



# 100 Years of Solitude in the Banana Republic

**Travis R. Marker, JD, LLM**  
Scrivener's Quill

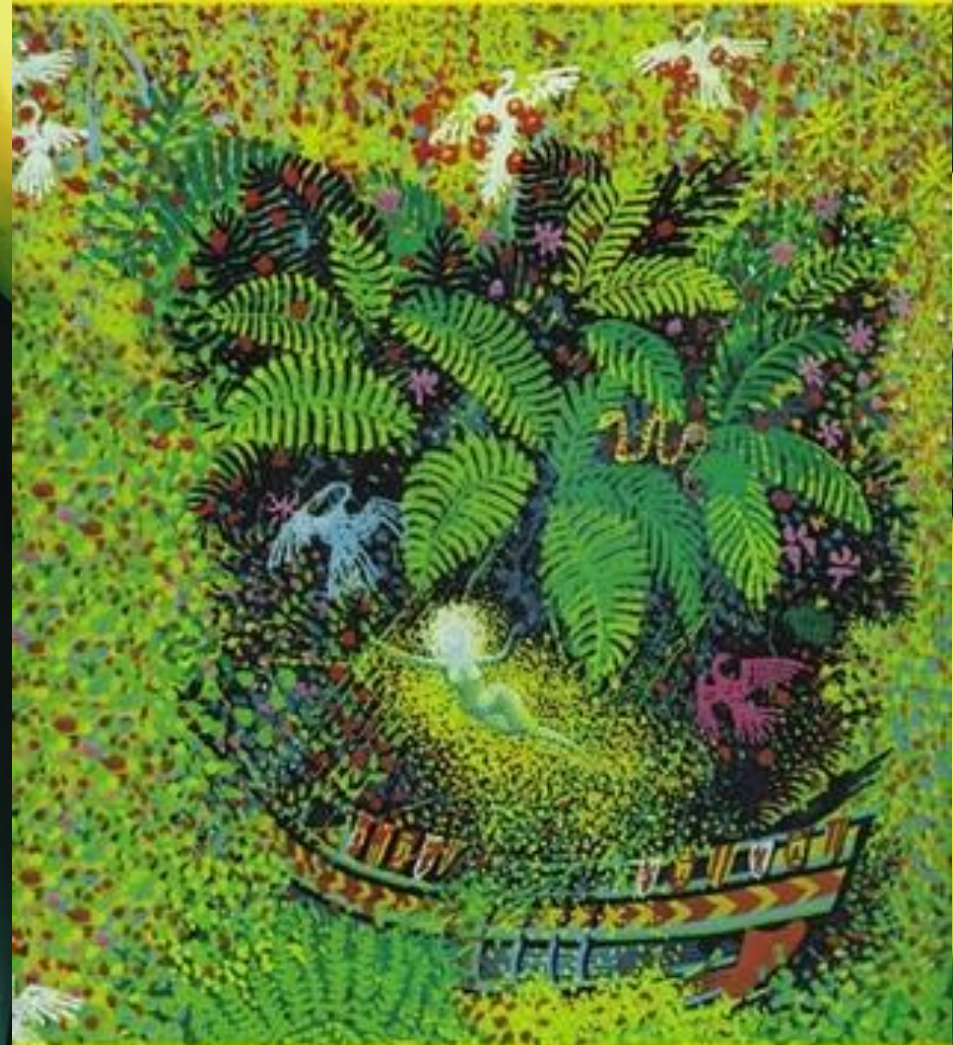




“Races condemned to  
100 years of solitude did  
not have a second  
opportunity on earth.”

