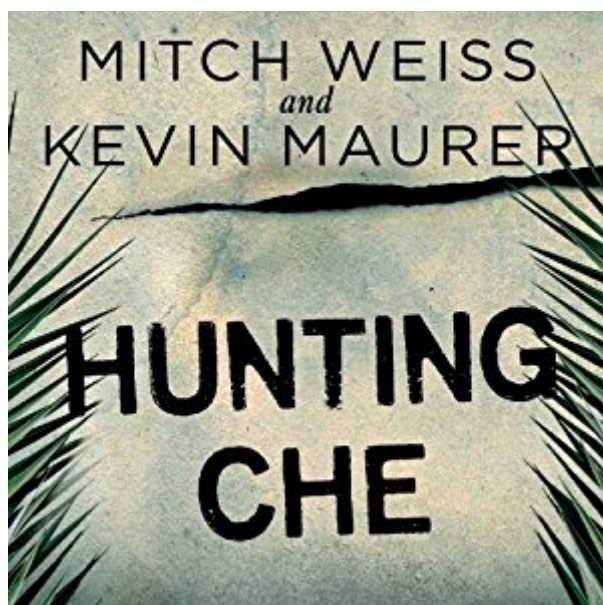


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# Hunting Che: How A U.S. Special Forces Team Helped Capture The World's Most Famous Revolutionary



## Synopsis

By the mid-1960s, Che Guevara had become famous for his outspoken criticism of the United States and his support for armed Communist insurgencies. He had been one of the architects of the Cuban Revolution, and was attempting to repeat his success throughout Latin America. His guerilla tactics and talent for proselytizing made him a threat to American foreign policy - and when he turned his attention to Bolivia in 1967, the Pentagon made a decision: Che had to be eliminated. Major Ralph "Pappy" Shelton was called upon to lead the mission to train the Bolivians. With a hand-picked team of specialists, his first task was to transform a ragtag group of peasants into a trained fighting force who could also gather intelligence. Gary Prado, a Bolivian officer, volunteered to join the newly formed Bolivian Rangers. Joined by Felix Rodriguez, a Cuban exile working for the CIA, the Americans and Bolivians searched for Che. The size of Che's group and when they would strike were unknowns, and the stakes were high. If Bolivia fell, it would validate Che's theories and throw South America into turmoil. Hunting Che follows the exploits of Major Shelton, Felix Rodriguez, and Gary Prado - the Bolivian Ranger commander who ultimately captured him. The story begins with Che's arrival in Bolivia and follows the hunt to the dramatic confrontation and capture of the iconic leader in the southeastern village of La Higuera. With the White House and the Pentagon secretly monitoring every move, Shelton and his team changed history, and prevented a catastrophic threat from taking root in the West.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are people who read historical books for the story while others read them primarily for information and analysis. The best books are able to cover both needs. Unfortunately, this one falls short in either area. In *Hunting Che: how a US special forces team helped capture the world's most famous revolutionary*, by Mitch Weiss and Kevin Maurer, the co-authors do not completely fail the storytelling mission, and they do treat us to some historical background, but the reader finishes the tale with a still-growling belly. You know you are in trouble when you open a short book and are presented with an impressive list of dramatis personae. You think to yourself: how complicated can this be? We have some American-trained special force units going after Che Guevara and his guerillas in the Bolivian mountains. Why does this deserve a Tolstoyan view of all these people in the armed forces and government? And how is this to be accomplished in 280 pages? We are given non-salient details of people's backgrounds and their childhood motivations. The authors frequently stray from the narrative as we are introduced to yet other bit players in the scene. It's like a school play where every character gets a prominent part. Despite all this, the authors manage to keep our interest for most of the book, and we are able to get some information. Their focus is on what I call, *little history*, as perfected by historical writers such as John Toland, where history is presented through the eyes of multiple actors. Grand events are told through the actions of both great and small participants; and I suppose the idea is that the reader experiences the events while being provided with some historical background along the way.

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