

ILLICIT: HOW SMUGGLERS, TRAFFICKERS, AND COPYCATS ARE HIJACKING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.
By Moisés Naim. Published by Anchor.
352 pages. \$14.40 MCA Members. \$16 Regular Price.

Moisés Naim's book "Illicit" starts with three swiftly disproven illusions. The first illusion is that trafficking has not changed greatly over the years. Trafficking transformed in the 1990s, becoming more widespread, entering more markets and becoming more profitable. The second illusion is that criminal syndicates still utilize a hierarchy with a command structure. But the hierarchy of trafficking transformed as technology changed, and organizations rely less on singular leaders, making them able to adapt to disruption more quickly. The third illusion is that there is a clear difference between illicit business and legal business. Modern trafficking blurs the lines between legitimate and underground business.

Due to the interconnected nature of today's commerce, trafficking is more widespread than ever. Markets such as narcotics and human trafficking are more profitable and affect more people than in previous years. Drugs from Afghanistan arrive in Western Europe in record numbers. More people are

purchased every decade than in the history of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Naim also pivots into the rise in intellectual property theft that created an industry of copycat entertainment that was impossible before the prevalence of the internet. The swiftness of modern transportation created a market for organ theft and animal smuggling, making them profitable, common forms of trafficking.

Current organizations are capable of continuing operations even if high value targets are eliminated from their ranks. Hierarchy and bureaucracy slow down criminals, so criminals became less centralized and with fewer command and control structures. They also do not specialize in the goods they traffic. Today's criminal leaders simultaneously sell multiple types of illicit wares. They also participate in the legal market, making it harder to identify and stop them.

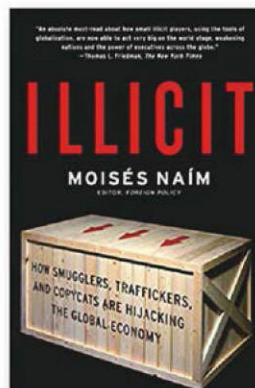
Weak and failed states offer excellent sanctuaries for criminals. Weak governments are coerced by threats or violence, or persuaded with bribes. Some governments operate at the whims of criminal

enterprises within the country. Governments such as North Korea facilitate illicit trade to make money. Different countries struggle to overcome logistical and linguistic differences. Within a country, multiple law enforcement agencies fail to communicate.

Illicit trafficking merges with legal business. Money raised by criminals allows them to invest in commercial enterprises and become legitimate participants in regional trade. Legal businesses permit criminals to launder money, hiding criminal profits. This translates into political and social power, and gives traffickers de facto control of whatever country they occupy. The merging of criminal and legal businesses creates an atmosphere

where it is harder to know who is a criminal and who is not.

Naim suggests that in order to react to modern trafficking, we must mirror it. To counter criminals' use of the latest technology, law enforcement must utilize the latest equipment. The creation of radio-frequency identification (RFID) tracking allows shipments to have in-



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transit visibility. There must also be pragmatic decisions made by governments to see if anything currently illegal can be decriminalized or even completely made legal. Harm reduction should be the target of governments. If banning a substance or product is more harmful than legalization, the policy banning that product should be reconsidered. Soft drugs are a prime example. Creating circumstances under which more people can legally immigrate to a country reduces human trafficking and its secondary effects. Short-term task forces need to be exchanged for long-term cooperation between different countries and different police forces.

Overall, Naim's book is to criminality what Friedman's "The World is Flat" is to global trade. The rise of modern technology, the speed of transport, and the booming consumer market make great strides possible. Those same hallmarks of the new age, harnessed by nefarious individuals, destroy lives, threaten state sovereignty, sustain terrorism and reap unfathomable profits for unscrupulous criminals. The 21st century is rife with new possibilities. Unfortunately, Moisés Naim shows us that those possibilities can benefit the worst mankind has to offer as well as the best.

Kevin Johnston

Author's bio: Kevin Johnston is a contractor and technical writer working for the Headquarters Marine Corps Personnel Studies and Oversight office. Prior to that, he was a Transportation Corps officer in the Army. The views expressed within this writing are his own.

BROTHERS IN VALOR: BATTLEFIELD STORIES OF THE 89 AFRICAN-AMERICANS AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR. By Robert F. Jefferson Jr. Published by Lyons Press. 248 pages. \$24.26 MCA Members. \$26.95 Regular Price.

