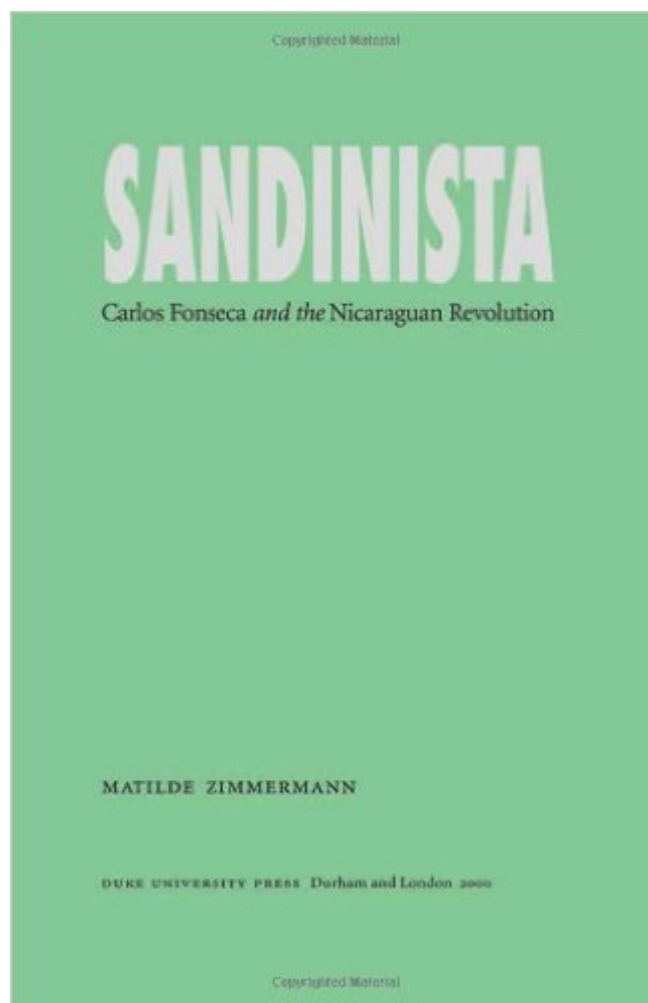


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Sandinista: Carlos Fonseca And The Nicaraguan Revolution



Synopsis

A must-read for anyone interested in Nicaragua or in the overall issue of social change. Margaret Randall, author of *SANDINO'S DAUGHTERS* and *SANDINO'S DAUGHTERS REVISITED* Sandinista is the first English-language biography of Carlos Fonseca Amador, the legendary leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua (the FSLN) and the most important and influential figure of the post-1959 revolutionary generation in Latin America. Fonseca, killed in battle in 1976, was the undisputed intellectual and strategic leader of the FSLN. In a groundbreaking and fast-paced narrative that draws on a rich archive of previously unpublished Fonseca writings, Matilde Zimmermann sheds new light on central themes in his ideology as well as on internal disputes, ideological shifts, and personalities of the FSLN. The first researcher ever to be allowed access to Fonseca's unpublished writings (collected by the Institute for the Study of Sandinism in the early 1980s and now in the hands of the Nicaraguan Army), Zimmermann also obtained personal interviews with Fonseca's friends, family members, fellow combatants, and political enemies. Unlike previous scholars, Zimmermann sees the Cuban revolution as the crucial turning point in Fonseca's political evolution. Furthermore, while others have argued that he rejected Marxism in favor of a more pragmatic nationalism, Zimmermann shows how Fonseca's political writings remained committed to both socialist revolution and national liberation from U.S. imperialism and followed the ideas of both Che Guevara and the earlier Nicaraguan leader Augusto César Sandino. She further argues that his philosophy embracing the experiences of the nation's workers and peasants was central to the FSLN's initial platform and charismatic appeal.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Duke University Press Books (January 12, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822325950

ISBN-13: 978-0822325956

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #271,708 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > History > Americas > Central America > Nicaragua #128 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Latin

Customer Reviews

I'm just getting around to reviewing books I read quite a while ago, but all of them are still worth reading (except those I review because they're not). This one definitely is, for anyone interested in the Nicaraguan Revolution. Carlos Fonseca was a central leader of the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Movement) from the time he helped found it in July 1961 until his murder by the Somoza dictatorship in November 1976. This book is hated by the current leadership of the Sandinistas, precisely because it tells the truth about their revolutionary origins, which they would like to forget. If Fonseca had lived, it's likely that there would still be a revolutionary government in power in Nicaragua. But in Cuba, this book is appreciated, and has been published in Spanish. It has also been published in Spanish on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, where despite all the mistakes the revolution made at the beginning, the autonomy plan has been a big success. Full disclosure: I know Matilde, and when she, along with her husband Arnold Weissberg were on the Managua bureau of The Militant, I followed their articles, as I did all that paper's coverage. Carlos Now the Dawn's No Fond Illusion (English and Spanish Edition) is also still worth reading about Fonseca.

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edition by Plummer, Charles (Carlos) C; McGeary, David; Carlson, Diane published by McGraw-Hill
Science/Engineering/Math Hardcover

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