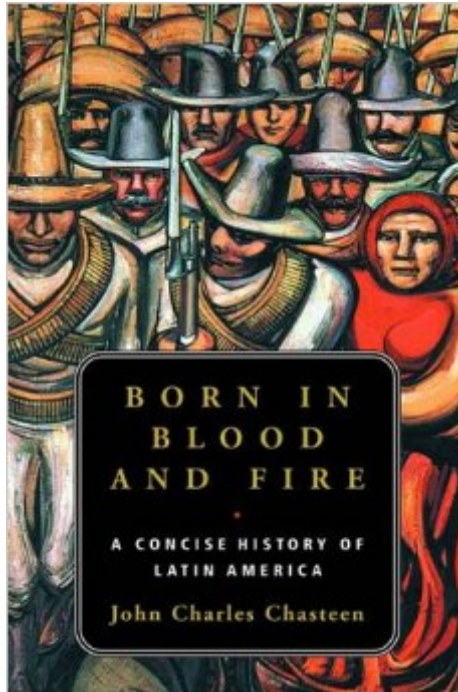


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Born In Blood And Fire: A Concise History Of Latin America



Synopsis

Capturing readers in a story exposing the complexities of a diverse region peopled by characters such as Cortes, Eva, and Juan Peron, Sister Inor Suarez and Che Guevara, John Chasteen focuses on the major events of Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. Working within a chronological framework, this text incorporates the histories of individual countries into the history of a region, providing students with a foundation for further study. It embraces race, class and gender as principle issues in the Latin American experience and recognizes relationships between sociocultural, political and economic forces.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am reading this book for a class on Independence and Nationalism in Latin America and find that it is only appropriate for a very general survey of Latin American history. It is, perhaps, too concise! It is, however, informative and a very simple read. Chasteen wanted to make a history of Latin America readable and approachable and this book is definitely both. I would recommend this text with reservations. It paints a picture that is somewhat biased and full of holes. As an introductory reader, however, it succeeds. Would have given it a four-star rating, but the edition pictured (2006, second edition) is riddled with typographical errors. The index cites pages that are either blank or diagrams not related to the terms. Not exactly helpful! For example, the entry for Diego Rivera points to page 215, which is BLANK. The other side of the page (216) is in fact a mural by Rivera, but what gives?

A good fast read. If this is your first exposure to Spanish influence on the Americas (New World) it's a good, concise, historically time capsule. A lot of related events transpired over a broad geographic area during the Spanish colonization and Chasteen seems to move very smoothly between the players and the countries involved. This is truly the best historical insight to Latin America I have found in one book. I would recommend this book very highly. It puts everything in perspective if you're new to Latin American history.

This book tells the tale of the total inequalities that have infested so much of Latin America over the past five hundred years. The legacy of colonial and Spanish rule is a legacy of serfdom versus elitism. The stories of Cuba and the communist rebellions were totally understandable when appreciated in light of the historical context that this book presents. The history of Brazil, how it was once the seat of the Portuguese royal family, and the various nations on the southern tip of South America that have struggled with development offered a fascinating glimpse at a rarely talked about region of the world. The Cold War and the effects of globalization after de-colonization in Latin America was also fascinating. The analysis of the class structures, and how they have continued in different forms from government to government was detailed and convincing. Also I found the stories of the heroes and heroines of the attempted revolutions penetrating. Mostly I got a sense for the dramatic story that these many diverse and connected peoples have experienced.

This book was required reading for a Latin American History class and it is one of the best history books I have read to date. It reads more like a novel than a history book and Chasteen did a really good job explaining everything.

The author knows his Latin America history and deploys the knowledge adroitly and, indeed, concisely. What I enjoyed is his using of the comparative cases of the various nations as a way of developing some general observations about how nations develop. For me that takes the book from merely informative to riveting.

One of our children is involved in the school academic club. In preparation for an upcoming meet the team has to read this book. For this review we can only say the book has met all expectations. We purchased the book used and the quality was great! We will continue to purchase a mix of new and used books as appropriate for the usage and perceived length of ownership.

Born In Blood And Fire is a superbly presented and concise history of Latin America which covers six centuries and twenty countries, linking accounts of individuals, economics, politics and social structure in a uniform, logical progression of events which will delight both general readers and students seeking an introduction to the region's history. Chapters provide many insights on Latin issues in the process of revealing the history of different nations. Born In Blood And Fire is an invaluable introduction and survey for students of Latin American history.

Never expected to read a history book and be so immersed into the historic events of "the encounter". For those who are interested to learn more about the Latin American culture, this book you SHOULD read without a doubt.

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