



Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror

By Douglas Farah

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As a foreign correspondent and investigative reporter for *The Washington Post*, Douglas Farah ventured into the dangerous and uncharted world of terrorist financing—a journey that took him across four continents. The information he gathered was far ahead of what U.S. intelligence agencies knew as they scrambled to understand the 9/11 attacks. In unprecedented detail, Farah traces the movement of money from the traffickers of “blood diamonds” in West Africa to the world diamond exchange in Belgium and homegrown money merchants in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Karachi, and Lahore who turn cash into commodities and commodities into cash. He probes charities that siphon off money to pay for such essentials as false identification cards and safe passage for operatives. And he reveals how the funding of terrorist activities is integrated into the age-old hawala network, a trust-based system that has operated for generations across Arabia and Southeast Asia.

Focusing on this critical aspect of the war on terrorism, *Blood from Stones* not only shows how terrorists are able to orchestrate complex and expensive attacks but also makes it clear why the war will be so difficult to win.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

At first glance, this book is an account of how Farah happened on al-Qaeda's diamond-smuggling operations while he was the *Washington Post's* bureau chief in West Africa in 2001. Farah details the sequence of events that led to his now famous expose of the Mephistophelian alliance between al-Qaeda and Liberia's notorious former president Charles Taylor, and the summary rape and ruin of West Africa while Taylor orchestrated the inequitable trade of diamonds for uniforms, weapons and cars to perpetuate the nightmarish strife. However, this is not where the book ends—it's where a new unsettling story begins. After Farah's article ran in the *Post*, he and his family were forced to leave Africa for their own safety. On arriving home, Farah says, he was met by a bitter and embarrassed CIA determined to discredit him in order to cover the fact that they knew nothing about al-Qaeda's involvement in West Africa. Over time, the CIA's behavior led to the revelation of damning information about the United States's entire network of intelligence agencies, rife with infighting, disorganization and lack of central control. Farah's drum-tight presentation of evidence to substantiate his allegations will be difficult to dispute, and his stark and straightforward writing style makes this book hard to put down. Maps not seen by *PW*.

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From [Booklist](#)

Long before President Bush placed an order to freeze terrorist assets, senior members of al-Qaeda had purchased millions of dollars of diamonds and other gems in an effort to convert cash into commodities that are difficult to track and easy to smuggle. This revealing piece of investigative journalism details how terrorist organizations are financed through an underground network that is fueled by the African diamond trade, gold, radical Islamic charities in the U.S and abroad, and crimes ranging from coupon fraud to drug trafficking. Farah first came upon the al-Qaeda diamond trail a few weeks after the September 11 attacks while working as the *Washington Post's* bureau chief for West Africa. This report exposes a critical gap in U.S. intelligence, revealing major oversights on the part of the FBI and CIA, who have consistently ignored compelling information that could have enabled the U.S. to cut off the flow of money to terrorists in the wake of 9/11. *David Siegfried*

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From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

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This Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror are generally reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror can be one of the great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you with information that possibly will shock your previous knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

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Susan Dixon:

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David Gonzales:

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