

## Human Rights in Guatemala

by Jennifer Archibald

Thirty six years of civil war affected human rights negatively in Guatemala. Many actors that violated human rights were also victims of human rights violations; a complex series of events that has still not been fully resolved today.

During the Cold War the United States feared the president of Guatemala, Jacobo Arbenz, was a communist threat. In 1954, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) orchestrated an operation that forced Arbenz into exile. Civil chaos resulted with military officers revolting against autocratic rule. Multiple guerrilla groups conducted economic sabotage and attacks against the government. The army launched counterinsurgency campaigns resulting in a sequence of military dominated governments that were backed by the U.S. During the 36-year war Guatemala experienced a variety of military, government, and civilian conflicts, that left thousands dead and over a million displaced.

The primary actors guilty of human rights violations were guerilla forces, succession of military juntas, and indirectly the CIA. The army was blamed by a Guatemalan truth commission for the majority of the abuses. The U.S. and various guerilla groups were also blamed for specific human rights violations and for fueling the war in general.

The civil war and human rights violations were also characterized by mass displacement and gross human rights violations of the Guatemalan population, especially indigenous groups, women and children. For many Mayan communities, torture, targeted killings, disappearances and displacement were a daily experience. Public officials trivialized the murders and rape of women. Women lacked basic healthcare, economic security, and political access. Children suffered from malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and sexual abuse or child prostitution.

The 1996 signing of peace accords removed a major obstacle to foreign investment, but the distribution of income remains highly unequal, with the majority of the population under the poverty line. A small amount of social and political progress has been seen, but most are still deprived of the full range of international human rights. Despite some progress, many peace accord commitments remain unfulfilled. There are still enormous problems of poverty, social and political participation, and economic opportunity.

### History

1998. "Can Peace Bring Democracy or Social Justice? The Case of Guatemala." *Social Justice*. 25(4): 40.

*Abstract: Discusses the implication of peace negotiations in the political democratization and social justice in Guatemala. Elements of the peace process; Phases of the civil war; Formation of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity; Creation of peace accords; Role of the United Nations Verification Mission on peace accords; Achievement of peace accords.*

Archdiocese Of Guatemala. 1999. Guatemala, Never Again! United States: Orbis Books.

Abstract: *With the powerful voices of more than 6,000 victims, perpetrators and survivors, this historic document tells the story of Guatemala's civil war. Monumental, historic, and most of all human, this report is an indispensable part of the library of any Central American or human rights scholar. Documenting over 55,000 human rights violations, this report was Bishop Juan Gerardi's final contribution to peace, released 48 hours before his assassination, April 26, 1998. -EPICA*

Carlos Martin Beristain. 1998. "Health, Memory, and Human Rights in Guatemala." *Lancet*. 352(9129): 733.

Abstract: *Analyzes the work of the Reconstruction of Historical Memory Project in Guatemala (REMHI). Testimonies gathered by REMHI; Purpose of the project; Design of the REMHI questionnaire; Focus on how victims of war coping with providing testimonies; Problems with conventional human rights analytic categories; Assassination of REMHI Coordinator Juan Gerardi.*

S. D. Burgerman. "Building the Peace by Mandating Reform: United Nations--Mediated Human Rights Agreements in El Salvador and Guatemala."

Abstract: *Building the Peace by Mandating Reform: United Nations--Mediated Human Rights Agreements in El Salvador and Guatemala*

John Charles Chasteen and James A. Wood. 2004. Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations. Wilmington, Del.: SR Books.

Abstract: *The book is divided into 13 chapters, with each chapter dedicated to addressing a particular "problem" - or issue - in modern Latin America. Each chapter includes an interpretive essay that frames a clear central issue along with excerpts from historical writing that advance alternative - or even conflicting - interpretations. In addition, each chapter contains primary passages of Latin American fiction in translation, biographical sketches, and images.*

Nick Cullather. 2002. "Managing the Counterrevolution (Book)." *American Historical Review*. 107(5): 1609.

Abstract: *Reviews the book 'Managing the Counterrevolution: The United States and Guatemala, 1954-1961,' by Stephen M. Streeter.*

Timothy Hawkins. 2002. "A War of Words: Manuel Montúfar, Alejandro Marure, and the Politics of History in Guatemala." *Historian*. 64(3/4): 513.

Abstract: *Focuses on the intellectual rivalry between historians Manuel Montufar and Alejandro Marure within the context of politics and history of Guatemala. Details on the events that led to the civil war in Central America between 1826 to 1829; Discussion on the struggle between the Conservatives and the Liberals; Books that chronicle the history of Central America written by the two historians.*

Richard H. Immerman. 1980. "Guatemala as Cold War History." *Political Science Quarterly*. 95(4): 629.

