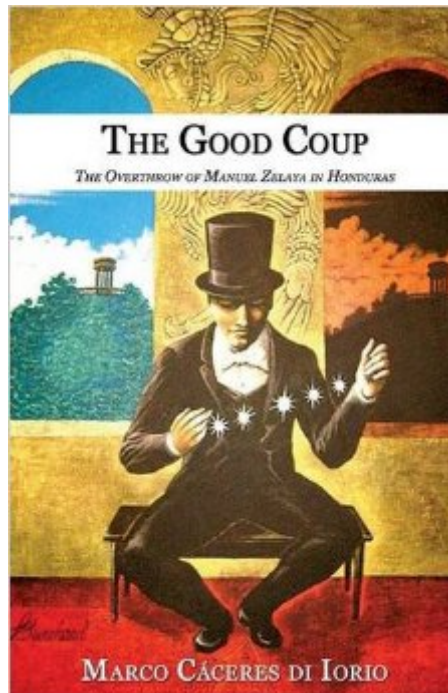


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The Good Coup: The Overthrow Of Manuel Zelaya In Honduras



Synopsis

Honduras is known as the classic "Banana Republic" - a characterization of a politically backward country ruled by a tiny wealthy class. The phrase was coined by the North American writer O. Henry in his book, *Cabbages and Kings*. It conveys the image of a nation plagued by military coup d'États... historically undeniable in the case of Honduras. The controversial overthrow of President Manuel Zelaya on June 28, 2009 represents a watershed in Honduran history. Was President Zelaya an innocent victim of the military and judicial systems, or did government officials act wisely in rescuing Honduras from a president intent on remaining in power indefinitely and dismantling the country's democratic institutions? Although it awakened memories of past coups, it is unclear whether this was a traditional or a "hybrid coup", featuring some elements of what the world tends to associate with coups, but lacking others. The collection of short essays in this book offers personal insights on these questions and on a wide range of events, themes, and philosophical struggles that defined the political crisis in Honduras. About the Author: Marco Cáceres di Iorio is the editor of the online newspaper Honduras Weekly. He is also the cofounder of projecthonduras.com, an international network of volunteers involved in humanitarian development projects aimed at empowering the people of Honduras. He directs the annual Conference on Honduras in the town of Copán Ruinas in northwestern Honduras. He was born in Tegucigalpa.

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Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I bat center-right and am not a fan of Boliviarism, or whatever Chavez, his cronies/allies,

and the cool kids are calling their ideological beliefs these days. That said, I found this collection of articles problematic. Much like the other reviewer, I was a little disappointed that the book was a series of 1-5pg articles printed from Spring '09 to Summer '10. A lot of subjects unfamiliar to non-Honduras experts received shallow treatment (i.e. circumstances in Honduras, legal interpretations of the Honduras Constitution and its enforcement by the military-check Hugo Llorens cable on wikileaks for a good synopsis-, and more background on motivating factors for other countries as well as regional and international institutions) Few articles appear from late September and October 2009 when there were claims of curfews and abusive by gov't security forces, some of which were supposedly scaled back before the November election. Mr. Caceres di Iorio's distaste with Zelaya goes from being barely concealed to outright disgust by the end of the book. That is fair for a personal opinion, but bad for a professional journalist, especially when couched in pseudo-psychological observation and cutesy hyperbolic language. Still, Caceres di Iorio's point that Zelaya's self-aggrandizing missteps irresponsibly put Honduras on the brink of civil war is well taken. Caceres di Iorio's observations of US handling of the affair are speculative, but probably correct nonetheless. They constitute the most worthwhile insights in the book. Otherwise, Mr. Caceres di Iorio's english speaking audience probably has difficulty evaluating his other claims because most of us need way more background and context.

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