

Criticas Spanish Language Authors and Book Reviews

Edited by Aida Bardales Mar 23, 2011 

March Reviews of the Latest Spanish-Language Books for Adults, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Also in Translation

Soldado de la Revolución Cubana. De los Cañaverales de Oriente a general de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias.(Soldier of the Cuban Revolution. From the Western Sugar Cane Fields to General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces) Zayas, Luis Alfonso. Tr. by Martín Koppel. U.S.: Pathfinder Pr. 2011. 211p. illus. ISBN 9781604880328. pap. \$18. HISTORY

With this firsthand account of his involvement from the front lines of the Cuban Revolution, Zayas captures the heady days of late 1958-early 1959 when Fidel Castro and Che Guevara "liberated" Fulgencio Batista's Cuba from a stranglehold of foreign interests and launched a new era for the people of that island. Zayas, a native of Puerto Padre, where the clandestine meetings of the 26 of July Movement began, offers us a step-by-step account of how a young son of sugar cane growers was swept away by Castro and Guevara's talk of a new world. In the autumn of 1958, Zayas joined the 140 men on horseback who made up the Column 8 that Guevara led from the Sierra Maestra to the Sierra Escambray and which greatly improved Castro's chances of bringing down Batista's regime. Zayas offers an insider's view of this movement and shows us his ascent through the new order that was established once the revolutionaries succeeded. Zayas went on to become a key player in Cuba's Angolan missions during the 1970s and 1980s and offers us his observations on how he viewed the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola among other reflections on the African scene. The book is generously illustrated and includes a glossary of individuals, organizations, and events. This book is recommended for libraries strong on history and current events, as well for popular collections on Latin America's social movements.-*Catherine Rendón, Savannah, GA*