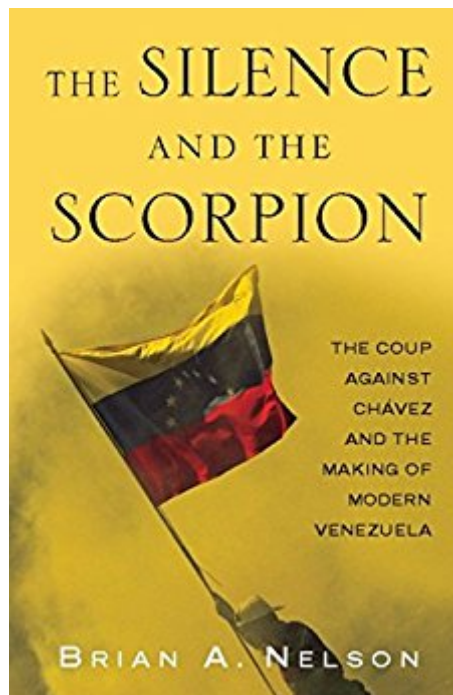




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The Silence And The Scorpion: The Coup Against Chavez And The Making Of Modern Venezuela



Synopsis

On April 11, 2002, nearly a million Venezuelans marched on the presidential palace to demand the resignation of President Hugo Chavez. Led by Pedro Carmona and Carlos Ortega, the opposition represented a cross-section of society furious with Chavez's economic policies, specifically his mishandling of the Venezuelan oil industry. But as the day progressed the march turned violent, sparking a military revolt that led to the temporary ousting of Chavez. Over the ensuing, turbulent seventy-two hours, Venezuelans would confront the deep divisions within their society and ultimately decide the best course for their country and its oil in the new century. An exemplary piece of narrative journalism, *The Silence and the Scorpion* provides rich insight into the complexities of modern Venezuela.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is an very fun game which is fun for a group of perhaps 6 called Junta, and it's best if the players all know each other. In the game, the object is to amass as much money in your Swiss bank account as possible before the end. The players represent the President, the VP, the Armed Forces, which can shift, and various elements of society, like students or unions, also play a role.

This book was almost like a dramatization of that backstabbing, double dealing, game of shifting alliances. I was captivated with this excellent account told from multiple perspectives of the April, 2002 coup against the government of Hugo Chavez. It is a real strength that the book doesn't just concern elites, but regular folks who participated in, or suffered through, the events. A compelling social portrait thus emerges with all the different kinds of motivations, interests, and actions in play. In fact, this book is more dramatic than most 'real' political thrillers I have ever encountered. It's eye-witness account and documentary detail reminded me of William Shirer's Rise and Fall of the Third Reich. That book was criticized for going beyond journalism and advancing controversial theses. For this book, I do wonder what sort of academic reaction there has been, if any, as well as how the book may have been 'reviewed' in one way or another by different segments of Venezuelan society, the media, the government, or 'ordinary' people. The notes are worth skimming for additional valuable background and context, including judging the appropriate role of Fidel Castro in the events, and cultural issues like *aprovechar*.

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