

McMafia - Crime Without Frontiers by Misha Glenny.
Bodley Head 2008.

As readers of his articles during the Balkan War, and of his superb book on the Balkans will know, Misha Glenny is a superb writer and an acute and honest observer.

In McMafia, Misha Glenny brings all his skills as a journalist and investigator to bear on global crime, and the story he tells with immense readability is chilling and disturbing in equal measure. The book is divided into four sections, the first of which, *The Fall of Communism*, sets the scene as well as explaining the background of the current global crime epidemic, detailing the impact of the Balkan wars and then the collapse of the Soviet Union on early 21st century criminality. Subsequent sections follow a criminal trail through the Gulf to India and on to China, take in South America, Nigeria and South Africa along the way and show the interconnectedness of many criminal networks as well as the nexus that exists in many countries between criminals and the political establishment and that between licit and illicit commerce.

Each chapter of this enthralling book intrigues, fascinates and appals in equal measure: the violence is to be expected, but what really shocks is the scale of the criminality and its reach as well as the truly vast sums involved.

Glenny explains how the criminal world operates, how it subverts international trade and national politics, and how it interfaces with global terrorism and intelligence networks. McMafia is a powerful reminder, as the internationally-minded obsess about developments in the USA, the Middle East and the Far East that worldwide crime poses as big a threat as anything to global peace and stability - and the threat is growing at an exponential rate.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh