

THE DEPLORABLE INJUSTICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA

By Joel Rodríguez, Lahasa.org

If you are like me and others you are fully aware of the conditions in Latin America yet know little about its history. Immigration, drugs and violence are constantly shown by mainstream media, while the roots of the problem are dismissed. This tactic has been used to portray Latin Americans unable to better themselves, with the only option being to flee their countries to seek a better life.

This narrative is utterly false. What is never mentioned (information readily available) is the extent of U.S. intervention. It is

well documented, however, it is done in such a way as to marginalize, deceive, and prevent public reaction. Excuses are made, actions are justified, and it is the Latin American people who continue to suffer.

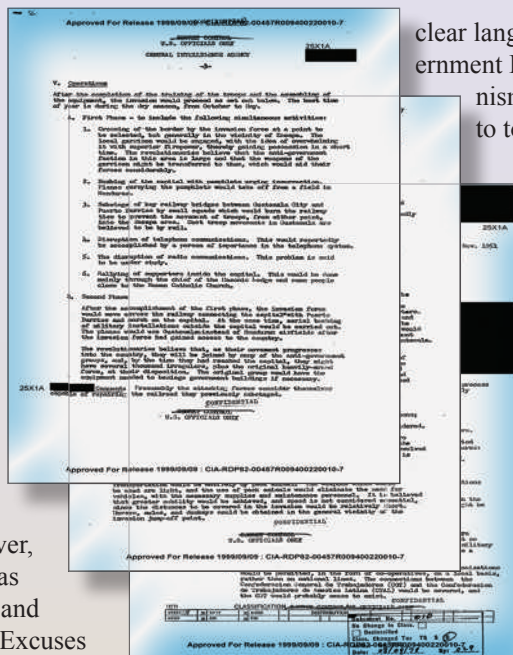
Guatemala is the prime example of U.S. intervention. The U.S. has no problem showing us caravans of migrants and images of Guatemalans held in cells, yet fails to teach us the history of the CIA in our public schools. It is time we take our history back, educate ourselves on who we are and where we come from, and in some cases, why we are here in the first place.

In regards to Guatemala, *The Plot to Overthrow the Guatemalan Government* (available on the CIA's website) reveals the true intention of the U.S. State Department. Taken at face value, such language by any other country would have created an outcry of indignation. If it were a Russian document, news would have spread like wildfire.

Books written on the subject continue to dismiss this document. The facts show intentions were much more sinister and provide evidence that academia has failed to acknowledge such action ever took place.

The document in question is dated the 20th of November, 1951, three years prior to the coup. Jacobo Arbenz, the second freely elected president in Guatemala's history, took the office in March of that year and carried on with Arevalo's progressive reforms. In less than 8 months, plans were created to overthrow the new government.

Pertinent information as to who and when have been redacted, as well as identifying information found in the first paragraph. It's aims are laid out in



Redacted documents on the plot to overthrow the Guatemalan government.

clear language: To overthrow the present Guatemalan government BY FORCE. It was not “The war against Communism” or “Battle for Democracy” commonly referred to today.

The document goes on to direct **what kind of government** will be established with total disregard for the Guatemalans, themselves. It was decided that a provisional government would be established for a period of two years (Carlos Castillo Armas, leader of the U.S. coup, was assassinated in 1957. It can be argued that the U.S. played a role in his death to prevent details of the coup from becoming public) and the first measure taken would be to abrogate the present socialistic Constitution of 1945.

The Constitution of 1945 was created by the revolutionary government and offered all Guatemalans—for the first time—guaranteed rights and freedoms. Yet, **the U.S. decided** that it must be reverted back to the constitution of 1925, in effect, transforming the country back to dictatorial

rule. Why 1925?—During that period, then President Lázaro Chacón signed a 25 year contract exempting the United Fruit Company from all government duties and taxes to expire at the end of 1951, suggesting generous language favorable to foreign companies.

The new constitution would abolish the independence of the military, placing the president in control of the armed forces and re-instituting dictatorship control. It would go on to abolish **ALL** labor legislation since the revolution of 1944 (nothing was to be kept regardless of the Guatemalan people's interests), and in almost sadistic fashion, guarantees would be made to industry (owned primarily by United Fruit).

