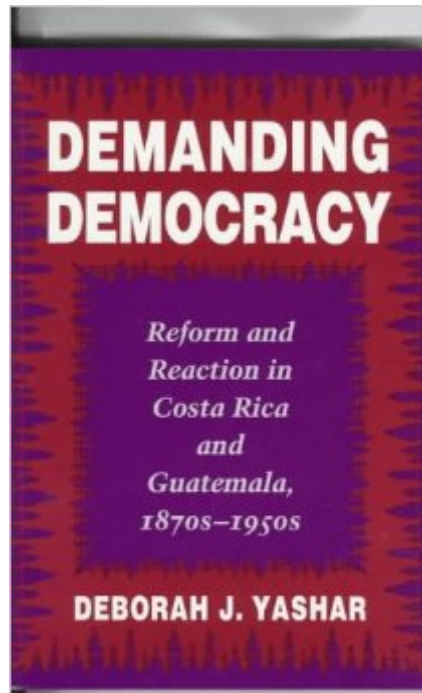


The book was found

# **Demanding Democracy: Reform And Reaction In Costa Rica And Guatemala, 1870's - 1950's**



## Synopsis

This book examines the origins of democracy and authoritarianism using a novel coalitional approach to examine two questions: What are the conditions under which actors found democracy? What are the conditions conducive to its endurance? The book explores these questions by analyzing the cases of Costa Rica and Guatemala. Costa Rica is the longest-standing and arguably the most stable democracy in Latin America, while Guatemala has among the longest and most brutal records of authoritarian rule in Latin America. The author's fresh reinterpretation of these two cases demonstrates that prior to the 1950's, the two countries followed broadly similar patterns of political change and development, including seven decades of Liberal authoritarian rule beginning in the 1870's, just under a decade of democratic reforms in the 1940's, and brief but consequential counterreform movements that overthrew the democratic regimes at mid-twentieth century. Why did Costa Rica emerge with an enduring political democracy and Guatemala with authoritarian rule following these broadly similar historical trajectories? *Demanding Democracy* argues that the democratizing coalition's success in Costa Rica and its failure in Guatemala rested upon its capacity to redistribute elite property early on and to exercise effective political control of the countryside. The book's distinct theoretical approach integrates an analysis of the conditions fostering democracy with those conducive to its endurance. In doing so, it bridges arguments that focus on democratic transitions and those that focus on their consolidation. Moreover, it moves beyond debates about the role of structure and agency in these processes by focusing on the interaction between historical institutions that favor authoritarian rule and the political coalitions that work to remake those institutions in ways consonant with democracy.

## Book Information

Paperback: 348 pages

Publisher: Stanford University Press (April 30, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804728739

ISBN-13: 978-0804728737

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.3 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,217,179 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > History >](#)

[Americas > Central America > Costa Rica](#) #104 in [Books > History > Americas > Central America](#)

## Customer Reviews

The author makes a valuable addition to the dialogue on democracy by not only incorporating older approaches but also moving beyond them. Based on both archival sources and original interview data, this revised dissertation provides cogent arguments, lucid writing, and credible references. The book weaves together two perspectives on democratization often viewed as mutually exclusive: structural and agency approaches. It integrates these two by introducing a third approach: political coalition-building. The author's postulates are tested by examining the histories of Costa Rica and Guatemala. The histories of these two countries actually provide three case studies: one example in each country where democratization failed, and one example in Costa Rica where it succeeded. By introducing a new emphasis on the importance to democratization of the mobilization of the countryside, the author sheds new light on known historical events. She also emphasizes that not only the timing but also the sequencing of events is important in attempts at democratization. Finally, other conditions necessary to the emergence and permanence of democracy are identified for use in future studies. This book should enliven the debate on democratization

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Demanding Democracy: Reform and Reaction in Costa Rica and Guatemala, 1870's - 1950's West Indian Workers and the United Fruit Company in Costa Rica, 1870-1940: 1870-1940 INSIDE CENTRAL AMERICA: The Essential Facts Past and Present on El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica Costa Rica: Quest For Democracy (Nations of the Modern World: Latin America) Race, Reform, and Regulation of the Electoral Process: Recurring Puzzles in American Democracy (Cambridge Studies in Election Law and Democracy) Democracy More or Less: America's Political Reform Quandary (Cambridge Studies in Election Law and Democracy) The Global Transformation of Time: 1870-1950 Guatemala y sus Orquideas / Guatemala and its Orchids (Spanish and English Edition) Honeymoons In Guatemala: A travel guide of Guatemala, a honeymoon planner and some romance advice Wagner Without Fear: Learning to Love--and Even Enjoy--Opera's Most Demanding Genius The Countess: Demanding Husband (An Erotica Victorian Series BDSM, Spanking Book 1) After the Revolution: Gender and Democracy in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala Market, Socialist, and Mixed Economies: Comparative Policy and Performance--Chile, Cuba, and Costa Rica Central American and West Indian Archaeology: Being an Introduction to the Archaeology of the States of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the West

Indies (Classic Reprint) Developing Poverty: The State, Labor Market Deregulation, and the Informal Economy in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic Sparrow and the Hawk: Costa Rica and the United States during the Rise of Jose Figueres Gold and Power in Ancient Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia (Dumbarton Oaks Pre-Columbian Conference Proceedings) Happier Than a Billionaire: Quitting My Job, Moving to Costa Rica, and Living the Zero Hour Work Week The Ticos: Culture and Social Change in Costa Rica A Guide to the Birds of Panama: With Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras

[Dmca](#)