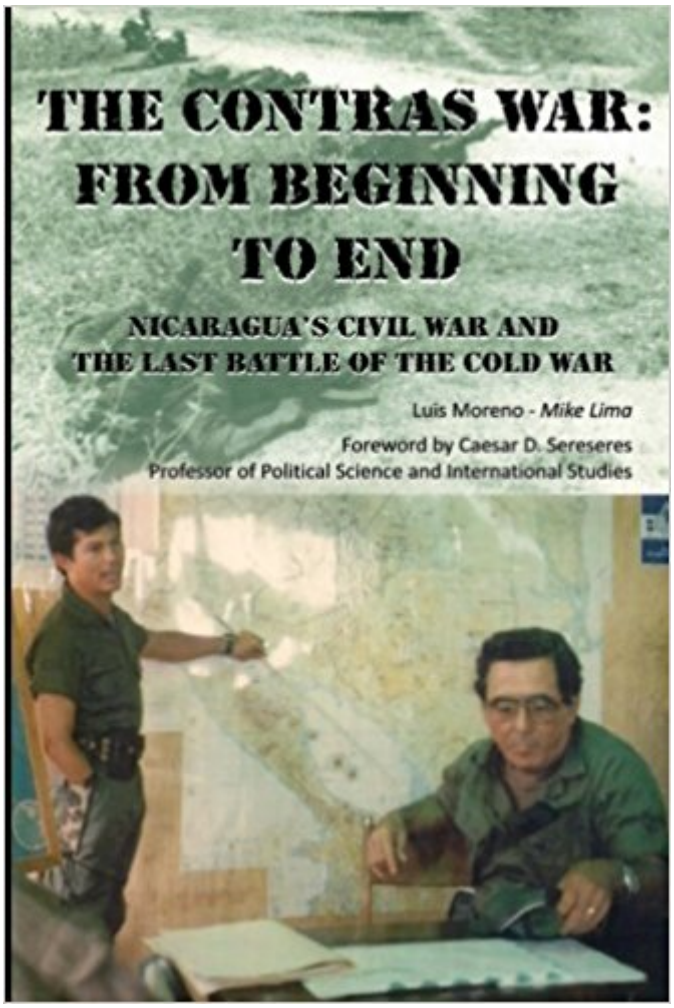
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The Contras War: From Beginning To End: NicaraguaÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Civil War And One Of The Last Battle Of The Cold War



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Synopsis

Written by Luis Moreno (known as "Mike Lima" during this decade long conflict) the author examines in his book Principio Y Fin de la Guerra de los Contras (The Contras War: From Beginning to End) the armed struggle and the strategy that may have cost the lives of more than 6,000 Contra fighters and a total of some 15,000 anti-Sandinista supporters and family members in and out of Nicaragua. The armed conflict took place between the Nicaraguan Resistance (the Contras) and the Sandinista security forces (over 100,000) who helped govern Nicaragua in the 1980's. Moreno provides an inside perspective of the manner in which the Contras developed as a small force of less than 1000 in the early 1980's to over 20,000 that would demobilize after the Violeta Chamorro election of early 1990. A significant study by Moreno that should be read along with those books by Stephen Kinzer--Blood of Brothers, Christopher Dickey--With the Contras, Glenn Garvin--Everybody Had His Gringo, Sam Dillion--Commandos, Timothy Brown--The Real Contra War, and other publications that seek to explain the Nicaraguan Resistance and the extent it was seen as a failure or a success in the politics of the Nicaraguan nation and United States foreign policy. What makes this study important and distinct is that Moreno provides a detailed insight into the creation of the Resistance by folding together two major forces: the Milpas (anti-Sandinista farmers and peasants), former Sandinista insurgents and remnants of Somoza's army and EBBI--survivors of the 1979 fight against the Sandinista insurgents. As both a field commander inside Nicaragua and a member of the Strategic Command after tragically losing part of his right hand and arm in a training accident Moreno is able to talk about Resistance personalities, thinking within the Resistance, and the decisions that the Resistance faced. In addition, Moreno, the Resistance "Operations Director" in the Strategic Command discusses the strategy, plans, and institutional relations of the Resistance--especially with the Hondurans and the Americans. Why read this book? The detailed picture of the Nicaraguan rural areas of conflict; how an insurgent movement is organized; the importance of the rural population support to the Resistance. Caesar D. Sereseres Profesor de Ciencia PolÃƒÂ-tica y Estudios Internacionales Facultad de Ciencias Sociales Universidad de California, Irvine

