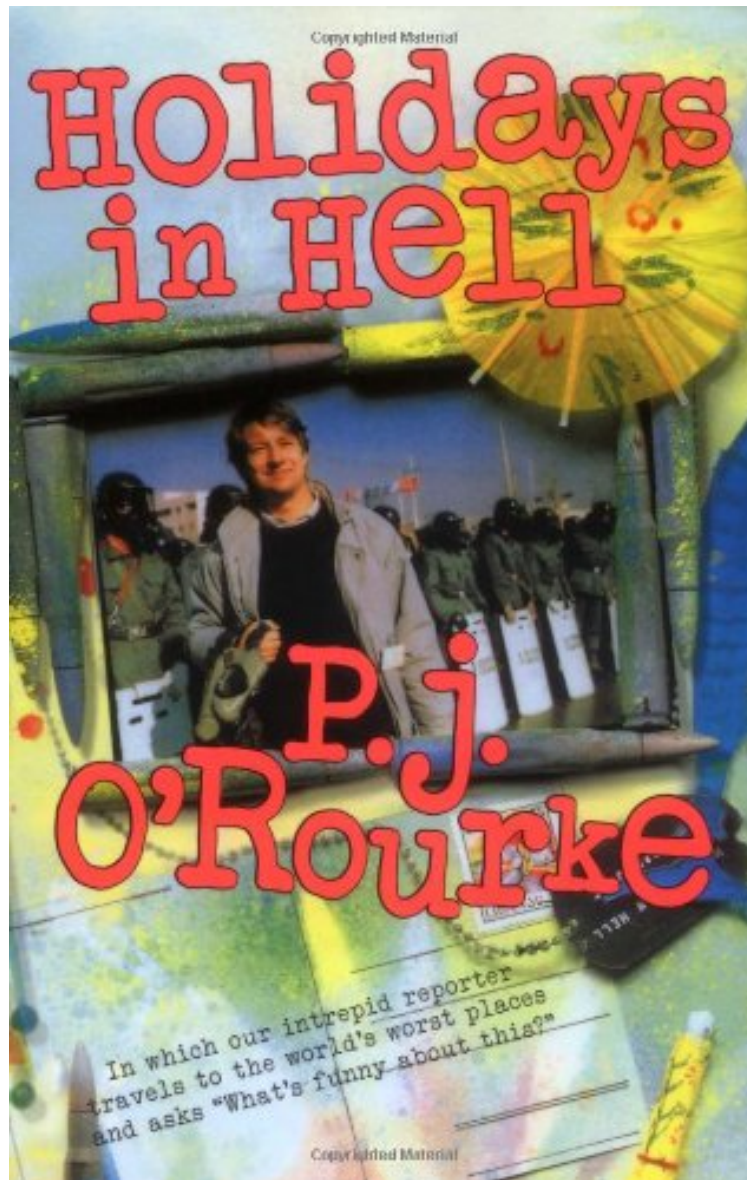


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Holidays in Hell: In Which Our Intrepid Reporter Travels to the World's Worst Places and Asks, "What's Funny About This" (O'Rourke, P. J.)

P. J. O'Rourke

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#295228 in Books P J O Rourke 2000-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x .80 x 5.40l, .55 #File Name: 0802137016272 pagesHolidays in Hell In Which Our Intrepid Reporter Travels to the World s Worst Places and Asks What s Funny About This O Rourke P J | File size: 43.Mb

