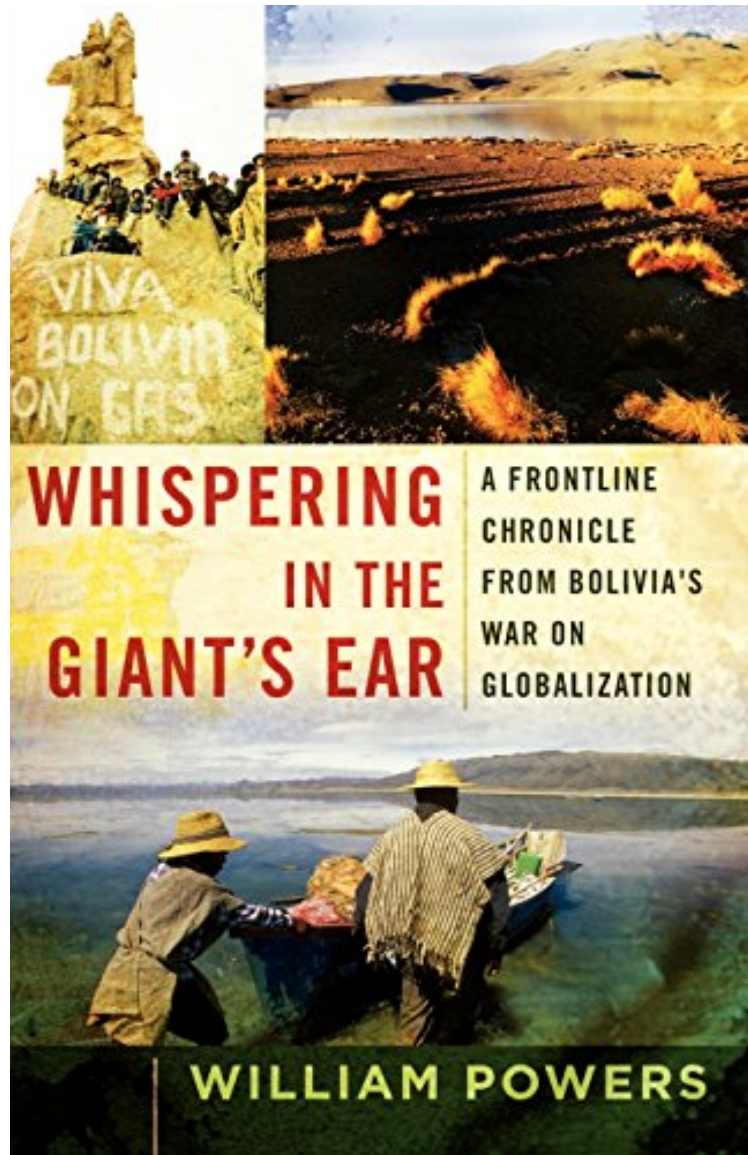


[Free and download] Whispering in the Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization

Whispering in the Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization

William D. Powers

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William D. Powers : Whispering in the Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whispering in the

Giant's Ear: A Frontline Chronicle from Bolivia's War on Globalization:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This isn't a fair review because I haven't finished it ...By Dennis E. Andersen
This isn't a fair review because I haven't finished it yet but the author seems so 'privileged'. I definitely wanted to learn something about Bolivia so let me finish the book and maybe I'll change the review.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A first-person account of an eye-opening in the Bolivian By Lindyann
William Powers' book gave me knowledge that only an individual with personal experience in his subject area can give. Going into the Bolivian , the author brought with him preconceived notions of how the environment there should best be handled for the benefit of all. He left knowing that no program there would be a success unless the long-held beliefs, perceptions, and practices of indigenous peoples were incorporated into such a program.
I found Power's enlightenment both exciting and encouraging. His experience means that the rest of us can be enlightened as well, if only we want to be. It also clarified why some 'green' projects are doomed from the beginning, i.e. when local issues are ignored or mishandled.
In addition, this book is very well written and a pleasure to read. Highly recommended.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Important true-life on environmental front lines
By Larry L. Lynch
So much good writing is being done about the need to develop sustainable life styles that it's difficult to sort out the best. This is a very important and readable book in that context. William Powers was there in Bolivia struggling with the tension between an indigenous tribe and the attempt of apparently well-meaning nonprofits and industrialists to change the natives. For those who think we can go back to living in the pre-industrial world, and for those who are looking for a better answer, this is an engaging story of great importance.

