

## Chapter 1 : The Nicaragua revolution in History Collections | Driwancybermuseum's Blog

*Based on extensive fieldwork and interviews with government officials, this book presents an examination of the Nicaraguan industrial sector, both under the Somoza regime and the Sandinista.*

The PSN claimed to be a "pure" Marxist group that was committed to fostering mass support of the proletariat and participating in elections before agreeing to any type of revolution. While many FSLN members were wiped out, the decade Fonseca spent underground allowed him to research Sandino and come up with a more concrete ideological framework and a more appropriate time to resurface on the Nicaraguan scene. This opportunity emerged in the s, when the Somoza government confiscated relief funds for personal gain instead of giving aid to individuals and families after the Managua earthquake. Fonseca stated that the persistent problems that existed in Nicaragua could not be solved through legal activities and elections. Instead, Fonseca drew from the success of the Cuban Revolution and the life of Sandino to persuade students, workers, and peasants to gain power through the revolutionary force of the FSLN. Sandino, who had fought a six-year guerrilla war against the Conservatives and the United States Marines in Nicaragua from to , was generally viewed as a popular war hero prior to his death. Incidentally, the only book that was publicly available domestically to Nicaraguans was an account of Sandino that portrayed him as a bandit and communist, written by Somoza. While symbolic heroes are remembered for their successes, Sandinistas value Sandino as a hero but also recognize his failure to fulfill his mission due to the lack of class-consciousness that existed during the s. Fonseca explained, "It was to the glory of the people of Nicaragua that the most humble class responded for the stained honor of the nation. At the same time, it was a tragedy because we are speaking of a peasantry without any political awareness. The result was that once Sandino was assassinated, his movement was incapable of continuity. Carlos Fonseca adopted many of the Sandinista military goals from Che Guevara in Populism and guerrilla warfare[ edit ] Carlos Fonseca is considered the principal ideologue of the Sandinistas because he established the fundamental ideas of Sandinism. The most important attributes of the ideology make it solely a Nicaraguan creation. General of Free Men", Fonseca was able to study Sandino freely and to begin constructing what he saw as a uniquely Nicaraguan revolutionary ideology. Popular support from the rural masses was needed to take on the Somoza forces. These peasants that were taking part in guerrilla activities had to have developed a new revolutionary consciousness for them to risk their lives to attain freedom. Symbolism[ edit ] Fonseca was highly influenced by Nicaraguan hero Augusto Sandino; Sandino led a peasant insurgence against American Marines who were monitoring a peace treaty between liberal and conservative factions in Nicaragua before the first Somoza government in the s. When the Somoza dictatorship was in power education was at a very low standard. In the s Fonseca fostered a different conception of Sandino to the rural masses. He portrayed Sandino as a man on a quest to attain the sovereign-independence of Nicaragua, and as a leader who wished to remove the foreign influences that were dominant in the country and prevented the government from conducting business for the well being of the Nicaraguan people. Sandino was not a Marxist unlike Fonseca. Like Sandino, Fonseca wished to ignite the consciousness of the peasantry, they were a collective force that was shown they could be in control of their futures. Zwerling; 67 Fonseca believed that the first liberty that the masses should have was their ownership of the land that they labored. Arnove; 7 While rejecting teleological visions, Fonseca still believed that the formation of revolutionary consciousness was making peasants into "complete human beings. As the peasants were taught to read and write they developed a conscious awareness of their reality and were able to see the exploitation they endured under the Somoza regime. Under the Somozas there was a lack of properly funded schools in the countryside, most peasant children received no lessons and their parents were illiterate as well. Nationalism and class solidarity were developed through the growth of consciousness, and with time, the realization that the use of arms would be required was also fostered. In Sandinismo, nationalism and sovereign independence are key motivators. The sometimes mythic tales of Sandino tapped into the artistic imaginations of the peasants who needed to be convinced, and political passion was given a more concrete form. Palmer,92 As with any populist movement, to go along with its abstract ideas an excellent leader was required to march

in front of the masses. The Terceristas[ edit ] Sandinismo had several doctrinal strands during the years of insurgency and throughout the revolutionary period. However, the Sandinismo of the Terceristas, led by Daniel and Humberto Ortega, gained preponderance over its more doctrinaire rivals during the revolutionary years. The Terceristas believed Nicaragua would have to go through a transitional popular-democratic revolutionary phase that would not be explicitly Marxist-Leninist until it reached a socialist society. Sandino led a peasant insurgency against the first Somoza government in the s under the Liberal Party banner. When the Somoza dictatorship was in power they had failed to develop proper educational institutions. To the dismay of Sandinistas, in school classes Sandino was described as a bandit and an enemy of good government. In the s, Fonseca brought a new interpretation of Sandino to the Sandinista party members he wished to dispense upon the masses: Sandino wished to remove the foreign influences that were dominant in the country, and prevented the government from conducting business for the well being of the Nicaraguan people. Fonseca wished to use his newly developed history of Nicaragua to unite the rural peasants to instill a greater sense of pride, to encourage men to take part in the anti-imperial struggle and to increase revolutionary solidarity. Unlike Fonseca, Sandino was not a Marxist-Leninist. Like Sandino, Fonseca wished to ignite the consciousness of the peasantry, and they were a collective force that Fonseca showed could be in control of their own futures. Zwerling; 67 Fonseca believed that the first liberty that the masses should have was the ownership of the land where they labored. In truth, the idea of consciousness was borrowed from Sandino, and also from the Cuban revolutionaries. The message Fonseca and Sandino left was to teach the peasants to read and write. This did not occur too often in the s. But for Sandinistas, education was a major function of the movement. Conscious people were committed to the revolution, even with the fatal risks involved. Modern caudillo[ edit ] Fonseca made himself a modern Sandino; at times he overlooked the importance of obtaining support from the urban revolutionaries Humberto Ortega. His supporters saw him as a respectful leader, inspirational, imaginative, determined, self-confident, displayed personal-magnetism and had absolute integrity. When Sandino was assassinated his revolutionary thought died with him.

