



Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua, With New Afterword (Series on Latin American Studies)

By Stephen Kinzer

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In 1976, at age twenty-five, Stephen Kinzer arrived in Nicaragua as a freelance journalist--and became a witness to history. He returned many times during the years that followed, becoming Latin America correspondent for the *Boston Globe* in 1981 and joining the foreign staff of the *New York Times* in 1983. That year he opened the *New York Times* Managua bureau, making that newspaper the first daily in America to maintain a full-time office in Nicaragua.

Widely considered the best-connected journalist in Central America, Kinzer personally met and interviewed people at every level of the Somoza, Sandinistas and contra hierarchies, as well as dissidents, heads of state, and countless ordinary citizens throughout the region.

Blood of Brothers is Kinzer's dramatic story of the centuries-old power struggle that burst into the headlines in 1979 with the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship. It is a vibrant portrait of the Nicaraguan people and their volcanic land, a cultural history rich in poetry and bloodshed, baseball and insurrection.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this well-written survey, the former New York Times Managua bureau chief analyzes the roles of the Sandinistas, the Catholic Church and the Reagan administration in modern Nicaragua. Illustrated.

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From Library Journal

Kinzer served in Central America first in the 1970s as a freelance journalist and later as a New York Times bureau chief in Managua (1983-89). An eyewitness to events, he interviewed members of the Somoza, Sandinista, and contra hierarchies. As a result, he provides a highly objective and balanced assessment of events that led to the fall of the Somoza government in 1979. Kinzer avoids ideological bias, but he does note that the Sandinistas came to power because "those most likely to shed blood are the most likely to triumph." Yet despite their many shortcomings, he concludes "the Sandinistas at least provided a basis upon which a genuine democracy could be built." An example of public affairs journalism at its best, his book will stand as the definitive study of Nicaragua in the turbulent 1980s. It belongs in every public and school library.

- J.A. Rhodes, *Luther Coll., Decorah, Ia.*

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Review

Because he spent as much time in the streets and villages as he did in embassies and restaurants, Kinzer was able to understand and report the many levels of reality generally hidden behind fogs of ideology, public statements and political rhetoric...*Blood of Brothers* is a must-read for anyone who hopes to understand the continuing need for a more enlightened U.S. foreign policy in Central America. (Bill Kovach, Curator, Neiman Foundation at Harvard University)

A comprehensive and enthralling account of how the Sandinistas triumphed in the destruction of 'an old and unjust order,' but failed to make over Nicaragua in their own austere and militant image. Stephen Kinzer, an eyewitness to it all, does justice to both triumph and failure in this even-handed and readable book. (Tom Wicker)

An example of public journalism at its best, his book will stand as the definitive study of Nicaragua in the turbulent 80s. (*Library Journal*)

By the former *New York Times* Managua bureau chief, this is a well-written, information-rich survey of modern Nicaragua. (*Publisher's Weekly*)

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