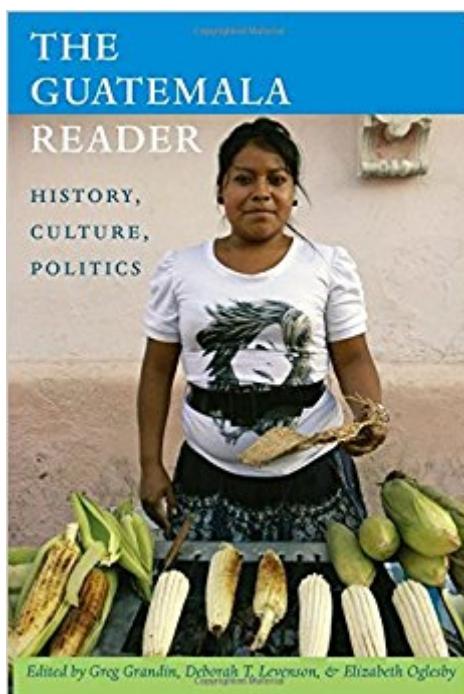


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# The Guatemala Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)



## **Synopsis**

This reader brings together more than 200 texts and images in a broad introduction to Guatemala's history, culture, and politics. In choosing the selections, the editors sought to avoid representing the country only in terms of its long experience of conflict, racism, and violence. And so, while offering many perspectives on that violence, this anthology portrays Guatemala as a real place where people experience joys and sorrows that cannot be reduced to the contretemps of resistance and repression. It includes not only the opinions of politicians, activists, and scholars, but also poems, songs, plays, jokes, novels, short stories, recipes, art, and photographs that capture the diversity of everyday life in Guatemala. The editors introduce all of the selections, from the first piece, an excerpt from the Popol Vuh, a mid-sixteenth-century text believed to be the single most important source documenting pre-Hispanic Maya culture, through the final selections, which explore contemporary Guatemala in relation to neoliberalism, multiculturalism, and the dynamics of migration to the United States and of immigrant life. Many pieces were originally published in Spanish, and most of those appear in English for the first time.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A tertulia is often an informal gathering of minds to discuss politics, current events, literature, art, culture, etc. THE GUATEMALAN READER is a portable tertulia, one you can carry in your pocket. No taxis or excuses for being late are needed. You merely find a quite place, open the book and your mind, and you will learn about Guatemala from A thru Z. What was Maya life before the arrival

of the Spanish? What is all the fuss about the Popol Vuh? How was the Maya code broken? What was the role of chocolate? How was rape used to control the masses? Why is Rigoberta Menchu so well known? No matter to which page you turn, you will find interesting, well-written articles that will captivate you.

The Guatemala Reader is a rare book that can be helpful to everybody starting to learn about this marvelous country, but also as an organizer for those that, like me, started to read everything about Guatemala in a kind of disorganized way. Having read before other titles of this series, The Guatemala Reader is the one I liked the most so far.

Great mix of historical and contemporary documents. Very thoughtfully edited. Comprehensive from colonial, to indigenous culture, to US involvement and so on.

This is not the book for a casual reader. It is an in depth exploration of the history of Guatemala using source documents over a 300 year period. I found it fascinating and loved reading it. Sort of a lite version of a college textbook, but no one has already marked it up with highlighter. If you want to know why Guatemala is the way it is, and you have the tolerance to read a wide variety of source documents, I highly recommend this book. If a Michener book is as historic as you want to be, this may not be for you.

Great condition, speedy shipping.. This book was great for my study abroad program in Guatemala! Lots of details and interesting topics! Its a challenging read and not meant for the beginning reader in politics.

I had to purchase this book for one of my classes. While some of the content is strictly informational, I found most of the content to be interesting and new. It taught me lots about the recent history of Guatemala. If you need to get through this book quickly, I would suggest just skimming it. I feel like a chapter that is 15 pages could've been written in 5.

Great overview of Guatemala history, politics and culture. A nice variety of topics and literature references covered. Would highly recommend, a great place to start.

This book is essential reading for any prospective long term visitor to Guatemala !

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