

# In Bolivia: An Adventurous Odyssey Through the Americas' Least-Known Nation

*Eric Lawlor*

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**Eric Lawlor : In Bolivia: An Adventurous Odyssey Through the Americas' Least-Known Nation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Bolivia: An Adventurous Odyssey Through the Americas' Least-Known Nation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By james b soileau Great 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Terrible book, 100% lies!! By Newellan, TAs a Bolivian American it never ceases to amaze me how idiotic some European tourists can be. After reading this wretched, gross, disgusting and insulting book about MY HOME, I must conclude that most of the opinions---not facts---expressed by Lawlor are predicated on many biased attributes, prejudice, racism, and all out contempt that Eric Lawlor feels for the Bolivian people. True to his form, anything that does not live up to European/American standards is automatically dismissed as "strange" or "bizarre." How can this be? Possibly because of the inherent feeling of superiority felt by so many foreigners, possibly because Eric Lawlor went to Bolivia looking for discomfort, trouble, and anything dirty or foul to substantiate his contempt for my beautiful and amazing Bolivian people. Or could it be the obvious inculcation from his father? Lawlor lies so much in this book, it is absurd. I do not understand how ANY publishing company would legally agree to publish this literary assault on the Bolivian people. If Eric Lawlor, for example, wants us to believe that his first word as a child was in fact "Bolivia," then he not only has invented a comical yet ridiculous anecdote, he insults the

intelligence of his readers. Eric Lawlor's "In Bolivia" belongs in the ash bin of any library. There are layer upon layers of historical inaccuracies, half truths and down right misrepresentations. Eric Lawlor has no right to travel to Bolivia and hopefully he will never again set foot on our soil. He claims in his book that the great city of La Paz is "decaying" and "Bizarre"--another lie, it is as beautiful as it is modern. If a foreigner disagrees---get out!! La Paz has more universities than ANY European or American city! (Over twenty!!). He claims the amazing city of Cochabamba lacks an intellectual life--again, another lie. He writes about encountering child pornography at a bookstand---yet another lie. He would have been arrested immediately for having literature like that in his possession. He disgustingly and erroneously describes the Altiplano region as if it were in the Polar ice caps!! Eric Lawlor is nothing but a contemptuous, biased, ignorant, and nefarious writer who enjoys making money at other people's expense. He owes the Bolivian people an apology. If Lawlor doesn't like my country which is NOTHING like what he writes in this horrendous book, then I suggest he go back to wherever he's from. Fuera Yanqui rudo descarado! BOLIVIA 4--EVER! Garbage book meant to offend people and build on peoples' ignorance. Typical. VIVA U.S.A. VIVA BOLIVIA TODA LA VIDA HERMOSA TIERRA DE MI ALMA!!!!!! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Traveling around Bolivia without a tourguide By lynn98109 Eric Lawlor describes his travels in Bolivia, and gives some idea of what it is like to travel off the beaten track on your own. The first couple of chapters are studded with references of questionable value, supposedly "humorous" comments (like he had trouble with 1000 feet of altitude, but finally made it, and then got out of the truck he was riding in), and observations which I found sufficiently detracting from the topic that I almost quit reading, but it gets better when he gets out into the areas further from La Paz. (Regarding another review questioning how many governments Bolivia has had - wikipedia shows quite a few.) Not a bad read.

When he was growing up during the fifties, Eric Lawler discovered that his father was obsessed with a revolution taking place in Bolivia. Just why he found political turmoil in this land-locked, preposterously corrupt nation so tantalizing (after all, there have been more than 250 Bolivian governments in the last century or so), Lawler didn't find out then, but 30 years later, he endeavored to unravel the secret. In an odyssey that takes him from the bizarre, decaying capital of La Paz through the forbidding countryside to such near ghost towns as Potosi (in the 17th century, it was as large as London) to the suspected site of the Incan city of gold, El Dorado, Lawler's wit and keen eye sustain him through a series of peculiar misadventures. Aging hookers try to seduce him, shamans attempt to cure his ills, soldiers fall drunk at his feet, and petty bureaucrats relentlessly try to convince him that Bolivia is both the place to be and the place to escape from--as quickly as possible.

From Library Journal Lawlor's travelog on Bolivia is peopled with raunchy, unscrupulous characters surrounded by a ubiquitous poverty that, according to the writer, results from rampant laziness. Lawlor's irreverence and latent ethnocentrism regarding Bolivia's four million Indians is appalling; he fails to see that perhaps their passivity and insouciance are the Indian way of protesting against white totalitarianism. However, Lawlor's occasional wry comments on political-economic anemia and anecdotal histories of past leaders, whom he dubs "Don Quixotes," as well as his discussion of Bolivia's omnipresent cocaine operations, do provide some insights into the instability of this poorest of South American countries. A secondary purchase.- Bibi Thompson, "Library Journal" Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.