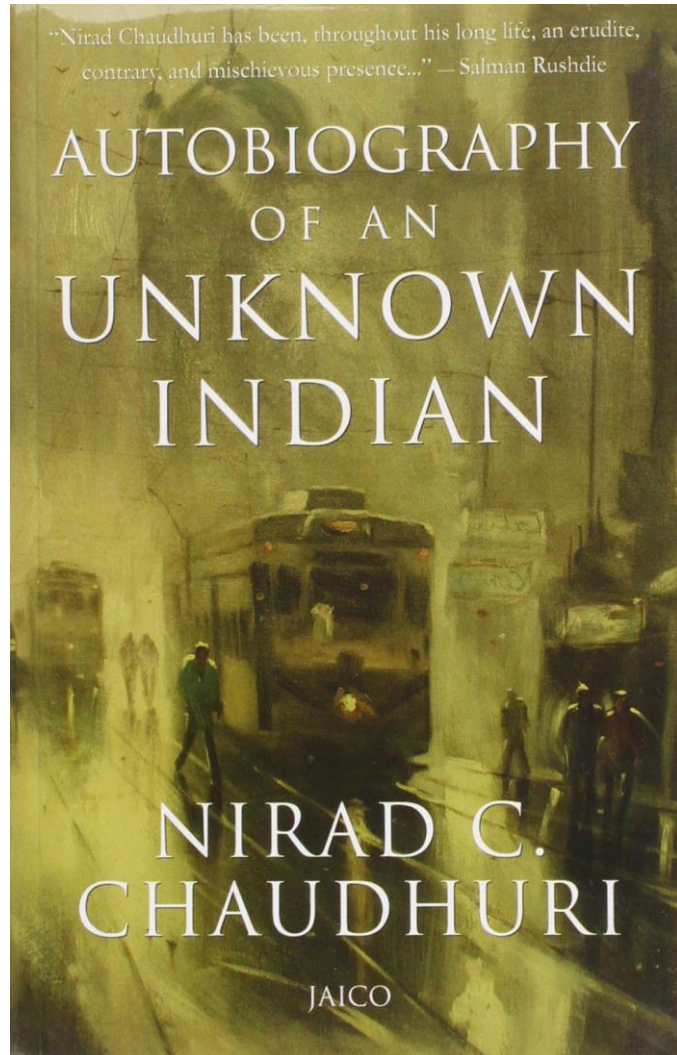


# Comparative Orientalisms in Mexican, Turkish and Bengali Literature

Prof. Ian Almond

Georgetown University Qatar

# Nirad C. Chaudhuri



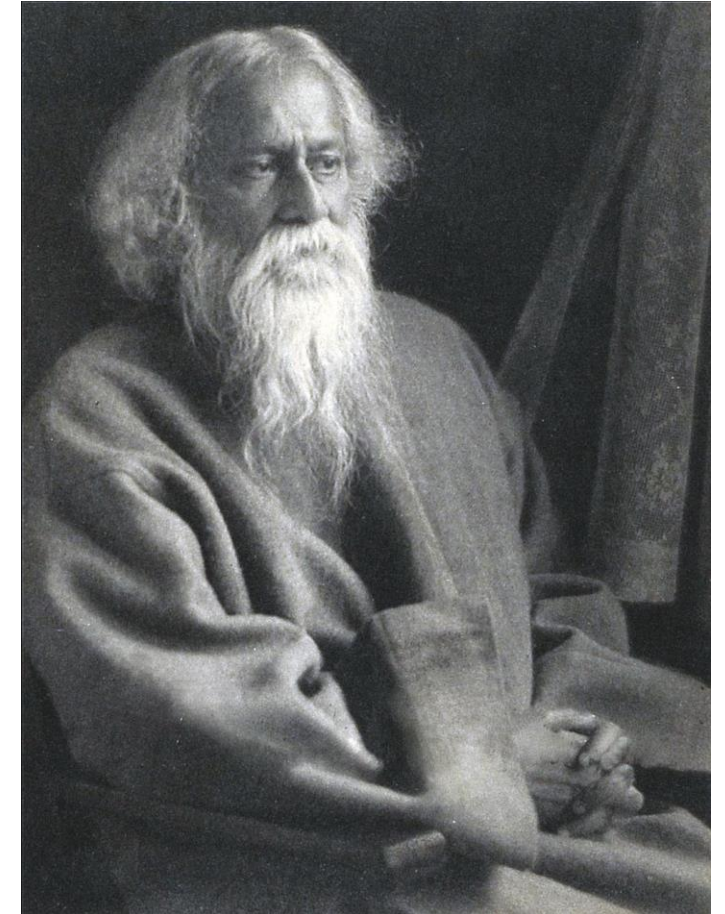
Even the maniacal hatred of the Muslim which is sweeping over Hindu India today has not emancipated the Hindu from his Islamic ways. The fierce maenads from the divided Punjab who even in buses mutter imprecations against Muslims have no idea of the true character of their shalwar and kurta.

