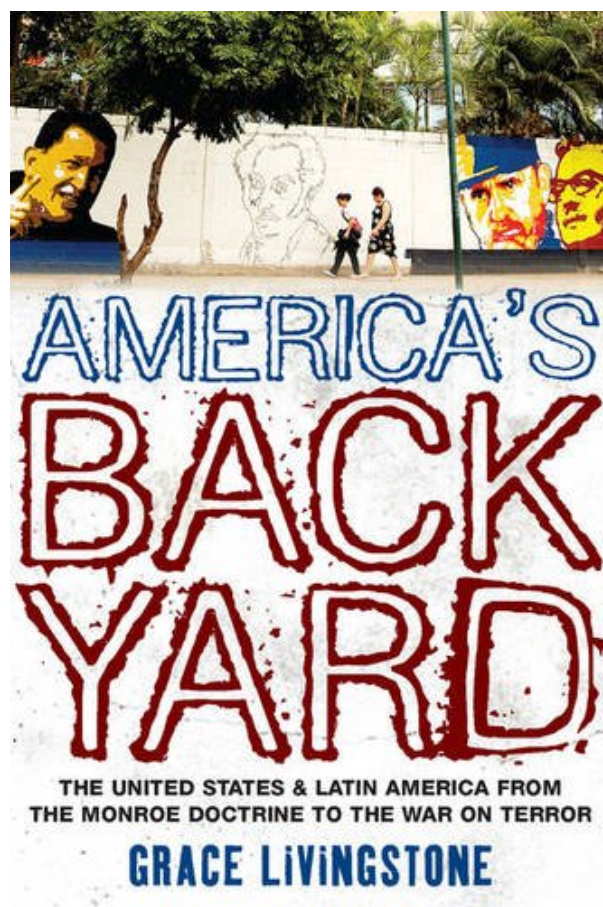
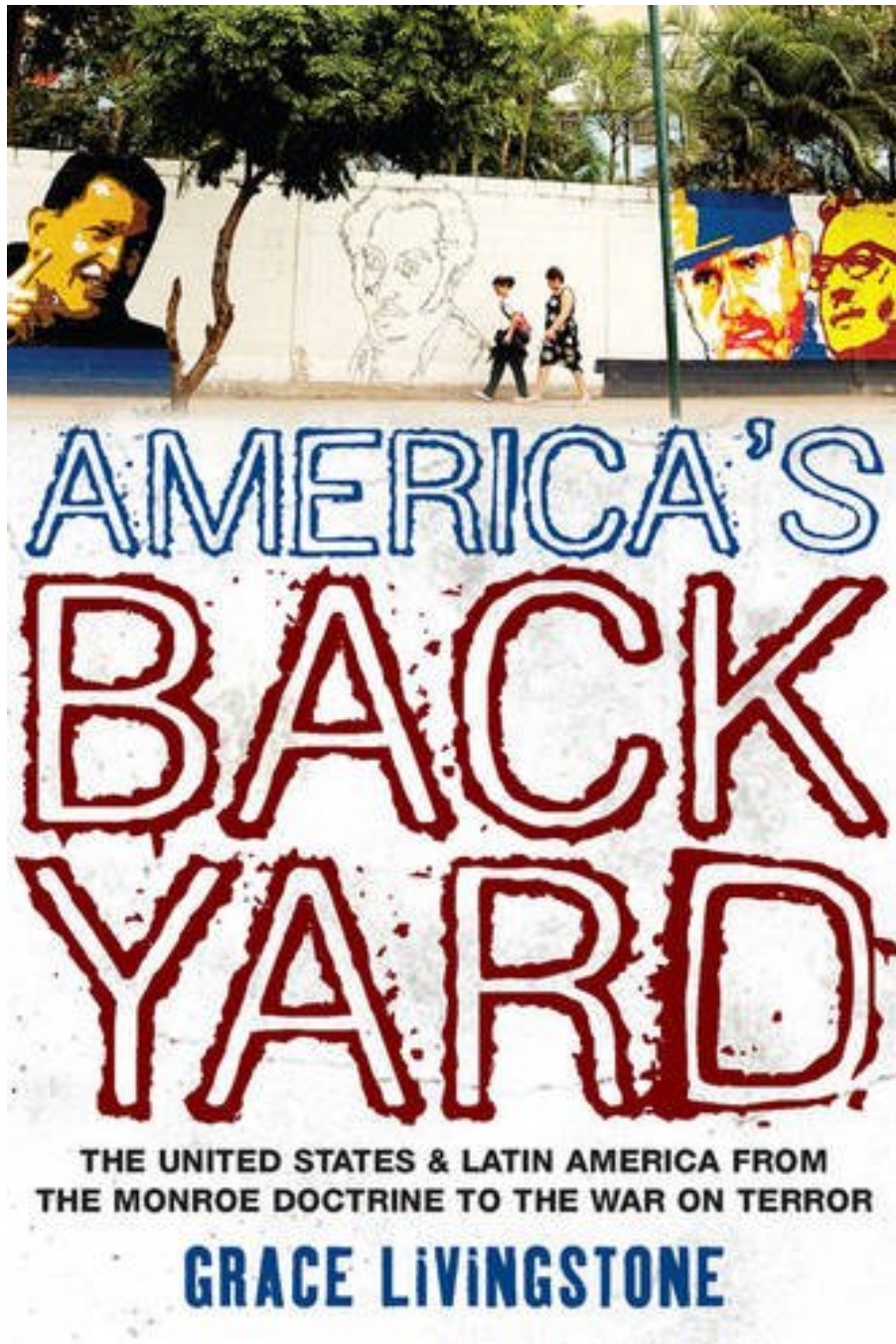