Abstract: *Most episodes in the cold war have been written and rewritten, evaluated and reevaluated. One striking exception, however, is the 1954 American intervention in Guatemala. This article analyzes the coup that led to the overthrow of Jacabo Arbenz Guzman's.*

Ingrid Kasper; David Tereshchuk; Steve Whitehouse; Mary Robinson; Nations United; Films for The Humanities and Sciences. 2000. *Legacies of War*. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

Beatriz Manz and Amy Ross. 1996. "U.N. Peace-Building in Guatemala." *Peace Review*. 8(4): 529.

*Abstract: Focuses on MINUGUA (Mision de las Naciones Unidas de verificacion de derechos humanos en Guatemala), an organization formed to monitor human rights in Guatemala following the end of the civil war there. Impact of the end of the Cold War on the internal conflict in Guatemala; Origin of the MINUGUA organization; Details on MINUGUA's mandate; Reference to reports from the organization.*

Raul Molina Mejia. 1999. "The Struggle against Impunity in Guatemala." *Social Justice*. 26(4): 55.

*Abstract: Focuses on the initiative towards ending human rights violations in Guatemala. Concerns on the government's failed efforts to reconstruct its judicial system; Elevation of the court decision on the Xaman massacre to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; Failure of the government to implement the changes to the 1985 constitution; History of political violence in the country.*

Jonathan Moller; Francisco Goldman; Susanne Jonas; Ricardo Falla and Eduardo H. Galeano. 2004. *Our Culture Is Our Resistance: Repression, Refuge, and Healing in Guatemala*. New York: PowerHouse Books.

*Abstract: Within the context of a 36-year civil war, state security forces carried out repression and genocide, murdering over 200,000 civilians. Efforts on the part of organizations and dedicated individuals in the search for truth, justice and reconciliation have continued to be subject to state impunity and human rights violations. (Amnesty International)*

Walter J. Rockler. 1999. *America First?* Foreign Affairs.

Paul F. Seils. 2002. "Reconciliation in Guatemala: The Role of Intelligent Justice." *Race & Class*. 44(1): 33.

*Abstract: Discusses the establishment of the Commission for Historical Clarification (CHC), a truth commission to uncover details of the civil war in Guatemala. Mandate to investigate all human rights violations within a six-month period; Surrogate justice; Guatemala President Alvaro Arzu's extremely negative and damaging reaction to the CHC report; Efforts at reconciliation and reconstruction.*

Peter Sollis. 1995. "Partners in Development? The State, Nongovernmental Organizations and the Un in Central America." *Third World Quarterly*. 16(3): 525.

*Abstract: The article examines the growth of nongovernmental organizations (NGO) in Central America and the evolution of NGO and state relations. The 1980s were the most turbulent years in Central America's recent history, as brutal conflicts in Nicaragua (1981-1990), El Salvador (1980-1992) and Guatemala (1962 to present) uprooted two million people and left 150 000 dead.*

James Welsh and Tracy Ulltveit-Moe. 2000. "Guatemalan Government Acknowledges Human-Rights Abuses." *Lancet*. 356(9239): 1436.

*Abstract: Focuses on an agreement between the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Guatemalan government to compensate relatives of victims of human-rights abuses. Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo, who claimed state responsibility and offered an apology; Human rights abuses which were carried*

*out by the army and civilian patrols; Findings and recommendations of the United Nations-sponsored Historical Clarification Commission (CEH) about massacres, executions, and disappearances which occurred.*

Daniel Wilkinson. 1995. "'Democracy' Comes to Guatemala." *World Policy Journal*. 12(4): 71.

*Abstract: Reports on the role of Hector Gramajo Morales, former defense minister of Guatemala, in the establishment of democracy in Guatemala. Capacity for violence as liability of the Guatemalan army; Human rights abuses; Views of Guatemalans regarding the human rights issue.*

Daniel Wilkinson. 2004. *Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala*. Durham: Duke University Press.

*Abstract: A lawyer with Human Rights Watch, who had gone to Guatemala in 1993 as a human rights observer, tells of his journey and the history of the 30-year civil war. The main body of the book is conversations with those involved in the Agrarian Reform and civil war years and the terror that reigned, which is the "silence on the mountain." (Resource Center of the Americas.org)*

Daniel Wilkinson. 2002. *Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Foregetting in Guatemala*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

*Abstract: Silence on the Mountain is a work of reporting and a masterfully plotted narrative tracing the history of Guatemala's thirty-six-year internal war, a conflict that claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people, the vast majority of whom died (or were "disappeared") at the hands of the U.S.-backed military government.*

Colin Woodard. 1997. "Guatemala after the Killing." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. 53(4): 9.

*Abstract: Provides information about the civil war in Guatemala and the effects it brought to the country. Effects of the war to the people and forest of Guatemala; Guatemala's civil war as the longest and bloodiest of Central America's conflicts; How the cycle of violence began; Underlying causes of the civil war.*

Deborah J. Yashar and Netlibrary Inc. 1997. *Demanding Democracy*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

## **Responsible Actors**

1994. "Fourth Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala. (Book)." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 16(1): 229.