— Gabriel García Márquez

ONE HUNDRED YEARS *of* SOLITUDE



Winner *of* Nobel Prize

GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ





2015 EDITION

MODEL RULES  
OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
CONDUCT



CENTER FOR  
PROFESSIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

**ABA** Advancing Liberty  
Promoting Justice  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

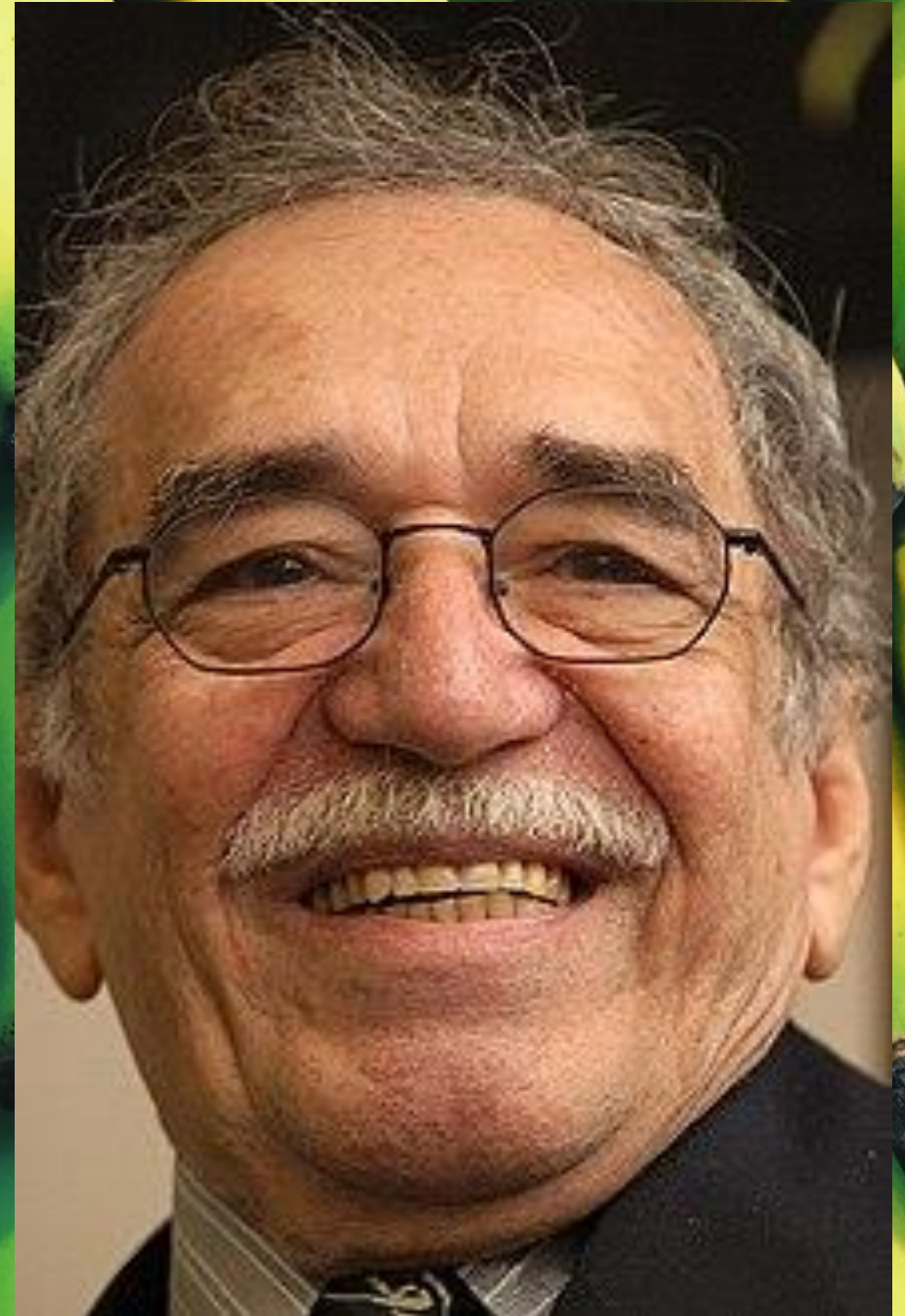
A lawyer, as a member of the legal profession, is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice.

-- Preamble to the Model Rules



- One Hundred Years of Solitude is a landmark 1967 novel by Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez that tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family, whose patriarch, José Arcadio Buendía, founded the town of Macondo, a fictitious town in the country of Colombia.

