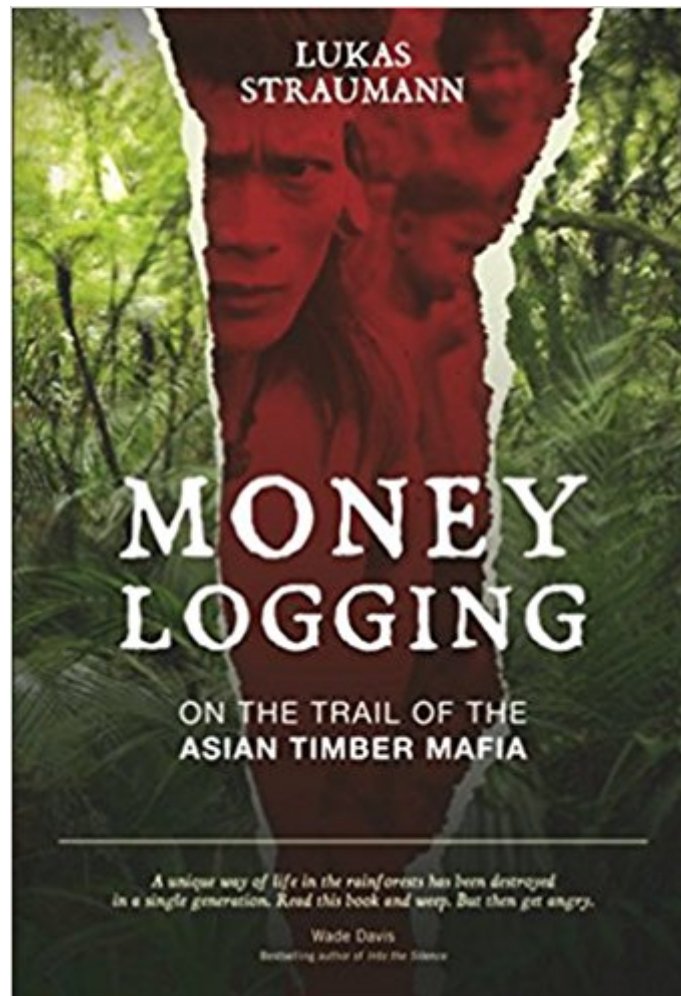




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Money Logging: On The Trail Of The Asian Timber Mafia



Synopsis

Money Logging investigates what Gordon Brown has called probably the biggest environmental crime of our times the massive destruction of the Borneo rainforest by Malaysian loggers. Historian and campaigner Lukas Straumann goes in search not only of the lost forests and the people who used to call them home, but also the network of criminals who have earned billions through illegal timber sales and corruption. Straumann singles out Abdul Taib Mahmud, current governor of the Malaysian state of Sarawak, as the kingpin of this Asian timber mafia. Taib's family with the complicity of global financial institutions have profited to the tune of 15 billion US dollars. Money Logging is a story of a people who have lost their ancient paradise to a wasteland of oil palm plantations, pollution, and corruption and how they hope to take it back. Translated from German.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A unique way of life in the rainforests has been destroyed in a single generation. Read this book and weep. But then get angry. --Wade Davis One of the most comprehensive and brutally honest investigations into the intrigues of the Malaysian and international timber mafia. --SÃ ddeutsche Zeitung In thrilling chapters historian Lukas Straumann gives the portrait of a clan of kleptocrats, who, through the granting of timber concessions and export licenses, have managed to become billionaires. --Neue ZÃ rcher Zeitung One of the most comprehensive and brutally honest investigations into the intrigues of the Malaysian and international timber mafia. --SÃ ddeutsche Zeitung In thrilling chapters historian Lukas Straumann gives the portrait of a clan of kleptocrats, who,

through the granting of timber concessions and export licenses, have managed to become billionaires. --Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Lukas Straumann is the executive director of the Bruno Manser Fund in Basel, Switzerland.

Very well researched and written account of the shameful destruction of the rainforests of Borneo. This book is suitable for anyone interested in the destructive impact that one greedy and corrupt person can have on one of the most important biodiverse areas on the planet. Corruption is like a poison that spreads its way into the arteries of the land, and this is illustrated in Malaysia Borneo. Hopefully this book will raise more awareness and put pressure on governments and companies to act to save the lives and environment of the Penan and other indigenous tribes in the areas of primary forest that still exist.

Roughly 10-15 huge timber and palm oil companies, mostly Malaysian-Chinese owned, are the major legally-sanctioned criminals destroying rainforests and the environment all around the tropics. This book provides detailed description and evidence of how this is done in collusion with corrupt politicians. For anyone who is concerned about the environment, it will be an eye-opener. Sadly many educated Malaysians are well over of this destructive system but feel powerless to do anything about it. The book suggests ways the rest of us may help.

Great insight into the timber industry. Felt like reading 'Avatar' or 'Planet of the Apes' halfway through. Deals a lot with the system and also how these corporations can get their hands outside of Malaysia. Great work!

If you have visited Borneo and was surprised at what happened to the lush virgin jungle of Borneo, this book will provide some of the answers. What has been lost can never be replaced but it is a good reminder on how greed and wanton disregard of other human beings and environment can doom us all. Let this be a lesson.

A well-researched and detailed account of how one of the world's richest rainforests was (literally) sold down the river.

Despicable would not be strong enough. I ran the gamut of negative emotions, outrage, disgust,

sorrow. To use every day descriptive vernacular would invite censoring. Through the years I have often heard news of the shrinking rain forests around the world. I attributed it to the increasing world population. I also heard briefs on Palm Oil Plantations and envisioned farms as one might see in the bread baskets of the world. If half of the stories in Money Logging are true, the desecration of our planet by these criminals far exceed disasters such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill or the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. Imagine if you can Eden, where the indigenous people live entirely on the bounty of the rain forest. No need to raise crops or farms of livestock for consumption. Try to envision the spectacular species of flowers, birds, butterflies and other exotic gifts of nature. Now read Money Logging and find how graft, corruption, greed and every despicable human characteristic known to exist has been and is destroying these very natural resources. Day to day warnings of global warming, stories of droughts, floods, mudslides and other so called natural disasters can likely be traced in part to the destruction of these rain forests. Unknown and perhaps gone are the plants waiting for discovery that may produce medical cures. Gone are the trees known to remove carbon dioxide and other toxins. And can it be genocide when an indigenous population is deprived of their ability to obtain sustenance? Maybe not genocide by definition but perhaps extermination by deprivation. All this for the quest for power and wealth of a few of the world's bad characters, many of whom are of an extended family. These people make recent dictators of the Middle East seem like good Samaritans. The lot of them should be exiled to a snake infested Island so they can live out the rest of their lives with their resident relatives. This book should be mandatory reading for every literate being in the affected countries.

This excellent and important book is a great introduction to the terrible environmental and financial crimes that have happened on Borneo over the last fifty years. It is an exciting read--starting with the thrilling story of a whistleblower--and helped me understand the link between corruption and destruction of natural resources, not only in Asia, but around the world.

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