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Guatemala, La Historia Silenciada (1944 - 1989), Tomo I. Revolución Y Liberación (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Sobre la historia de Guatemala se han levantado mitos que se aceptan sin mayor reflexión. Ante el predominio de visiones tan sesgadas, Carlos Sabino, un profundo conocedor de América Latina, se propuso ofrecer una versión equilibrada de lo ocurrido en el país durante las últimas décadas. Este volumen es el resultado de un trabajo riguroso, producto de una larga investigación, pero no es un libro dirigido a los eruditos, sino un relato fresco, claro y accesible, ameno y de apasionante lectura que leerán con provecho todas aquellas personas que se interesan en la historia de Latinoamérica y de Guatemala.

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Customer Reviews

Anyone interested in either the history of Guatemala or United States post-WWII foreign policy towards Latin America should read this book! Mr. Sabino, the author, rebuts what has become the standard view of Guatemala history and its relation with the US in the Eisenhower era, whose events are often used as to illustrate US imperialism over Latin American countries. According to this view, Jacobo Arbenz the duly-elected President of Guatemala in 1951, represented the start of a democratic era after years of dictatorship. However this promise was cut short by American intervention whose purpose was to protect the interests of the United Fruit Company (UFCo), at the expense of human rights and democracy. The Agrarian reform, which Arbenz was pushing in order to achieve a fairer distribution of land, represented a severe threat to UFCo, Guatemala's largest landholder, UFCo appealed to the US Government (which was easy since the US Secretary of State was on UFCo's Board), and so the CIA was sent to train an army which then invaded Guatemala

from neighboring Honduras (then a client state of the US with strong UFCo presence), forcing Arbenz out of office, and replacing him with Castillo Armas, a US puppet who promptly reversed all of Arbenz's policies.. It is then said that this intervention and reversal of Arbenz's policies laid the seed for the 20-year-long guerrilla war that followed, and its cruel repression.. Sabino sees things differently. He chronicles the difficulties well-meaning leaders encountered in establishing a democracy in the 1940's after years of dictatorship, the role of the Guatemalan military (Arbenz was a major) the takeover of that "democracy" by well-organized band of individuals led by Arbenz, and how these individuals were driven by an ideology which would have turned Guatemala into a satellite Soviet communist state, much to the chagrin of not only the US but the army nor the agricultural community which had no interest in collectivization and did not like this power grab. Arbenz, whose election was hardly "democratic," was therefore deposed not so much by the strength of the invasion, which numbered only a few hundred people, but by the lack of support by fellow-Guatemalans, so much so that his strongest allies, the unions. could not muster anyone to join the popular "militia" he had hoped would be there to defend him. Sabino's sources are good, and his tale rings true to anyone who knows Guatemala's fractured and often violent political character. Yet in some matters it does seem a little naive, so it is important to read not only this book, but other chronicles of the same period. The book comes with an extensive bibliography

Excelente obra. El autor describe los hechos desde varios puntos de vista (entrevistas, archivos, etc.). La escritura es muy clara y permite seguir los hechos relatados con mucho interés. Se lee como una novela.

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