*Abstract: The article focuses on the book "Fourth Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Guatemala," by the Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The introduction presents Guatemala as one of the four countries in the region with the lowest human development indicators. In each chapter, the authors discuss various causes contributing to the social unrest and inequality of opportunities within the country, as well as organizations and constitutional protections established to combat these tensions.*

1997. "Guatemala." *Journal of Democracy*. 8(2): 186.

*Abstract: Presents excerpts from the speech of Guatemalan president Alvaro Arzu on occasion of the signing of accord between the government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalca, ending its*

*36-year-old civil war. Approval of the Reconciliation Law; Complex and comprehensive commitment in the national program.*

2005. No More Weapons for Guatemala. National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company. 13 May 2005.

Godoy Angela Snodgrass. "La Muchacha Respondona: Reflections on the Razor's Edge between Crime and Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 27(2): 597-624.

*Abstract: In recent decades boundaries between "political and "common" crime have become blurred in many parts of the world, making it sometimes impossible to separate the two. This article explores the shifting categories of violence in the specific context of postwar Guatemala, arguing that the familiar distinction between "common" and "political" crime has always been based on an Abstraction—an Abstraction that has become increasingly tendentious in recent years.*

William Blum. 2004. Killing Hope: U.S. Military and Cia Interventions since World War II. Monroe, Me.: Common Courage Press.

*Abstract: Is the United States a Force for Democracy? From China in the 1940s to Iraq today, in this updated edition William Blum provides the most comprehensive study of the ongoing American holocaust. (Front Cover)*

Peter J. Burnell and Vicky Randall. 2005. Politics in the Developing World. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

*Abstract: Politics in the Developing World identifies and analyses the processes of change that are transforming the politics of the Third World, bringing them together in an edited textbook. It deals with central political themes and issues in the developing world, such as globalization, (both economic and cultural, and resistance to this) inequality, identity, religion, the military, democracy, the environment, and policy development.*

Nat J. Colletta and Michelle L. Cullen. 2000. Violent Conflict and the Transformation of Social Capital. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

Nick Cullather and Piero Gleijeses. 1999. Secret History. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

*Abstract: The CIA's classified account of its operations in Guatemala, 1952-1954, with a new introduction by the author and an afterword by Piero Gleijeses.*

Douglas Farah. "Papers Show U.S. Role in Guatemalan Abuses." *Washington Post*.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/inatl/daily/march99/guatemala11.htm>

*Abstract: Recently declassified U.S. intelligence documents reveal the close ties between the United States and the Guatemalan military and security forces during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, even though U.S. officials were aware of the government's and army's massive human rights abuses.*

Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Kyle Beardsley. 2004. "Nosy Neighbors: Third-Party Actors in Central American Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 48(3): 379.

*Abstract: Theories of third-party involvement are applied to understand the dynamics of intrastate war. An analysis of event data for three Central American conflicts (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua) from 1984 to 2001 is used to examine transnational actors' influence on the dynamics of civil war. Findings show that*

*transnational third parties often alter levels of cooperation among domestic adversaries, and that consistency affects the strength and direction of third-party influence.*

David W. Hendon; Dwight D. Allman and Donald E. Greco. 1999. "Notes on Church-State Affairs: Guatemala." *Journal of Church & State*. 41(2): 402.

*Abstract: Reports on the resignation of Otto Ardun, the prosecutor investigating the murder of Roman Catholic Bishop Jose Gerardi of Guatemala on December 3, 1998. Suspicion of the human rights group on the death of Gerardi; Priest accused by Ardun on the murder; Result of the forensic experts' exhumation on the body of the bishop.*

David W. Hendon and Dwight David Allman. 1998. "Notes on Church-State Affairs: Guatemala." *Journal of Church & State*. 40(3): 714.

*Abstract: Reports that on 26 April 1998, Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera was beaten to death in his Guatemala City home, after releasing a report focusing on human rights violations committed during the country's long civil war. What was the title of the report; Who was criticized in the report; Announcement made by Guatemala President Alvaro Arzu after the killing.*

David W. Hendon and James M. Kennedy. 1997. "Notes on Church-State Affairs: Guatemala." *Journal of Church & State*. 39(1): 184.

*Abstract: Reports on the end of the civil war in Guatemala and the new rights gained by the Indian majority. Indians' use of their own language and practice of indigenous religion; Membership of Maya priests in a council of elders.*

Roman Krznaric. 1999. "Civil and Uncivil Actors in the Guatemalan Peace Process." *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 18(1): 1.

*Abstract: Examines the Guatemalan peace process by focusing on different participants of civil society. Consideration of the peace negotiations between the government and the guerrillas; Discussion on the end of the civil war in December 1996; Impact of civil society on the political transition of Guatemala.*

Debra Liang-Fenton and United States Institute Of Peace. 2004. Implementing U.S. Human Rights Policy: Agendas, Policies, and Practices. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press.