**Chapter 2 : Bibliography - Nicaragua - power, policy**

*Geske Dijkstra, Industrialization in Sandinista Nicaragua: Policy and Practice in a Mixed Economy (Boulder and Oxford, Westview Press, ), pp. xii + , \$*

Get our newsletter delivered directly to your inbox I have already subscribed Do not show this message again Boletines Your email has been successfully registered. Despite a lack of capital sources, Nicaragua has managed to prioritize poverty reduction. Since the Sandinista Front returned to office under the leadership of Daniel Ortega in January , Nicaragua has been an outstanding example of of gradual recovery by a vulnerable country immiserated in poverty by decades of neocolonial intervention. Without sources of capital accumulation such as mineral and energy resources and without a developed industrial infrastructure, the country has still managed to prioritize poverty reduction. The Sandinista government has worked with pragmatism and creativity on socialist inspired principles to promote stable social and economic progress despite the destructive volatility of global capitalism. The government has also introduced very important tax reforms, creating a fairer tax structure resulting in higher government revenues. The country is regarded by economists as being more resilient than its neighbors and less vulnerable to the volatility in much of the global economy, thanks in large part to the remarkable social progress made in reducing inequality. In the end, recognition from international institutions means little compared to what Nicaraguans themselves think of their government. By contrast, the opposition parties together hardly earn the sympathy of 8. Another encouraging indicator is that while in , three years before Daniel Ortega returned to office, Those trends were clearly confirmed even by the latest survey from the Costa Rican CID-Gallup company, whose anti-Sandinista bias is obvious from its commentary on the results obtained. Such levels of approval are not by accident and correspond to the relevant statistics: To see the reality of the change, it suffices to take a stroll in any Nicaraguan town or village and compare the overall picture today with the one ten years ago. Roads, streets, schools, parks, public health clinics and other infrastructure have been completely renewed or else built from scratch with all the employment creation and focus on social programs that implies. It is a model that guarantees equitable economic development explicitly accompanied by corresponding social development. The social and economic success of that policy mix ensures the support of the private business sector, itself made stronger as a result of those same policies. That too is seen in the annual tripartite mechanism to negotiate the minimum wage by consensus, involving workers, employers and the State. That consensus is only one component of the national model of dialogue and it interacts with other components in all areas of the national life, especially health and education. A look at the figures shows how sustained economic growth is enabling Nicaragua to aim realistically at eradicating poverty for good. Since , the country has grown at a rate above the Central American regional average, second only to Panama. Macro-economic stability, especially low, stable inflation, is essential to achieve such results. Since , inflation has been in single figures with a tendency to decline. In , with an increase of 81 percent, Nicaragua had the highest growth of formal employment in Latin America. In it was 0. Just as elsewhere, public investment in Nicaragua encourages and supports private sector investments. The target sectors have been manufacturing, food processing, energy, telecommunications and mining, with substantial participation from the US, Canada and Mexico. More traditional international development cooperation relationships permit investment from countries as diverse as Russia, Souht Korea, Brazil, Japan, Iran, Taiwan, the European Union and the United States, as well as international financial institutions. Transparency, efficiency and appropriate use of that development cooperation have ensured high flows of international funding, even as Nicaragua loses access to concessional loans thanks to its economic progress. High levels of development funding have not incurred excessive levels of public debt. This indicator is comfortably above the internationally recommended levels of twice the monetary base and 3 months of imports. Nicaragua has shown how export diversification and financial stability mutually reinforce each other. The encouraging results are clear. For the global economy, is full of uncertainty. Capitalism has been proven to be hopelessly inefficient in allocating resources and dismally incapable of ensuring sustainable prosperity. The stupid idea that free markets exist in some way independent

of political and financial manipulation has been completely discredited. The international oil market is just the most obvious example of this. In any case, overall demand in the U. Apart from that, Nicaragua has various strengths allowing the country to face the global economic uncertainty with confidence. Internationally, Nicaragua has developed a wide ranging network of contacts considerably increasing the number and scope of its trade and investment partners in the world. All these factors interact very positively with the progressive, concerted diversification of the national economy, in which the facilitating and normative role of the State is fundamental.

**Chapter 3 : la revoluci n sandinista | Download eBook PDF/EPUB**

*The first Spanish explorers of Nicaragua found a welldeveloped agrarian society in the central highlands and Pacific lowlands. The rich volcanic soils produced a wide array of products, including beans, peppers, corn, cocoa, and cassava (manioc). Agricultural land was held communally, and each.*

