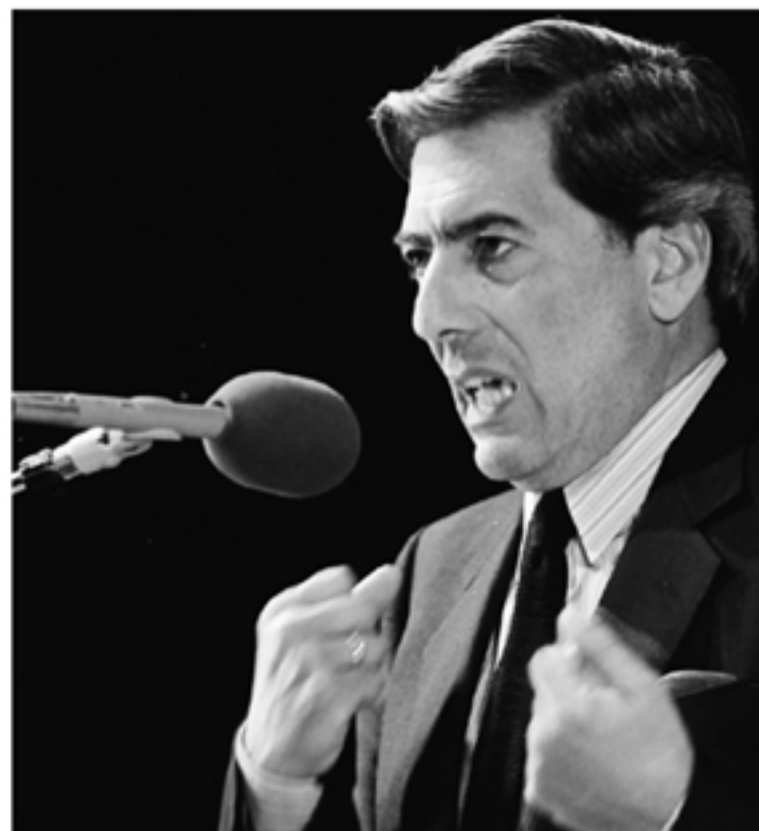


HISPANIC-LATINO HERITAGE MONTH 2011

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA

“EXAMPLE IS NOT THE MAIN THING IN INFLUENCING OTHERS, IT IS THE ONLY THING.” — ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Born in 1936 in Peru, Vargas Llosa spent his early years in Bolivia with his maternal grandparents. He believed his father was dead, but discovered this was a lie when his father returned for him. He went from an idyllic, pampered life with his grandparents to a harsh authoritarian one with his father, a move that shaped his later interest in personal freedom and social activism.



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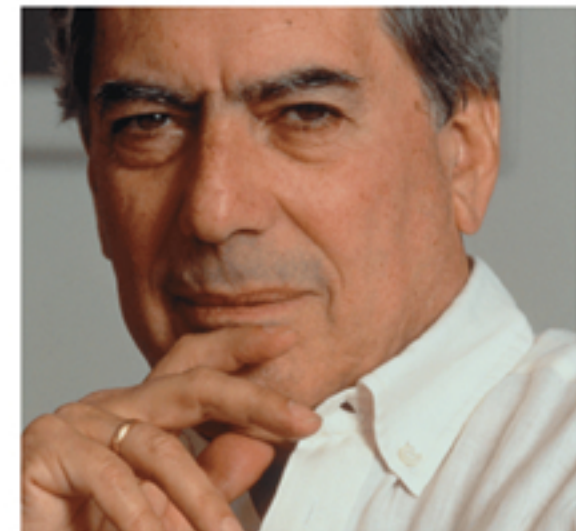
- Born in 1936 in Peru, Vargas Llosa is a writer, politician, journalist, essayist, and 2010 Nobel Prize laureate. Some critics consider him to have had the most far-reaching impact of any writer of the Latin American Boom, which included Gabriel García Márquez.
- He published his first novel, “The Time of the Hero,” in 1963, to wide critical acclaim. The book was based on his time in military school and was a sharp denouncement of the Peruvian military.
- In 1975, he co-directed a film version of his novel, “Captain Pantoja and the Secret Service.”
- He was elected to the Peruvian Academy of Letters in 1977.
- In 1990, he ran for president of Peru on the Frente Democrático platform. He focused on privatization, a market economy, free trade and the dissemination of private property. He ultimately lost in a run-off election.
- He achieved dual Spanish-Peruvian citizenship in 1993, and was elected a member of the Royal Spanish Academy in 1994.
- In 2011, Spain’s King Juan Carlos I raised him to Spanish nobility status with the title of Marquis of Vargas Llosa.

He achieved fame in the 1960s with novels such as “The Time of the Hero,” “The Green House,” and “Conversations in the Cathedral,” some of which were written about his time spent in the Amazon jungle. Here he witnessed the exploitation of native populations due to what he perceived as their lack of social and legal structure, and developed his belief that modernization is the only way to protect minority groups.

He writes across literary genres, including criticism and journalism, comedies, murder mysteries, historical novels, plays, and political thrillers. Several of his novels have been made into films. Many of his works are influenced by his views of Peruvian society, which he experienced as oppressive and against individual freedoms.

Like many Latin American authors, political activism has been a large part of his career. He once supported the Cuban revolutionary government of Fidel Castro, but later became disenchanted with Castro and his authoritarian regime. He was a Peruvian presidential candidate in 1990 with the center-right Frente Democrático coalition, but was defeated in a run-off.

In 2010, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature “for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual’s resistance, revolt, and defeat.”



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**“IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER.”
— JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**