George A. Lopez. 1990. "Why the Generals Wage War on the People. (Cover Story)." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. 46(4): 30.

*Abstract: Examines how militarism leads to internal repression of the civil population. Why are Guatemalans blowing their brains out? When did killing teachers become part of the defense of the Free World? Yet the killing of teachers goes on, not only in Guatemala but in nations as diverse as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and El Salvador. During the past decade, militarized governments were three times as likely as nonmilitarized regimes to practice torture routinely. One of the clearest correlations in the politics of Third World nations is the relationship between militarization and repression. Marek Thee has defined militarization as a process involving a "rush to armaments;" the emergence of the military as a prominent force in various aspects of nation's political, economic, and social life; and a marked preference for the use of force to settle domestic or international disagreements.*

Rachel M. McCleary. 1997. "Guatemala's Postwar Prospects." *Journal of Democracy*. 8(2): 129.

*Abstract: Reports on the signing of a comprehensive accord between Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu and the commanders of the guerilla movement Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca on December 29, 1996 ending the Central American country's 36-year-old civil war. Failure of civilian rule; Guatemala's key political institutions; Consolidation of democracy.*

Cecilia Menjivar and Néstor Rodríguez. 2005. *When States Kill: Latin America, the U.S., and Technologies of Terror*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

*Abstract: Since the early twentieth century, technological transfers from the United States to Latin American countries have involved technologies of violence for social control. As the chapters in this book illustrate, these technological transfers have taken various forms, including the training of Latin American military personnel in surveillance and torture and the provision of political and logistic support for campaigns of state terror. The human cost for Latin America has been enormous—thousands of Latin Americans have been murdered, disappeared, or tortured, and whole communities have been terrorized into silence. (University of Texas Press)*

David Pion-Berlin. 2005. "Authoritarian Legacies and Their Impact on Latin America." *Latin American Politics & Society*. 47(2): 159.

*Abstract: Reviews three books on Latin American Politics. "Authoritarian Legacies and Democracy in Latin America and Southern Europe," edited by Katherine Hite and Paola Cesarini; "The Pinochet Case: Origins, Progress and Implications," edited by Madeleine Davis; "Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala," by Victoria Sanford.*

G. Rosenthal. 2001. "The Peace Process in Guatemala and the Role of Third Parties." *International Journal on Minority & Group Rights*. 8(1): 55.

*Abstract: Discusses the role of third parties in the peace process in Guatemala. History of the violent conflicts in the country; Characterization of the peace accords; Assessment of achievements and failures of the peace process; Members of a group of countries dubbed friends of peace negotiations. The purpose of the Symposium is to share experiences on preventing violent conflicts, especially with regard to the situation of ethnic minorities. In this respect, this contribution might be slightly off-base: Guatemala's experience is not about preventing violent conflicts, but of ending a conflict of 40-years duration. Still, there is an underlying concern common to all, and that is to promote peace, plural democracy, respect for human rights and development.*

Jennifer Schirmer. 2003. "Whose Testimony? Whose Truth? Where Are the Armed Actors in the Stoll-Menchú Controversy?" *Human Rights Quarterly*. 25(1): 60.

*Abstract: Investigates the testimony of Rigoberta Menchú opposed by David Stoll about human rights violations in Guatemala. Social impact of the politics of truth telling; Comparison of guerrilla tactics and the army's strategy; Reaction of solidarity and human rights movement to military administration. A most heated debate has involved David Stoll's (1993) charge that Rigoberta Menchú's testimony was a tissue of lies. He has been accused of missing the essential truths about which Menchú spoke. Stoll's ethnography and the many responses to it are flawed in that they both omit the testimony of the most powerful actor in Guatemala, and don't expand the concept of truth to include that one key actor--the army. This paper examines that testimony and asks: Whose meaning of truth will prevail to serve as the political baseline for Guatemala's future?*

Michael K. Steinberg and Matthew J. Taylor. 2003. "Public Memory and Political Power in Guatemala's Postconflict Landscape." *Geographical Review*. 93(4): 449.

*Abstract: Landscape interpretation, or "reading" the landscape, is one of cultural geography's standard practices. Relatively little attention, however, has been paid to reading landscapes transformed by insurgency movements or civil wars. Those landscapes can tell us a great deal about past and present political and social relationships as well as continuing power struggles. Guatemala presents a complicated postwar landscape "text" in which the struggle for power continues by many means and media, including how the war is portrayed on memorials, and in which the Catholic Church and the military/state are the two main competing powers. This essay explores some of the images and the text presented in Guatemala's postconflict landscape through contrasting landmarks and memorials associated with the country's thirty-six-year-long civil war that formally ended in 1996.*

K. Larry Storrs and Service Library of Congress. Congressional Research. 1995. Guatemala and Allegations of Improper Cia, State and Defense Department Activities. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

Christian Tomuschat. 2001. "Clarification Commission in Guatemala." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 23(2): 233.

