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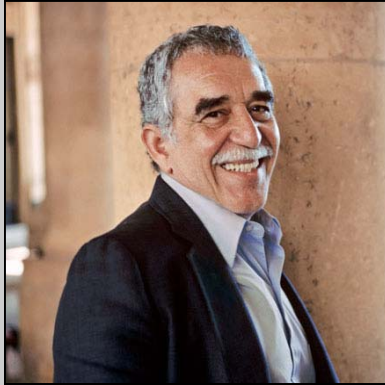
Hispanic Heritage Month

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Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation

OCTOBER 6, 2008

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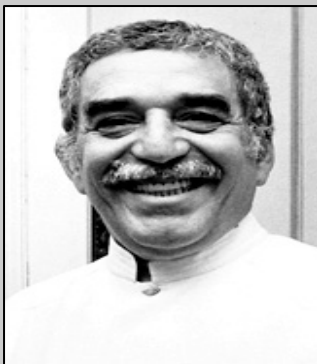


Gabriel García Márquez

Author, Editor, Publisher, Activist



COLUMBIA



"The first piece of literature since the Book of Genesis that should be required reading for the entire human race."

— New York Times Book Review
(One Hundred Years of Solitude)

Gabriel García Márquez

GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ was born on March 6, 1927 in Aracataca, Magdalena. Márquez is a Colombian novelist, journalist, editor, publisher, political activist, and recipient of the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Márquez pursued a self-directed education that resulted in his leaving law school for a career in journalism. From early on, he showed no inhibitions in his criticism of Colombian and foreign politics. In 1958, he married Mercedes Barcha and they have two sons.

Márquez has written many acclaimed non-fiction works and short stories, but is best known for his novels, such as *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967), which is the best-selling of all books originally written in the Spanish language (more than 36 million copies were sold as of July 2007) and *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

His works have achieved significant critical acclaim and widespread commercial success, most notably for popularizing a literary style labeled as magical realism, which uses magical elements and events in order to explain real experiences. Some of his works are set in a fictional village called Macondo, and most of them express the theme of solitude.

After writing *One Hundred Years of Solitude* García Márquez returned to Europe, this time bringing along his family, to live in Barcelona, Spain for seven years. The international recognition García Márquez earned with the publication of the novel led to his ability to act as a facilitator in several negotiations between the Colombian government and the guerrillas.

The popularity of his writing also led to friendship with powerful leaders, including one with former Cuban president Fidel Castro, which has been analyzed in *Gabo and Fidel: Portrait of a Friendship*. In an interview with Claudia Dreifus in 1982 García Márquez notes his relationship with Castro is mostly based on literature. "Ours is an intellectual friendship. It may not be widely known that Fidel is a very cultured man. When we're together, we talk a great deal about literature."

García Márquez lived mostly in Mexico and Europe and currently spends much of his time in Mexico City. Many people hold that García Márquez ranks alongside his co-writers of the Latin American Boom as one of the world's greatest 20th-century authors. Gabriel García Márquez is the father of television and film director Rodrigo García.

In May 2008, despite the fact that García Márquez had earlier declared that he had finished with writing, it was announced that the author was now finishing a new novel, a novel of love that had yet to be given a title, to be published by the end of the year.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez Audio

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