The GPP was based on the "accumulation of forces in silence": There they would build a grassroots peasant support base in preparation for renewed rural guerrilla warfare. In the view of the young orthodox Marxist intellectuals, such as Jaime Wheelock , economic development had turned Nicaragua into a nation of factory workers and wage-earning farm laborers. Shortly after, a third faction arose within the FSLN. The "Insurreccional Tendency", also known as the "Third Way" or Terceristas, led by Daniel Ortega , his brother Humberto Ortega , and Mexican-born Victor Tirado Lopez, was more pragmatic and called for tactical, temporary alliances with non-communists, including the right-wing opposition, in a popular front against the Somoza regime. The Terceristas carried out attacks in early February in several Nicaraguan cities. The National Guard responded by further increasing repression and using force to contain and intimidate all government opposition. The nationwide strike that paralyzed the country for ten days weakened the private enterprises and most of them decided to suspend their participation in less than two weeks. Meanwhile, Somoza asserted his intention to stay in power until the end of his presidential term in . The United States government showed its displeasure with Somoza by suspending all military assistance to the regime, but continued to approve economic assistance to the country for humanitarian reasons. Armed youths took over the highland city of Matagalpa. Large numbers of semi-armed civilians joined the revolt and put the Guard garrisons of the latter four cities under siege. The September Insurrection of was subdued at the cost of several thousand, mostly civilian, casualties. Sotelo, later to become Ambassador to the U. This strengthened the revolutionary organizations as tens of thousands of youths joined the FSLN and the fight against Somoza. A direct consequence of the spread of the armed struggle in Nicaragua was the official reunification of the FSLN that took place on 7 March . By mid-April , five guerrilla fronts opened under the joint command of the FSLN, including an internal front in the capital city Managua. Young guerrilla cadres and the National Guardsmen were clashing almost daily in cities throughout the country. Urban insurrection was the crucial element because the FSLN could never hope to achieve simple superiority in men and firepower over the National Guard. On June 16, the formation of a provisional Nicaraguan government in exile, consisting of a five-member Junta of National Reconstruction , was announced and organized in Costa Rica. The war left approximately 30,000 dead and 1 million Nicaraguans in exile. The five-member junta entered the Nicaraguan capital the next day and assumed power, reiterating its pledge to work for political pluralism, a mixed economic system, and a nonaligned foreign policy. Only three votes were needed to pass law. However, the Council of State only gave political parties twelve of forty-seven seats; the rest of the seats were given to Sandinista mass-organizations. Nevertheless, as of the State of Emergency, opposition parties were no longer given representation in the council. The Sandinista-controlled mass organizations were extremely influential over civil society and saw their power and popularity peak in the mids. Over , Nicaraguans participated as literacy teachers. One of the stated aims of the literacy campaign was to create a literate electorate which would be able to make informed choices at the promised elections. These activities led critics of the Sandinistas to argue that the CDS was a system of local spy networks for the government used to stifle political dissent, and the CDS did hold limited powers—such as the ability to suspend privileges such as driver licenses and passports—if locals refused to cooperate with the new government. After the initiation of heavier U. Violeta Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo resigned from the governing junta in , and rumours began that members of the Ortega junta would consolidate power amongst themselves. Armed opposition to the Sandinista Government eventually divided into two main groups: Although independent and often at conflict with each other, these guerrilla bands—along with several others—all became generally known as "Contras" short for "contrarrevolucionarios", en. They conducted attacks on economic, military, and civilian targets. During the Contra war, the Sandinistas arrested suspected members of the Contra militias and censored publications they

accused of collaborating with the enemy i. They argued that this was a response to attacks by counter-revolutionary forces. Under the new "Law for the Maintenance of Order and Public Security" the "Tribunales Populares Anti-Somozistas" allowed for the indefinite holding of suspected counter-revolutionaries without trial. The State of Emergency, however, most notably affected rights and guarantees contained in the "Statute on Rights and Guarantees of Nicaraguans". In total, twenty-four programs were cancelled. There were many instances where rallies of opposition parties were physically broken up by Sandinista Youth or pro-Sandinista mobs. James Wheelock justified the actions of the Directorate by saying " We are annulling the license of the false prophets and the oligarchs to attack the revolution. In December special courts called "Tribunales Especiales" were established to speed up the processing of 7,, National Guard prisoners. These courts operated through relaxed rules of evidence and due process and were often staffed by law students and inexperienced lawyers. However, the decisions of the "Tribunales Especiales" were subject to appeal in regular courts. Many of the National Guard prisoners were released immediately due to lack of evidence. Others were pardoned or released by decree. By only 2, remained in custody and only 39 were still being held in when they were released under the Esquipulas II agreement. A new regulation also forced any organization outside of the government to first submit any statement it wanted to make public to the censorship bureau for prior approval. **Contras**[ edit ] Main articles: This campaign included attacks on schools, health centers and the majority of the rural population that was sympathetic to the Sandinistas. Widespread murder, rape, and torture were also used as tools to destabilize the government and to "terrorize" the population into collaborating with the Contras. Throughout this campaign, the Contras received military and financial support from the CIA and the Reagan Administration. Contra supporters have often tried to downplay these violations, or countered that the Sandinista government carried out much more. In particular, the Reagan administration engaged in a campaign to alter public opinion on the Contras that has been termed "white propaganda". Congress prohibited federal funding of the Contras through the Boland Amendment in , the Reagan administration continued to back the Contras by raising money from foreign allies and covertly selling arms to Iran then engaged in a war with Iraq , and channelling the proceeds to the Contras see the Iranâ€”Contra affair. Oliver North took much of the blame. Unlike Spanish-speaking western Nicaragua, the Caribbean Coast is predominantly English-speaking and was largely ignored by the Somoza regime. They argued that popular support was expressed in the insurrection and that further appeals to popular support would be a waste of scarce resources. Independent electoral observers from around the worldâ€”including groups from the UN as well as observers from Western Europe â€”found that the elections had been fair. According to a study, [70] since the election was for posts subordinate to the Sandinista Directorate, the elections were no more subject to approval by vote than the Central Committee of the Communist Party is in countries of the East Bloc. Daniel Ortega began his six-year presidential term on January 10, After the United States Congress turned down continued funding of the Contras in April , the Reagan administration ordered a total embargo on United States trade with Nicaragua the following month, accusing the Sandinista government of threatening United States security in the region. The Contras also distributed thousands of UNO leaflets. After the war, a survey was taken of voters: Despite limited resources and poor organization, the UNO coalition under Violeta Chamorro directed a campaign centered around the failing economy and promises of peace. Chamorro promised to end the unpopular military draft, bring about democratic reconciliation, and promote economic growth. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Reasons for the Sandinista loss in are disputed. Defenders of the defeated government assert that Nicaraguans voted for the opposition due to the continuing U. Others have alleged that the United States threatened to continue to support the Contras and continue the civil war if the regime was not voted out of power. Ortega also claimed to "rule from below" through groups he controls such as labor unions and student groups. Prominent Sandinistas also created nongovernmental organizations to promote their ideas and social goals. The Sandinistas won second place in the congressional elections, with 36 of 93 seats. Municipal elections in November saw a strong Sandinista vote, especially in urban areas, and former Tourism Minister Herty Lewites was elected mayor of Managua. This result led to expectations of a close race in the presidential elections scheduled for November The results of these elections were that the

