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The History Of Venezuela (The Greenwood Histories Of The Modern Nations)



Synopsis

On his third voyage of discovery from Spain, Christopher Columbus sighted Venezuela. Spanish explorers observed native homes built on stilts at the water's edge and gave the land its name, which means little Venice. Venezuela became a Spanish colony for the next 300 years before the South American Independence Movement which liberated the country in 1821. After a brief period of unification with Colombia and Ecuador, Venezuela was then controlled by a succession of military dictators. Political strife and civil war followed. In the 1900s oil was discovered, military rule ensued, and Venezuela became the world's leading oil exporter, while the majority of the nation's people remained poor. In 1958, the country established a democratic government and has remained one since.

Book Information

Series: The Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations

Hardcover: 216 pages

Publisher: Greenwood (October 30, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0313335257

ISBN-13: 978-0313335259

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,587,581 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Venezuela #1348 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America #1443 in Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies

Customer Reviews

"[T]his is a most important and readable text for consultation on historical matters dealing with Venezuela." - Reference Reviews

"Adding to Greenwood's Histories of the Modern Nations series is the important History of Venezuela, a survey of the nation from its foundations as a Spanish colony for 300 years to its succession of military dictatorships to modern times. Students at the high school and college levels as well will find History of Venezuela an excellent overview that considers the entirety of the nation's history, economy, and political influences. Perfect as an introduction to the nation, and packed with facts useful for reports." - Midwest Book Review/MBR Bookwatch and California Bookwatch

H. Micheal Tarver is Department Head of Social Sciences and Philosophy at Arkansas Tech University. Julia C. Frederick is Director of Latin American History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Having never read any history on Venezuela makes this 5stars in comparison to itself! For general history, and insight to the culture and heritage it is as good as it gets unless you are looking for something in depth covering a single topic.

It was very light some missing important info about the history of Venezuela but to start it is very good.

I ordered this book as a gift for a very good friend. She loved it! Thanks!

If you're interested in the history of South America, then you will find this book of great value. The history of Venezuela is an important part of the history of South America. Because Venezuela has a rather violent and dramatic history, a complete and comprehensive history would contain many books and thousands of pages. This book is quite concise, while it isn't leaving out any important occurrences. Writing history can't be done without expressing opinions and interpreting events. The great merit of this book is that the writers of this book express pretty balanced opinions. I read the paperback edition. The paperback and the hardcover contain both only one small map of present Venezuela. What's a history book without maps? It is relatively easy to add some more maps and this would accommodate the reader very much. Maps of the Spanish Captaincies, Gran Colombia, demographic and geographic maps, the important battles of Bolívar and Páez, the 1st republic of de Miranda and so on. However, still four stars!

Adding to Greenwood's 'Histories of the Modern Nations' series is the important HISTORY OF VENEZUELA, a survey of the nation from its foundations as a Spanish colony for 300 years to its succession of military dictatorships to modern times. Students at the high school and college levels as well will find HISTORY OF VENEZUELA an excellent overview that considers the entirety of the nation's history, economy, and political influences. Perfect as an introduction to the nation, and packed with facts useful for reports. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

Tarver and Frederick manage to misspell so many names and to get so many facts wrong in the first few pages that it discourages the reader from continuing. This is not a matter of opinion. These are easily researchable and checkable items. For example, Conquistador Alonso de Ojeda's last name is changed to "Hojeda", Ambrosio Alfinger gets a new name: "Juan". The territory of Venezuela WAS 910,050 Km² until the mid 1980's when a border river between Brazil and Venezuela changed course, and the country gained a few extra KMs to make the territory 916,445 Km². In 2005-06, when the book was written and published, this was 20-year-old news. I won't go into facts that can be "defended" as a matter of opinion. These two suffice as an example.

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