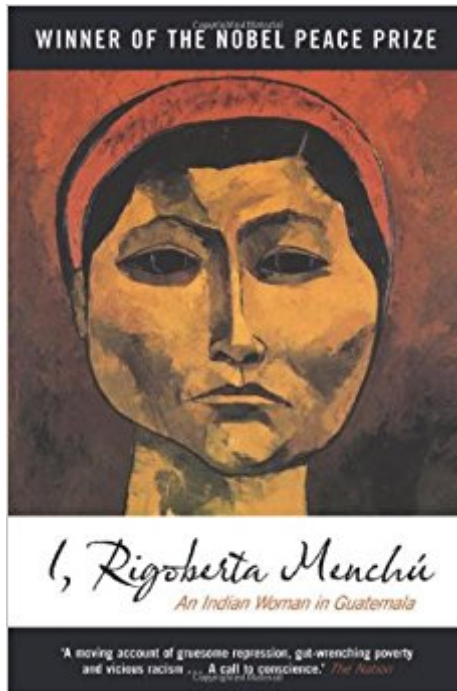




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I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman In Guatemala



Synopsis

Now a global bestseller, the remarkable life of Rigoberta Menchú, a Guatemalan peasant woman, reflects on the experiences common to many Indian communities in Latin America. Menchú suffered gross injustice and hardship in her early life: her brother, father and mother were murdered by the Guatemalan military. She learned Spanish and turned to catechistic work as an expression of political revolt as well as religious commitment. Menchú vividly conveys the traditional beliefs of her community and her personal response to feminist and socialist ideas. Above all, these pages are illuminated by the enduring courage and passionate sense of justice of an extraordinary woman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A moving account of gruesome repression, gut-wrenching poverty and vicious racism ... A call to conscience.”
•Nation
“A fascinating and moving description of the culture of an entire people.”
•Times (London)
“A cornerstone of the multicultural canon.”
•Chronicle of Higher Education
“An extraordinary document.”
•Francis Sejersted, Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee

Text: English, Spanish (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's a good book that describes the struggles of the Mayan population in Guatemala. It is best to

read in conjunction with different articles that criticize this book and also the foreword. This was not written by Rigoberta and it is important to consider the politics of translation as well as transcription. She gave her testimony to Elizabeth Burgos, who collected the information from the interview in Spanish and created the text. At the time when Rigoberta gave her testimony, she only had been speaking Spanish for three years. I read this for one of my college classes at Princeton and I just discussed this book at my book club. Another thing to consider is the genre that this book falls in. It is not a memoir or an autobiography. It falls under the category of Latin American literature known as *testimonio*. This differs from the direct translation of testimony. I recommend readers do some research on the politics of *testimonio* and whether or not all that is said is needed to be true. It is a great book to start a conversation on the politics of ethnicity and whether books like these are needed to be entirely truthful or factual!

This is a powerful and extremely interesting text about an indigenous woman from Guatemala. It documents her early life, the culture of her community, the intense hardships they endured and the political repressions which eventually brought them to wage a political struggle that utilized both violent and nonviolent resistance. Though written in memoir form, it is actually compiled from a series of intensive interviews conducted by Elizabeth Burgos-Debray over a one week period in 1982. As a tour of Quiché Maya culture it's of serious anthropological interest (Menchu describes some of the ceremonies and rituals of her people, as well as the hardships of daily life). As a description of political conflict and poverty, it's a sobering reflection-- the amount of pain Menchu and her people endure is beyond belief. Torture, forced disappearances, military raids, unjust eviction and racism become common occurrences. While some have dismissed the work due to certain inconsistencies present in Menchu's testimony revealed by anthropologist David Stoll, it's clear that these are relatively minor (for example, Menchu's brother was indeed tortured and murdered by the military, but it turns out she didn't witness it directly as she recounts in the book). I give it 5 stars for being a readable, truthful account of an important and difficult life. It would be a more accurate read if Burgos-Debray had left it in question-answer interview format, but it would also be less readable. Check it out, you'll learn a lot!

If you want to learn what really hard work is or if you want to learn how to have a community where people really care about the whole community, then read this book by a brave and thoughtful indigenous Guatemalan woman. Extraordinary book.

Menchu gives vivid descriptions of her tribe Quiche and the struggles in Guatemala. It does not provide statistics, maps, graphs and actual pictures of her tribe. There is not much of a historical significance on the aspect of knowing how many tribes are in existence till this day or about the civil war that broke out in the 1960s. However, I gave it a 5 star because of the significance of the propaganda it gave to the world audience. To let the world know that indigenous tribes are still people and they have struggled against the military, government, and damaged environment. Gives details of racism, classism, and other oppressions that many indigenous people had to deal with. It was an easy read and a page turner.

I received a different version than the one pictured, but still received the correct book. The book was in good condition and came quickly in the mail. The book itself is a testimonio from a Guatemalan Native and is not for the faint of heart. It is a book that does not hold back detail of torture and pain and has many moments that will make your stomach turn. I would not recommend it for all audiences. This is a powerful, moving recounting of the events that happened to Rigoberta Menchu and the other natives in Guatemala during the late 20th century.

Wonderful book about Mayan life and their struggles in Guatemala. I learned a tremendous amount and have a new appreciation for a culture that I knew very little about. Thank you Rigoberta for sharing your amazing story. I am telling others to read this book!

i suggest getting a different version, with perhaps the updated intro

Not well written but important story of Indian struggle in Guatemala . Details of the struggle and understanding of the culture tell a horrifying tale. The issue of education vs maintaining a culture is explained.

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