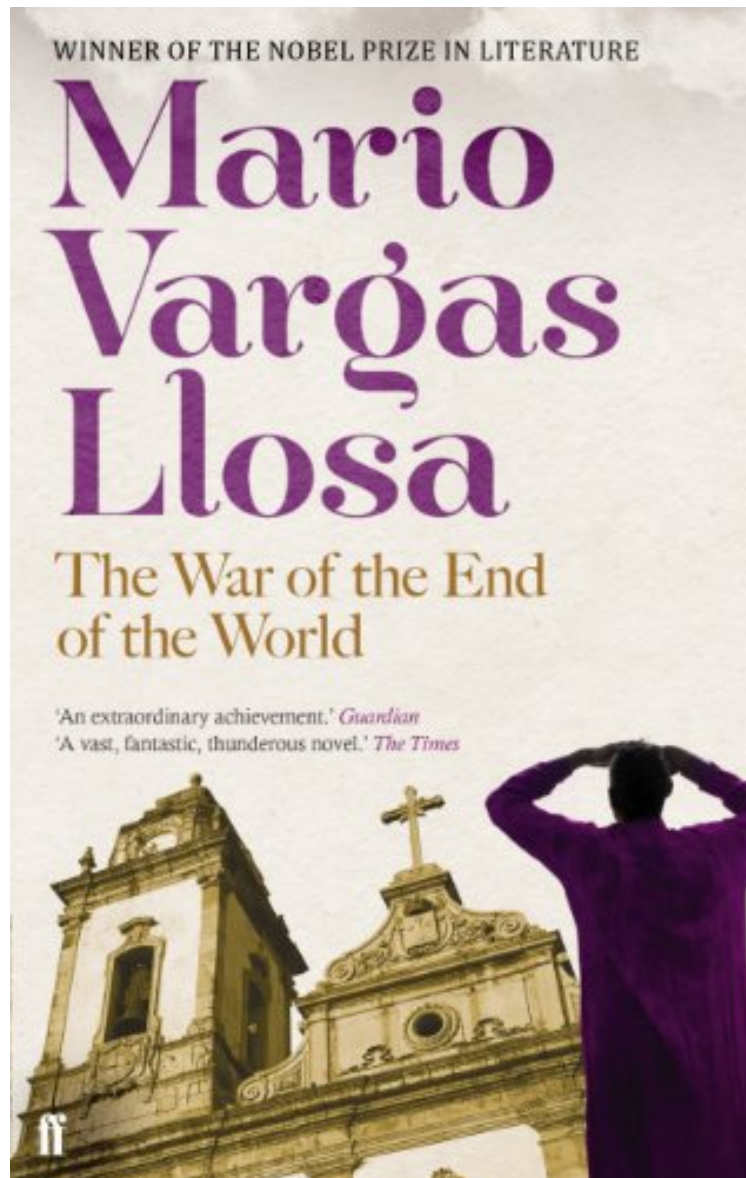


(Ebook free) The War of the End of the World (English Edition)

## The War of the End of the World (English Edition)

Von Mario Vargas Llosa

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**Von Mario Vargas Llosa : The War of the End of the World (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War of the End of the World (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The greatest 19th Century novel written in the 20th CenturyVon JohnThe War of the End of the World is an impossibly ambitious book which nevertheless succeeds completely, and in the process confirms that Vargas Llosa deserves to be

considered among the great authors of all time. Unlike his other books, which are either frankly autobiographical or significantly based on the author's personal experience, this is a straightforward historical novel, taking place in 1890s northeastern Brazil. It is also a real novel of ideas, confronting very seriously such timeless topics as the relationship of individual to society and of faith and personal belief to law and social order, the source of state authority, and truth/beauty and means/ends issues. While somewhat "modern" in style - the narrative does not proceed in a linear fashion, perspectives shift sharply from one character to the next, and "truth" is often in the eye of the beholder - the book really aspires to be a Great Historical Novel in a classic mode, like *The Red and the Black* or *War and Peace*. (Personally, I think it is stronger than either of those; at the very least it belongs on the same shelf.) In other words, it is no post-modern mirror-job, but a serious attempt to engage all thoughtful people - including those who ordinarily do not care for fiction - in a subtle and thorough consideration of the factors that create Peru's Shining Path, or Waco, Jonestown, MOVE, Hamas, etc. Vargas Llosa even manages the trick of being both sympathetic to and critical of all sides. The relationship of the book to the author's subsequent (aborted) political career is also fascinating - it is difficult to believe that an author whose extraordinarily acute, and depressing, analyses of politics and ideology would be willing to enter the actual world of politics, yet it is easy to see how he yearns for a real-world solution to the failures of the rich to understand the poor, of the poor to understand the rich, and of organized government to appreciate the value of people's actual lives. I recommend this book to everyone (except perhaps readers who cannot handle some extreme and sustained violence in the last part of the book).

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great novel... Von Ein Kunde  
 If you like historical novels and you want to know why South American literature was the best of the last century, here is why. A difficult but immensely enjoyable piece of work, if this isn't Nobel Prize material what is? I read it when I was 15 but still remember it with great pleasure. It has everything from adventure, to war, to politics to sex and love... truly epic and quite different from any other Vargas Llosa or any hispanic writer.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great book about tragic events. Von Ein Kunde  
 First I must say I disagree with the synopsis of this book in the site. Canudos is never described as a libertarian's paradise, except in the mind of one of the characters. On the contrary, in a land where the government did precious little for the people, once pressed by droughts and famine the people got together around a spiritual leader, the Counselor, thus finding a way to be governed. Vargas Llosa describes in episodes the almost epic travels of that holy man through the backlands of Brazil, and how he and his followers eventually settled in Canudos, and rejected the ways of the Republic. As with every complex human (movement, revolt?), each main player has a distorted view of what Canudos is about. The Colonel thinks it is a political movement to overthrow the Republic (which, in his martial way, he firmly believes will redeem the poor people). The landowners and local politicians never even consider the insurrection in detail; for them Canudos is just another episode in the local fight for power, bringing into the scene as a new player the federal forces. For the Englishman Gall, it is a libertarian's paradise, a place touched by the revolution, a place of equals. For the journalist, Canudos is an impersonal story, to be recorded for posterity in detail. Even for the people of Canudos the experience is diverse. For some it means redemption from a past life of sin; for others it is where they find their place in society; others see it as a holy place where to wait for Judgement Day. All these feelings are galvanized in the spiritual leadership of the Counselor, and no one really knows what Canudos means for him. As events unfold and the federal troops near their destination, the feeling of ultimate doom permeating the whole book comes to a climax; in that sense the story is a tragedy. There is only one, sorrowful possible conclusion. This is a superbly written book, where Mr. Vargas Llosa's characteristic prose style shines through. A must read.

Kurzbeschreibung  
 The War of the End of the World is one of the great modern historical novels. Inspired by a real episode in Brazilian history, Mario Vargas Llosa tells the story of an apocalyptic movement, led by a mysterious prophet, in which prostitutes, beggars and bandits establish Canudos, a new republic, a libertarian paradise.

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 "A vast, fantastic, thunderous novel."--"The Times" (UK)  
 "A magnificent storyteller . . . [Vargas Llosa] gives us a cast of unforgettable characters swept up in the upheaval. . . . This is the work of a master, coming into full realization of his powers."--"The Boston Sunday Globe"  
 "His masterpiece."--Madison Smartt Bell "An extraordinary achievement. The author gives a wonderfully vivid and impartial picture of individuals and communities."--"The Guardian" (UK)  
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