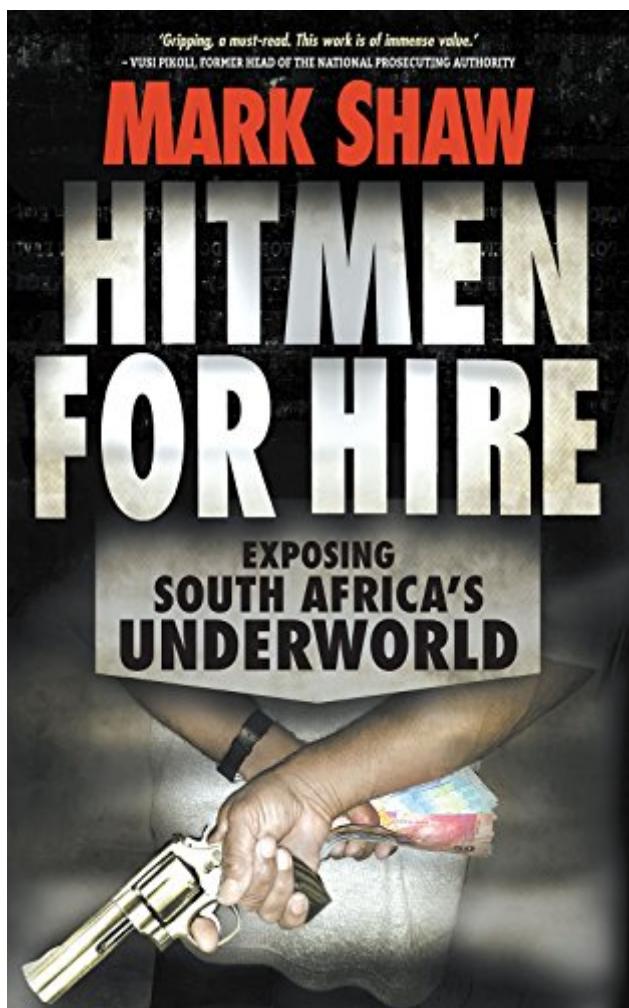


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Hitmen For Hire: Exposing South Africa's Underworld



Synopsis

Hitmen for Hire takes the reader on a journey like no other, navigating a world of paid hitmen, informers, rogue policemen, criminal taxi bosses, gang leaders, and crooked politicians and businessmen. Criminologist Mark Shaw examines a society in which contract killings have become commonplace, looking at who arranges hits, where to find a hitman, and even what it is like to operate as a hitman — or woman. Since 1994, South Africa has seen a worrying increase in the commercialisation of murder — and has been rocked by several high-profile contract killings. Drawing on his research of over a thousand incidents of hired assassinations, from 2000 to 2016, Shaw reveals how these murders are used to exert a mafia-type control over the country's legal and illegal economic activity. Contracted assassinations, and the organised criminal activity behind them, contain sinister linkages with the upperworld, most visibly in relation to disputes over tenders and access to government resources. State security actors increasingly mediate relations between the under and upper worlds, with serious implications for the long-term success of the post-apartheid democratic project.

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Customer Reviews

Thorough but highly readable review of how organized crime is undermining the state in South Africa. Both international and local, often tribally based, networks have become involved and it will take a decade of concerted effort to restore an acceptable level of law and order. Actions by the state, such as the disbanding of the highly effective crime fighting unit, the Scorpions, has proved to be a major setback in the fight against organized crime. The growing involvement of criminal networks in the political scene is clearly outlined. An important book for those wanting to understand the political geography in South Africa.

Hitmen for Hire is a data driven analysis of the front line of organised crime in South Africa. The book is well written, and sobering to those privileged enough to be able to read it. It weaves together the various brotherhoods who use fear and death to control communities; where freedom and liberal economics fail; and brings in the role of deep state - who like to scratch the rash and sometimes spread it. The poor people who drive next to me on the road, and yet live in a different world. Thank you Mark, it was a mature read.

Very well written. Well researched. Riveting read. A shocking expose of SA's underworld. A must read. Let us pray and hope the tide turns against organised crime. If not, we are in serious trouble. The symbiotic relations between organised criminals, law enforcement and state intelligence are extremely worrying.

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