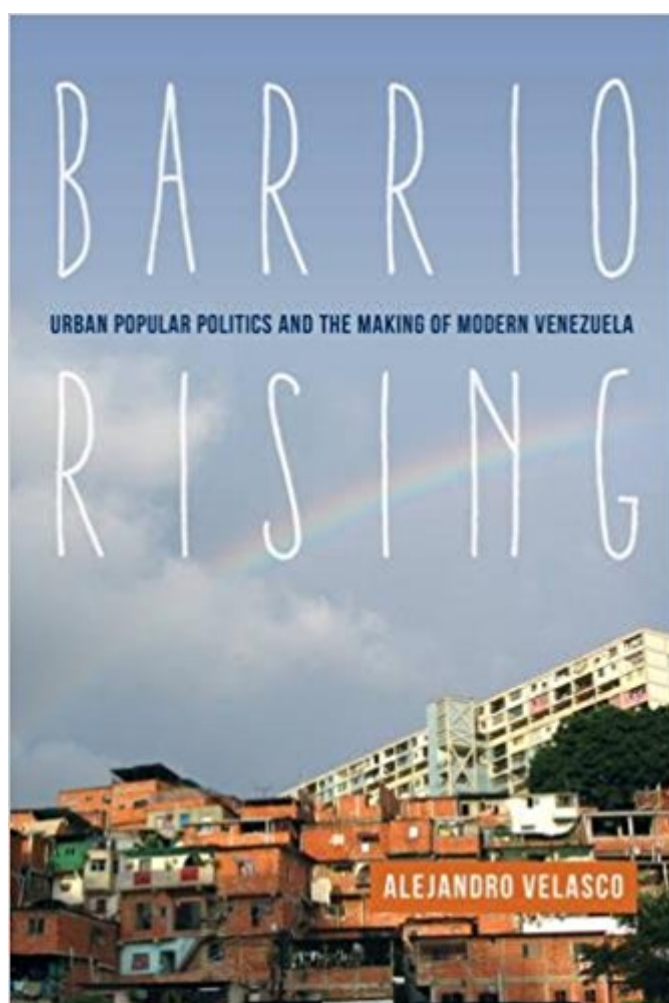


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Barrio Rising: Urban Popular Politics And The Making Of Modern Venezuela



Synopsis

Beginning in the late 1950s political leaders in Venezuela built what they celebrated as Latin America's most stable democracy. But outside the staid halls of power, in the gritty barrios of a rapidly urbanizing country, another politics was rising—unruly, contentious, and clamoring for inclusion. Based on years of archival and ethnographic research in Venezuela's largest public housing community, Barrio Rising delivers the first in-depth history of urban popular politics before the Bolivarian Revolution, providing crucial context for understanding the democracy that emerged during the presidency of Hugo Chávez. In the mid-1950s, a military government bent on modernizing Venezuela razed dozens of slums in the heart of the capital Caracas, replacing them with massive buildings to house the city's working poor. The project remained unfinished when the dictatorship fell on January 23, 1958, and in a matter of days city residents illegally occupied thousands of apartments, squatted on green spaces, and renamed the neighborhood to honor the emerging democracy: the 23 de Enero (January 23). During the next thirty years, through eviction efforts, guerrilla conflict, state violence, internal strife, and official neglect, inhabitants of el veintitrés learned to use their strategic location and symbolic tie to the promise of democracy in order to demand a better life. Granting legitimacy to the state through the vote but protesting its failings with violent street actions when necessary, they laid the foundation for an expansive understanding of democracy—both radical and electoral—whose features still resonate today. Blending rich narrative accounts with incisive analyses of urban space, politics, and everyday life, Barrio Rising offers a sweeping reinterpretation of modern Venezuelan history as seen not by its leaders but by residents of one of the country's most distinctive popular neighborhoods.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Barrio Rising prompts reflection on Chavismo and the imprint of architectural modernity beyond the famous profiles of Brasilia and writes the people of Caracas into the story of Latin America's 20th century. . . . Highly recommended" (CHOICE connect 2016-03-01) Velasco's complex engagement with the everyday practice of politics is a model of good urban history... great comparative potential well beyond its contribution to defining urban popular politics in Latin America. Above all, Barrio Rising makes the important point that incomplete promises create lasting legacies in the built environment and in politics. (Planning Perspectives)

"This is a landmark book in Venezuelan social and political history and in Latin American urban history." •Journal of Social History •"Alejandro Velasco's compelling history of one of Venezuela's most symbolically charged urban neighborhoods illuminates the possibilities and contradictions of Venezuela's postwar politics. No other English-language study has so effectively analyzed the complexity of popular engagement with Venezuelan democracy in the decades preceding Chavismo." •Brooklyn Fischer, author of *A Poverty of Rights: Citizenship and Inequality in Twentieth-Century Rio de Janeiro* "This book just might 'crack the code' on Venezuela, an enigmatic country that resists easy understanding. It will surely become a reference point for understanding Latin American politics and social movements." •David Smilde, author of *Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism* "With this study of urban life in the four decades between the fall of Marcos and Jimenez's authoritarian regime and the Caracazo, Velasco presents an innovative historical survey of lived experience at the literal and metaphoric heart of Caracas politics. Working from public records and extensive interviews, Velasco narrates the vicissitudes of political mobilization and governmental strategies intended to foster popular support. Through transitions to democratic elections, post-Cuban revolution activity, popular action, and looming neoliberal policies, the focus remains on the residents of these buildings. The book prompts reflection on Chavismo and the imprint of architectural modernity beyond the famous profiles of Brasilia and writes the people of Caracas into the story of Latin America's 20th century." •CHOICE

Came in very good conditions and earlier than expected. Great read for anyone interested in social dynamics and relations among the iconic slums in Caracas, particularly the 23 de Enero neighborhood. Thanks mandycoot"A historian says hysteria is like a platform where everything that happens to us bounces back, preventing what we live through from becoming experience. This means we are constantly on the surface, never reaching deeper, never gazing inward, unable to link our past to the history of man on earth. Unmoored from any sense of history that might offer us lessons or comfort in moments of crisis, anxieties are met not with nuance but with hyperbole: at hand is always either utopia or apocalypse, nothing in between."

Velasco's book was one of the most worthwhile reads of my life. I got to meet the author in person and he is the most interesting person ever. The point of the counterpoint between formal electoral politics and popular protest is carried throughout the book, painting a really accurate picture of Caracas in the second half of the twentieth century. As someone from Peru, I've found that the points that Velasco makes apply to certain extents to other countries as well. I learned a lot reading it.

love it . good product with high quality. for my family , Really nice sharp product. have a good experience.

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