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Customer Reviews

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Social SciencesUniversity of California, Irvine

The history ofNicaragua is characterized by political conflicts which pursue power and all itprovides. Several of these conflicts culminated in civil wars that, afterstalling the development of the nation and weakening its vigor and will, endedup with political agreements that satisfied both, winner and loser. Of theseconflicts, the biggest has been the one produced by the internationalistintrusion of the Soviet Block to overthrow the Somocista dictatorship and usurppower through its servile creoles, the Sandinistas. The purpose was toestablish a Soviet bastion in Nicaragua from which to propagate revolutionarymovements as fire through El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; subsequentlyCosta Rica would fall easily.Thanks to theinternational isolation of Nicaragua promoted by the Carter Administration, theSandinistas managed to undermine the Somocista regime and inflame the peopleagainst it, promising freedom, justice and equality for all. The dictator fled,as all cowards do, and abandoned his forces to the inclemency of an angrypeople, deceived by the apprentice dictators who a few months later would endup trying to subjugate them. It seemed unreal, but the people, anxious to getrid of a dictator, supported their next executioners, who disguised withnobility and goodness promised everything good to all. Although there werevoices that warned about the Sandinistas' soviet and terrorist backgrounds, allwere ignored.Some officers andsoldiers of the National Guard evaded the Sandinistas' lassos and managed toleave the country, the majority could not. A large part of those who could notwere arrested and sentenced to dungeons of torture, pain and prolonged anguish,others were killed immediately, other slowly. True to the soviet script, theSandinistas began to unmask their intention, they began to dismantle the JuntaNacional to replace it with their National Directorate--made up of ninedictator-wannabes; they began to exterminate--absorbed with paranoid and blindeuphoria--all semblance of opposition, depicting them as counterrevolutionaries,reactionaries or bourgeois.In their sickeagerness, the Sandino-Communists provoked the population's--even many of theirown followers'--repudiation and rejection of the severe treatment afforded tocitizens who did not took part in their communist and totalitarian doctrine,loyal to the new soviet master, and planted by the castrista propagators andthe local quislings. The patriotic and noble mask they wore could not cover thefetid stench of obedience or death that they now proposed. They forgot thatNicaragua was not an island and that its children are, and will always be,courageous and would not allow such abuse and dishonor. The traitors, althoughprotected by their soviet patrons and directed by the castrista henchmen, wouldnot achieve their purpose.Several elements fromthe National Guard as well as former Sandinistas had the courage to face thecommunist enslaving project through an arm

struggle; they were driven by thelove for God and for their homeland, for which they had already fought. Fromthese two brave seeds independently sprout forth the armed groups that soonwould merge into a single organization to fight against the atheistic andbrutal system that the soviets wished to establish in Nicaragua. Brave men andwomen who gave everything with love and valor to liberate the country of thedetestable communist farce.In this book,Commander Mike Lima, tells and describes with living testimony and accuratedata, the history of the armed struggle from the perspective of a fighterleader of very high rank, whose access to this level of information was sharedwith Commander General 380 and some members of the Political Directorate of theNicaraguan Resistance, but also had access to more sensitive and revealinginformation he shared with Commander General 380, allied leaders like ColonelVillegas, General ÃƒÂ•lvarez and General John Galvin, members of the CentralIntelligence Agency and State Department and some Congressmen. Once heexchanged views with Christopher Dodd, former Senator of the United StatesCongress and staunch defender of the Sandinistas.It is thus the hardand crude, but true, history of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN)--whichlater became known as the Nicaraguan Resistance Army (ERN)--conceived withsweat, blood and fire, by Nicaraguan brothers and sisters who refused to denyGod and the right to live free to forge their own destiny, tilling their joyand their homeland's bliss, according to their particular criteria and thecapacity of their skills.The sandino-communistscontemptuously called us Contras, but the resolve and valor of our tenacioustroops conquered the sympathy of the noble and courageous Nicaraguans that thepejorative was transformed into acclaim and was affectively impregnated intheir hearts forever; thus, in spite of outnumbering us 9 to 1 and having amilitary apparatus worth several billions of dollars, without moral reins torestrain it, they did not stop us, we had God and the will to fight, they didnot.Roberto Robelo - Centauro

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