



# Simon Bolivar: A Life

*By John Lynch*

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## Simon Bolivar: A Life By John Lynch

Simón Bolívar was a revolutionary who freed six countries, an intellectual who argued the principles of national liberation, and a general who fought a cruel colonial war. His life, passions, battles, and great victories became embedded in Spanish American culture almost as soon as they happened. This is the first major English-language biography of “The Liberator” in half a century. John Lynch draws on extensive research on the man and his era to tell Bolívar’s story, to understand his life in the context of his own society and times, and to explore his remarkable and enduring legacy.

The book illuminates the inner world of Bolívar, the dynamics of his leadership, his power to command, and his modes of ruling the diverse peoples of Spanish America. The key to his greatness, Lynch concludes, was supreme will power and an ability to inspire people to follow him beyond their immediate interests, in some cases through years of unrelenting struggle. Encompassing Bolívar’s entire life and his many accomplishments, this is the definitive account of a towering figure in the history of the Western hemisphere.

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## **Editorial Review**

From [The New Yorker](#)

The first major English biography of Bolívar in fifty years parses the complex history of the Venezuelan aristocrat who liberated six South American countries from Spanish rule. A cult figure after his death, in 1830, El Libertador led a life that defies easy analysis: although influenced by Enlightenment ideas of equality, he rejected total democracy, fearing anarchy in the "ignorant" lower classes; determined to create strong central government, he institutionalized rule by local warlords; acutely aware of the factionalism rampant in postwar society, he was bewildered when it eventually forced him to leave his homeland. In Lynch's view, the key to Bolívar lies in his pragmatism. Leaders who have invoked his name to serve their political agendas have obscured the fact that his policies followed no single path and are meaningless out of historical context. The so-called "Bolivarian revolution" of the populist Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez is "a modern perversion of the cult."

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From [Booklist](#)

Bolívar is often referred to as the George Washington of South America, but that designation can be considered somewhat of a slight, for Bolívar was an original, not an imitator, a singular man who understood the cultural, historical, and physical differences between liberating the Spanish colonies of South America and the conditions faced by Washington in the English colonies of North America. This definitive biography, based on fresh and copious research, achieves a complete picture of Bolívar's thinking, actions, and impact. Lynch, professor of Latin American history at the University of London, in his all-inclusive approach to estimating the man brings to the fore two aspects of Bolívar's life and career that may come as a surprise to readers with little background: his extensive visits to Europe (and what ideas he picked up there) and the fact that his military campaigns (presented in considerable detail) to free South America represented not a clean trajectory of success but, rather, a series of setbacks as well as successes. In all, a major biography. *Brad Hooper*

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## **Review**

"A readable and up-to-date life, which will be the first resort of the curious for some time to come." Economist 'Given the difficulty of separating man from myth, this soberly objective, well-researched biography is welcome. Professor Lynch has devoted much of his career as a Latin Americanist historian to the study of the independence war... It is fortunate that he has now chosen to bring it to bear on a biography which is both professional and readable. In all its complexity John Lynch's impressive, objective scholarship is an invaluable antidote to previous historians' and politicians' attempts to mould Bolívar to their particular ends.' David Gallagher, Times Literary Supplement 'expertly researched and elegantly written.' The Oldie"

## **Users Review**

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#### **Claudia Butler:**

Now a day people that Living in the era where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not need people to be aware of each facts they get. How a lot more to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help

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**Henry Stanton:**

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