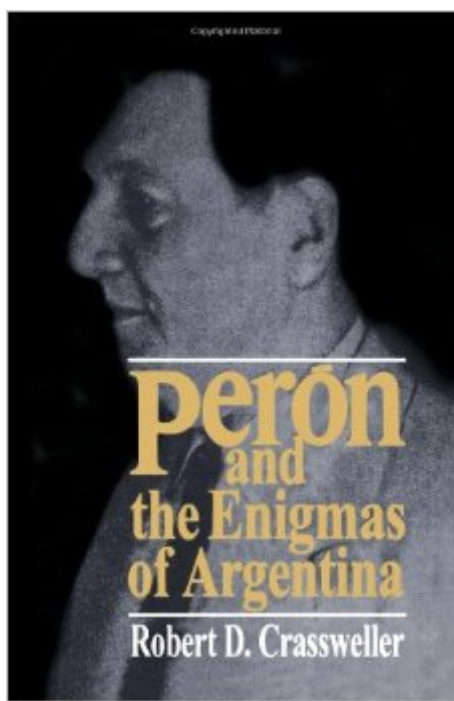


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Peron And The Enigmas Of Argentina



Synopsis

“This is biography-as-history in the best sense of the term. . . .Mr. Crassweller gives us what is perhaps the best single-volume history of 20th-century Argentina: sensitive, urbane, deeply comprehending, written in a style worthy of the most important of historical themes.” • Mark Falcoff, New York Times Book Review

Inevitably, there is much that is enigmatic and generally misunderstood in the tale of Perón, his country, and his civilization. To provide a kind of view from Olympus and a framework for the narrative history that follows, Part I of this book contains brief sketches of what are seen as the enigmas of Argentina and of Perón. The enigmas are, of course, rooted in the past, and the story, intensely human and historical, thus becomes an adventure in time and its interactions in which the past is summoned to elucidate the present.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a well written and carefully constructed book that covers the history of Argentina and the prevailing circumstances that gave rise to Peron and the period known as the “Peronato”, before dealing with the life of Peron himself. The author introduces us to some thoughts on the attitudes of Argentineans which he suggests are inherited from their Spanish and Moorish ancestry. In particular he describes the importance of respect for strong men, or men of power and wealth, and of the importance of honour and loyalty. He further suggests that the adversarial and compromising norms associated with North American or British democracies do not sit well with such traits and that this gives rise to the periodic appearance of strong charismatic leaders in

Argentine history. Crossweller stresses the influence of such figures as the 19th century creator of Argentina Juan Manuel de Rosas and the later social pioneer Hipolito Yrigoyen in the early 20th century on Argentine leaders. The author runs through the history of Argentina from early settlers moving down from Bolivia and the growth of Buenos Aires. The rest of the northern part of the country being occupied by vast and distant cattle ranches run by the aristocrats of the country or *caudillos*, families of immense wealth providing jobs for impoverished ranch hands or *gauchos*. Finally the south of the country was conquered with settlers overcoming the native Indians and occupying parts of the vast scrubland of Patagonia down to Tierra del Fuego. Subsequent development of the country and vast inward foreign investment, particularly by Britain, generated wealth and a large body of industrial workers.

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