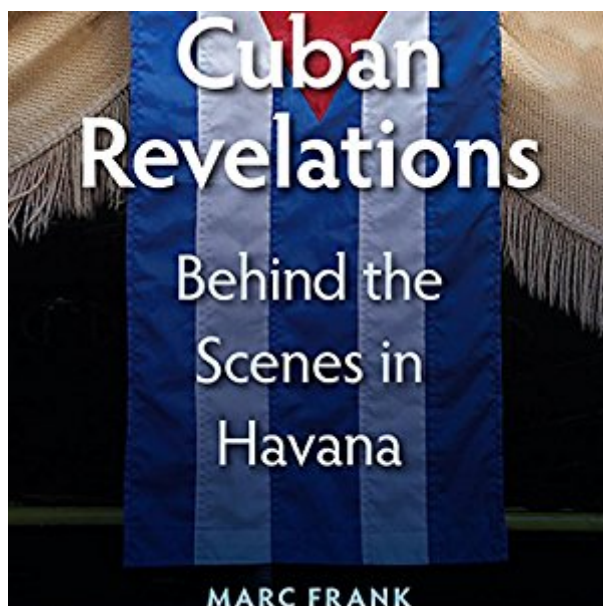


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Cuban Revelations: Behind The Scenes In Havana



Synopsis

In *Cuban Revelations*, Marc Frank offers a first-hand account of daily life in Cuba at the turn of the 21st century, the start of a new and dramatic epoch for islanders and the Cuban diaspora. A US-born journalist who has called Havana home for almost a quarter century, Frank observed in person the best days of the revolution, the fall of the Soviet Bloc, the great depression of the 1990s, the stepping aside of Fidel Castro, and the reforms now being devised by his brother. Examining the effects of US policy toward Cuba, Frank analyzes why Cuba has entered an extraordinary, irreversible period of change and considers what the island's future holds. The enormous social engineering project taking place today under Raúl's leadership is fraught with many dangers, and *Cuban Revelations* follows the new leader's efforts to overcome bureaucratic resistance and the fears of a populace that stand in his way. In addition, Frank offers a colorful chronicle of his travels across the island's many and varied provinces, sharing candid interviews with people from all walks of life. He takes the listener outside the capital to reveal how ordinary Cubans live and what they are thinking and feeling as 50-year-old social and economic taboos are broken. He shares his honest and unbiased observations on extraordinary positive developments in social matters, like healthcare and education, as well as on the inefficiencies in the Cuban economy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of the most startling changes in international politics in recent years has been President

Obama's moves to open relations with the island of Cuba, even loosen the embargo against that island. This has not been done in isolation though. Since Fidel Castro stepped down from power in 2006 and his younger brother, Raul, stepped up to take his place, Cuba has been undergoing some slow, but startling, changes in its economy and politics. This book, written by a Reuters journalist who lives on the island with his Cuban wife and has a wealth of contacts inside the island, charts Cuba's reforms from the end of the Soviet Union in 1991 to 2013. It shows how Fidel tried one last time to save his Soviet-style socialist state before ill-health forced him out of power and how Raul's turn to more market-oriented solutions is slowly changing Cuban society. Though there have been some political reforms to, it is still very much a one-party system, but one that seems to want to emulate China's Communist Party rather than the Soviet Union's. Of course, because this was written prior to Pres. Obama's surprise announcement in December 2014 about the U.S. and Cuba opening relations and respective embassies and Obama and Raul Castro's recent meeting at the Summit of the Americas in Panama City, so when the author mentions U.S.-Cuba relations, it is usually because the U.S. is inflexible in the face of the changes going on inside the country. Indeed, the author seems rather biased against the U.S. and Cuban-Americans efforts to counter the Castro regime, describing them as rather foolish and impotent in the face of the Castro brothers. The author also seems to have a rather favorable opinion of Raul Castro and is rather sympathetic to his attempts at reform.

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