitical stage. ***The shadow market countries will soon control nearly \$20 trillion in assets, a sum greater than the gross domestic product of the United States.