

Video: The Spider's Web. Britain's Second Empire. Corrupting the Global Economy. The British Elites' Network of Tax Havens

Viewed Over One Million Times on YouTube

By [True Publica](#)

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Region: [Europe](#)

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Since it was [uploaded to YouTube](#) just ten weeks ago, [Michael Oswald's seminal documentary film](#) on Britain and its tax haven empire has gained over 1,000,000 views. "The Spider's Web: Britain's Second Empire" documents how British elites created a network of tax havens after World War II and the lengths they take today to preserve it - exemplified in a chilling scene where a Jersey police officer harasses and interrupts the filmmakers' interview with a tax haven whistleblower. Based on Nick Shaxson's best-selling book [Treasure Islands: The Men Who Stole the World](#), the film delivers a sobering account of Britain's role in corrupting the global economy.

The documentary is available for free on YouTube in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#) and [Spanish](#). Subtitles are available in French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Arabic, Korean, Hungarian, English, Turkish and Portuguese.

Director **Michael Oswald** said about his inspiration for the film:

I realized that there was an interesting, coherent and self-contained story that had not been told, the story of Britain's transformation from a colonial power to a financial power, and the myriad and obscure financial structures created by City of London financial interests that lie at the heart of this transformation." (read more [here](#).)

[Tax Justice Network's](#) John Christensen, who co-produced *The Spider's Web*, traces his interest in the subject back to the late-1970s when he and various colleagues started to look at London's role as a global tax haven:

We had no doubt that the City of London was a major player in the process of looting poorer countries of their wealth and in protecting Britain's secrecy jurisdiction satellites from political attempts - at the United Nations, for example - to rectify the policy and regulatory flaws that enabled capital flight and tax dodging on such an immense scale." (read more [here](#))

Made on an astonishingly small budget, *The Spider's Web* has been acclaimed by reviewers. Here is a sample of what they've said:

Forget anything by John Le Carre, this is a real political drama which is more thrilling than anything seen in Tinker, Tailor, Solider, Spy.”

- [Filmotomy](#)

Framed with strong images of the City of London, tax havens and set to a haunting original soundtrack, The Spider’s Web is a film all ordinary, tax-paying citizens should watch.”

- [Modern Times Review](#)

The Spider’s Web gives an excellent overview of the scale of the global tax dodging problem and its corrosive effects on democracy.”

-[Open Democracy](#)

This film is not a thriller. There are no crimes, murders, war or rape. But it deals with the consequences of such acts, metaphorical or real, and you need a strong constitution to watch it, if you care about the state of capital. It is calm, professional and accurate, like a hitman should be. I can’t recommend it enough.”

- [Mr Ethical](#), whistleblower

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