

Changing Venezuela By Taking Power

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By Gregory Wilpert. Purchase at Amazon.com for \$17.79 (click on cover image) Venezuela under Hugo Chávez could be a model for peaceful revolution – or, as this definitive history shows, it could all be undone by the spectres of the past. Since coming to power in 1998, the Chávez government has inspired both fierce internal debate and horror amongst Western governments accustomed to counting on an obeisant regime in the oil-rich state.

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(2009). Gregory Wilpert: Changing Venezuela by Taking Power: The History and Politics of the Chávez Government. Critique: Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 145-147.

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change, the chance to win the presidency in 1998. Another important factor in Chavez's rise to power was that his movement was based on a coalition between progressive sectors of Venezuela's military and Venezuela's traditionally excluded more radical left movements and parties. As stated earlier, once elected, Chavez gave very radical speeches,

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Changing Venezuela by Taking Power is a valuable addition to the bookshelves of all those who are trying to make sense of, and change for the better, our unequal world. First published at Rabble.ca. Published by Socialist Voice with the author's permission.

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10-15-07, 10:02 am. Changing Venezuela by Taking Power by Greg Wilpert New York, Verso, 2007 Hardly a week goes by these days without a new book on Venezuela being published, it seems. While this is a good thing - a couple of years ago most English-speaking progressives hadn't even heard of President Chavez and the Bolivarian revolution - there is more danger of repetition.

~~Book Review: Changing Venezuela by Taking Power » pa~~

July 2020 / 9781789603286. Venezuela under Hugo Chávez could be a model for peaceful revolution—or it could all be undone by the specters of the past. Since coming to power in 1998, the Chavez government has inspired both fierce internal debate and horror amongst Western governments accustomed to counting on an obeisant regime in the oil-rich state.

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Gregory Wilpert has pulled off a triumph on two fronts with his new book on the Bolivarian Revolution, Changing Venezuela by Taking Power (Verso, 2007). Most obviously, Wilpert's book - in both its scope and (sometimes almost maddening) objectivity- is the most detailed and credible analysis yet published of the Venezuelan revolution, which itself represents, arguably, the single most significant challenge today to the hegemony of global capitalism.

~~Taking Stock of the Bolivarian Revolution: Changing ...~~

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As well as this concentration of information is a convincing analysis which is clearly sympathetic with the process of change in Venezuela while remaining consistently critical. In this respect it is far superior to the majority of Venezuela books out there which are often rich with personal anecdotes of what the atmosphere of a barrio is like but much lighter on what is happening in more ...

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Since coming to power in 1998, the Chavez government has inspired both fierce internal debate and horror amongst Western governments accustomed to counting on an obeisant regime in the oil-rich state. In this rich and resourceful study, Greg Wilpert exposes the self-serving logic behind much middle-class opposition to Venezuela's elected leader, and explains the real reason for their alarm. He argues that the Chavez government has instituted one of the world's most progressive constitutions, but warns that they have yet to overcome the dangerous specters of the country's past.

Venezuela under Hugo Chavez could be a model for peaceful revolutionor, as this definitive history shows, it could all be undone by the spectres of the past. Since coming to power in 1998, the Chavez government has inspired both fierce internal debate and horror amongst Western governments accustomed to counting on an obeisant regime in the oil-rich state. Is Venezuela going through a peaceful, democratic "Bolivarian revolution," with the country's poor becoming politically engaged and beginning to share its oil wealth? Or is Chavez leading his country towards Latin American caudillismo at best, or Castro-style communism at worst? In this rich and resourceful study, Greg Wilpert exposes the self-serving logic behind much middle-class opposition to Venezuela's elected leader, and explains the real reason for their alarm. He argues that the Chavez government has instituted one of the world's most progressive constitutions, but warns that they have yet to overcome the dangerous spectres of the country's past: its culture of patronage and clientelism, its corruption, and its support for personality cultsall of them fuelled by the attention and interference of a succession of US administrations.

During the fort or so years that preceded Hugo Chavez's seizing of power, Venezuela had the most stable democracy in Latin America. Thanks above all to its immense oil revenues, Venezuela enjoyed the fastest-growing economy and the highest standard of living in the region. After Chavez seized power in 1999, however, things have changed radically. Today, Venezuela can no longer be seen as a democracy and rather than attracting immigrants as it once did, Venezuelans themselves are fleeing the country. Yet, somehow, the vast majority of contemporary references to Venezuela are laudatory. In Hugo Chavez: The Revolutionary Has No Clothes, A.C. Clark corrects this warped take on Hugo Chavez and the "'Bolivarian Revolution'" in Venezuela and skewers those grotesquely admiring portraits of Mr. Chavez painted by panegyrists from Noam Chomsky to Sean Penn. Clark explores Chavez's embarrassing public displays, perilous policy platforms, and close relationships with rogue states to reveal Chavez for what he truly is: a revolutioanry "'buffoon'" leading a once prosperous nation down a path to ruin. Most shockingly, Clark exposes Chavez's ambitions for asymmetrical warfare against the United States and Venezuela's insidious lobbying network within our own country. In the end, Hugo Chavez: The Revolutionary Has No Clothes is the definitive portrait of one of the world's depraved leaders and a disturbing chronicle of Venezuela's decline from a prosperous democracy to an autocratic bully-state.

