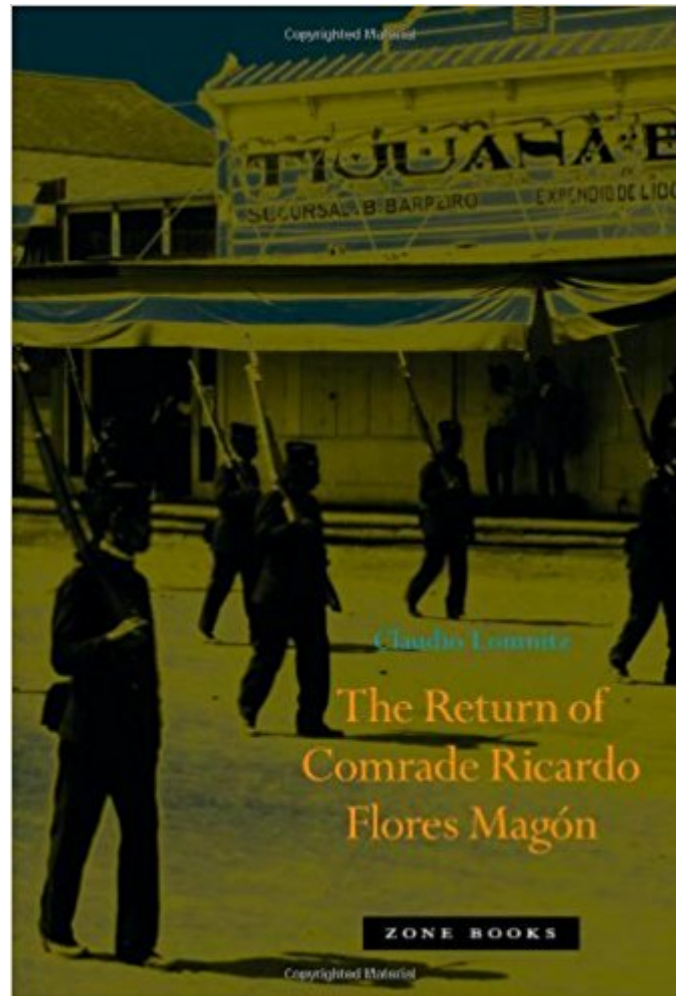




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The Return Of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón



Synopsis

In this long-awaited book, Claudio Lomnitz tells a groundbreaking story about the experiences and ideology of American and Mexican revolutionary collaborators of the Mexican anarchist Ricardo Flores Magón. Drawing on extensive research in Mexico and the United States, Lomnitz explores the rich, complicated, and virtually unknown lives of Flores Magón and his comrades devoted to the "Mexican Cause." This anthropological history of anarchy, cooperation, and betrayal seeks to capture the experience of dedicated militants who themselves struggled to understand their role and place at the margins of the Mexican Revolution. For them, the revolution was untranslatable, a pure but deaf subversion: *La revolución es la revolución* -- "The Revolution is the Revolution." For Lomnitz, the experiences of Flores Magón and his comrades reveal the meaning of this phrase. *The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón* tracks the lives of John Kenneth Turner, Ethel Duffy, Elizabeth Trowbridge, Ricardo Flores Magón, Lázaro Gutiérrez de Lara, and others, to illuminate the reciprocal relationship between personal and collective ideology and action. It is an epic and tragic tale, never before told, about camaraderie and disillusionment in the first transnational grassroots political movement to span the U.S.-Mexican border. *The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón* will change not only how we think about the Mexican Revolution but also how we understand revolutionary action and passion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Historians know so very little about how revolutionaries act and think, especially those who lost.

