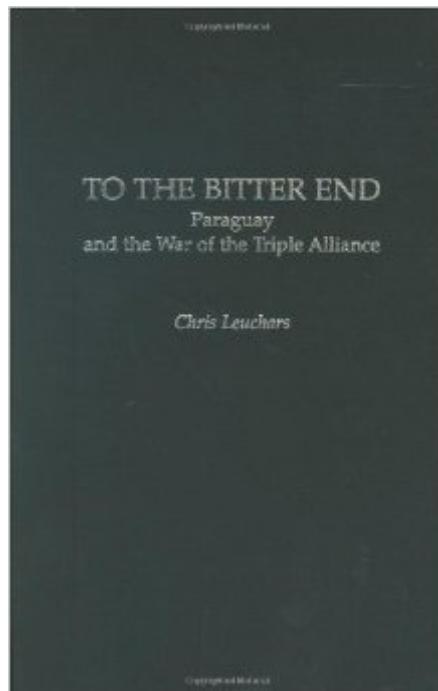


The book was found

# To The Bitter End: Paraguay And The War Of The Triple Alliance (Contributions In Military Studies)



## **Synopsis**

The War of the Triple Alliance was one of the longest, least remembered, and, for one of its participants, most catastrophic conflicts of the 19th century. The decision of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay to go to war against Paraguay in May 1965 has generally been regarded as a response to the raids by the headstrong and tyrannical dictator, Francisco Solano Lopez. While there is some truth to this view, as Lopez had attacked towns in Argentina and Brazil, the terms of the Triple Alliance signed that same month reveal that the motivation of these two nations, at least, was to redraw the map in their favor, at the expense of Paraguay. That the resulting conflict lasted five years before Lopez was defeated and his country fully at the mercy of its neighbors was a tribute to the heroic resistance of his people, as well as to the inadequacies of the allied command. The military campaigns, which took place on land and on the rivers, often in appalling conditions of both climate and terrain, are examined from a strategic perspective, as well as through the experiences of ordinary soldiers. Leuchars looks in detail at the political causes, the course of the conflict as viewed from both sides, and the tragic aftermath. He brings to light an episode that, for all its subsequent obscurity, marked a turning point in the development of South American international relations.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 3443 KB

Print Length: 264 pages

Publisher: Praeger (December 30, 2002)

Publication Date: December 30, 2002

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000PY3JIG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,358,752 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #96 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Paraguay #1229 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > Latin America > Central America #1373 in Kindle Store > Kindle

## Customer Reviews

I wanted this book to help me reconcile two very different interpretations of this disastrous war, which killed more than half of Paraguay's population. Eduardo Galeano's leftist polemic history, *Open Veins of Latin America*, calls it 'a war of extermination', funded by British commerce, to rid the continent of a 'dangerous example' of 'autarchic internal development'. Meanwhile, Robert Harvey's *Liberators*, a tale of 'larger-than-life heroes' puts the blame squarely on the 'megalomaniac' Paraguayan president, Francisco Lopez, for 'declaring war on Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay almost simultaneously'. Although Leuchars' book is self-declaredly a military history, it seems to be one of the few studies of the war in print in English, and does yield some insights into the social, economic and diplomatic processes behind the war. Simmering border disputes in the River Plate region came to a head with the Brazilian invasion of Uruguay in October 1864, which removed the Blanco government allied with Paraguay. In response, Paraguay declared war on Brazil, and later sent its forces into the strip of Argentina which separates it from Uruguay. Although Lopez doubtless played some of his cards badly, his fear that his larger neighbours would, at some point, try to dismember his country seems to have been borne out by the terms of Triple Alliance treaty between Brazil, Argentina, and (nominally) Uruguay. These hardly referred to the supposed causes of the war, but concentrated on how Paraguay's land was to be divided up between its two largest neighbours. The war lasted until the Paraguayan forces were obliterated, which took over four years.

A few weeks after the US Civil War ended in 1865, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay formed the "Triple Alliance" to fight against Paraguay. The war was not nearly as one-sided as it might seem on first glance, for at the time, Paraguay's army was larger than its combined enemies. Paraguay struck first, invading Brazil and Argentina, but was ultimately beaten back and ground down. By war's end in 1870, Paraguay had lost huge tracts of territory, its President and its entire army, and an astonishing 60 percent of its population. Leuchars' account of the war is well-documented and readable. The opening chapters analyze the political climate in each country. Paraguay's erratic dictator, Francisco Solano Lopez, is generally blamed for the war. He had a large army (70,000 strong), a shrewd sense of military tactics, and he enjoyed a fanatical devotion from the public, yet his strategic aims were never clear --we simply do not know what Lopez hoped to get out of the war. Argentina's President Mitre was a modernizer who presided over an unstable country still gripped by conflict over whether to be a centralized or federated state. Brazilian Emperor Pedro II, also a

modernizer, similarly faced challenges from regional warlords, as well as slavery and a shockingly unequal distribution of land and income. Uruguay was in the throes of civil war between its modernizing Colorado and oligarchic Blanco parties. Against this backdrop, Paraguay's Lopez deserves most --but not all-- of the blame for the war. The conflict began when the various countries took different sides in Uruguay's civil war, but that was quickly subsumed by each country's territorial aspirations rooted in the region's still-unfixed borders.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

To the Bitter End: Paraguay and the War of the Triple Alliance (Contributions in Military Studies)  
Armies of the War of the Triple Alliance 1864-70: Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay & Argentina (Men-at-Arms) The Military Advantage, 2016 Edition: The Military.com Guide to Military and Veterans Benefits (Military Advantage: The Military.com Guide to Military and Veteran Benefits)  
Paraguay and the Triple Alliance: The Postwar Decade, 1869-1878 PARAGUAY Country Studies: A brief, comprehensive study of Paraguay The war in Paraguay: With a historical sketch of the country and its people and notes upon the military engineering of the war Paises Guay: El Uruguay es el Paraguay atlÃ¡ntico y el Paraguay es el Uruguay de los trÃ¡ picos (Spanish Edition) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Storming the City: U.S. Military Performance in Urban Warfare from World War II to Vietnam (American Military Studies)  
Walt Disney World For Military Families: Expert Advice By Military - For Military Colombia's Military and Brazil's Monarchy: Undermining the Republican Foundations of South American Independence (Contributions in Political Science) Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala, Revised and Expanded (Series on Latin American Studies) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4) Powerplay: The Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics) Statebuilding and Counterinsurgency in Oman: Political, Military and Diplomatic Relations at the end of Empire (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Managing Diversity in the Military: The value of inclusion in a culture of uniformity (Cass Military Studies) Sugar and Power in

the Dominican Republic: Eisenhower, Kennedy, and the Trujillos (Contributions in Latin American Studies)

[Dmca](#)