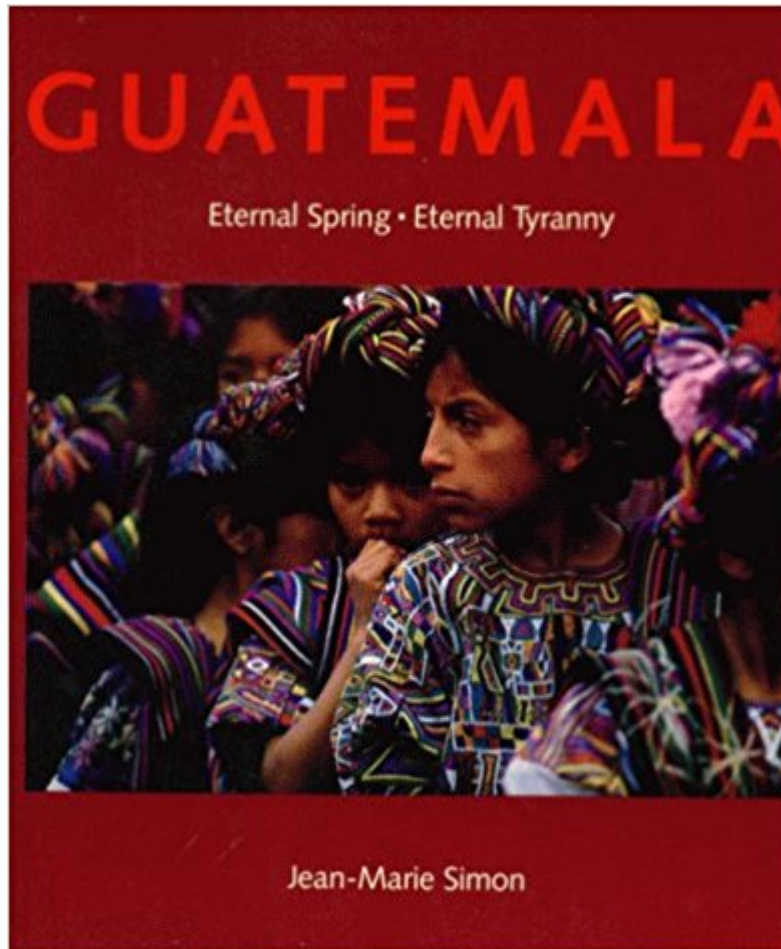




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# Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny



## Synopsis

"Well written, well photographed, well laid out and beautifully printed. It could be considered a landmark example of modern journalism in which eyewitness writing and photographic talent combine with meticulous research to produce a book of contemporary history." —â€œCornell Capa, New York Times Book Review

For twenty years government repression in Guatemala has been the most insidious and the least acknowledged in the western hemisphere. Virtually every Guatemalan has lost friends, relatives, or colleagues. There have been some 100,000 killings and 40,000 "disappearances." Still, Guatemala remains anonymous, overlooked by much of the press, and its troubles denied outright by the United States government. For the past six years, Jean-Marie Simon has been photographing people and reporting events from this hauntingly beautiful and remote land. Her text and pictures tell the story of a people imprisoned, particularly the Mayan Indians, whose lives have been so torn apart by political strife. This is a beautiful book; yet at the same time it is incredibly disturbing in its portrayal of a civilization violated by the army, police, and paramilitary government forces.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This unusual work presents striking photographs and an almost poetic text on Guatemala, where a large percentage of Central American human rights abuses have been committed. Using quotations from victims, relatives, witnesses, and others, the author, a photographer and consultant to Americas Watch, details the "disappearances" and torture, the hypocrisy and collusion of Guatemalan government officials, and the insensitivity of U.S. officials. The sickening

consequences of torture are well documented, but this timely work offers no solutions, and those implied are somewhat naive. Nevertheless, recommended. Roderic A. Camp, Central Coll., Pella, Iowa  
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“Guatemala is proof, in a powerful text and photographs of immense force, that Guatemalan governments over the past years have been waging savage war—genocide is no exaggeration—upon the Guatemalan people. That under the Reagan administration especially, that State Department has sought to mitigate and justify this savagery is a horror for an American citizen to contemplate. I pray this book will awaken the American conscience.” - Arthur Miller

I ordered this book, and it said it was in good condition, but gently used. Actually, when I got it, I thought it hadn't even been used, it was in such great shape! Only a few pen marks and dog-eared pages, which were carefully repressed down, were visible. I have been looking for this book for a long time, and can't believe I got one! It has been out of print for quite awhile! THANKS!! Would highly recommend this seller! It arrived quickly with my other book I ordered.

most photojournalism can be sterile at times when presented in mass, however with the dramatic backdrop of Guatemala and it's people this book is one of the best and honest around.

