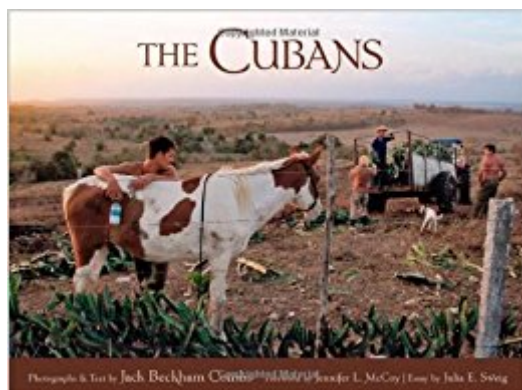


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The Cubans (English And Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Asked to conjure an image of Cuba, most Americans see a country of elegant, crumbling buildings and old American cars. While it takes less than twenty-five minutes to fly from Miami to Havana, the United States and its island neighbor have been mired in hostility and distrust since the Castro Revolution ousted the American-backed puppet Batista fifty years ago. Shared family connections have allowed both Americans and Cubans to separate the governments of each country from its people, but there is still misunderstanding on both sides. Photographs that purport to represent Cuba and its people often reproduce the narrow American imagination of the place, starting and ending in Old Habana. While it is true that the buildings in this small section of the city, many of which are 300 years old, have been crumbling for 150 years, and many of the cars are from the pre-Revolution era, this quaint image bears little reality to the country and its people. The documentary photographer Jack Combs has been making photographs of the Cuban people over the course of six years and fifteen visits to the island. His images range from the urban to the rural, from saturated colors and polished night skies to vibrant street scenes full of movement and serene agricultural landscapes. Much of Combs's time was spent outside Havana, traveling to cities, smaller towns, villages, and farms in every Cuban province. His pictures of agricultural life are beautiful pastoral compositions. Rarer still is the emphasis his eye places on ordinary people living their everyday lives. Their faces and settings demonstrate that Cubans may have less than they need, but they are nonetheless a people of strength, good humor, and great national pride. The breakup of the Soviet Union and the end of its massive economic subsidies may have shattered the Cuban leaders' dream of economic independence, but not the people's spirit. Distributed for Documentary Photography, Santa Fe, New Mexico

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Customer Reviews

Jack Beckham Combs, a photographer for more than fifty years, lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This is his first book. Jennifer L. McCoy is Director of the Carter Center's Americas Program and Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University. Editor of and contributor to several books on Latin American politics, McCoy organized and accompanied former President Carter's trip to Cuba in 2002. Julia E. Sweig is the David and Nelson Rockefeller Senior Fellow for Latin American Studies and Director for Latin American Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Her books include *Cuba: What Everyone Needs To Know* and *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground*.

The Cubans?? According to who? to Julia Sweig(an renown castroite nay Admirer of a Murderous Marxist?) , Glimpsing through the book You see Images of Che(Really? Was he Cuban? Or is it because as typical Communist Propaganda his and other "Revolution" Images are splattered everywhere!) Paradise? Not anymore, It makes you wonder where are the photos of Malnutrition,of Shortages,long lines? and of course Crumbling buildings and American Cars Running on Soviet engines? There is cows? perhaps the cows are meant for the Castro Communist Elite the few that don't have the problems other Cubans have who have to steal beg and borrow and realize that Archieture alone and The Sea and Romanticism is not going to feed your family.Buy the book if your the starry eyed Romantic type who is so blind to Facts and just don't care. Wonderful addition to Many of the Countless Castro Approved Books.

Remember The Bay of Pigs and that cigar-smoking bearded man in fatigues who challenged our dashing young president in those October days of the Sixties? Remember feeling a "disconnect" between yourself and this little country of Cuba? Author and photographer Jack Combs enables readers to appreciate our neighbor and the colorful, rich potential of a beautiful country that should be our new best friend. Currently, its joys remain unavailable, and we remain deprived of the wonder and joy of Cuba. Jack Combs and his photography changes all of our misconceptions as he captures the essence and beauty of Cuba,its people, culture, and the enduring, creative neighbor we should be happy to embrace. It is a finely-tuned quality book that enriches our lives and

understanding of another country. It makes me want a ticket to Cuba, now!

This book shows the real Cuba that few photographers ever capture. While there are some wonderful images from Havana Vieja, Combs got out in to the countryside to show how the Cuban people really live...and you understand from his gentle photos exactly what "it is not easy" the response to the question of "how do you get by" really means. Combs book is the next best thing to going there. St. Clair Newbern III

I saw this book online while doing some research on Cuba before I left to visit the island. When I returned from the trip, I ordered it. I am thrilled with it. Many of the photographs have a common thread in content to the photos I took while I was in Cuba, which makes the book all the more charming.

Mr. Jack Combs book *The Cubans* is a journey of life through Cuba in its present day and a life that was. Time and progress has stopped, but life goes on. Mr. Combs book beautifully captures everyday life and culture of very proud people who are moving forward in life while the economic, political and ideological beliefs of the country are crumbling as each day passes. The moments captured are so intimate; many of the subjects appear unaware that Mr. Combs is in their presence. The book is a great addition to any photography collection.

The Cubans is an excellent pictorial review into Cuba as it is today and was yesterday. It depicts how life still goes on in a once thriving economy that in some respect stands still. Jack Beckman Combs makes you feel as you experience life as it was and is today. This book is a beautiful collection of the culture and experiences of Cuba. I will treasure this book as a collector's item of Cuban life.

This book is a beautiful and sensitive portrayal of a society that is so near to us, yet so far. Both the photos and the text afford a great glimpse into the lives of real people struggling with dignity to live in an unreal environment.

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