

C.American History- 3rd Form- Sem 2- 2016- Final Exam **Study Guide**

Key Terms: **School of the Americas; CIA; Genocide; Cold War; Capitalism; Entrepot; Mercantilism; Fincas; Neo-colonialism; FMLN; Liberalism; Conservatism; FSLN; Overt; Communism; Imperialism; Capitalism; Covert; UFC; Filibuster; EZLN; "leftist"**

Historical Figures covered in 2nd Semester: Rafael Landivar; Bartolome de las Casas; Rafael Carrera; William Walker; Somoza; Augusto Sandino; Farbundo Marti; General Rios Montt; Jacobo Arbenz; Rigoberta Menchu; Subcomandante Marcos; Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Overview of Semester:

Colonial Central America: referred to as "Kingdom of Guatemala"; major export= indigo+ cacao

Independence from Spain & Annexations to Mexico: Napoleon= French invade Spain 1910= independence movements in Latin America begins

Federation: "United Province of Central America"; Belize= entrepot for Central America

Fragmentation & Federation Ends: Rafael Carrera ends federation; Conservatives vs Liberals

Neo-colonialism: foreign investment= coffee+ banana production; foreign loans for development

U.S. Expansion & Imperialism: Manifest Destiny; support dictators=eg. Somoza family

Cold War & Civil Wars in Central America: FSLN [Nicaragua] + FMLN [El Salvador]

The **United Fruit Company** was frequently accused of bribing government officials in exchange for preferential treatment, exploiting its workers, paying little by way of taxes to the governments of the countries in which it operated, and working ruthlessly to consolidate monopolies. Latin American journalists sometimes referred to the company as **el pulpo** ("the octopus") because of the extended influence the company had over local politics and the economy across Central and Latin America.

The **Central American Civil Wars** occurred in the late 1970s, when major civil wars and pro-communist revolutions erupted in various countries in Central America, resulting in it becoming the number one region among foreign policy hot spots in the 1980s. In particular, the United States feared that victory by communist forces would threaten the Panama Canal and would isolate the rest of South America from the United States if the countries of Central America were to be installed with pro-soviet communist governments. The rebellions by these guerilla groups were mostly with the objective of overthrowing the dictatorships & expelling U.S. influence in the region.

Nature of the Civil Wars: The countries directly affected by this period mostly included Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. It was a period marked by the killing of any one that opposed the U.S. supported dictatorships in these countries; the mass torture of suspected rebels; mass rapes as a form of intimidation; and genocide of villages that were mostly indigenous inhabitants.

Effects: because of the crises in these countries during this time, there was an increase in the migration of people of people out of these countries. Most Nicaraguans ran south into Costa Rica, some went North, in the case of El Salvador and Guatemala most went north into Mexico and eventually to the U.S., while a fair amount of them migrated to Belize. During this period Belize wasn't ravished by the Cold War conflicts so it was an ideal place for refugees to run away to.

The Fight for Indigenous Rights:

Most of these guerilla movements that emerged during the Cold War period in Central America were mostly composed of rural campesinos of which majority were of indigenous heritage. However, it wasn't until the 1990's that we see people like Rigoberta Menchu & the EZLN in Chiapas Mexico lead by Subcomandante Marcos start to pick up world recognition for their fight for the respect, rights, and identification of the indigenous peoples of Central America.

U.S. Policy in Central America During the Cold War:

Covert: eg. In the 1950's a Guatemalan President by the name of Jacobo Arbenz implemented serious agrarian reforms in which within 18 months he gave over 100,000 families in Guatemala title to land. The U.S. feared he was pro-communist so with the use of the CIA they secretly pressured him into stepping down. His reforms also affected the UFC which further contributed to the U.S. desire to see him removed.

Overt: eg. This kind of operations included open support for the governments in C.America that were fighting the guerrillas. This included military support mostly. (Like training officers at SOA)



We are not myths of the past, ruins in the jungle, or zoos. We are people and we want to be respected, not to be victims of intolerance and racism.

— Rigoberta Menchu —

Menchu Nobel Peace Prize Lecture

I feel a deep emotion and pride for the honor of having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1992. A deep personal feeling and pride for my country and its very ancient culture. For the values of the community and the people to which I belong, for the love of my country, of Mother Nature. Whoever understands this respects life and encourages the struggle that aims at such objectives.

I consider this Prize, not as a reward to me personally, but rather as one of the greatest conquests in the struggle for peace, for Human Rights and for the rights of the indigenous people, who, for 500 years, have been split, fragmented, as well as the victims of genocides, repression and discrimination.