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Ya Basta! Ten Years Of The Zapatista Uprising



Synopsis

“The world has a new kind of hero, one who listens more than speaks, who preaches in riddles not in certainties, a leader who doesn’t show his face, who says his mask is really a mirror. And in the Zapatistas, we have not one dream of a revolution but a dreaming revolution.” —Naomi Klein

The most comprehensive collection of essays and communiqués by Subcomandante Marcos chronicles the written voice of the Zapatista movement and its struggle to open a space within the neoliberal, globalized landscape for the oppressed peoples of the world. Complete from their first public appearance in 1994 through their 10-year anniversary celebrations and period of restructuring in 2004. The Zapatista uprising in Chiapas was certainly one of the most dramatic and important instances in our time of a genuine grassroots movement against oppression. In this volume, the writings of Subcomandante Marcos give eloquent expression to this movement, revealing both its philo-sophical foundations and its tactical ingenuity. I believe his words and the statements of the Zapatistas can inspire a new generation of activists and let them understand that it is possible for ordinary people, without military power, without wealth, to challenge state power successfully on behalf of social justice. [This] fantastic collection of Marcos’s words conveys the spirit of the Zapatistas as no other book I know has done.” —Howard Zinn

“After over 500 years of conquest, the indigenous people already know what the rest of us must learn about empires: that they exploit the many for the privileges of the few, that they ransack the cultures of antiquity, that they place a burden even on the mother countries. But in their actions and writings, the Zapatistas are inspiring a new generation to join the struggle for a better world. It’s our world too!” —Tom Hayden

Book Information

Paperback: 687 pages

Publisher: AK Press; First Edition edition (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1904859135

ISBN-13: 978-1904859130

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.3 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,033,591 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #975 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin

American #1001 inÂ Books > History > Americas > Mexico #1042 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Political Freedom

Customer Reviews

I bought this book for 28 bucks and thought to myself that for that price it better be a damn good book. I'm telling you right now that I would pay triple that amount after reading it. This book is simply a classic. It has communiques, stories, fictional stories with real meaning to them, essays and pretty much everything else you could think of. The stories with Durito are some of the most funny stories you'll ever read. Durito is a beetle who is a philosopher and he tells some amazingly funny stories and all of them have something meaningful to add to discussions. The Durito stories are worth the price alone. The essays are also beautifully written. Not only is Marcos a revolutionary, he's a damn smart revolutionary. Name a subject and he talks about it. He doesn't just talk about the plight of the Indigenous peoples of Chiapas, he tries to bring everybody into his discussions. He's a true revolutionary in the sense that he wants the entire world to join the struggle. All I can say is buy this beautiful book. I went into the book not knowing much about the Zapatistas, even though I'm an anarchist, and came out of the book wanting to fly down to Chiapas the next day. This book deserves everybody's attention.

This is a great book, if you really want to know the truth and everything that is happening in southern Mexico, this is the book to buy. It's a very detailed book, so it's a bit long. It has readings of Sub Comandante Marcos and other great leaders. Great book, really recommend it. EZLN!!!

The communications of Marcos are amazing! Really great to read. This is a compilation of those texts, so the content is good. However, the selected writings could have been better. More than once the first part of a series is missing, which makes it hard to understand the following reactions. It also only contains the official communication. Most of the times Marcos reacts or refers to things that happened in Chiapas or Mexico, but the book never contains a small explanation of what was going on in Mexico on that time. This can make it hard for readers who are new to the EZLN and the situation in Chiapas. I had the impression some important communications were missing, f.i. I found nothing at all regarding the massacre of Acteal. And even weirder is that the 6th declaration of the Lacandon is missing. It would have been nice if it contained some more images...

Lived in Chiapas for 6 months - great supplemental info to my observations.

This book is an amazing collection of one of Latin America's greatest living writers and activists, Subcomandante Marcos (who I, incidentally, think is one of the sexiest men in the world!!! Apparently, I'm not the only one who shares this opinion. According to the book, "First World, Ha Ha Ha!", Marcos has become somewhat of a sex symbol in the gay community in Mexico. There's even a condom named after him). My fantasies aside, "Ya Basta" is an essential anthology for anyone wanting to learn about Chiapas, Zapatismo and Third World resistance to corporate globalization. I especially enjoyed his stories about Durito and the cool photos. It's a hefty volume, well worth its price.

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