

Download File PDF Midnight In Mexico A Reporters Journey Through Countrys Descent Into Darkness Alfredo Corchado modernh.com

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Between 2010 and 2025, most of the countries of Latin America will commemorate two centuries of independence, and Latin Americans have much to celebrate at this milestone. Most countries have enjoyed periods of sustained growth, while inequality is showing modest declines and the middle class is expanding. Dictatorships have been left behind, and all major political actors seem to have accepted the democratic process and the rule of law. Latin Americans have entered the digital world, routinely using the Internet and social media. These new realities in Latin America call for a new introduction to its history and culture, which Latin America at 200 amply provides. Taking a reader-friendly approach that focuses on the big picture and uses concrete examples, Phillip Berryman highlights what Latin Americans are doing to overcome extreme poverty and underdevelopment. He starts with issues facing cities, then considers agriculture and farming, business, the environment, inequality and class, race and ethnicity, gender, and religion. His survey of Latin American history leads into current issues in economics, politics and governance, and globalization. Berryman also acknowledges the ongoing challenges facing Latin Americans, especially crime and corruption, and the efforts being made to combat them. Based on decades of experience, research, and travel, as well as recent studies from the World Bank and other agencies, Latin America at 200 will be essential both as a classroom text and as an introduction for general readers. „Ich töte Menschen, weil es mir so viel Spaß macht.“ Jahrelang versetzte ein als Zodiac berühmt gewordener Serienkiller Kalifornien in Angst und Schrecken und spielte mit der Polizei ein grausames Katz-und-Maus-Spiel. Regisseur David Fincher (Se7en, Fight Club) verfilmt die Geschichte einer unglaublichen Mordserie mit u. a. Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr. und Gary Oldman. With the war between the Mexican state and the drug traffickers operating within its borders having claimed over 70,000 lives since 2006, noted journalist and author Michael Deibert zeroes in on the story of the notorious Gulf Cartel, their deadly war with their former allies Los Zetas, the cartel's connections in Mexican politics and what its trajectory means for Mexico's--and America's--future. Punctuated by the disappearance of busloads of full of people from Mexican highways, heavy-weapon firefights in once-picturesque colonial towns and the discovery of mass graves, nowhere has the violence of Mexico's drug war been more intense than directly across the border from East Texas, the scene of a scorched-earth war between two of Mexico's largest drug trafficking organizations: The Gulf Cartel, a criminal body with roots stretching back to Prohibition, and Los Zetas, a group famous for their savagery and largely made up of deserters from Mexico's armed forces. From the valleys and sierras of rural Tamaulipas and Nuevo León to the economic hub of Monterrey, the violence rivals anything seen in the more well-known narco war in Ciudad Juárez, 830 miles to the west. Combining dozens of interviews that the author has conducted over the last six years in Mexico and other countries in the region along with a vast reserve of secondary source material, In the Shadow of Saint Death gives U.S. readers the story of the war being waged along our border in the voices of the cartel hitmen, law enforcement officials, politicians, shopkeepers, migrants and children living inside of it year-round. Through their stories, the book will pose provocative questions about the direction and consequence of U.S. drug policy and the militarized approach to combating the narcotics trade on both sides of the border. Was haben Coca-

Cola, McDonald's und der internationale Drogenhandel gemeinsam? Der Drogenhandel ist ein globalisiertes, vernetztes und hoch professionalisiertes Geschäftsfeld mit einem Jahresumsatz von 300 Milliarden Dollar, Tendenz steigend. Wie man sich als aufstrebendes Kartell ein Stück vom Kuchen sichert? Indem man von den Besten des Big Business lernt. Denn die Strategien, die für Konzerne wie H&M, Coca-Cola und McDonald's funktionieren, haben sich längst auch international erfolgreiche Drogenbarone angeeignet – von der richtigen PR über Offshoring, Assessment-Center und E-Commerce. In *Narconomics* vollzieht Wirtschaftsjournalist Wainwright die Wertschöpfungskette von Drogen wie Kokain nach, von der Koka-Ernte in den Anden bis zum Verkauf an unseren Straßenecken. Jahrelange Recherchen, gefahrenreiche Reisen zu den Brennpunkten des Drogenhandels und Interviews