

Delve Deeper into *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*

A film by Pamela Yates, Peter Kinoy and Paco de Onís

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Sara Franqui of San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*.

In a stunning milestone for justice in Central America, a Guatemalan court recently charged former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt with genocide for his brutal war against the country's Mayan people in the 1980s. Pamela Yates' 1983 documentary, *When the Mountains Tremble*, provided key evidence for bringing the indictment. *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* tells the extraordinary story of how a film, aiding a new generation of human rights activists, became a granito—a tiny grain of sand—that helped tip the scales of justice.

ADULT NONFICTION

Guatemala and Central America

Beatriz Manz. *Paradise in Ashes: A Guatemalan Journey of Courage, Terror and Hope.* Berkeley and Los Angeles, California: University of California Press, 2005. Beatriz Manz--an anthropologist who spent over two decades studying the Mayan highlands and remote rain forests of Guatemala--tells the story of Santa María Tzejá, a village that lies near the border of Mexico. This book is a deeply engaged and moving account of the violence and repression that defined the murderous Guatemalan civil war of the 1980s.

Daniel Wilkinson. *Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal and Forgetting in Guatemala.* Boston, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. This book reveals a buried history, focusing on those who were most affected by Guatemala's half-century of violence--the displaced native people and peasants who slaved on the coffee plantations. This is a work of reporting and narratives that traces the history of Guatemala's thirty-six-year internal war.

Etelie Higonnet (Editor) and Marcie Mersky. *Quiet Genocide: Guatemala 1981-1983.* New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 2009. This book reviews the legal and historical case of the genocide that occurred in Guatemala in 1981-1983. It includes the full text of the genocide section of a United Nations-sponsored Commission on Historical Clarification in Guatemala (CEH), brokered by the UN.

Francisco Goldman. *The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?* New York: Grove Press, 2007. Human rights activist, Bishop Juan Gerardi, was murdered after presenting a church-sponsored report implicating the military in murders and disappearances of two hundred thousand civilians. This true detective story opens a window on the new Latin American reality of youth gangs and organized crime, and tells the story of a group of courageous young people and their fight for justice.

Greg Grandin, Deborah T. Levenson, Elizabeth Oglesby. *The Guatemalan Reader: History, Culture, Politics.* Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2011. The authors bring together more than 200 texts and images in a broad introduction to Guatemala's history, culture and politics. While offering many perspectives on the violence, this anthology portrays Guatemala as a real place--capturing the diversity of everyday life in Guatemala.

Oscar Ivan Maldonado (ed.). *So That All Shall Know: Photographs by Daniel Hernandez-Salazar.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007.

'So That All Shall Know' is a black and white photographic album created by Hernandez-Salazar that heralds the question, 'What is the role of culture and art in social activism?'

Mary Jo McConahay. *Maya Roads: One Woman's Journey among the People of the Rainforest.* Chicago, Illinois: Chicago Review Press Inc., 2011. McConahay draws upon three decades of experience traveling and living in Central America. She witnesses

archaeological discoveries, the transformation of the Lacandon people, the Zapatista indigenous uprising in Mexico, increased drug trafficking. She also assists in the uncovering of a war crime.

Lynn V. Foster. *A Brief History of Central America.* New York: Checkmark Books, 2007. Foster's book explores the history of the Central American isthmus from the pre-Columbian cultures to the contemporary nations that make up the region today: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Daniel Rothberg (ed.). *Memory of Silence: The Guatemalan Truth Commission Report.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. This book is an edited one-volume version of the Guatemalan Truth Commission Report, spotlighting the voices of victims of the oppression and genocide of a civil war that lasted over three decades.

Stephen Schlesinger, Stephen Kinzer, John H. Coatsworth and Richard A. Nuccio (Intro). *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2005. This book gives a comprehensive and insightful account of the 1954 CIA operation to overthrow the democratically elected government of Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala. First published in 1982, this book has become a classic, textbook case of the relationship between the United States and the Third World.

Victoria Sanford. *Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala.* New York, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Based on exhaustive research, including more than 400 testimonies, *Buried Secrets* traces truth-telling and political change from isolated Maya villages to national political events. This book provides a unique look into the experiences of Maya survivors as they struggle to rebuild their communities and lives.



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International Law / International Courts

Aryeh Neier. *The International Human Rights Movement*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2012. During the past several decades, the international human rights movement has had a crucial hand in the struggle against totalitarian regimes, cruelties in wars, and crimes against humanity. Neier offers a comprehensive and authoritative account of this global force, paying special attention to the period from the 1970s onward.

