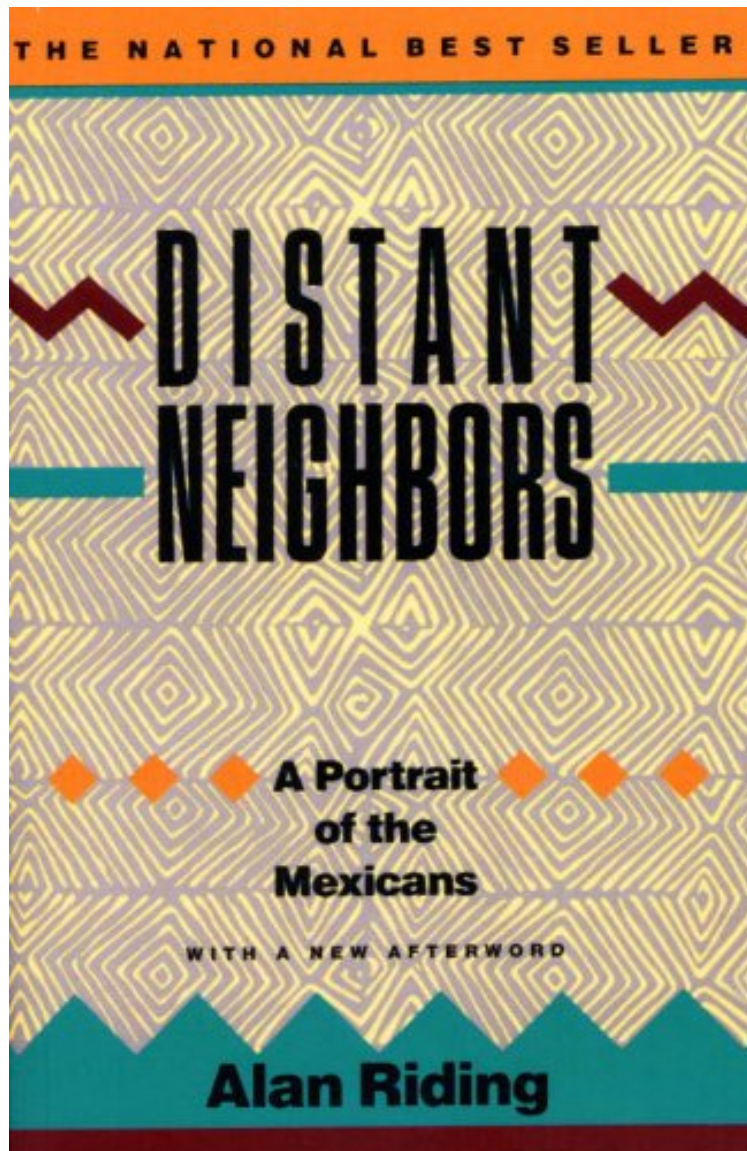


[E-BOOK] Distant Neighbors: A Portrait of the Mexicans

## Distant Neighbors: A Portrait of the Mexicans

*Von Alan Riding*

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**Von Alan Riding : Distant Neighbors: A Portrait of the Mexicans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Distant Neighbors: A Portrait of the Mexicans:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Read this book if you are moving to Mexico!Von Michael Strahl I am surprised that people seem to be critical of Alan Riding's excellent work. The key here is an objectivity that is so seldom seen in this type of work. This is not a travel guide...it is a guide to understanding the differences that are real, profound, and do exist between two cultures. I was

able to enjoy Riding's book as I purchased it shortly after moving to Mexico to work in 1993. It helped me so much that I have loaned copies (yes I have purchased more than one copy) and given them to visitors and other ex-pats working in Mexico. I am a Canadian citizen who is married to a Mexican citizen. This book has not only helped me understand Mexicans it has helped my marriage too! It is not Mr. Riding's place to critique or spew contempt for the PRI party, he merely provides the truth and lets the reader make up their mind. As far as Mexican people enjoying this book, I have passed it for review and commentary to Mexicans of all social classes and they all enjoyed the book and offered little in the way of unfavorable reviews. I have read Octavio Paz and the Labyrinth of Solitude and it is very introspective but very subjective. Riding may not be a poet, but he is also not a Mexican author who is subjectively speaking for an entire population. Alan Riding is a keen observer and he presents the facts! Read it and make up your own mind!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A must for those wanting to understand the Mexican psyche

Von Ein Kunde

Alan Riding's classic book that sets out to explain to Americans how Mexican think and feel, what the historical basis is for their feelings and thought, and how Americans can relate this knowledge to their own terms: remains one of the most important works of our times, if for no other reason than the fact that we continually become more and more enmeshed with our Southern neighbor in trade and immigration issues, and in the problems arising from the drug trade. Our almost complete ignorance of the Mexican mindset keeps us at a disadvantage in our dealings with the Mexicans, who take the time to understand us and learn our language, while we generally remain completely in the dark about the nature of their society, which is so remarkably different from our own. Riding sets out very systematically to give us a remarkably concise and well constructed outline of the Mexican character and historical experience, including such subjects as the meaning of the verb "chingar", which conveys the historical trauma represented by the interplay between the Mexican archetype mother figure of La Malinche and the father figure of Hernan Cortes. This subject has been expounded by Nobel laureate Octavio Paz and other renowned Mexican authors much to the rejuvenation of Mexican political and cultural thought, and Riding shows the value of understanding this somewhat oblique subject for Americans who wish to see what really makes Mexicans "tick". In short, anyone who is planning on spending any time in Mexico for business or pleasure, and wants to have some basis for understanding the people, needs to consult this book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

POOR VALUE FOR TIME INVESTED

Von COREY HARDINGI found this book excessively dry and too detailed. This is typical of British authors. Quite frankly, I simply cannot understand how any modern commentator on the Mexican scene can do anything but condemn in the fullest manner the long, tremendously destructive rule of the PRI. The only thing you can give them credit for is the stability of the country during their rule. And the gains they claim to have made reminds me of the same claims you heard from communists a few years ago eg. Fidel Castro. The author nowhere in here condemns the rule of the PRI. Finding the bottom line to most chapters is difficult. It is, however, a good read for someone who is quite interested in the travails of modern Mexico. But, you must have an eye for detail and a general sympathy with quasi-marxist-socialist third world governments to get through it. Mr. Riding was bureau chief of the NYT for six years in Mexico and worked for the now Labour supporting Financial Times of London. In this book this shows.

Kurzbeschreibung

A study of Mexico - political, social, cultural, economic - by a journalist who was for the past 6 years the NYT bureau chief in Mexico City. With portraits of Mexico's top leaders, about a nation whose stability is vital to our national well-being.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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"A spectacular piece of work. Alan Riding has a rich understanding of [Mexico]: anthropology, history, economics, politics, culture, and--not least--psychology."--Anthony Lewis

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