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# Comandante: Hugo ChÁvez's Venezuela



"An impressively well-researched and readable portrait . . .  
a useful reminder of what el Comandante did and didn't achieve."  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

## COMANDANTE HUGO CHÁVEZ'S VENEZUELA

RORY CARROLL



## **Synopsis**

The inside story of Hugo Chavezâ™s rule and complex legacyFew leaders in our time have been as divisive and enigmatic as the late Hugo Chavez. In Comandante, acclaimed journalist Rory Carroll tells the inside story of Chavezâ™s life, his time as Venezuelaâ™s president, and his legacy. Based on interviews with ministers, aides, courtiers, and citizens, this intimate piece of reportage chronicles a unique experiment in power that veers among enlightenment, tyranny, comedy, and farce. Carroll also investigates the almost religious devotion of millions of Venezuelans who regarded Chavez as a savior and the loathing of those who branded him as a dictator. In beautiful prose that blends the lyricism and strangeness of magical realism with the brutal, ugly truth of authoritarianism, Comandante offers a cautionary tale for our times.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I live in Venezuela and I lived through the events portrayed in the book, all of which are described with precision in a prose that maintains interest and keeps you reading page after page.

Additionally, the author includes interviews with people from all sectors of the country "from those who feel devotion for the system to those outraged by it" providing first hand accounts that add depth to the analysis of this period in the history of Venezuela.

This book is great. I am a Venezuelan and can tell you that what Rory Carroll depicts here is the absolute truth. I even learn with him some things I didn't know about the street gangs and the disaster the chavistas caused in one of Venezuela's main factories, VENALUM. So I fully recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn something about Hugo Chavez. I will only add two more things here, Rory is not biased at all, everything he says here, you can google it and see that he is telling the truth. and the other thing is that no one did more to foster hate among Venezuelans than Hugo Chavez. He was really some mean piece of work.

A clear narrative showing the steps in the destruction of a country. The author makes an effort to be impartial but the missteps and lack of ability to understand the consequences by the "Comandante's" actions make it impossible not to add commentary. The charismatic personality of the central figure and his apparent good intentions took the country from bad to failed without the ruling team fully understanding why or how. This book tells a story of a country and its leader. The leader is gone but the consequence of his actions are still unfolding and are an ongoing lesson for other Latin American adventurers.

As he was a reporter for The Guardian, I expected the author to be blindly sympathetic to Chavez. But I found the author to be an interested observer who was able to gain access to an impressive array of insiders who spoke to him in an open fashion. The revealing interviews with insiders really provides amazing depth and detail to Rory Carroll's book.

I bought this book, because it was highly recommended in one of the Venezuelan newspapers I usually read. The book is a detailed insight of what Hugo Chavez did, and how he did it. It is a shame he had the greatest opportunity of becoming the best Venezuelan presidents, but ended up being probably the worst. It is very well written, and with a lot of detail. I strongly recommended it.

Rory Carroll provides a balanced portrait of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, seeing his flaws but at the same time understanding his success. The best book I've read so far in explaining the mystery of Chavez.

Very interesting; you learn not only about Venezuela, but about politics and human behaviour in general.

I like it because it is written by someone who is not trying to make a political statement. It reflects the fault lines that exist in the venezuelan society and its political system.

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