

## Central American History Test 3 Study guide – U.S. Foreign Policy & C. American Reaction

Key Terms **U.S. Foreign Affairs:** “White Man’s Burden”; Monroe Doctrine, Clayton-Bulwer Treaty; Roosevelt’s Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine/Big Stick Policy; Dollar Diplomacy

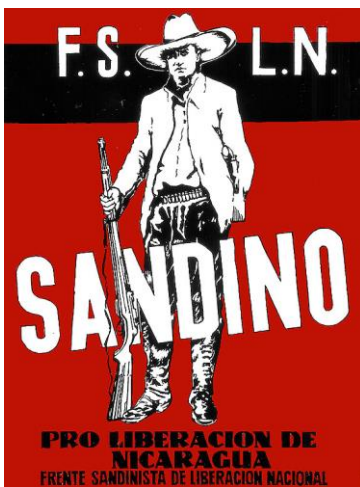
### Effects of U.S imperialism on Society & Politics in Central America

| Foreigners   | Indigenous People/ Afro Latino                   |
|--|--|
| Owned/ Controlled most resources, land & business            | Rural areas- yet restricted access to land       |
| Private neighborhoods-schools, clinics, restaurants & hotels | Urban areas- lived in barrios                    |
| Controlled Local politicians                                 | Driven into poverty- limited access to education |

**U.S. Government in the 1930’s start supporting Dictators in Central America who ensured that U.S. influence in the country was kept and that U.S. businesses continued operating smoothly.** Eg. United Fruit Company

**Early Revolts-** El Salvador- Agustín Farabundo Martí leads a peasant revolt but eventually killed- 1932 another peasant revolt broke out only this time the Salvadoran government kills an estimated 30,000 of its own people in an event referred to as “La Matanza” .

Key Terms **Social Awakening and Anti-Yankee Revolution:** Great Depression 1930’s; WWI; barrios; peasants; Augusto César Sandino; Imperialism; Somoza Family Dynasty in Nicaragua; FSLN



### Founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front

In 1961, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (*Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional*, or Sandinistas) was founded by Silvio Mayorga, Tomás Borge, and Carlos Fonseca. The group took its name from Augusto César Sandino, who led a Liberal peasant army against the government of U.S.-backed Adolfo Díaz and the subsequent Nicaraguan government in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Inspired by Fidel Castro’s and Che Guevarra’s Cuban Revolution, the group sought to be “a political-military organization whose objective is the seizure of political power through the destruction of the bureaucratic and military apparatus of [Somoza’s] dictatorship.”

According to Dennis Gilbert, the first members of the FSLN were nationalistic students who were outraged at conditions in Nicaragua under Somoza. They were also outraged at the United States over what they saw as consistent U.S. intervention in Nicaraguan affairs. He argues that the Sandinistas’ ideology was rooted in Marxism and in a mistaken reading of Sandino as a pseudo-Marxist. (Sandino himself was a populist who sought Nicaraguan independence from U.S. imperialism. While he sought relief for the poor, he did not advocate for a Marxist class struggle.)

However, the Sandinistas were heavily influenced by Marxist-Leninist teachings, as the party leaders themselves sometimes admitted, but they interpreted these ideas in the context of their view of Nicaragua’s history. Specifically, they thought of themselves as a Leninist vanguard party, a group of “professional revolutionaries” that would unite the Nicaraguan workers and peasants to destroy the “present system of capitalist exploitation and oppression” run by the Somoza dynasty and supported by the United States. After they had rid Nicaragua of those who were resistant to change, the FSLN would lead Nicaragua toward socialism, at least in a broad sense; as Gilbert notes, the Sandinistas did not all agree on what socialism actually meant.