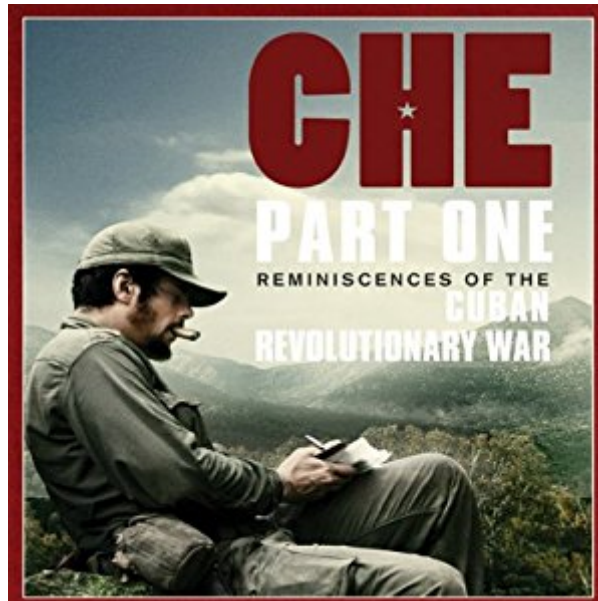




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Reminiscences Of The Cuban Revolutionary War



Synopsis

THE BASIS OF THE MOVIE "CHE: PART ONE" • FROM STEVEN SODERBERGH STARRING BENICIO DEL TORO

The dramatic art and acute perceptiveness evident in Che Guevara's early diaries fully blossom in this highly readable and often entertaining account of the guerrilla war that led to the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Reminiscences is one of the two books for Steven Soderbergh's biopic (along with The Bolivian Diary). Feature chapters describe Che's first meeting with Fidel in Mexico, the mythical moment when Che had to choose between a knapsack of medicine and another of ammunition, and the anguished story of the murdered puppy. This new, thoroughly revised edition includes for the first time corrections made to the diary by Che himself and a preface by his daughter Aleida. "Reflects the life of an extraordinary and important man." "Library Journal" "When Che Guevara cast his lot with Marxism and revolution the world of letters suffered an incalculable loss. Guevara is a brilliant, thoughtful writer. He is lucid, candid and revealing." "The Cleveland Press" Features of this new edition include: Preface by Aleida Guevara Revised translation Biographical note Chronology Glossary 32 pp black and white photos --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Che customarily writes an entry every day in his diaries, even when nothing happened all day. He uses them later to write a memoir without all the boring day-to-day stuff. Of course he could not do that with his final diary. At first this appears to be a diary about nothing but a lot of marching, marching, marching. You can get more out of it by reading it as a companion to a biography, like

Jon Lee Anderson's very detailed biography of Che. Then you'll know why their 10 day excursion took 48 days, and what happened to Joaquin's troops, or why Fidel couldn't send them reinforcements, and other questions that are not answered in the diary, because the diary is only a little slice of the bigger picture. Worth reading if you are interested in the revolution in a historical sense (whether or not you agree with Che politically).

This book is great for getting a bird's eye of the Cuban Revolution from an individual perspective. Guevara is meticulous in his notation of events and people. This is not the book to read if you are looking for a general study of the Revolution. Guevara does speak of Castro and Cienfuegos among others but this is Guevara's story. What most impressed me was his honesty about his men, his mistakes, and the conditions under which the Revolution occurred. The bugs, the heat, the lack of food, the support from the residents of the Sierra Maestra are so well described that you truly get a sense of what the experience must have been like. Don't pass this book up.

This first hand account of the Cuban Revolution through the eyes of Che give the reader the feeling and emotion that Che felt as he wrote these words. We can see and feel the emotion from his words and can see how complex he was. At times he was cruel and hard driving, at others, compassionate and unsure. Good reading for anyone interested in Che

Che writes with a swift but accurate pen when writing about the daily struggles of the revolution. What a capacity for remembering names and seemingly small details that brought the daily revolution to life, sometimes sad sometimes brutal as only Che could recall. He had a brilliant mind which shines through in this memoir.

Whatever one thinks of Che's politics, one cannot help but be impressed by his humanity and selflessness, however misguided. Che could have spent his life in relative comfort as a physician in Argentina. Instead, Che felt obligated to risk his life in spreading Marxist revolution around the world. Che once wrote that, "this is the history of a failure." Che could have written the same of all his Marxist adventures, including his Bolivian fiasco, and the entire history of Communism/Socialism/Leftism. Sadly, Che did not survive his Bolivian blunder. In this book, Che is brutally honest with himself. History proves Che was a thoughtful humanitarian, but not a good military tactician or economist. One must also be impressed by the number times Che posed for dramatic photos, as if thought himself a celebrity. Castro posed fewer times. In any case, this book is

an important and welcome contribution to the total history of Che, the Man and Myth, and revolutionary warfare.

This is a great narrative that will help any student of Cuban history or Latin American history in general understand more fully the motivations, circumstances and important figures of the Cuban Revolution. Che as always is a masterful writer and makes a point not to embellish, but rather to give the facts surrounding the guerrilla movement of the Cuban Revolution, which he accomplishes in a decidedly palpable manner. Like a previous reviewer said, this book is not one that will give you a general overview of the revolution but rather a memoir from the perspective of a rebel commander. I would highly recommend picking up a book that supplies this general information before reading this one, as it will allow for a much deeper appreciation of its content.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928-1967) was an Argentine Marxist revolutionary and author (as well as a physician) who was a major factor in the Cuban Revolution. During the 1960s, he was lionized by intellectuals such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Bertrand Russell, and was well-used (if not accurately known) in '60s popular culture. This book (first published in serialized form in newspapers starting in 1963) also contains the introductory text of a laudatory "Tribute to Che" by Fidel Castro himself. (From a 1967 speech he made after Guevara's death.) In his Prologue, Guevara states that "I am starting a series of personal reminiscences of attacks, battles, and skirmishes in which we all participated. It is not my intention that this fragmentary history... should be taken as a full account." Guevara states that he recommended the three principles of "constant movement, absolute mistrust, and eternal vigilance." (Pg. 33) He identifies their mission as to develop the goodness and nobility in each man, "to convert EVERY man into a revolutionary." (Pg. 125) Concerning one battle, he frankly admitted that his own participation had been "minimal" and "not in the least heroic," since "I had turned my back to the few shots I encountered." (Pg. 146) In a chilling passage, he justified his execution of a suspected traitor by saying that "War is harsh," and "it is not possible to tolerate even the presumption of treason." (Pg. 179) In his letter of resignation (26 letters are printed at the end of the book) to Castro, he (disingenuously?) states that "My only serious failing was not having trusted more in you from the first moments..." (Pg. 284) For anyone interested in Guevara's life and career, this book (which contains some of his most lyrical passages) will be of considerable interest.

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