mit Beteiligten, ob minderjähriger Profikiller in den Straßen von Mexico City oder Polizist, Ganglord oder Staatspräsident, haben Wainwright tiefe Einblicke in eine einzigartig einträgliche und tödliche Branche beschert. In a ranch south of Texas, the man known as The Executioner dumps five hundred body parts in metal barrels. In Brazil's biggest city, a mysterious prisoner orders hit-men to gun down forty-one police officers and prison guards in two days. In southern Mexico, a crystal meth maker is venerated as a saint while imposing Old Testament justice on his enemies. A new kind of criminal kingpin has arisen: part CEO, part terrorist, and part rock star, unleashing guerrilla attacks, strong-arming governments and taking over much of the world's trade in narcotics, guns and humans. Who are these new masters of death? What personal qualities and life experiences have made them into such bloodthirsty leaders of men? What do they represent and stand for? What has happened in the Americas to allow them to grow and flourish? Author of the critically acclaimed *El Narco: Inside Mexico's Criminal Insurgency*, Ioan Grillo has covered Latin America since 2001, and gained access to every level of the cartel chain-of-command in what he calls the new battlefields of the Americas. Moving between militia-controlled ghettos and the halls of top policy-makers, Grillo provides a new and disturbing understanding of a war that has spiralled out of control – one that people across the political spectrum need to confront now. *Gangster Warlords* is the first definitive account of the crime wars now wracking Central and South America and the Caribbean. Im November 1959 wird in Holcomb, Kansas, die vierköpfige Familie Clutter brutal ermordet. Wenige Wochen später werden die Täter Dick Hickock und Perry Smith auf der Flucht geschnappt. Truman Capote erfährt aus der *New York Times* von dem Verbrechen und beschließt, am Tatort zu recherchieren. Er spricht mit Bekannten und Freunden der Familie, mit der Polizei. Schließlich erhält er Gelegenheit, mit den beiden Mördern zu reden. Mit der Zeit gelingt es ihm, so viel Nähe zu ihnen herzustellen, dass sie ihm präzise Innenansichten ihrer Seele erlauben. Fast sechs Jahre nach ihrer Tat begleitet er sie bis an den Galgen. Capotes herausragende Rekonstruktion eines Mordes wurde eine Sensation und begründete ein neues literarisches Genre: die "non-fiction novel", den Tatsachenroman. In einer atemberaubenden Sprache erzählt er, wie aus Menschen Mörder werden. Mit Kaltblütigkeit landete Capote einen internationalen Bestseller. Was Francisco Cantú an der amerikanisch-mexikanischen Grenze erlebt, bringt ihn fast um den Verstand. Cantú hat Politik studiert und wollte am eigenen Leib erfahren, was an der Grenze wirklich geschieht. Als Mitglied der United States Border Patrol rettet er Verdurstende aus der Wüste, deportiert aber auch illegale Einwanderer oder erlebt, wie Familien auseinandergerissen werden. In seiner persönlichen Reportage zeigt er, was Grenzen für die Menschen wirklich bedeuten. *No Man's Land* mutet wie eine Tragödie an und bildet doch die Realität wahrheitsgetreu ab, unverzerrt, grausam und zutiefst berührend. Die faszinierende Geschichte eines britischen Kriegsgefangenen, seiner deutschen großen Liebe und dem hundertfachen Ausbruch aus einem streng bewachten Lager. Als Großbritannien in den 2. Weltkrieg eintrat, musste der 20-jährige Horace "Jim" Greasley an die Front in Nordfrankreich. Bereits am 25. Mai 1940 geriet er in deutsche Gefangenschaft und fand sich in einem Kriegsgefangenenlager in Polen wieder. Dort begann die leidenschaftliche Liebesgeschichte zwischen ihm und einem deutschen Mädchen, das für seine Wärter übersetzte. Über 200 Mal brach er nachts aus dem Camp aus, um sie zu sehen, und kehrte stets vor Morgengrauen mit Nahrung für seine Kameraden zurück. Gegen Kriegsende schmuggelte er sogar Radio-Bauteile mit ein. Jeden Tag hörten so über 3.000 Gefangene die Nachrichten von BBC News. Eine unglaubliche Geschichte über Liebe und Tapferkeit vor der Kulisse des 2. Weltkriegs. *The Cambridge History of Latina/o American Literature* emphasizes the importance of understanding Latina/o literature not simply as a US ethnic phenomenon but more broadly as an important element of a trans-American literary imagination. Engaging with the

