



La guerra del fin del mundo (Spanish Edition)

By Mario Vargas Llosa

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Un relato exhaustivamente documentado sobre la Guerra de Canudos que reproduce prodigiosamente las mentalidades profundas, las pasiones irracionales y las desbocadas fuerzas sociales del Brasil de finales del siglo XIX.

«Esta novela me hizo vivir una de las aventuras literarias más ricas y exaltantes.»

Mario Vargas Llosa

A finales del siglo XIX, en las tierras paupérrimas del noreste del Brasil, el chispazo de las arengas del Consejero, personaje mesiánico y enigmático, prenderá la insurrección de los desheredados. En circunstancias extremas como aquellas, la consecución de la dignidad vital solo podrá venir de la exaltación religiosa -el convencimiento fanático de la elección divina de los marginados del mundo- y del quebranto radical de las reglas que rigen el mundo de los poderosos.

Así, grupos de miserables acudirán a la llamada de la revolución de Canudos, la ciudad donde se asentará esta comunidad de personajes que difícilmente desaparecerán de la imaginación del lector: el Beatito, el León de Natuba, María Quadrado... Frente a todos ellos, una trama político-militar se articula para detener con toda su fuerza el movimiento que amenaza con expandirse.

La guerra del fin del mundo, primera novela que Mario Vargas Llosa situó fuera del Perú, es un relato exhaustivamente documentado, tanto a través de lecturas como de viajes sobre el terreno en el que tuvo lugar este acontecimiento histórico. Un libro fundamental en la historia literaria del siglo XX.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In 1977, after the success of his best-selling novel *La tía Julia y el escribidor* (*Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter*, Alfaguara, 2000, reprint), celebrated boom-generation Peruvian author Vargas Llosa began what is now recognized as his tour de force. Based on cataclysmic events in Brazil at the close of the 19th century, this epic historical novel tackles religious, political, and moral ideologies that seem even more relevant in today's rocky post-millennium climate. In Alfaguara's timely new edition of this classic, Vargas Llosa has added a prolog written in 2000. He wastes no time in acknowledging the essential influence of Euclides da Cunha's book *Os Sertões* (*The Arid Wastelands*) based on the 1897 war in Canudos, a small town in the arid northern expanses of Brazil. It was this story, a mixture of fact and fiction, that inspired Vargas Llosa to drop everything and go digging into dusty archives in Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and eventually the flaming hot deserts of the Brazilian state of Bahia to write this tale about the frailties of mankind in the face of the apocalypse. The story centers around a mysterious, bearded Christ-like man who leads a wretched mass of freaks, prostitutes, beggars, and bandits to create a utopian state. Called the Counselor, he seduces them into rebuilding the decrepit sprawl of the sertões (arid wastelands) in preparation for the end of the world. The national government in Rio eventually learns of the rebel town and sends in army after army in a chain of bloody confrontations that in many ways reflects the strife that continues to plague South America to the present day. Vargas Llosa started writing this masterpiece in 1977 while at Churchill College in Cambridge, England; then he went on to London and became so absorbed that he pursued the story to its source in Brazil. Finally, in 1980, he returned to the cool, serene library in Washington, D.C.'s Wilson Center to finish the last pages. Vargas Llosa seemed comforted to tie it up there, presumably inspired by how the violence of the Civil War came so close to the capital. In the last line of the prolog, he writes that, while there., "I was enveloped by flying falcons and in viewing distance of the balcony where Abraham Lincoln spoke to his Union soldiers at the brink of the Battle of Manassas." This historical novel, based on actual occurrences with plenty of fabulistic legends throughout, is delivered in Vargas Llosa's witty and objective journalistic tone. Vargas Llosa, who is so good at bringing to life the human faults of history's fanatics and dictators, successfully manages to captivate the deranged world of the charismatic Counselor. Adriana Lopez, "Criticas" Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Language Notes

Text: Spanish

About the Author

Mario Vargas Llosa is Peru's foremost author and the winner of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1994 he was awarded the Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's most distinguished literary honor, and in 1995 he won the Jerusalem Prize. His many distinguished works include "The Storyteller", "The Feast of the Goat", "Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter", "Death in the Andes", "Praise of the Stepmother", "The Bad Girl", "Conversation in the Cathedral", "The Way to Paradise", and "The War of the End of the World". He lives in London.

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