in Central America, understanding the interaction of regional actors is essential as insurgent groups often found safety and support in neighboring countries that sought to influence the affairs of other countries on the isthmus. Also, many leaders of Central American states were instrumental in resolving some of the region's most protracted conflicts. Thus, even though the countries of Central America no longer sought unification in any form, they continued to influence each other in overt ways, capturing the essence of transnationalism in the region.

The final section of the book (chapters 10 through 14) focuses on the shared problems of the region and efforts at coordinating policies and practices in Central America through the use of international institutions. The revolutionary period initiated a wave of migration on the isthmus. The author explains how the flow of people, paired with the flow of illicit substances, presented each state on the isthmus with similar problems that transcended state borders and thus required transnational coordination. A series of efforts at coordination reflect those shared problems but also the developmental separation of the states over time. For instance, Costa Rica is repeatedly singled out as unwilling to participate in isthmian institutions. This seems to signal the unique position now held by that more developed nation. However, even in the face of that developmental separation, Roniger shows that the attitudes of individuals regarding state institutions and actors are similar and thus exemplify the numerous shared issues of Central American states today.

As globalization continues, there is reason to believe that all states will become increasingly interrelated. For Central America, fostering transnationalism follows the path of globalization while nurturing the existing connections among the states on the isthmus. In clearly written prose, Roniger advocates a transnational approach to studying the region. In short, if we ignore the shared histories of the isthmian states and the common problems they face today, it will be impossible to gain a complete understanding of the societies and institutions of Central America.

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GREG GRANDIN and GILBERT M. JOSEPH (eds.): ***A Century of Revolutions: Insurgent and Counterinsurgent Violence during Latin America's Long Cold War*.** Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.

This volume of finely crafted essays was inspired by Arno Mayer's *Furies: Violence and Terror in the French and Russian Revolutions* (2000). In his book Mayer posits that the terror associated with those revolutions sprung from the social conflict between the old and the new orders and not from the revolutions

themselves. Hence, from the editors' point of view there is much in Mayer's work that speaks to Latin America's revolutionary history, not least the call for the socially embedded approach to the diverse expressions of political violence together with the inseparability of national and international politics. This collective endeavor allows readers to get into close touch with the experience of violence by explaining and analyzing the ways Latin American societies were polarized by revolutionary contingencies. It shows how passions incensed the struggles on both sides of the antagonistic equation.

Latin America's revolutionary twentieth century, in its broadest sense, begins with the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and runs to the Central American conflicts of the 1980s, passing through earlier conflicts in Central America and Caribbean Cuba, and goes over to the furies in the Andes of Peru, Colombia, and Chile. As in other aspects of its history, Mexico stands apart from the rest of the continent. While it is true that local violence could be lethal, as Jocelyn Olcott´s essay documents, Friedrich Katz´s comparison between the Mexican and the Bolshevik revolutions deepens our understanding of Mexico's revolutionary violence that was attenuated by the new regime, which relied for legitimacy and governance on the support of workers and peasants who aided in bringing the revolutionary group to power. A different case is Jeff Gould's narrative of the successful insurrection of 1979 in Nicaragua which avoided the temptation to kill an adversary and thus stands as a token of "a humanist revolution that respects human life, even of our enemies" (p. 113).

There were no attenuating circumstances in other cases documented by the book. With the brutal exploitation of labor, the peasants' and agricultural labourers' demands for better working conditions were met systematically with state violence, unleashing revolutionary contingencies without ideological determinants but only the memory of incessant repressions. Tensions between the people's goals of emancipation and the governments' methods of coercion are a constant in twentieth-century Latin American social movements. In El Salvador these led to a peasant insurrection in 1932, which met the response of government forces with slaughter of the insurrectionists, while in southern Chile the violence in dispossessing Mapuche and mestizo peasants of their land resulted in yet more violence.

The book includes two articles dealing with revolutionary Cuba about subjects that are difficult to research and therefore less well known. Michelle Chase's "The Trials" of Batista henchmen by popular courts on the heels of the storming of Havana in January of 1959 by the revolutionary forces shows how, in the power vacuum following the flight of Batista, justice in the hands of the castristas, with no due judicial process, legitimized the power of the revolutionists and diminished the spirit of vengeance and of taking justice into the hands of aggrieved

people. Lillian Guerra's "Beyond Paradox" follows the process of defining a paradoxical meaning of counterrevolution inside encircled Cuba. As one rebel peasant, from among thousands of coffee growers who were transferred to a prison colony, told Guerra: "I wanted to work, for me and my family, my *patria*, not for them, not for the Americans, not for anybody. We were revolutionaries, not counterrevolutionaries. That's just what they say" (p. 215).

The history of the Chilean peaceful road to socialism led by Salvador Allende and Unidad Popular between 1970 and 1973 is better known. Peter Winn recalls its chilling trajectory and outcome, dubbed the "climate of violence." This allegation, thrown at the Chilean restrained revolutionaries, was in fact consciously created by the counterrevolutionaries, and it led to the military coup and drawn-out state of terror.

Carlota McAllister's work on the extremely brutal nature of Guatemala and Gerardo Rénique's work on Peru trace their respective civil wars to the historical and structural factors which led up to the conflicts in which anticommunism, communism in its many denominations, and internal security doctrines acted as additional dynamite to produce terror in countries whose history has been characterized by systemic class-based racist and repressive violence.

Grandin's introductory conceptual essay places the book into the context of a new approach to the history of the cold war that the articles exemplify. In Grandin's interview with Arno Mayer, we learn that among the many lessons that Mayer brought to the historiography of Europe is the concept and practice of history as containment of democratic mass politics, so relevant to Latin Americanists. In the reflections and the conclusions to the book, Corey Robin reminds us of the counterrevolutionary kernel in the United States disposition toward the world. Neil Larsen poses the question whether the age of violence in Latin America has made the counterrevolution triumph in Latin America, but he offers no answer. Gilbert Joseph, while providing the contours of the new agenda for the study of the revolutionary age and political violence in twentieth-century Latin America by redefining the notions of cold war, reflects with only a drop of optimism on the post-cold war era in the context of South-South alliances for economic development but also imperial challenges posed by the United States.

The book as a whole and its individual chapters are conceptual, historiographical as well as didactic tools for historians and social scientists to think about and teach Latin America's cold war from the point of view of its victims and victimizers embedded in historically grounded multiple and overlapping social, political, economic, and ideological environments.

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