The new book, "Brothers in Valor," tells the remarkable stories of 89 African-American servicemen who were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions. The book spans the time from the American Civil War up to the end of the Vietnam War. Dr. Jefferson's fine new work helps illustrate how African-Americans have faithfully defended our country with distinction throughout our history. The many acts of incredible valor exhibited by African-American warriors continue to provide us with an abounding source of inspiration and pride.

However, the book also recounts our country's racial past as many black Americans pursued their dreams of equal treatment while serving shoulder-

to-shoulder beside their white brethren. The volume fully scrutinizes the history of America's changing military policy, presidential politics, and unrelenting quest for equal justice under the law.

During the opening stages of the Civil War, a senator from Iowa, James W. Grimes, introduced a bill that presented a small token of appreciation to Navy personnel who had distinguished themselves above and beyond the call of duty. By December 1861, President Lincoln approved the Navy Medal of Honor. The Army soon joined in; by July 1862, they too had developed the Army's version of America's highest award for valor.

Early in the Civil War, Union generals saw the benefits of turning newly freed slaves into a labor force to support the Army's growing needs. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation cleared the way to organizing fully equipped all Black Regiments. The War Department issued General Order 143, and many Blacks, both free and former slaves, enlisted. Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts helped to organize, equip and finance both the 54th and 55th Army Regiments.

William H. Carney, born a slave, escaped bondage and joined the Army. During the summer of 1863, Carney, and his unit received orders to attack Fort Wagner on the Atlantic coast of South Carolina. During the attack, their commander, Colonel Shaw, clasped the 54th Regimental Colors after the regiment's standard bearer was shot; an instant later, the colonel also fell. Though himself seriously wounded, Carney returned with the battle-torn flag after the failed attack shouting, "Boys, the Old Flag had never touched the ground."

Through the promise of military service, many African-American men redefined their sense of honor in relationship to a still divided, racially charged America. Black soldiers fought bravely in the Indian War, 1867-1897 and 18 African-Americans received the country's highest honor for valor. An African-American soldier named William McBryar was awarded the MOH for "coolness, bravery, and good marksmanship" while fighting against the Apaches in southwest Arizona.

The Spanish-American War offered another chance for black troops to show their mettle. And the Punitive Expedition along the Mexican border also offered black soldiers their chance to seek and display valor.

In 1917, the 92nd Division of the Ameri-

can Expedition Force (AEF) sailed to Europe. This new war offered men of color new opportunities to prove their worth. Henry Johnson and a fellow soldier fought off a 20-man German raiding party. General John J. Pershing raved, "The two-colored sentries should be given credit for preventing, by their bravery, the taking of prisoners of any of our men."

During World War II, members of the all Black 761 Tank Battalion served as part of GEN Patton's famed 3rd Army.

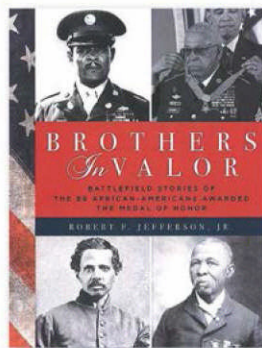
The tankers saw continuous action from Nov. 7, 1944, until the end of the war but their numerous MOHs would not be granted until much later. In some cases, including Ruben Rivers', a grateful nation was slow to act. It would take nearly 60 years before the MOH was awarded to Rivers posthumously.

As the Korean conflict broke out, some important changes were taking place in the military. In October 1951 President Truman desegregated Army.

The stage was now set for the new challenges brought on by the American involvement in Southeast Asia. In 1966, James Anderson Jr., enlisted in the Marine Corps. After boot camp in San Diego, James reported to the 3rd Marine Division, located in South Vietnam. The Marines were tasked with carrying out hard-hitting combat operations against the wily NVA along the country's North/South demilitarized zone. In a fierce firefight, Anderson, with total disregard for his own safety, fell upon an incoming enemy grenade and fully absorbed the destructive blast. He successfully shielded several other Marines from the bulk of the explosion. He died instantly. He was the first African-American Marine to receive his nation's highest award.

Over the past century and a half, only 3,500 service men and women have been recognized with the country's highest decoration for valor. Of that population, 89 were African-Americans, 59 were Hispanic-Americans, 33 were Asian-Americans, and 32 were Native Americans. In an increasingly diversified military, black men and women continue to excel to include GEN Colin Powell serving as the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under George H.W. Bush's presidency. "Brothers in Valor," is a powerful reminder of just how far we have come as a people.

Bob Loring



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