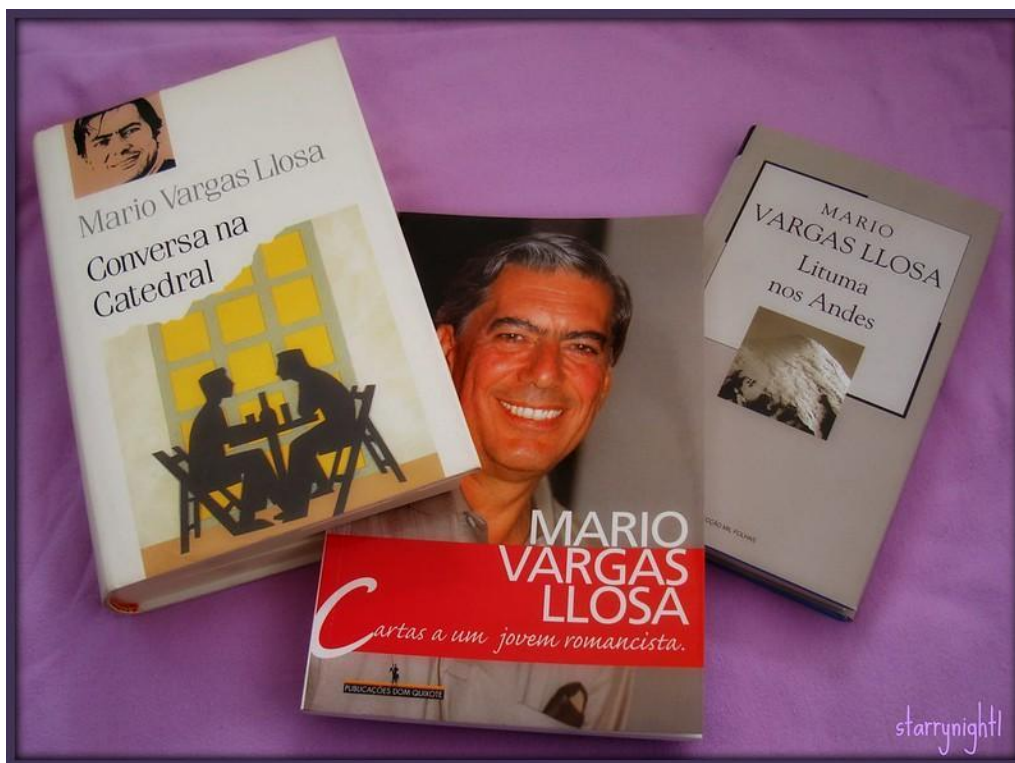


MARIO VARGAS LLOSA (1936 – 2025)



1. Jorge Mario Pedro Vargas Llosa, commonly known as Mario Vargas Llosa, is recognized as one of the most significant Latin American writers of the 20th and 21st centuries, and of his generation. His body of work encompasses fiction, journalism, literary criticism, and political analysis.
2. His full name is Jorge Mario Pedro Vargas Llosa. He was born on March 28, 1936, in Arequipa, Peru, to Ernesto Vargas Maldonado and Dora Losa Ureta. His parents separated long before he was born, and his maternal family raised him until he turned 10, at which point he resumed contact with his father. The authoritarian nature of his father and their complex relationship significantly influenced his writing, especially concerning themes of repression and authoritarianism. He passed away on April 13, 2025.
3. He pursued literature and law at the National University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru. In 1958, he received a scholarship to study at the Complutense University of Madrid in Spain. Throughout Europe and Latin America, he held various roles, including journalist, editor, and broadcaster. He earned his PhD from the University of Madrid.
4. Vargas Llosa's literary journey is remarkable, spanning over sixty years and encompassing more than thirty novels, as well as plays, essays, and literary critiques. His work blends realism, political commentary, expressive language, and experimental storytelling techniques, including shifting narrators and non-linear timelines. He often

explores themes like power dynamics, personal rebellion, and societal decline. As a prominent figure in the Latin American Boom—a literary movement of the 1960s and 1970s notable for its innovative approaches and international recognition—he rose to prominence alongside esteemed authors such as Gabriel García Márquez, Julio Cortázar, and Carlos Fuentes.

5. His prominent works encompass *The Time of Hero* (1963), which critiques military life and authoritarianism. *The Green House* (1966) explores themes of prostitution, corruption, and cultural conflicts in Peru. *The Conversation in the Cathedral* (1969) explores the impact of dictatorship on individual lives and society in Peru during the 1950s. Furthermore, *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* (1977) comes before *The War of the End of the World* (1981), regarded as a masterpiece of historical fiction set in Brazil. *The Feast of the Goat* (2000) narrates the story of Rafael Trujillo's dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, weaving personal trauma with political history. Other significant works include *Death in the Andes* (1993), *The Bad Girl* (2006), and *Harsh Times* (2019). *The Dream of the Celt* (2010) focuses on Irish nationalist Roger Casement, examining colonialism and moral challenges, published the same year Vargas Llosa received the Nobel Prize. Finally, *Le dedico mi silencio* (2003), announced as his last novel, reflects his enduring passion for storytelling and music, especially that of Gustav Mahler.

