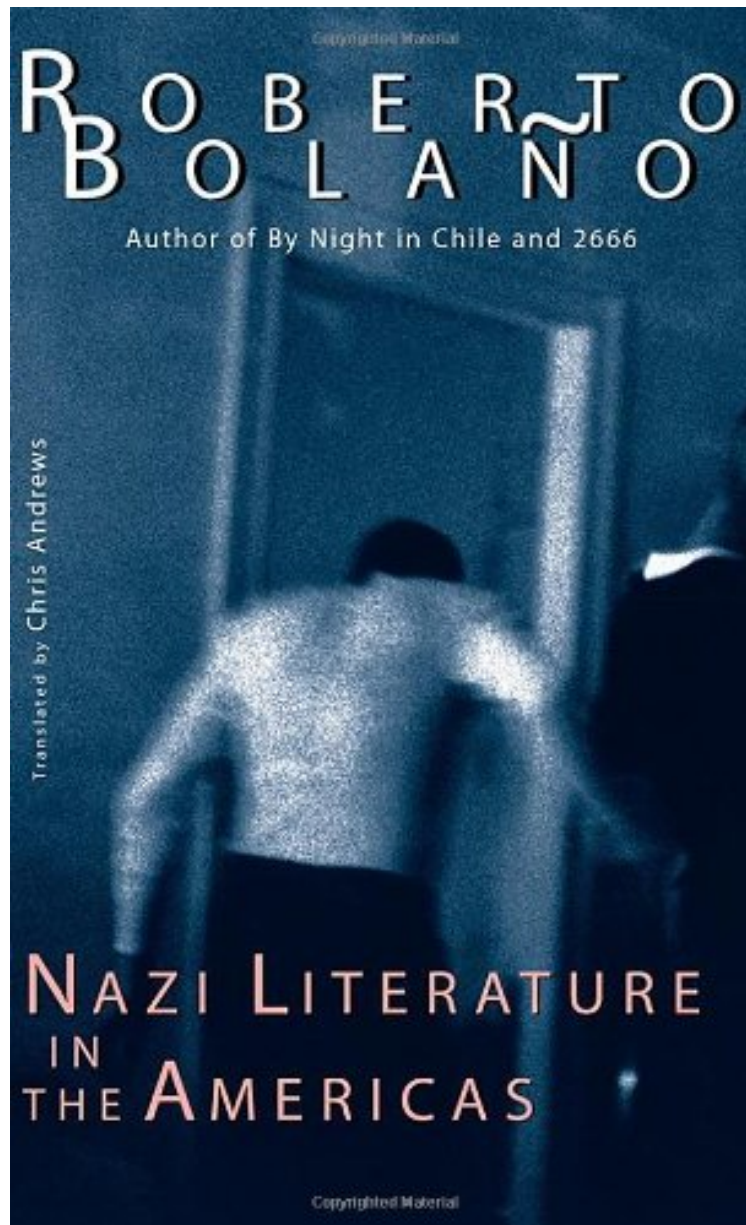


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## Nazi Literature in the Americas (New Directions Paperbook)

*Roberto Bolaño*

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**Roberto Bolaño : Nazi Literature in the Americas (New Directions Paperbook)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nazi Literature in the Americas (New Directions Paperbook):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Original and compelling. Loved it. By Customer Another awesome Bolano novel. Original and compelling. Loved it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He's also funny as hell. By William Roberto Bolano is a virtuoso of the strange, dark, and ominous. He's also funny as hell. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sydney McLean Great read

A "biographical dictionary" gathering 30 brief accounts of poets, novelists and editors (all fictional) who espouse fascist or extremely right-wing political views. *Nazi Literature in the Americas* was the first of Roberto Bolaño's books to reach a wide public. When it was published by Seix Barral in 1996, critics in Spain were quick to recognize the arrival of an important new talent. The book presents itself as a biographical dictionary of American writers who flirted with or espoused extreme right-wing ideologies in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It is a tour de force of black humor and imaginary erudition. *Nazi Literature in the Americas* is composed of short biographies, including descriptions of the writers' works, plus an epilogue ("for Monsters"), which includes even briefer biographies of persons mentioned in passing. All of the writers are imaginary, although they are all carefully and credibly situated in real literary worlds. Ernesto Pérez Masón, for example, in the sample included here, is an imaginary member of the real Orígenes group in Cuba, and his farcical clashes with José Lezama Lima recall stories about the spats between Lezama Lima and Virgilio Pinera, as recounted in Guillermo Cabrera Infante's *Mea Cuba*. The origins of the imaginary writers are diverse. Authors from twelve different countries are included. The countries with the most representatives are Argentina (8) and the USA (7).

.com Significant Seven, February 2008: As with the emergence of W.G. Sebald into English a decade ago, the most exciting new writer to watch is one we're just catching up with: the late Roberto Bolaño, whose ground-breaking fiction defined a generation of Spanish-speaking literature. In between last year's thrillingly meandering epic, *The Savage Detectives*, and the upcoming alleged masterwork, *2666*, comes a small and strange book (but no stranger than the rest), *Nazi Literature in the Americas*. Presented as a biographical encyclopedia of right-wing writers in North and South America, these short, invented lives are full of the stuff of minor literary scenes and forgotten books, with delusion and creation mixed in equal fashion. Funny, melancholy, surprisingly tender, and--once in a while--erupting into fury, Bolaño spins out tale after tale with the joy of sheer invention and the burden of inescapable history. --Tom Nissley From Publishers Weekly The title chosen by Bolaño (1953–2003) for this slim, fake encyclopedia is not wholly tongue-in-cheek: given the very real presence of former (and not-so-former) Nazis in Latin America following WWII, this book, despite being fiction, still had j'accuse-like power when first published in 1996. The poets described herein, though invented, seem—even at their most absurd—plausible, which is the secret to this sly book's devastating effect. And as one proceeds from an entry on Edelmira Thompson de Mendiluce (In high spirits, Edelmira asked for the Führer's advice: which would be the most appropriate school for her sons?) to one on Carlos Ramírez Hoffman (His passage through literature left a trail of blood and several questions posed by a mute), it becomes clear that there is a single witness to all of these terrible figures, one who has spent time in one of Pinochet's prisons and is bent on coolly totting up the crimes of fascism's literary perpetrators. Some readers will recognize figures and episodes from Bolaño's other books (including *The Savage Detectives* and *Distant Star*). The wild inventiveness of Bolaño's evocations places them squarely in the realm of Borges—another writer who draws enormous power from the movement between the fictive and the real. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Masterfully executed...the book is wildly funny... [a] wickedly entertaining and evocative masterwork." - Robert Leiter, *Jewish Exponent* "With his meticulous, expertly crafted idiosyncrasies Bolano has created another universe here, a breathing, thriving world." - Ben Granger, *Spike Magazine*