*Abstract: The article focuses on the creation of the Guatemala Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH) through the Oslo Peace Agreement in 1994. This Agreement provided that the CEH shall clarify the human rights violations and acts of violence committed during the armed confrontation that affected Guatemala for thirty-five years. Agreement on the establishment of a truth commission, which is entrusted with investigating a criminal past, denotes a fair degree of political maturity of a country.*

Edelberto Torres-Rivas. 2005. "Understanding Political Violence and Political Change in Guatemala." *Journal of Third World Studies*. 22(1): 319.

*Abstract: Reviews three books on political violence in Guatemala. "Buried Secrets, Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala," by Victoria Sanford; "Terror in the Countryside: Campesino Responses to Political Violence in Guatemala, 1954-1985," by Rachel May; "Dictating Democracy: Guatemala and the End of Violent Revolution," by Rachel M. McCleary.*

Sanford Victoria. "The 'Grey Zone' of Justice: NGOs and Rule of Law in Postwar Guatemala." *Journal of Human Rights*. 2(3).

*Abstract: Through the ethnographic exploration of the trial and murder conviction of military commissioners for their participation in the massacre of Rio Negro, the NGO-sponsored exhumation of clandestine cemeteries as well as other human rights NGO initiatives, this article discusses contemporary debates about truth versus justice, national security ideology and impunity, and the role of national and international NGOs.*

## **Violations**

2004. "Guatemala and Mexico: Brutal Murders of Women Continue." *NACLA Report on the Americas*. 37(4): 46.



Abstract: *Reports on the prevalence of the brutal murdering of women in Guatemala and Mexico as of January 2004. Number of women murdered since 2001; Report presented to the Mexican Congress by the National Human Rights Commission.*

2002. "Guatemala: Human Rights Watch Denounces Discrimination." *Women's International Network News*. 28(3): 61.

Abstract: *Cites a report from Human Rights Watch denouncing persistent sex discrimination and abuse faced by women workers in Guatemala. Working conditions in the maquila sector; Recommendation to the government.*

2000. "Violence against Street Children, Guatemala." *Reproductive health matters*. 8(16): 180.

Abstract: *Reports the incidence of sexual violence against two female street children by a policeman in Guatemala. Assistance accorded by a staff from Casa Alianza to the children; Violation of human rights; Negligence of the public prosecutor in handling the case.*

Sonia Anckermann; Manuel Dominguez; Norma Soto; Finn Kjaerulf; Peter Berliner and Elizabeth Naima Mikkelsen. 2005. "Psycho-Social Support to Large Numbers of Traumatized People in Post-Conflict Societies: An Approach to Community Development in Guatemala." *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*. 15(2): 136.

Abstract: *The main challenge for community development efforts in post-conflict societies with large numbers of traumatized people is to create hope and reconciliation through community healing and participatory democratic community development. The community development efforts should aim at creating a set of values and practices conducive to peaceful co-existence through non-violent conflict resolution, thereby reducing the alarming levels of violence in post-conflict societies. This article describes a community development approach in Guatemala to supporting people affected by organized violence and torture.*

Duane Champagne; Karen Jo Torjesen and Susan Steiner. 2005. *Indigenous Peoples and the Modern State*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.

Abstract: *Many countries still face extreme differences among ethnic groups and submerged nations, leading to marginalization and violence. Examining these inherent instabilities in multicultural nations such as the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Guatemala, the authors confront problems of coerced assimilation for indigenous communities whose identities predate the formation of the nation states, often by thousands of years. (AltaMira Press)*

Susan Bibler Coutin. 2001. "The Oppressed, the Suspect, and the Citizen: Subjectivity in Competing Accounts of Political Violence." *Law & Social Inquiry*. 26(1): 63.

Abstract: *Examines the assumptions on asylum law in the United States by juxtaposing accounts of religious, legal and political violence experienced by immigrants from El Salvador and Guatemala. Protection provided by the tenets of liberalism to refugees and politically persecuted; Analysis of the political utility of liberal notions of human rights; Sources of legal remedies created for Central American asylum seekers.*

Marcia Esparza. 2005. "Post-War Guatemala: Long-Term Effects of Psychological and Ideological Militarization of the K'iche Mayans." *Journal of Genocide Research*. 7(3): 377.

Abstract: *Discusses the long-term effects of psychological and ideological militarization of the K'iche Mayans on Post-war Guatemala. Groundwork for a peace process in El Salvador and Guatemala; Continuation of human rights violations on victims and survivors; Group of people targeted for genocide.*

Philomena Essed; Georg Frerks and Joke Schrijvers. 2004. Refugees and the Transformation of Societies: Agency, Policies, Ethics, and Politics. New York: Berghahn Books.

