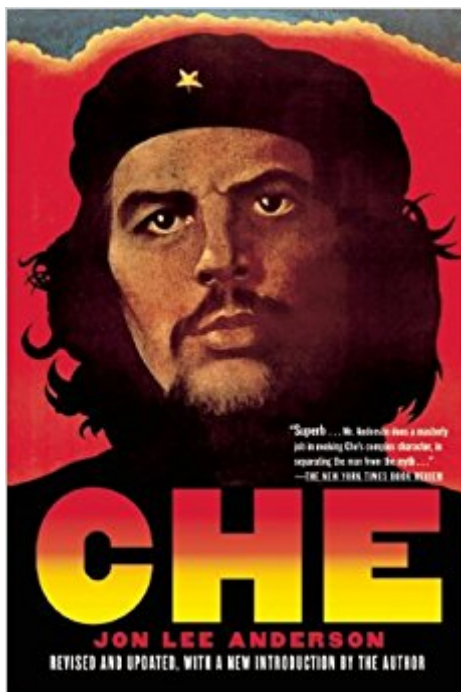


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Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life



Synopsis

Acclaimed around the world and a national best-seller, this is the definitive work on Che Guevara, the dashing rebel whose epic dream was to end poverty and injustice in Latin America and the developing world through armed revolution. Jon Lee Anderson's biography traces Che's extraordinary life, from his comfortable Argentine upbringing to the battlefields of the Cuban revolution, from the halls of power in Castro's government to his failed campaign in the Congo and assassination in the Bolivian jungle. Anderson has had unprecedented access to the personal archives maintained by Guevara's widow and carefully guarded Cuban government documents. He has conducted extensive interviews with Che's comrades—some of whom speak here for the first time—and with the CIA men and Bolivian officers who hunted him down. Anderson broke the story of where Guevara's body was buried, which led to the exhumation and state burial of the bones. Many of the details of Che's life have long been cloaked in secrecy and intrigue. Meticulously researched and full of exclusive information, Che Guevara illuminates as never before this mythic figure who embodied the high-water mark of revolutionary communism as a force in history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Superb . . . Mr. Anderson does a masterly job in evoking Che's complex character, in separating the man from the myth . . .”
—The New York Times Book Review
“Excellent . . . admirably honest [and] staggeringly researched . . . It is unlikely that after Anderson's exhaustive contribution, much more will be learned about Guevara.”
—Los Angeles

Times's ideal, that curious mixture of resoluteness and recklessness . . . is brilliantly evoked in Jon Lee Anderson's massive biography which traces, with exacting precision, the avatars of Che's epic life . . . The portrait is now as complete as it will ever be. • The Times Literary Supplement (London); An enduring achievement. It is hard to imagine that any [other biography] will match the volume and detail of research here's. [Guevara's victories and failures, equally spectacular, are part of our common history's. Che lives, not only in this book, but in the world. • The Boston Globe; Groundbreaking. . . Anderson's book is an epic end run around the guardians of the Che legend. • The New Yorker; A masterly and absorbing account of Latin America's famous guerrilla leader . . . Anderson's book, easily the best so far on Guevara, is a worthy monument to a flawed but heroic Utopian dreamer. • The Sunday Times (London); Remarkable . . . Anderson's account is well rounded and far from uncritical . . . [his] journalistic flair and hard legwork are evident. • Foreign Affairs; Exceptional and exciting . . . Anderson's up-close look, with beauty marks and tragic flaws so effortlessly rendered, brings the reader face to face with a man whose unshakable faith in his beliefs was made more powerful by his unusual combination of romantic passion and a coldly analytical mind . . . An invaluable addition to the literature of American revolutionaries. • Booklist; A solidly documented biography that succeeds, with brilliant effect, in stripping away the layers of demonization and hero worship that for so long have concealed the human core of this legendary figure. . . Thanks to Jon Lee Anderson, we now have the true story, the real man, a portrait of exceptional substance to confound the myth and enhance our understanding of the facts. • The Kansas City Star; Jon Lee Anderson . . . draws upon an unprecedented wealth of new information . . . [an] assiduously researched and perhaps definitive biography. • San Francisco Chronicle; A skillful interviewer, Anderson elicited information from dozens of participants in Guevara's life's. Combining contradictory sources and an immense amount of detail, Anderson produces a multifaceted view of Guevara as a person, seething with ambiguities and complexities. This is an achievement that makes Che Guevara essential for anyone seriously interested in Guevara or the Cuban revolution. • The Nation; Thirty years after his death, Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life gives an admirably balanced account of the Argentine adventurer, his real achievements and glamorous Robin Hood appeal . . . An excellent guide to the myth behind the martyr. • The Independent (London); Exhaustive and convincing. • The New York Review of Books; The best [biography of Guevara] is Anderson's epic. . . . A book that puts the evolution back in revolution, a meticulous record of this extraordinary

