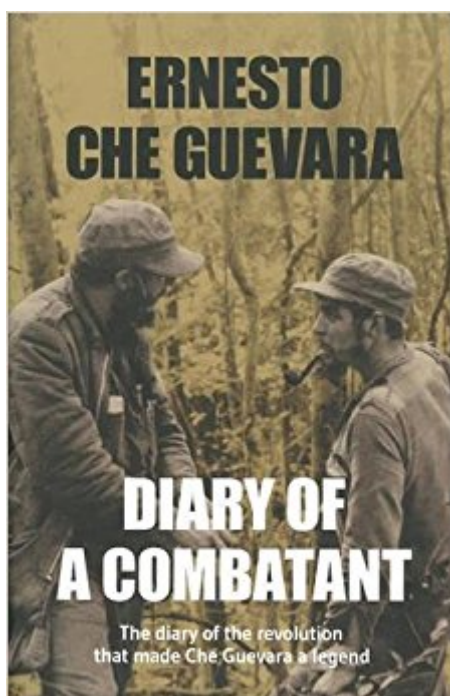


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Diary Of A Combatant: The Diary Of The Revolution That Made Che Guevara A Legend



Synopsis

The publication of this title by Ocean Sur in Spanish in July 2011 provoked considerable international attention (including CNN). This never-before-published diary (comprising a dozen small notebooks) Ernesto Che Guevara kept during the guerrilla war in Cuba when he joined the struggle to overthrow the Batista dictatorship that led to the 1959 revolution has now been meticulously transcribed by his widow, Aleida March. Why did it take over fifty years for this diary to be published? Maybe because of some caustic comments Che makes in his usual brutally frank style. Maybe it was felt appropriate to wait until Fidel Castro had produced his own memoirs (now published by Ocean Press as *The Strategic Victory*). In launching the book in Havana in July 2011, editor MarÃ­a del Carmen Ariet marked that it was "never clear whether or not Che wanted these diaries published" as he had reworked several pieces into his famous *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, on which Steven Soderbergh based part one of his epic movie *Che*, starring Benicio Del Toro. Nevertheless, all Che's diaries – from his early *Motorcycle Diaries* and its sequel, *Latin America Diaries*, through to his last diary from *Bolivia* – are extraordinary examples of his literary gift and his political incisiveness, in terms of his personal reflections, his criticisms and self-criticism, and his observations about others and events. Other features of this new book are fifty-eight unpublished photos from Che's personal archive and unpublished letters (including correspondence between Che and Fidel), an index, and extensive glossary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Che Guevara was the legendary Argentine-born guerrilla fighter who joined the Cuban revolutionary movement that toppled the Batista dictatorship in 1959. He played a leading role in the early years of the Cuban revolution and made an extraordinary and original contribution to Marxist theory. He died at the hands of CIA assassins in Bolivia in 1967. His life has been dramatized in two recent popular movies: *The Motorcycle Diaries* (directed by Walter Salles, starring Gael García Bernal) and Steven Soderbergh's epic *Che* (starring Benicio Del Toro).

I received this book as a gift. It consists of an English translation of the extant diaries written by Guevara during the Cuban Revolution. It provides unique insights into his daily life and psychology of a person in revolutionary combat. It adds to my understanding of a complex time in the history of the world and in international tensions, as well as the realities surrounding resistance to the Batista dictatorship on the island.

Guevara, Che 2013 (edition) *Diary of a combatant: from the Sierra Maestra to Santa Clara, Cuba 1956-58* North Ocean Press, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia ISBN-10 0987077988 ISBN-13 9780987077981 .The unashamed pathology of Ernesto Guevara shows clearly in his diaries, see for instance on January 17th, 1957 while describing the attack on small garrison at La Plata, pages 49-50, he writes:"...Luis Crespo skirted around a horse pen or a pig sty[e] and wounded in the chest a soldier coming towards him. I took the soldier's rifle from him and used him to hide behind while shooting at a man I think I wounded..." There are seemingly endless anecdotes on such circumstances in this book. And then in the introduction there is a note by another Castro rebel on "Daniel" a non-communist anti-Batista who Guevara betrayed by not reinforcing him as were his orders; however even Guevara does not admit to this and one needs to read between the lines to understand what happened. When I still was a rebel I visited where RenÃ© Gilberto Ramos Latour (code named "Daniel") died in late 1958 and my memory of that dread place is still with me now well fifty years later... May this book's narrations of such betrayals serve as warnings of the dangers of such as Guevara.

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