dynamics of migration, linguistic and cultural translation, and the uneven distribution of resources across the Americas that characterize Latina/o literature, the essays in this History provide a critical overview of key texts, authors, themes, and contexts as discussed by leading scholars in the field. This book demonstrates the relevance of Latina/o literature for a world defined by the migration of people, commodities, and cultural expressions. *The Beloved Border* is a potent and timely report on the U.S.-Mexico border. Though this book tells of the unjust death and suffering that occurs in the borderlands, Davidson gives us hope that the U.S.-Mexico border could be, and in many ways already is, a model for peaceful coexistence worldwide. Mexico and the United States may be neighbors, but their economies offer stark contrasts. In *Mexico's Uneven Development: The Geographical and Historical Context of Inequality*, Oscar J. Martínez explores Mexico's history to explain why Mexico remains less developed than the United States. Weaving in stories from his own experiences growing up along the U.S.-Mexico border, Martínez shows how the foundational factors of external relations, the natural environment, the structures of production and governance, natural resources, and population dynamics have all played roles in shaping the Mexican economy. This interesting and thought-provoking study clearly and convincingly explains the issues that affect Mexico's underdevelopment. It will prove invaluable to anyone studying Mexico's past or interested in its future. From prizewinning journalist and immigration expert Alfredo Corchado comes the sweeping story of the great Mexican migration from the late 1980s to today. *Homelands* is the story of Mexican immigration to the United States over the last three decades. Written by Alfredo Corchado, one of the most prominent Mexican American journalists, it's told from the perspective of four friends who first meet in a Mexican restaurant in Philadelphia in 1987. One was a radical activist, another a restaurant/tequila entrepreneur, the third a lawyer/politician, and the fourth, Alfredo, a hungry young reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. Over the course of thirty years, the four friends continued to meet, coming together to share stories of the turning points in their lives—the death of parents, the births of children, professional milestones, stories from their families north and south of the border. Using the lens of this intimate narrative of friendship, the book chronicles one of modern America's most profound transformations—during which Mexican Americans swelled to become our largest single minority, changing the color, economy, and culture of America itself. In 1970, the Mexican population was just 700,000 people, but despite the recent decline in Mexican immigration to the United States, the Mexican American population has now passed three million—a result of high birth rates here in the United States. In the wake of the nativist sentiment unleashed in the recent election, *Homelands* will be a must-read for policy makers, activists, Mexican Americans, and all those wishing to truly understand the background of our ongoing immigration debate. A sweeping and highly readable work on the evolution of America's domestic and global drug war. How can the United States chart a path forward in the war on drugs? In *Drugs and Thugs*, Russell Crandall uncovers the full history of this war that has lasted more than a century. As a scholar and a high-level national security advisor to both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations, he provides an essential view of the economic, political, and human impacts of U.S. drug policies. Backed by extensive research, lucid and unbiased analysis of policy, and his own personal experiences, Crandall takes readers from Afghanistan to Colombia, to Peru and Mexico, to Miami International Airport and the border crossing between El Paso and Juarez to trace the complex social networks that make up the drug trade and drug consumption. Through historically driven stories, Crandall reveals how the war on drugs has evolved to address mass incarceration, the opioid epidemic, the legalization and medical use of marijuana, and America's shifting foreign policy. This work marks the 3rd Small Wars Journal—El Centro anthology. Its analyses, crafted by over thirty contributing authors, forms a compilation of the violence and corruption in Mexico plaguing the first year of Enrique Peña Nieto's presidency. Instances of spillover violence in the United States and the gang and cartel crime wars in other Latin American countries are also chronicled. Spanish language article appendices are additionally incorporated in this important anthology. Dave Dilegge SWJ Editor-in-Chief Eine große Liebesgeschichte in Zeiten des Krieges London bei Ausbruch des Zweiten Weltkriegs. Wie so viele andere meldet sich die junge Mary North zur Truppenunterstützung, denn sie sieht darin die Chance, ihr Leben selbstbewusst in die Hand zu nehmen. Während die ersten Bomben fallen, engagiert sie sich als Hilfslehrerin und lernt Tom kennen. Als sie wenig später jedoch Toms Freund Alistair begegnet, fühlt sie sich augenblicklich zu ihm hingezogen – aber Alistair muss zurück an die Front. Während die Welt in Schutt und Asche versinkt, geben allein ihre Briefe den

