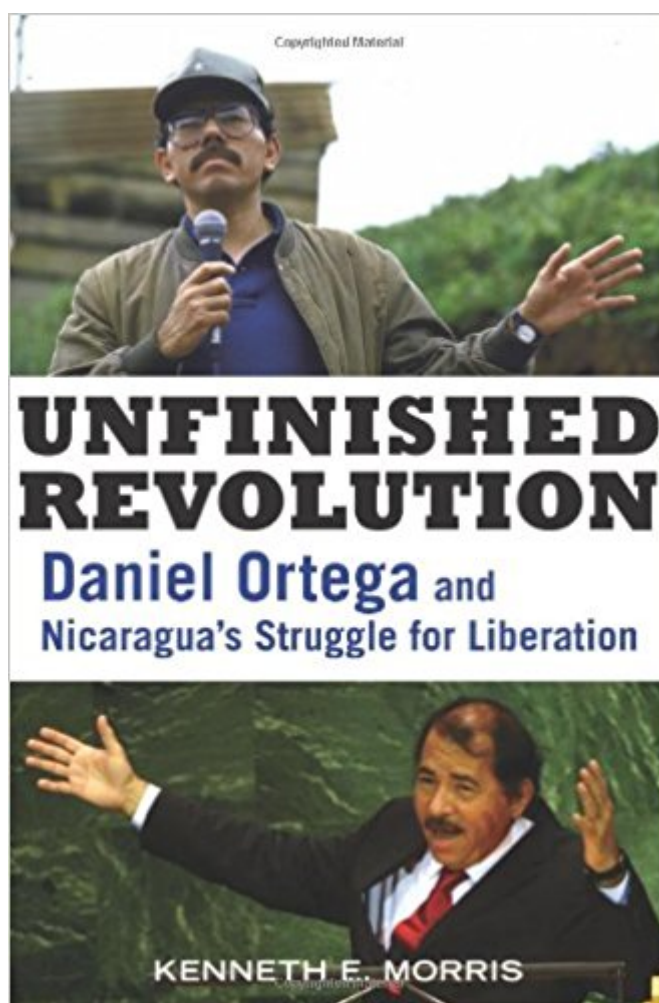


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Unfinished Revolution: Daniel Ortega And Nicaragua's Struggle For Liberation



Synopsis

Together with his brother Humberto, Daniel Ortega Saavedra masterminded the only victorious Latin American revolution since Fidel Castro's in Cuba. Following the triumphant 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, Ortega was named coordinator of the governing junta, and then in 1984 was elected president by a landslide in the country's first free presidential election. The future was full of promise. Yet the United States was soon training, equipping, and financing a counterrevolutionary force inside Nicaragua while sabotaging its crippled economy. The result was a decade-long civil war. By 1990, Nicaraguans dutifully voted Ortega out and the preferred candidate of the United States in. And Nicaraguans grew poorer and sicker. Then, in 2006, Daniel Ortega was reelected president. He was still defiantly left-wing and deeply committed to reclaiming the lost promise of the Revolution. Only time will tell if he succeeds, but he has positioned himself as an ally of Castro and Hugo Chávez, while life for many Nicaraguans is finally improving. *Unfinished Revolution* is the first full-length biography of Daniel Ortega in any language. Drawing from a wealth of untapped sources, it tells the story of Nicaragua's continuing struggle for liberation through the prism of the Revolution's most emblematic yet enigmatic hero.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've visited Nicaragua twice in the past two years on mission trips and heard and saw the still open battle lines between those who spray paint Viva Daniel on the streets of Managua and those who fear the beginning of a dictatorial reign. This text gave enough history of pre-Ortega Nicaragua to

have a context for revolution's roots while focusing on Ortega's upbringing and his personal life. The author paints a sympathetic portrait as much as he's able, until the facts of Ortega's personal character and his strong arm tactics in governing Nicaragua get in the way.

I've been fascinated by Nicaragua since I first visited a decade ago so I was really looking forward to reading this first book-length treatment of the country's revolutionary leader turned dictator. There's plenty of detail about the man and the country's politics here, but I don't understand why the author (who apparently never interviewed his subject) is so sympathetic. He excuses corruption, megalomania, disregard for public opinion simply because everyone in Nicaragua does it. I'd argue it's not enough to care about the poor; ideology aside, Ortega has blown a unique opportunity to get lasting results that would improve lives in this magical, heartbreaking country.

A well done Nicaraguan political history, but it's essentially an opinion piece. An enjoyable and educational read if you can get past the writer's infatuation with his subject.

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