Abstract: *The refusal or reception of refugees has had serious implications for the social policies and social realities of numerous countries in east and west. Exploring experiences, interpretations and practices of 'refugees,' 'the internally displaced' and 'returnees' in or emerging from societies in violent conflict, this volume challenges prevailing orthodoxies and encourages new developments in refugee studies.*

Patricia Foxen. 2000. "Cacophony of Voices: A K'iche' Mayan Narrative of Remembrance and Forgetting." *Transcultural Psychiatry*. 37(3): 355.

Abstract: *Nearly two decades after the most brutal period of Guatemala's 36-year civil war, the notions of 'memory' and 'truth' have become critical socio-political issues; institutional memory projects have taken an important place in the peace process and in Mayanist political struggles.*

Angelina Snodgrass Godoy. 2002. "Lynchings and the Democratization of Terror in Postwar Guatemala: Implications for Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 24(3): 640.

Abstract: *This article examines the process by which state violence ruptured and replaced preexisting institutions of civil society in Guatemalan communities, and various ways in which this process has led to lynching in the postwar period. These practices blur the distinctions between victim and victimizer, popular mobilization and mob rule and in so doing, they challenge many of the implicit assumptions that underlie contemporary thinking on violence, democracy, and human rights.*

Matilde Gonzalez. 2000. "The Man Who Brought the Danger to the Village: Representations of the Armed Conflict in Guatemala from a Local Perspective." *Journal of Southern African Studies*. 26(2): 317.

Abstract: *The Commission for Historical Clarification published its report on violent conflict and violations of human rights in Guatemala between the 1970s and the signing of the peace accord in 1996. Focusing on a municipality in the Mayan highland, the article aims at showing how the conflict was understood from the inside of the rural communities affected, how divisions within them were radically deepened by the conflict, and in what forms Government and army repression was experienced.*

Brian D. Haley. 1999. "The Culture of Indigenous Rights Activism and David Stoll's Rigoberta Menchu." *Human Rights Review*. 1(1): 91.

Abstract: *Comments on the book 'Rigoberta Menchu and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans,' by David Stoll. Criticisms on the claims of Stoll about Menchu's narration; Support given by the Commission for Historical Clarification on his claims; Significance of the book to the scope of human rights study.*

Catherine Nolin Hanlon and Finola Shankar. 2000. "Gendered Spaces of Terror and Assault: The Testimonio of Remhi and the Commission for Historical Clarification in Guatemala." *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*. 7(3): 265.

Abstract: *Explores the significant use of testimonio as a tool of shared witnessing, collective remembrance and individual recollection of the special brutality directed against Maya women in Guatemala. Characteristics of Latin American testimonial literature; Discussion on qualitative research in geography; Scales of terror in Guatemala.*

Julie A. Hastings. 2002. "Silencing State-Sponsored Rape: In and Beyond a Transnational Guatemalan Community." *Violence Against Women*. 8(10): 1153.

Abstract: *Although rape by soldiers occurred frequently during the recent civil war in Guatemala, rape survivors' own accounts have been excluded from public testimonials of state violence. It is commonly assumed that cultural ideologies that blame and stigmatize rape victims are responsible for the underreporting of rape in war. Based on ethnographic research in a transnational Guatemalan community, this article challenges the claim that local culture silences survivors of state-sponsored rape. Rather, it demonstrates the ways national and international forces collude in the depoliticization of rape and the silencing of rape survivors.*

W. Herrera; J. De Jesus Mari and M. P. Ferraz. 2005. "Mental Disorders and the Internal Armed Conflict in Guatemala." *Actas Espanolas de Psiquiatria*. 33(4): 238.

Abstract: *The Guatemalan society was exposed to an internal armed conflict during the period from 1962 to 1996. During these years, the civil society suffered multiple traumatic events. The objective of this study is to understand the psychological impact that the conflict had on the mental health of the Guatemalans.*

Dave Holiday. "Guatemala's Precarious Peace." *Current History*.  
[http://davidholiday.com/publications/Guatemalas\\_Precarious\\_Peace.pdf](http://davidholiday.com/publications/Guatemalas_Precarious_Peace.pdf).

Abstract: *The Guatemalan peace process will ultimately be considered successful if it contributes to reconciliation among the many participants in the armed conflict. While international human rights norms and institutions clearly support uncovering the truth about Guatemala's bloody past, such inquiries call into question the fundamental structures of military, political, and economic power in Guatemala.*

Betsy Ogburn Konefal. 2003. "Defending the Pueblo: Indigenous Identity and Struggles for Social Justice in Guatemala, 1970 to 1980." *Social Justice*. 30(3): 32.