beiden Liebenden Halt. Zeitgeschichte in Briefen Was tut ein US-Präsident, wenn er wissen will, wie es um sein Land steht? Er liest. Während seiner Amtszeit gingen täglich Zehntausende Briefe im Oval Office ein. Jeden Abend las Barack Obama zehn ausgewählte Schreiben, einige beantwortete er persönlich. Zu Wort kommen Obama-Anhänger ebenso wie politische Gegner, vom Schulkind bis zum Kriegsveteranen. Was sie bewegt: die Folgen der Finanzkrise, die geplante Gesundheitsreform, soziale Gerechtigkeit, Bildungschancen und Start-up-Ideen, das Schicksal der Soldaten im Auslandseinsatz oder schlicht Schulaufgaben. »Briefe an Obama« spiegelt die Lage der Nation in einer Zeit großen Wandels. There may be no story today with a wider gap between fact and fiction than the relationship between the United States and Mexico. Wall or no wall, deeply intertwined social, economic, business, cultural, and personal relationships mean the US-Mexico border is more like a seam than a barrier, weaving together two economies and cultures. Mexico faces huge crime and corruption problems, but its remarkable transformation over the past two decades has made it a more educated, prosperous, and innovative nation than most Americans realize. Through portraits of business leaders, migrants, chefs, movie directors, police officers, and media and sports executives, Andrew Selee looks at this emerging Mexico, showing how it increasingly influences our daily lives in the United States in surprising ways -- the jobs we do, the goods we consume, and even the new technology and entertainment we enjoy. From the Mexican entrepreneur in Missouri who saved the US nail industry, to the city leaders who were visionary enough to build a bridge over the border fence so the people of San Diego and Tijuana could share a single international airport, to the connections between innovators in Mexico's emerging tech hub in Guadalajara and those in Silicon Valley, Mexicans and Americans together have been creating productive connections that now blur the boundaries that once separated us from each other. Named one of the best true crime books of all time by Time In the last six years, more than eighty thousand people have been killed in the Mexican drug war, and drug trafficking there is a multibillion-dollar business. In a country where the powerful are rarely scrutinized, noted Mexican American journalist Alfredo Corchado refuses to shrink from reporting on government corruption, murders in Juarez, or the ruthless drug cartels of Mexico. A paramilitary group spun off from the Gulf cartel, the Zetas, controls key drug routes in the north of the country. In 2007, Corchado received a tip that he could be their next target—and he had twenty four hours to find out if the threat was true. Rather than leave his country, Corchado went out into the Mexican countryside to trace investigate the threat. As he frantically contacted his sources, Corchado suspected the threat was his punishment for returning to Mexico against his mother's wishes. His parents had fled north after the death of their young daughter, and raised their children in California where they labored as migrant workers. Corchado returned to Mexico as a journalist in 1994, convinced that Mexico would one day foster political accountability and leave behind the pervasive corruption that has plagued its people for decades. But in this land of extremes, the gap of inequality—and injustice—remains wide. Even after the 2000 election that put Mexico's opposition party in power for the first time, the opportunities of democracy did not materialize. The powerful PRI had worked with the cartels, taking a piece of their profit in exchange for a more peaceful, and more controlled, drug trade. But the party's long-awaited defeat created a vacuum of power in Mexico City, and in the cartel-controlled states that border the United States. The cartels went to war with one another in the mid-2000s, during the war to regain control of the country instituted by President Felipe Calderón, and only the violence flourished. The work Corchado lives for could have killed him, but he wasn't ready to leave Mexico—not then, maybe never. Midnight in Mexico is the story of one man's quest to report the truth of his country—as he raced to save his own life. After a decade of chasing stories around the globe, intrepid travel writer Stephanie Elizondo Griest followed the magnetic pull home--only to discover that her native South Texas had been radically transformed in her absence. Ravaged by drug wars and barricaded by an eighteen-foot steel wall, her ancestral land had become the nation's foremost crossing ground for undocumented workers, many of whom perished along the way. The frequency of these tragedies seemed like a terrible coincidence, before Elizondo Griest moved to the New York / Canada borderlands. Once she began to meet Mohawks from the Akwesasne Nation, however, she recognized striking parallels to life on the southern border. Having lost their land through devious treaties, their mother tongues at English-only schools, and their traditional occupations through capitalist ventures, Tejanos and Mohawks alike struggle under the legacy of colonialism. Toxic industries surround their neighborhoods while the U.S. Border Patrol