- [Wikipedia](#)





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# MODEL RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT



CENTER FOR  
PROFESSIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

**ABA** Advancing Liberty  
Promoting Justice  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

- “As a member of a learned profession, a lawyer should cultivate knowledge of the law beyond its use for clients, employ that knowledge in reform of the law and work to strengthen legal education.”

## Preamble to the Model Rules



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MODEL RULES  
OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
CONDUCT



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RESPONSIBILITY

**ABA** Understanding & Resolving  
Professional Conduct  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

“A lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance.”

Preamble to the Model Rules





## The United Fruit Co.

Pablo Neruda

When the trumpet sounded, it was all prepared on the earth, the Jehovah parceled out the earth to Coca Cola, Inc., Anaconda, Ford Motors, and other entities: The Fruit Company, Inc. reserved for itself the most succulent, the central coast of my own land, the delicate waist of America.

It rechristened its territories as the 'Banana Republics' and over the sleeping dead, over the restless heroes who brought about the greatness, the liberty and the flags, it established the comic opera: abolished the independencies, presented crowns of Caesar, unsheathed envy, attracted the dictatorship of the flies, Trujillo flies, Tacho flies,

Carias flies, Martines flies, Ubico flies, damp flies of modest blood and marmalade, drunken flies who zoom over the ordinary graves, circus flies, wise flies well trained in tyranny.

Among the blood-thirsty flies the Fruit Company lands its ships, taking off the coffee and the fruit; the treasure of our submerged territories flow as though on plates into the ships.

Meanwhile Indians are falling into the sugared chasms of the harbors, wrapped for burials in the mist of the dawn: a body rolls, a thing that has no name, a fallen cipher, a cluster of the dead fruit thrown down on the dump.





- The facts come through loud and clear. *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World* is an eye-opening revelation of the true cost of a seemingly innocuous American staple. It manages to shine a harsh light on **capitalism** without degenerating into a polemic. You'll never again look at a banana without pondering its steep costs and improbable journey—and that will be a good thing.

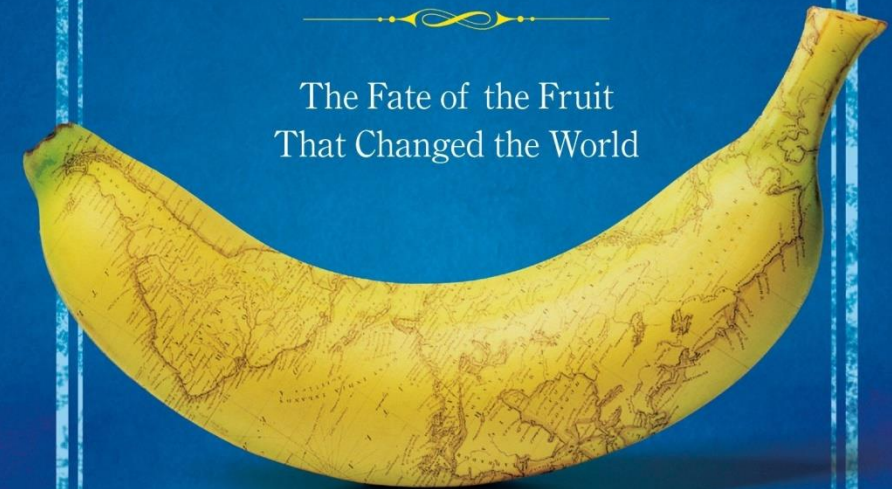
- <http://mostlyfiction.com/adventure/koeppel.htm>

"Ambitious in scope . . . both fascinating and disturbing."  
—*The Boston Globe*

Dan Koeppel

# BANANA

The Fate of the Fruit  
That Changed the World







**Dan Koeppel**

Author of *To See Every Bird on Earth*

- The world's most humble fruit has caused inordinate **damage to nature** and man, and Popular Science journalist Koeppel (*To See Every Bird on Earth*) embarks on an intelligent, chock-a-block sifting through the havoc. . . . His sage, informative study poses the question fairly whether it's time for consumers to reverse a century of strife and exploitation epitomized by the purchase of one banana.
- <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-59463-038-5>

- Banana is the world's first cultivated fruit - originally farmed some 7000 years ago. Even certain translations of the Old Testament suggest the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden was actually a banana, not an apple. While we hear no end of discussions on the main world staples, banana rarely gets a look-in. But the fruit, in all its many shapes and sizes, keeps millions of people alive - and has done for millennia.

