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Country Of Bullets: Chronicles Of War



Synopsis

Juanita León has reported on the violence in her native war-torn Colombia for more than a decade. In *Country of Bullets* she provides a chronicle of what she has witnessed in the midst of one of the oldest civil wars in any Latin American nation. She breaks through the façade of dogma and rhetoric of various groups, including the Marxist guerillas, right-wing paramilitary forces, and government troops, to examine the human aspects of Colombia's hostilities. While the stories illustrate vital aspects of the war, territorial struggles for gold, oil, and coca, the motives of individual leaders, and the strategy of the Colombian army, León avoids the infamous scenes of war, focusing instead on its "commonplace" reality. She presents a unique account that highlights the amazing things normal people do in their struggles to live relatively ordinary lives. Published in Colombia as *Países de plomo: Crónicas de Guerra*, the book received third place for the 2006 Lettre Ulysses Award for the Art of Reportage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A respected journalist in Colombia chronicles the human stories of survival in the midst of the country's political and military violence.

Juanita León, a native Colombian, received a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and worked as a journalist for the Wall Street Journal. Upon returning to Colombia, she worked as an editor or journalist for that nation's largest print media, including *El Tiempo* and *Semana*. León won the World Health Organization's World Prize for Health Journalism in 2001 for an article on the health risks posed by the conflict in Colombia. León was awarded a Harvard

University Neiman Fellowship in 2006 and received a 2008 Open Society Fellowship to launch an investigative news blog in Colombia, where she resides.

If you are interested in Colombia's recent history this book is a must read. It approaches the on going war from a journalistic perspective, without the activism of other books on this country. It has the American fact-based approach but written with the eye of the reporter that was where things happened and the heart and the guts to tell the whole story. I highly recommend it.

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