It was determined that whatever government to be established would base foreign policy on its relationship with the U.S. and not on its own values or desires. It also states that the country would modernize transportation and economy (for corporate interests—the majority of the population has not benefited). The operation itself was designed in advance and carried out with minimal deviation from what has been outlined in this document.

There was no credited basis for planning the removal of rights and freedoms of the Guatemalan people. Juan José Arevalo's government was progressive, not communist, and acknowledged as such in international circles. Jacobo Arbenz continued with reforms being instituted by a freely elected government.

Decree 900—the “infamous” agrarian reform—was not institutionalized until June 17th of 1952, seven months after the plot was created.

The United States intervened with the sole purpose of “rolling back the clock” to the days of repression and peonage. The U.S. overthrew a legitimate government, altered its’ constitution, and dictated the priorities of the future “government”. From a purely objective standpoint it becomes clear why this document has been long overlooked—The Department of State committed multiple crimes against a sovereign nation. The facts are indisputable.

Suspensions of subversion were identified by the Guatemalan government during Arevalo’s time in office. The plot to overthrow the government was uncovered soon after this document was created. For two years the government of Guatemala vocalized concerns of intervention, attempted to defend independence through the “legal process” of the United Nations, and presented documentary proof of the plot. The operation had been shared

throughout Latin America and Europe by reporters grounded in the U.S. No action was taken to investigate the accusations or the evidence, the program was renamed PBSUCCESS (PB-FORTUNE was rather obvious), and it’s secrets buried behind a curtain of lies—further acknowledging the illegal activities of the U.S. government and the deliberate attempt to cover it up.

This needs to be known by the American people.

The illegal acts committed by the U.S. to include obstruction of justice is a deplorable injustice for the people of Guatemala, who have not recovered from the event. Guatemala was a victim of international crimes with no opportunity to seek resolution. The argument that anti-communism was the main cause for intervention is undeniably false in the case of Guatemala.

BIO: Joel Rodríguez is founder/owner of the Latin American Historical Awareness Society of the Americas. He emailed this article to La Voz because he felt it imperative that Voz readers know about the history of the U.S. involvement in Guatemala.

WHEN IT’S MY TIME TO GO TO HEAVEN (OJALÁ)

Whom I hope will meet me at the Pearly Gates:

My Beloved Boxer, Dusty, that my father dumped far from home, miraculously she returned to me on her own.

Mi Querida Abuelita, María Reyna, that I loved so much, who showed me love and attention when I had none.

Mi Madre, María “Neva” Mora, who sacrificed so much when, my father “El Viejero” abandoned us when I was ten.

My Abuelo, “Apa,” who spoiled me so, he couldn’t speak English well but he was well versed in his vocabulary of bad words like “Mutha Fuker” (he was the pioneer of rap music without knowing it).

Mi Abuela. “Ama”, who loved her birthplace Mexico, “Apa” would taunt her by saying “Tienes Mexico en el Corazón, pero la panza en los Estados Unidos” and oh yes, she’d get mad.

My good Friend and Supervisor, Guadalupe Flores, who traveled to Chicago on vacation only to be struck down by a stray bullet while visiting.

And the countless relatives and friends that have gone before me, too numerous to mention, that are loved and sorely missed.

Please take the time to tell your loved ones how much you love and care for them. Hug them and tell them how much they’ve touched your life. LA VIDA ESTA EMPRESTADA, LIFE IS A GIFT, DON’T WASTE IT!

—Rosemary Reyna-Sánchez



America

Continued from Page 3

the right to the very base of education, which is to form the critical minds of the young generations to have truth and facts as guides for their lives’ actions.

Unless we become aware of America’s history from its beginnings, of its strength and its weaknesses, we will not shape a better future for the country.

What is being called “Critical Race Theory” is a study of the truth and facts of racial relations, a truth and documented facts that its opponents cannot stand, from the sins and plague of slavery and

denial of basic human rights to the slaughter of black Americans, sometimes of whole black communities.

We must also face other serious threats to American democracy and human rights, especially that of the control of minds facilitated by the new technology of cellphones, the Internet and a portion of the media that propagate lies and falsehoods, trying to control the minds of the people and increase their revenues. We even hear some folks, including ex-President Trump, glorifying Hitler and the Nazis, and denying that the Holocaust ever took place. This topic, however, will be discussed in a separate article.

BIO: Tarcisio Beal is professor Emeritus of History at the University of the Incarnate Word.