FSLN won. However, Lewites died several months before the elections. The FSLN also won 38 seats in the congressional elections, becoming the party with the largest representation in parliament. In , several liberal congressmen raised accusations about the FSLN presumably attempting to buy votes in order to pass constitutional reforms that would allow Ortega to run for office for the 6th time since . The voucher will consist of the delivery of a pregnant cow and a pregnant sow, five chickens and a rooster, seeds, fruit-bearing plants and plants for reforestation. The families that benefit from the project will be required to pay back 20 percent of the amount that they receive in order to create a rural fund that will guarantee the continuity of the program. NGOs and representatives from each community will be in charge of managing the project. Over people have been killed in the ongoing unrest.

*Industrialization In Sandinista Nicaragua: Policy And Practice In A Mixed Economy (Series in Political Economy and Economic Development in Latin America) [Geske Dijkstra, Geske Dijkstra] on www.nxgvision.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

The Assault on Coyotepe U. It is an interesting story with a variety of versions. One battle was fought there in October Estrada in Bluefields finally appeared to have the military power to defeat Zelaya. Two mercenaries from the United States contracted by Conservatives to sabotage ships in the harbor had been caught by the authorities and summarily executed. Marines were sent to the rescue and landed in Bluefields to insure that the revolution would not fizzle out. Marines, brought on the confrontation at Coyotepe in October Storm the heights Located on the end of the Masaya Lagoon are two large hills, one called Coyotepe and the other called La Barranca. Before the Marines showed up, Liberal forces fortified both hills. Telegrams were exchanged between the U. At first light they started up the hill. He was struck in the spine by a bullet. The wound had been fatal and he was dead on arrival. The corpse was then paraded through the streets. Regarding the assault, the only accurate account of the battle and the condition of the hill at the time of the battle is found in an address that Colonel Pendleton gave in at the dedication of a plaque to honor the dead who took part in that battle. That plaque is mounted on a wall in the Marine barracks in Boston, where the great majority of the men who took part in the assault had come from. Pendleton finally told what happened on the hill outside of Masaya. The strategy of the Marines was to have one group of soldiers pin down the defenders with accurate rifle fire as the others climbed the hill. This worked until the Marines reached an open space right under the summit. A machine gun had been placed to cover it, and it was also blocked with barbed wire. As soon as the Marines made it there, three were shot dead and several others were wounded seriously. A fourth Marine named Durham continued forward and was shot down, but not before he had managed to cut the barbed wire. The Marines then took the summit. The assault on Coyotepe was over. American losses were four killed and several wounded; Nicaraguan losses unknown. This lays waste to versions that have the fortress being built late last century. Judging from the architecture, it appears that the fortress was built between the two world wars. Though it surely does command the Masaya Highway and old railway line to Granada, it could easily be destroyed by one pound bomb. In the mids, the Somoza family had turned the old fortress over to the Boy Scouts, who used it for their annual jamboree. The dungeons below were reportedly used to isolate political prisoners then, and again during the s when the Sandinistas were in power. However, the tales of brutal torture of prisoners during either regime are undocumented, though they lend an aura of intrigue while one walks around inside. In the early years of the Sandinista revolution, the authorities turned Coyotepe over for use by the Association of Sandinista Children, a Nicaraguan version of the Pioneers in Cuba. By , it was completely abandoned, adorned with spray-painted graffiti, including some elaborately drawn pornographic sketches. It has been returned once again to the Boy Scouts, probably its most effective use. Meanwhile, you can visit the installation and let your imagination run rampant as you walk the underground corridors past the cells in this 20th century dungeon. Two archived copies of the same photo. On the rear of the second photo is the following: For US-generated records describing the events surrounding the destruction of the mine., George Marshall, superintendent at La Luz Mine, was seized by the Sandinistas and died in captivity, though evidence indicates he died of dysentery, not Sandinista mistreatment; in fact it appears the rebels treated him well. These photos show Marshall during his captivity. The wedding party, outskirts of San Rafael del Norte, May 19, Sandino and Liberals in Jinotega during the Civil War? Judging from the position of the roof corner in the building in the background, this photo was probably snapped a few moments after the photo below, as the photographer moved along with the crowd and horsemen. Note that the photographer faces the middle of a large tall windowless building with elaborate molding to the left, suggesting a church. That seems likeliest anyway. These two photos present something of a puzzle. The two were clearly taken the same day during the same event, by someone in the street near the town plaza, watching a passing parade of Liberal or Sandinista soldiers. The troops were probably entering a bigger town "evidenced by the size of the building in the

