



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

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

From Brand: Duke University Press Books

Cuba is often perceived in starkly black and white terms—either as the site of one of Latin America’s most successful revolutions or as the bastion of the world’s last communist regime. *The Cuba Reader* multiplies perspectives on the nation many times over, presenting more than one hundred selections about Cuba’s history, culture, and politics. Beginning with the first written account of the island, penned by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the selections assembled here track Cuban history from the colonial period through the ascendancy of Fidel Castro to the present.

*The Cuba Reader* combines songs, paintings, photographs, poems, short stories, speeches, cartoons, government reports and proclamations, and pieces by historians, journalists, and others. Most of these are by Cubans, and many appear for the first time in English. The writings and speeches of José Martí, Fernando Ortiz, Fidel Castro, Alejo Carpentier, Che Guevara, and Reinaldo Arenas appear alongside the testimonies of slaves, prostitutes, doctors, travelers, and activists. Some selections examine health, education, Catholicism, and santería; others celebrate Cuba’s vibrant dance, music, film, and literary cultures. The pieces are grouped into chronological sections. Each section and individual selection is preceded by a brief introduction by the editors.

The volume presents a number of pieces about twentieth-century Cuba, including the events leading up to and following Castro’s January 1959 announcement of revolution. It provides a look at Cuba in relation to the rest of the world: the effect of its revolution on Latin America and the Caribbean, its alliance with the Soviet Union from the 1960s until the collapse of the Soviet bloc in 1989, and its tumultuous relationship with the United States. *The Cuba Reader* also describes life in the *periodo especial* following the cutoff of Soviet aid and the tightening of the U.S. embargo.

For students, travelers, and all those who want to know more about the island nation just ninety miles south of Florida, *The Cuba Reader* is an invaluable introduction.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"What a beautiful journey through five hundred years of Cuban history, culture, and politics! *The Cuba Reader* is a sumptuous medley of poetry, song, speeches, interviews, and vignettes from novels new and old. You'll hear the voices of *santeros* and sugar workers, prostitutes and politicians, revolutionaries and reporters, dissidents and dancers. It's the next best thing to being in Cuba, so sit back with a mojito and enjoy the masterfully guided tour."—Medea Benjamin, activist and cofounder of Global Exchange

"*The Cuba Reader* offers a splendid overview of the Cuban experience, past and present, through a dazzling array of points of view. The voices of participants and observers and perspectives on the extraordinary and the commonplace—with imagery conveyed by way of photography and poetry, through the lyric of music and the nuance of the novel—make for a compelling collection of material. The very fullness of its vision makes *The Cuba Reader* an indispensable book for courses—of every academic discipline—on Cuba."—Louis A. Pérez, Jr., author of *On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality, and Culture*

"[A] classic. The editors of this book and their many accomplices deserve nothing but praise for producing the best introduction to Cuba one can possibly find."

(Gavin O'Toole *The Latin American Review of Books*)

"[A] crash course in Cuban history. If you're looking for a single (hefty) volume to get you up to speed about the past 500 years of Cuban politics and culture, this is it."

(Julie Schwietert Collazo *The Guardian*)

"[An] ambitious and impressive anthology, a sweeping collection of source materials by and about Cubans both on the island and living in other countries. The editors . . . have wisely chosen songs, paintings, photographs, short stories, essays, speeches, government reports, cartoons and newspaper articles that span Cuban history. . . . What *The Cuba Reader* does extraordinarily well is to reveal the nuances and complexity of the Cuban experience. All shades of politics are here, and they infuse Cuban dance, music, film and religion."

(Susan Fernandez *The Miami Herald*)

"[T]he editors should be congratulated for their Herculean effort. The reader will be most useful for undergraduate courses where it will provide students with an impressive overview of the Cuban experience over the last five centuries. In fact, anyone interested in obtaining a comprehensive and multifaceted firsthand account of Cuban history will benefit from this book."

(John J. Dwyer *The Americas*)

"This Reader provides a wonderfully eclectic selection of writings from and about Cuba. . . . [A] very useful resource for the teaching of courses relating to Cuba, providing a taster of many aspects of the island's history that should encourage those who dip into it to come away with a more nuanced understanding of an island that has been plagued by caricature."

(Jonathan Curry-Machado *Journal of Latin American Studies*)

From the Publisher

"[An] ambitious and impressive anthology, a sweeping collection of source materials by and about Cubans both on the island and living in other countries."--Susan Fernandez, *The Miami Herald*

From the Back Cover

""The Cuba Reader" offers a splendid overview of the Cuban experience, past and present, through a dazzling array of points of view. The voices of participants and observers and perspectives on the extraordinary and the commonplace--with imagery conveyed by way of photography and poetry, through the lyric of music and the nuance of the novel--make for a compelling collection of material. The very fullness of its vision makes "The Cuba Reader" an indispensable book for courses--of every academic discipline--on Cuba."--Louis A. Perez, Jr., author of "On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality, and Culture"

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**Karen Shiner:**

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**Walter Knight:**

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not demand people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information mainly this *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)* book since this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

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