Long the obscure "Tibet of South America", Bolivia emerged as a world flashpoint during the four years William Powers lived there as an aid worker. CNN and the New York Times have shown images of Aymara women in bowler hats standing down tanks; citizen protests have ousted multinationals and two pro-globalization presidents. In *Whispering in the Giant's Ear*, Powers brings alive the recent struggles of the Bolivian people. When he arrives in the rainforest, he meets an extraordinary Chiquitano Indian named Salvador who is fighting the extinction of his people. At the same time, the clock ticks for three multinational energy companies forced to curb the global warming. Both goals depend upon the survival of a stretch of pristine jungle. But as Indians and oil giants join to launch the world's largest Kyoto project - using forests to absorb dangerous planetary greenhouse gasses - Salvador's life is threatened by loggers collaborating with a racist Bolivian oligarchy. The quest for a single rainforest is subsumed in a movement of national liberation. *Whispering in the Giant's Ear* goes beneath the headlines, gracefully weaving memoir, travel, history, and reportage into an unforgettable chronicle of a "poor little rich country" attempting to engage the world without losing its soul.

From Publishers Weekly
During the last five years, the struggles of Bolivia's indigenous community against government corruption and globalization have garnered unprecedented visibility for the nation around the world. As an aid worker living in Bolivia, Powers did not just witness the change; he was immersed in the action, forced to juggle the country's internal conflict with his environmental organization's mission of saving the rain forest. By "thinking locally and acting globally," he forges a delicate partnership with Indians and multinational energy corporations to designate a swath of the forest for absorbing greenhouse gases. While matters of politics and the environment provide the framework for the book, much of the story is focused on the friendships he builds through genuine curiosity and emotion as he attempts to truly understand the needs of the people around him. What results is a deeply personal and informative chronicle of Powers's ambitions, the Indians' ambitions and perhaps most importantly in a country as physically diverse and dramatic as Bolivia, nature's ambitions. Although more background on Bolivia would have been helpful, the book succeeds in using the country's recent history to reveal how the worldwide battle for increased economic equality and environmental conservation operates locally. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
Powers wrote about his experiences helping manage sustainable development projects in Liberia in *Blue Clay People* (2005) and now presents a piquant and provocative report on his work with Bolivia's largest conservation organization. Writing with self-deprecating humor and fluid understanding of the complex dynamics at work in this persistently poor land, Powers exposes the environmental and cultural destruction wrought by multinationals and the corresponding--and quite remarkable--uprisings of Bolivia's indigenous peoples in defense of the rain forests, their physical and spiritual home and the habitat for endangered species. Bolivia is the site of the world's largest Kyoto Protocol rain-forest experiment and pioneering debt-for-nature and carbon-credit projects, and Powers is keenly sensitive to the realities, possibilities, and paradoxes inherent in Bolivia's revolutionary politics and environmental innovations. By profiling a courageous and pragmatic Indian activist, tracking complicated disputes over land ownership and use, and detailing such green endeavors as "eco-wood" production, Powers chronicles Bolivia's success, against all odds, in leading the way toward creation of biosphere-sustaining and socially just societies. Donna Seaman
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About the Author
William Powers has worked for over a decade in development aid in Latin America, Africa,

Washington, D.C., and Native North America. His project in the Bolivian won the 2003 Harvard University JFK School prize for innovation. He is author of the Liberia memoir *Blue Clay People*, and contributor to two recent books on tropical biodiversity. His essays have appeared in the *New York Times* and *International Herald Tribune*, and he provides commentary for World Vision Radio and NPR. Powers, who is still based in Bolivia, is 2004-2005 recipient of the Open Door Foundation fellowship for nonfiction