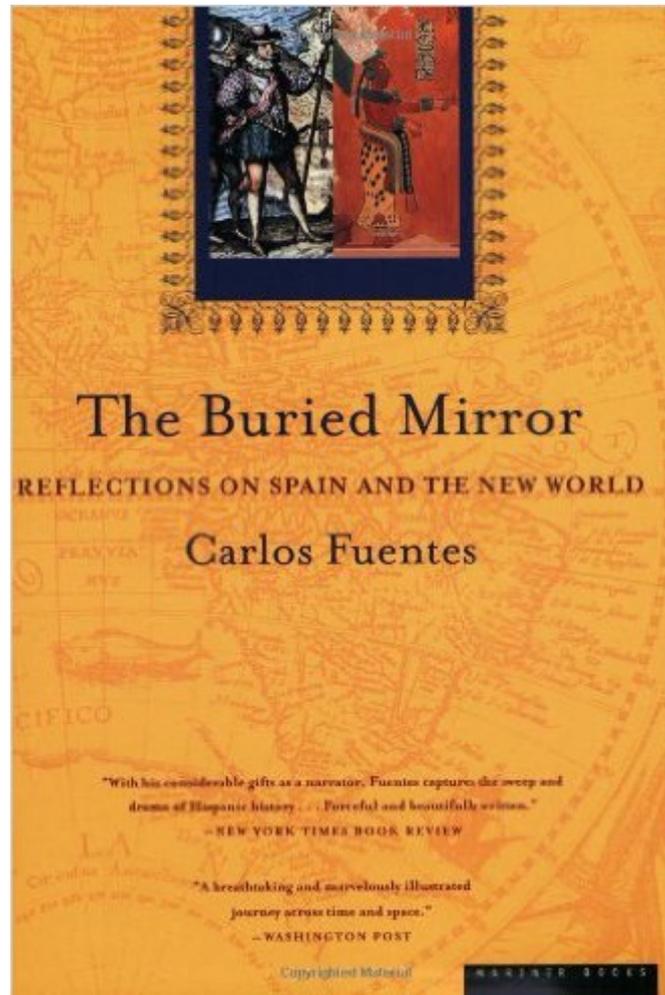


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The Buried Mirror: Reflections On Spain And The New World



Synopsis

As the Los Angeles Times said: "Drawing expertly on five centuries of the cultural history of Europe and the Americas, Fuentes seeks to capture the spirit of the new, vibrant, and enduring civilization [in the New World] that began in Spain." Fuentes's singular success in this remarkable endeavor has made the book a classic in its field. (A Mariner Reissue).

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books; First Edition edition (January 15, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395924995

ISBN-13: 978-0395924990

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (47 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #99,670 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Caribbean & Latin American](#) #228 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Ethnic Studies](#) #243 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Europe](#)

Customer Reviews

This book is absolutely spellbinding and captivating in its presentation that is both an excellent narrative and artistic with imagery to further enhance the experience. The editorial review here at [Kirkus Reviews](#) is a good synopsis to get a good idea about the book's contents. Also there are many sample pages available for your perusal. From a reader's perspective this book is one to cherish after the reading experience is over. Carlos Fuentes presents the subject of Spain and its influence on the new world with clarity and makes his points with the precision of a surgeon, clean and accurate. Beginning with the ancient imagery of the bull found in caves in Spain Fuentes begins his analysis showing how this imagery continues in the arts and culture in such diverse domains as the works of Goya and Picasso, advertisements for brandy and of course the Spanish spectacle of bullfighting. He picks and chooses his historical path, weaving through the centuries concluding with the growth of Hispanic USA. The book is full of historical facts, little known bits of information and as Fuentes draws analogies that stimulate the mind, stimulating the reader to conclude further inferences. The book reminds me of Bronowski's "The Ascent of Man" only on a smaller

scope, from a perspective that makes connections between Spain and Latin America as opposed to the whole of humanity. The "mother" countries influence is expounded upon as only Fuentes can, his use of language is powerful, insightful and revealing all the while showing his keen intelligence and sharp eye for details. The accompanying artwork throughout the book is fantastic and helps the reader to further understand the subject.

Carlos Fuentes wrote this book to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's "discovery" of the New World. That was the pretext, at any rate. One senses, however, that his real purpose was to emphasize the shared culture of Spanish Americans and from there to argue for "a comparable economic and political identity". Whatever the underlying purpose, *THE BURIED MIRROR* is a fine overview of the history and culture of Spain and Latin America. It is marked most by Fuentes's superb narrative skills and his passion, which make the book invigorating as well as instructive. Fuentes actually provides two histories. One is of Spain, going back to the pre-Roman Iberians, continuing through the Muslim occupation and the Reconquest, then from Ferdinand and Isabella through the decades when the Spanish monarchy presided over one of the greatest (and richest) empires in world history, and finally the protracted fading out of Spain as a player on the world stage. The other history, of course, is of Latin America, going back to the Mayans, Incas, and Aztecs, then proceeding to the Spanish conquest and the centuries of economic exploitation, and then the meteoric two decades of the wars of independence, followed by nearly two centuries of alternating hopes and disappointments. In his discussion of Spanish America since the overthrow of Spain, Fuentes focuses much more on Argentina and Mexico than any other countries. There are some superb narrative passages. One such is Fuentes's account of the Spanish Armada, in which the novelist's skills are at the fore. And several of his discussions of cultural landmarks are keenly insightful, especially that concerning Cervantes and "Don Quixote de la Mancha".

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