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# Bolivar: American Liberator

By Marie Arana



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A brilliant biography that “reads like a wonderful novel but is researched like a masterwork of history” (Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs*), this is the epic story of the famous South American general and statesman Simón Bolívar.

SIMÓN BOLÍVAR —*El Libertador*—freed six countries from Spanish rule and is still the most revered figure in South America today. He traveled from Amazon jungles to the Andes mountains, engaged in endless battles and forged fragile coalitions of competing forces and races. He lived an epic life filled with heroism, tragedy (his only wife died young), and legend (he was saved from an assassination attempt by one of his mistresses). In *Bolívar*, Marie Arana has written a sweeping biography that is as bold and as passionate as its subject.

Drawing on a wealth of primary documents, Arana vividly captures the early nineteenth-century South America that made Bolívar the man he became: fearless general, brilliant strategist, consummate diplomat, dedicated abolitionist, gifted writer, and flawed politician. A major work of history, *Bolívar* not only portrays a dramatic life in all its glory, but is also a stirring declaration of what it means to be South American.



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## Bolivar: American Liberator By Marie Arana Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Arana is an indefatigable researcher, a perceptive historian, and a luminous writer, as shown in her defining, exhilarating biography of the great South American liberator Simón Bolívar. A household name in the southern half of the Americas, Bolívar nevertheless is generally unknown to North Americans, beyond the simple, “Oh, yeah, I’ve heard the name.” The good of this meticulous new account of Bolívar’s exciting, to say nothing of consequential, life and times is that such a robust, dynamic, and, more importantly, easily accessible narrative goes to great lengths to rectify the North American unfamiliarity with Bolívar. The liberation of the South American colonies from the rule of the mother country was an even more complex, fits-and-starts program than the severing of ties between Great Britain and its Atlantic-seaboard colonies, but Arana follows the war in all its steps forward and back, at the end of which “one man would be credited for single-handedly conceiving, organizing, and leading the liberation of six nations.” Her understanding of the man behind the fame—and behind the hostility that enveloped him in his later years—brings this biography to the heights of the art and craft of life-writing. For more about the preparation of this book, see the adjacent Story behind the Story. --Brad Hooper

### Review

“Finally, Bolivar gets the sweeping biography he deserves. He was the greatest leader in Latin American history, and his tale is filled with lessons about leadership and passion. This book reads like a wonderful novel but is researched like a masterwork of history.” (Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs*)

“This is a magnificent story. Deeply researched and written with clarity, honesty, and verve, Marie Arana’s book tells the life of one of the greatest heroes and founders in world history.” (Gordon S. Wood, author of *Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic, 1789–1815*, Alva O. Way University Professor and Professor of History Emeritus at Brown University)

“With the eye and ear of a novelist, Marie Arana chants the epic of Bolivar with love, zest, and compelling authority.” (Walter A. McDougall, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Alloy-Ansin Professor of International Relations, University of Pennsylvania)

“Simon Bolivar has found the perfect biographer in Marie Arana, a literary journalist, brilliant novelist of South America, and wise historian as well. Her portrait of Bolivar is human and moving; she has written a powerful and epic life and times.” (Evan Thomas, author of *Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Struggle to Save the World*)

“Most North American historians have mentioned [Bolívar] only in passing, usually making 'the George Washington of Latin America' reference. . . . That conception obviously needed correction in the form of a comprehensive biography that makes Bolívar’s life accessible to a large readership in the United States. *Bolívar* is unquestionably that book. . . . *Bolívar* is magisterial in scope, written with flair and an almost cinematic sense of history happening. . . . A monumental achievement destined to win some major literary prizes.” (Joseph J. Ellis *Washington Post Book World*)

"Wonderful. . . . In Arana's energetic and highly readable telling, Bolívar comes alive as having willed himself an epic life. . . . She brings great verve and literary flair to her biography of Bolívar." (Hector Tobar *The Los Angeles Times*)

"Arana offers a clear-eyed assessment of the ideals, alliances, and human frailties that drove Bolívar's choices and shaped the Americas." (*The New Yorker*)

"Inspired. . . . Arana ably captures the brash brilliance of this revered and vilified leader." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"Arana is an indefatigable researcher, a perceptive historian, and a luminous writer, as shown in her defining, exhilarating biography of the great South American liberator Simón Bolívar." (*Booklist (starred review, Top 10 Biographies of the Year)*)

"This well-rounded work reveals not just an accomplished military tactician but also an able statesman. . . . An important contribution to Bolivarian studies." (*Library Journal (starred review)*)

"A fascinating biography of the charismatic military leader who sparked a revolution." (Abbe Wright *O Magazine*)

"*Epic* is a word used too often to describe lesser work, but Marie Arana's marvelously readable *Bolívar: American Liberator* is a biography that earns its adjective." (David Walton *The Dallas Morning News*)

"Thrilling, authoritative and revelatory, here at last is a biography of Bolivar, the maker of South America, that catches the sheer extraordinary unique adventure and titanic scale of his life with accessible narrative and scholarly judgement." (Simon Sebag Montefiore)

"A gripping biography of an epic life." (David O. Stewart *Washington Independent Review of Books*)

#### About the Author

Marie Arana was born in Lima, Peru. She is the author of the memoir *American Chica*, a finalist for the National Book Award; two novels, *Cellophane* and *Lima Nights*; and *The Writing Life*, a collection from her well-known column for *The Washington Post*. She lives in Washington, DC, and Lima, Peru.

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As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe can update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Bolivar: American Liberator is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### Martin Elkins:

The particular book Bolivar: American Liberator will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to learn, this book very ideal to you. The book Bolivar: American Liberator is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

**Patrice Reese:**

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