

*Che Guevara habla a la juventud*  
*Malcolm X habla a la juventud*

Reviewed in *Críticas, an English speaker's guide to the latest in Spanish-language titles*; online edition November 2005

<http://www.criticasmagazine.com/index.asp?layout=childrensReviews - 60013177>

## Nonfiction

Guevara, Ernesto Che.  
**Che Guevara habla a la juventud.**  
(Che Guevara Speaks to Young People)  
tr. by various. U.S.: Pathfinder Pr. 2005.  
ISBN 0-87348-913-6. photogs. pap.  
\$15.

**REVIEWED WITH:**  
Malcolm X habla a la juventud.  
(Malcolm X Speaks to Young People)  
Malcolm X.  
tr. by various. U.S.: Pathfinder Pr. 2002.  
ISBN 0-87348-961-6. photogs.  
pap. \$15.

**YA**—Though both died violently four decades ago, Malcolm X and Che Guevara remain controversial figures, whether admired or despised. In these two volumes of speeches, both men are revived to an extent that even the best biographies rarely achieve. Che comes through as a true believer, a preacher and soldier of the revolution. In eight talks spanning 1959–64, the Argentine revolutionary challenges his audience to study, work, and to join the front lines of struggles. His public, the youth of Cuba, is also the world at large. Che's speeches are characterized by a kind of utopianism—a belief in a society that serves the common people instead of the powerful. But his utopianism comes with an invitation to take arms against the powerful. Malcolm X seeks freedom by any means necessary. His sense of humor and playfulness come through in his prepared remarks as well as in the interplay with his audience—parenthetical remarks often note when the public responds with laughter. Young readers interested in politics, racial issues, and international relations will note the ironic disconnect between the economic futures forecast by Guevara and X and today's world: both men predicted the collapse of capitalism. Readers will also be given much to ponder. Are communist Cuba and China the utopia Che so clearly believed in? Was

the U.S. civil rights legislation of 1964 as inconsequential as Malcolm X believed, or did it provide a springboard for African American progress? Both books contain extensive indices, along with explanatory endnotes in the X volume and a lengthy glossary in the Che book. These are not “balanced” treatments of their subjects in the ordinary sense of academic nonfiction—Pathfinder is a socialist press with a distinct editorial stance. Even so, any sizable library serving Spanish-speaking young adults should include these titles. Bookstores can display them prominently during Hispanic and African American history months or promote them along with other civil rights and current affairs titles.—*Coop Rener, Hillside Elementary, El Paso, TX*