Blends academic and activist perspectives to explore recent emancipatory struggles to win and transform state power. For decades, emancipatory struggles have been deeply influenced by the slogan "Change the world without taking power." Amid growing social inequalities and the return of right-wing authoritarianism, however, many now recognize the limits of disengaging from government and the state. From the Streets to the Statechronicles many diverse and exciting projects to not only take state power but to fundamentally change it. A blend of scholars and activists explore issues like the nonsectarian relationships between new radical left parties, egalitarian social movements, and labor movements in Greece, Germany, Spain, Portugal, and Turkey. Contributors discuss municipal campaigns based in popular assemblies, solidarity economies, and independent political organizations fighting for racial, gender, and economic justice in cities such as Jackson, Vancouver, and Newcastle. This volume also studies the lessons learned from the Pink Tide in Latin America as well as the social movements of racialized and gendered workers transforming human rights across the United States. Finally, the book offers case studies from around the world surveying the role of state workers and public sector unions in radically democratizing public administration through coalitions between the providers and users of public services.

Reveals the effect that education can have on positive social change by examining the life of a conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the unique program that nurtured his talent back home in Venezuela and its current availability in the U.S. 15,000 first printing.

Hugo Chávez's extraordinary story—in his own words Hugo Chávez, military officer turned left-wing revolutionary, was one of the most important Latin American leaders of the twenty-first century. This book tells the story of his life up to his election as president in 1998. Throughout this riveting

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and historically important account of his early years, Chávez's energy and charisma shine through. As a young man, he awakens gradually to the reality of his country—where huge inequalities persist and the majority of citizens live in indescribable poverty—and decides to act. He gives a fascinating description of growing up in Barinas, his years in the Military Academy, his long-planned military conspiracy—the most significant in the history of Venezuela and perhaps of Latin America—which led to his unsuccessful coup attempt of 1992, and eventually to his popular electoral victory in 1998. His collaborator on this book is Ignacio Ramonet, the famous French journalist (and editor for many years of *Le Monde diplomatique*), who undertook a similar task with Fidel Castro (*Fidel Castro: My Life*).

Foreign capital and free trade policies have provoked fierce conflicts in South America in recent years. People in Colombia and Peru engaged in often violent clashes to defend their livelihoods against the encroachments of the free market and the impositions of Wall Street. Farmers organized to save their lands from foreign mining corporations, and cities fought to save their water from contamination. Native Americans blocked highways to preserve ancestral lands, while students paralyzed universities and called for reforms to higher education. The shift toward socialism in Venezuela, led by President Hugo Chavez, was bitterly opposed by privileged groups. Governments tried to quell the turmoil through repression, political maneuvering and propaganda. This book provides a dramatic account of the struggles.

From anti-war walkouts to anarchist youth newspapers, rallies against educational privatization, and workshops on fair trade, teenage girls are active participants and leaders in a variety of social movements. *Rebel Girls: Youth Activism and Social Change Across the Americas* illuminates the experiences and perspectives of these uniquely positioned agents of social change. Jessica K. Taft introduces readers to a diverse and vibrant transnational community of teenage girl activists in the San Francisco Bay Area, Mexico City, Caracas, Buenos Aires, and Vancouver. Expansive in scope and full of rich details, Taft brings to life the voices of these inspiring activists who are engaged in innovative and effective organizing for global and local social justice, highlighting their important contributions to contemporary social movements and social theory. *Rebel Girls* explores how teenage girls construct activist identities, rejecting and redefining girlhood and claiming political authority for youth in the process. Taft examines the girl activists' social movement strategies and collective political practices, detailing their shared commitments to process-based political education, participatory democracy, and hopeful enthusiasm. Ultimately, *Rebel Girls* has substantial implications for social movements and youth organizations, arguing that adult social movements could learn a great deal from girl activists and making clear the importance of increased collaboration between young people and adults.

In 'The Revolutionary Has No Clothes', A. C. Clark corrects this warped take on Chavez and his 'Bolivarian Revolution' in Venezuela. Clark analyzes Chavez's embarrassing public displays, policy platforms, and relationships with rogue states. Clark exposes the possible Chavez's ambitions.

This study takes a deep dive into the political polarisation in Venezuela, a country with almost two decades of conflict between Chavismo and the Opposition disputing the meaning of democracy.

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