



# Pirates of the Caribbean: Axis of Hope

*Tariq Ali*

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## **Pirates of the Caribbean: Axis of Hope** Tariq Ali

Since 1998, the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela has brought Hugo Chavez to world attention as the foremost challenger of the neoliberal consensus and American foreign policy. While Chavez's radical social-democratic reforms have brought him worldwide acclaim among the poor, he has attracted intense hostility from Venezuelan elites and Western governments.

Drawing on first-hand experience of Venezuela and meetings with Chavez, Tariq Ali shows how Chavez's views have polarized Latin America and examines the hostility directed against his administration. Ali discusses the enormous influence of Fidel Castro on both Chavez and Evo Morales, the newly-elected President of Bolivia, and contrasts the Cuban and Venezuelan revolutionary processes.

*Pirates of the Caribbean* guides us through a world divided between privilege and poverty, a continent that is once again on the march.

## **Pirates of the Caribbean: Axis of Hope Details**

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Author : Tariq Ali

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## From Reader Review Pirates of the Caribbean: Axis of Hope for online ebook

### Tariq Mahmood says

The book is a collection of various articles written about the South American political situation. Its an eye opener as it talks about the influence of the Washington Consortium over the rest of the world. This and other works is essential in raising awareness against the general prejudice of the countries or cultures going against the grain. I found the character of Chavez, Moralis & Castro. Why can't the Muslim world produce a Chavez??

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### Debra J. says

A readable and well-documented view of how the three "Pirates" (Hugo Chavez, Evo Morales and Fidel Castro) are challenging the "Washington Consensus" that molds the predominant Northern view of the world (think how Chavez, who has been democratically elected by his people several times, is repeatedly referred to by politicians and press as a "dictator", until most people believe it).

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### Mario says

An amazing book, and you must read SFY too:

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### Kevin says

I got very little out of this book, for the simple reason that there's little of substance here - beyond vague, undocumented, overreaching assertions. On a technical matter, the "Pirates of the Caribbean" are supposedly Fidel Castro (Cuba), Hugo Chavez (Venezuela), and Evo Morales (Bolivia). Since when does Bolivia have a coastline along the Caribbean, or any body of water - thank Chile - for that matter?

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### Melissa says

I love reading Tariq Ali because he always gives such great synopses of the history of a region he's writing about. I wanted to know more about Chavez and Morales and this was a nice introduction. The only criticism I have is that I wish he had talked about their policies in greater depth. Instead, he chose to focus more on their opposition to American policy in the region and the neo-liberal policies of the IMF and World Bank.

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### Joseph says

A specious argument. Yes, Bush is an awful President with Imperialistic ends, but why the hell should we embrace Chavez, Castro, and Morales.

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### Umer Iftikhar says

A definite read .

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### Aidan Walker says

OK-this book was written in the Bush era, years before Venezuela's economic collapse and the deaths of Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro, but it's still an excellent, eye-opening read. Tariq Ali has a firm grasp on history and current events, and a keen eye for bullshit, all the while roaming widely in time and geography. He cites a great many writers, philosophers and intellectuals-Montaigne is a favorite of his, as are many later (Enlightenment-era) French philosophes. He points out that in the post-Cold War world, to think radically or even differently is heresy. Tariq is not uncritical of the Cuban Revolution, attacking Fidel's support for the invasion of Czechoslovakia, but he recognizes that the good it has done outweighs the harm. Oh, and he also uses Mario Vargas Llosa and Carlos Fuentes as punching bags throughout the book-which I find most welcome, given how grotesquely reactionary I find those writers and how much my Dad gushes hagiographical praise of them (especially Vargas Llosa on both counts). Lastly, he dedicated this book to Eduardo Galeano, my favorite of favorite writers, so I knew even from the dedication page that I would love this book. This book has introduced me to a brilliant and beautiful, lucid and well-informed voice of the left. Thank you Tariq Ali-thank you very much!

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### Jacob Libby says

Short, concise, and polemical history of the centuries old Bolivarian revolution and cultural movement in Latin America. How Hugo Chavez, Evo Morales, and Fidel Castro have carried forward the anti-imperialist movement that began against the 18th century European colonial empires. Tariq Ali, as always sharp as a razor blade and biting as a whip.

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### Yazeed AlMogren says

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### **Therese says**

Tariq Ali describes the rise to power of Evo Morales and Hugo Chavez as well as Fidel Castro's Cuba.

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### **Dhruv Sangari says**

A very sensitive and factual portrayal of the realities of Latin America. A must read for every Yankee! What makes even more powerful is that this is no armchair journalism, but an intellectual analysis based on the author's personal journeys through these countries. Brilliant.

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### **Kim says**

Like so much leftist writing, the bombastic rhetoric obstructs some meaningful messages. The final ten pages previous to the Bolivar section are very good and the Bolivar material caused me to want to read more about that period and him.

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### **Karlson says**

This book was very educational regarding the role of the press - supposedly free press. If the press reports a lie often enough, people begin to believe it as the truth. He looks at the role of the press in regards to shaping world opinion about Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia. It reads like a novel.

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### **June says**

This is a good overview for those who are not familiar with Chavez, Castro and Morales. If you're looking for more insight, though, I'd recommend a new book "Changing Venezuela By Taking Power" by Greg Wilper, published by Verso. Tariq Ali is one of the best authors of the left, steadfastly refusing to compromise his ideals---and unsympathetic to those who do. (That list includes Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Carlos Fuentes...)It's a delight to read an author who doesn't try to make excuses for his opinions, because he KNOWS HE'S RIGHT! This is not dry reading. However, I did find the book too brief. The appendices were interesting, and include documents about Chavez's plans for a revolution while he was in the army, but they are almost one hundred pages long and make up half of the book.

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