-Nirad C. Chaudhuri

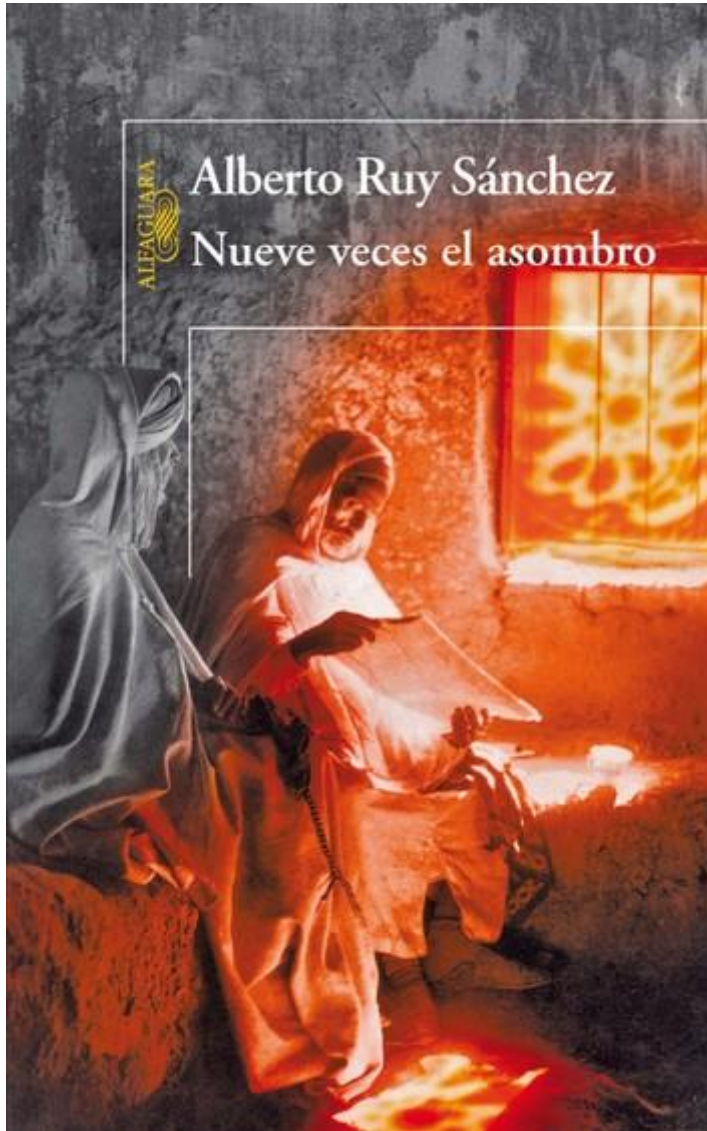
Countries that are fortunate find the essence of their land in the history of their country; the reading of history introduces their people to their country from infancy. With us the opposite is the case. It is the history of our country that hides the essence of this land from us. Whatever historical records exist from Mahmud's invasion to the arrogant imperial pronouncements of Lord Curzon, these constitute a strange mirage for India; . . . the trumpeting of elephants, . . . The golden glow of silk curtains, the stone bubbles of mosques, the mysterious silence of the palaces guarded by eunuchs—all these produce a huge magical illusion with their amazing sounds and colors. But why should we call this [Islamic history] India's history? It has covered the *punthi* of India's holy mantras by a fascinating Arabian Nights tale.

