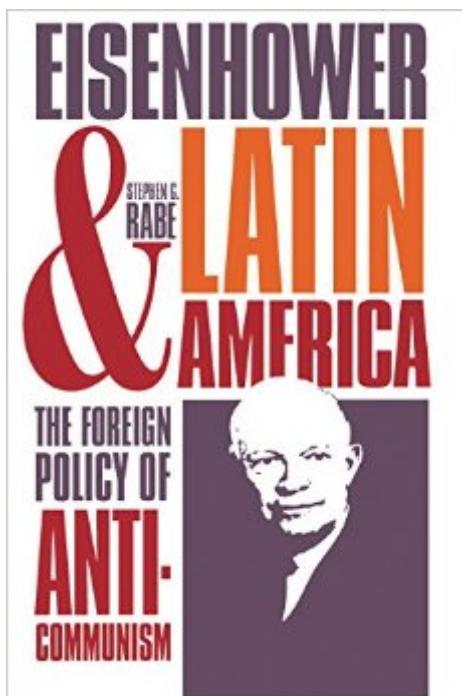


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Eisenhower And Latin America: The Foreign Policy Of Anticommunism



Synopsis

Stephen Rabe's timely book examines President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Latin American policy and assesses the president's actions in light of recent "Eisenhower revisionism." During his first term, Eisenhower paid little attention to Latin America but his objective there was clear: to prevent communism from gaining a foothold. The Eisenhower administration was prepared to cooperate with authoritarian military regimes, but not to fund developmental aid or vigorously promote political democracy. Two events in the second administration convinced Eisenhower that he had underestimated the extent of popular unrest--and thus the potential for Communist inroads: the stoning of Vice-President Richard M. Nixon in Caracas and the radicalization of the Cuban Revolution. He then began to support trade agreements, soft loans, and more strident measures that led to CIA involvement in the Bay of Pigs invasion and plots to assassinate Fidel Castro and Rafael Trujillo. In portraying Eisenhower as a virulent anti-Communist and cold warrior, Rabe challenges the Eisenhower revisionists who view the president as a model of diplomatic restraint.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An enjoyable read! This book is a must if you are interested in the 1954 CIA sponsored coup in Guatemala. Stephen Rabe rounds out the history from a clear U.S. Foreign Policy perspective, and adds depth to the history of this time. This book should be read along side Bitter Fruit and Shattered Hope for the most complete historical perspective.

Neither the reviewer or Stephen (who is a Revisionist for Eisenhower) has a clue about the "coup" that removed a democratically and legally elected President. From Wiki "After the coup, Frank Wisner organised an operation called PBHistory to secure Arbenz Government documents. PBHistory aimed to prove Soviet control of Guatemala and, in so doing, hopefully provide actionable intelligence with regard to other Soviet connections and personnel in Latin America. Wisner sent two teams who gathered 150,000 documents with the help of the Army and the junta of Carlos Castillo Armas, who replaced Arbenz as President of Guatemala. Ronald M. Schneider, an extra-Agency researcher who later examined the PBHistory documents, found no traces of Soviet control and substantial evidence that Guatemalan Communists acted alone, without support or guidance from outside the country". Read some real histories of Central & South America and get the real story of the crimes committed by U.S. puppets in these historically poor countries stuck in the 19th century. If this book is an representative of his work, Stephen Rabe does not deserve to be called an historian. Google Arbenz, Guatemala Coup, follow the links and you will uncover a fascinating part of our history.

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