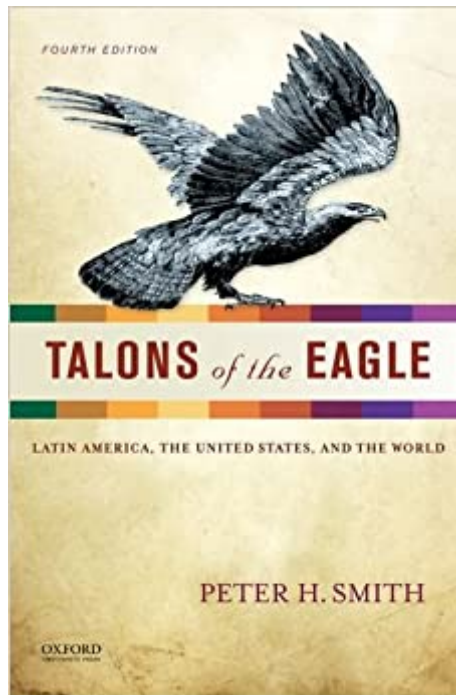




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Talons Of The Eagle: Latin America, The United States, And The World



Synopsis

Topical and up to date, *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States, and the World*, Fourth Edition, presents an eminent scholar's perspective on the interaction between global trends and inter-American affairs--a subject that has become crucially important in the current era. Rather than concentrating solely on U.S. policy, Peter H. Smith uniquely addresses the structural relationships between the two regions by focusing on international systems, the distribution of power, and the perception and pursuit of national interests. Throughout, this provocative text casts light on such contemporary issues as economic integration, drug trafficking, undocumented migration, and the rise of Latin America's "new left." It also analyzes Latin American reactions and responses to the U.S.--and to the rest of the world--in these complex and troubling times.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Historian by training, political scientist by self-education, prolific and wide-ranging writer by inclination, Peter Smith has given us, once again, a must-read volume that merits a prominent place in our libraries and our syllabi."--David Scott Palmer, Boston University
"An excellent introduction to U.S.-Latin American relations and a good read. Peter H. Smith does a good job drawing on scholarship from international relations, history, and political science to craft his narrative."--Mary Rose Kubal, St. Bonaventure University
"Well written and engaging to read."--Victoria Castillo, The College of William and Mary

Peter H. Smith is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Simón Bolívar Professor of Latin American Studies at the University of California, San Diego. A former president of the Latin American Studies Association, he is the author of more than twenty books, including *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, Second Edition (2011) and coauthor of *Modern Latin America*, Seventh Edition (2019).

This was required reading for a graduate course. It is important to gain a different perspective on US foreign policy and inter-American relations, and this book provides that perspective but unfortunately with writing that is sarcastic, inflammatory and biased. Smith aggressively seeks to demonize the United States, while portraying Latin American leaders as saint-like. Moreover, Peter Smith is obviously a knowledgeable Latin Americanist and makes some excellent points, but he is missing a robust counter argument in his book. I would take his arguments more seriously if he would a.) acknowledge the agency and will (or lack thereof) of Latin Americans to improve their own situation, rather than to blame every unfortunate even on American foreign and domestic policy and b.) acknowledge that the United States is not at fault every time it seeks to preserve hemispheric interests (one of which is stability in its own backyard) rather than be a doormat to Latin American whims. The book paints a picture of a hapless, well intentioned Latin America and a sinister predatory United States. I am especially disappointed by Smith's handling of the immigration and war on drugs chapters which read like a rushed, sensational opinion piece that blames all of Latin America's woes on US domestic policy effects. Also, there are hardly any citations and the index is poorly constructed. All in all, the book is useful for getting an anti-US perspective, but loses some credibility due to its sarcastic language, obvious bias, and lack of counterargument.

A great book as it is informative and educational in it aims to discuss all important topics.

It's fine for me. Thank you.

first 40pages came detached from the book

Book was obtained for a course, read it entirely contained, in whole relationships with the newly acquired government spokesmen regarding Latin America and issues with their own sovereignty.

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