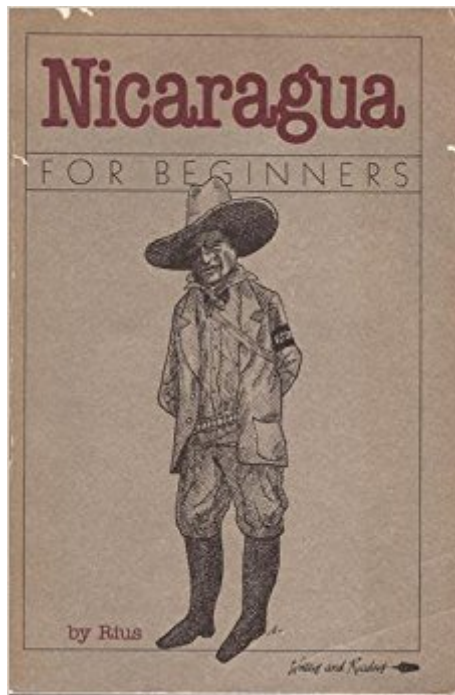




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Nicaragua For Beginners (A Writers & Readers Documentary Comic Book)



Eduardo del R  o (b. 1934 aka: Rius) is a Mexican intellectual, political cartoonist, and writer born in Michoac  n. One of the most popular Mexican cartoonists, Rius has written over a hundred books that remain widely popular, especially amongst his Mexican readers. Rius is a fierce political activist, and his progressive and left-wing point of view is often present in his writings, accompanied by a strong criticism about neoliberal Mexican doctrines, US Government policies and the Catholic Church. He formerly was an open advocate of the Cuban revolution as in Cuba for Beginners and a strong Soviet bloc sympathizer until the end of the Cold War. With the publication of It's a Pity, Cuba in 1994, he modified his ideological stance offering a strong critique against the corruption, bureaucratization and repression of the Castro regime. In the 1960s he began cartooning in magazines and newspapers, sometimes regarding political themes. He made two famous comics, Los Supermachos and Los agachados, which were a humorous criticism of the Mexican government. After his successes with these, he made many books, all illustrated and written by hand by him and covering a range of topics on politics, vegetarianism and religion. His books have become popular mainly because of their humour, which attempts to reach the general reader, as well as for their simplicity and intellectual acuteness. The 1976 English-language publication of Marx for Beginners, a comic strip representation of the life and ideas of Karl Marx, became an international bestseller and kicked off the For Beginners series of books from Writers' & Readers' and later Icon Books. In the 1990s, he participated in two political humour magazines: El Chahuistle and El Chamuco (named after an insect plague and the devil, respectively, because they were harsh on politicians and religious leaders). His success and long career have made him a reference point to the newer generations of political cartoonists in Mexico.

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Juxtaposition, comparison, and contrast are the best ways to describe this author's very effective presentation to comprehend complex political and cultural history. Quickly explains the opposing opinions, when people/governments opposed each other, when they changed their minds, who wanted what and why. Quick wit. Humorous caricatures and 1- to 3-panel 'funnies' that definitely get the point across in 1 page or less. Concise and accurate information. This book is easy to read in one evening (without interruptions), and it will keep you turning pages and reading faster and faster

as you comprehend the history faster and faster. You can understand the historical and modern cultural and political situations 'faster and faster' because this author's writing techniques solidify the concepts as concrete experiences from the "people's perspective" (i.e. poor, working classes, past-victims of unfair governing) as well as from perspectives of 'big business' and politician in both Nicaragua and in the U.S.

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