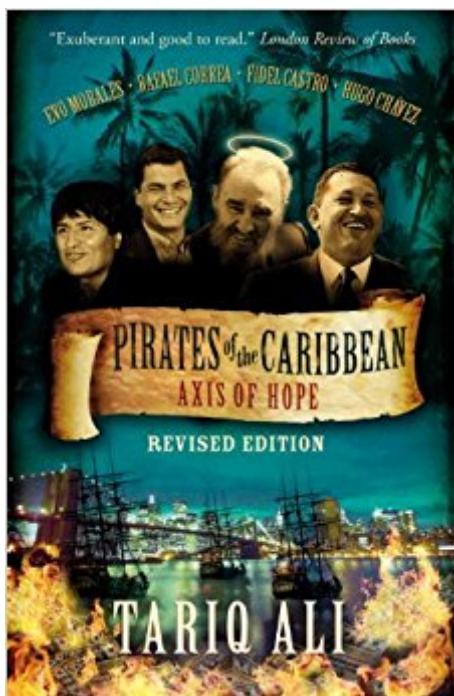


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# Pirates Of The Caribbean: Axis Of Hope



## Synopsis

The Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela has brought Hugo Chávez to world attention as the foremost challenger of the neoliberal consensus and American foreign policy. Drawing on first-hand experience of Venezuela and meetings with Chávez, Tariq Ali shows how Chávez's views have polarized Latin America and examines the hostility directed against his administration. Contrasting the Cuban and Venezuelan revolutionary processes, Ali discusses the enormous influence of Fidel Castro on Chávez, President of Bolivia Evo Morales and, in this fully updated edition, the newly elected President of Ecuador Rafael Correa, the latest addition to the "Axis of Hope." Infused with references to the culture and poetry of South America, *Pirates of the Caribbean* guides us through a world divided between privilege and poverty, a continent that is once again on the march.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Tariq Ali, the Johnny Depp of international comment, sails out in this little barque ... to assault the top-heavy galleon Washington Consensus, as she labours leaking through the South Seas and the Spanish Main ..." Spectator "Exuberant and good to read." London Review of Books

Tariq Ali is a writer and filmmaker. He has written more than a dozen books on world history and politics—including *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Bush in Babylon*, *The Clash of Fundamentalisms* and *The Obama Syndrome*—as well as five novels in his *Islam Quintet* series and scripts for

the stage and screen. He is an editor of the New Left Review and lives in London.

In this book you will find the truth about some government leaders in South America. Inside you can find that some leaders that are portrayed as monsters are great people who are working for the good of their countries. The right-wing emperors, supported by the corrupted Global Media and some dull allies, create the distortion of these governments with their lies, their manipulations and their lack of humanity. Here you will find the truth about Chavez, Morales, Castro and Correa. The tremendous power of the US to bring down these democratic elected presidents is out of its mind. Capitalism is destroying the world, our only hope is to turn and see these leaders, follow their examples, and create a better and possible world. US citizens must read this book, also Latin Americans, the empire and their allies are brainwashing us to become part of this terrible New World Order.

Our media casts these modern day leaders as villains, against everything good and American. Maybe they don't want to be Americans, at least Americans from the United States. It seems like our foreign policy hasn't been working so well down there and the people haven't been complaining so much. Except for the CIA inspired riots and rebellions that took place in Venezuela by those who are against Hugo Chavez (God rest his soul), for instance, the average Venezuelan was happy that he decided to look out for his people rather than the best interests of our corporate higher ups who are there to use and take what they think belongs to them. Whether you agree or disagree with these four leaders, what's good for citizens of the United States may not always be good for the people of Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil and Venezuela.

This book is great if you want the facts and truth from the actors in the show. Instead from fox news or people trying to horn swaggle the reader or viewer. Freedom isn't just for Americans or western civilisation. Tariq Ali lets us see inside the revolution from first person view. This book tells and shows how America influences and their proxies, fellow capitalist pigs and lackeys will do anything. After reading this book you should get the feeling that America isn't the only country that is home to the brave, and that every country like America will fight to remain the land of the free. Other countries have aspirations too. Don't be an obstacle.

Lemme tell you right off the bat that this book has nothing to do with those Johnny Depp movies or the Disneyland ride. If that's what you're looking for, you're totally in the wrong place. The next thing you need to know is that the author, Tariq Ali, is a leftie. So leftie, in fact, that he was purportedly the

inspiration for the Rolling Stones' "Street Fighting Man" because of his man-the-barricades philosophy during the 60's! Since then, though, his worldview has mellowed slightly. What I like about the author is how literate and well-educated he is. Of Pakistani descent, he frequently writes about the Middle East and the Subcontinent from a progressive angle: he is one of the editors at the "New Left Review." But he's not so left that he's unbalanced or unreadable. This particular book is a look at the extent and the causes of the popular leftist revolutions that we have seen in Latin America in the last ten years or so, especially the doings of Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales, the pro-coca, pro-nationalization, pro-indigenous rights, anti-U.S. president of Bolivia. Castro, meanwhile, lurks in the background throughout. Ali obviously approves of these developments, but not in a fawning way, I think. The book is more of a report on what's been happening rather than a tendentious call-to-arms. Nevertheless, statements bordering on the pro-Marxist are common, such as these: "What Castro, Chavez, and Morales have understood is that strength lies in unity . . . . Evo Morales . . . . won the argument and the Presidency but the elite . . . does not yet feel demoralized and crushed. . . . It is vital that the elites are skilfully detached from their base by a set of inclusive measures that benefit the bulk of the population." (p. 96) As for the fact that the neo-liberal ideas of the Chicago School ultimately lifted Chile's standard of living to the point where, as of my writing, it is now, per capita, the highest in Latin America, the author dismisses that by pointing out that that was only possible because all the troublesome people who knew better had been liquidated: i.e., Friedman's reforms were "easy" because of Pinochet's "bloody political cleansing." (p. 33) Statements like this seem contradictory: could these "disappeared people," these Allende supporters, really have known better if it turns out that their opponents, the "Chicago Boys" were the ones with the plan that ultimately did reduce crime, corruption, and inflation, and raise standards in health care, education, and government, and restore democracy? Presumably, Ali would respond to this that those who were crushed by the Dirty War were morally superior full stop, even if they were wrong in practical terms. But this is to venture into territory where the author doesn't really enter. In short, this book is a serviceable but not mind-blowing treatment of the subject. Something else you should know: the book is divided into two parts. The first part is Ali's summary of what's been happening vis-ÀfÂ -vis socialism in Latin America. The second half of the book are appendices related to this, such as the full text of Hugo's speech at the UN in 2005, and various letters and essays on the subject. By the way, it's an independent publisher, and I found the binding to be rather wonky. In fact, it fell apart before I was halfway through and I had to have it rebound.

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