

## Amazon: Past, Present and Future (New Horizons)

*Alain Gheerbrant*

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**Alain Gheerbrant : Amazon: Past, Present and Future (New Horizons)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amazon: Past, Present and Future (New Horizons):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Holly interesting background but some of it dated. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A sweeping historical vista By Roger Harris This book is an excellent introduction to the 's tortured past and offers some insight into the region's prospects. What really sets it apart are the illustrations, many from early manuscripts. Reproduced woodcuts and watercolors give the reader a genuine feel for how the conquistadors and early explorers perceived the 's people and wildlife. The book progresses logically, from initial forays looking for El Dorado and cinnamon forests to the explorer-scientists, in a sweeping historical vista.

Gheerbrant's account of the rubber boom is especially poignant, and the reader becomes utterly outraged at the shamelessly inhumane treatment of local tribes by greedy industrialists. The book's reproduced photographs from this era drive home the untrammelled brutality of the rubber barons in their urge to acquire riches at any cost to the indigenous people. The author's observations of the 's current status (the "Present") seem somewhat outdated, as the area is changing fast and there is not much on conservation efforts or scientific research (although other books cater). The "Documents" section added as a sort of appendix offer some interesting facts, but seem collected together on a rather ad-hoc basis. However, the chronology and bibliography are commendable. Generally well-written, in places the text seems a bit convoluted and may frustrate readers used to a snappier style. Perhaps something happened in the translation. In summary, I recommend this book for its illustrations, and overall historical perspective.

A story covering the exploitation of the Amazon basin, from the 19th century rubber barons to today.

Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: French