

Guatemala Book List

- **I Rigoberta Menchu (An Indian Woman in Guatemala).** Rigoberta Menchu, 1984. Autobiography of the 1992 Nobel Peace laureate. " This is my testimony. I didn't learn it from a book and I didn't learn it alone... My personal experience is the reality of a whole people."
- **Hombres de maíz** (translated as *Men of Maize*). Miguel Ángel Asturias, 1949. The novel deals with the conflict between two types of men: the ones who consider maize to be sacred food (the indigenous people of Guatemala); and those who view it simply as a commercial product. It exposes the devastating effects capitalism and international companies had on the lives of Guatemalan maize growers, having a profound effect on their customs, ancestral beliefs and cultural identity.
- **What Prize Awaits Us: Letters from Guatemala.** Bernice Kita, 1988. Letters from an American nun who lived in an isolated Indian Village from 1977-1983, some of Guatemala's worst years.
- **Hummingbird House.** Patricia Henley, 2000. An American midwife, heads to Mexico for a three-week visit in the mid-1980s and ends up staying south of the border for eight years. From Mexico she travels first to Nicaragua and then to Guatemala, two nations torn by revolution and sunk in horrific poverty and violence.
- **Guatemala, Never Again.** by Archdiocese of Guatemala, 1999. This report gives a sad account of 150 thousand deaths, 50 thousand missing persons, 1 million internal displaced persons, 100 thousand refugees and 200 thousand orphan children, resulting from Guatemala's forty years of war. Three out of four victims of war were indigenous people.
- **Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala.** Stephen Kinzer and Stephen Schlesinger, 1982. Details the 1954 coup which involved the CIA and the United Fruit Company. Very helpful for understanding current reality.
- **Guatemala: Blood In The Cornfields .**Bonnie A. Dilger 2005. This story-a first-person, present-tense narrative-begins in El Salvador and culminates in a Guatemalan pueblo, Santiago Atitlán, inhabited by the Naturales, Guatemala's Indians.
- **Of Centaurs and Doves: Guatemala's Peace Process.** Susanne Jonas, 2000. "Modern Guatemalan history has been characterized by a unique dynamic, in which the country's structural problems have given rise to popular and revolutionary movements time..."
- **The Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation.** Greg Grandin,2000. To explore the close connection between nationalism, state power, ethnic identity, and political violence, Grandin draws on sources as diverse as photographs, public rituals, oral testimony, literature, and a collection of previously untapped documents written during the nineteenth century.
- **Liberation Theology: Essential Facts About the Revolutionary Religious Movement in Latin America and Beyond.** Phillip Berryman, Pantheon Books, 1987.
- **A Guide to Liberation Theology for Middle-Class Congregations.** Charles H. Bayer, CBP Press 1986. Delves into the implications of liberation theology for the "unpoor".
- **Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes.** Robert McAfee Brown, Westminster Press, 1984. New Perspectives given on key Biblical passages.
- **The Girl from Chimel.** Rigoberta Menchu, 2005. Memoir of her girlhood in the Indian village of Chimel, in Guatemala. Each short chapter tells a story that adds to the broadening picture of history of the village and the everyday life and beliefs of its people.
- **The Honey Jar.** Rigoberta Menchu, 2006. The ancient stories are those that the author's grandparents shared with her when she was a child. The anthology includes creation myths, animal tales, twin tales (because twins are believed to have special powers), as well as stories that explain natural phenomena such as rainbows.