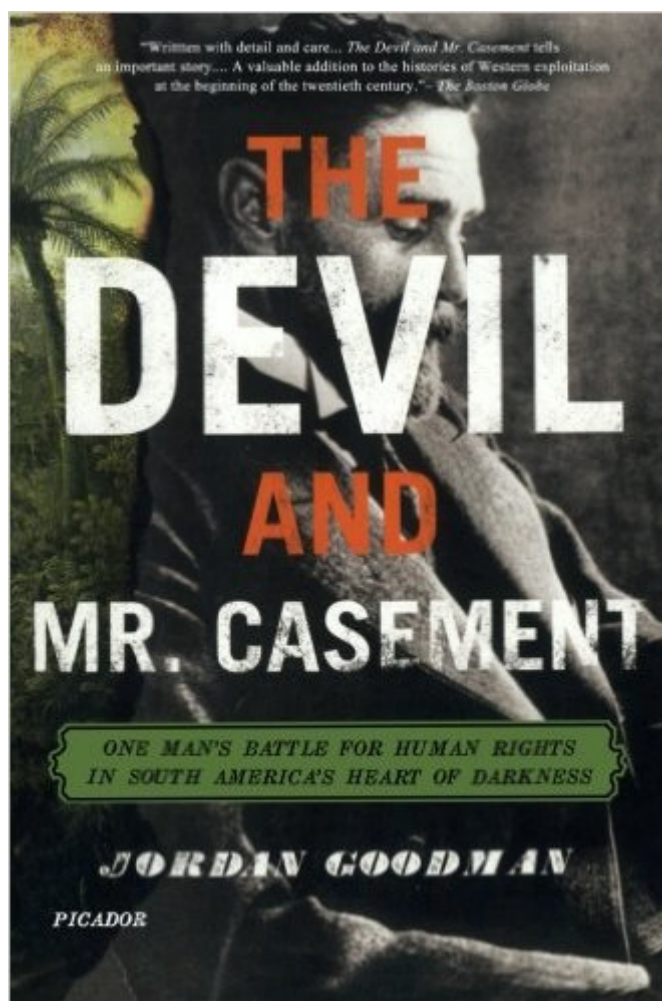


The book was found

# The Devil And Mr. Casement: One Man's Battle For Human Rights In South America's Heart Of Darkness



## Synopsis

In September 1910, the activist Roger Casement arrived in the jungle on a mission for the British government: to investigate reports of widespread human-rights abuses in the forests along the Putumayo River. Casement was outraged by what he uncovered: nearly thirty thousand Indians had died to produce four thousand tons of rubber for Peruvian and British commercial interests, under the brutal rubber baron Julio César Arana. In 1912, Casement's seven-hundred-page report of the Putumayo violence set off reverberations throughout the world. Drawing on a wealth of original research, *The Devil and Mr. Casement* is a haunting story of modern capitalism with enormous contemporary political resonance.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Picador; First Edition edition (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312680589

ISBN-13: 978-0312680589

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,115,632 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #178 in [Books > History > Americas > South America > Peru](#) #490 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Latin America](#) #1063 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin American](#)

## Customer Reviews

In 1909 the muckraking British journal TRUTH printed allegations that a British registered, but Peruvian controlled, rubber company was enslaving native workers in the Putumayo region of Peru. The demand and price of rubber was increasing with the rise of the automobile industry. Julio Cesar Arana (1864-1952) obtained a concession in the Peruvian in which to harvest the native rubber trees. Unfortunately this required significant labor to find the trees in the jungle, to tap the trees and to transport the rubber through the jungle to navigable rivers. The central allegation was that the overseers recruited by Arana had enslaved the natives to perform these services, essentially without compensation or even food, by means of violence, rape and murder. Arana had floated a British company on the London Stock Exchange to conduct these operations.

