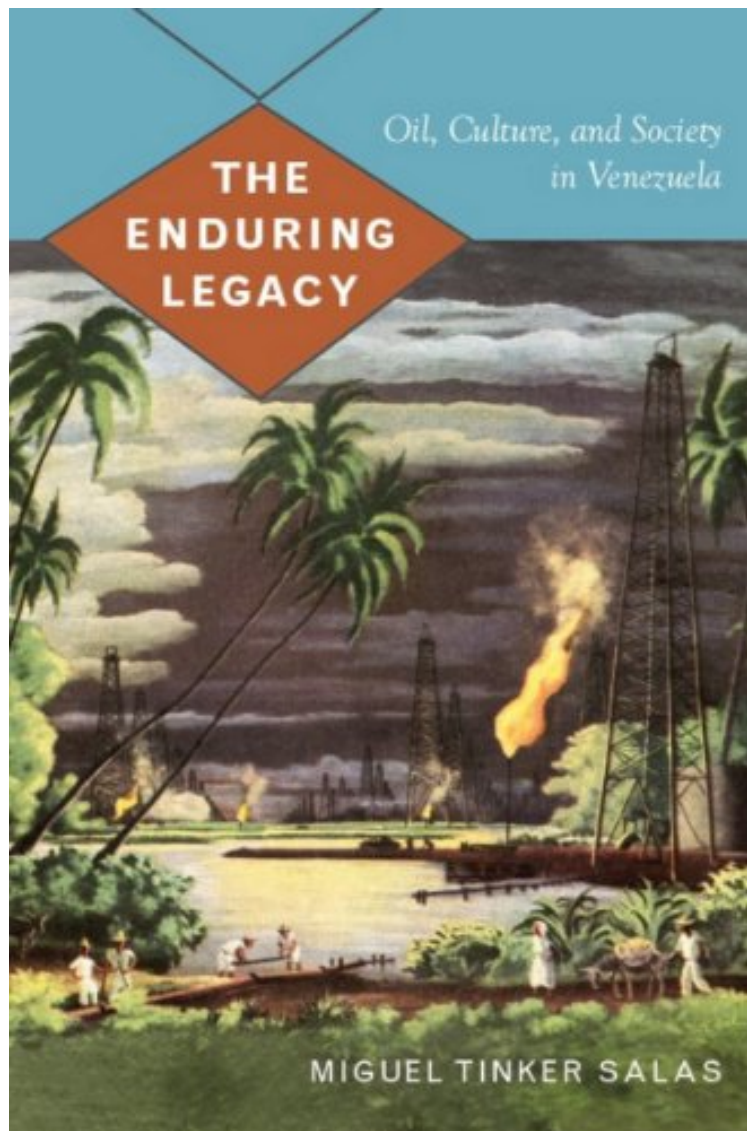


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## The Enduring Legacy: Oil, Culture, and Society in Venezuela (American Encounters/Global Interactions)

*Miguel Tinker Salas*

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**Miguel Tinker Salas : The Enduring Legacy: Oil, Culture, and Society in Venezuela (American Encounters/Global Interactions)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Enduring Legacy: Oil, Culture, and Society in Venezuela (American Encounters/Global Interactions):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good book about ex-pat life in the Venezuelan oil industry By Nancy

A. McGrath This is a bit of a niche book, but I enjoyed it thoroughly. I grew up in oil camps in Venezuela as described by the author, and the book offered me insights into life there that I had never considered. I wish the author had included more information about the unfenced areas built by Creole, most notably Judibana, where I lived for 10 years (age 4-13), because I think there were a lot more similarities between Judibana and the other fenced oil camps (I also lived in Hollywood, La Salina in Cabimas). Still, if you're interested in the life of oil ex-pats in Venezuela, but it is a very good read!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book gives me a better understanding of the relationship between our two countries  
By H.Khan I live in Trinidad just across the Gulf of Paria. This book gives me a better understanding of the relationship between our two countries. Venezuela became a basket case since the 1930's when it became a net importer of food, and tried to prevent emigration of non-caucasian workers.

Oil has played a major role in Venezuelas economy since the first gusher was discovered along Lake Maracaibo in 1922. As Miguel Tinker Salas demonstrates, oil has also transformed the countrys social, cultural, and political landscapes. In *The Enduring Legacy*, Tinker Salas traces the history of the oil industrys rise in Venezuela from the beginning of the twentieth century, paying particular attention to the experiences and perceptions of industry employees, both foreign and Venezuelan. He reveals how class ambitions and corporate interests combined to reshape many Venezuelans ideas of citizenship. Middle-class Venezuelans embraced the oil industry from the start, anticipating that it would transform the country by introducing modern technology, sparking economic development, and breaking the landed elites stranglehold. Eventually Venezuelan employees of the industry found that their benefits, including relatively high salaries, fueled loyalty to the oil companies. That loyalty sometimes trumped allegiance to the nation-state. North American and British petroleum companies, seeking to maintain their stakes in Venezuela, promoted the idea that their interests were synonymous with national development. They set up oil camps residential communities to house their workers that brought Venezuelan employees together with workers from the United States and Britain, and eventually with Chinese, West Indian, and Mexican migrants as well. Through the camps, the companies offered not just housing but also schooling, leisure activities, and acculturation into a structured, corporate way of life. Tinker Salas contends that these practices shaped the heart and soul of generations of Venezuelans whom the industry provided with access to a middle-class lifestyle. His interest in how oil suffused the consciousness of Venezuela is personal: Tinker Salas was born and raised in one of its oil camps.

Idquo; Tinker Salas has written a monograph that bridges business and social and cultural history, but he has also written a study in class formation, the Venezuelan middle class, to be specific. The result is not only quite successful but also thoroughly enjoyable. . . . Tinker Salas has written a wonderful book that merits a wide audience, not only among students of Venezuela, but anyone who is interested in learning about the legacies of oil worldwide.  
- Myrna Santiago, *Enterprise and Society*