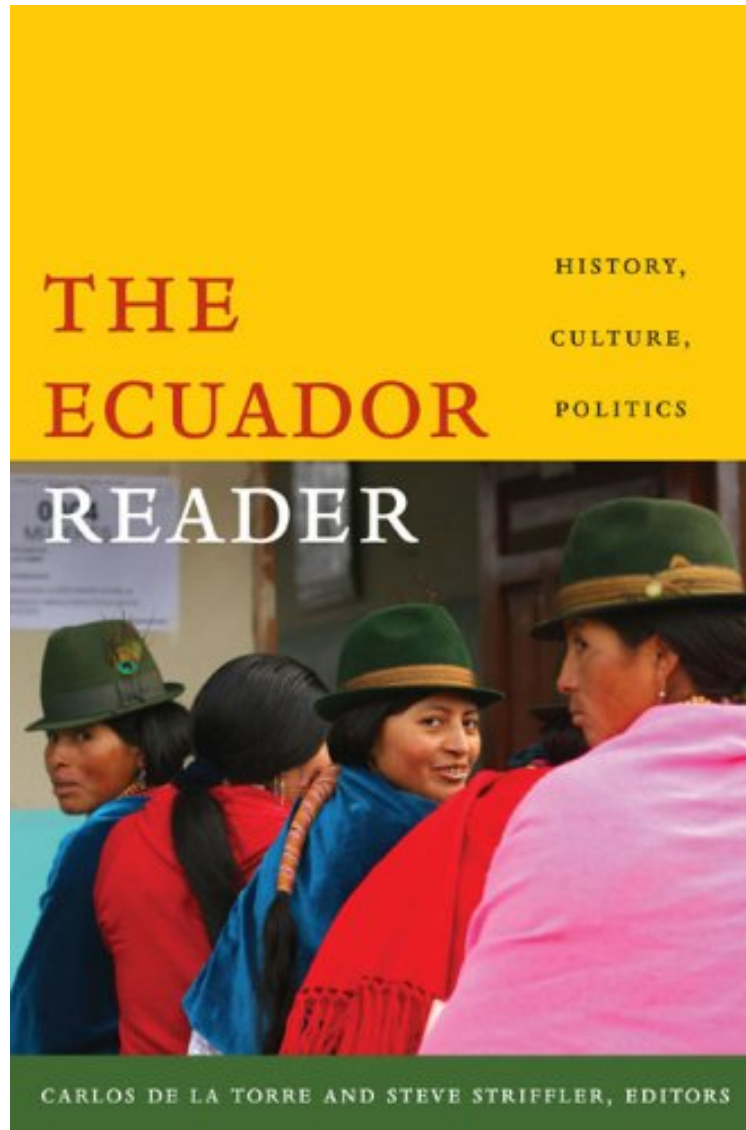


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The Ecuador Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)

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From Brand: Duke University Press Books : The Ecuador Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ecuador Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very interesting look at Ecuador from many different angles ...By Robert Smoot A very interesting look at Ecuador from many different angles. Unfortunately, if your primary interest is

the history of the country, jumping from one topic to another obscures the flow of the history narrative.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for anyone visiting EcuadorBy W. PiattThis is a compilation of different writers' stories about Ecuador. It provides a fantastic overview to the history and culture of the country. Many of the stories were originally written in Spanish and sometimes the translation was not so great, making them difficult to read. However, as a collection, this is by far the best introduction to this fantastic country that I've ever seen. It provided lots of insight and perspective that no travel guide could ever hope to provide.²⁵ of 25 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, intelligent look at EcuadorBy Andrea M. PriceFrom Pre-Colombian history to modern day recipes, this book has it all. Definitely an intellectual read, it covers Ecuador's people and history in depth. The book covers indigenous issues, afro-ecuadorian history, poetry, fiction, mountaineering, the Panama Hat, the banana and oil booms, and so much more. I felt like I really understood the country as a whole after I read this book.

Encompassing Amazonian rainforests, Andean peaks, coastal lowlands, and the Galpagos Islands, Ecuador's geography is notably diverse. So too are its history, culture, and politics, all of which are examined from many perspectives in *The Ecuador Reader*. Spanning the years before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1500s to the present, this rich anthology addresses colonialism, independence, the nation's integration into the world economy, and its tumultuous twentieth century. Interspersed among forty-eight written selections are more than three dozen images. The voices and creations of Ecuadorian politicians, writers, artists, scholars, activists, and journalists fill the Reader, from Jos Mara Velasco Ibarra, the nation's ultimate populist and five-time president, to Pancho Jaime, a political satirist; from Julio Jaramillo, a popular twentieth-century singer, to anonymous indigenous women artists who produced ceramics in the 1500s; and from the poems of Afro-Ecuadorians, to the fiction of the vanguardist Pablo Palacio, to a recipe for traditional Quiteo-style shrimp. The Reader includes an interview with Nina Pacari, the first indigenous woman elected to Ecuador's national assembly, and a reflection on how to balance tourism with the protection of the Galpagos Islands' magnificent ecosystem. Complementing selections by Ecuadorians, many never published in English, are samples of some of the best writing on Ecuador by outsiders, including an account of how an indigenous group with non-Inca origins came to see themselves as definitively Incan, an exploration of the fascination with the Andes from the 1700s to the present, chronicles of the less-than-exemplary behavior of U.S. corporations in Ecuador, an examination of Ecuadorians' overseas migration, and a look at the controversy surrounding the selection of the first black Miss Ecuador.

The Ecuador Reader is a gateway for understanding the volatile and intriguing history of this complex, multicultural land. From Jos Mara Velasco Ibarra's fiery populism to the politics of a contemporary beauty pageant, the book captures the rich diversity of the country's past and present. It is a major contribution to the study of the Andean world. Catherine M. Conaghan, Queens University