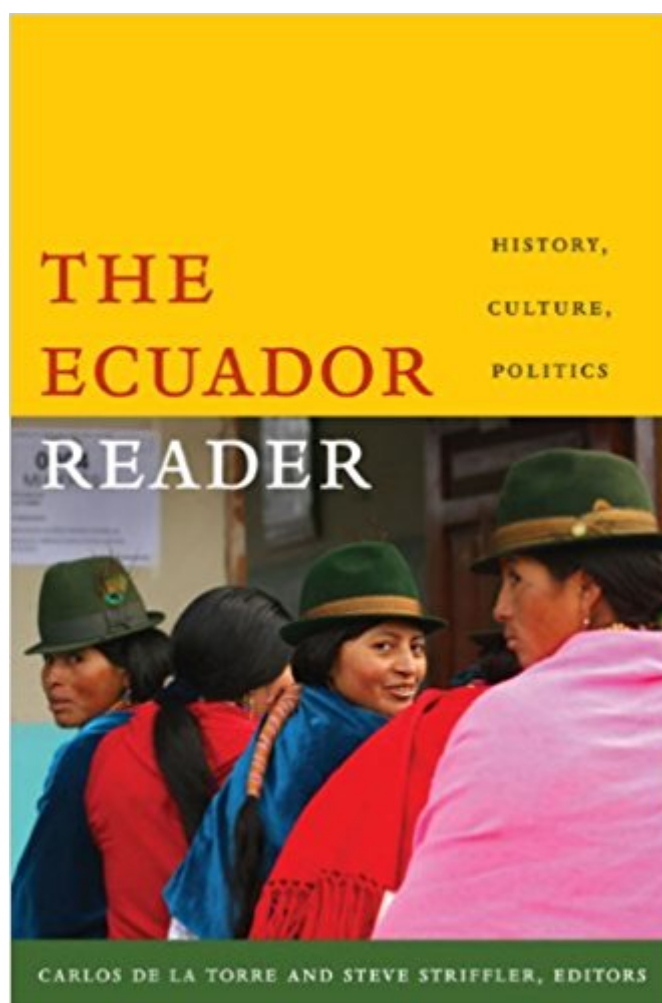


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The Ecuador Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)



Synopsis

Encompassing rainforests, Andean peaks, coastal lowlands, and the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador's geography is notably diverse. So too are its history, culture, and politics, all of which are examined from many perspectives in *The Ecuador Reader*. Spanning the years before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s to the present, this rich anthology addresses colonialism, independence, the nation's integration into the world economy, and its tumultuous twentieth century. Interspersed among forty-eight written selections are more than three dozen images. The voices and creations of Ecuadorian politicians, writers, artists, scholars, activists, and journalists fill the Reader, from José María Velasco Ibarra, the nation's ultimate populist and five-time president, to Pancho Jaime, a political satirist; from Julio Jaramillo, a popular twentieth-century singer, to anonymous indigenous women artists who produced ceramics in the 1500s; and from the poems of Afro-Ecuadorians, to the fiction of the vanguardist Pablo Palacio, to a recipe for traditional Quiteño-style shrimp. The Reader includes an interview with Nina Pacari, the first indigenous woman elected to Ecuador's national assembly, and a reflection on how to balance tourism with the protection of the Galápagos Islands' magnificent ecosystem. Complementing selections by Ecuadorians, many never published in English, are samples of some of the best writing on Ecuador by outsiders, including an account of how an indigenous group with non-Inca origins came to see themselves as definitively Inca, an exploration of the fascination with the Andes from the 1700s to the present, chronicles of the less-than-exemplary behavior of U.S. corporations in Ecuador, an examination of Ecuadorians' overseas migration, and a look at the controversy surrounding the selection of the first black Miss Ecuador.

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Customer Reviews

"The Ecuador Reader is a gateway for understanding the volatile and intriguing history of this complex, multicultural land. From José María Velasco Ibarra's fiery populism to the politics of a contemporary beauty pageant, the book captures the rich diversity of the country's past and present. It is a major contribution to the study of the Andean world."—Catherine M. Conaghan, Queen's University
"The Ecuador Reader offers an intriguing glimpse of the diverse voices and perspectives through which Ecuadorians have engaged the social, political, and cultural challenges of crafting a modern nation. Compiled by two of the leading scholars of Ecuadorian cultural and political thought, the essays in this volume provide testimony to the diversity and creativity of the intellectuals, organizations, communities, and individuals who people Ecuadorian history. The discussions of identity, ethnicity, colonialism, development, culture, and the state found in these pages offer a unique starting point for exploring Ecuador's historical path from being a colony on the edges of the Inca and Spanish empires to becoming a central player in modern Latin American political debates."—Deborah Poole, Johns Hopkins University

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A very interesting look at Ecuador from many different angles. Unfortunately, if your primary interest is the history of the country, jumping from one topic to another obscures the flow of the history narrative.

This is a compilation of different writers' stories about Ecuador. It provides a fantastic overview to the history and culture of the country. Many of the stories were originally written in Spanish and sometimes the translation was not so great, making them difficult to read. However, as a collection, this is by far the best introduction to this fantastic country that I've ever seen. It provided lots of insight and perspective that no travel guide could ever hope to provide.

From Pre-Colombian history to modern day recipes, this book has it all. Definitely an intellectual read, it covers Ecuador's people and history in depth. The book covers indigenous issues, afro-ecuadorian history, poetry, fiction, mountaineering, the Panama Hat, the banana and oil booms, and so much more. I felt like I really understood the country as a whole after I read this book.

The book thoughtfully covers many topics on Ecuador. My father is very impressed with the book, and he is a very demanding reader as he was born in Ecuador but has been in the United States for more than 50 years. The book sat on the coffee table and my father initially scoffed at it, then became interested and finally admitted that it is a well written and informative book. The book is too detailed for a quick read. I read sections at random, and have yet to be disappointed by the writing.

I needed a thorough simple to understand guide in the event I would be moving to Ecuador, and this product met my every expectation by giving me information that was simple to comprehend and complete. I can honestly say this because the information was corroborated with information from several other guides, but this text incorporated it all in one. Even if I wasn't planning a vacation or move, the guide provided a valuable history/political science text. Students of Latin American history will find this book a very valuable tool in their studies. The author did a remarkable job of conveying needed information.

As someone who's read a good bit of Ecuadorean history in English and Spanish, this is probably the best general reader I've found, and touches on a wide variety of topics that will interest the general reader, as well as anthropologists, sociologists, and historians.

The first collection I've found - in English - written by, rather than about, Ecuadorian writers, musicians, historians and politicians. Fascinating! The more so since we recently bought a small plot of land high up in the mountains that is right across the street from the railroad station from

which tiny trains used to take tourists up to the infamous Devil's Nose. The current government is planning to repair the line and make it part of a tourist loop through this incredible part of Ecuador.

The Ecuador Reader is an excellent starter book with an interesting and broad cross section of articles about the history, politics, arts and culture of Ecuador. From recipes to poetry to indigenous pre-Colombian history, the articles have been selected carefully to provide an overview of Ecuador; they served me well as an introduction for my first visit. The articles retained my interest and were an effective sampling of the unique aspects of Ecuador and its citizens.

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