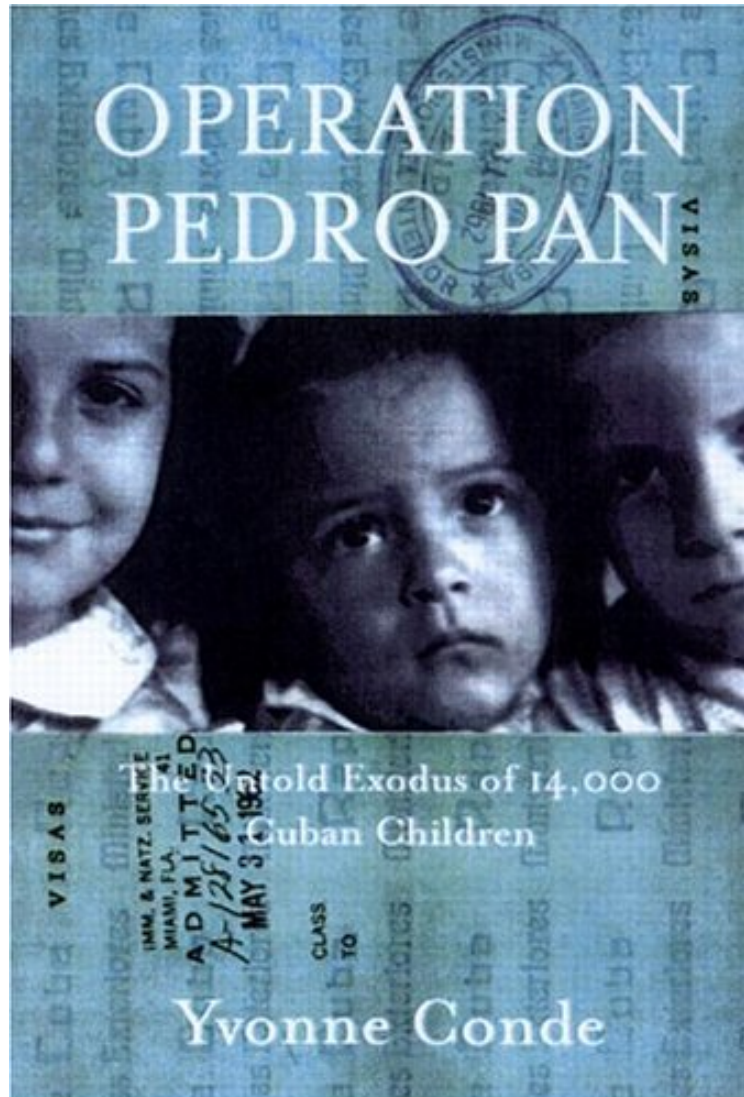


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Operation Pedro Pan: The Untold Exodus of 14,048 Cuban Children

Yvonne M. Conde

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Yvonne M. Conde : Operation Pedro Pan: The Untold Exodus of 14,048 Cuban Children before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Operation Pedro Pan: The Untold Exodus of 14,048 Cuban Children:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Definitely a dark chapter in our history, not that ...By Sharp Pen Definitely a dark chapter in our history, not that it has been bright at all since the Castro brother reach power. Well documented book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great first person accounts By Beviejane The book opened my mind to events I never knew happened. the first person accounts are very compelling, especially when

supported by historical documentation collected by the author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Francisco Penela
Awesome story!

First published in 2000. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

From Publishers Weekly
Conde was 10 when her parents put her on a flight to the U.S. alone. She was one of 14,048 children to make the trip via Operation Pedro Pan, a clandestine organization that smuggled visas into and children out of Cuba. This book is not a memoir, but a well-researched history of Operation Pedro Pan, a portrait of early revolutionary Cuba and a compendium of testimony from the now-grown children. As Conde shows, the near-unanimous joy at Castro's ascent turned to growing disillusionment and fear as he revealed his commitment to Communism. The rumor of a coming "patria postetad," a document that allegedly would order all children over the age of three into State care, made exiling the children an attractive option for many. Operation Pedro Pan ultimately involved the Catholic church, the CIA, the State Department and multiple civic groups in the struggle to find U.S. homes for the children. About half were without relatives or friends on arrival and were placed in orphanages, foster homes or boarding schools until their parents could get visas to join them. Conde's study of Pedro Pan cases is interesting, but her conclusion that as adults they are left straddling two cultures could probably be said of any immigrant group. She is better at tracing the causes of the flight than analyzing the effects, especially as she treats her own story in the same brief and fragmentary manner as the other case histories she offers. 8 pages of photos not seen by PW. Author tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
It's a remarkable episode in cold war history: 14,000 Cuban children sent from the island by their parents in the years after Castro's revolution. Conde was a participant but didn't realize she was one of thousands until she read Joan Didion's *Miami*, which stimulated her curiosity and, ultimately, this book. Conde sent out some 800 questionnaires and received 442 written responses; she interviewed 173 people, including Pedro Pan children, parents, foster parents, journalists, teachers, psychologists, and opponents of Castro in Cuba. The book's primary value lies in the individual stories, from tearful departure and arrival in Miami to temporary shelters and placement in homes or, in some cases, in orphanages; to learning a new language and adjusting and, in many cases, assimilating; to reunions with parents, adolescence in the '60s and '70s, and adulthood. The book is not particularly well written or organized, but its subject makes Conde's work worth considering for acquisition. Mary Carroll "...compelling reading...." -- *The New Republic*
"A moving and fascinating tale about the painful passage to liberty of thousands of Cuban children spirited out of their country in ingenious fashion by families who chose separation over repression. With OPERATION PEDRO PAN, Conde has added another chapter to the long saga of the American struggle for freedom--with the youngest of characters as her heroes. Bravo!" -- Alex Abella, *The Killing of the Saints*
"Fascinating is the least one can say about this book. It's the story of thousands of Cuban Children who wouldn't grow up under communism and were sent by their parents to the Never Never Land of America. Some of them lived happily ever after because this version of Peter Pan is a tragedy with a happy ending sometimes. Fidel Castro, by the way, plays a very credible Captain Hook." -- Guillermo Cabrera Infante
"[Conde] does an impressive job of reporting dozens of personal stories and fascinating vignettes...some moving, many astonishing." -- *Chicago Tribune*