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Paraguay And The United States: Distant Allies (The United States And The Americas Ser.)



Synopsis

Ranging from the 1840s through the early twenty-first century, this study of shared political, economic, and cultural histories fills significant gaps in our understanding of Paraguayan-U.S. relations. Frank O. Mora and Jerry W. Cooney tell how an initially rocky beginning between the two countries, marked by diplomatic posturing, shows of military force, and failed business schemes, gave way to a calmer period during which the United States backed Paraguay's territorial claims against its neighbors, prospects grew brighter for American entrepreneurs, and Paraguay embraced Pan-Americanism. It was not until the 1930s that the two countries engaged in earnest as the United States attempted to mediate the Chaco War between Paraguay and Bolivia. Then, as the authors write, "hemispheric solidarity in World War II, the cold war in Latin America, the 'balance of power' among states in the Río de la Plata, and the question of U.S. support for, or aid to, Latin American dictators" became matters of mutual interest. The dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner (1954-89) spanned much of this era, and a shared attitude of *realpolitik* typified U.S.-Paraguayan relations during his rule. Post-Stroessner, the United States has stood by Paraguay during its transition to democracy, despite lingering concerns about such issues as drug trafficking and intellectual piracy. The countries should grow closer with time, the authors conclude, if Paraguay resists the continent's leftward political shift and remains a solid partner in U.S. antiterror initiatives in South America.

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Customer Reviews

No other study tackles the topic of U.S.-Paraguayan relations in such a comprehensive manner. We see not only the story of diplomacy set at a nation-to-nation level with intricate political strategies fully defined but also the adventures of eccentric expatriates living their lives in the most perilous or curious of circumstances. Paraguayans and Americans, scholars and casual readers alike, will be quite pleased with this book. (Thomas L. Whigham author of *The Paraguayan War: Causes and Early Conduct*) This well-researched and clearly written work is a welcome addition to the literature of U.S.-Latin American relations. Although national interests often caused the governments in Asunción and Washington, D.C., to clash, their common interests in commercial matters, as well as regional and hemispheric security, prompted them to work together toward similar objectives. (Thomas M. Leonard coeditor of *Latin America during World War II*) This book is a long-awaited addition to the literature about an understudied country at the heart of Latin America. . . . This book is packed with details that have previously not been readily available. . . . Scholars of political science, history, and Latin American studies will find it a useful teaching tool. (*American Historical Review*) [A]n impressive, eloquently written and fascinating book, and an important and welcome addition to the literature, which will appeal to scholars and students alike. (*Journal of Latin American Studies*)

Frank O. Mora is a professor of national security strategy at the National War College, National Defense University. His books include *Latin American Foreign Policy*. Jerry W. Cooney is a professor of history emeritus at the University of Louisville. His books include *Campo y frontera: el Paraguay al fin de la era colonial*.

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