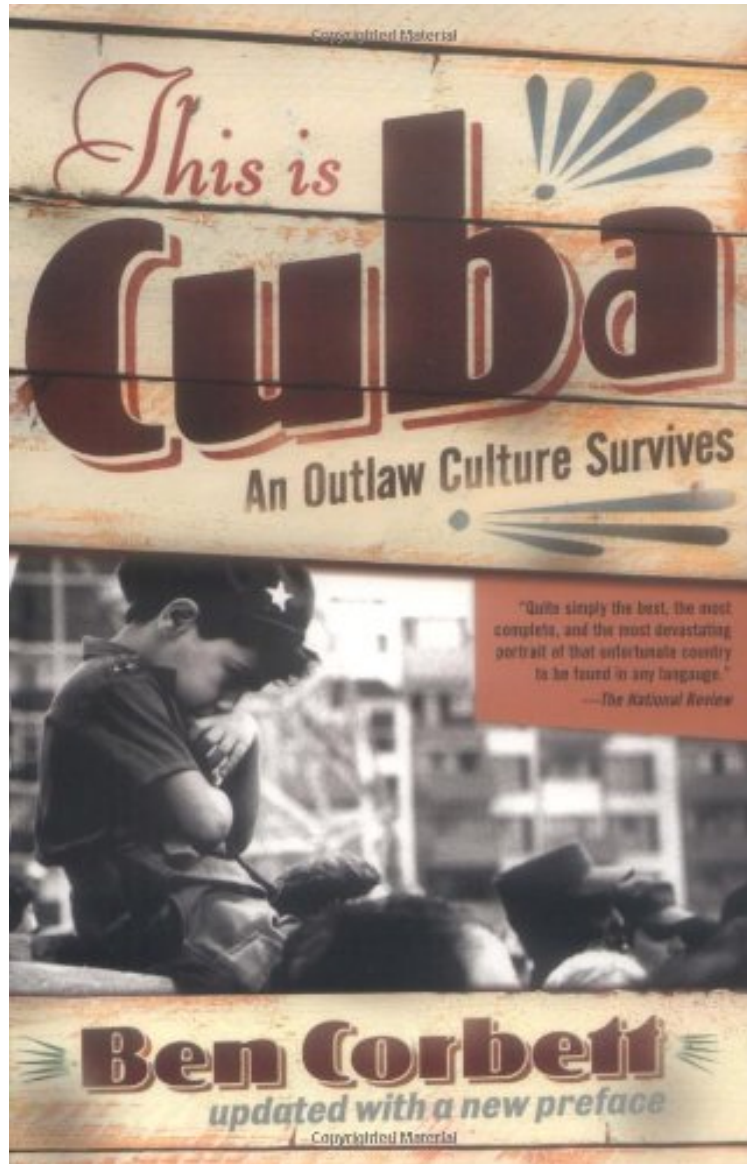


(Download) This Is Cuba: An Outlaw Culture Survives

## This Is Cuba: An Outlaw Culture Survives

*Ben Corbett*

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**Ben Corbett : This Is Cuba: An Outlaw Culture Survives** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Is Cuba: An Outlaw Culture Survives:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent and informative read on a human level.By Jose OrtegaI read this book in late 2015, and actually went to Cuba in June 2016.I'm fluent in Spanish, so I noticed a few Spanish typos, but it wasn't a major issue.The book is written with a distinct human theme, as opposed to reference or vacation material. I enjoyed this book so much the first time I read it, I re-read it occasionally.The amazing thing about Cuba is

that, physically, it's essentially un-changed since 1960. So although the book printed in 2006, it's still very relevant as of this review post. If you first buy this book, and you're fortunate enough to visit Cuba, take this book with you. You'll be glad you did both. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read this book before you travel to Cuba! By Miwon Choe Although this book has been published a while ago, most of what you read still rings true. I read the book on my first trip to Cuba in the early 2000s when my colleague loaned it to me, and couldn't put it down. I experienced most of what have been illustrated in this book, directly and indirectly through the stories of Cubans I met there. Cuba is almost a moving target and things are changing constantly, but regardless of some of the critics about the concept of "outlaw culture" featured in this book, Cubans survive with all the tools and resources they can muster. I have yet to see the loose Cuban children on the street without any adult or parent accompanying them to and from schools. I wish the best for the Cuban people and I hope they never lose their dignity and a sense of self-respect even in the face of economic difficulties they may encounter. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Now What? By Becky Oswald Heading for Cuba in 2 months. What an exciting time. Castro died yesterday, so who can say what it will be like. This book gives an excellent overview of history to this point. This oldish book is still relevant and best I have read in my preparations. Viva la Cuba!

Beyond the throngs of tourists streaming through Central Havana's broad Prado Avenue, and outside the yoke of Castro's 43-year-old Revolutionary program, there exists a parallel Cuba - a separate evolution of a people struggling to survive. With personal stories that depict a people torn between following the directives of their government and finding a way to better their lot, journalist Ben Corbett gives us the daily life of many considered outlaws by Castro's regime. But are they outlaws or rather ingenious survivors of what many Cubans consider to be a forty-year mistake, a tangle of contradictions that has resulted in a strange hybrid of American-style capitalism and a homegrown black market economy. At a time when Cuba walks precariously on the ledge between socialism and capitalism, *This Is Cuba* gets to the heart of this so-called outlaw culture, taking readers into the living rooms, rooftops, parks, and city streets to hear stories of frustration, hope, and survival. Updated with a new preface.

From Library Journal With its provocative subtitle, freelance journalist Corbett's new book on Cuba certainly is not sponsored by the Cuban department of tourism. Nor is it a treatise from the Miami exile community. Rather, it is an honest, behind-the-scenes look at everyday Cubans dealing with life and survival. They are pawns in the great chess game between two looming ideologies: the capitalist United States, which never recognized the legitimacy of the Cuban Revolution, and the Socialist government under Castro, which is determined to continue the struggle. These ordinary folk spend an inordinate amount of time trying to make ends meet and stretch their meager resources (and ration books) from month to month. Where contrary political expression is dangerous, they resist in subtler ways: buying or selling goods on the black market, making illegal money off the tourist trade, or even getting tattoos. More daring Cubans take to the seas. Yet perhaps Fidel's stubbornness and belief in Cubanidad ("Cubaness") has paid off in an unintentional way. "They are now prepared to defend Cuba's destiny," concludes Corbett of Cubans. "And in the preparedness, perhaps Castro achieved the greatest victory of all." Recommended for all large academic and public libraries. Lee Arnold, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Let it be said immediately that "This Is Cuba is quite simply the best, the most complete, and most devastating portrait of that unfortunate country to be found in any language." About the Author Ben Corbett is a freelance journalist who has spent several years researching and writing almost exclusively on Cuban culture, politics, and economics. Some of his features on Cuba have appeared in Salon, Tattoo Magazine, Easyriders, Fringe Golf, and Relix. He lives in Colorado.