

# VENEZUELA SPEAKS!

## Voices From the Grassroots

**Michael Fox, Carlos Martinez and JoJo Farrell, editors**

For the last decade, Venezuela's "Bolivarian Revolution" has captured international attention. Poverty, inequality and unemployment have all dropped, while health, education and living standards have seen a commensurate rise. The international mainstream media has focused predominantly on Venezuela's controversial leader, President Hugo Chavez, who has routinely been in the headlines. But without the active participation of large and diverse sectors of society, Chavez's moment on the scene would have ended long ago.

*Venezuela Speaks!: Voices from Venezuela's Grassroots* is a collection of interviews with activists and participants from across Venezuela's social movements. From community media to land reform; cooperatives to communal councils, from the labor movement to the Afro-Venezuelan network, *Venezuela Speaks!* sheds light on the complex realities within the Bolivarian Revolution. These interviews offer a compelling oral history of the bloodless revolution, from the bottom up.

### ABOUT THE EDITORS

**Michael Fox** has covered Venezuela extensively as a former staff-writer for *Venezuelanalysis.com* and as a radio correspondent for Free Speech Radio News. Currently, he is the producer of the weekly *Venezuelanalysis* radio headlines; co-founder of the internet radio, *Radio Venezuela en Vivo*; and co-director of the documentary, *Beyond Elections: Redefining Democracy in the Americas* (PM Press).

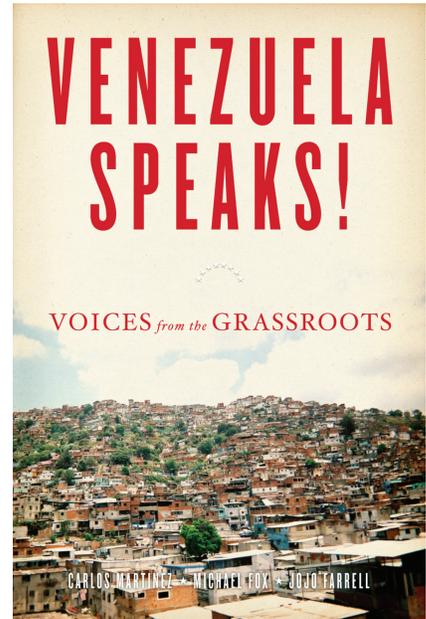
**Carlos Martinez** has been involved in Latin America solidarity work for many years. He recently served as the Caracas-based Venezuela Program Director for the human rights organization Global Exchange. His articles have been published in *Monthly Review*, *Venezuelanalysis.com*, and *Common Dreams*.

**JoJo Farrell** lived in Venezuela for two years as the Global Exchange Venezuelan Program Director. He is a freelance journalist and former reporter for the Pacifica network's KPFA news program. He currently teaches in Brooklyn as a New York Teaching Fellow, and is studying for his Masters in Education at Brooklyn College.

### ACCOLADES

"Almost all of the books written on [Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution] so far take a 'top-down' perspective on what is happening in contemporary Venezuela. This book, though, provides an unfiltered participant's perspective on Venezuela's incredibly diverse social movements and, in the process, dispels the notion that President Chávez is the only one who counts when trying to understand Venezuela."

—Gregory Wilpert, author of *Changing Venezuela by Taking Power* and editor of *Venezuelanalysis.com*



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