

Nicaragua: History and Culture

Presentation for BMGT 448N

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History and Culture – Geography

World Faactbook





Spanish Colonization

- * Indian population reduced from 1 million to 35,000
- * Mestizos
- * Spanish language
- * Catholicism

Religion (2005 Census)

- * Roman Catholic 58.5%
- * Protestant 23.2%
 - * Evangelical 21.6%
 - * Moravian 1.6%
 - * Jehovah's Witnesses 0.9%

Miskito Coast



Leon and Granada



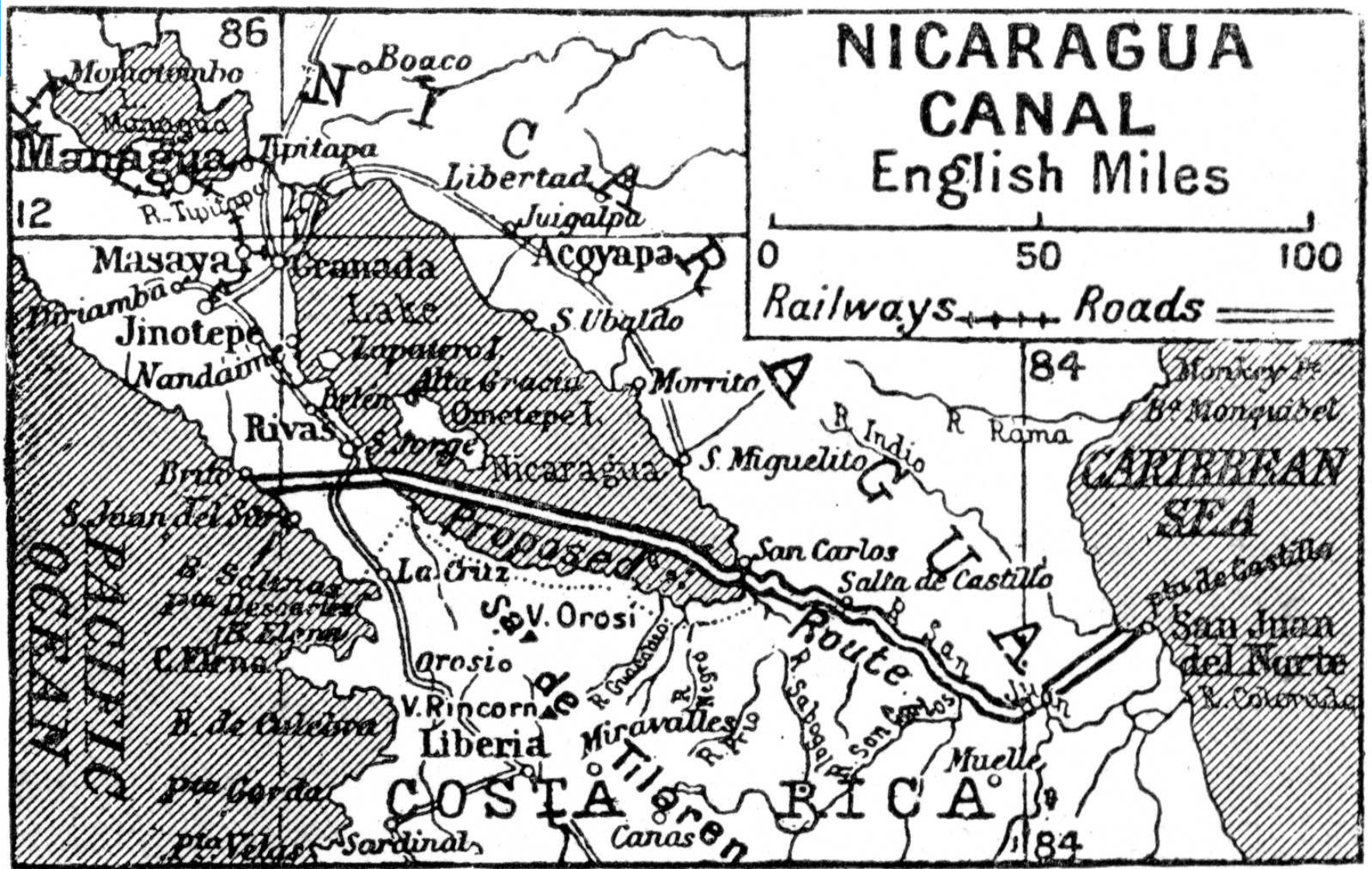
William Walker



US Marines Occupation of Nicaragua 1912-1933

- * Secure American interests during internal conflicts
- * Maintain a stable, pro-US government in the region
- * Interoceanic Canal

Nicaragua Canal



Augusto Sandino

Led Guerrilla War 1927-1933



Augusto Sandino



Tiscapa Lagoon Natural Reserve, Managua silhouette statue of Sandino



Sandino Mural in San Juan el Sur



National Guard La Guardia



Somoza Dictatorship 1937 - 1979

Anastasio Somoza Garcia Luis Somoza Debayle Anastasio Somoza Debayle



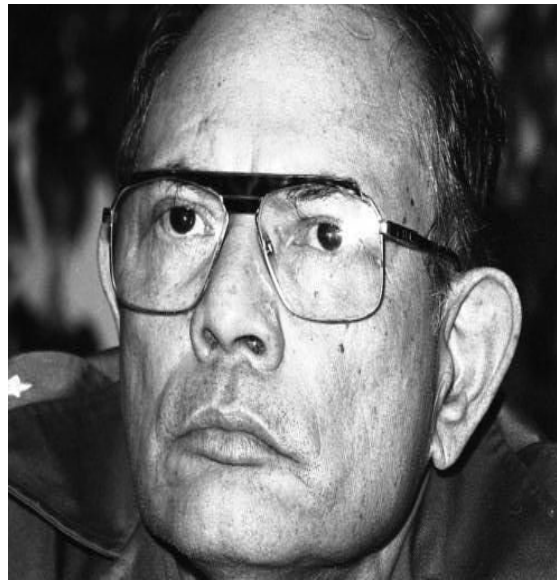
Somoza Dictatorship 1937-1979

- * Unemployment 36%
- * Illiteracy 74%
- * Malnutrition 60%
- * Repression and corruption
- * Imprisonment