Abstract: *On May 29, 1978, members of the Guatemalan army shot indiscriminately into a crowd of Maya Kekchí campesinos who had gathered in the town square of Panzós, Alta Verapaz, to express demands for land. With 53 dead and another 47 wounded, it was one of the army's first major assaults of the civil war era, the 1960s to 1990s, against a civilian population, fueled by a racism that equated "Indian" with "subversive" and became an integral part of the state's counterinsurgency mentality.*

Julie Light. 1996. "Women Bear the Brunt. (Cover Story)." *Progressive*. 60(9): 21.

Abstract: *Reports that a growing number of women are taking the increased risk of crossing the Mexico-United States border under stepped-up border enforcement. Story of the human rights abuses suffered by a woman from Guatemala; Detention of women caught crossing borders in facilities with sub-human conditions; Human-rights advocates' contention that tighter border enforcement does not deter crossings.*

Jonathan Moller; Francisco Goldman; Susanne Jonas; Ricardo Falla and Eduardo H. Galeano. 2004. *Our Culture Is Our Resistance: Repression, Refuge, and Healing in Guatemala*. New York: PowerHouse Books.

*Abstract: Within the context of a 36-year civil war, state security forces carried out repression and genocide, murdering over 200,000 civilians. Efforts on the part of organizations and dedicated individuals in the search for truth, justice and reconciliation have continued to be subject to state impunity and human rights violations. (Amnesty International)*

Victor Montejo. 2005. *Maya Intellectual Renaissance: Identity, Representation, and Leadership*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

*Abstract: Montejo is deeply invested in furthering the discussion of the effectiveness of Mayan leadership because he believes that self-evaluation is necessary for the movement to advance. He also criticizes the racist treatment that Mayans experience, and advocates for the construction of a more pluralistic Guatemala that recognizes cultural diversity and abandons assimilation. This volume maps a new political alternative for the future of the movement that promotes inter-ethnic collaboration alongside a reverence for Mayan culture. (The University of Texas Press)*

Caroline O. N. Moser and Cathy McIlwaine. 2004. *Encounters with Violence in Latin America: Urban Poor Perceptions from Colombia and Guatemala*. New York: Routledge.

Sumie Nakaya. 2003. "Women and Gender Equality in Peace Processes: From Women at the Negotiating Table to Postwar Structural Reforms in Guatemala and Somalia." *Global Governance*. 9(4): 459.

*Abstract: The role of women in conflict resolution and peace building is increasingly emphasized in multilateral policy discourse. The article examines both aspects of the issue, whether the representation of women at the peace table resulted in the expressed commitment of negotiating parties toward women and gender equality, and whether the explicit commitments achieved gender equality.*

Patricia R. Pessar. 2001. "Women's Political Consciousness and Empowerment in Local, National, and Transnational Contexts: Guatemalan Refugees and Returnees." *Identities*. 7(4): 461.

*Abstract: Provides information on a study which examined how contexts as diverse as bodies, states, refugee camps become strategic sites for struggles over women's and men's human rights and citizenship in Guatemala. Methodology; Violence and exile of Guatemalan men and women refugees; Creation of female refugee subjects; Elaboration on gender relations and practices in guerrilla encampments.*

Nancy Grey Postero and León Zamosc. 2004. *The Struggle for Indigenous Rights in Latin America*. Brighton, U.K.; Portland, Or.: Sussex Academic Press.

*Abstract: This book examines the struggle for indigenous rights in eight Latin American countries. Initial studies of indigenous movements celebrated the return of the Indians as relevant political actors, often approaching their struggles as expressions of a common, generic agenda. This collection moves the debate forward by acknowledging the extraordinary diversity among the movements' composition, goals, and strategies. By focusing on the factors that shape this diversity, the authors offer a basis for understanding the specificities of converging and diverging patterns across different countries.*

Anita Rapone and Charles R. Simpson. 1996. "Women's Response to Violence in Guatemala: Resistance and Rebuilding." *International Journal of Politics, Culture & Society*. 10(1): 115.

*Abstract: The Guatemalan state has employed several forms of violence; all variants on the doctrine of low-intensity warfare exported to Central America through the U.S. military aid and training programs beginning in the 1960's. The first variant, developed in the aftermath of the counterrevolution of 1954 and continuing into the*

1990's, consists of violence against designated individuals who lead labor unions, human rights organizations, peasant efforts at unionization and Mayan leaders seeking to defend community lands. Sometimes leaders are simply assassinated.

Simone Remijnse. 2001. "Remembering Civil Patrols in Joyabaj, Guatemala." *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 20(4): 454.

Abstract: *This paper examines how, at the municipal level, current memories of the civil war, especially of the civil defence patrols, still shape perceptions, actions, and social relations. These are marked by fear, prejudice, and distrust, thereby creating important impediments for erasing the legacy of violence and building local democracy and civil society.*

Victoria Sanford. 2003. Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala. New York: Palgrave Macmillian.

