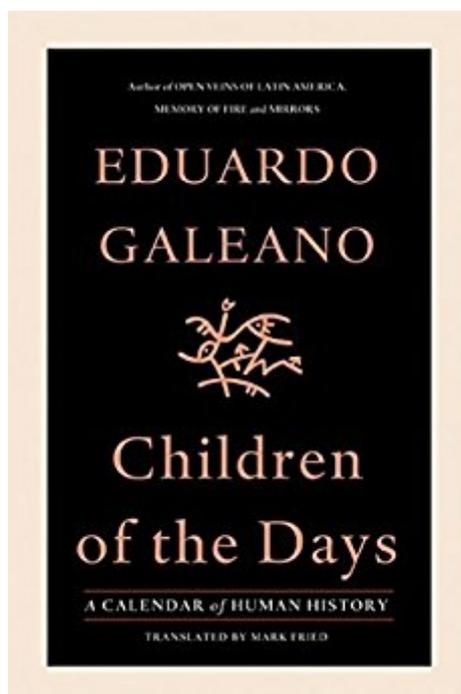


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Children Of The Days: A Calendar Of Human History



Synopsis

Selected by Guernica magazine as an "Editors' Picks: Best of 2013" Unfurling like a medieval book of days, each page of Eduardo Galeano's *Children of the Days* has an illuminating story that takes inspiration from that date of the calendar year, resurrecting the heroes and heroines who have fallen off the historical map, but whose lives remind us of our darkest hours and sweetest victories. Challenging readers to consider the human condition and our own choices, Galeano elevates the little-known heroes of our world and decries the destruction of the intellectual, linguistic, and emotional treasures that we have all but forgotten. Readers will discover many inspiring narratives in this collection of vignettes: the Brazilians who held a "smooch-in" to protest against a dictatorship for banning kisses that "undermined public morals"; the astonishing day Mexico invaded the United States; and the "sacrilegious" women who had the effrontery to marry each other in a church in the Galician city of A Coruña in 1901. Galeano also highlights individuals such as Pedro Fernandes Sardinha, the first bishop of Brazil, who was eaten by Caeté Indians off the coast of Alagoas, as well as Abdul Kassem Ismael, the grand vizier of Persia, who kept books safe from war by creating a walking library of 117,000 tomes aboard four hundred camels, forming a mile-long caravan. Beautifully translated by Galeano's longtime collaborator, Mark Fried, *Children of the Days* is a majestic humanist treasure that shows us how to live and how to remember. It awakens the best in us.

Book Information

File Size: 2278 KB

Print Length: 433 pages

Publisher: Nation Books; Reprint edition (April 30, 2013)

Publication Date: April 30, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00B3M3KVU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #451,368 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #23

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Spanish #96

inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > Spanish & Portuguese #191 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Caribbean & Latin American

Customer Reviews

Starting this book I did not know what to expect. Such short snippets for each day of the year. It works and Eduardo has managed to produce a minor masterpiece of profound insights, vision, and historical perspective that is unique in my experience. I suggest that anyone even slightly interested in understanding the human condition throughout history give the book a try.

This book is sublime. Each day is marked with a story, many are quite shameful and tell of great cruelty. Many are winsome such as a law that once banned male and female authors on the same shelf. Some are just lovely such as the fact that babies are soothed by Mozart. "This is your new home. And this is how it sounds. Galeano is thrifty with words using short vignettes to make the point of each day. It seems just as I would feel so defiled to call myself human, he would add a day speaking of the lyricism of the human spirit. This is a somewhat quirky way to tell of our journey through time, but one filled with many occasions of an answering chord.

This is a stirring book with 365 examples of people whose courageous lives live on for us. While I said I loved it, my reason has more to do with Galeano's beautiful writing and piercing, penetrating accounts of historical events that shaped life as we know it today and hopefully makes us all think about our actions and our contributions to life today.

galeano has a unique style and his brevity is eye-opening, heart rending and frequently warms the soul ... a splendid writer and historian

Every day I meditate, and also read some works by great Buddhist authors or from the Pali canon itself. Now I read an essay by Galeano every day as well. He is an extraordinary author, worthy of a Nobel prize. Like Nabokov or Joyce, he has an incredible eye for detail and irony. Fabulous book, useful to understand history and human nature.

Eduardo Galeano has shared thought-provoking past events for each day of the year. This is a wonderful compilation of people who made a difference all over the world.

This is my read every morning with my coffee. It wakes me up to the reality of our world. Each anecdote -- half to one page -- is written for each date of the year. Half way through the book i.e. half way through the year, you realize what a blessing this unique South American writer brings to the world. Where else would you sip your coffee and open the anecdote for June 21, 2001, a soccer match between Genoa and Treviso, in Italy. The latter had one black player, a Nigerian, who would always be greeted with racial chants. On this day, the stadium was silent. All the other ten players from Treviso were on the field with their faces painted black. Wow! Maybe there is some hope for humanity after all!

So few lines written for each day of the year but ever so thought provoking! The reader can just read for any one day and have a lot to consider. The book can be read many, many times.

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