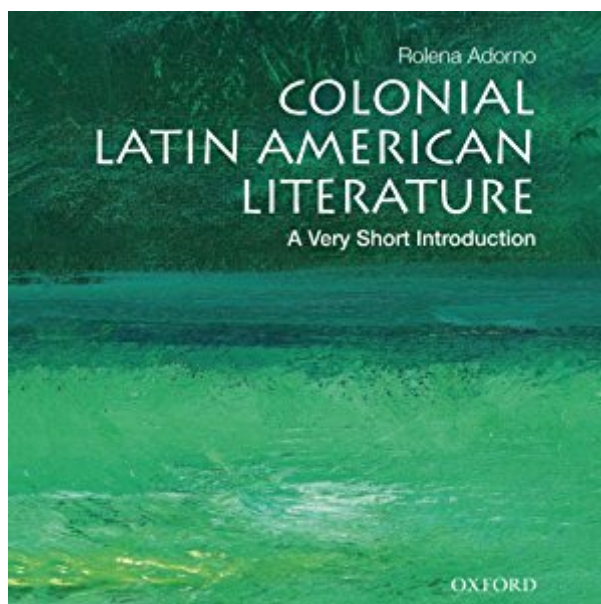


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Colonial Latin American Literature: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

A vivid account of the literary culture of the Spanish-speaking Americas from the time of Columbus to Latin American Independence, this Very Short Introduction explores the origins of Latin American literature in Spanish and tells the story of how Spanish literary language developed and flourished in the New World. A leading scholar of colonial Latin American literature, Rolena Adorno examines the writings that debated the justice of the Spanish conquests, described the novelties of New World nature, expressed the creativity of Hispanic baroque culture in epic, lyric, and satirical poetry, and anticipated Latin American Independence. The works of Spanish, creole, and Amerindian authors highlighted here, including Bartolomé de las Casas, Felipe Guaman Poma, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, and Andrés Bello, have been chosen for the merits of their writings, their participation in the larger literary and cultural debates of their times, and their resonance among readers today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I generally enjoy Oxford's Very Short Introduction series for various literatures, and have finished the volumes on French, English, Spanish, Italian literatures besides this one on Colonial Latin American literature. Compared with other volumes, this one is less thematic, and organized more neatly according to authors and works. It also defines literature more broadly than the other series, including many works that I would classify as history works such as those by Oviedo, Las Casas, Sahagun, Jose de Acosta, etc. (which I am interested in and enjoy reading about). The reason I

didn't give this a 5-star is because of two major gaps I see in the coverage:1) It includes works written in Spanish, some Latin and occasional French work, but it has no mention of any Portuguese-language works.2) In terms of real "literature" works discussed, it jumped from the Latin American Baroque towards the period of late 18th / early 19th century around the cusp of independence movements - thus something like a 100-year gap exists in the account. Given it is a short pocket-book, I am ok with omissions as long as the general gist as to why they are dropped from the account are mentioned. Unfortunately, this book just leave these glaring gaps without any acknowledgement.

Wonderful, concise, yet comparative overview of the subject. I used it in a university undergraduate course and will order it again.

This little book is so well written, and so helpful! I will look for other titles in this series! Charmed.

It covers the most important topics in Colonial, Latin American Literature. The paragraph division seems to be a bit arbitrary or done in a rush at certain points. Each chapter might have been organized in a better way.

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