6. Vargas Llosa is a multifaceted essayist and journalist primarily engaged with literature, politics, and culture. One of his significant works is "A Writer's Reality" (1991), which comprises lectures addressing writing and imagination. Another key piece is "The Perpetual Orgy," a critical analysis of Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary." Additionally, "Letters to a Young Novelist" (1997) provides literary guidance through an exchange of letters. His essays explore a range of themes, including politics, culture, and the essence of freedom.

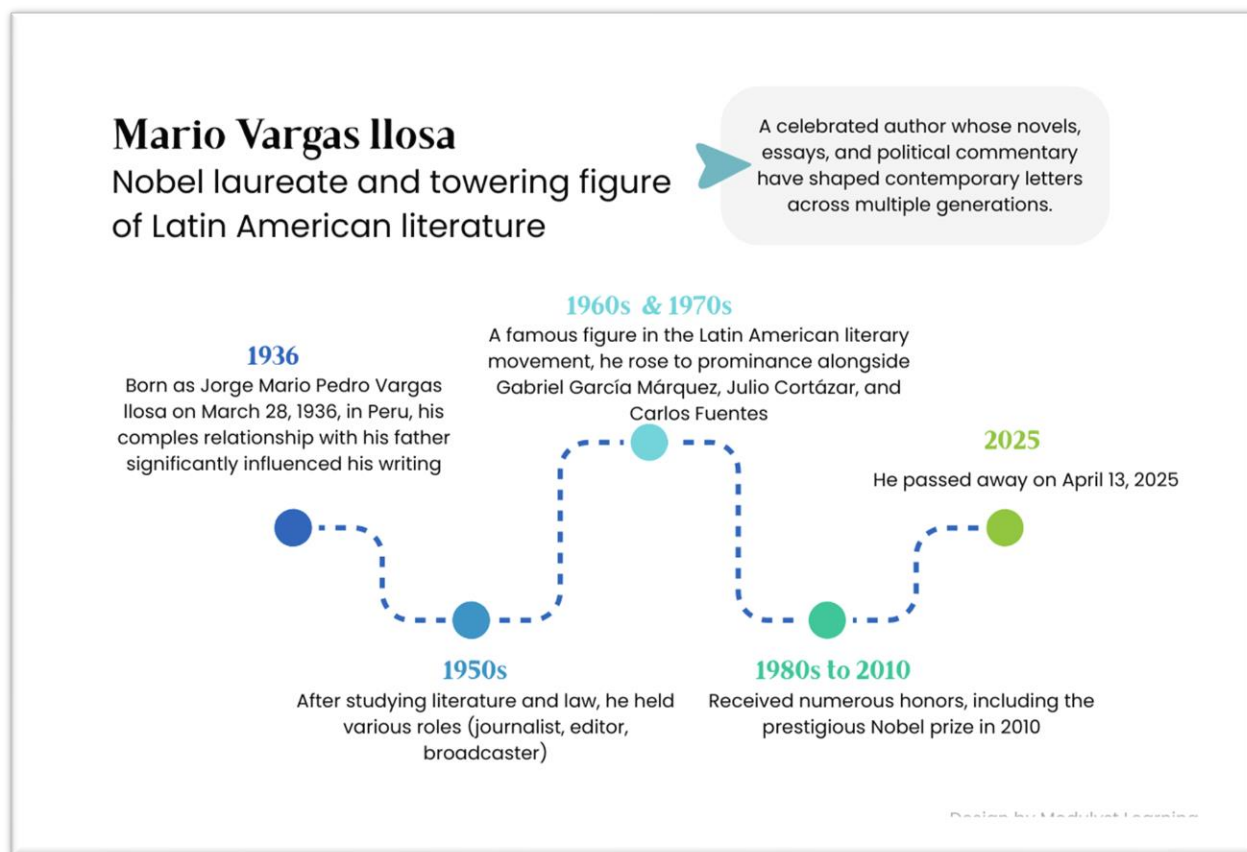
7. Mario Vargas Llosa is a steadfast advocate for classical liberalism, promoting free markets, democracy, and personal freedoms. He has consistently criticized authoritarianism across the political spectrum, including socialism and populist regimes in Latin America.

8. In his youth, Vargas Llosa initially supported the Cuban Revolution, but he eventually became disillusioned with Castro's government. He endorsed classical liberalism, which differs from American liberalism. In 1990, he faced Alberto Fujimori in the presidential election in Peru, but he was defeated in the runoff. Following this, he became a vigorous advocate for democracy, individual liberties, and neoliberal economic policies.

9. His awards and honours include the Nobel Prize (2010) for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of individual resistance. Several other

honors he received include the Miguel de Cervantes Prize (1994), the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature (1986), the Jerusalem Prize (1995), and the Legion of Honor (France). This includes numerous honorary doctorates from prestigious universities worldwide.

10. His legacy and influence are exceptional. Vargas Llosa is regarded as one of the greatest living novelists. His work encompasses a range of genres and themes, including politics, power, eroticism, identity, and freedom. Unlike many authors, he adeptly connects the literary and political spheres. He has continued to publish well into his late 80s.



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