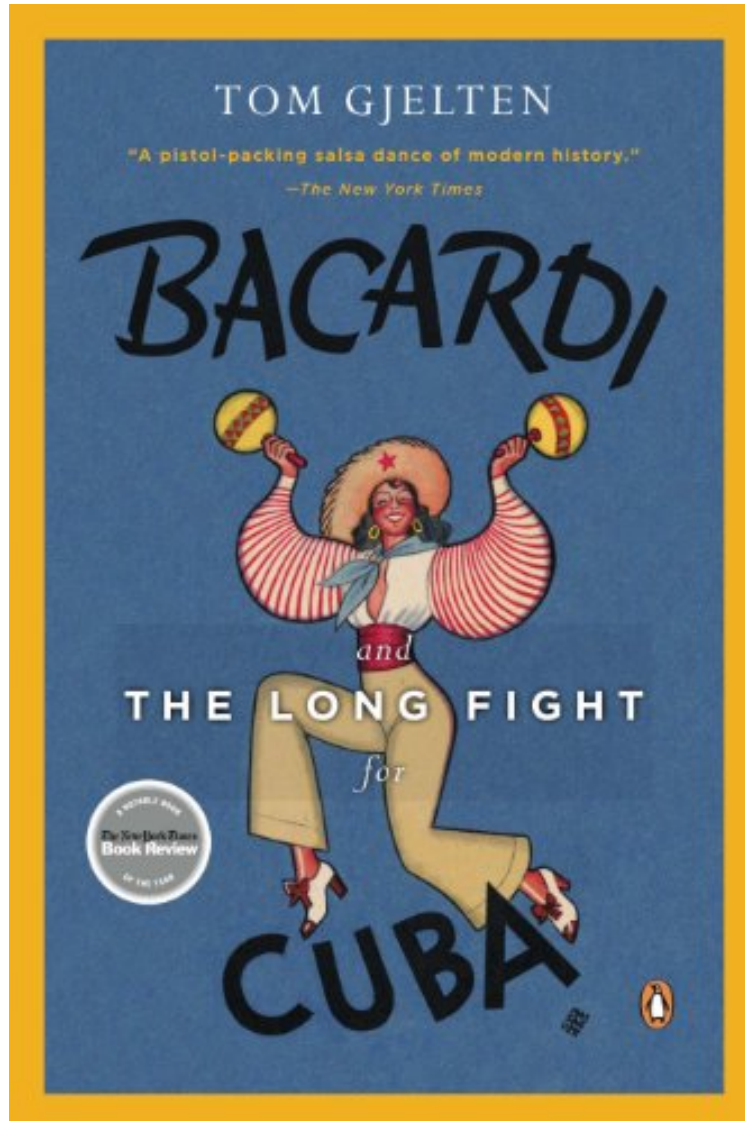


(Download free ebook) Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba: The Biography of a Cause

Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba: The Biography of a Cause

Tom Gjelten

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Tom Gjelten : Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba: The Biography of a Cause before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba: The Biography of a Cause:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... a trip to Cuba and thought it wold be great insight into its history and cultureBy CustomerI bought this book because I was planning a trip to Cuba and thought it wold be great insight into its history and culture. I wasn't disappointed. It is great historical account of not only the Bacardi family but also how the Rum industry has deep roots in Cuban culture and economy. The writing is excellent and its a joy to read. The

struggle of the Cubans through the eyes of this one family to attain independence from Spain, then United States and now Castro regime reads like a historic novel with insights into its characters on a personal basis. I was surprised to find so many upper class Cubans who were in favor of the Revolution and Castro - only to be duped ultimately betrayed by their mercurial and megalomaniac leader. I recommend reading this in conjunction with Havana; A Subtropical Delirium by Mark Kurlansky. Which gives you good insights into the depth's of Cuba's slave trade on their culture. I just returned from my trip to Cuba and felt incredibly connected historically and culturally with the Cuban people. If your planning to travel there - it will enhance your trip (and want to make you drink great Cuban rum, which I did in abundance!!).2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Complete but TMI, too much information.By Kindle QueenVery complete history of the Bacardi empire as it intertwines with the history of Cuba. It is by turns fascinating, but often slows down because of so many names and details. I would say this book is definitive, just not always easily readable. It is a bit of a chore to finish the book. Gjelten is to be commended for his exhaustive research. He definitely sheds light on the conditions that made it possible for Fidel Castro to maintain his stranglehold on the island for so long. I would recommend it to those who have a fascination with Cuban history. Otherwise, it's slow-going.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The business people I was meeting on my trip expressed concerns about the current events in Cuba and I wanted to update my knowlBy CaretakerI bought this book on a whim while vacationing in Puerto Rico. The business people I was meeting on my trip expressed concerns about the current events in Cuba and I wanted to update my knowledge of Cuba's history but wanted something that I could also enjoy. This was the perfect book for that purpose.Tom Gjelten weaves the story of the Bacardi family through Cuba's history in a captivating manner. I found there was very good balance between telling the stories of the development of the Bacardi family business and the historical facts relating to Cuba's own development. This must have been a very difficult task, the founding members certainly could have had their own biographies written in a full length book. I finished this book wishing to see the notes Mr. Gjelten took but didn't publish and wishing to know more about certain personalities. It is clear the task of editing for the book was probably as monumental as it was to write it.In discussing the family business and its development over the generations, Mr. Gjelten is consistent in his perspective illustrating the goals and the focus of those managing the business. This model creates a broad understanding of how the company achieved their successes and some failures. I found this to be very interesting, especially in comparison to what was happening to the Cuban government over the years.I recommend this book, it is interesting, well written and informative . . . you may also learn how to make a few new cocktails!

In this widely hailed book, NPR correspondent Tom Gjelten fuses the story of the Bacardi family and their famous rum business with Cuba's tumultuous experience over the last 150 years to produce a deeply entertaining historical narrative. The company Facundo Bacardi launched in Cuba in 1862 brought worldwide fame to the island, and in the decades that followed his Bacardi descendants participated in every aspect of Cuban life. With his intimate account of their struggles and adventures across five generations, Gjelten brings to life the larger story of Cuba's fight for freedom, its tortured relationship with America, the rise of Fidel Castro, and the violent division of the Cuban nation.