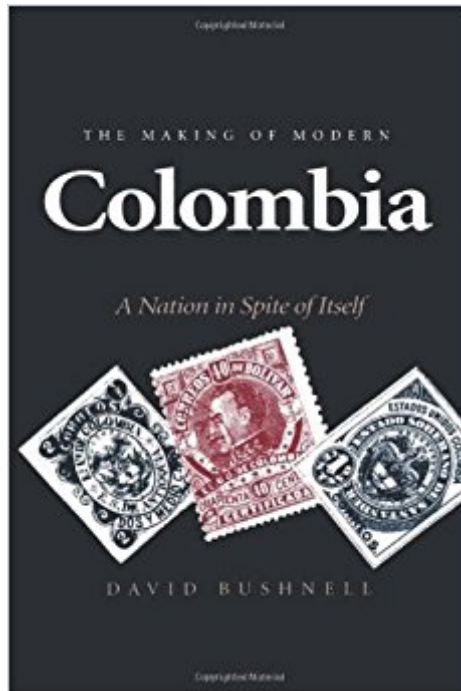




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The Making Of Modern Colombia: A Nation In Spite Of Itself



Synopsis

Colombia's status as the fourth largest nation in Latin America and third most populous; as well as its largest exporter of such disparate commodities as emeralds, books, processed cocaine, and cut flowers; makes this, the first history of Colombia written in English, a much-needed book. It tells the remarkable story of a country that has consistently defied modern Latin American stereotypes; a country where military dictators are virtually unknown, where the political left is congenitally weak, and where urbanization and industrialization have spawned no lasting populist movement. There is more to Colombia than the drug trafficking and violence that have recently gripped the world's attention. In the face of both cocaine wars and guerrilla conflict, the country has maintained steady economic growth as well as a relatively open and democratic government based on a two-party system. It has also produced an impressive body of art and literature. David Bushnell traces the process of state-building in Colombia from the struggle for independence, territorial consolidation, and reform in the nineteenth century to economic development and social and political democratization in the twentieth. He also sheds light on the modern history of Latin America as a whole.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I simply cannot think of an example of recent scholarship on Latin America that I found as thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable as this study."#151;Charles Bergquist, University of Washington

"I simply cannot think of an example of recent scholarship on Latin America that I found as thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable as this study." (Charles Bergquist, University of Washington)

Professor David Bushnell contributes another important contribution to a Latin American territorial region from Nueva Granada (New Granada), which was Colombia's former name, as a Spanish colony, for about 300 years. I purchased this book to study the evolution of this territory and to also research the relationship New Granada, later Gran Colombia (1819-1830) had with Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama (1821-1903). The first two separated due to the Bogota government overly greedy for territorial power at the expense of others. Simon Bolivar was its first consumption of power, when he died, others took to the theory of power politics. Colombia's colonial status is examined as a subjugated colony, later developments as Gran Colombia, including the dissolution of Gran Colombia, Panama's "joining" Gran Colombia and finally, Panama's separation, a much needed separation.

I knew little about Colombia's history and so after asking many questions of my accommodation host while I was staying in Bogota he suggested I read this book. I found it a very easy read, which gave me a full appreciation of the history of the politics of Colombia. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in gaining a good appreciation of Colombia's political history from the time of settlement of the spaniards.

Well researched, but I would like have liked the characters to be personalized more and more attention to summary and highlighting of the various government changes in the beginning of the country rather than an analysis of every president who's terms only lasted two years.

The Making of Modern Colombia: A Nation in Spite of Itself was better named than written. For me, the writing style is a little awkward and the material too dense for such a short summary. I was left with a thousand facts but less understanding than I was hoping to glean. I would enjoy reading a follow-on book by David Bushnell that covers the last 20 years. Less time and more detail but with the advantage of his deep historical studies.

Os an excelente book

Very good overview of Colombia's complex and challenging history. A history that the country

continues to live out.

This book lets you understand the causes of the situation in the country today. This should be a must reading in Colombian schools.

Great to know the history of Colombia, David Bushnell has write an excellent review of political and historical facts from spanish conquers to Cesar Gaviria Government.

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