



# Treasury's War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare

By Juan Zarate

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**Treasury's War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare** By Juan Zarate

## Finalist for the 2015 William E. Colby Award

For more than a decade, America has been waging a new kind of war against the financial networks of rogue regimes, proliferators, terrorist groups, and criminal syndicates. Juan Zarate, a chief architect of modern financial warfare and a former senior Treasury and White House official, pulls back the curtain on this shadowy world. In this gripping story, he explains in unprecedented detail how a small, dedicated group of officials redefined the Treasury's role and used its unique powers, relationships, and reputation to apply financial pressure against America's enemies.

This group unleashed a new brand of financial power—one that leveraged the private sector and banks directly to isolate rogues from the international financial system. By harnessing the forces of globalization and the centrality of the American market and dollar, Treasury developed a new way of undermining America's foes. Treasury and its tools soon became, and remain, critical in the most vital geopolitical challenges facing the United States, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and the regimes in Iran, North Korea, and Syria.

This book is the definitive account, by an unparalleled expert, of how financial warfare has taken pride of place in American foreign policy and how America's competitors and enemies are now learning to use this type of power themselves. This is the unique story of the United States' financial war campaigns and the contours and uses of financial power, and of the warfare to come.

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**Treasury's War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare** By Juan Zarate **Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From Publishers Weekly**

In this lengthy memoir, Zarate, a former U.S. Treasury and White House counterterrorism official, recounts how his team worked to uncover hidden or layered assets in Iraq and helped fight the Bush administration's War on Terror. He ably describes the sophisticated financial chicanery of enemy states, the ins and outs of money laundering, and the efforts of private banks and corporations to protect global trade and finance. However, readers should not expect to receive a complete picture of financial warfare, much less learn about the future. These windy recollections are crafted mainly for the purpose of finding a place for their author in recent history. Zarate's insider's account, which relies on diaries and personal experiences, offers no fresh insights into Middle East or global financial strategy, and the narrative contains more than its share of tedious I sat down with U.S. Central Command-type moments. Zarate squeezes important topics such as systemic vulnerability, currency manipulation, and cyberwarfare into a few pages at the end. No doubt, as the author makes clear, dirty money from Iraq, Iran, Syria, North Korea, and other nations threatens to poison the entire global economic landscape. In spite of the book's limitations, those intrigued by international money laundering and the U.S. government's efforts to prevent rogue states from financing terrorism will appreciate Zarate's account. Agent: Max Brockman, Brockman Inc. (Sept.)

### **From Booklist**

Zarate, senior official in the Treasury in George W. Bush's White House, describes a new brand of financial war waged by the U.S. after 9/11 that has continued under President Obama's administration. This warfare is a set of financial strategies harnessing the international financial and commercial systems to ostracize rogue actors and cause great pain by constricting their funding flows. On October 8, 2012, Iranian president Ahmadinejad stated that a hidden war is under way . . . a kind of war through which the enemy assumes it can defeat Iran. He was right, but this warfare is no longer secret, and it's been used in the past decade for national security interests against al-Qaeda, North Korea, Iraq, and Syria. Zarate's lessons about financial power include carefully monitoring our techniques to ensure we retain that power, and his follow the money and financial-network analysis highlights emerging threats and enemy weaknesses that produce valuable insight into national security issues. This thought-provoking book will contribute to the ongoing discussion about leveraging twenty-first-century financial power. --Mary Whaley

### **Review**

#### ***National Interest***

“Zarate's book admirably underscores the dire national-security threat posed by the almost-unfathomable level of our national debt... There is much in Zarate's book that enlightens us, and he gets many things right and proposes some innovative ideas.”

#### **Arnaud de Borchgrave, UPI**

“One of the world's most challenging assignments -- explained in vivid, dramatic detail by Juan C. Zarate, a former super sleuth in the U.S. government's long campaign to find and disrupt al-Qaida's terrorist funding in the Worldwide Web...Zarate's “Treasury's War” is a gripping electronic whodunit in a constantly changing environment where inequalities are widening and where technology is destroying more jobs than it creates.... This is the first book that lifts the veil of secrecy on the financial power [Zarate's team] marshaled against America's enemies.”

#### **Kirkus Reviews**

“A bracing account by a knowledgeable authority.”

### **Finalist for the William E. Colby Military History Award**

#### ***Bryan Burrough, New York Times Business section***

“For those of us who start feeling drowsy at the very mention of the words ‘Treasury Department,’ this book is an eye-opener. Under Mr. Zarate, and his successors, Treasury quietly built new capabilities that owe less to junk bonds than to James Bond.... ‘Treasury’s War’ does a fine job of shedding light on a new and significant aspect of international relations that many of us may not be aware of, and that is likely to gain in importance in the years to come.”

#### ***Jordan Chandler Hirsch, Washington Post***

“[A] thorough, thoughtful insider’s account.... The true value of Zarate’s book lies in explaining the difference between traditional sanctions and this new form of financial warfare.”

#### ***ABA Banking Journal***

“I consider it a must-read for anyone who wants to know where we are, where we’ve been, and what challenges lie ahead... Treasury’s War is detailed, interesting, and sincere.”

#### ***General Michael Hayden, former Director of CIA and NSA***

“Juan Zarate’s groundbreaking Treasury’s War illuminates an underappreciated and under commented revolution in international affairs. Beset by nontraditional enemies and threats, the United States in the Bush administration leveraged America’s place in the global financial system to create some important ‘asymmetrical power’ of its own. As advocate and architect of this new approach, Zarate is well placed to tell the tale of America’s most unique precision guided weapon and he does so with detail, candor, and perspective.”

#### ***Sam Nunn, former U.S. Senator***

“For those wanting to know how financial power and influence are wielded in the world, this is the book. Juan Zarate not only tells a gripping story, but lays out the policy implications and future for the use of this power. This is a must-read about the evolution of financial warfare over the past decade and how it will continue to play a central role in the nation’s security.”

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lynn Jones:**

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**Tammy Jones:**

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**Evan Miller:**

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