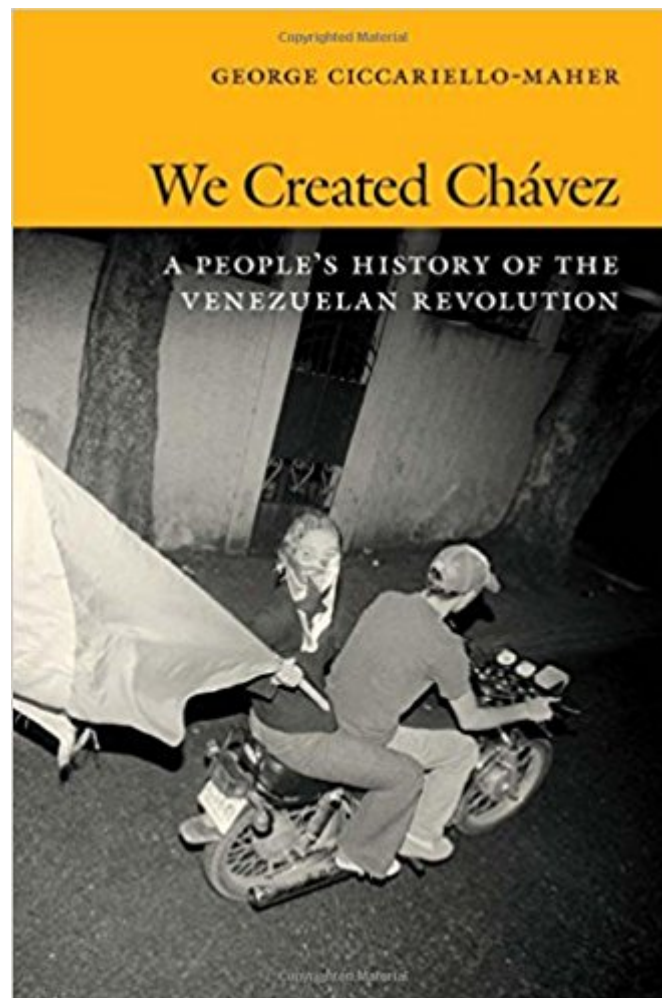




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We Created Chávez: A People's History Of The Venezuelan Revolution



Synopsis

Since being elected president in 1998, Hugo Chávez has become the face of contemporary Venezuela and, more broadly, anticapitalist revolution. George Ciccariello-Maher contends that this focus on Chávez has obscured the inner dynamics and historical development of the country's Bolivarian Revolution. In *We Created Chávez*, by examining social movements and revolutionary groups active before and during the Chávez era, Ciccariello-Maher provides a broader, more nuanced account of Chávez's rise to power and the years of activism that preceded it. Based on interviews with grassroots organizers, former guerrillas, members of neighborhood militias, and government officials, Ciccariello-Maher presents a new history of Venezuelan political activism, one told from below. Led by leftist guerrillas, women, Afro-Venezuelans, indigenous people, and students, the social movements he discusses have been struggling against corruption and repression since 1958. Ciccariello-Maher pays particular attention to the dynamic interplay between the Chávez government, revolutionary social movements, and the Venezuelan people, recasting the Bolivarian Revolution as a long-term and multifaceted process of political transformation.

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Customer Reviews

"*We Created Chávez* provides a systematic, bottom-up approach to Venezuelan politics from 1958 to the present. It offers a much-needed new perspective on Hugo Chávez's rise to power. Writing in a lively style and demonstrating a thorough command of the issues and personalities in recent Venezuelan history, George Ciccariello-Maher has produced a book essential to understanding the

