



# The Assimilation: Rock Machine Become Bandidos: Bikers United Against the Hells Angels

By Edward Winterhalder, Wil De Clercq

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In the early 1990s, Maurice “Mom” Boucher and his fellow Montreal Hells Angels, reputedly the most ruthless and vicious bikers in the world, subdued all comers except the tough-as-nails members of the Rock Machine. Founded by Salvatore Cazzetta, an ex-friend of Boucher, the Rock Machine had every intention of standing up against the Hells Angels. Seven years of bloody conflict, which left over 160 people dead and countless injured, was the result. Heavily outnumbered, the Rock Machine appealed to the worldwide Bandidos Motorcycle Club, who rivaled the Hells Angels in terms of membership and strength. In January 2000, the Rock Machine ceased to exist and became a probationary Bandidos chapter – the first to be established on Canadian soil. Biker Edward Winterhalder was assigned by the Bandidos to coordinate the transition. Although the stage had been set for an end to the biker war and a positive outcome for all, it was anything but. Starting with the arrest and unsuccessful deportation proceedings of Winterhalder by the Canadian authorities, more intrigue, assassinations, and double-crosses, Winterhalder found himself in a situation even he found impossible to control. In *The Assimilation*, Winterhalder – in collaboration with author Wil De Clercq – recalls his life and times as an outlaw biker; his personal involvement in the creation of the Quebec Bandidos; his friendship with the key players who made it happen; and his eventual disillusionment with, and exit from, the Bandidos Nation.

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### Editorial Review

#### From *Booklist*

As a leader of the Bandidos motorcycle gang, Winterhalder facilitated the assimilation of the Toronto-based Rock Machine gang into the Bandidos. Before his retirement from the club in 2003, Winterhalder was instrumental in running the Bandidos, an international motorcycle club formed in the American Southwest in the 1960s and affiliated with the Outlaws in their ongoing contretemps with Ralph "Sonny" Barger's Hells Angels. In furthering the Bandidos' interests, Winterhalder managed the incredibly delicate process of accepting the embattled Rock Machine into the larger group, thereby saving those Canadian chopper pilots from the extreme duress applied to them by Maurice "Mom" Baucher's Montreal-based Angels chapter. Providing another perspective on matters Barger has weighed in on in many books, Winterhalder makes an important contribution to the documentation of a quintessentially American subculture. --Mike Tribby

#### Review

"Winterhalder makes an important contribution to the documentation of a quintessentially American subculture." —*Booklist*

"Engaging, witty, and conversational." —*Quill and Quire*

"Intriguing. . . . Winterhalder certainly has the credentials to speak with authority about motorcycle clubs in general, and the Bandidos in particular. . . . In an extremely incisive and informed dissection, Winterhalder moves out of the shadows to give his take on the [Shedden, Ontario] slayings." —*The Globe and Mail*

"Details Winterhalder's efforts to take Canadian bikers into the Bandidos' fold amid a bloody war in Quebec." —*Hartford Courant*

"Focuses on Winterhalder's life, and the difficulties of being a ranking officer in the national chapter, business owner, and single father." —*Tulsa World*

"Extremely compelling. . . . I read this in one sitting and would recommend this to anyone with an interest in motorcycles or even an interest in organizations that may be straddling the law." —*Crimespree*

#### About the Author

Edward Winterhalder is the world's leading authority on motorcycle clubs and the outlaw biker lifestyle; his eleven books about the culture are sold all over the world and published in multiple languages. He was associated with motorcycle clubs for almost thirty years, and has been seen on CNN, Fox News (the O'Reilly Factor with Bill O'Reilly), Bravo, Al Jazeera, BBC, ABC Nightline, MSNBC News Nation, History Channel, Good Morning America, Global, National Geographic, History Television, AB Groupe, and CBC.

In addition to his literary endeavors, he is a consultant to the entertainment industry, and has produced episodes of TV series such as *Outlaw Bikers*, *Gang World*, *Marked*, *Biker Chicz*, *Living On The Edge*, and *Gangland*.

Wil De Clercq has worked as a freelance writer and editor, visual artist, and in such diverse fields as demolition, the merchant marines, faux finish painting, advertising copywriting, and film and television production; he has been a dynamic force in the world of motorcycle journalism for more than twenty-five years and lives in Ontario, Canada.

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