

Contra 2.0: RAIN in Nicaragua



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2013

1990 Nicaraguan elections: the most expensive elections in the history of the USA



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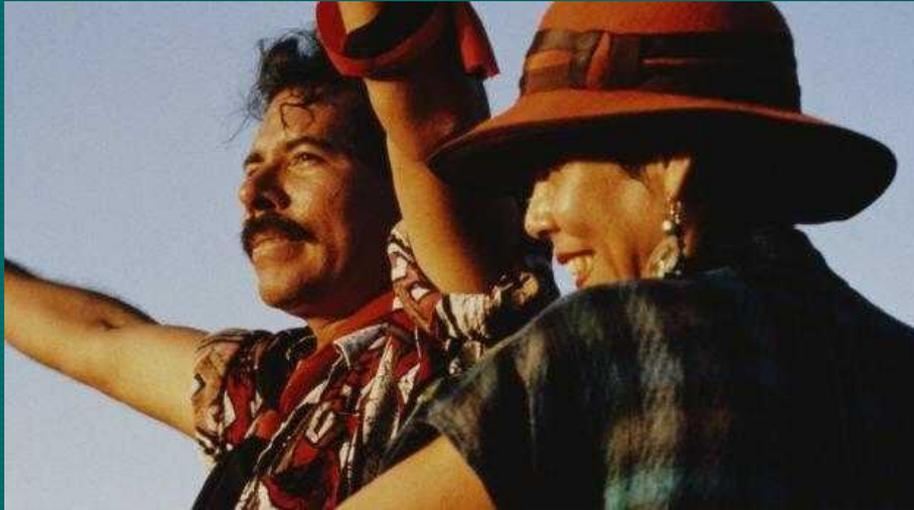
Celebrating Victory



CELEBRANDO LA VICTORIA de doña Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, en marzo de 1990, la familia después de una década de diferencias políticas.

INAGRAFIAS PRIVADAS/OTIS

1990-2006



The FSLN resists privatization schemes, becoming a grassroots force in every neighborhood, while the MRS, made up of high-profile ex-Sandinista leaders, comes to dominate a tiny NGO sector that relies on foreign aid money.

Rightwing Counter-Revolution



“Left” Counter-Revolution



New Contra: preliminary steps

- Same objectives and funders as the Old Contra
- Massive communications infrastructure that doesn't touch key political issues, at first
- Develops an influence in key sectors: journalists, artists, academics, NGO workers, youth
- Mixes legitimate criticism with introduced messages like “fear of losing power”
- Creates an alternative historical narrative where imperialism doesn't appear
- Recruits, trains and pays social media “influencers”

New Contra: phase one

- Some kind of mobilization takes place, normally small and focused on a specific issue (forest fire, wealthy young people protesting INSS reforms)
- Street conflict of some kind (fistfight, screaming, or gunshots, images of injured people)
- Tens of thousands, or more, of images, videos, urgent audio messages, are pumped into social media, mixing reality with fiction, creating the impression of violent repression, bots and fake accounts multiply impact
- TV, radio, internet, print media all repeat 1000 times

New Contra: phase two

- New mobilizations are achieved focused on entirely different issues (i.e. freedom of expression)
- Government is totally confused, unable to react
- Create a sensory shock (paint entire cities), attack symbols and monuments of Sandinista history
- The entire passive media infrastructure activates, calling for an end to the dictatorship
- False positives, inflated death counts, the need for blood and death grows
- Artists, intellectuals, embassies, international personalities call for more protests

New Contra: phase three (if necessary)

- Campaign of hate crimes to intimidate government supporters
- Taking over physical areas where only “embedded” reporting can take place
- All anti-state actors join in (e.g. Catholic Church, agrobusiness, narcotraffickers)
- Automatic rifles control movement
- Prevent the population from accessing basic needs

Who did all this in Nicaragua?



2018:

Just another regime change operation, only with support from social democrats around the world



2019: Year of Reconciliation



2020: New laws on the books

- Law 1040: Law to Regulate Foreign Agents
 - People taking money from foreign governments to intervene in Nicaragua must report as foreign agents
- Law 1042: Cyber-crimes
 - Use of digital media to hurt people or publish someone's whereabouts so others will hurt them is against the law
- Law 1055: Law to Defend the People's Right to Sovereignty, Independence and Self-Determination
 - Those who work with a foreign power to promote an invasion, coup or economic sanctions against Nicaragua are guilty of treason
 - Plus Law 997 of 2018 against money laundering for violence

NICA Act 2018



- “To oppose loans at international financial organizations for the Government of Nicaragua”
- Demanded early, US-approved elections approved

RENACER Act of 2021

- “A bill to advance the strategic alignment of United States diplomatic tools toward the realization of free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the people of Nicaragua, and for other purposes.”

Responsive Assistance in Nicaragua (RAIN)

- Leaked USAID document
- “transition” appears 102 times
- “targeted short-term technical and analytical activities during Nicaragua’s transition that require rapid response programming support”
- Crisis with “potential to become a humanitarian emergency”

2) **Second type of scenarios: *A Sudden, Unanticipated Transition:***

This is a scenario in which one or more political crises, such as a snap or failed election, a presidential resignation, a major health crisis, a major natural disaster, or internal conflicts, lead to sudden regime crisis and transition either to an interim government or a

Violeta B. Chamorro

F U N D A C I O N

Television:

- Channel 10
- Channel 11
- Channel 12
- 100% Noticias
- VosTV

Digital Platforms:

- Confidencial
- Esta Noche
- Esta Semana
- Artículo 66
- Nicaragua Investiga
- BacanalNica

Radio:

- Café con Vos
- Radio Dario
- Radio Corporación
- Many more in each category, to the tune of \$6-12 million USD/year

Hundreds of millions of dollars in Nicaragua...

United States

\$65,297

Nicaragua

\$1,997

GDP per capita

Oligarchs in jail and house arrest

- Failure to register as a foreign agent
- Hiding funds in personal bank accounts
- Planning a post-election coup scenario
- Participating in economic sanctions against Nicaragua



Chamorro tomorrow?

The Economist

Menu

Weekly edition

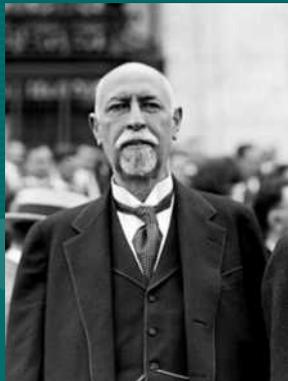
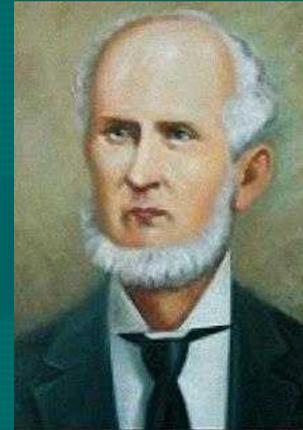
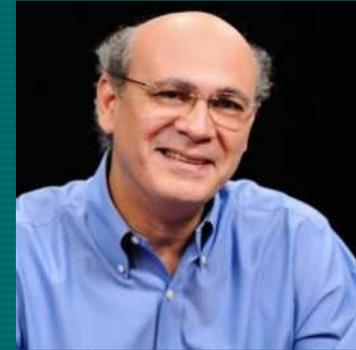
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The Americas

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Chamorro tomorrow?

A family of six Nicaraguan presidents looks to provide a seventh



US intervention 2007-2021



Nicaragua keeps “singing in the RAIN”

