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The History Of Venezuela (Palgrave Essential Histories)



Synopsis

With an upcoming election, Chávez's involvement with U.S. oil exports, and the country becoming a leader of an increasingly united South America, this volume provides necessary background information to understand how Venezuela became what it is today. The history begins with Columbus's third voyage of discovery from Spain. Spanish explorers named the land "Little Venice" for the native homes built on stilts at the water's edge. Tracing the nation's 300 years as a Spanish colony through a brief unification followed by civil war, Tarver brings Venezuela's dramatic history to life. Highlighting events including the discovery of oil in the 1900s and the establishment of democratic government in 1958, Tarver offers a comprehensive chronicle that contextualizes the current unrest under the leadership of Hugo Chávez.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Adding to Greenwood's 'Histories of the Modern Nations' series is the important HISTORY OF VENEZUELA, a survey of the nation from its foundations as a Spanish colony for 300 years to its succession of military dictatorships to modern times. Students at the high school and college levels as well will find HISTORY OF VENEZUELA an excellent overview that considers the entirety of the nation's history, economy, and political influences. Perfect as an introduction to the nation, and packed with facts useful for reports. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

If you're interested in the history of South America, then you will find this book of great value. The history of Venezuela is an important part of the history of South America. Because Venezuela has a rather violent and dramatic history, a complete and comprehensive history would contain many books and thousands of pages. This book is quite concise, while it isn't leaving out any important occurrences. Writing history can't be done without expressing opinions and interpreting events. The great merit of this book is that the writers of this book express pretty balanced opinions. I read the paperback edition. The paperback and the hardcover contain both only one small map of present Venezuela. What's a history book without maps? It is relatively easy to add some more maps and this would accommodate the reader very much. Maps of the Spanish Captaincies, Gran Colombia, demographic and geographic maps, the important battles of Bolívar and Páez, the 1st republic of de Miranda and so on. However, still four stars!

Tarver and Frederick manage to misspell so many names and to get so many facts wrong in the first few pages that it discourages the reader from continuing. This is not a matter of opinion. These are easily researchable and checkable items. For example, Conquistador Alonso de Ojeda's last name is changed to "Hojeda", Ambrosio Alfínger gets a new name: "Juan". The territory of Venezuela WAS 910,050 Km² until the mid 1980's when a border river between Brazil and Venezuela changed course, and the country gained a few extra KMs to make the territory 916,445 Km². In 2005-06, when the book was written and published, this was 20-year-old news. I won't go into facts that can be "defended" as a matter of opinion. These two suffice as an example.

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