Leslie Alan Horvitz. *Encyclopedia of War Crimes and Genocide*. New York, New York: Facts on File Inc., 2011. This revised edition examines the contemporary history of crimes against humanity during both wartime and peacetime. With more than 500 entries, this encyclopedia covers a wide range of relevant topics, including human rights, war criminals, war crimes and examples of genocide.

Teresa Whitfield. *Friends Indeed?: The United Nations, Groups of Friends and the Resolution of Conflict*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Institute of Peace Press, 2007. Teresa Whitfield analyzes the formation, actions and efficacy of groups of states created to support UN peacemaking and peace operations. She also offers case studies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Georgia, Western Sahara, and East Timor, illustrating in a comparative manner the utility and limitations of alliances and partnerships under widely different conditions.

Military Dictatorships in Central America

Rigoberta Menchú. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. New York and London: Verso, 1984. Rigoberta suffered gross injustice and hardship in her early life: her brother, father and mother were murdered by the Guatemalan military. Rigoberta's gift for striking expression vividly conveys both the religious and superstitious beliefs of her community as well as her personal response to feminist and socialist ideas.

Greg Grandin. *Who is Rigoberta Menchú*. Brooklyn and London: Verso, 2011. This is the story of an unlettered woman who became the spokesperson for her people and clashed with the intellectual apologists of the world's most powerful nation. Her autobiography and the responses that it garnered speak volumes about power, perception and race on the world stage.

Arturo Arias. *The Rigoberta Menchu Controversy*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2001. The book brings context and balance to the lasting debate between Rigoberta Menchu, Guatemalan indigenous rights activist, author, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, and scholars like David Stoll who challenged the accuracy of the accounts described in Menchu's memoir.

Ricardo Falla. *Massacres in the Jungle*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1994. The catholic priest and anthropologist, Ricardo Falla, chronicles the systematic massacre of Guatemala's "campesino" population by the military between the years of 1975 and 1982.

Jonathan L. Fried. *Guatemala in Rebellion*. Essex, United Kingdom: The Book Service, Ltd., 1983. Fried traces the history of Guatemala and describes the current plight of the country under repressive military regime.

Mark Danner. *Massacre at el Mozote*. New York and Canada: Vintage Books, 1994. Over ten years after its occurrence, journalist Mark Danner reconstructs the events of El Salvador's El Mozote massacre in which the military murdered hundreds of civilians in an effort to root out guerillas among them. The book is an expansion upon Danner's *New Yorker* article, "The Truth of El Mozote."

ADULT FICTION

Sylvia Sellers-García. *When the Ground Turns in its Sleep*.: New York: Riverhead Books of Penguin Group Inc., 2007. Nítido Amán knows he was born in Guatemala, but he doesn't know where, or why his family left. Realizing that his only links to the past are disappearing, he travels to Guatemala to see what he can uncover for himself. In elegant, hypnotic prose, Sylvia Sellers-García delivers a story of divergent cultures and divided identities, of conflicts between generations and civilizations, of mourning, and finally, of healing.

Edwige Danticat. *The Farming of Bones*. New York, New York: Penguin Group Inc., 1999. Danticat weaves a fictionalized account of a young Haitian maidservant working for a Dominican family during Generalissimo Trujillo's bloody rule. The book was nominated for a National Book Award.

Francisco Goldman. *The Long Night of the White Chickens*. New York: Grove Press, 1992. When Roger Graetz, raised in a Boston suburb by an aristocratic Guatemalan mother, learns that his childhood maid Flor was murdered in Guatemala while running an orphanage, he returns, determined to discover the truth surrounding her death.

Isabel Allende. *House of Spirits*. New York and Canada: Alfred A. Knopf of Random House Inc., 1986. Allende's classic novel follows the story of the patriarch of the Trueba family from boyhood to old age as their country, Chile, marches down the path towards the 1973 coup.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Sean Sheehan. *Guatemala: Cultures of the World*. New York: Benchmark Books, 2010. The Cultures of the World® series celebrates the diversity of other cultures in this fully updated and expanded edition. This book includes an abundance of vibrant photographs to stimulate the imaginations of young readers as they travel the globe.



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Stuart A. Kallen. *Rigoberta Menchú, Indian Rights Activist. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale, 2007.* Kallen profiles the life of Guatemalan Indian rights activist Rigoberta Menchú, describing her fight to bring peace to her country.

Mary Englar. *Guatemala: A Question and Answer Book. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Capstone Press, 2006.* This book describes the geography, history, economy, and culture of Guatemala in a question-and-answer format.

