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A Short History Of Guatemala



Synopsis

In *A SHORT HISTORY OF GUATEMALA*, Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr. (Ph.D., Tulane University, 1962) briefly synthesizes the exciting history of Guatemala from its ancient Maya heritage to the present. Based on nearly a half-century of research on the history of this Central American republic, the work highlights the political, economic, and social evolution of Guatemala, with particular emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. With keen insight into the struggle for economic and social development since national independence in 1821, Woodward offers a new interpretation of the country's past and present.

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Woodward was professor of Latin American history at the University of North Carolina (1963-1970), Tulane University (1970-1999), and Texas Christian University (1999-2003). He also was a Visiting Professor at the National and Catholic Universities of Chile and Argentina, and at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His earlier publications on Central American history include *Class Privilege and Economic Development: The Consulado de Comercio of Guatemala, 1793-1871* (University of North Carolina Press, 1966); *Research Guide to Central America and the Caribbean* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1985); *Central America: Historical Perspectives on the Contemporary Crises* (Greenwood Press, 1988); *Guatemala* (World Bibliographic Series, 1992); *Rafael Carrera and the Emergence of the Republic of Guatemala, 1821-1871* (University of Georgia Press, 1993); and *Central America: A Nation Divided* (3rd ed., Oxford University Press, 1999).

Excellent written: Mr. Woodward breezes through the history of Guatemala, highlighting not just

events but the currents and influences that shaped these, producing a highly readable document, one that adds substantially to the understanding of the country as it exists today. It is ideal for students, travelers, and businessmen who are both new to the subject and don't have the interests of a scholar, but for those who wish to delve further, he supplies an in-depth bibliography. However, for those who have read other histories of that country, they will either admire or resent his neutrality. In writing his history Mr Woodward is trying to explain how things happened, rather than prove a point. For example, his section on the American overthrow of the government of Arbenz provides an excellent review of the context that led to this American intervention, but refrains from expressing judgments - he lets the reader decide for himself.

I cannot imagine learning more in a university course. Guatemala is a wonderful country that has been invaded, stepped on, lied to, and held captive. Mr. Woodward, Jr. has been able to weave an interesting story from cold, hard facts.

I was not able to absorb so much unfamiliar information and so many names and dates. Not exciting.

Discussed the development of the country

none

more like a book report than a book. cursory and generic discussion better presented in any dictionary or Wikipedia. Poorly referenced.

Nice synopsis of Guatemala. Succinct, but poorly written.

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