background, probably the church. The only time Sandino rode triumphantly through major towns was during the Civil War and right after. It thus seems reasonable to surmise that these two photos were taken in a bigger Segovian town around February-March , while the Civil War still raged. These were probably Liberal Sandinistas. Sandinistas in the Western Segovias, This photo, and the four to follow, appear to be in the Western Segovias, probably around San Lucas-Somoto. Evidently a mock battle being staged in the center of the half-moon formation. Appears almost ritualized, and certainly theatrical. Such mock combat is also seen in the next photo. The piled-stone and thatch dwelling suggests an area of longtime indigenous settlement, such as around Somoto-San Lucas. Soon after he was arrested, imprisoned at the National Penitentiary in Managua. Was this photograph found on his person? Sandinistas and Ismael Peralta in Jinotega. The men seem especially interested in brandishing their weapons. Two separate prints of the same photo, followed by a second version, of much higher quality, from the collection of Walter C. Sandinista anti-aircraft battery in the jungle. Three versions of the same photograph, again suggesting its widespread circulation at the time. The first two images, of lesser quality, are in RG; the third is from the collection of Walter C. The man in the white shirt in the center seems to direct the two men in front of him. All this suggests these six rebels were posing in an offensive posture directed against airplanes. The third image, of higher quality, reveals another individual, in the background whose hat protrudes over the extended right arm of the man in the white shirt. This makes eight men total: No title, EDSN column in the jungle, ca. Probably , probably the Western Segovias. Carlos Salgado, of course, was one of the leading Sandinista generals in this region from the end of the Civil War till the end of the rebellion, and one of the shrewdest and most capable of all rebel chieftains. No title, no date, ca. This photo, and the next one Photo 16 were taken a few moments apart by the same person standing in the same place, as one can see by comparing the corner of the roof. This and the previous photo Photo 14 appear to have been taken a few moments apart. Were these men Sandinistas?

**Chapter 5 : Sandinista National Liberation Front - Wikipedia**

*How the Sandinista Revolution Changed Traditional Gender Roles in Nicaragua Before the Nicaraguan Sandinista Revolution had taken place in the late s, male and female gender roles had been clearly and traditionally defined as to how one should behave and conduct one's self.*

Nicaragua Table of Contents Pre-Columbian and Colonial Era The first Spanish explorers of Nicaragua found a welldeveloped agrarian society in the central highlands and Pacific lowlands. The rich volcanic soils produced a wide array of products, including beans, peppers, corn, cocoa, and cassava manioc. Agricultural land was held communally, and each community had a central marketplace for trading and distributing food. The arrival of the Spanish in the early s destroyed, for all intents and purposes, the indigenous agricultural system. The early conquistadors were interested primarily in gold; European diseases and forced work in the gold mines decimated the native population. Some small areas continued to be cultivated at the end of the s, but most previously tilled land reverted to jungle. Coffee was first grown domestically as a curiosity in the early s. By the early s, passengers crossing Nicaragua en route to California were served large quantities of Nicaraguan coffee. The Central American coffee boom was in full swing in Nicaragua by the s, and large areas in western Nicaragua were cleared and planted with coffee trees. Unlike traditional cattle raising or subsistence farming, coffee production required significant capital and large pools of labor. Laws were therefore passed to encourage foreign investment and allow easy acquisition of land. By the end of the nineteenth century, the entire economy came to resemble what is often referred to as a "banana republic" economy--one controlled by foreign interests and a small domestic elite oriented toward the production of a single agriculture export. Profits from coffee production flowed abroad or to the small number of landowners. Taxes on coffee were virtually nonexistent. The economy was also hostage to fluctuations in the price of coffee on the world markets--wide swings in coffee prices meant boom or bust years in Nicaragua. The government brought in foreign technocrats to give advice on increasing production of new crops; hectarage in bananas and sugarcane increased, livestock herds grew, and cotton became a new export crop. Economic growth continued in the s, largely as a result of industrialization. Under the stimulus of the newly formed Central American Common Market CACM; see Appendix B , Nicaragua achieved a certain degree of specialization in processed foods, chemicals, and metal manufacturing. By the end of the s, however, import-substitution industrialization ISI as a stimulus for economic growth had been exhausted. Furthermore, the manufacturing firms that had developed under the tariff protection of the CACM were generally high-cost and inefficient; consequently, they were at a disadvantage when exporting outside the region. Although statistics for the period seemed to show continued economic growth, they reflected fluctuations in demand rather than a continued diversification of the economy. However, these figures largely represented the jump in construction as the country struggled to rebuild after the disastrous earthquake. Likewise, the positive growth in was merely a reflection of the high world prices for coffee and cotton. Positive GDP growth rates in the s masked growing structural problems in the economy. An estimated 10, people were killed and 30, injured, most of them in the capital area. The earthquake destroyed most government offices, the financial district of Managua, and about 2, small shops engaged in manufacturing and commercial activities. About 4 percent of city housing in Managua was left unstable. Government budget deficits and inflation were the legacies of the earthquake. The government increased expenses to finance rebuilding, which primarily benefited the construction industry, in which the Somoza family had strong financial interests. Because earthquake reconstruction generated few new revenues, except through borrowing, most of the resulting public deficits were covered by foreign loans. In the late s, Nicaragua had the highest level of foreign indebtedness in Central America. Most of the benefits of the three decades of growth after World War II were concentrated in a few hands. Financial dealings for the Somozas were handled by the Central Bank of Nicaragua Banco Central de Nicaragua , which the Somozas treated as if it were a commercial bank. The Central Bank made frequent personal loans to the Somozas, which often went unpaid. Although the other financial groups used financial means primarily to further their interests, the Somozas protected their financial interests by controlling the