- New Agriculturist

*New*  
**NAg**  
*New*  
**Agriculturist**







- What the Banana Republic is all about; A Banana Republic is a term of contempt for a country that is politically unstable, dependent on limited agriculture (e.g. bananas), and ruled by a small, self-elected, wealthy, and corrupt faction. In some cases, these nations have kept the government structures that were modeled after the colonial Spanish ruling clique, with a small, largely leisure class on the top, and a large, poorly educated and poorly paid working class laborers, though it might have the (fake) trappings of modernity (such as styling itself a republic with a president etc.)

- [http://cybernations.wikia.com/wiki/Banana\\_Republic](http://cybernations.wikia.com/wiki/Banana_Republic)

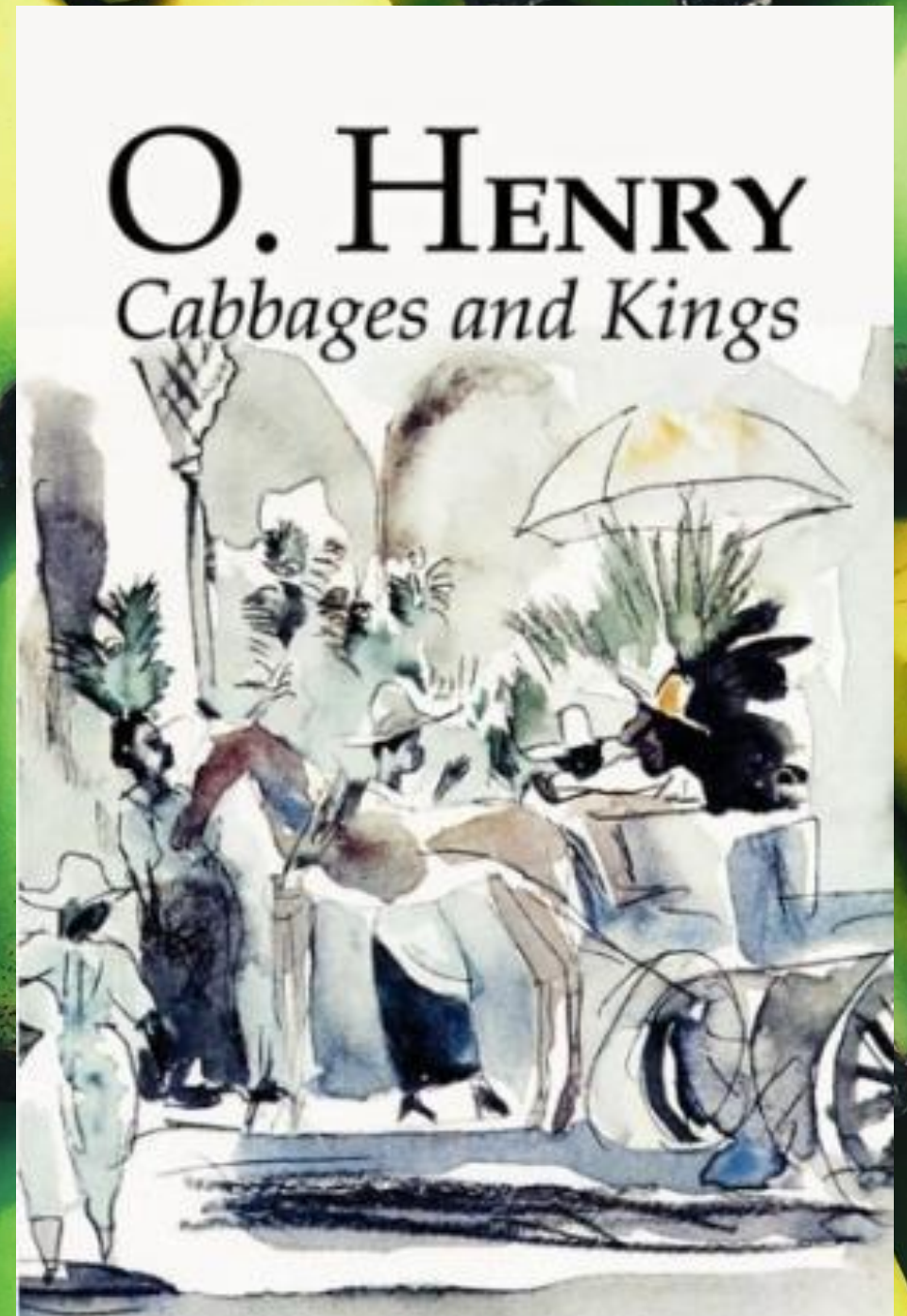


In 1901, the American author O. Henry coined the term to describe Honduras and neighboring countries under economic exploitation by U.S. corporations, such as the United Fruit Company.





- In the 19th century, the American writer O. Henry (William Sydney Porter, 1862–1910) coined the term banana republic to describe the fictional Republic of Anchuria in the book *Cabbages and Kings* (1904), a collection of thematically related short stories inspired by his experiences in Honduras, where he lived for six months until January 1897, hiding in a hotel in Trujillo, Colón, when he was wanted in the U.S. for embezzlement from a bank.





Bananas



United Fruit Co





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# MODEL RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT



CENTER FOR  
PROFESSIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

**ABA**  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

- Rule 1.13: Organization as Client
- Client-Lawyer Relationship
- (a) A lawyer employed or retained by an organization represents the **organization**
- (b) If a lawyer for an organization knows that an officer, employee or other person associated with the organization is engaged in action . . . that is a violation of a legal obligation to the organization, or a **violation of law** that reasonably might be imputed to the organization, and that is likely to result in **substantial injury to the organization**, then the lawyer **shall** proceed as is reasonably necessary in the best interest of the organization. Unless the lawyer reasonably believes that it is not necessary in the best interest of the organization to do so, the lawyer shall refer the matter to higher authority in the organization . . .



