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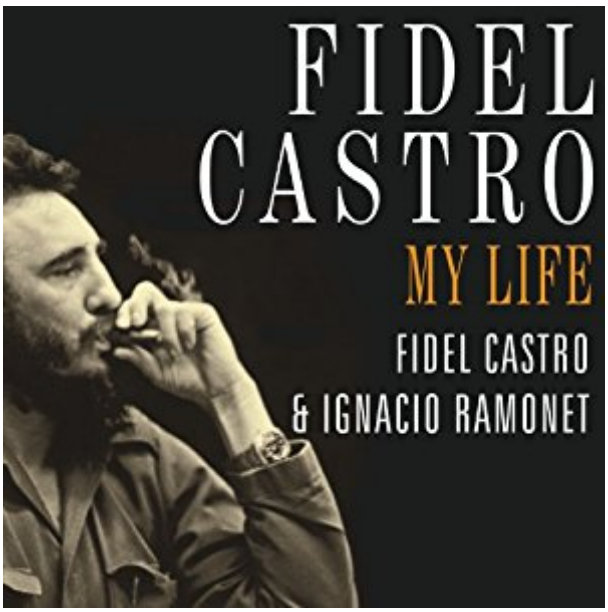
Fidel Castro: A Spoken Autobiography



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Synopsis

For decades, people have tried to persuade the leader of the Cuban Revolution to tell his own life story. Ignacio Ramonet, the celebrated editor in chief of Le Monde diplomatique, has finally succeeded. For the first time, in a series of extensive and probing interviews, Fidel Castro describes his life from the 1950s to the present day. In frank and compelling detail, he discusses his parents and his childhood, his earliest influences, the beginnings of the revolution, his relationship with Che Guevara, the drama of the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Jimmy Carter years, Cuban migration to the United States, his dealings with successive American presidents from Dwight D. Eisenhower to George W. Bush, and his relationship with such controversial leaders as Saddam Hussein and Hugo Chavez. Along the way, Ramonet challenges Castro to discuss his views on a number of controversial questions, from human rights and freedom of the press to the repression of homosexuality and the survival of the death penalty in Cuba. This book will stand as the definitive record of an extraordinary life lived in turbulent times. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very informative and gives you clear insight into what made Fidel the revolutionary he became. You become much more aware of social and political exploitation and the means that were and still are necessary to end inequality. You gain a fair amount of knowledge on a man who’s reputation was tarnished by the United States because of a difference in political thought. I defeinitely think this is a must read for it leads to the reader having an open mind on international and historical affairs.

I bought this book, in the Kindle store, just as I was boarding a plane heading to Havana for the first time in my life, a couple of weeks ago. I think this is a relevant historic document if you are interested in the island, Imperialism and Latin America. For me, the most valuable passages were related to Fidel's narration of historic events. Did care much for the passages in which he defends the Cuban Revolution, not because I judge it, but simply because I found it rather propagandistic. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn a bit more Cuba and its history after its independence from Spain and the U.S. I also recommend visiting Cuba.

It is not often near the end of an iconic, controversial, figure's life, you get to listen to them tell their story. Regardless of your political views, the story provides geat insight into the history of this fasinating country and its leaders. Cuba seems to be entering a new phase in its evolving social and political history. This book provides an interesting vantage point to look at the past 60 years.

This is a unique book that illuminates the point of view of a very intriguing man who has managed to survive decades in power despite repeated attempts to over throw him by the United States. One can always find fault in any book and this one is not perfect. However, the book does give very interesting views on various aspects of Cuban life, the Castro government, and the relationship between the United States and Cuba. Castro challenges many of his critics' claims and shows an erudite knowledge of history and contemporary world affairs.This is a great book for anyone wanting to learn more about Cuba, Castro, or how U.S. policies are viewed from the other side of the debate. Castro argues that the United States tries to undermine Cuba's government, therefore, forcing the government to restrict certain freedoms in order to survive. It is fascinating to read Castro's opinions and get the perspective of the man who lived through the events. Castro does, however, admit to mistakes he has made and how his views have changed over time.One downside is that the book was done with the help of a historian who could refresh Castro's mind on some events. It only detracts from the book if the reader feels that Castro's memory and perspective might have been influenced, however, I think it is minimal if at all. In any case, the book is an interesting study of history and memory by a very controversial leader.

An indictment of our mainstream media in their attempts to demonize Castro. Read historic details that you will not find anywhere else.If you enjoy reading this book, also check out the movie "Che el argentino" (two parts).

Excellent reading. It’s a little more than an autobiography. A lot of background information.

Very interesting read. Learned some things.

Perfect, exactly what I needed.

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