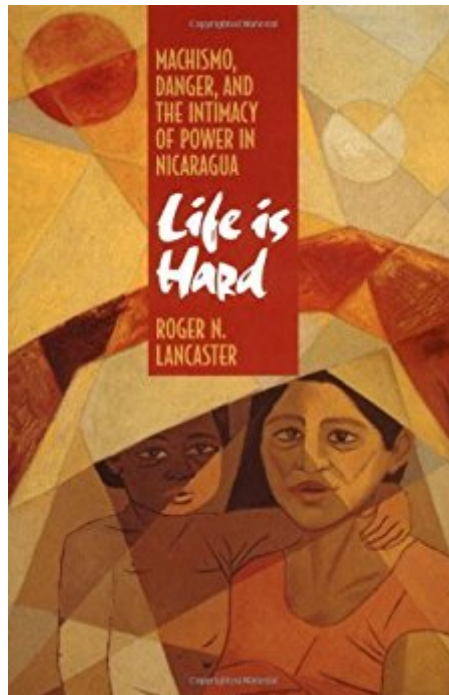


The book was found

# Life Is Hard: Machismo, Danger, And The Intimacy Of Power In Nicaragua



## Synopsis

"Rambo took the barrios by storm: Spanish videotapes of the movie were widely available, and nearly all the boys and young men had seen it, usually on the VCRs of their family's more affluent friends. . . . As one young Sandinista commented, 'Rambo is like the Nicaraguan soldier. He's a superman. And if the United States invades, we'll cut the marines down like Rambo did.' And then he mimicked Rambo's famous war howl and mimed his arc of machine gun fire. We both laughed."â"from the book

There is a Nicaragua that Americans have rarely seen or heard about, a nation of jarring political paradoxes and staggering social and cultural flux. In this Nicaragua, the culture of machismo still governs most relationships, insidious racism belies official declarations of ethnic harmony, sexual relationships between men differ starkly from American conceptions of homosexuality, and fascination with all things American is rampant. Roger Lancaster reveals the enduring character of Nicaraguan society as he records the experiences of three families and their community through times of war, hyperinflation, dire shortages, and political turmoil. Life is hard for the inhabitants of working class barrios like DoÃ a Flora, who expects little from men and who has reared her four children with the help of a constant female companion; and life is hard for Miguel, undersized and vulnerable, stigmatized as a cochÃ nâ "a "faggot"â "until he learned to fight back against his brutalizers. Through candid discussions with young and old Nicaraguans, men and women, Lancaster constructs an account of the successes and failures of the 1979 Sandinista Revolution, documenting the effects of war and embargo on the cultural and economic fabric of Nicaraguan society. He tracks the break up of families, surveys informal networks that allow female-headed households to survive, explores the gradual transformation of the culture of machismo, and reveals a world where heroic efforts have been stymied and the best hopes deferred. This vast chronicle is sustained by a rich theoretical interpretation of the meanings of ideology, power, and the family in a revolutionary setting. Played out against a backdrop of political travail and social dislocation, this work is a story of survival and resistance but also of humor and happiness. Roger Lancaster shows us that life is hard, but then too, life goes on.

## Book Information

File Size: 3530 KB

Print Length: 340 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (August 30, 1994)

Publication Date: August 30, 1994

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003BNZJ1I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #933,743 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #89

inÂ Books > History > Americas > Central America > Nicaragua #413 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > Latin America > Central America #920 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Social History > Gay & Gender Studies

## Customer Reviews

When people want to know what everyday life in Nicaragua was like during what Eduardo Galeano has called "the time of beautiful madness," they invariably turn to Lancaster's book. *Life is Hard* gives an up-close, personal, and often poignant accounting of the experiences of three working-class families during the Sandinista period. But this accessible, engaging book is also more than a classic ethnography. The latter chapters (whose theoretical arguments ineluctably flow from the more descriptive chapters) provide a highly readable short course on much of what is most exciting in twentieth century cultural theory: semiotics, deconstruction, neomarxism, and the origins of queer theory. Over the course of the book, the author takes the reader through various vignettes, life stories, and analyses. At the same time, Lancaster reveals different facets of himself, in context-appropriate passages: socialist, Southern working-class origins, white, gay... The result is an implicit argument about how complex, compound, and contingent identities are. The result is also that alert readers get a very good sense of how the author's experiences shaped his research questions- and how they affected his interactions with Nicaraguan informants spanning a broad social gamut: single mothers, soldiers, adolescent boys and girls, "macho" men, and a number of gay men (clearly quoted, sometimes at length, in the chapter on same-sex relations). Lancaster's overarching analysis is complex. In a feminist vein, he argues that the Sandinista revolution failed, in part, because its leadership failed to undertake an effective renovation of gender relations and family life.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Life is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua Danger Ready: Prepare to

Survive Any Threat and Live to Tell the Tale: (Terrorist Attacks, Mass-Shootings, Earthquakes, Civil Unrest - Be Ready to Protect Your Family Whatever the Danger) Principio y Fin de la Guerra de los Contras Nicaragua: La Guerra Civil en Nicaragua y la Ultima Batalla de la Guerra Fria (Spanish Edition) Power Training: For Combat, MMA, Boxing, Wrestling, Martial Arts, and Self-Defense: How to Develop Knockout Punching Power, Kicking Power, Grappling Power, and Ground Fighting Power Learn Python the Hard Way: A Very Simple Introduction to the Terrifyingly Beautiful World of Computers and Code (3rd Edition) (Zed Shaw's Hard Way Series) Learn Python the Hard Way: A Very Simple Introduction to the Terrifyingly Beautiful World of Computers and Code (Zed Shaw's Hard Way Series) Working Hard, Drinking Hard: On Violence and Survival in Honduras The Everything Hard Cider Book: All you need to know about making hard cider at home Learn C the Hard Way: Practical Exercises on the Computational Subjects You Keep Avoiding (Like C) (Zed Shaw's Hard Way Series) TWILIGHT STRUGGLE: American Power and Nicaragua, 1977-1990 Deeper Dating: How to Drop the Games of Seduction and Discover the Power of Intimacy Dirty Talk : Secrets For Women and men, Straight, Gay and Bi, Spice Up Your Sex Life and Have Mindblowing Sex: (Sexuality, Intimacy, Sexting, Confidence, Relationship) (Great Sex Book Series 1) This Is Awkward: How Life's Uncomfortable Moments Open the Door to Intimacy and Connection A Place of Quiet Rest: Finding Intimacy with God Through a Daily Devotional Life "DAMSELS IN DISTRESS 2": ANOTHER 200 Pulp Magazine And Comic Book Covers Featuring Women In Grave Danger The Ice Princess: Danger, Intrigue and Love Bitter Harvest: A Chef's Perspective on the Hidden Danger in the Foods We Eat and What You Can Do About It Passport through Darkness: A True Story of Danger and Second Chances Anorexia (Danger Zone: Dieting and Eating Disorders) No Apparent Danger: The True Story of Volcanic Disaster at Galeras and Nevado Del Ruiz

[Dmca](#)