government and its institutions. Much of the profit from these enterprises was then reinvested in real estate holdings throughout the United States and Latin America. Armed opposition to the Somoza regimes, which had started as a small rural insurrection in the early s, had grown by to a full-scale civil war. The fighting caused foreign investment to drop sharply and the private sector to cut investment plans. Many government expenditures were shifted to the military budget. As fighting in the cities increased, destruction and looting caused a large loss in inventories and operating stock. As the fighting intensified further, most liquid assets flowed out of the country. Although the anti-Somoza forces finally won their struggle in July , the human and physical cost of the revolution was tremendous. As many as 50, people lost their lives in the fighting, , were wounded, and 40, children were left orphans. The GDP shrank an estimated 25 percent in alone. The Sandinista Era, The new government, formed in and dominated by the Sandinistas, resulted in a new model of economic development. Consequently, in and , unbridled incentives to private investment gave way to institutions designed to redistribute wealth and income. Private property would continue to be allowed, but all land belonging to the Somozas was confiscated. However, the ideology of the Sandinistas put the future of the private sector and of private ownership of the means of production in doubt. After reconstruction and recovery, the private sector would give way to expanded public ownership in most areas of the economy. Despite such ideas, which represented the point of view of a faction of the government, the Sandinista government remained officially committed to a mixed economy. Economic growth was uneven in the s. Restructuring of the economy and the rebuilding immediately following the end of the civil war caused the GDP to jump about 5 percent in and Each year from to , however, showed a drop in the GDP. After the government chose to fill the gap between decreasing revenues and mushrooming military expenditures by printing large amounts of paper money. Inflation skyrocketed, peaking in at more than 14, percent annually. Measures taken by the government to lower inflation were largely wiped out by natural disaster. Price controls were tightened, and a new currency was introduced. As a result, by August , inflation had dropped to an annual rate of percent. The following month, however, Hurricane Joan cut a devastating path directly across the center of the country. In its eleven years in power, the Sandinista government never overcame most of the economic inequalities that it inherited from the Somoza era. Years of war, policy missteps, natural disasters, and the effects of the United States trade embargo all hindered economic development. The early economic gains of the Sandinistas were wiped out by seven years of sometimes precipitous economic decline, and in , by most standards, Nicaragua and most Nicaraguans were considerably poorer than they were in the s. The Chamorro Era, The economic policies of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro president, were a radical change from those of the previous administration. The president proposed to revitalize the economy by reactivating the private sector and stimulating the export of agricultural products. Furthermore, 43 percent of the voting electorate had voted for the Sandinistas, reflecting support for the overall goals of the former administration although not necessarily the results. The IMF demands included instituting measures aimed at halting spiraling inflation; lowering the fiscal deficit by downsizing the publicsector work force and the military, and reducing spending for social programs; stabilizing the national currency; attracting foreign investment; and encouraging exports. This course was an economic path mostly untraveled by Nicaragua, still heavily dependent on traditional agro-industrial exports, exploitation of natural resources, and continued foreign assistance. Loss of jobs and higher prices under the plan, however, also resulted in crippling public- and private-sector strikes throughout the country. By the end of , the government was forced to abandon most of its freemarket reforms. A series of political problems and natural disasters continued to plague the economy in and The need to accommodate left- and right-wing views within its ruling coalition and attempts to work with the Sandinista opposition effectively prevented the implementation of unpopular economic measures. A severe drought in decimated the principal export crops. In September , a tidal wave struck western Nicaragua, leaving thousands homeless. Furthermore, foreign aid and investment, on which the Nicaraguan economy had depended heavily for growth in the years preceding the Sandinista administration, never returned in significant amounts.

**Chapter 6 : The Reagan revolution versus the Sandinista revolution**

*This lesson will explain the events of the Nicaraguan Revolution. In doing so, it will highlight U.S. involvement as well as the brutality and violence of the Somoza regime and the Sandinista rebels.*

