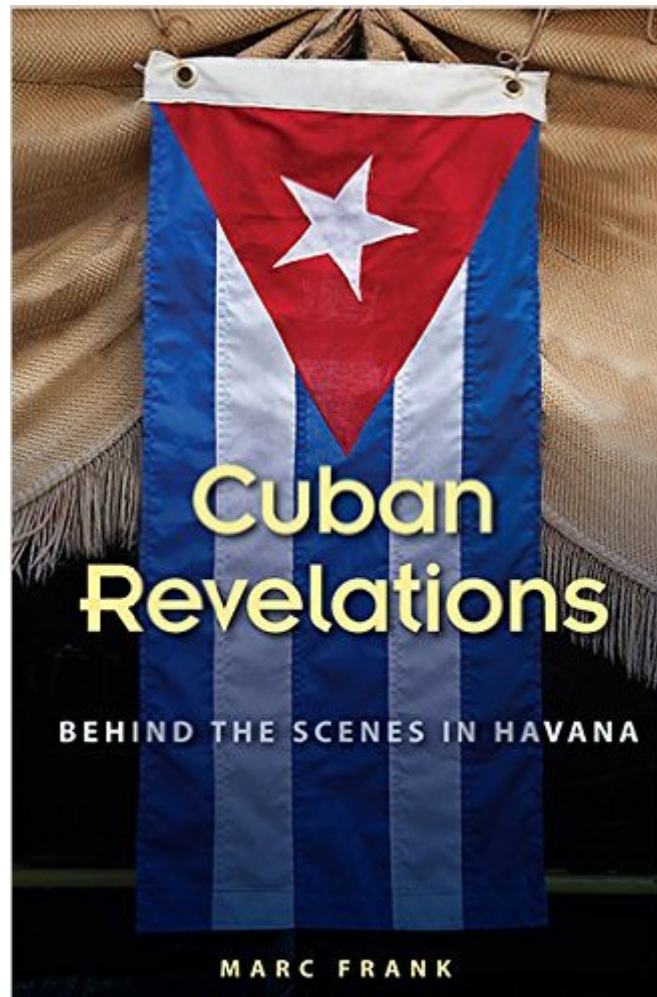


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Cuban Revelations: Behind The Scenes In Havana (Contemporary Cuba)



Synopsis

“A vivid, engaging exploration of Cuban politics, culture and economic life.” America
“Considerably deeper than much of the work on the subject. It takes on the challenge of describing what’s in a black box with energy and candor.” VisitCuba.com “The most informative, accurate, insightful, detailed account available on twenty-first century Cuba.” HavanaTimes.org “Marc Frank is the best foreign journalist reporting from Cuba today. We now have a behind-the-scenes look at the changes large and small taking place as the Cuban revolution molts from Fidel to Raúl to the next generation.” Julia Sweig, author of Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know “A must-read book to grasp what has been happening in Cuba over the past ten years.” Wayne Smith, director of the Cuba Project, Center for International Policy “Frank enriches his fascinating reportage with his unparalleled access to expressive Cubans from all walks of life.” Richard Feinberg, University of California, San Diego “With a sharp eye for human detail and a clear understanding of what makes Cuba tick, Frank’s narrative bears eloquent, balanced, and always sensitive witness to the troubled trajectory of Cuba from the “dark days” of the 1990s economic collapse through to the challenging changes under Raúl. It genuinely gets “inside” the otherwise confusing system and society, and is all the more welcome for that.” Antoni Kapcia, coeditor of The Changing Dynamic of Cuban Civil Society “Gripping and insightful. It is rare indeed to find reporting as authoritative and well sourced as this about what remains an impenetrable and opaque regime.” Michael Reid, author of Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America’s Soul “As a U.S.-born journalist who has called Havana home for almost a quarter century, Mark Frank has observed in person the best days of the revolution, the fall of the Soviet bloc, the great depression of the 1990s, the stepping aside of Fidel Castro, and the reforms now being devised by his brother. In Cuban Revelations, Frank offers a first-hand account of daily life in Cuba at the turn of the twenty-first century, the start of a new and dramatic epoch for islanders and the Cuban diaspora. Examining the effects of U.S. policy toward Cuba, Frank analyzes why Cuba has entered an extraordinary, irreversible period of change and considers what the island’s future holds. The enormous social engineering project taking place today under Raúl’s leadership is fraught with many dangers, and Cuban Revelations follows the new leader’s efforts to overcome bureaucratic resistance and the fears of a populace that stand in his way. In addition, Frank offers a colorful chronicle of his travels across the island’s many and varied provinces, sharing candid interviews with people from all walks of life. He takes the reader outside the capital to reveal how ordinary Cubans live and what they are thinking and feeling as fifty-year-old social and economic taboos are broken. He shares his honest and unbiased

observations on extraordinary positive developments in social matters, like healthcare and education, as well as on the inefficiencies in the Cuban economy. Ultimately, Cuban Revelations is an objective account by a reporter who has lived with the Cubans for many years as their old world falls apart and they set about trying to build a new one.

Book Information

Series: Contemporary Cuba

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: University Press of Florida (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813061814

ISBN-13: 978-0813061818

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (76 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #66,361 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Cuba](#) #21 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin American](#) #1384 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology](#)

Customer Reviews

One of the most startling changes in international politics in recent years has been President Obama's moves to open relations with the island of Cuba, even loosen the embargo against that island. This has not been done in isolation though. Since Fidel Castro stepped down from power in 2006 and his younger brother, Raul, stepped up to take his place, Cuba has been undergoing some slow, but startling, changes in its economy and politics. This book, written by a Reuters journalist who lives on the island with his Cuban wife and has a wealth of contacts inside the island, charts Cuba's reforms from the end of the Soviet Union in 1991 to 2013. It shows how Fidel tried one last time to save his Soviet-style socialist state before ill-health forced him out of power and how Raul's turn to more market-oriented solutions is slowly changing Cuban society. Though there have been some political reforms to, it is still very much a one-party system, but one that seems to want to emulate China's Communist Party rather than the Soviet Union's. Of course, because this was written prior to Pres. Obama's surprise announcement in December 2014 about the U.S. and Cuba opening relations and respective embassies and Obama and Raul Castro's recent meeting at the

Summit of the Americas in Panama City, so when the author mentions U.S-Cuba relations, it is usually because the U.S. is inflexible in the face of the changes going on inside the country. Indeed, the author seems rather biased against the U.S. and Cuban-Americans efforts to counter the Castro regime, describing them as rather foolish and impotent in the face of the Castro brothers. The author also seems to have a rather favorable opinion of Raul Castro and is rather sympathetic to his attempts at reform.

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