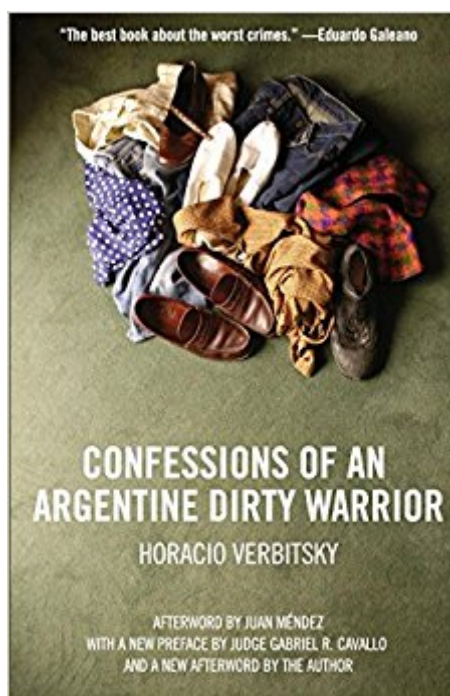


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# Confessions Of An Argentine Dirty Warrior: A Firsthand Account Of Atrocity



## Synopsis

Retired navy officer Adolfo Scilingo was the first man ever to break the Argentine military's pact of silence, stunning his compatriots and the world by openly confessing his participation in the hideous practice of pushing live political dissidents out of airplanes during Argentina's dirty war. Available for the first time in paperback, with a new introduction by Judge Gabriel Cavallo on the upcoming military trials and a new epilogue by the author, *Confessions of an Argentine Dirty Warrior* includes the complete text of Scilingo's confession in the form of interviews given to Argentina's best-known investigative journalist, Horacio Verbitsky, along with an afterword by Juan Máfinez, putting these events in the context of the dirty war.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Neither Hannah Arendt nor Horacio Verbitsky will allow us to ignore what human beings are capable of doing to each other.

Horacio Verbitsky is Argentina's leading investigative journalist, winner of the 1995 Latin American Studies Association Media Award, and author of a dozen books. He also presides over Argentina's main human rights organization, the Center for Legal and Social Studies. He lives in Buenos Aires.

Hi, the book was delivered perfectly. But there is a chapter missing in the edition. You should tell people about this issue. I was able to understand the book because I am from Argentina, but without

that chapter its hard to understand the book if you are not familiar with the story. It is OK for me but I do not think people would like it.

I bought 3 books on this topic so that I could try to get different perspectives on what is obviously a controversial topic. This confession is from a small player in a vast operation, but it gives you enough insight into what was going on and confirms the widespread extent of the crimes waged against Argentine citizens by its own government. It's shameful that this could happen 40 years after the end of WWII in this hemisphere with the whole world watching. Now I understand why so many Nazis took refuge after WWII in Argentina and the culture of fascism and anti-semitism and alive and flourishing there to this day. This is also a cautionary tale for the U.S. as it shelves due process in its own war on terror. I see many of the same arguments being put forward for enhanced interrogation techniques that were used in the dirty war. I'm sure that the Argentine military could make a similar argument for the cattle prod as the CIA uses for water boarding. It doesn't do any permanent damage. And it certainly gets people to talk quickly. However it not only dehumanized the victims, but also the interrogators. It did extract valid information. When they captured real terrorists they were able to extract, under torture, real information that led to additional arrests. But they tortured everyone and most of the information they got was useless. In fact the initial torture was just to soften people up. Its purpose wasn't even to extract information. It really is sick. So, again. A cautionary tale. The Argentine's trusted their government. It turned on them. We don't really have any oversight over our CIA. How much do we trust them or Homeland Security?

This is one of my all-time favorite books. I couldn't set this one down. Anyone interested in military dictatorships in general, or especially those in South America, will learn a lot from this book. You will also learn a lot about human culture and the deep problems that exist in our society.

I had no idea that this went on in Argentine history. Thrilling read; scary. Shame that military executives weren't imprisoned or themselves executed.

For anybody interested in Argentina's Dirty War, this book is a must have. Verbitsky was in the midst of it and he uses his journalist pen well to show the reader what went on in this dark episode. For the families of the victims, the recent convictions of some of the men in charge, must have come as a great victory.

Before opening this book I was vaguely familiar with the Dirty War in Argentina and the Disappeared. By the time I finished I was eager to learn more. Confessions of an Argentine Dirty Warrior is largely a verbatim interview with Scilingo- a former member of the Argentine Navy, stationed at the infamous School of Mechanics, where naval intelligence officers used cattle-prods, finger and toe nail extraction, and rape among many other interrogation tools against "subversives"- alongside Verbitsky's own reporting and testimony from survivors. The books chilling recounting of Scilingo's role in these atrocities, heinous violence in the name of state security, is rivaled by the manner in which Scilingo reveals his desperation to have his own actions exonerated by his superiors refusal to accept guilt. I would equate the book with Hannah Arendt's work and a strong case study on the banality of evil. Men and women, priests and nuns, guilty and innocent, even the children of the very generals in charge of the state the military purported to be protecting: none were spared from torture and death. I don't want to give away too much. BUY THIS BOOK!!! I PROMISE YOU WILL BE SPELLBOUND.

For those who do not know the real story of "El Perro" Verbitsky's own collaboration with the Argentine armed forces during the so-called dirty "war," I suggest readers who can read Spanish check out "Horacio Verbitsky, tribulaciones de un "doble agente; EL DÃA QUE LA FUERZA AÃ REA LE AGRADECIÃ œ POR SUS SERVICIOS) ([...]Or my own, "Pope Francis and some still dirty secrets from Argentina's so-called dirty 'war;' When the accuser should stand among the accused" ([...]As Jacobo Timerman (who I worked with at Newsweek) once commented to me, how was it that his former employee Verbitsky, well known as a former Montonero intelligence official, was allowed to live undisturbed in Buenos Aires during the worst of the military repression? To which I would add: How was it that Verbitsky could be mentioned, by name, in a book he ghostwrote while supposedly in clandestinity that was published by the Air Force (in 1979) and read by the same vicious military he claimed to oppose in armed struggle, and not be bothered? Readers, beware!

Anyone who is interested in what happened in Argentina from 1976 to 1983 needs to read this book. Verbitsky recounts the narrative of one of the participants who, by the way, is in a Spanish jail to this day.

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