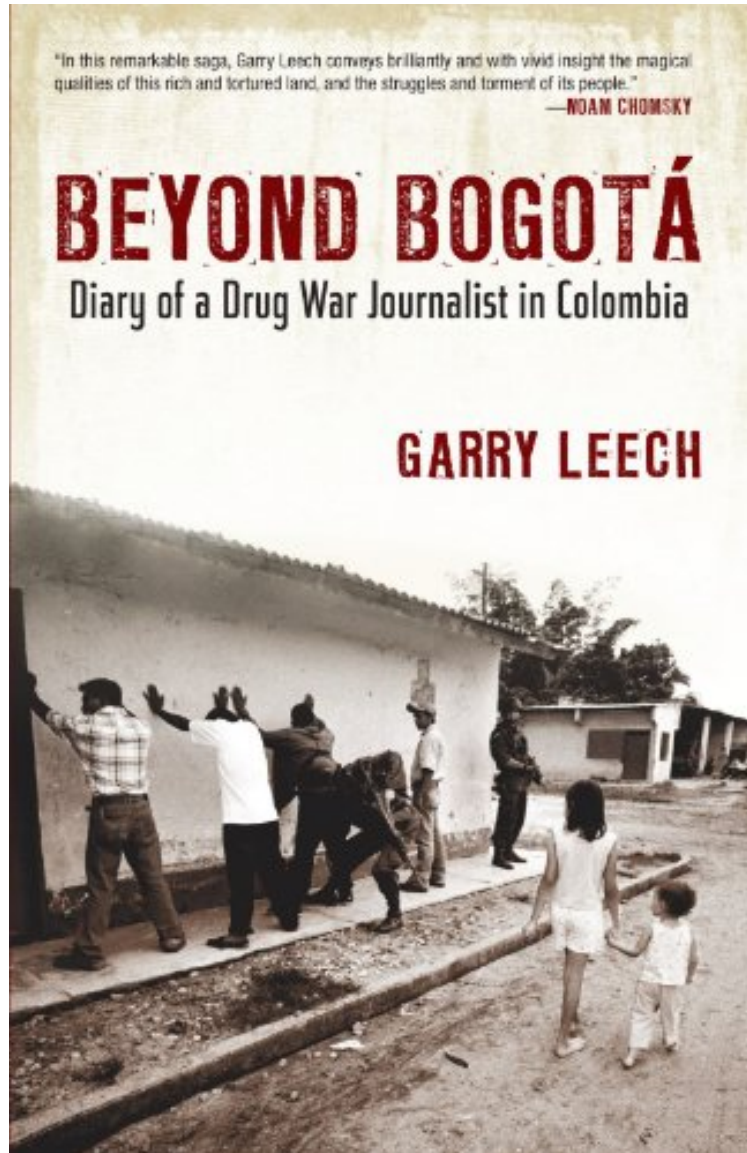


[E-BOOK] Beyond Bogota: Diary of a Drug War Journalist in Colombia

Beyond Bogota: Diary of a Drug War Journalist in Colombia

Garry Leech

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Garry Leech : Beyond Bogota: Diary of a Drug War Journalist in Colombia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Bogota: Diary of a Drug War Journalist in Colombia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. War on Drugs..Drugs won.By Peter CorriganExcellent view from the ground on the realities of the 'War on Drugs' in Colombia. Makes me utterly sick to think we were dropping poison

on poor farmers to stop rich college kids and hollywood stars in the U.S. from snorting powder up their noses. Throw some of the users in jail for 30 years and see how fast the 'war' ends. Which will never happen of course so why bother with the other end? The War is over, declare defeat and go home. People will do drugs, let them face the consequences themselves. I do think he goes out of his way to minimize and exculpate the actions of the FARC which is the main reason I dropped one star, which I doubt will bother Mr. Leech one bit. But for man to risk life itself to tell the story as he sees it from the actual ground is something to admire. Well done. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Drug wars in Colombia By Richard Long Interesting book for anyone interested in the Colombian drug wars and anti terrorist campaigns in the recent past. The author reports from areas that other journalists refuse to enter and lets us know the connections of the Colombian military and paramilitaries in the horrendous human rights abuses that have occurred in that country. Also discussion of the United States involvement. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very informative By Jacqueline Hendricks I needed the information for a novel I've written and the first hand account of Colombia was perfect. I was rewarded with a piece of the world I knew little about. In America we often think drugs and drug dealers as some group of folks in a bubble, but this side of all that business is so important. I wish many people would read this and increase their understanding of the drug business.

Independent journalist Garry Leech has spent the last eight years working in the most remote and dangerous regions of Colombia. Unlike other Western reporters, most of whom rarely leave Bogot, Leech learns the truth about conflicts and the U.S. war on drugs directly from the source: farmers, male and female guerrillas, union organizers, indigenous communities, and many others. *Beyond Bogot* is framed around the eleven hours that Leech was held captive by the FARC, Colombia's largest leftist guerrilla group, in August 2006. Drawing on unprecedented access to soldiers, guerrillas, paramilitaries, and peasants in conflict zones and cocaine-producing areas, Leech's documentary memoir is an epic tale of a journalist's search for meaning in the midst of violence and poverty. This compelling account provides fresh insights into U.S. foreign policy, the role of the media, and the plight of everyday Colombians caught in the middle of a brutal war.

From School Library Journal In this arresting hybrid of journalism and memoir Leech relates his experiences investigating political, economic, and drug-related stories throughout Latin America. The narrative is organized into 11 chapters, which parallel the 11 hours Leech was detained by the FARC, a Colombian guerrilla group, in 2006. Each chapter begins with details of Leech's captivity, which serve as introductions to broader stories, including the civil unrest and massacres in 1980s El Salvador; his meetings with government officials and paramilitary and guerrilla groups vying for power in Panama, Colombia, and other nearby countries; and the wavering effectiveness of the U.S. war on drugs. Along the way, Leech highlights the rampant human-rights violations in the region, the fumigation of cocaine plants, which also destroys other crops, and the large displaced civilian populations often caught in the cross fire. This enlightening book, which mixes a readable level of detail and background with personal narrative, should be in every library, public and academic. Sarah Stutz Cords, Reader's Advisor Online Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Eye-opening . . . excellent reportage highly recommended for would-be journalists as well as those interested in geopolitics. Kirkus s "In this remarkable saga, Garry Leech conveys brilliantly and with vivid insight the magical qualities of this rich and tortured land, and the struggles and torment of its people." Noam Chomsky "That havoc within Colombia is portrayed with angry passion by the determined Garry Leech, that now rare beast in the jungle of journalism prepared to put his own life at the service of the truth. . . . A remarkable and captivating personal account of the drug war that unfolds mostly in Colombia. Gavin O'Toole, Latin American of Books About the Author Garry Leech is an independent journalist and editor of *Colombia Journal*. For the past eight years his work has primarily focused on the US war on drugs and Colombia's civil conflict. He is the author of several books including *Beyond Bogota: Diary of a Drug War Journalist in Colombia*, *Crude Interventions: The United States, Oil and the New World (Dis)Order*, *Capitalism: A Structural Genocide and How I Became an American Socialist*. Find him online at www.garryleech.com.