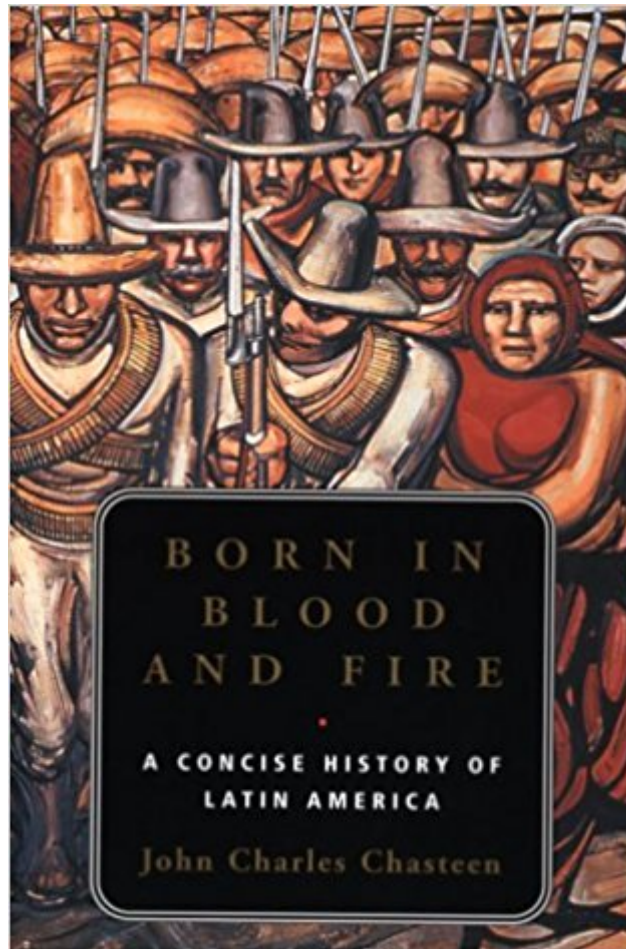




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Born In Blood And Fire: A Concise History Of Latin America



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.

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Customer Reviews

Made up of 20 very different countries, Latin America has sometimes been treated as though it were a homogeneous unit, one mired in poverty and political instability. University of North Carolina scholar John Charles Chasteen's sweeping history of the region imparts a sense of how diverse--ethnically, linguistically, culturally--Latin America truly is, and of how that part of the world is rapidly changing, mostly for the better. (For example, he writes, "in 1980 most governments of the region were dictatorships of various descriptions. In 2000, elected governments rule almost everywhere.") Chasteen observes that, although Latin America came into being under the imperial aegis of a few European powers, principally Spain and Portugal, it quickly branched into sometimes conflicting regions with widely differing ideas of economic development and government. He goes on to examine the careers of some of Latin America's most important historical figures, among them Simon Bolivar, who spread a revolutionary gospel of independence throughout the hemisphere, and

Lázaro Cárdenas, the Mexican president who, in 1938, nationalized the oil industry and set his nation on a difficult course toward economic self-government. Of particular interest is Chasteen's consideration of the many reasons Latin American governments have clashed with that of the United States--among them disenchantment over the 1947 Marshall Plan, which rebuilt Germany at enormous cost, while offering almost no assistance to needy Latin American allies. Designed as an undergraduate textbook, Chasteen's survey offers a useful overview of a region that, although of growing importance in world affairs, remains little understood. --Gregory McNamee --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a history that is concise yet satisfying, Chasteen, a historian at UNC-Chapel Hill, looks at critical Latin American events ranging from the original encounter of Europeans with the indigenous peoples of Latin America to the present day destruction of the Amazon rain forest. He offers portraits of such well-known figures as Simón Bolívar, José de San Martín and Augustín Iturbide, as well as lesser-known ones such as Canek, a Yucatec Maya who led a short but important revolt against Spanish rule in Mexico in 1761. Chasteen focuses on major political, social and economic topics and trends that helped shape Latin America, including liberalism, the caste system, the mixing of races, nationalism and the Western notion of "Progress

Written passionately and with style, and while I abhor Professor Chasteen's left-wing politics, it's trivial compared with the knowledge he imparts and the inspired effort he's made -- totally trivial. And many people agree with him so it's good to understand that POV. I loved the straight history and his synthesis of cultural-political movements like neo-colonialism, progress, neo-liberalism, but I also loved the detours into portraits of people, particularly women who broke the mold in Latin America's male-dominated culture. Adds a bit of sex and sizzle IMHO. The only actual gap is not explaining why non-Spanish/Portuguese countries developed the way they did -- e.g., Belize, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Not a big deal at all, just a gap.

Used this as a text book 10 years ago. really wanted to have it in my home again.

If you're looking for a concise history of Latin America, written in an accessible and engaging style, look no further. In addition to historical facts, the author has spent quite a bit of time living throughout South America, and these experiences provide color throughout the book. Highly recommended.

It is a fun reading full of explanations that attempt to help you understand historical events with deep understanding.

Great Book... I loved every page of it!! Easy explanations of complex historical facts. Chasteen has a way of simplifying otherwise dull, elusive, and fleeting material facts into a form of Hooked-On-Phonics-Worked-For-Me simplicity. I almost had to dumb down to read this book, but it made me feel great because it's still a challenge..

I love this subject and Mr. Chasteen makes this detailed history sound like an interesting novela.

Needed for my class. Fairly interesting, but the chapters are long and there are little to no pics.

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.

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