Abstract: *Between the late 1970s and the 1980s, Guatemala was torn by a time of mass terror and extreme violence in a genocidal campaign against the Maya that became known as "La Violencia." More than 600 massacres occurred in villages destroyed by the army, one and a half million people were displaced, and more than 200,000 civilians were murdered. Eighty-three percent of the victims were Maya, the indigenous people of Guatemala. Buried Secrets brings these statistics to life as it chronicles the journey of Maya survivors seeking truth, justice, and community healing and demonstrates that the Guatemalan army carried out a systematic and intentional genocide against the Maya.*

Jen Sauer. 2005. "Fighting Femicide in Guatemala." *Off Our Backs*. 35(3/4): 36.

Abstract: *Focuses on fighting femicide in Guatemala. Factor that contributes to the violence against women. Indifference of the government to the problem of violence in the country; Efforts of feminists to fight crimes against them; Interest of foreigners in supporting the efforts of the feminist group, CONAPREVI.*

Patrick Smith. 2001. "Memory without History: Who Owns Guatemala's Past?" *Washington Quarterly*. 24(2): 59.

Abstract: *Focuses on Guatemalans' preoccupation with their nation's past. Peace accords of the 1990s; Search for a path forward from the ravages of the Cold War years; Number of people killed before the end of the civil war; Nation of rememberers and forgetters.*

D. Summerfield. 1991. "Guatemala: Health, Human Rights, and Landlessness." *Lancet*. 337(8748): 1028.

Abstract: *Describes the visible, enduring links between land and power, and between landlessness and poverty, ill health, and low life-expectancy in Guatemala. Agrarian reforms appear to provoke violence.*

Derek Summerfield. 1997. "The Mayas of Guatemala: Surviving Terror." *Lancet*. 349(9045): 130.

Abstract: *Reports that on December 29, 1996, Guatemalan army and rebel leaders signed a peace accord which ended 36 years of terror and internal violence. How the civil war devastated the nation's economy, health and social order; Impact of the war on the indigenous Mayas; Efforts to rebuild their lives.*

Gretta Tovar Siebentritt; Anne Manuel and Watch Human Rights. 1996. *Guatemala, Return to Violence: Refugees, Civil Patrollers, and Impunity*. New York, N.Y.: Human Rights Watch/Americas.

*Abstract: Recent cases of state violence against returning refugees cast serious doubts on the Guatemalan government's commitment to ensure safe repatriation. In one incident, uniformed troops of the Guatemalan army were involved in a massacre of returnees in the northern department of Alta Verapaz. In other incidents in neighboring El Quiché department, the civil patrol apparatus created and controlled by the army was responsible for numerous human rights violations against returnees and those working with them.*

Richenda Van Leeuwen. 2003. "Helping Women Become Economically Independent." *U.N. Chronicle*. 40(3): 77.

*Abstract: Focuses on the role of the Trickle Up Program in helping women become economically independent. Providing seed capital grant to K'aslemal, a Guatemalan human rights non-government organization; Benefits of micro-finance to women; Providing business-skills training opportunities for women entrepreneurs.*

Jim Welsh. 2000. "Children and Torture." *Lancet*. 356(9247): 2093.

*Abstract: Focuses on international human-rights violations against children. Examples of children who disappeared during civil war in Guatemala and a boy who was tortured in Kurdistan; Evidence of such violations and recommendations for strengthening remedies against such abuses by Amnesty International; Role of health personnel in child protection and meeting the needs of children who have experienced torture.*

This report examines the human rights situation in Guatemala. The IACHR addresses the system for the administration of justice, the situation of human rights defenders and justice operators, women, children and adolescents, indigenous peoples and afrodescendants, migrants and displaced persons, the situation regarding freedom of expression, citizen security issues and the situation of people in State custody. The report further provides recommendations aimed at assisting the State of Guatemala in strengthening its efforts to protect and enforce human rights in the country. In this document, the The Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA (GHRC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, humanitarian organization that monitors, documents, and reports on the human rights situation in Guatemala. GHRC advocates for survivors of human rights abuses in Guatemala, and works toward systemic change. GHRC publishes a quarterly newsletter called El Quetzal, supports the Voiceless Speak Fund, hosts annual delegations, leads speaking tours, and presents film series on human rights issues. The Commission has founded the Human rights monitors in Guatemala suggest the fire may have been set by government-affiliated elements to create a pretext for repression. In Conclusion. GHRC is concerned about the mental and physical wellbeing of those who were brutally attacked and falsely arrested by the police. Please help us support human rights. In January, as Guatemala's new president took office, GHRC successfully pressed for a Senate letter to the Secretary of State Pompeo, urging Guatemala's incoming president to respect human rights and the rule of law. An analysis of the incoming administration and the human rights concerns cabinet appointments raised helped members of Congress understand the situation on the ground and the stakes for the rule of law in Guatemala.