



The Rise And Fall Of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez: An Historical Examination The Later Years 1973-2004 (Latin American Studies)

By H. Micheal Tarver

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This current volume details the later political career of Carlos Andres Perez, focusing on his two presidential administrations and his fall from political power. This work builds upon the early political foundations of Perez which have been detailed in Volume One. During his first administration (1974-79), President Perez introduced Venezuela into the economic and political realities of a new and ever- changing world order, as a result of the revenue generated by the nation's petroleum exports. For his part, Perez sought to modernize Venezuela Is democracy and to bring Venezuela to a level of development which would enable it to compete successfully within the New Economic World Order. Not long after beginning his second term as president (1989-1993), Carlos Andres Perez was faced with economic and social crises. Consequently, in the early days of his administration, events transpired which considerably weakened the political foundation of his government. By late 1992, two coup d'etat attempts had been made against the President, and by Spring 1993 the Supreme Court ruled that there were sufficient grounds for an indictment on charges of corruption. This ruling resulted in the decision by the National Congress to remove President Perez from office so that he could be brought to trial. Following his trial, the Supreme Court sentenced Carlos Andres Perez to 2 years and 4 months of house arrest for the crime of aggravated generic embezzlement.

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Editorial Review

Review

"H. Micheal Tarver's new collection of essays on the career of Carlos Andres Perez are an important addition to the historical literature about Venezuela and especially on the political evolution of this Latin American republic. Indeed, much of the turmoil found recently in Venezuela is an outgrowth of Perez's two presidential terms. These essays convincingly show that while he was a very adept molder of public opinion (at least at the beginning of his presidential term), he was not a very able administrator. Perez consistently promised the Venezuelan people that he was the man to lead the country into a new age of prosperity but he fell short in fulfilling these ambitions in both of his presidential terms. Yet as these essays adeptly show Perez did oversee, particularly in his first term, a restructuring of the Venezuelan economy and attempts to make state bureaucracies (and the associated bureaucrats) more efficient and flexible toward the needs of the Venezuelan people. This skillfully authored volume also notes Perez's actions with regard to the persistent problem of poverty (especially in the countryside) and how he utilized state power to alleviate the situation through government employment (primarily in nationalized industries)... this new volume on Perez is essential reading to understand Venezuela's recent political evolution and adeptly suggests some of the reasons for the turmoil found there. Perez clearly had a remarkable influence on the political culture of Venezuela which will endure for a long time to come. No understanding of contemporary Venezuela consequently can be achieved without reading and contemplating these essays." - John S. Leiby, Ph.D., Paradise Community College "This study is a fascinating work on former President Perez. It is primarily about his second administration covering 1988-1993. They analyze various aspects of his personality and examine and explain how this has impacted his administration... the work is thorough, comprehensive, compact and in depth... This is a very fascinating and objectively written work. It is an excellent addition to literature on Venezuela. It is lucidly written so that both scholars and general readers can gain a comprehensive view of Venezuelan politics. In many ways, Venezuela represents third world countries in general and Latin American countries in particular. To understand current politics and political instability gripping Venezuela under President Chavez, one has to understand the country's past. This work provides that opportunity. The work also provides an excellent chronology, an extensive bibliography for ready reference for further study. In a unique way, the authors combine the approaches of political scientist and historian in the examination of Perez's administration and his personality." - Rathnam Indurthy, Professor of Government, McNeese University"

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