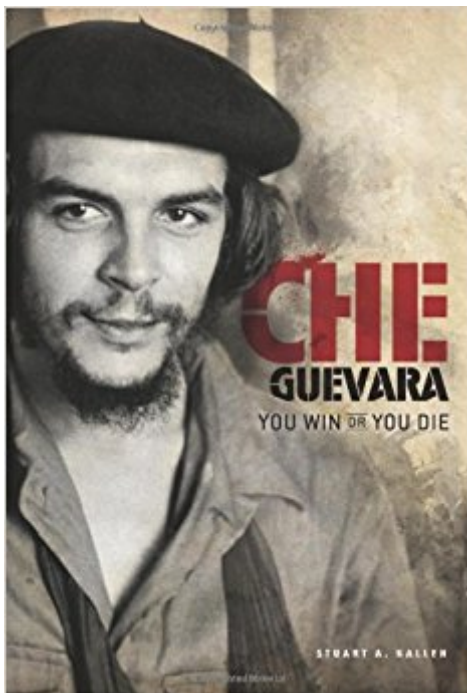


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Che Guevara: You Win Or You Die (Single Titles)



Synopsis

October 9, 1967. World-renowned revolutionary Che Guevara is dead at the age of thirty-nine. The charismatic Argentinian revolutionary had been leading guerilla fighters in the jungles of Bolivia and was captured by the Bolivian army. Mario TerÃfÆ'Ã Ân, a sergeant in the Bolivian army, volunteered to execute the prisoner. He carried out the bloody assignment with nine point-blank shots to Guevara's body. Around the globe, reactions to the assassination were mixed. In Cuba, where Guevara had helped overthrow a brutally repressive dictatorship in 1959, more than a million people mourned openly. But in the United States and elsewhere, many business leaders and government officials were relieved. Guevara's anti-capitalist movement sought to strip big businesses of their land and power. He wanted to set up socialist systems to spread wealth and resources among ordinary workersÃfâ —in Latin America and all around the world. To the rich and powerful, Guevara was a dangerous threat. Why did the assassination happen? How did the fiercely independent and internationally admired revolutionary leader end his life as a captive in a tiny Bolivian village? Why did he die a hunted man, without a fair trial, at the hands of a Bolivian soldier? How did his story become a legend? In this chronicle of an assassination, find out what inspired the myth of Che Guevara and what brought him to this bloody crossroads of history.

Book Information

Library Binding: 88 pages

Publisher: Twenty-First Century Books (August 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822590352

ISBN-13: 978-0822590354

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 7.5 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,765,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÃ Â Books > Teens >

Education & Reference > History > Central & South America #123 inÃ Â Books > Teens >

Biographies > Political

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-Guevara was, and is, an iconic figure of revolutionary movements everywhere. His passion for economic justice was legendary, and his determination to fight capitalism was unwavering. This biography, with a focus on how Guevara grew into his revolutionary ideals, describes a

middle-class, educated upbringing that allowed, and encouraged, young Che to explore all avenues, eventually leading to a degree in medicine. Eschewing life as a doctor, he traveled in Latin America, where his encounters with peasants helped form his ideology. In Guatemala he met Fidel Castro, and together they led a bloody, and ultimately successful, revolution against a brutal dictator in Cuba, cementing a global reputation as a hero to some, and an enemy of businesses and capitalism in the United States and its allies. The narrative is accessible and compelling, and a solid introduction to the life and times of Guevara, providing both detail and context to a complicated, thoughtful man. Black-and-white photographs offer a good visual supplement and help explain part of the mystique surrounding the handsome, charismatic Guevara. Extensive back matter, including a Who's Who section and a summarizing time line, will be especially helpful to researchers. A solid choice for any library. -Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Was Che Guevara a romantic, selfless revolutionary? This lively biography explores the guerilla leader's public image, and readers will be held by the personal politics as well as by the political history of the cold war and 1960s revolution. After a privileged youth, Guevara became politically active after his motorcycle trip across Latin America, where he witnessed poverty and despair in a continent rich in resources. This volume's focus is on Guevara's role with Castro in guerilla war and the Cuban revolution, as well as his call for a united Latin America, until finally he was assassinated with the cooperation of the CIA. Interspersed with quotes from his diary entries and from CIA files and newspaper reports over the years, Kallen's narrative is objective and clear, and the accessible design includes numerous photos and screened inserts, which are fully documented in the extensive back matter. Teens reading for research or personal interest will be drawn to the icon, the action, and the issues. Grades 7-10. --Hazel Rochman

"Many revere Guevara for treating the sick and standing up for the poor. But few care to discuss the brutality he exhibited as a guerilla leader or his support of Fidel Castro, who imposed a harsh dictatorship on millions of Cuban people. In life Che Guevara was a political contradiction. In death he will always be young, brave, and defiant (Stuart A. Kallen, *Che Guevara: You Win or You Die*; page 75). While there is much to be learned about Che Guevara from this short volume (88 pages, including a timeline, glossary, and "who's who?"), it shies away from "the brutality he exhibited as a guerilla leader." I decided to read this title after it was sent to my high school library by one of my suppliers. One of my colleagues fled Castro's Cuba at age 10 and raised questions about a book

that would treat Guevara as an "international icon." While her family had great hopes when he and Fidel toppled Batista's corrupt regime, in the end they felt betrayed and left the country after her family's assets were taken by the government. I give the book three stars because it does a good job of telling Che's story. I can't give it more, because it fails to tell the rest of the story.

This is a book about the Argentinean revolutionary Che Guevara. I found this book hard to read. The writing style was very choppy. The author seemed to be reciting facts rather than telling a story. Additionally, rather than alluding to the author's political viewpoint, this book smacks you in the face with it. I don't particularly care for that style, especially in books written for teenagers.

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