FSLN

Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional
Formed in 1961

Carlos Fonseca Amador, Tomás Borge, and Silvio Mayorga



Rise of the FSLN 1970s

Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional



Pivotal Events Lead to Somoza's Ouster

- * Massive earthquake 1972
- * Somoza's response to earthquake
- * Assassination of two key people

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cadenal

Editor of La Prensa



Journalist Bill Stewart



Nicaragua soldier kills ABC reporter

By Karen DeYoung
Washington Post

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- An ABC-TV correspondent, Bill Stewart, 37, was shot and killed yesterday by a Nicaraguan National Guard soldier while attempting to film war destruction in a Managua neighborhood.

Stewart's Nicaraguan interpreter, Juan Espinosa, also was killed in the incident. Eyewitnesses described the deaths as deliberate shootings.

The slayings came a day after the government radio and a newspaper owned by President Anastasio Somoza Debayle attacked foreign reporters covering the civil war here, accusing them of Communist sympathies.

Somoza expressed "deep regrets" at the shooting and said "those guilty will be punished."

In Washington, President Jimmy Carter said the killing was "an act of barbarism that all civilized people condemn."

ABC sound technician Jim Cefalo, who witnessed the shooting, said the incident began when the ABC team, traveling in a clearly marked press van, approached a National Guard patrol in the eastern Managua neighborhood of El Riguero.



ABC News correspondent Bill Stewart reports from a Nicaraguan National Guard position in Managua in photo taken from television footage. A short time later, Stewart and his camera crew moved on to another National Guard roadblock where Stewart was slain by a government soldier. (ABC photo via AP)

Stewart and Espinosa got out of the van and walked toward a soldier with their hands raised, carrying a white flag

FSLN and Sandinistas

FSLN set up a three-person junta and nine person FSLN National Directorate

Photograph by Susan Meiselas



Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution

You Tube: Part 1

Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) 1979-1990

Positive contributions of Sandinistas

- * Good human rights record
- * Successful literacy campaign
- * Land redistribution program
- * Social programs

US Intervention in Nicaragua 1980s

- 1981 All US aid to Nicaragua suspended
- 1981 -1987 Reagan administration provided support for the contras (counterrevolutionaries); Contra war
- 1984 US involved in the mining of Nicaragua's harbors
- 1984 Ortega wins presidential election deemed fair by international observer teams. Reagan denounces elections as a sham

Daniel Ortega was democratically elected and began his six-year presidential term on January 10, 1985.



Nicaragua: 1985-1990

- 1985 US implemented total trade embargo of Nicaragua
- By 1988, Nicaragua ravaged by civil war and extreme economic difficulties
- 1988 President Ortega agreed to peace talks with Contra leaders
- 1989 Nicaragua agreed on plan to support the disarming and dissolving of Contra forces
- Goals of the Sandinista Revolution never materialized
- By 1990, Nicaragua and most Nicaraguans were considerably poorer than they were in the 1970s

Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution

You Tube: Part 2

Nicaraguan Presidents: 1990 - 2006

- * Violeta Chamorro: 1990-1996; Arnaldo Alemán: 1996- 2002; Enrique Bolanos: 2002 – 2006
- * Many achievements of the revolution were reversed
- * Implemented policies that undermined the social gains acquired by the poor

Daniel Ortega:

2006 – 2012; 2012 - present

- 2006 Ortega re-elected
- Politics became more moderate
- Consolidated power from different factions
- Embraced Catholicism and the country's ban on abortion

Daniel Ortega:

2006 – 2012; 2012 - present

- * Sought out foreign investors
- * Worked to maintain fair relations with the US
- * Closer links with left-wing Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Cuba, as well as China and Iran
- * From Marxism to more-pragmatic politics

Daniel Ortega:

2006 – 2012; 2012 - present

- * Sandinista loyalists awarded public service and police jobs.
- * 2011 the Nicaraguan Supreme Court lifted the constitutional ban on consecutive reelection of the president
- * Ortega won the November 2011 presidential election
- * “President for life”
- * From “Sandisimo” to “Danielsmo”

Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution

You Tube: Part 3 and 4

3 Geographic Regions

Pacific Coastal Plains

Central Highlands

Caribbean Lowlands (Mosquito Coast)



Volcán Mombacho



Volcán Mombacho



Volcán Masaya



Volcán Masaya



Ometepe

Maderas and Concepción



Mestizo 69% (mixed indigenous and Spanish)
White 17% (European ancestry)



Black 9% (also called Creole and Afro-Nicaraguan)
Amerindian 5% (Miskitos, Nicarao, Ramas, Somos, and others)



Other Ethnic Groups

- Middle Eastern (Syrian, Armenian, Palestinian, Jewish, Lebanese)
- Taiwanese and Chinese

Bibliography

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