



Fidel and Che: A Revolutionary Friendship

By Simon Reid-Henry

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Che Guevara has been dead for more than forty years, and long ago renounced by Fidel Castro-and yet they are forever linked: their coming to prominence together captivated a generation. For many, their romantic struggle for freedom still resonates; for others, they simply represent the last of a dying breed of rebel warriors. Yet, while much has been written about them both, surprisingly little is known about their personalities, and even less about the 12 years of their unique and highly consequential relationship, during which they linked arms in one of the world's greatest revolutionary movements.

Fidel and Che follows them on their dramatic journey from the safe houses of Mexico's political underground in the 1950s, where they began hatching their plan for revolution, to the theatre of war in the Cuban mountains, to the paneled offices of a new government (the Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile crises happened on their watch), and to the eventual rupture of their friendship, as Che left Cuba to pursue his revolutionary dreams, only to be assassinated by the CIA in 1966. Reid-Henry also reveals the more personal world of their inner lives as friends, husbands, lovers, fathers. What began as an association of convenience became the most profound relationship of their lives. It shaped their political ambitions and their personal attitudes, compelling them further than either had previously dared imagine. But if their times inspired a revolutionary friendship, they also destroyed it, for the tragic irony was that the more historical circumstance bound them together, the more personal ambitions pulled them apart. At a momentous turning point in Cuban history, Simon Reid-Henry has crafted a fascinating and original chronicle of two of the most powerful personalities in recent memory.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this elegiac study of the revolution's iconic leader, Reid-Henry makes the relationship between Fidel Castro and Che Guevara the central dynamic of each man's life and of the revolution itself. On the one hand, the driven, domineering, strategically minded Castro galvanized the dreamy Guevara to discover his talent as a guerrilla commander and political executioner. On the other hand, Reid-Henry works hard to demonstrate that Guevara's poetic soul and quixotic Marxist purism made its mark on Castro's calculating mind. In his most revisionist claim, the author insists, not very convincingly, that Guevara's ill-starred insurrectionary expeditions to the Congo and Bolivia were not merely convenient ways for Castro to rid himself of his difficult comrade but wholehearted collaborations intended to spread their joint revolutionary vision to the world. Reid-Henry's portrait of the Che-Fidel dynamic makes the Cuban revolution as much a romantic adventure as an authoritarian bureaucracy, but Castro's obvious dominance of the partnership renders that picture unpersuasive. 30 b&w photos. (Aug.)

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Review

'Two big figures, one fine debut: It is quite a task to make your first book a lucid, pulsating study of not one but two huge figures, but Simon Reid-Henry pulls it off ... The two men's early lives are skilfully drawn, with playground anecdotes ... subtly deploying his own extensive travel and recently declassified sources, Reid-Henry produces a taut history of two men who brought out the best in each other and came to embody the very notion of modern-day protest.' -- The Economist's Intelligent Life 'absorbing account of their friendship' -- Sunday Times 'Simon Reid-Henry is a fluid writer and this, his first book is well-paced.' -- Financial Times

About the Author

Simon Reid-Henry is a lecturer at Queen Mary College, University of London. He has traveled often to Cuba, living there for a year while interviewing many senior figures on the island. He is regularly invited to speak on Cuba at international forums, and has written features for the *Economist* and the *Times* of London. This is his first book. He lives in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Floyd:

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Albert Christensen:

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James Ensor:

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Charles Wagoner:

Some people said that they feel weary when they reading a book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose typically the book Fidel and Che: A Revolutionary Friendship to make your own reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading talent is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the sensation about book and reading through especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the e-book Fidel and Che: A Revolutionary Friendship can to be your brand-new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of their time.

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