militarizes them. Combating these forces are legions of artists and activists devoted to preserving their indigenous cultures. Complex belief systems, meanwhile, conjure miracles. In *All the Agents and Saints*, Elizondo Griest weaves seven years of stories into a meditation on the existential impact of international borderlines by illuminating the spaces in between and the people who live there. With a preliminary view of the Ancient Mexican Civilization, and the life of the conqueror, Hernando Cortez. In three volumes. Vol. 1. Twenty-second edition. A comprehensive, timely, and entertaining account of the political, cultural, and economic dynamics of more than thirty discrete countries of the Western Hemisphere. Ein echter Mr. Ripley, der sich mit Mord und Maskerade seine eigene Realität erschaffen hat – das ist Clark Rockefeller. Doch davon ahnt Walter Kirn nichts, als er ihn in Manhattan kennenlernt. Er fällt auf ihn herein und gerät immer tiefer in die Phantomwelt des Multimillionärs und Kunstsammlers, der sich am Ende als Hochstapler, Kidnapper und eiskalter Mörder erweist. In der literarischen Tradition von F. Scott Fitzgerald, Truman Capote und Patricia Highsmith erzählt Kirn die Geschichte vom Mann, der sich selbst erfand, als dunkle Parabel. Ein brillant geschriebener, hypnotischer Thriller über den Hunger nach Aufstieg, die Macht des Geldes und den schmalen Grat zwischen Lüge, Illusion und Wirklichkeit. «Eine unheimliche und absolut faszinierende Lektüre.» T.C. Boyle "Divided Spirits tells the stories of tequila and mezcal, two of Mexico's most iconic products. In recent years, as consumers increasingly demand to connect with the people and places that produce their food, the concept of terroir - the taste of place - has become more and more prominent. Tequila and mezcal are both protected by denominations of origin (DOs), legal designations that aim to guarantee a product's authenticity based on its link to terroir. Advocates argue that the DOs expand market opportunities, protect cultural heritage, and ensure the reputation of Mexico's national spirits. Yet this book shows how the institutions that are supposed to guard 'the legacy of all Mexicans' often fail those who are most in need of protection: the small producers, agave farmers, and other workers who have been making tequila and mezcal for generations. Divided Spirits suggests that we must move beyond market-based models if we want to safeguard local products and the people who make them. Instead, we need systems of production, consumption, and oversight that are more democratic, more inclusive, and more participatory."--Page 4 of cover. 24. Juli 1984, USA: Allen Lafferty findet seine Frau bestialisch ermordet auf dem Küchenfußboden. Seine Tochter liegt in ihrem Kinderbettchen - auch sie ist tot. Die Mörder glaubten, sie handelten im Auftrag von Gott. Warum? Eine alarmierende Reportage über religiösen Fundamentalismus von Jon Krakauer, Autor des Bestsellers >In eisige Höhen. Eine große Reportage über die nahezu unglaubliche Geschichte und Gegenwart einer fundamentalistischen Bewegung im Herzen des aufgeklärten Westens. Mexicans and those who follow Mexican affairs were optimistic in 2000 when the country experienced its first alternation in government (from the Partido Revolucionario Institucional --PRI--to the Partido Acción Nacional--PAN) in more than 70 years. Moreover, the Mexican economy had been restructured in a more open, market-led direction in the course of the 1980s and 1990s. The outcomes of these dual transitions were expected to create a new type of politics that were representative and accountable to citizens, and an economy that would grow rapidly, as it was forced to modernize by facing international competition. Some two decades later, views about Mexico are much less sanguine, and for many the country continues to follow a bipolar politico-economic trajectory characterized by periods of enthusiasm and mania which are followed by crisis and depression. This book presents a new analytical framework and reviews in detail Mexico's political and economic history since the 1980s. The explanation offered is based on the idea of 'misplaced