Lomnitz does us a great service by illuminating the psychologies and everyday lives of a small, and for a brief period effective, band of intellectuals; one, perhaps small, example of what it was like to live in times of profound upheaval. (American Historical Review) *The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón* needs to be read and enjoyed. Its story is exciting and its execution is exhilarating: as history, as psychological analysis and sociology, and as a historian's personal commitment. (Jorge Aguilar Mora, author of *Una muerte sencilla, justa, eterna. Cultura y guerra durante la Revolución Mexicana*) Lomnitz's magnificent story of the Mexican Revolution -- told in a Deleuzian 'minor' key around the borderland revolutionary figure of Ricardo Flores Magón and the circles he moved through -- is at once a brilliant reconstruction of this particular piece of twentieth-century transnational history and a poetic interrogation of the pathos inherent in the very conception and practice of revolutionary politics. An outstanding and memorable achievement. (Dipesh Chakrabarty, author of *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*) Lomnitz unearths completely unknown archival sources and offers a fresh look at late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century Mexican history. *The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón* challenges conical histories of the Mexican Revolution by offering a new, transnational and comparative model to comprehend the origins of twenty-first Mexico." (Rubén Gallo, author of *Freud's Mexico: Into the Wilds of Psychoanalysis*) *The Return of Comrade Ricardo Flores Magón* is a magisterial work, at once epic yet intimate; erudite yet lyrical; dispassionate yet deeply personal. In revisiting the seemingly minor story of Magón and his transnational revolutionary network, Lomnitz offers a profound meditation on the very nature of revolution itself, and on its role in modern history making. His deft probing of the tensions that spur this story -- between ideology and accommodation, exile and return, personalismo that is strikingly relevant to our own time: one that rejects predatory nationalism in favor of collectivism, mutual aid, welfare, enjoyment. (Jean Comaroff, author of *Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance: The Culture and History of a South African People*)

Claudio Lomnitz is Campbell Family Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. He is the author of *Death and the Idea of Mexico* (Zone Books); *Deep Mexico, Silent Mexico: An Anthropology of Nationalism*; and *Exits from the Labyrinth: Culture and Ideology in the Mexican Space*.

Claudio Lomnitz main achievement here is not the type of style that he employed for this so personal and eloquent book, but the fact that he managed to publish it in English in a major

academic publisher. Avoiding the dry and para-scientific language of American political theory this book deals with history, anthropology and the sociology of a revolution while at the same time works as personal reflection, as a novel, and as a very subjective essay on revolution. He dwells here also with an embarrassing subject for many Latin American Intellectuals, which is the role of culture in relation with the final outcome of revolutionary processes. Without excusing or demonizing the powerful Lomnitz courageously deals with a tragic truth: after a couple of centuries of popular revolt, Latin America is still a continent without real and effective democratic institutions and far away from achieving what, in our own criteria, is the basics of a system of social justice. As very well this account, which reads as a novella, shows is that this is not because we never had men and women, either nationals or foreign, who were capable, well intentioned and willing to sacrifice to achieve a decent democracy. We had then in excess (Flores Magon and his entourage as an example) but for reasons that the book exposes, Caudillos and not comrades had always the upper hand in those battles. This is an inspirational book for me and a model for my current and future research in intellectual biography.

Very interesting read, detailed account and analysis of periods, personalities, politics and politricks surrounding the powerful Mexican Revolution. The newspaper Regeneracion, Ricardo Flores Magon, the PLM and its team are an important part of Southwest (Aztlán) and Mexican history. "The truth is not to be feared; what is to be feared is the lie."

Claudio Lomitz is a very well documented writer. With great insight, Mr. Lomitz tells us about the experience of Mexican and American collaborators during the Mexican Revolution. He explores the life of Ricardo Flores Magon as no one did before.

What was neat about this book is that the reader is able to really get to know the different people that played a role in the Flores Magon movement. Not only were these people just introduced into the book, but an introduction to their ancestors were also introduced, getting an in depth understanding of each one of them. Left me wanting more.

It's important the honest rescue of womens and mens architects of social history not only in my country (Mexico), but in the USA.....This history show me that collective memory is common for both countries in many ways...

I am a student of the Mexican revolution and, in all histories I have read, the Magón brothers figure significantly, but these histories go no further with the brothers. This book is a good explication of their times and trials.

Well-researched, and probably the best book available about Ricardo Flores Magon.

Engaging and insightful

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