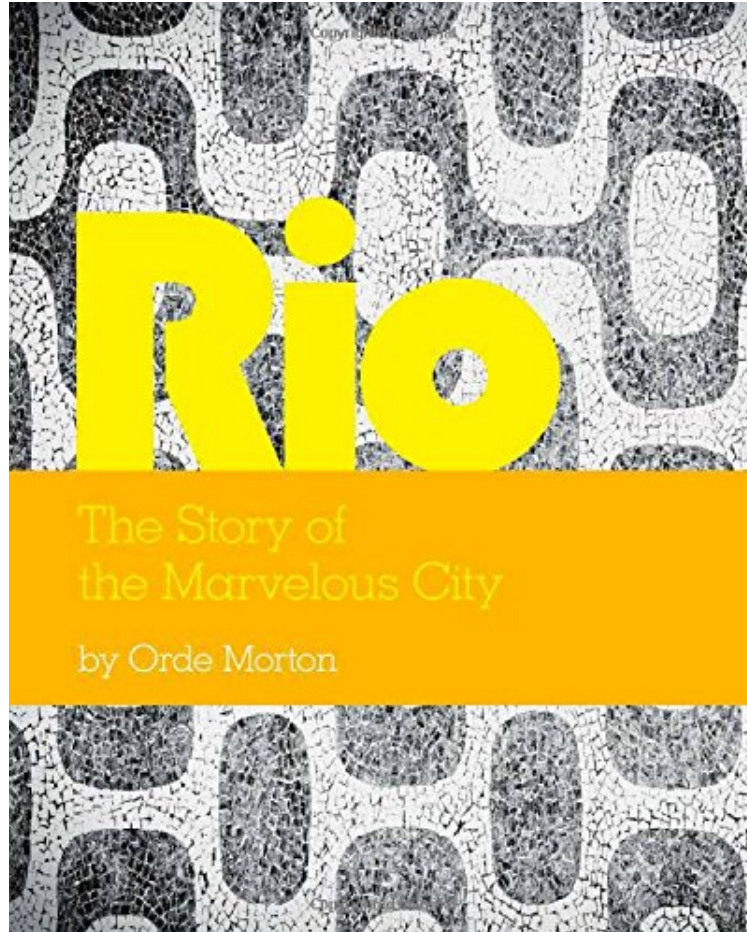


(Free pdf) Rio The Story of the Marvelous City

## Rio The Story of the Marvelous City

*Orde Morton*

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**Orde Morton : Rio The Story of the Marvelous City** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rio The Story of the Marvelous City:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, full of insight in Brazilian and particularly Carioca ...By Johan NordenfeltExcellent, full of insight in Brazilian and particularly Carioca history, culture and politics over an extended period, and admirably, captivately and entertainingly presented. A very good and highly readable book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best qualities a historian can display is empathyBy Ricardo SternbergREVIEW TRANSLATIONFrom the original Portuguese to EnglishOrde Morton's book, "Rio: The Story of the Marvelous City", is not just the first and the most complete and inclusive history of Rio de Janeiro in English. It is also destined to become an obligatory reference in any other language, including Portuguese. Through 16 chapters, arranged in four parts and three "interludes", the author interweaves the history of the city with that of Brazil itself. He is aware of the settlement's importance from the arrival of the Portuguese colonizers at the beginning of the XVIth century up to the present day.One of the best qualities a historian can display is empathy. Those who have this

attribute are able to view the history of a society that is not their own with the minimum possible interference of the inherent biases and outlook of their own country. This is not easy. It requires a long and difficult apprenticeship, involving a thorough mastery of the language and the idiom of the reality they are seeking to understand. It requires a long and ongoing familiarity with the bibliography and the primary and secondary sources bearing on their field of research. Orde Morton a Canadian by origin meets all these conditions in his book. He appears well-protected against possible criticisms from the Brazilian historians who always deplore the self-centredness of foreign analysts. It really is far from unusual for the latter to try to understand other realities on the basis of their own, a limitation which many times proves insuperable. This is not true of Orde Morton. "Rio: The Story of the Marvelous City" is a book written by a historian who was trained in one of the world's best universities, Oxford, but who is also an excellent writer. He never descends to academic jargon. His style is acerbic, engaging, rich in nuances of the English language, and never dull. He knows well that his target is an educated public in search of better information on Rio de Janeiro, which beyond any doubt is one of the most famous cities in the world. Orde Morton's work is based on an extensive and well-chosen bibliography, available on his website ([www.ordemorton.com](http://www.ordemorton.com)). It is also the product of long residence in Rio de Janeiro in several periods of his life. He does not hide his strong feeling for the city, though this does not affect the objectivity of his narrative, nor clouds the lucidity of his criticisms. You could even say that he has a passion for the city. If this is true, he has ended by bequeathing us a tale told with ardour, one essential for English-speaking readers. Review by: Eurico de Lima Figueiredo, Emeritus Professor of the Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Posted by Ricardo Sternberg 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read Before You Head to Rio By Brian Smith I have never visited Rio -- but now, having read Orde Morton's entertaining history of "The Marvelous City," I feel I have to go. The picture he paints of this city is captivating. For anyone planning a visit to Rio -- as many will in 2016 -- here is an opportunity to learn about the city and what makes it tick. Dr Morton's history is reported to be the only English-language history of Rio in print; that alone makes it special. What makes it really special is how Dr Morton weaves anecdote and well researched history into an enjoyable journey from Rio's earliest days right up to the present. An historian by training, Dr Morton carefully assesses how the personalities and events of Rio's past shaped the city's geography, politics and economy. He tells us the story of "the slow creation, from sharply differing materials, of a sense of identity and a unique way of life." It is evident that Dr Morton has a great fondness for Rio de Janeiro, and he captures the spirit of the people well -- including their wry sense of humour. His fondness for the city does not, however, stop him from telling us about the city's warts and blemishes, too. He explains, for example, how Rio's world-famous (infamous?) favelas took root as Rio's less fortunate built their homes, with little or no regard for their legal right to do so. He also deals frankly with the political and economic turmoil that Brazil and Cariocas have faced over the years. He concludes, however, that, though they may have been dealt a mixed hand, "they have played that hand to its fullest and built a city like no other." It is a city I now want to see -- and for others who are planning to do likewise, this is the book you should read before going.

Rio de Janeiro's is a lush, complex history that spans five centuries, and Marvelous City is the first full length retelling of that history written in English. From the beach life of the Ipanema and Copacabana to the struggles of the Rio's infamous favelas, this is a story of contrast and contradiction. We are offered a glimpse into Rio's high society and rich culture and are shown the endemic violence, corruption, and social disparity with which it struggles to this day. With its populist politics and its unique blend of European, African and Amerindian influences, Rio de Janeiro has grown, over the centuries, into a place all its own, one that is greater than the sum of its parts, distinctively Brazilian, and whose symbol is the Rio Carnival, the greatest show on earth. The beating cultural heart of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro is poised to host the 2016 Olympic Games. Author Orde Morton invites you to look beyond the postcard perfection of its natural beauty and discover this one of a kind city in all its many-sided wonder.