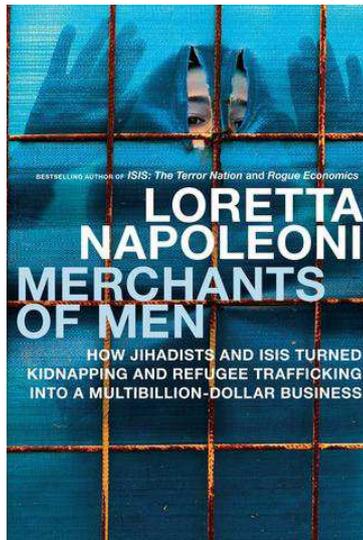


"Loretta Napoleoni has cast a light on the disturbing evolution of the criminal and jihadist kidnapping rings in the Middle East, a multimillion-dollar-a-year business, to the even more lucrative trafficking of migrants to Europe. The traffickers extort as much as \$100 million a month from tens of thousands of desperate families. These traffickers are our creation. They are the logical outcome of industrial death and destruction. They are the product of failed states and widespread chaos. We are responsible. And the insatiable lusts we have spawned among these human predators will not end with kidnapping and human trafficking alone. This is the new world order." —Chris Hedges

Merchants of Men

How Jihadists and ISIS Turned Kidnapping and Refugee Trafficking into a Multi-Billion Dollar Business

By Loretta Napoleoni



There is a disturbing trend in the continuing fallout from the post-9/11 Patriot Act: the massive number of people trafficked to fund terror organizations is “historically unprecedented,” says economist Loretta Napoleoni in her new book, *Merchants of Men: How Jihadists and ISIS Turned Kidnapping and Refugee Trafficking into a Multi-Billion Dollar Business*.

Terrorist groups and black market economies, she says, thrive in areas of destabilization like Syria and Iraq. Add to that thousands of economic migrants on the run, and you have the making of a new profit center: kidnapping and refugee trafficking. The business of human trafficking is a sophisticated mechanism delivering migrants to the West while funding the growth of criminal organizations like al Qaeda in the Maghreb and

ISIS. It’s a multi-billion-dollar business—bigger than the illegal drug trade. No one understands this dark side of globalization better than Napoleoni, an expert in the funding of terror groups.

Will the West once again reap the benefits of the political chaos it has sown in its own backyard? From colonization to the advent of “friendly” dictatorial regimes, today’s fast-aging European nations are buyers on the refugee market. New workers are needed, and the merchants of men are supplying them. But only skilled, highly educated refugees are wanted. As a tsunami of migrants and refugees floods Europe, new questions almost too numerous to count must be answered.

Loretta Napoleoni is the author of several international bestsellers including *The Islamist Phoenix: The Islamist State (ISIS) and the Redrawing of the Middle East*, *Rogue Economics: Capitalism's New Reality*, and *Terror Incorporated: Tracing the Money Behind Global Terrorism*. One of the world's leading experts on money laundering and terror financing, she has worked as London correspondent and columnist for *La Stampa*, *Corriere della Sera*, *La Repubblica*, *El País*, and *Le Monde*. A former Fulbright scholar, she holds an MA in international relations and economics from Johns Hopkins University, and an MPhil in terrorism from the London School of Economics. As chairperson of the countering terrorism financing group for the Club de Madrid, Napoleoni brought heads of state from around the world together to create a new strategy for combating the financing of terror networks.

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