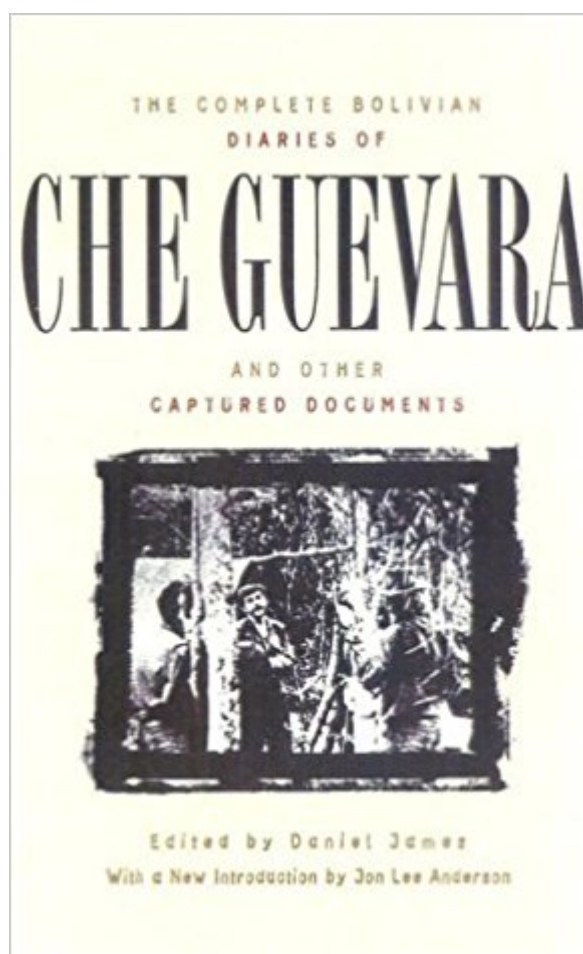


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The Complete Bolivian Diaries Of Che Guevara, And Other Captured Documents



Synopsis

These 1966 and 1967 diaries of the late Cuban leader were written during his attempt to establish a guerilla insurrectionary movement in Bolivia. They were found by the Bolivian government soon after Guevara was captured and executed. They are presented here uncensored and unabridged. Also included are the diaries of Guevara's three closest lieutenants and a selection of important photographs, including the last rolls taken of and by Guevara before he was apprehended.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are caught up with the Che Guevara affair, this book will fascinate and probably disturb you. (The Economist) No amount of scandal or intrigue will tarnish Che Guevara's Bolivian diaries or prevent them from being read as one of the most transcendent documents of our time. More than simple war journals, they are a rare self-portrait of the complete revolutionary. (The New York Times Book Review) [Che's Bolivian diaries] are the very frank and personal journals of a man trying desperately, and against great odds to do something that proved impossible. The diaries comprise, whatever else, a poignant story, courageous but sad. (Henry Butterfield Ryan, from his introduction)

Text: English, Spanish (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A few short years after having read Che's Bolivian diaries I began what was to become twenty years

of solo backpacking travel throughout this planet's third-world---countries wherein lived the poorest of the poor, honest hard-working people of the land, people struggling hand-to-mouth day to day, laboring under unbearable burden without even the basics of life's necessities. I soon learned that it was not for lack of resources or any of nature's bounty that they lived this way, for their land held the same resources as the richer countries of the world. It was instead due to man-made constructs of society, to tyrannical governments that ignored the people's needs and who, with a callous military and without conscience, ruled and enforced with an iron fist. Che, a man of great love and compassion for the poor and persecuted of the world, understood this and was not satisfied with only the liberation of Cuba. He envisioned a utopian world of peace and goodness wherein all the earth's people would share equally in God's gifts. This, in fact, is the belief of most of history's great revolutionaries---men and women who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice--lay down their lives--not for their own personal gain, nor their families' nor their countries but in the name of all the world's poor and oppressed. After Cuba, Che envisioned South America as the next natural stepping stone to his utopian vision and Bolivia as its first foothold. Bolivia, he calculated, had all the elements necessary for a successful revolution. But he badly miscalculated and from the very beginning people and events conspired against him. With a small band of roughly fifty men of various nationalities at his side-- Che began a nearly year long odyssey in the rugged wilds of the Bolivian mountains. Playing cat and mouse with the Bolivian army, badly incapacitated with asthma, unable to inspire a peasant uprising, with little support from his friends and allies on the outside, he and his men held onto a tenuous survival until months of hardship later, with the aid of the American CIA (surprise, surprise!) Che and two of his men were trapped in a river canyon by the Bolivian army and summarily executed on the spot. As for my later travels in the third world---there was not one country and hardly a day that went by--where I did not see Che's image--on t-shirts worn by small boys and old men, painted on the sides of dilapidated shanties, tattooed on men's bodies and on flags flying from rooftops. Perhaps more than any other human being in the world, Che's exploits have inspired and given hope to hundreds of millions of the world's poor. He is venerated not so much for his military exploits as for the motivating factors that drove his destiny. As for the book-- it contains the daily entries of Che's diary from beginning to end--pictures of his brave compatriots, maps, related history and discourse. The diary is riveting--gripping--and regardless of your political bent, it will have you sitting with Che himself, plotting evasive strategies as the Bolivian army closes in, frequently mourning the loss of his men and desperately gasping for air as he plods up some mountainside atop his burro. You will pull for him with all your might, wishing you were there by his side to offer assistance. You will vehemently despise the CIA and US foreign policy which, at the

same time it was helping to track down Che, was busy exterminating half of the Vietnamese population. And, at the end, you will mourn the stark, lonely, final moments and death of Che--one more good soul swallowed up by mankind and Mother Earth. If you want a sense of what the majority of the world feels and why--get this book and read it! DH Koester--"And There I Was" ã And There I was Volume II: A Backpacking Adventure in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, India

The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara is pretty fascinating, because when I thought about the Bolivian Adventure, Che being a horrible comandante and guerrilla leader always came to my mind. When I read the book I found that there were many aspects that didn't let Che prevail in Bolivia. From Mario Monje and PCB Party's betrayal, Fidel's lack of re-establishing contact with the guerrillas, lack of peasant recruiting to create a people's army, lack of conditions being right in country for an insurrection, etc. Even with all these things stopping Che I was very amazed on how far he got, any other leader wouldn't have lasted 2 months. Che's tactics in his ambushes was incredible and even with lack of guerrillas he wiped out mostly all army forces that opposed him. Che was doing superb until US intervention. To understand Che's mission and how he failed is to understand Latin America today.

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