Consequently the publication of the allegations put the both the British government and the British Directors of the company, all of whom claimed ignorance, in a sensitive position. A company commission was sent to Peru in 1910 to investigate. Attached to the commission was Roger Casement (1864-1916), a British diplomat, who had been central to the investigation of similar conditions in the Belgium Congo in 1904. The material in this book is quite fascinating. The author, Jordan Goodman, offers brief histories of Arana and the evolving rubber industry. However the bulk of the book is the history of how the allegations reached Britain, how the material came to be published and its political implications. The latter is interesting inasmuch as the Company was British, the operations were in Peru and the latter was recognized as being within the American sphere of influence (i.e. Monroe Doctrine).

In reading around in the corners of history you come across all kinds of interesting tidbits. The life of Roger Casement is one of those. While the details of the horrific rubber trade in the South America have been well portrayed in such books as Wade Davis' One River so don't need retelling, the role of Casement in their expose' makes an good story but maybe a bit too detailed for other than a professional historian. None-the-less, I enjoyed Goodman's book, but a couple of weeks after finishing it I wonder what it has added to the stock of knowledge I can retain. What stands out is not the center of the authors focus: yes, the oft repeated horrors inflicted on the natives was hard to read---yet I already knew that, and the details of the governmental processes in England were not so interesting. The devil, in this case the rubber baron Arana, emerges out of the whole incidence vindicated in his belief that no matter what Casement revealed, he could continue his exploitation of Indian rubber collectors. So Casement had a moral victory (without any British legislation to prevent business involvement in other foreign crimes) but did not prevent mistreatment in Peru from continuing. The come-uppance of the rubber trade was eventually the domination of plantations in South East Asia, and Arana was undone by business rather than punishment for his crimes. So what sticks in my mind? It is Casement's treason against the Crown in seeking German aid for Irish independence during WWI.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Devil and Mr. Casement: One Man's Battle for Human Rights in South America's Heart of Darkness South Beach Diet: South Beach Diet Recipe Book: 50 Delicious & Easy South Beach Diet Recipes (south beach diet, south beach diet recipes, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet cookbook) South Beach Diet: The SOUTH BEACH DIET Beginners Guide - How To Lose Weight And Feel Awesome With The South Beach Diet!: (south beach diet, south ... diet recipes,

south beach diet cookbook) South Beach Diet: The South Beach Diet Beginners Guide to Losing Weight and Feeling Great! (south beach diet, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet recipes) South Beach Diet: A Beginners Guide For Using The South Beach Diet For Quick, Easy and Healthy Weight Loss (Dieting, Weight Loss, South Beach Diet, South ... Diet Cookbook, South Beach Diet Kindle) Heart Disease: Heart Disease Prevention And Reversal Guide To Prevent Heart Disease And Reverse Heart Disease With Heart Disease Prevention Strategies And Heart Disease Diet Advice This Present Darkness/Piercing the Darkness: Piercing the Darkness The South Beach Heart Health Revolution: Cardiac Prevention That Can Reverse Heart Disease and Stop Heart Attacks and Strokes (The South Beach Diet) The South Beach Diet: A Guide for Faster Weight Loss and Healthy Lifestyle with Easy Meal Plan Recipes (South Beach Diet Meal Plan, South Beach Diet Gluten Solution, South Beach Diet Recipes) Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age (Human Rights and Crimes against Humanity) Women's Human Rights: The International and Comparative Law Casebook (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) Selected International Human Rights Instruments and Bibliography for Research on International Human Rights Law Freedom from Poverty: NGOs and Human Rights Praxis (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) "Exterminate All the Brutes": One Man's Odyssey into the Heart of Darkness and the Origins of European Genocide Cooking for One: 365 Recipes For One, Quick and Easy Recipes (Healthy Cooking for One, Easy Cooking for One, One Pot, One Pan) In the Light of Justice: The Rise of Human Rights in Native America and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Creative Child Support Strategies A Fathers Rights Approach: A Fathers Rights Approach (The Pro-Active Fathers Rights Series Book 2) Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time (The Every Man Series) Another Man's War: The True Story of One Man's Battle to Save Children in the Sudan The Devil's Fool (Devil Series Book 1)

[Dmca](#)