# BANANALAND

## MIDDLE AMERICA



- A** Flavored with green—only partially ripe and should be avoided.
- B** All yellow—now ripe enough to eat or cook and use as an ingredient in baking.
- C** Flavored with brown—now fully ripe and best for eating.



**2** Bananas cannot be raised from seeds. New plants are started by planting rootstocks dug from mature plants. New shoots begin growing on soon as the rootstock is planted.



**3** Banana plants grow rapidly. They reach heavy leaf in height and form a single bud in about two months. In another four months, the bud has flowered and developed a mature bunch of green bananas. When this single bunch is harvested, the plant is cut down and a new shoot allowed to develop.



**4** Harvesters nick the plant just below the green fruit and the whole top of the plant is allowed to bend down. One man catches the bunch of bananas on his shoulder, another cuts it from the plant and the fruit is carried to the waiting trailer.



**1** Bananas are planted on fertile farms cleared from otherwise unproductive jungles and swampy land. Towns spring up and communications and transportation lines are where the jungle is cleared for banana production.



**PEOPLE**  
Like our own country, the countries of Bananaland have a mixed population. The mixtures are somewhat different. Bananaland has proportionately more people of Indian blood. Since the 16th century, the number of people of mixed Indian and Spanish blood has increased till this group is today the most common. Negroes have also come to Bananaland to have European and American.



**AGRICULTURE**  
With its favorable soil, temperature and rainfall, Bananaland is a highly productive tropical farming region. Bananas, a highly specialized crop, are grown on farms cleared from lush, wooded jungles. Bananaland leads the world in the production of this valuable fruit. Coffee is raised in the cedar highlands. Cacao, wheat, oranges, African oil palms, coconuts and sugar cane are also important crops.



**MINERAL RESOURCES**  
Beneath the fertile soil of Bananaland are, in some places, rich mineral deposits. Mexico is one of the great mineral countries of the world, but all of Middle America has it also. Nearly all countries produce gold; some have silver, platinum and precious stones. The iron and all deposits found in neighboring countries indicate that they may also be found in the countries of Middle America.