monopolies'--i.e. an open political regime but a weak, fragmented state, and an internationally open economy, but highly concentrated economic sectors and activity in the domestic sphere. Accordingly, sown in the course of the crisis-ridden 1980s and 1990s, misplaced monopolies grew roots and became core features of Mexico's political economy in the 2000s and 2010s. The end result has been great concentration of wealth in a small number of hands, and the dramatic growth in brutal violence in many parts of the country. From this perspective, unless 'misplaced monopolies' are reversed, conditions will remain prone to crisis, polarization, and conflict in Mexico. This volume concludes by extrapolating the framework and placing Mexico in comparative perspective, alongside internationally important countries such as Brazil, China, India, and Russia. This is a highly original investigation that will interest people who follow Mexican politics and its economy. The analytical framework will be of use to analysts, scholars, and students

of comparative political economy, democratization studies, market reforms, and security and conflict studies. Als Don Winslows Meisterwerk gilt der monumentale Roman "Tage der Toten" über den Drogenkrieg in Mexiko, für den er sechs Jahre lang intensiv recherchierte. Nun ist Art Keller, der berühmte US-Drogenfahnder aus "Tage der Toten", zurück. Mit großem Erfolg hat er sich darangemacht, in die Strukturen der mexikanischen Drogenmafia einzudringen. Mit so viel Erfolg, dass die Drogendepots aufflogen und die Narcotraficantes die Jagd auf ihn eröffneten. In "Das Kartell" wird Art Keller feststellen, dass das Drogen- und Waffengeschäft unfassbare Dimensionen angenommen hat und der Feind aus einer ganz unerwarteten Richtung kommt. Sie interessieren sich für die Traditionelle Chinesische Medizin, Feng Shui oder Qi Gong und möchten nun wissen, auf welchen Gedanken all das beruht? Dann ist dieses Buch genau das richtige für Sie. Jonathan Herman, der in Harvard über chinesische Religionen promovierte, erläutert Ihnen, was es mit dem Tao, dem Weg, mit Chi, der Kraft, und dem Yin und Yang auf sich hat, das viel mehr ist als nur der Gegensatz zwischen männlichem und weiblichem Element. Zunächst einmal geht es um die Frage, ob Taoismus eine Philosophie oder eine Religion ist und dann erläutert der Autor die so wichtigen Ideen des Wu Wei, des Nicht-Eingreifens, Nicht-Handelns oder Nicht-Erzwingens, die viele Menschen im Westen in ihren Bann gezogen haben. Und schließlich erfahren Sie, wie durch den Taoismus im Dreiklang mit dem Buddhismus und dem Konfuzianismus all jene Ideen im Westen populär wurden, die für viele heute so anziehend sind. Lassen Sie sich ein auf diesen spannenden Weg. Das Schicksal von Tor Baz steht unter einem schlechten Stern. Seine Eltern haben die Stammesregeln verletzt, waren jahrelang auf der Flucht und werden schliesslich doch von ihren Angehörigen aufgespürt und erbarmungslos hingerichtet. Den Sohn lässt man allein in der Wüste zurück. Zwar überlebt Tor Baz, doch sein Leben entpuppt sich als einzige Odyssee über die Grenzen dreier Länder hinweg. Noch nie ist jemand den mexikanischen Drogenbaronen so erfolgreich in die Quere gekommen wie US-Drogenfahnder Art Keller – zu erfolgreich: Sein engster Mitarbeiter wird von den Gangstern brutal zu Tode gefoltert, auf Keller wird offiziell die Jagd eröffnet. Der geht daraufhin nur umso gnadenloser gegen die Narcotraficantes vor und merkt beinahe zu spät, dass er sich längst neue Feinde gemacht hat, und zwar nicht in Mexiko Vor die Wahl gestellt, seiner Regierung zu dienen oder seinem Gewissen zu folgen, trifft Art Keller eine einsame Entscheidung – und stößt dabei auf unverhoffte Verbündete. A comprehensive, timely, and entertaining account of the political, cultural, and economic dynamics of more than thirty discrete countries of the Western Hemisphere, this book is updated each year, providing students with the most recent information possible. The information is presented in an objective, balanced, non-ideological context, allowing the readers to formulate their own opinions. In addition to examining individual countries, the book views Latin America as a mosaic region as a whole and emphasizes its growing influence on the world stage. Besides providing accurate and timely information on the historical and political forces that have shaped each nation, it also examines the leading cultural figures and forces, from eighteenth-century writers to twentieth-century composers and singing stars to twenty-first-century filmmakers and actors. Finally, it describes the social and economic challenges that continue to afflict this exciting and emerging region. A newly updated edition of the best-selling primer on the social, political, and economic challenges