phenomenon of 'Chavismo,' which has attracted widespread interest throughout the world."â "Steve Ellner, author of *Rethinking Venezuelan Politics: Class, Conflict, and the Chávez Phenomenon*"In the United States, accounts of Venezuela have been fixated on the figure of Hugo Chávez. We Created Chávez breaks with this obsession, instead showing the dynamic and contradictory relationship that exists between Venezuela's president and the social forces that gave rise to and sustain the government. It is required reading for anyone wishing to understand the internal dynamics of social change underway in Venezuela today."â "Miguel Tinker Salas, author of *The Enduring Legacy: Oil, Culture, and Society in Venezuela*â "Ciccariello-Maherâ 's history of the Venezuelan left is essential to understanding the Chávez era.â • (Dorothy Kronick *The New Republic*)â "Terrific.â • (Greg Grandin *The Nation*)â "[A] crisply written social and political history of the critical decades leading up to Chávez's election in 1998. . . . For those who want to see the revolution continue, Ciccariello-Maher has made a critical contribution to our understanding, which is in and of itself enough to recommend this book without reservation. But more than that, We Created Chávez brilliantly demonstrates how social history scholarship can mine the lived experiences of rank-and-file activists and radical leaders for precious stones, and then set those gems in a visible and rigorous theoretical frame that allows us to see history in motion.â • (Todd Chretien *Socialist Worker*)â "I've been looking for this book for years.â • (Steve Henshall *Socialist Review*)"In addition to providing readers with an irreplaceable genealogy of the Revolutionary Left in Venezuela and its role in the making of the present, We Created Chávez deftly illustrates the tensions between constituent and constituted power that make the Bolivarian Revolution a dialectical process rather than a presidential term in office. We Created Chávez is also a masterful contribution to a thankfully growing body of work responding to dominant portrayals of the Bolivarian process in Venezuela enraptured or enraged by the figure of el Comandante.â • (Donald V. Kingsbury *Theory & Event*)â "In We Created Chávez, George Ciccariello-Maher offers a masterful â 'peopleâ 's historyâ ' of Venezuelaâ |. Through Ciccariello-Maherâ 's analysis, a Venezuela easily and often ignored both by academia and by the popular press becomes visible. It is this Venezuela from which post-Chávez popular politics will be forged; Ciccariello-Maher offers valuable insight into what the coming years may bring.â • (Erica S. Simmons *Latin American Politics and Society*)"We Created Chavez is likely to be a point of reference for anyone seeking to assess chavismo as a seminal case of popular resistance to neoliberal globalization, as well as its relevance to twenty-first-century socialism." (Daniel Hellinger *Hispanic American Historical Review*)"If . . . you want an engaging book that, in the service of a revolutionist mythos, narrates the actions and ideas of many people often neglected by scholars, you may appreciate We Created

Chavez." (Jonathan Eastwood American Historical Review)

George Ciccariello-Maher is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Drexel University.

My review is in response to a campaign of the far right, including fascist right, to troll all of George Ciccariello-Maher's books on (and I presume other locations as well). This campaign comes in reaction to a series of tweets by the author that the right wing and fascist media picked up on in attempts to demonize the author. Many of the 1-star reviews were written at the end of March and/or early April of 2017, but others were written right after the author's ironic "White Genocide" tweet on December 24th of 2016 (the author was simply saying there is no such thing as white genocide as the Nazi and fascist right seem to indicate, thus White Genocide doesn't exist). There are also a few reviews from late February after the Mainstream Media was pushing some anti-Venezuela rhetoric and the author was asked on talk shows for comment. None of these reviews come from verified purchases. Some individuals, including Nazi Richard Spencer (most famous for getting punched in the face on multiple occasions), have instructed individuals to write these reviews. NONE of these 1-star review (at least none I have seen) have any substance at all. We see no mention of the content or conclusions of the book. The one-star reviews are "fact free" and are equivalent to fake news.

I was introduced to this book through a Latin American Philosophy course I was taking. Upon reading the reviews, I was a bit discouraged thinking I was going to have to read this poorly rated book; however, after diving into the personal controversy surrounding Ciccariello-Maher and his more recent Twitter-Tirades, it became evident that much of the negative reviews were based on this and not the actual book. Overall, I found the book rather thought provoking and YES, a good read. Ciccariello-Maher employs a "history from below" approach in retelling the events that led to the 1998 election of Hugo Chávez. Therefore, Ciccariello-Maher places emphasis on how the various aspects of the revolutionary movements by people brought Chávez into power. This is opposed to prior scholarship that has largely focused on the perspectives and how those in leadership roles were effected during the four decades covered in the book. So before you dismiss this book all together, I highly recommend giving it a chance. It truly is worth reading, if for nothing more than to gain a different view of this very complicated and crucial time period in Venezuela's history.

A very detailed history of the Venezuelan revolutionary movement, the different forces at play, and the different movements that all culminated into the Bolivarian movement. If you want to understand the struggles of the Venezuelan people, this is the best place to start.

The author has already made his stance quite clear, communism is awesome and only fails because of America. The problem with this book (and all propaganda) is that it is one sided and can trick the ignorant into believing it is fact...

If pro-communism is what you like, then this book is for you. I give it two thumbs down

Wish I could give it less than one star. Waste of time and money. Can't get my time or money back. This guy is a professor? Graduates should sue for their tuition back. Makes me want to vomit.

It makes me want to Vomit!

Garbage work from a dumpster fire of a teacher.

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