**IMPORTS**  
Banaland receives much of its income from mutual trade with the United States. The individual countries are rapidly developing economically and society. Like the prosperous farmer of home, they are excellent customers for our manufactured articles, automobiles, machinery, household appliances, building materials and all the merchandise that contributes to better living.



**5** The bananas, carefully protected by wrappings of small banana boxes, are loaded on motorcars and hauled to the railroad where they are reloaded into special banana cars.

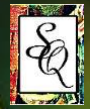


**6** The cars of freshly-cut fruit are collected from a network of small branch railroads that reach to the various banana farms and are loaded by fast motorcars to the mainports and the waiting air-conditioned banana ships.



**7** A marvelous system of planning, communications and control brings just the right amount of bananas to the side of the waiting ship in a matter of hours after they are cut. Modern mechanical loaders, handling the fruit with extreme gentleness, carry it to the temperature-controlled holds of the ship.

**8** At our local ports, the same type of mechanical conveyors unload the bananas and rush them to waiting railway cars and trucks which carry them to ripening rooms in every part of the country. After they have ripened, they are delivered to local stores.

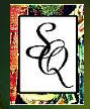




*Chiquita Banana*



PRESENTED BY  
**TECHNICOLOR**





- The beginnings of the United Fruit Company were fairly humble; a railroad entrepreneur began planting bananas along the easements of his South American railroads, realizing that the railroad could be used to transport the fruit. When the sale of bananas in the United States and Europe proved to be a success, the company was established, and it began to acquire vast tracts of land in Central America and the Caribbean.
- As part of its business practices, this company regularly bribed and manipulated public officials so that it could receive special concessions. It made it very difficult for other corporations to break into the market in Central America, thanks to its massive holdings, and it met with opposition from peasants, who wanted to try their hand at growing tropical fruit as well. The United Fruit Company was often accused of exploiting its workers, typically paying them low wages and providing minimal benefits.



- The climax of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is famously based on a true historical event that took place shortly after García Márquez's birth: in 1928, in the Magdalena banana zone on Colombia's Caribbean coast, not far from where the author was born, the Colombian military opened fire on striking United Fruit Company plantation workers, killing an unknown number. . . After the killing, the company's US administrator, "Mr. Brown," summons up an interminable whirlwind that washes away not only Macondo but any recollection of the massacre. The storm propels the reader forward toward the novel's famous last line, where the last descendant of the Buendía family finds himself in a room reading a gypsy prophecy: everything he knew and loved would be "wiped out by the wind and exiled from the memory of men...because races condemned to one hundred years of solitude did not have a second opportunity on earth."

- The Nation, "Gabriel García Márquez—a Rebel Against Form, an Artist Against the Forces of Oblivion"







The Banana Massacre was a massacre of as many as 3000 United Fruit Company workers that occurred between December 5 and 6, 1928 in the town of Ciénaga near Santa Marta, Colombia. The strike began on November 12, 1928, when the workers ceased to work until the company would reach an agreement with them to grant them dignified working conditions. After several weeks with no agreement and no work, costing the company severe financial losses, the conservative government of Miguel Abadía Méndez sent the army in against the strikers, resulting in the massacre.

Wikipedia





- After U.S. officials in Colombia and United Fruit representatives portrayed the workers' strike as "communist" with a "subversive tendency" in telegrams to the U.S. Secretary of State, the United States government threatened to invade with the U.S. Marine Corps if the Colombian government did not act to protect United Fruit's interests. The Colombian government was also compelled to work for the interests of the company, considering they could cut off trade of Colombian bananas with significant markets such as the United States and Great Britain.

- Wikipedia



# WAR IS A RACKET

GENERAL SMEDLEY D. BUTLER

- “I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. . . . I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.”
- — Smedley D. Butler, War is a Racket: The Antiwar Classic by America's Most Decorated Soldier





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RESPONSIBILITY

**ABA** Outstanding Leaders  
Forming Justice  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

A lawyer should further the public's understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system because legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.

-- Preamble to the Model Rules

