

Merassi, John.

The Great Fear in Latin America pp. 1-47

Latin nations: 20 in #; pop. over 250 million
50% under 15 yrs or over 65
growing faster in US & world

Catholic Church is biggest landowner in many nations; "medieval"
in policies: sole source of info on local level

post-feudal system: large latifundias for 'mass' production, etc.
landed gentry - Catholic
city merchants

local bossism, dictators \Rightarrow many local revolts
political system rigid: maintains status quo
revolts by local ldrs don't change
system - just chge people

post Colonial economic system

trade deficit

raw material production: minerals, food commodities

90% of export earnings
but not enough comes in to pay for US manu-
factured goods @ hi prices
As \Rightarrow no development & growing deficit
hi arms budget

US gov't refuses to lower prices for US goods & to pay
more (than US control of world market prices)
for L.A. raw materials

US policy: to prohibit L.A. diversification of production
which would \Rightarrow nationalization; state control, etc;
total colonial dependence on world mkt prices

55% of pop. engaged in farming; 80% of them don't
get \$: just foodstuffs & tickets to buy food at
the masters' stores or to plant in masses of
no ^{improved} farming techniques & labor is so cheap...

Kids work & parents to keep up effort to live
hardly ever get to school
for those that go, they average 1.9 yrs
disease: H₂O: inpotable; starvation - hunger
no medical care
peons have no real legal protection; judges are
landowners

US companies live in affluence in El Catedo.

Businessmen Control

both local + foreign, allied

Control army, police, banks, ste machinery

Union ldrs work hand in hand

press usually controlled

UPI + AP make up news

ISC:

Guatemala:

largest in C. America; 3,800,000+ pop
Rep of Guatemala so weak & disrupted that
country is controlled by foreign companies;
and, people are oppressed

diff
Fuent coup still kept dictatorship: 1944. . . .
mercenaries brought in; neocolonialists defeat
any progressive regimes, 1954

PRDN won 1958 elections: Ydigoras Fuentes, Gen'l
proliferation of weak parties; weakens strong ones

1961 anti-gov't protests by students
private army supported by gov't
for repression of all protest

result: students penalized by Pres. Fuentes

state emergency decreed
political assassinations

bombings - popular reaction => gov't troops
political arrests in Guatemala City, etc
student & worker strikes, demonstrations
police attacks: students killed

Fuentes deposed Mch 3, 1962

1963, Dec. -> new Military gov't

no polit. parties

Constitution suspended

Congress dissolved, gov't by decree

no demonstrations by student