Nathaniel Harris. *Ancient Maya: Archaeology Unlocks the Secrets to the Maya's Past. National Geographic Society, 2010.* This book explores the world of the Maya, which spans five centuries of history in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Marge Pellegrino. *Journey of Dreams. London and Abingdon, England: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009.* This gripping novel tells the story of how Tomasa's family survives the Guatemalan army's brutal regime and how, in the midst of tragedy, their love and loyalty -- and Papa's storytelling -- keeps them going on their harrowing journey as refugees to the United States.

Rigoberta Menchú. *The Honey Jar. Toronto, Canada: Groundwood Books, 2006.* Nobel Peace Prize winner and Maya activist Rigoberta Menchú Tum returns to the world of her childhood. These Maya tales include creation myths, a classic story about the magic twins, explanations of how and why certain natural phenomena came to exist, and animal tales. Rich and vibrant illustrations perfectly complement these magical Maya tales.

FILMS, VIDEOS and BROADCASTS

***The Reckoning: the Battle for the International Criminal Court.* A film by Pamela Yates, Paco de Onís and Peter Kinoy. Skylight Pictures, 2009. TRT: 95 min.** This film chronicles the

first six tumultuous years of the International Criminal Court, an independent international court in which perpetrators are tried for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Fascinatingly, although over 120 countries have joined the Court, some of the most powerful nations of the world—China, Russia, the United States -- have refused.

***When the Mountains Tremble.* Directed by Pamela Yates and Newton Thomas Sigel, Produced by Peter Kinoy. Skylight Pictures, 1983. TRT: 83 min.** *When the Mountains Tremble* chronicles the astonishing, true story of Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú, a Quiche Indian woman, as she stood up for her people and helped wage a rebellion in the wake of the seemingly unconquerable oppression of the Guatemalan civil war.

***Leading the Way to Peace.* A film by Kathy Sangha. Sun and Moon Vision Productions, 2006. TRT: 65 min.** The four 2004 Institute for Peace & Justice Women Peacemakers were recorded during an 8-week residency at the Kroc Institute, University of California, San Diego. The women are different ages, of different religions and have different approaches to tackling the issues of their countries, but the obstacles they face are universal.

***To Echo the Pain of the Many.* A film by Ana Lucia Cuevas. Armadillo Productions, 2011. TRT: 95 min.** A moving, thought-provoking and rare documentary by a Latin American woman, recording her return from exile into the still dangerous and volatile political environment of contemporary Guatemala. Among her discoveries, Ana Lucia Cuevas uncovers the involvement of her own government and Foreign Intelligence Services in the abduction, torture and murders of her brother and his young family.

***AbUSed: The Postville Raid.* A film by Luis Argueta. New Day Films, 2010. TRT: 96 min.** Presenting the devastating effects of US Enforcement Immigration Policies on communities, families and children. The film tells the gripping personal stories of the individuals, the families and the town that survived the most

brutal, most expensive and largest immigration raid in the history of the United States and serves as a cautionary tale of government abuses.

***La Camioneta – The Journey of One American School Bus.* A film by Mark Kendall. Follow Your Nose Films, 2012. TRT: mins.** *La Camioneta* follows the journey of an American-made school bus from auction in the States to its final work in Guatemala. The filmmakers ride along as the former Spotsylvania County school bus is driven from the US, through Mexico, to a Guatemalan bus importer. What seems at first a quick glance at the men involved in the creation and use of the camioneta becomes a deeper reflection on the choices they have made and their precarious situations.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WEBSITES

Dana Lixenberg. "The People Behind *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*" Vimeo, 2011. <http://vimeo.com/29228807> This site features various photographs of all the people involved behind the making of and in the story of "Granito: How to Nail a Dictator" taken by Dana Lixenberg.

Jean-Marie Simon. "Guatemala: Eterna Primavera, Eterna Tirania" <http://www.primavera-tirania.com/> This Spanish-language site contains background information, an on-line book, and a virtual museum displaying various aspects of Guatemalan culture.

James Rodriguez. MiMundo.org. <http://www.mimundo.org/> Mimundo, presents the socially aware galleries and photographic essays of independent documentary photographer/photojournalist James Rodriguez.

Jonathan Mollar. "Our Culture is Our Resistance" 2004. <http://www.jonathanmollar.org/> The book of which these photographs are a part features a preface by Rigoberta Menchú Tum, as well as various essays, prose, poetry, and survivor testimonies relating to the Guatemalan civil war.