life.âNewsday“It is Andersonâs careful research that will define Guevara for the future.âThe Denver Post“A thorough and unbiased biography of a little-understood man, dead 30 years, who remains a father figure to modern-day revolutionaries around the world . . . A book that sees the forest for the trees, and in a life as complicated and significant as Che Guevaraâs, that was no small task.âThe Oregonian“Detailed . . . the book tells as much as is likely to be known about Guevaraâs end....As Mr. Anderson tells it, Che lives.â“The Economist“The merit of Andersonâs work lies not only in the richness of details, but also in its objectivity. . . . Andersonâs book recounts in minute detail the chronology of an obsession.âLatin Trade“A sweeping biography of the Latino revolutionary and pop-culture hero. Anderson . . . steers clear of ideology, arguing that the Argentine-born Guevara was both a brilliant tactician and fighter and the truest representative of the old international communist agitator the State Department warned us about. . . . Students of Cheâs life and deeds need look no farther than Andersonâs volume.âKirkus Reviews“Jon Lee Anderson has rediscovered the historical Guevara, and his authoritative biography goes far in obliterating all the sentimental dross that has accrued around the figure of the heroic guerilla.â“The New York Press“You would do well to read Jon Lee Andersonâs monumental biography, Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life....The bookâs mere table of contents could serve as the syllabus for Che 101.âThe Washington Post Book World“[Anderson] has researched diligently and has had access to much unpublished documentation....This biography is…absorbing and convincing because of its wealth of new information and willingness to let Guevara himself speak, in quotations from unpublished letters and diaries. . . . An indispensable work of contemporary history.âThe Guardian (London)“Five years of research and unprecedented access to friends, family and unpublished archives have allowed Anderson to fulfil his stated aim, to present the truth about Che Guevara.âLiterary Review“A massive, painstaking biography of the Argentine guerilla leader who devoted his life to the ideal of a unified Latin American revolution.âBuzz“A revealing portrait of the many Ches: the quixotic, freewheeling youth rambling around South and Central America in search of the good fight; the willful, asthmatic ‘Jacobin of the Cuban Revolutionâ; and finally...the holy martyr of armed rebellion at age 39. . . Che lives on as a paradox of his own time and ours.âTime Out New York“Jon Lee Andersonâs authoritative new biography shows both the passionate idealist and the cold-hearted disciplinarian.âNewsweek“Vividly detailed . . . Anderson weaves a compelling psychological profile of Guevara.âThe Buffalo News“Che Guevara by Jon Lee Anderson may still be the best [biography of Che] for its deft style and its

details of Che's post-Cuba adventures. It is also the only one to carry interviews with Che's widow, Aleida. . . . His biography appears to be definitive . . . Obviously a reporter of great energy and enterprise, he scored at least two major scoops in his research: obtaining Che's uncensored diary of the guerrilla war in Cuba and discovering more or less where Che's body was buried in Bolivia . . . genuinely gripping. . . ;[Anderson] manages to reflect his subject's special gleam, the mix of qualities that made the Argentine-born adventurer irresistible to those of his contemporaries bent upon the violent overthrow of governments, and a durable icon for succeeding generations of revolutionaries. Che Guevara is the best treatment of its subject to date . . . because the patient reader can distill from it a vivid sense of Che the man. . . ;The Philadelphia Inquirer;Neither CastaÃeda nor Taibo has written the definitive biography of Guevara. If anyone has, it is Jon Lee Anderson, whose Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life appeared earlier this year. . . ;The Boston Book Review

Great book I read it a couple of months ago, and really enjoyed it. Anderson really did his research, in fact in doing so Che's body was found. This book will let you know more about the guy on all the T shirts and what he was about, very interesting book.

Well written and researched. It will put a more human and fallible face on Che than popular mythology provides. I only give it four stars because Anderson has been caught in falsification in writings on Venezuela, so I do not take his critical remarks about Che at face value.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of Che's death. So it came in perfect time to think about ideals: they seem forgotten, up to a point they were mishandled; can they be picked up again?

I had no expectation as to background or any real knowledge of Guevara. Quite surprising and informative. Not written as totally factual but a worthy read. I've recommended it to several friends.

One of the best history books I've read in a long time. A must read for those wishing to understand the relationship not only between Cuba and the United States but also between the United States and Central and South America.

nice paper back edition, arrived on time. It is very engaging, can't stop reading it.

Incredibly informative and well written. Pleasant reading with tons of historical background. Jon Lee Anderson in his best shape.

The biography does a remarkable job of getting into the details while keeping the narrative going. It also plays it straight so doesn't romanticize...no sugarcoating about a fascinating but, all told, a flawed and even tragically evil man.

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