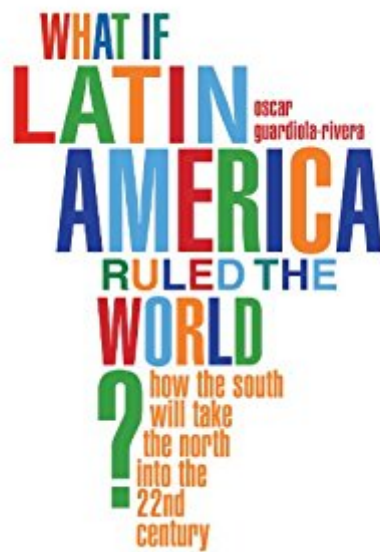




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What If Latin America Ruled The World?



Synopsis

For too many of us, Latin America exists "below the fold", an echo barely heard beyond the roar of U.S. economics, politics, and culture; the source of little more than dance steps, mesmerizing soccer, spicy food, and questionable politics. But Latin America has been a vital part of the global community since the 17th century, when the Spanish silver peso became the world's first global currency instrument. Today it is home to 600 million people and some of the fastest-growing economies on the planet. Latin America may not outshine or outspend the United States on the world stage anytime soon, but its voices will be heard. Its consumers, resources, and emigrants are already affecting us; they will be even bigger factors in our future. What if Latin America Ruled the World? deftly braids together the histories of North and South America from the exploits of Hern  n Cort  s to the political showmanship of Hugo Ch  vez and Evo Morales. Scholar Oscar Guardiola-Rivera is an ideal guide for a searching portrait of the Latin America that we rarely hear about.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Assigning stars to Oscar Guardiola-Rivera's work was difficult and yet easy. There is no book I know of that raises the intriguing issues his has. Composed in the context of the Financial Crises wracking the leading industrial countries he asks if we are not seeing the beginning of a new era of economic reality and a new set of dominant powers. This is a run at brilliancy that deserves top rating, and yet his presentation will cause many readers to lay the book aside in fatigue. He has so

much he wishes to say and a lack of systematic organization that creates redundancy and confusion. Advice: Wet your finger and mush on; it is absolutely worth the effort. Why? Brilliant? Guardiola-Rivera is primarily an analyzer of Comparative Economic Systems versed in the history and development of his area of Latin America and willing to project where that region is headed and why. He deals with Economic History, Monetary Theory, and Economic Development and has a keen eye for the social dynamics that are shaping Latin American countries in new and challenging directions. One analogy he uses is that history has seen dominate power rise and fall and be replaced by new players: Rome by Spain by England by the United States, in turn, and now perhaps by China, but more likely by Brazil and the associated states of South America and the Caribbean in new alliances and organizations that override the OAS, the IMF, and the World Bank that have functioned as agents of primarily American power. China he sets aside as lacking the dynamics of democratic systems. The dynamics he describes are generated by the long transformation of a repressed region and particularly the repressed indigenous and Afro-Indian populations that support the leaders we are seeing in today's news from the region. Troublesome? If you were raised on the market fundamentalism or neoliberalism notion that 'History is Dead' and that Free Market Capitalism and its associated intuitions have resolved all economic issues, then this book will cause you to rock. He takes on the Washington Consensus that has marked dominant policy in the Americas and elsewhere and details its rejection by Latin American thinkers, paying great attention to the reasoning of Raúl Prebisch and his impact in the area; don't miss that. Prophetic? Who can see into the future? Oscar Guardiola-Rivera may have. What he is describing is revolutionary, and he knows such changes generate resistance that will slow progress but not, he thinks, change direction. His Latin American-dominated world has a gentle and kind aspect that he attributes to the ethic memory of those who have been the abused of the past but are now coming into their own time, which is to say attributes frequently found by anthropologists among indigenous peoples. Let's hope he is correct. One projection he makes seems to be shared in this year of 2013 by both U.S. political parties as they approach Immigration Policy: the USA in time will be yet another Latin American Country.

Any individual aiming and hoping to assimilate with the 'new world order.' A social order based on mobility, globalization, digitization (paper-less/wireless), diversity, and complication/complexity scenarios, must follow Guardiola-Rivera vision and challenge.

I lent this book to a friend who was very interested in it. And they gave it back to me without even

getting through the first 20 pages after noticing numerous factual errors. They lost all trust for the author and decided to not continue reading it. If the author is going to make factual historical statements and get them wrong one wonders what the entire accuracy of the book as a whole would be. Do your research before you publish a book. No wonder this is \$2. It's full of errors.

Given that neither of the two existing reviews actually give Guardiola-Rivera's book a fair treatment, I thought I would have a go at it to help fellow readers. This is a preliminary review that I shall edit and update as I progress through the book -- and also as I find the time to invest in composition. Please forgive me for the rough quality of my writing or organisation. Guardiola-Rivera's 'What if Latin America Ruled the World?' resembles an Inca quipu through the weaving together of numerous threads of thought, anecdotes, and facts, creating a work of astounding depth and complexity that recontextualises assumed truths regarding the indigenous peoples of the Americas, history, globalisation, and the current market system. Indeed, 'What if Latin America Ruled the World?' aims to transform our relationship with the dominant cultural models of nations that profitted from the centuries of conquest and colonisation. It also aims to propose what is available and possible by recreating a paradigm virtually lost to much of the modern world wherein community and quality of life lie at the heart of societal interests and activities. Guardiola-Rivera's writing can be overly ambitious in his attempt to recreate the Inca quipu -- at least, according to how he understands their cultural significance. Some of his sentences seem ambiguous and require more thought than necessary to deduce the intended meaning. All in all, his command of language is extraordinary in both its elegance and power to convey the bigger picture. 'What if Latin America Ruled the World?' probably should not be considered light reading easily completed within a day or even a week. More akin to a philosophical treatise, like the works of Foucault and Heidegger, this book demands time, thought, patience, and discussion. cursory reading of this book does not do justice to either Guardiola-Rivera's work or the reader himself.

Latin America is currently doing very well for the first since the 1960's but the author's assertion that somehow Latin America speaks as one voice is incorrect. Although they so seem to agree on common issues each nation has a national identity all it's own. Italian immigrants for example left a huge imprint on the national character of Argentina and Uruguay in a manner seen nowhere else in the Americas except the USA. Latin America still has a long way to go before an important area like the EU. Rampant corruption, failed educational systems, appalling crime rates to name a few are major obstacles these nation's face. The tsunami of desperate illegal aliens that has hit the USA in

recent years are the living proof that there are still severe problems across the Americas. For the author to say Latin America can lead the world is very premature.

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