

Devil's Bargain: A Journey into the Small Arms Trade (excerpt)

By: [Shelley Saywell](#) ([Bishari Film Productions Inc](#); 2008)

Narrator: Kieffer Sutherland

URL: <http://www.bisharifilms.com/devils-bargain/> Length 5:11 min.

Key words: small arms, illegal arms sales, Arms Trade Treaty

SUMMARY

Canadian documentary filmmaker Shelly Saywell traces the life cycle of small arms and light weapons. From France to South Africa, Bosnia, Moldova, the United States and Canada, Devil's Bargain examines the ways in which guns slip from legal to illicit markets to fuel wars and conflicts globally. (5-min excerpt from a 90-minute documentary.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What surprised you the most in this videoclip? Did you learn that you didn't know before?
2. Given the portrayed ease of buying small arms illegally for war, why do you think the global small arms issue gets so little public and media attention?
3. Romeo Dallaire says "small arms are weapons of mass destruction." Someone else says "the guns and the availability of them is ... an epidemic in the same way HIV/AIDS is an epidemic." What do you think these characterizations of the small arms trade? Do they crystalize the issue? Do they detract from the issue?
4. If there were more effective control over small arms trade globally, what impact, if any, do you think this would have on wars?
5. If small arms weren't available, would conflicts be easier to stop, or would combatants switch to alternative weapons (e.g., machetes, homemade explosives, etc.)

QUICK FACTS

UN definitions: Small arms: can be carried by one person; light

weapons: can be carried by two people or a small group

Small arms in circulation worldwide: 875 million (est'd)

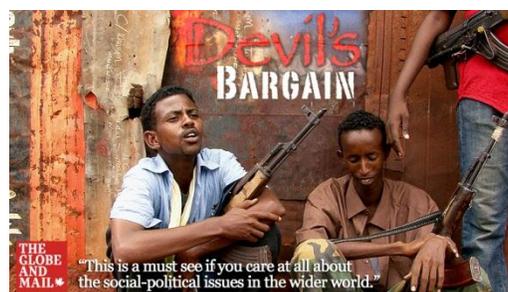
Annual legal trade: More than USD 7 billion

Five biggest arms suppliers: USA, Russia, Germany, France, UK

International trade in major conventional weapons rose 24% from 2007–11 to 2002–2006

Import of major conventional weapons by African states more than doubled from 2002–2006 to 2007–11. (Imports by Uganda and Kenya tripled.)

Sources: [United Nations](#), [Small Arms Survey](#), [SIPRI](#)



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[Overall world military spending falls in 2011, but up in Africa](#). SIPRI April 17, 2012)

[Who benefits from global arms deals?](#) Al Jazeera. (March 20, 2012)

["Baird's office ordered late change in arms treaty stance."](#) CBC. (March 21, 2012)

[Trends in international Arms Transfers, 2011](#). SIPRI.

[The potential UN Arms Trade Treaty](#). Wikipedia.

[Arms Trade Treaty](#). UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

MORE

TAKE ACTION

Pragmora supports the Control Arms Campaign to encourage parliamentarians around the world to support the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. Treaty negotiations begin July 2012. [Click here to take action.](#) [TO BE ADDED]

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