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Review

'Packed with telling information and written with both verve and attention to detail, this book addresses the key issues in a perennially uneven and generally unjust relationship. Readers coming to the theme for the first time will benefit from a lucid synthesis of the voluminous literature in the field, whilst those more familiar with Pan-American affairs will find much useful material and discussion on developments in recent years.' James Dunkerley, University of London 'A useful and timely account of US strategy towards Latin America over the past half century, revealing its intrinsic weaknesses and the profound ignorance and prejudice of US policymakers. Grace Livingstone's book covers wide ground in an original and compelling narrative.' Richard Gott, author of *Cuba: A New History*. 'The US in Latin America - good neighbour or big bad wolf? Grace Livingstone sets aside the pious euphemisms of a past age and shows it has been much more the latter than the former. She also shows how US hegemony is draining away as the republics start forging their own destiny at last.' Hugh O'Shaughnessy, author of *Pinochet: The Politics of Torture*

About the Author

Grace Livingstone is a journalist specializing in Latin American affairs.

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The United States has shaped Latin American history, condemning it to poverty and inequality by intervening to protect the rich and powerful. America's Backyard tells the story of that intervention.

Using newly declassified documents, Grace Livingstone reveals the US role in the darkest periods of Latin American history, including Pinochet's coup in Chile, the Contra War in Nicaragua and the death squads in El Salvador. She shows how George W Bush's administration used the War on Terror as a new pretext for intervention; how it tried to destabilise leftwing governments and push back the 'pink tide' washing across the Americas. America's Backyard also includes chapters on drugs, economy and culture. It explains why US drug policy has caused widespread environmental damage yet failed to reduce the supply of cocaine, and it looks at the US economic stake in Latin America and the strategies of the big corporations.

Today Latin Americans are demanding respect and an end to the Washington Consensus. Will the White House listen?

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About the Author

Grace Livingstone is a journalist specializing in Latin American affairs.

Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent account of historical processes

By Sergio Villalobos

On the contrary to the person who blamed the biased narrative of the book, I consider it to be helpfull in so far as this is a coherent narrative regarding the geo-political re-articulation of the classical American Exceptionalism in the post-Cold-War period. It is true that sometimes the book is schematic and resembles Galeano's famous anti-imperialist book, *Las venas abiertas de América Latina*, but it is due to the very historical nature of the American foreign policy in the region. Moreover, the book is important for its attempt to deal with the very condition of political power and hegemony (rather than the too abstract notion of Empire or imperialism) in the context opened up by the September 11 attacks and followed, as well as confirmed, by Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo.

0 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Biased

By Jeffrey Bussmann

The author is highly biased against the USA and, at times, comes off as very smug. This is really a piece of polemic, not any kind of serious historical or journalistic writing. It cannot be recommended to anyone doing actual research on the matter of US/Latin American policy research.

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