P. J. O'Rourke : Holidays in Hell: In Which Our Intrepid Reporter Travels to the World's Worst Places and Asks, "What's Funny About This" (O'Rourke, P. J.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Holidays in Hell: In Which Our Intrepid Reporter Travels to the World's Worst Places and Asks, "What's Funny About This"* (O'Rourke, P. J.):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful bitter truth
By Yelena P. Francis
This book is a very healthy product of a healthy type of thinking. It is a good sign that this country is "in good shape" as long as it can produce intelligent opposition to some weird or unhealthy world and domestic events (for example, "The Simpsons" and "South Park" as well as "Politically Incorrect Guide to..." book series). It is a good sigh of the "society health" when there are native writers like O'Rourke, who can give an objective view (presented wittily and with humor slightly ironical and often with subtle sarcasm) on some present or recently powerful political movements, events and tendencies. I myself from the former Soviet Union, and the article about socialist Poland was probably the most interesting from the point of view that it was almost the same what I saw in Russia. It is not so important how pathetic the picture of everyday life was seen by the American, but the final conclusion a reader should come to (and O'Rourke makes it obvious) - how sick the idea of an artificial social structure based on an approach is, "to take everything away from the haves and then share with everybody" (it is what Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov's character Sharikov said in his "Heart of a Dog"). Almost without exceptions the stories in the book cut through propaganda and bare the truth behind the facades. The "Among the Euro-Weenies", although written some time ago is more and more relevant today. Moreover, O'Rourke dialogues are short, immensely interesting and compressed, giving points difficult not to accept.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A downright Laugh Olympics!
By Fedoradude
This book is absolutely hilarious. I love O'Rourke's writing style and quick wit. Kept me laughing throughout. Very interesting exploits told thru a very witty style. Keeps you laughing and engaged. Kinda sad when I reached the end.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Humorous, sarcastic and profound at the same time.
By USAF Veteran
If you aren't familiar with PJ O'Rourke, the caustic, politically-incorrect humorist who used to write for the Rolling Stone when it was worth reading, this book of collected travel writings from the 1980's is a good place to start. Besides being funny, O'Rourke has an irritating way of insulting your favorite politician or political movement by pointing out their idiocy and forcing you to realize you are an idiot too for believing them. And you still enjoy the article. O'Rourke is fairly conservative, in a libertarian sort of way, so if you think Gore is exciting, Hillary (or Bill for that matter) is sexy, and Obama is a black descendant of slaves who fought his way to the top via expensive prep schools, Columbia and Harvard, you probably won't enjoy this book. O'Rourke savages Republicans too, but he seems to enjoy skewering liberals more. That said, this book is a collection of mostly foreign travels (with some American sites thrown in) to various dysfunctional areas of the world. If you have ever spent time in some of these places, he grasps their essence much better than a serious, straight-up political writer. Probably because he realizes that most politicians and official press agencies are steaming piles of horse-apples. There are chapters on Lebanon, Russia, Nicaragua, Poland, Korea, El Salvador, Disney World, South Africa, Harvard, the Phillipines, and Panama. Most of these chapters were written at the time of some ideological war. How can you not laugh at things like the Sandinista Director of Censorship denying there is any censorship by saying, "They [Newspaper La Prensa] accused us of suppressing freedom of expression. This was a lie and we could not let them publish it." On a somber note, you will note that the same Sandinistas are back in power in Nicaragua, Europeans are still weenies ("Among the Euro-weenies" is still spot on), and all the bureaucratic and political shenanigans and ironies are identical to what I suffered last time I tried to get on an airplane. (I never did make it since my 6 year old was on the "no-fly" list. Damn, how did they know he was such a spoiled brat?) So read this and laugh, and then you can cry later when it all hits home.

Now available from Grove Press, P. J. O'Rourke's classic, best-selling guided tour of the world's most desolate, dangerous, and desperate places. "Tired of making bad jokes" and believing that "the world outside seemed a much worse joke than anything I could conjure," P. J. O'Rourke traversed the globe on a fun-finding mission, investigating the way of life in the most desperate places on the planet, including Warsaw, Managua, and Belfast. The result is *Holidays in Hell*--a full-tilt, no-holds-barred romp through politics, culture, and ideology. P.J.'s adventures include storming student protesters' barricades with riot police in South Korea, interviewing Communist insurrectionists in the Philippines, and going undercover dressed in Arab garb in the Gaza Strip. He also takes a look at America's homegrown horrors as he braves the media frenzy surrounding the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington D.C., uncovers the mortifying banality behind the white-bread kitsch of Jerry Falwell's Heritage USA, and survives the stultifying boredom of Harvard's 350th anniversary celebration. Packed with P.J.'s classic riffs on everything from Polish nightlife under communism to Third World driving tips, *Holidays in Hell* is one of the best-loved books by one of today's most celebrated humorists.

.com No doubt about it: P. J. O'Rourke has a bizarre sense of fun. "What I've ... been," he writes in his introduction to

Holidays in Hell "is a Trouble Tourist--going to see insurrections, stupidities, political crises, civil disturbances and other human folly because ... because it's fun." Forget Hawaii or the Poconos--O'Rourke gets his jollies in places like war-torn Lebanon where he is greeted at the border by a gun barrel in his face, or Seoul, just in time for election-day violence. Wherever he goes, however, O'Rourke takes his quirky sense of humor, laser eye for detail, and artful way with words: a Philippine army officer is "powerful-looking in a short, compressed way, like an attack hamster," and the Syrian army is described as having "dozens of silly hats, mostly berets in yellow, orange and shocking pink, but also tiny pillbox chapeaux.... The paratroopers wear shiny gold jumpsuits and crack commando units have skin-tight fatigues in a camouflage pattern of violet, peach, flesh tone and vermilion on a background of vivid purple. This must give excellent protective coloration in, say, a room full of Palm Beach divorcees in Lily Pulitzer dresses." O'Rourke's flip, sarcastic style isn't for everyone, of course; the concept that anyone could find sightseeing in the Beirut or El Salvador of the 1980s fun might prove offensive to more than a few readers right off the bat. But love him or hate him, P. J. O'Rourke knows how to tell a good story, and if you like your travel writing laced with more than a little cynicism, *Holidays in Hell* could be just the book you've been looking for. From the Inside Flap Travels to hellholes around the globe looking for trouble--from Lebanon to Epcot-- the truth and a good time. About the Author P. J. O'Rourke is the author of twelve books, including *Parliament of Whores* and *Give War a Chance*, both of which were #1 New York Times best sellers. His most recent book is the best seller *On the Wealth of Nations*.