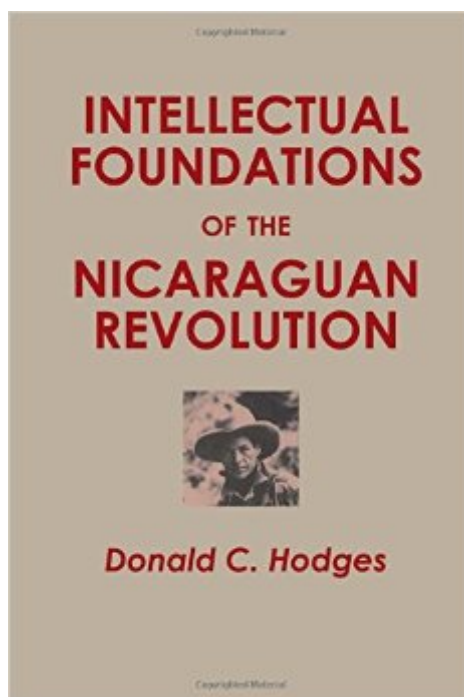


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Intellectual Foundations Of The Nicaraguan Revolution



Synopsis

In this critical study of the thought of Augusto Cesar Sandino and his followers, Donald C. Hodges has discovered a coherent ideological thread and political program, which he succeeds in tracing to Mexican and Spanish sources. Sandino's strong religious inclination in combination with his anarchosindicalist political ideology established him as a religious seer and moral reformer as well as a political thinker and is the prototype of the curious blend of Marxism and Christianity of the late twentieth-century Nicaraguan government, the Frente Sandinista de Liberaci3n Nacional.

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps I shouldn't offer this review, since I'm the author of "Unfinished Revolution: Daniel Ortega and Nicaragua's Struggle for Liberation" and don't remember if I even cited this book, but I did read it and as I recall think it merits four stars for what it is. Although I don't think it was the author's intent, Sandino comes across as a bit of an intellectual goofball. Unfortunately, this is probably true. While there are opinions to the contrary, I still think that Carlos Fonseca, basically the founder of the Sandinistas during the 1960s, was a heck of an intellectual as well as a human being (and there is a good biography of him), but Sandino not so much. If you want the background of the Sandinistas before it was romanticized, or are just interested in Nicaragua's history, this though is a good book.

The author looks back to the beliefs and philosophy of Augusto Cesar Sandino for an interpretation of the ideology of the Sandinista regime. He concludes that the FSLN's leaders are neither social

democrats nor traditional Marxist-Leninists but, rather, exemplars of a Marxist-Leninist New Left influenced by Sandino's anarchist version of communism, for which an atypical theology of liberation, expounded by Father Ernesto Cardenal, is "the single most important carrier." A very interesting and thoughtful study.

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