-Rabindranath Tagore

## Rabindranath Tagore



# Alberto Ruy Sanchez



“My first trip to Mogador became a much longer and deeper journey. First came the shock of discovering a place that on spite of being so distant from Mexico provoked a strong impression of recognition, much greater than the one a Mexican receives upon arriving to Spain. A combination of body language, place and objects made me feel that I had ventured into another Mexico.(...) Our legacy derives from five centuries of mixing Indian and Spanish blood, but we must not overlook the Arabic heritage running through our veins, introduced by Spaniards bodies. We must not forget that for eight centuries two-thirds of what is now Spain and Portugal was Arabic: the Andalusí civilization.”

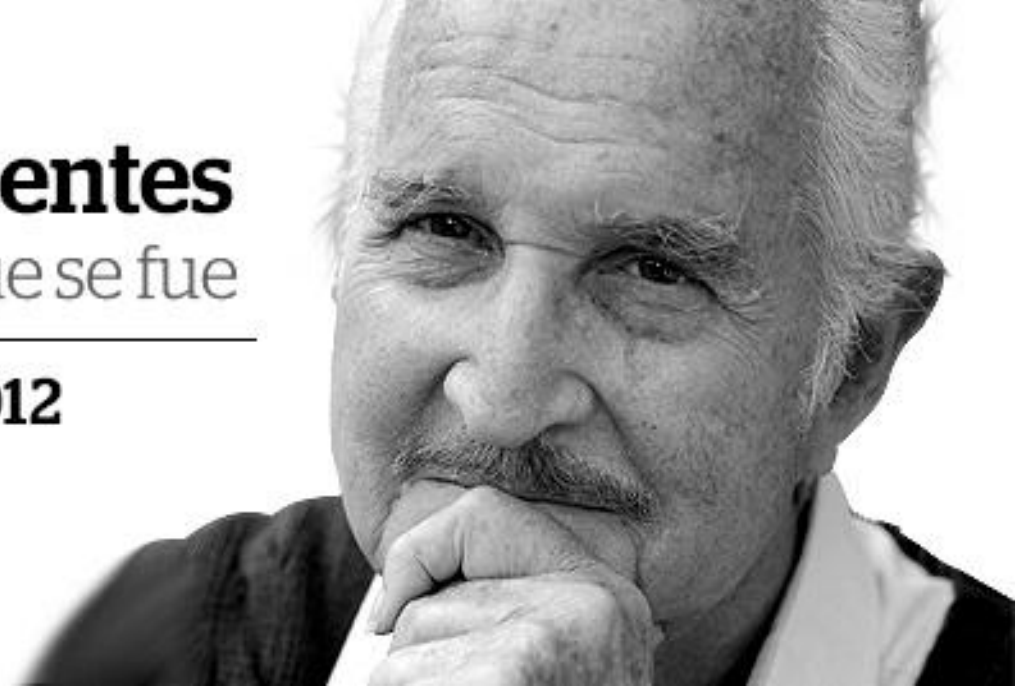
Alberto Ruy-Sanchez

# Carlos Fuentes

un grande que se fue

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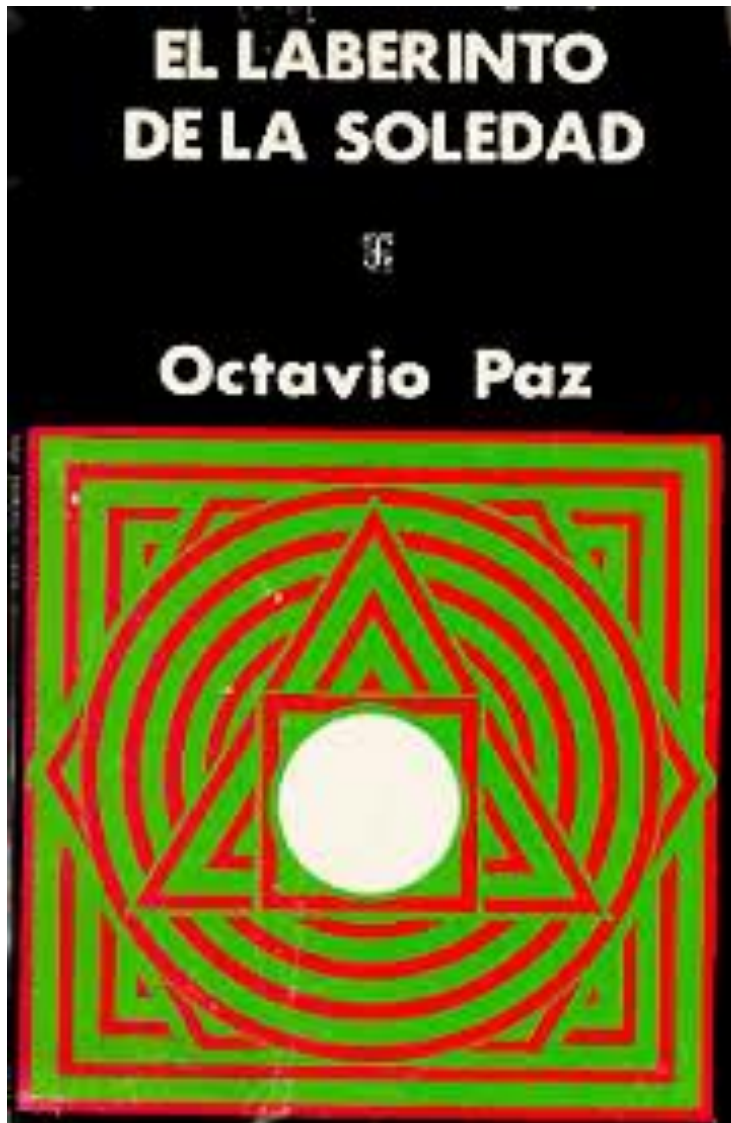
1928 - 2012



Quizás hacía falta esta asimilación indo-afro-iberoamericana para tender el puente sobre el Atlántico, colmar el abismo de los rencores y las querellas y reconocernos en nuestra otra mitad que es España. Pero España para Iberoamérica es algo más que España. Es el Mediterráneo renaciendo en el Caribe, el Golfo, el Pacífico y el Atlántico americanos. España es la filosofía griega y el derecho romano. España es la España de las tres culturas, cristiana, árabe y judía, dándose cita en la corte de Alfonso el Sabio y desastrosamente expulsadas por el dogmatismo ciego de los reyes católicos, Isabel y Fernando.

-Carlos Fuentes

# Octavio Paz



Y ese modelo, como en el caso del "macho", tiende a subrayar los aspectos defensivos y pasivos, en una gama que va desde el pudor y la "decencia" hasta el estoicismo, la resignación y la impasibilidad.

La herencia hispanoárabe no explica completamente esta conducta. La actitud de los españoles frente a las mujeres es muy simple y se expresa, con brutalidad y concisión, en dos refranes: "la mujer en casa y con la pata rota" y "entre santa y santo, pared de cal y canto".

-Octavio Paz, *El Laberinto de la soledad*