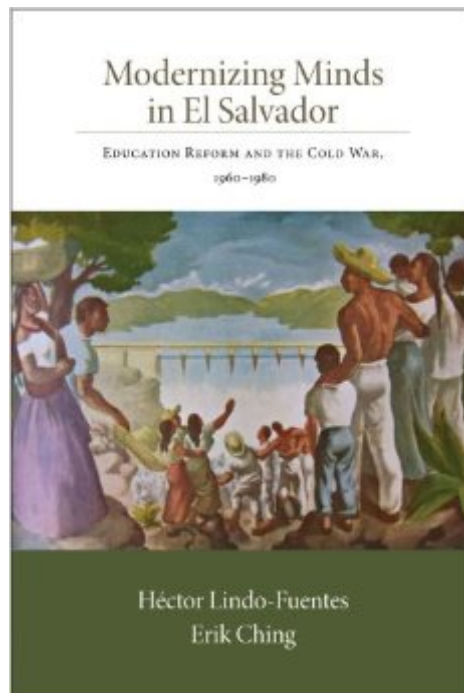


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Modernizing Minds In El Salvador: Education Reform And The Cold War, 1960-1980 (Diálogos Series)



Synopsis

In the 1960s and 1970s, El Salvador's reigning military regime instituted a series of reforms that sought to modernize the country and undermine ideological radicalism, the most ambitious of which was an education initiative. It was multifaceted, but its most controversial component was the use of televisions in classrooms. Launched in 1968 and lasting until the eve of civil war in the late 1970s, the reform resulted in students receiving instruction through programs broadcast from the capital city of San Salvador. The Salvadoran teachers' union opposed the content and the method of the reform and launched two massive strikes. The military regime answered with repressive violence, further alienating educators and pushing many of them into guerrilla fronts. In this thoughtful collaborative study, the authors examine the processes by which education reform became entwined in debates over theories of modernization and the politics of anticommunism. Further analysis examines how the movement pushed the country into the type of brutal infighting that was taking place throughout the third world as the U.S. and U.S.S.R. struggled to impose their political philosophies on developing countries.

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Customer Reviews

While aiming to assess a very important education reform in El Salvador in the 1960s the authors go back several decades in order to understand the importance of education to economic elites and military rulers. The book charts the story of conservative and liberal forces in Salvadorian society as they struggle to find the path to develop the country. The assessment of the education reform is the

central theme of the narrative, but the authors end up doing a social and political analysis of the years prior to the civil war that engulfed the country from 1979 to 1992. From this analysis the causes of that conflict are laid bare for everyone to see. Great read for anyone interested in the history of El Salvador, particularly those wanting a better understanding of the real causes of the war.

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