

# How Penniless Dropout Kirk Kerkorian Became The Greatest Deal Maker In Business

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## The Gambler: How Penniless Dropout Kirk Kerkorian Became the Greatest Deal Maker in Capitalist History

by William C. Rempel

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
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Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 437 pages



Kirk Kerkorian, the legendary business tycoon who rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most successful deal makers in history, is a testament to the power of determination and astute business acumen. His story is an inspiring tale of perseverance, ingenuity, and the ability to seize opportunities where others saw only obstacles.

### Early Life and Humble Beginnings:

Kirk Kerkorian was born Kerkor Kerkorian in Fresno, California, in 1917 to Armenian immigrant parents. His family faced financial struggles, and Kerkorian dropped out of high school to help support them. Despite his

limited education, he possessed an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a keen eye for opportunities.

### **Military Service and Real Estate Ventures:**

Kerkorian served as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, where he honed his skills in strategy and decision-making. After the war, he returned to California and ventured into real estate, amassing a small fortune through savvy investments.

### **MGM and The Rise of a Business Empire:**

In 1962, Kerkorian made a bold move by purchasing Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), the renowned Hollywood studio. Under his leadership, MGM experienced a resurgence, producing iconic films such as "The Pink Panther" and "Rocky." Kerkorian's astute business sense and ability to negotiate favorable deals laid the foundation for his growing empire.

### **Las Vegas Expansion and Casino Mogul:**

Recognizing the potential of Las Vegas as a gambling and entertainment hub, Kerkorian acquired several casinos and hotels, including the famous Flamingo Las Vegas. His keen understanding of the industry and his knack for creating luxurious resorts transformed Las Vegas into a thriving entertainment destination.

### **Automotive Ventures and Industry Shake-Ups:**

Kerkorian's business interests extended beyond entertainment. In the 1970s, he took stakes in Chrysler and General Motors,

becoming a major shareholder in both automotive giants. His strategic investments and aggressive negotiations played a pivotal role in shaping the American automotive industry.

### **Columbia Pictures Acquisition and Studio Influence:**

In 1989, Kerkorian acquired Columbia Pictures, one of the oldest and most respected film studios in Hollywood. Under his ownership, Columbia produced critically acclaimed and commercially successful films, solidifying Kerkorian's influence in the entertainment industry.

### **Tracinda Corporation and Philanthropy:**

Kerkorian established Tracinda Corporation as his investment and holding company, which managed his diverse business portfolio. He was also a generous philanthropist, supporting education, healthcare, and Armenian causes through the Lincy Foundation and the Kerkorian Foundation.

### **The Art of Deal Making:**

Kirk Kerkorian's success as a deal maker stemmed from his unconventional approach, his ability to see opportunities where others didn't, and his willingness to take calculated risks. He was known for his aggressive negotiations, his sharp intellect, and his tenacity in pursuing his goals.

### **Legacy and Impact:**

Kirk Kerkorian passed away in 2015 at the age of 98, leaving behind a legacy of business acumen, philanthropy, and global impact. His

extraordinary journey from a penniless dropout to one of the greatest deal makers in history serves as an inspiration to entrepreneurs and business leaders worldwide.

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Kirk Kerkorian's life and career are a testament to the transformative power of determination, innovation, and the unwavering pursuit of success. His ability to identify opportunities, negotiate favorable deals, and build a diversified business empire has left an enduring mark on the business world. His story serves as a reminder that even the most humble beginnings can lead to extraordinary achievements with the right mindset and perseverance.

### **Additional Resources:**

- [Wikipedia: Kirk Kerkorian](#)
- [Britannica: Kirk Kerkorian](#)
- [Forbes: Kirk Kerkorian](#)
- [Biography.com: Kirk Kerkorian](#)



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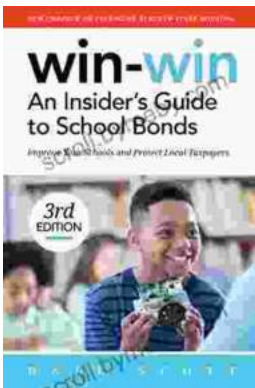
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