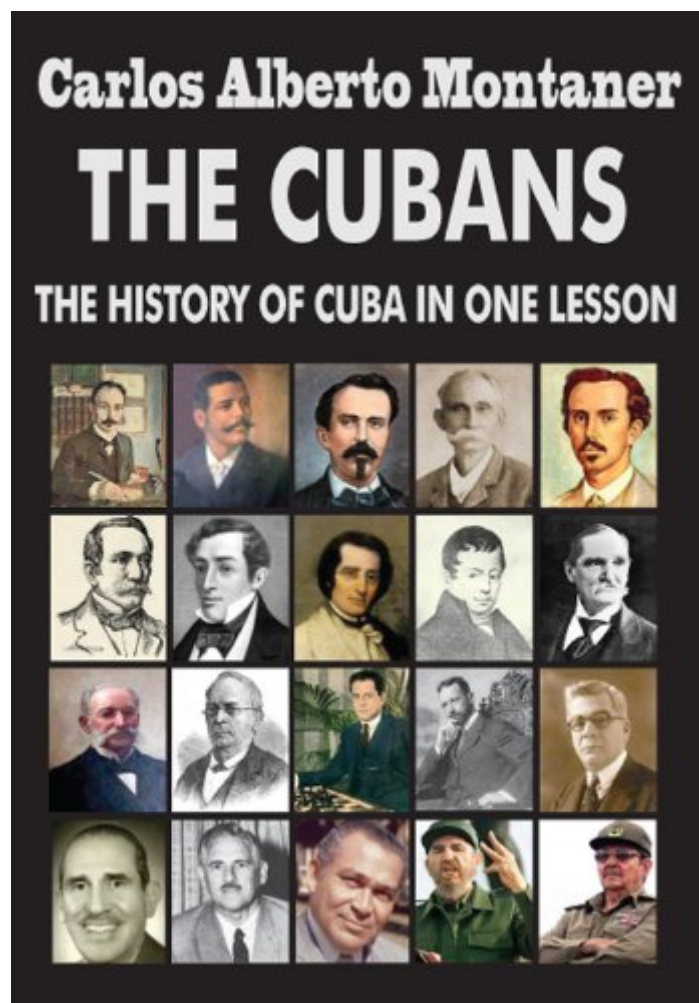


The book was found

The Cubans: The History Of Cuba In One Lesson



Synopsis

The Cubans: The History of Cuba in One Lesson is a journey through the history of Cuba, quick but not superficial, with an emphasis on the international circumstances that increasingly shaped the events of the country. The book also explains how and why the Cuban Revolution happened. In the last two chapters, the author ventures to predict what might be the fate of the nation at the beginning of the inevitable transition to democracy in the political arena, and to common sense in the economic field.

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Customer Reviews

This book is divided in two: One is the history of Cuba as the author sees it, the other is the future he sees for Cuba. The part about the history of Cuba is interesting, and probably somewhat true, although he leaves some very important elements out. The author places a lot of the blame for the events that led to Castro's power, on weaknesses in the Cuban character that were inherited from the Spanish. He covers some of the international forces that were operating to exacerbate those flaws, but mostly, he holds the U.S and capitalism largely blameless, as if they were magnanimous uncles bewildered by the rebelliousness of a wayward child. He understates the

enormous power the US ambassador wielded in Cuba prior to Castro, or the ills that unrestrained capitalism brought to Cuba, including deep social inequities and the strong resentment that eventually led to Castro's form of government. (After more than fifty years, it is no longer a revolution, it is a government, like any other.) For the future, this author sees Cuba as a capitalist paradise, where everyone is given ownership to their homes, where those who lost their properties under Castro, or their heirs, are recompensed for their losses, and where a free and unrestricted capitalism will lead to great happiness, the sudden erasure of those flaws he sees in the Cuban character, etc., etc. He fails to realize that if communism did not work in Cuba, capitalism certainly did not work either. What this author suggests is nothing less than turning back the clock while forgetting all that Cubans have endured and learned in the last 56 years. He says that in the 50s many made the mistake of assuming that the world was headed towards communism because they were seeing its worldwide expansion.

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