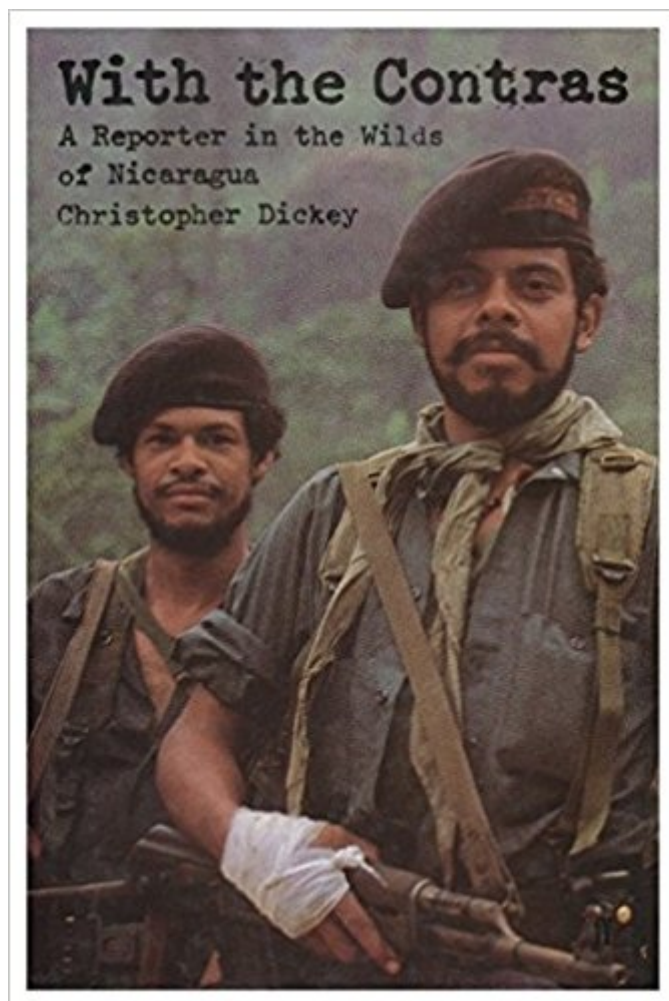


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With The Contras: A Reporter In The Wilds Of Nicaragua



Synopsis

On the seventeenth of July, 1979, the dictator Anastasio Somoza left Nicaragua after forty-five years. Finally, the family that had ruled and owned the country was gone. It took its money, which was much of the money the country had. The dictator left. The generals left. The colonels. They fled by helicopter and airplane, by car and on foot. By the nineteenth they were, almost all of them, gone. But the soldiers remained. And in San Juan del Sur, on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, the rebel Commander Zero, Eden Pastora, was facing the best of the dictator's remaining soldiers: Bravo, Montenegro, "the Rattlesnakes," "the Wild Geese," "the Black and White." Eventually the guardias fled too - some of them, including a tough, murderous sergeant from "the Rattlesnakes" (called Suicida by his men), making their way to El Salvador, from where, as the Contras, they waged sporadic war against the Nicaraguan leftist forces. Christopher Dickey was the first American newspaperman to go into the mountains of Nicaragua with the Contras and come out alive, and his account of the "secret" war that is being waged against the Sandinista government reads like the best fiction. Yet it is as factual as tomorrow's headlines. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

In this stimulating report on the Nicaraguan conflict, Dickey, Washington Post correspondent for Central America, focuses on a peril-filled year he spent with a CIA-supported Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary patrol. With admirable clarity, he identifies the many groups and individuals that make up the contra forces, among them former Somoza supporters, veteran commandos from

earlier CIA operations, and ex-Sandinistas disillusioned by the regime's Marxist complexion. The Reagan administration's controversial "secret war" not only goes far beyond its avowed purpose of preventing arms shipments to Salvadoran Communists, charges Dickey, but is a disastrously ill-conceived, incompetently executed operation no longer covert, rife with scandal and atrocities on both sides. This war, the author concludes, has scarred the CIA, has been costly in money and lives of guerrillas, peasants and Americans and has further jeopardized the U.S.'s international reputation. January 31 Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Christopher Dickey, Newsweek's award-winning Paris bureau chief and Middle East editor, reports regularly from Baghdad, Cairo, and Jerusalem, and writes the weekly "Shadowland" column -- an inside look at the world of spies and soldiers, guerrillas and suicide bombers -- for Newsweek Online. He is the author of Summer of Deliverance, Expats, With the Contras, and the novel Innocent Blood. He lives in Paris. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Incredible writing from a fascinating time and place in history.

Awesome book

A landmark book that foreshadows the roots of the present turmoil in Central America now . Very readable .

This book reads like an adventure novel set in the wilds of Central America. But it is the true story of one of the Cold War's misguided foreign policy adventures, one that helped to lay the groundwork for the lawless, murderous Central America of today. If you want a thriller that gives you the smells and sounds and passions of that time, this is a good one.

If you can find a copy of this book, I highly recommend it. Covers the authors time as a correspondent in Nicaragua. Reads like a cloak-and-dagger book. Hard to put down.

This book concluded that the examined weaknesses of the Contras would lead to defeat. This turned out to be incorrect, since Contra activity was one of the reasons why Sandinistas were replaced by elections, and a shaky but real democracy. Such evaluations are common in war for

those participating in conflicts tend to believe that their enemies are more competent than they really are. However, there is useful information in this book.

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