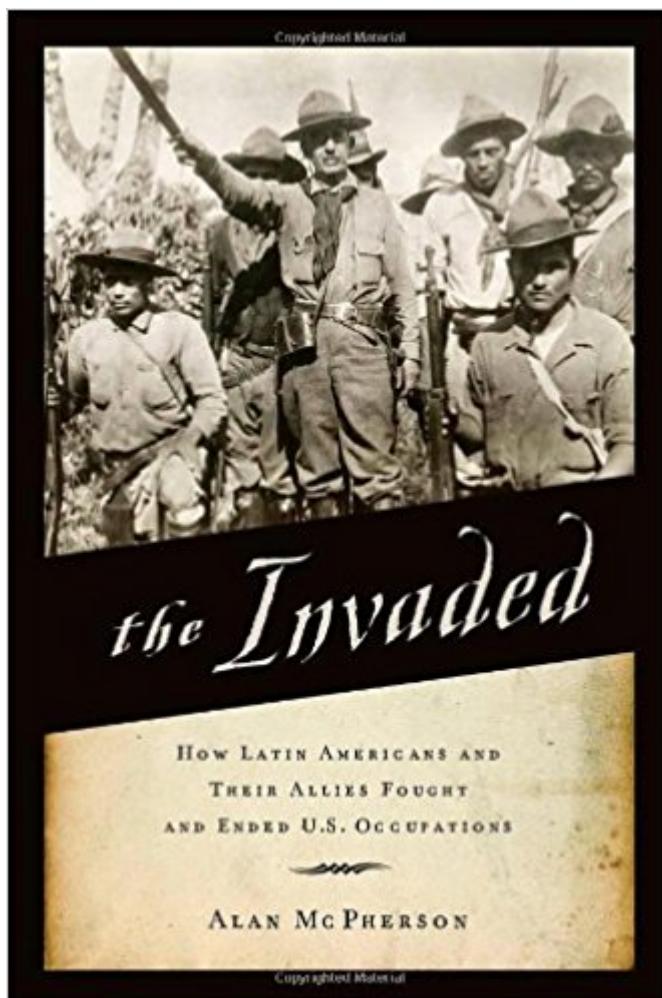


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The Invaded: How Latin Americans And Their Allies Fought And Ended U.S. Occupations



Synopsis

In 1912 the United States sent troops into a Nicaraguan civil war, solidifying a decades-long era of military occupations in Latin America driven by the desire to rewrite the political rules of the hemisphere. In this definitive account of the resistance to the three longest occupations-in Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic-Alan McPherson analyzes these events from the perspective of the invaded themselves, showing why people resisted and why the troops eventually left. Confronting the assumption that nationalism primarily drove resistance, McPherson finds more concrete-yet also more passionate-motivations: hatred for the brutality of the marines, fear of losing land, outrage at cultural impositions, and thirst for political power. These motivations blended into a potent mix of anger and resentment among both rural and urban occupied populations. Rejecting the view that Washington withdrew from Latin American occupations for moral reasons, McPherson details how the invaded forced the Yankees to leave, underscoring day-to-day resistance and the transnational network that linked New York, Havana, Mexico City, and other cities. Political culture, he argues, mattered more than military or economic motives, as U.S. marines were determined to transform political values and occupied peoples fought to conserve them. Occupiers tried to speed up the modernization and centralization of these poor, rural societies and, ironically, to build nationalism where they found it lacking. Based on rarely seen documents in three languages and five countries, this lively narrative recasts the very nature of occupation as a colossal tragedy, doomed from the outset to fail. In doing so, it offers broad lessons for today's invaders and invaded.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is McPherson's best book so far (they are all good). It performs a long overdue comparison of the U.S. military occupations of Caribbean and Central American territories. It does so by highlighting the actions and experiences of the occupied themselves and illustrating the importance of their transnational relationships. He is fair to both the U.S. and Latin American perspectives. If you are interested in the history of Latin America, U.S. foreign relations, global political movements, or even contemporary military occupations throughout the world, then you will benefit from this book.

Meticulously documented book that reads like a novel, McPherson's book is an extraordinary work of scholarship and literary craft. McPherson looks at the US occupation of Haiti, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua and makes the case that these occupations ended as a result of the struggles of "the invaded." The author enters the complexity of the historical contexts, avoiding a simplistic analysis and he shows the heroes with warts, and the humanity of the invaders. Unusual in its even-handedness. Excellent history, flawless writing.

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