Somoza family Following the American occupation of Nicaragua in 1912, as part of the Banana Wars, the Somoza family political dynasty came to power which would rule Nicaragua until their ouster in 1979 during the Nicaraguan Revolution. The era of Somoza family rule was characterized by strong U.S. involvement. In July 1979, revolutionary movements in Nicaragua finally gained control of the government and ousted longtime dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle. Ouster of the Somoza regime Edit In the 1970s the FSLN began a campaign of kidnappings which led to national recognition of the group in the Nicaraguan media and solidification of the group as a force in opposition to the Somoza Regime. State Department staff at the U.S. They were going after the Somoza-owned bank. In the turmoil they torched the [Somoza] bank and our building also burnt down. It was clear [to the U.S.]. The country had suffered both war and natural disaster in the form of the devastating Nicaragua earthquake and in approximately 1972, Nicaraguans were homeless and many were either refugees or in exile. All sectors of the economy of Nicaragua were determined, in great part if not all, by the Somozas or the officials and adepts surrounding the regime, whether it was directly owning agricultural brands and trusts, or actively setting them to local or foreign hands. While this is not correct, Somoza or his adepts did own or give away banks, ports, communications, services and massive amounts of land. However, the biggest impact, economically, set by the Revolution was within the primary sector: The Nicaraguan Revolution brought immense restructuring and reforms to all three sectors of the Economy. In the primary sector, the Revolution presented the Agrarian Reform, not as one that could be planned in advanced from the beginning of the Revolution but as a process that would develop pragmatically along the different conditions -economical, political and from organization, that would arise all during the Revolution period. As a " third-world " country, Nicaragua had, and has, an agriculture-based economy, undeveloped and susceptible to flow of market price of its agricultural goods, such as coffee and cotton. The Revolution faced a rural economy well behind in technology and, at the same time, devastated by the guerrilla warfare and the soon to come civil war against the Contras. Agrarian Reform Law of July 19, Third phase " This represented about 75 percent of all land distributed to peasants since According to Proyect, the agrarian reform had the twofold purpose of increasing the support for the government among the campesinos, and guaranteeing ample food delivery into the cities. During 1979, ceremonies were held throughout the countryside in which Daniel Ortega would give each peasant a title to the land and a rifle to defend it. The literacy campaign used secondary school students, university students as well as teachers as volunteer teachers. Within five months they reduced the overall illiteracy rate from 50% to 12%. This was followed by the literacy campaigns of 1980, 1981, and 1982, all of which were also awarded by UNESCO. The key large scale programs of the Sandinistas received international recognition for their gains in literacy, health care, education, childcare, unions, and land reform.

*Nicaragua Table of Contents. A mediation process led by the OAS collapsed during January , when President Somoza refused to hold a national plebiscite and insisted on staying in power until*

Nicas; formally known as the Republic of Nicaragua. According to one story, it was Nicarao, an indigenous chief at the time of the Spanish invasion, for whom the Spaniards named their conquest. Nicarao is a Nahuatl name, Nahuatl being the language of the Aztecs. A related story traces the origin back further, saying that chief Nicarao took his name from his own people, who derived the name based on the geographic location of their land. Nicaragua may be a combination of nic-atl-nahuac meaning "next to the water" in the Arawak language. As the largest country in Central America with an area of 51, square miles , square kilometers , Nicaragua is about the size of New York State. Nicaragua has three major geographic regions: The climate varies more from elevation than from the seasons. Rainfall fluctuates greatly in Nicaragua and is seasonal; the rainy period runs from May through October. The Caribbean lowlands are the wettest section of Central America, receiving between 98 and inches and centimeters of rain annually. The east receives heavy annual rainfall and can even see serious flooding during the rainy season, while the west is drier year-round. The Nicaraguan government has not conducted a national census since , although since then it has collected demographic data through periodic sample surveys of the population. In , an estimated 3. The population in was estimated at 4. Population growth rates have soared, and the median age is only about fifteen since so many adults were lost in the revolution and then in the hurricane of The population density in was 83 persons per square mile 32 per square kilometer , making it the lowest in Central America aside from Belize. The population is 55 percent urban, with most people concentrated in the Pacific lowlands because of the fertile land there. The Caribbean lowlands are more sparsely settled. When the Spaniards landed in western Nicaragua in the early s, they encountered three main tribes each led by a chieftain, each with its own culture and language. Spanish is now the official language of Nicaragua and is spoken by more than 70 percent of the population. Most Spanish speakers live in the Pacific lowlands and central highlands. Grammar and usage follow Central American forms, which has some distinct differences from formal Spanish. The British presence in Nicaragua introduced many English words to the Spanish speakers, particularly in western Nicaragua. Likewise, American slang from the periods in which U. Marines occupied Nicaragua has made its way into the vernacular of Spanish speakers. Nicaragua The Creoles, the black people of the Caribbean region, are the descendants of colonial-era slaves, Jamaican merchants, and West Indian laborers. The Creoles are English-speaking, although many speak Spanish as a second language. Indigenous peoples of the Caribbean lowlands, the Miskito, Rama, and Sumu, preserve their own tribal languages. However, the English-speaking Miskito have resisted being absorbed into the Spanish culture. They refer to Spanish-speaking Nicaraguans as "los Espanoles" or "the Spanish," clearly differentiating themselves from their western compatriots. The Creoles share this resentment of the western Hispanic culture. Black Carib, also known as Garifuna language, is an amalgam of an Arawak language, African vocabulary, and some English additions. Volcanoes dominate the landscape of Nicaragua, as well as the art and consciousness of Nicaraguans. From most places in Nicaragua, you can look up and see one, two, or three volcano cones. The most notable formation is the twenty-five major volcanoes in a line that runs parallel to the Pacific coastline in western Nicaragua. One particular volcano captures the attention of Nicaraguans and dominates the Managua skyline. Momotombo, which means "ruling above the waters" stands at 4, feet 1, meters. Momotombo is an active volcano that smokes continuously. History and Ethnic Relations Emergence of the Nation. From until independence, Nicaragua had been included in Provincias Unidas del Centro de America, a federation of Central American provinces annexed to Mexico. Nicaragua formally declared independence on 30 April Thousands of hopeful prospectors from the United States made their way to California through Nicaragua; this route was quicker and safer than crossing the continental United States. At this time, Nicaragua became the subject of a rivalry between the United States and Britain. Both foreign powers wanted to control an interoceanic transit route, be it by land or via a new Caribbean to Pacific canal. Soon after, he supported the expedition of William Walker