facing Central and South America Ten years after its first publication, Michael Reid's best-selling survey of the state of contemporary Latin America has been wholly updated to reflect the new realities of the "Forgotten Continent." The former Americas editor for the Economist, Reid suggests that much of Central and South America, though less poor, less unequal, and better educated than before, faces harder economic times now that the commodities boom of the 2000s is over. His revised, in-depth account of the region reveals dynamic societies more concerned about corruption and climate change, the uncertainties of a Donald Trump-led United States, and a political cycle that, in many cases, is turning from left-wing populism to center-right governments. This essential new edition provides important insights into the sweeping changes that have occurred in Latin America in recent years and indicates priorities for the future. Drug Wars and Covert Netherworlds describes the history of Mexican narco cartels and their regional and organizational trajectories and differences. Covering more than five decades, sociologist James H. Creechan unravels a web of government dependence, legitimate enterprises, and covert connections. A massive wave of violence has rippled across Mexico over the past decade. In the western state of Sinaloa, the birthplace of modern drug trafficking, ordinary citizens live in constant fear of being "taken"—kidnapped or held against their will by armed men, whether criminals, police,

or both. This remarkable collection of firsthand accounts by prize-winning journalist Javier Valdez Cárdenas provides a uniquely human perspective on life in Sinaloa during the drug war. The reality of the Mexican drug war, a conflict fueled by uncertainty and fear, is far more complex than the images conjured in popular imagination. Often missing from news reports is the perspective of ordinary people—migrant workers, schoolteachers, single mothers, businessmen, teenagers, petty criminals, police officers, and local journalists—people whose worlds center not on drugs or illegal activity but on survival and resilience, truth and reconciliation. Building on a rich tradition of testimonial literature, Valdez Cárdenas recounts in gripping detail how people deal not only with the constant threat of physical violence but also with the fear, uncertainty, and guilt that afflict survivors and witnesses. Mexican journalists who dare expose the drug war's inconvenient political and social realities are censored and smeared, murdered, and "disappeared." This is precisely why we need to hear from seasoned local reporters like Valdez Cárdenas who write about the places where they live, rely on a network of trusted sources built over decades, and tell the stories behind the headline-grabbing massacres and scandals. In his informative introduction to the volume, translator Everard Meade orients the reader to the broader armed conflict in Mexico and explains the unique role of Sinaloa as its epicenter. Reports on border politics and infamous drug traffickers may obscure the victims' suffering. The Taken helps ensure that their stories will not be forgotten or suppressed. NAMED A TOP 10 BOOK OF 2018 BY NPR and THE WASHINGTON POST WINNER OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK PRIZE IN CURRENT INTEREST FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE NONFICTION AWARD The instant New York Times bestseller, "A must-read for anyone who thinks 'build a wall' is the answer to anything." --Esquire For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Driven to understand the hard realities of the landscape he loves, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line. Tracing the U.S. government's efforts to shape the armed forces of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean from 2000 to 2014, this narrative concentrates on the Army but also discusses Air Force and naval forces, including the Marines and the Coast Guard. Police forces in those regions are also covered. Mexico's ongoing struggle with drug cartels is discussed extensively. Venezuela and Cuba receive considerable attention. This study is the first to examine in detail the armed forces of countries such as the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Sections on Haiti and Panama, countries supposedly without armies, reveal the decisive role the U.S. has played in determining their military policies. The text weaves the histories of these armed forces into the broader context of the politics, economics and international relations in the region. A clear and brief introduction to the relations of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean with the United States is provided.

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