

# Books

**Open Veins of Latin America**, by Eduardo Galeano

Organizes the various facets of Latin American history according to the patterns of five centuries of exploitation, fusing scientific analysis with the passions of a plundered and suffering people.

*Bitter Fruit* by John Coastworth

Now a classic, this is a comprehensive and insightful account of the CIA operation to overthrow the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala in 1954

*The Guatemala Reader*, by Grandin, Levenson, and Oglesby

200 texts, including many on the political and cultural struggle, but also poems, jokes, recipes, art, songs, etc.

*I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, by Rigoberta Menchú

Menchú vividly conveys the traditional beliefs of her community and her personal response to feminist and socialist ideas

*A Short History of Guatemala*, by Ralph Woodward

Briefly synthesizes the exciting history of Guatemala from its ancient Maya heritage to the present, with emphasis on modern history

*Toxic Charity*, by Robert Lupton

Toxic Charity provides proven new models for charitable groups who want to help—not sabotage—those whom they desire to serve.

*The Art of a Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?*

When human rights activist Bishop Juan Gerardi is murdered in 1998, a group of young men began detective work. A true story about a fight for justice.

*When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself*, by Steve Corbett

Examining potential pitfalls of service work and proven strategies that challenge us to serve in a way that promotes empowerment.

*Health Care in Maya Guatemala: Confronting Medical Pluralism in a Developing Country*

Examines medical systems and institutions in three K'iche' Maya communities to reveal the conflicts between indigenous medical care and the Guatemalan biomedical system

*Environmental Health and Traditional Fuel Use in Guatemala*, by Ahmed et al.

Recognition of the problem of indoor air pollution and its deleterious effects of health

*Maya Intellectual Renaissance: Identity, Representation, and Leadership*

Studies revitalization of Maya culture through identity, representation, and leadership

*Tecpan Guatemala: A Modern Maya Town in Global and Local Context*

Case study of a highland town as it confronts the changes brought by religion, language, the recent civil war, agriculture. Individual chapters can be selected for topic.

# Movies

*Sin Nombre*, by Cary Fukunaga  
*Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*, full-length film by Peter Kinoy, Pamela Yates, and Paco de Onís.  
*Guatemala and Hunger*

[\*Sin País \(Without Country\)\*](#), by Theo Rigby

*The Field Afar: Sayaxché, Guatemala*

*The Mission*, by Roland Joffré.

Violent movie that follows two different stories of migrants heading north to work in the US

Guatemalan court recently charged with genocide for his war against the Mayan people.

Overview of the current food crisis in Guatemala—shows the landscape and “average” Guatemalans

The experience of Guatemalan migrant workers and their family in the US.

Brother Shea accompanies Mayan refugees as they return to the lands they fled from during the civil war.

Nominated for many academy awards (actors include DeNiro and Liam Neeson), Jesuit missions are threatened by Portugal in the 1750s in South America.

## Articles

[To Hell with Good Intentions](#), by Ivan Illich  
[Background and Current State of Affairs in Guatemala From The New York Times](#)

[We See from Where We Stand](#), by David Briggs

White Privilege: [Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#), by Peggy McIntosh

[USAID: Guatemala](#)

[‘If no one else stands up, you have to’](#): a story of community participation and water in rural Guatemala

A very skeptical speech given in 1968 toward students going on a mission to Mexico

Very up-to-date and includes interesting and relevant political news

An intriguing piece that encourages the international volunteer to have some skepticism and to be cautious when choosing a place to volunteer

A very provocative, easy read that requires introspection of the reader

Includes brief situation analyses of health, food security, environment, economics, and democracy

This case shows the importance of prolonged engagement, continued support, and participatory practices for empowered decision-making. *Also has a very good, concise historical background of recent Guatemalan history*