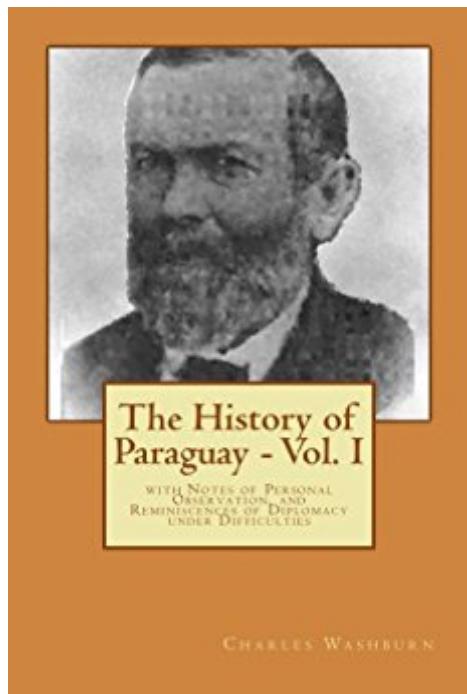


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The History Of Paraguay - Vol. I



Synopsis

History of Paraguay is an extraordinary book about this Republic of South America, the Paraguay. Although it was written in the XIX century, this book is fundamental to understand the roots of the Paraguayan War (1865-1870) as well as the character of South American nations. Its author, Mr. Charles Ames Washburn, was a US Minister in this country from 1861 to 1868, so he was an eyewitness to tragic events that took place in Paraguay at that time. It is a fundamental book for those who want to understand the soul of South America. This first volume covers from the discovery of Paraguay to begining of Francisco Solano Lopez government.

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Customer Reviews

A history indispensable to all interested in South America, written by an eyewitness. Sometimes verbose, always opinionated, always detailed, the work provides invaluable insights into a lost world.

Amazing history.

This book is a fascinating read. (And available for free from the Google Play store). The author was an emissary from the U.S. government sent to Paraguay in the 1860's. His opinionated history of the country could be called a Connecticut Yankee in plains of South America. The first volume covers the founding of Asuncion years before Jamestown in the U.S., the organization of the natives into reductions by the Jesuits until their eventual expulsion, independence from Spain, the decades of isolation under the paranoid despot, Francia, and the first years of Paraguay under the Lopez family. The story of Paraguay is factually fascinating. Washburn had personal contact with several of the major players in the tragedy that is Paraguay. The book is history, it is a political treatise, and it is memoir. Most of all, it is entertaining. Washburn despises the Jesuits and the collectivists reductions that protected the natives. He has varying opinions on the Spanish prior to independence. However, the bulk of the first volume centers on Paraguay under the dictator, Francia, who held the Paraguayans isolated and terrorized for decades. This story alone is worth the reader's time. Although one has to be suspicious of the historical accuracy of the book due to the author's strong opinions, those opinions also make the book fun to read. I am no historian. I read about Paraguay because it is a fascinating country. Washburn has turned his experience in this oddest of South American nations into a book that I found hard to put down.

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