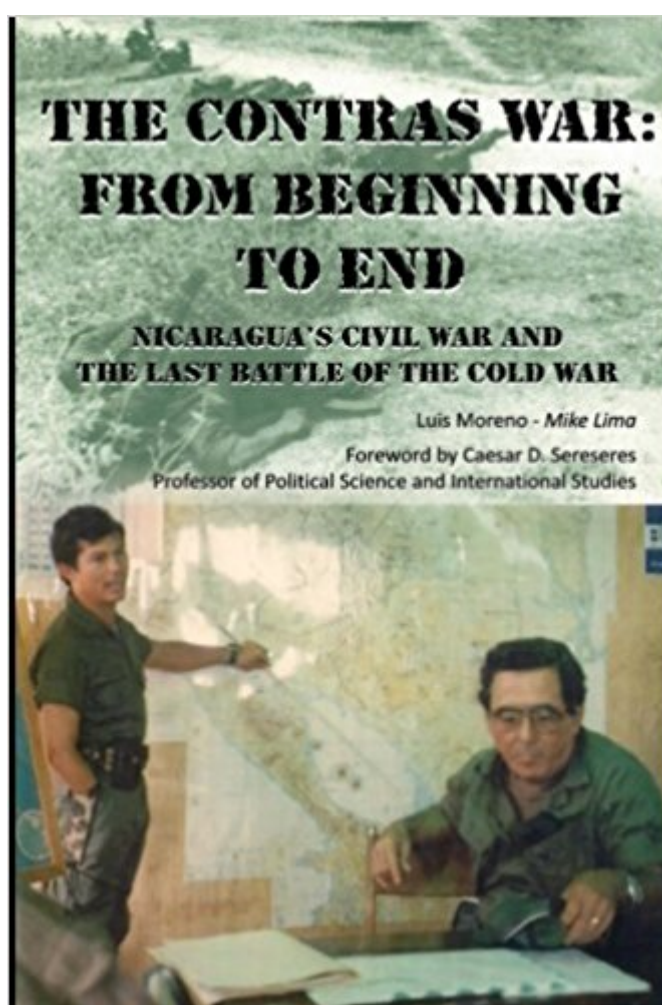


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The Contras War: From Beginning To End: Nicaragua's Civil War And One Of The Last Battle Of The Cold War



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 Política y Estudios Internacionales Facultad de Ciencias Sociales Universidad de California, Irvine

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Customer Reviews

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The history of Nicaragua is characterized by political conflicts which pursue power and all it provides. Several of these conflicts culminated in civil wars that, after stalling the development of the nation and weakening its vigor and will, ended up with political agreements that satisfied both, winner and loser. Of these conflicts, the biggest has been the one produced by the internationalist intrusion of the Soviet Block to overthrow the Somocista dictatorship and usurp power through its servile creoles, the Sandinistas. The purpose was to establish a Soviet bastion in Nicaragua from which to propagate revolutionary movements as fire through El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; subsequently Costa Rica would fall easily. Thanks to the international isolation of Nicaragua promoted by the Carter Administration, the Sandinistas managed to undermine the Somocista regime and inflame the people against it, promising freedom, justice and equality for all. The dictator fled, as all cowards do, and abandoned his forces to the inclemency of an angry people, deceived by the apprentice dictators who a few months later would end up trying to subjugate them. It seemed unreal, but the people, anxious to get rid of a dictator, supported their next executioners, who disguised with nobility and goodness promised everything good to all. Although there were voices that warned about the Sandinistas' soviet and terrorist backgrounds, all were ignored. Some officers and soldiers of the National Guard evaded the Sandinistas' lasso and managed to leave the country, the majority could not. A large part of those who could not were arrested and sentenced to dungeons of torture, pain and prolonged anguish, others were killed immediately, other slowly. True to the soviet script, the Sandinistas began to unmask their intention, they began to dismantle the Junta Nacional to replace it with their National Directorate--made up of nine dictator-wannabes; they began to exterminate--absorbed with paranoid and blinding euphoria--all semblance of opposition, depicting them as counterrevolutionaries, reactionaries or bourgeois. In their sick eagerness, the Sandino-Communists provoked the population's--even many of their own followers'--repudiation and rejection of the severe treatment afforded to citizens who did not take part in their communist and totalitarian doctrine, loyal to the new soviet master, and planted by the castrista propagators and the local quislings. The patriotic and noble mask they wore could not cover the fetid stench of obedience or death that they now proposed. They forgot that Nicaragua was not an island and that its children are, and will always be, courageous and would not allow such abuse and dishonor. The traitors, although protected by their soviet patrons and directed by the castrista henchmen, would not achieve their purpose. Several elements from the National Guard as well as former Sandinistas had the courage to face the communist enslaving project through an arm

struggle; they were driven by the love for God and for their homeland, for which they had already fought. From these two brave seeds independently sprout forth the armed groups that soon would merge into a single organization to fight against the atheistic and brutal system that the Soviets wished to establish in Nicaragua. Brave men and women who gave everything with love and valor to liberate the country of the detestable communist farce. In this book, Commander Mike Lima, tells and describes with living testimony and accurate data, the history of the armed struggle from the perspective of a fighter leader of very high rank, whose access to this level of information was shared with Commander General 380 and some members of the Political Directorate of the Nicaraguan Resistance, but also had access to more sensitive and revealing information he shared with Commander General 380, allied leaders like Colonel Villegas, General Alfaro Alvarez and General John Galvin, members of the Central Intelligence Agency and State Department and some Congressmen. Once he exchanged views with Christopher Dodd, former Senator of the United States Congress and staunch defender of the Sandinistas. It is thus the hard and crude, but true, history of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN)--which later became known as the Nicaraguan Resistance Army (ERN)--conceived with sweat, blood and fire, by Nicaraguan brothers and sisters who refused to deny God and the right to live free to forge their own destiny, tilling their joy and their homeland's bliss, according to their particular criteria and the capacity of their skills. The sandino-communists contemptuously called us Contras, but the resolve and valor of our tenacious troops conquered the sympathy of the noble and courageous Nicaraguans that the pejorative was transformed into acclaim and was affectively impregnated in their hearts forever; thus, in spite of outnumbering us 9 to 1 and having a military apparatus worth several billions of dollars, without moral reins to restrain it, they did not stop us, we had God and the will to fight, they did not. Roberto Robelo - Centauro

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