who wanted to take over Nicaragua as a slave state annexed to the United States. William Walker was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and gained a reputation as a buccaneer and United States adventurer. In he entered Nicaragua with a small band of mercenaries armed with a new type of quick-action rifle. There, with the help of his Liberal allies, Walker was able to surprise and capture the conservative capitol of Granada and establish a coalition government. In June , a new regime was formed and Walker was elected president. His government was formally recognized by the United States that year. Then, in a reversal of alliance, Cornelius Vanderbilt backed a coalition of Central American states who fought against Walker. In , Walker returned to Tennessee briefly and then sailed to Nicaragua again with more followers. There he was taken prisoner by the British and turned over to Honduran authorities, who tried and executed him on 12 September Managua replaced the city of Leon as the capital in , in an attempt to neutralize the vicious rivalry between Leon and Granada. Leon had served as the capital from its founding in , but the capital was moved to Managua because it was halfway between the fervently liberal intellectual city of Leon and the ardently conservative city of Granada. Managua remains the capital city to this day. Five months later, he became president of Nicaragua. He started a dictatorship, with the support of the United States, that lasted until his assassination in He was succeeded by his two sons Luis and Anastasio. Because the Somoza family was plagued by corruption, many of their colleagues and beneficiaries, fearing prosecution for their actions, fled the country. The United States, concerned about the collectivization efforts of the Sandinistas and their acceptance of aid from Cuba and the Soviet Union, began to covertly arm the Contra opposition. The Contra war of left Nicaragua highly divided. In the ensuing election, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was elected president of Nicaragua that year. She had become a prominent leader after the assassination of her husband, Pedro Chamorro, a respected publisher and editor of the daily newspaper La Prensa who consistently investigated the corruption of the Somoza family. Violeta Chamorro founded her administration on the principle of national reconciliation. She is credited with leading the country through the transition from war to peace, stabilizing the economy, and initiating a market economy. Like other Latin Americans, Nicaraguans place a great importance on family and the protection of personal dignidad, or dignity. This extends outward to a collective feeling of national pride among the Nicaraguan people. This nationalism is represented by heroes and martyrs in the history and folklore—especially the leader fighting against colonial influences. Three Indian cultures lived in pre-Columbian Nicaragua, each living in a distinct region and speaking an indigenous tongue. According to the Constitution of of the Republic of Nicaragua, all of the indigenous Atlantic coast communities enjoy the right to preserve and develop Easter festival in Managua; most Nicaraguans are Roman Catholic. This speaks directly to the Miskito, the largest minority group, who have long enjoyed a greater autonomy than any of the other indigenous tribes. This law also applies to the Sumus living along the Caribbean just north of Bluefields, a port town founded by Dutch traders. Urbanism, Architecture, and the Use of Space Some of the most beautiful buildings in the major cities of Managua and Leon are the existing examples of colonial architecture, in particular the Roman Catholic cathedrals. Buildings illustrative of colonial architecture can be found in Managua, in the Palacio de los Heroes de la Revolucion previously called the Palacio Nacional and the old Cathedral; the Cathedral is currently in ruins. In Leon, the former capital of Nicaragua, the architecture is also colonial, with a traditional charm due to its narrow streets, red tiled roofs, and stout buildings. A lack of city planning is apparent in the current development of Managua. This has resulted in the tremendous growth of suburbs, spreading out from the city without a long-term plan. Food and Economy Food in Daily Life. Nicaragua has a local cuisine that shares some flavors and ingredients with Mexican food, while it also bears a resemblance to the cuisines of Honduras and Guatemala. Corn and beans are staples of the diet, and garlic and onions season most dishes. Like other Central Americans, Nicaraguans consume corn tortillas with most meals. It is used as an edible utensil to wrap meat and beans. Beans are consumed daily as a necessary source of protein in a country where most people cannot afford to eat meat regularly. Nicaraguans are partial to a small red bean generally eaten refried in a dish called gallo pinto, or "spotted rooster. Nicaraguans also enjoy tamales, but their version—called nacatamal —has some unique characteristics. The entire meal of corn, rice, tomatoes, chili, potatoes, cassava root, and often a piece of meat, is wrapped in a leaf deriving from a banana-like plant. The yucca root is a vegetable eaten for its vitamins; it is aptly named vigoron in Spanish,

for its high percentage of nutrients. The yucca root is often served with pork rind and greens and sold at roadside stands. In addition, fruits such as mangos and plantains are popular in Nicaragua. The favorite nonalcoholic drink is coffee. Nicaraguans drink coffee with hot milk at breakfast and black with sugar the rest of the day. Pinol, the national drink, is also nonalcoholic and is made from corn flour with water. Tiste, similar to pinol, is a beverage made from ground tortillas and cacao which can be served cool or at room temperature. Also popular is chichi, wine of the Indians, made from fermented corn. Beer is consumed as a typical light alcoholic beverage, while rum is the hard liquor of choice. Food Customs at Ceremonial Occasions. At celebratory meals, Nicaraguans eat steak, either grilled steak called bistec a la parrilla, or grilled sirloin known as lomo. One main aim of this plan was to halt the rampant inflation of the Nicaraguan currency, the cordoba.

### Chapter 8 : Nicaragua - The Economy - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

*The Nicaraguan Revolution (Spanish: Revoluci3n Nicarag4ense or Revoluci3n Popular Sandinista) encompassed the rising opposition to the Somoza dictatorship in the s and s, the campaign led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) to violently oust the dictatorship in*

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*Nicaragua" appeared to have failed to materialize and the Sandinista government was defeated in the nation's first ever free elections.'6 Nicaragua's Future.*