.... as with many people, I completely fell in love with Guatemala and especially it's people from the very first time I went to this wonderful country a couple of years ago. Having taken Spanish lessons and traveling solo around the country and especially the western highlands for several times, I remembered the name Rigoberta Menchu and started by reading her biography. I vaguely knew there was a civil war in the 80s (I was a teenager back then) , but here in Europe they talked even less about the atrocities that happened there than in the neighbouring US ( I remember they always talked about Nicaragua and El Salvador, but hardly anything about Guatemala) . So I came upon this book and was absolutely horrified by the violence against innocent women and children. Those are things and images you need to know though if you truly love Guatemalans and want to learn about their past, because it also explains the present problems they face. The photos in this book are at the same time beautiful and horrible and you can learn a lot about what was going on back then. During my recent trip to Guatemala I bought a documentary film by the finnish filmmaker

Mikael Walfors from 1982/83. When I bought it, I didn't read the back and didn't realize he was actually accompanying JM Simon and A. Narin, the authors of this book, on their journey through Guatemala. Having watched that documentary I can tell you that JM Simon has put her life on the line more than once in order to take these photos. And I wish there would have been many more courageous journalists like her back then, cause then maybe the world would have listened and done something to help those innocent Mayas who were tortured and slaughtered by the thousands. In this documentary film they also interviewed a military general in Nebaj called.... Otto Perez Molina. I thought this can't be, must be a coincidence he has the same name... How can the current president be the same person that as a commander in the Ixil region was responsible for the violent deaths of women and children? I visited Nebaj, Chajul and Cotzal for the first time on my recent trip and it is one of THE most beautiful places in all of Guatemala. Looking at the pictures in this beautiful book you see how little has changed though it's been over 20 years. Just two days after I visited Nebaj there was a report in the newspapers that they had found another grave on an old military site with 29 corpses in it... You think how on earth could anyone even consider killing innocent women and children and in such horrible ways you can't even imagine. These people are so kind, friendly, warmhearted, welcoming and open and it breaks your heart to think what they must have been through in those years. If anyone knows where I can buy or order a copy of the new edition of this book, please let me know. Needless to say that if you can manage to get your hands even on a used copy of this book, you should definitely buy it !!!

It is a rare instance to use a book as a base for creating such a moving experience. This book presents in raw, guttural and palpable images the cruel reality that has affected so many so close to us. Guatemala is still a dichotomy of social classes, of race, religion, power. The eternal tyranny has not yet devoured the precious landscapes nor its people... as long as people who produce books like this give a voice to the victims and put an image of injustice, oppression, abuse, to teach us that when a people suffer, we all suffer with them. Guatemala, so beautiful, is not yet healed from this wound. I cannot feel but worry for all those who continue struggling for survival, identity, and a life free of oppression. This book is but the tip of the iceberg... I have done many interviews (informal conversations) with former Kaibil and G-2 officials (brutes, killing machines) who have applied for political asylum here in the US, who surprisingly are living a pretty much normal life. They have retold (not acknowledging any guilt, of course) killings of innocents which took place time and time again... The pictures bring out the bloodshed so the people who died are not forgotten. The book will give you just enough. You will be amazed to find out how this book was realized. Please don't just

look at it, share it with those who need to be touched with human suffering and people like you and I who want to make a difference...

One has to understand the purpose of this amnesty international book. The sole intent is to demonstrate the deplorable human rights situation in Guatemala. There is no intent to present a balanced picture. Basically it is a summarization of Guatemala in the 1980s a terrible decade for that country. No punches are pulled here, just page after page of horror upon horror all presented in vivid color. The photography is wonderful and I can't think of many books about Guatemala with better photos. They capture the beauty of the land and people and the blatant tragedy at hand. This book isn't for the squeamish. I first read it as I was preparing to travel there to study Spanish. This book scared me to death but more than that it outraged me and I think that was the purpose. Secondly it does educate at a basic level what has been going on in Guatemala. A good primer about the human rights atrocities in Guatemala.....socks

I ran across a used copy of this book before my first trip to Guatemala, and it radicalized me, preparing me for the devastating effects of the country's 35-year-long civil war. While the war is officially over, this book still has relevance to the plight Guatemala's indigenous population -- 90% of its people. It is remarkable that the author -- a woman, a photographer, a human rights activist, and a foreigner -- was able to get as close to her subjects as she did. This extremely moving photo-and-text essay is not for the faint of heart, but if you want a taste of what present-day Guatemalans have lived through, this book delivers it.

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