



**WIKI**

**JUSTICE**

A NOVEL

**JACK  
KING**

FROM THE AUTHOR OF  
THE FIFTH INTERNATIONALE

# ***WikiJustice***

by Jack King

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THE FULL VERSION IS AVAILABLE FROM:



*"The killings of your Bureau, while justified by crimes committed by the victims, were not regarded by you as punishments. You looked upon your victims as social ills, the extirpation of which would benefit society."* Jack London, The Assassination Bureau, Ltd.

*"I directed [...] the director of the CIA, to make the killing [...]"* Barack Obama

## ***PROLOGUE***

The speaker's deep and pacifying voice, combined with paper-white hair, made him appear older than his forty-four years would have it. Those who never saw him before were startled by the contrast of the first impression against the youthful, velvety-smooth face, and probing eyes. His crispy white shirt, bright-blue eyes, and frail body, set against the sky-blue background, were all the markings of an angel. An angel of justice in the world besieged by evil.

Setting his inquisitive gaze on the camera, he spoke in his trademark soft, yet well articulated voice. "Welcome to our second annual court of the people's opinion, where the voice of the 99% shall be heard, and reckoned with, by the 1% — that narrow caste who usurp their privileged position to wreak havoc and misery on the rest."

The broadcast was streamed over the Internet in a wide range of video formats in order to accommodate an audience of users, many of whom were subjected to restrictive bandwidth or various other limitations set against their wallets, or freedom of access, as imposed by their service providers who operated in servitude to their more or less oppressive regimes. The broadcast was shown in the English language — the native tongue of the online community, though not of the speaker, whose lisping accent reminded of his Latin provenance. Live voice-to-text transcript, in user-selectable language, followed his words at the bottom of many computer screens. His calmly delivered words, coupled with self-assurance, reaffirmed in every mind that what was about to commence was necessary and based on just principles. His voice poured out of a growing number of speaker-phones in innumerable, and continuously growing locations.

His electrifying eyes reached deep into the eyes of every viewer, as though he was not speaking to faceless masses, but to each one individually. His moving persona projected the impression that the speaker might transcend the confinement of the binary code and materialize outside of the screen — such was the persuasive power of anticipation of his annual appearance. It was the culmination of years of injustice, and the awaiting of the opportunity to right what was wrong, to take charge where institutionalized justice had failed, or favored the privileged few. Here was the embodiment of all the pent-up expectations and hopes of the untold masses whose voices could not be heard, of the intimidated, the bullied, the hurt, and those who were cheated, whose trust in public institutions was broken, who found no recourse through the established channels — those, which were supposed to serve and work for the people, but acted against them.

Countless sets of eyes were glued to the screens, as the speaker continued. " Let us begin by recapping the procedures. I shall like to remind everyone — those who will judge, and those who will be judged today — that these proceedings are not about vengeance. It's about justice, plain and simple. We have not gathered here to cast conjectures, or to settle grievances, but to view cold facts — the documentation, whether written, or recorded, of the misdeeds of those who stand trial today." His voice paused momentarily, as the blue background suddenly came to life with images from the previous edition of the online poll. Every computer screen split in two, vertically, with one side showing the speaker, who continued to narrate the changing images that appeared on the other side. The images showing scanned documents, and photographs, flashed in rapid succession, and came to a pause on the likeness of a uniformed figure sporting chiseled facial features, small cold eyes, and slim lips. The speaker described the

case of the man who was tried exactly a year ago to the day. "Meet Col. Manuel Ramirez. His case is presented here for instructional purposes. As the chief of the secret police of Colombia, he was charged and found guilty, by people just like you, of organizing death squads that killed labor organizers, and farmers. The case brought against him was supported by documents leaked to the whistleblower portal, and sporting his signatures on kill orders; video footage of a raid on a village, whose inhabitants, including women and children, were killed indiscriminately, was instrumental in the online community finding him guilty." Hyperlinks to documents, images, and video files followed his words. "Peruse the evidence online, or download it to view at your later convenience. Similar material will be made available today, and pertaining to public office holders, or corporate executives, who turn against the broader public interest. You shall see documents such as these, where police officers use brutality to quench peaceful protesters, where politicians lie or use force in order to further their private agendas, or where corporate bosses sponsor violence to silence regulators and activists. You shall see cases of documented abuse, of corruption, and harm inflicted on the meek. Use this evidence wisely. Consider it carefully, as you cast your votes for every individual or a business entity named in the documents. For each charge you shall have two options: Guilty, and Not Guilty. Choose the appropriate option according to the evidence and your conscience, taking to heart the fundamental principle of the law, where no one is guilty until proven so. Keep in mind that no local or extraterritorial law applies to the judgment that you, the people of the world, shall cast, but rest assured that no jurisdiction shall remain indifferent to your voice, for no one, regardless of the position they hold in society, stands above the law of public opinion. The judgment day has come."

## ***FROM THE AUTHOR***

A friend of mine once asked, "What would Jack London do with his thriller, *The Assassination Bureau. Ltd.*, had he lived in the beginning of the 21st century?"

Jack London wrote a thriller? I was stumped. So I rushed to my local library to read it. "*The Assassination Bureau, Ltd.*, is an unfinished novel by Jack London, later completed by Robert L. Fish. The idea of an agency devoted to "extirpating" socially detrimental characters was fascinating, alas, the novel left an unsatisfactory feeling in my reading taste.

My friend's question has haunted me for over a year, when at last world events set a spark in my writerly imagination. What, indeed, if a novelist set out to write a thriller in a similar vein, in the age of WikiLeaks, the Occupy Movement, and the general discontent with the World Order, that we witness today?

In the age of crowdsourcing - a collaboration of countless minds from across boundaries - the idea of a single person (Ivan Dragomiloff in London's novel) deciding arbitrarily who ought to be assassinated ("extirpated"), seemed incompatible. A collaborative effort, on the other hand, was much more alluring.

It was, thus, natural that in the time of social networking the people should decide who is detrimental for the wellbeing of society.

WikiJustice was born.

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