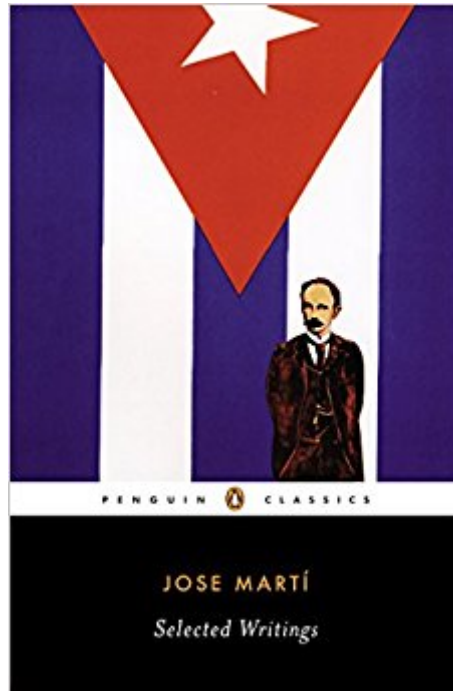


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Selected Writings (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

José Martí (1853-1895) is the most renowned political and literary figure in the history of Cuba. A poet, essayist, orator, statesman, abolitionist, and the martyred revolutionary leader of Cuba's fight for independence from Spain, Martí lived in exile in New York for most of his adult life, earning his living as a foreign correspondent. Throughout the 1880s and early 1890s, Martí's works were the eyes through which much of Latin America saw the United States. His impassioned, kaleidoscopic evocations of that period in U.S. history, the assassination of James Garfield, the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge, the execution of the Chicago anarchists, the lynching of the Italians in New Orleans, and much more, bring it rushing back to life. Organized chronologically, this collection begins with his early writings, including a thundering account of his political imprisonment in Cuba at age sixteen. The middle section focuses on his journalism, which offers an image of the United States in the nineteenth century, its way of life and system of government, that rivals anything written by de Tocqueville, Dickens, Trollope, or any other European commentator. Including generous selections of his poetry and private notebooks, the book concludes with his astonishing, hallucinatory final masterpiece, "War Diaries", never before translated into English. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

"Martí is the most remarkable figure in the history of Cuba....No English-language collection is as comprehensive as this handsome new addition to the Penguin Classics." —Tom Miller, The Los Angeles Times Book Review

Jose Marti (1853-1895) Patriota e scrittore. Nasce all'interno di una modesta famiglia spagnola a L'Avana il 28 gennaio 1853, dove ha ricevuto la sua educazione primaria. Era un discepolo di Mendive e Luz y Caballero. A 16 anni per le idee rivoluzionarie è stato condannato a sei anni di carcere. Con la salute cagionevole, fu graziato e rinchiuso nell'Isola dei Pini. Deportato in Spagna nel 1871, pubblica *La prigionia politica a Cuba*, il primo di molti opuscoli che sostengono l'indipendenza di Cuba dalla Spagna. Ha terminato gli studi presso l'Università di Saragozza; dove nel 1874 si laurea in Giurisprudenza e Filosofia. Anni dopo, ha trascorso il suo esilio in Francia, nel 1875 si trasferisce in Messico dove sposò Carmen Zayas Bazan, e nel 1877 si recò in Guatemala, dove ha insegnato presso l'Università Nazionale. Torna a Cuba nel 1878, ma fu esiliato di nuovo nel 1879 per le continue attività rivoluzionarie. Si trasferì negli Stati Uniti, e tra il 1881 e il 1895 visse a New York, dove lavorò come giornalista e nel 1892 fondò il Partito Rivoluzionario Cubano, per l'indipendenza. In quell'anno ha iniziato il suo diario, "Patria." Nel 1895 sull'isola di Santo Domingo ha scritto il Manifesto di Montecristi, nel quale predicava la guerra senza odio, e firmato con il generale Maximo Gomez Baez, l'eroe della dell'indipendenza cubana. Atterro a Playitas, dove durante uno scontro con le truppe morì il 19 maggio 1895. Martí come scrittore è stato un precursore del modernismo latinoamericano. I suoi scritti sono numerose poesie, "Ismaelillo" (1882), "Versi Semplici" (1891) e "Versi Liberi" (1892), il romanzo "Amistad fatale" (1885) e saggi. Nel 1889 ha fondato e diretto la rivista per bambini "L'eta d'oro."

Javier Marias is an award-winning Spanish novelist. He is also a translator and columnist, as well as the current king of Redonda. He was born in Madrid in 1951 and published his first novel at the age of nineteen. He has held academic posts in Spain, the US (he was a visiting professor at Wellesley College) and Britain, as a lecturer in Spanish Literature at Oxford University. He has been translated into 34 languages, and more than six million copies of his books have been sold worldwide. In 1997 he won the Nelly Sachs Award; the Comunidad de Madrid award in 1998; in 2000 the Grinzane Cavour Award, the

Alberto Moravia Prize, and the Dublin IMPAC Award. He also won the Spanish National Translation Award in 1979 for his translation of *Tristram Shandy* in 1979. He was a professor at Oxford University and the Complutense of Madrid. He currently lives in Madrid.
fm.author_biographical_note1

I was referred to Martí through other literary sources. What I found far surpassed my expectations. Whether it is his writing style, his first hand accounts of important moments in US and Cuban history as a reporter or the insight into US and Cuban relations and the inevitable attempts at a Cuban revolution that followed, this is important reading to any serious or even curious student of Cuba, US History or Latin American literature and literary figures. The writings evolve over a lifetime and combine the life experiences of Jose Martí with the evolution of US social and political upheaval during this period, the growing discontent of Spanish rule over Cuba and reveal much about the US and Cuba through the eyes of an activist observer who ultimately became part of the story. His final writings and accounts of the War and his role in an ill fated revolution are some of the most intimate and foreboding accounts of a person's life mission that I can recall ever having read and seem to be a turning point in modern Latin American writing and literature. The final document of the poet warrior's chronicle of his and his country's pending demise.

Martí was a prodigy, a genius, yet he is little known in the U.S. either for his prose or poetry. Those who have heard of him may associate him with Radio Martí or know him as a Cuban revolutionary. While this beautifully rendered translation includes a broad spectrum of Martí's works, some not previously translated, his descriptions of America in the latter half of the nineteenth century are by themselves sufficient reason to buy this book. Martí, coming from a different culture, sees things about America that we do not, and he describes them with a passion lacking in the reportage of his North American contemporaries.

Here at last--in English--is a comprehensive selection of Martí's writing, translated by a masterful hand. It leaves all other attempts at this task far behind. Esther Allen meets the challenges of Martí's exuberant and complex style with extraordinary success. This book will be a landmark text for college courses on Martí as a Latin American and Latino writer, and is an excellent introduction for the general public. Bravo to all involved in this effort to bring Martí to American readers!

An important collection of letters by one of the foremost freedom fighters in Latin America

Good

Excellent product, I would buy this product again and I will recommend it, very useful, variable, and can be placed anywhere.

An amazing book and the heart of any revolution of any people.

I found this text very approachable and with a good mix of Martí's writings both thematically and in terms of his progression as a poet and a political thinker. You can not understand contemporary Cuba, especially Cuban nationalism without reading Martí. This reader is a great start.

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