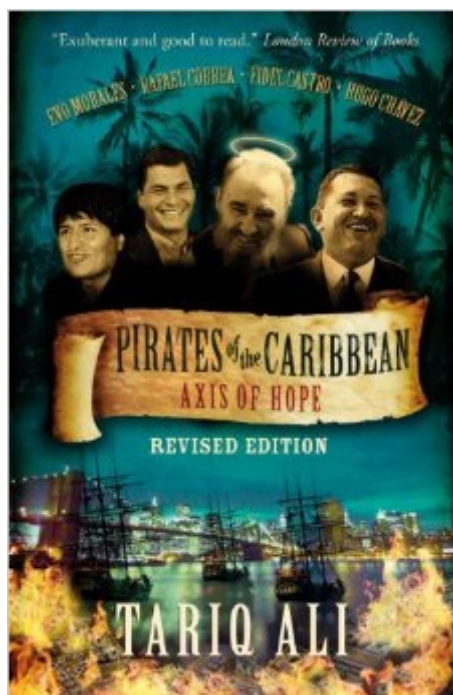


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Pirates Of The Caribbean: Axis Of Hope



Synopsis

The Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela has brought Hugo Chávez to world attention as the foremost challenger of the neoliberal consensus and American foreign policy. Drawing on first-hand experience of Venezuela and meetings with Chávez, Tariq Ali shows how Chávez's views have polarized Latin America and examines the hostility directed against his administration. Contrasting the Cuban and Venezuelan revolutionary processes, Ali discusses the enormous influence of Fidel Castro on Chávez, President of Bolivia Evo Morales and, in this fully updated edition, the newly elected President of Ecuador Rafael Correa, the latest addition to the 'Axis of Hope.' • Infused with references to the culture and poetry of South America, *Pirates of the Caribbean* guides us through a world divided between privilege and poverty, a continent that is once again on the march.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lemme tell you right off the bat that this book has nothing to do with those Johnny Depp movies or the Disneyland ride. If that's what you're looking for, you're totally in the wrong place. The next thing you need to know is that the author, Tariq Ali, is a leftie. So leftie, in fact, that he was purportedly the inspiration for the Rolling Stones' "Street Fighting Man" because of his man-the-barricades philosophy during the 60's! Since then, though, his worldview has mellowed slightly. What I like about the author is how literate and well-educated he is. Of Pakistani descent, he frequently writes about the Middle East and the Subcontinent from a progressive angle: he is one of the editors at the "New Left Review." But he's not so left that he's unbalanced or unreadable. This particular book is a

look at the extent and the causes of the popular leftist revolutions that we have seen in Latin America in the last ten years or so, especially the doings of Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales, the pro-coca, pro-nationalization, pro-indigenous rights, anti-U.S. president of Bolivia. Castro, meanwhile, lurks in the background throughout. Ali obviously approves of these developments, but not in a fawning way, I think. The book is more of a report on what's been happening rather than a tendentious call-to-arms. Nevertheless, statements bordering on the pro-Marxist are common, such as these: "What Castro, Chavez, and Morales have understood is that strength lies in unity . . . Evo Morales . . . won the argument and the Presidency but the elite . . . does not yet feel demoralized and crushed. . . . It is vital that the elites are skilfully detached from their base by a set of inclusive measures that benefit the bulk of the population." (p.

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