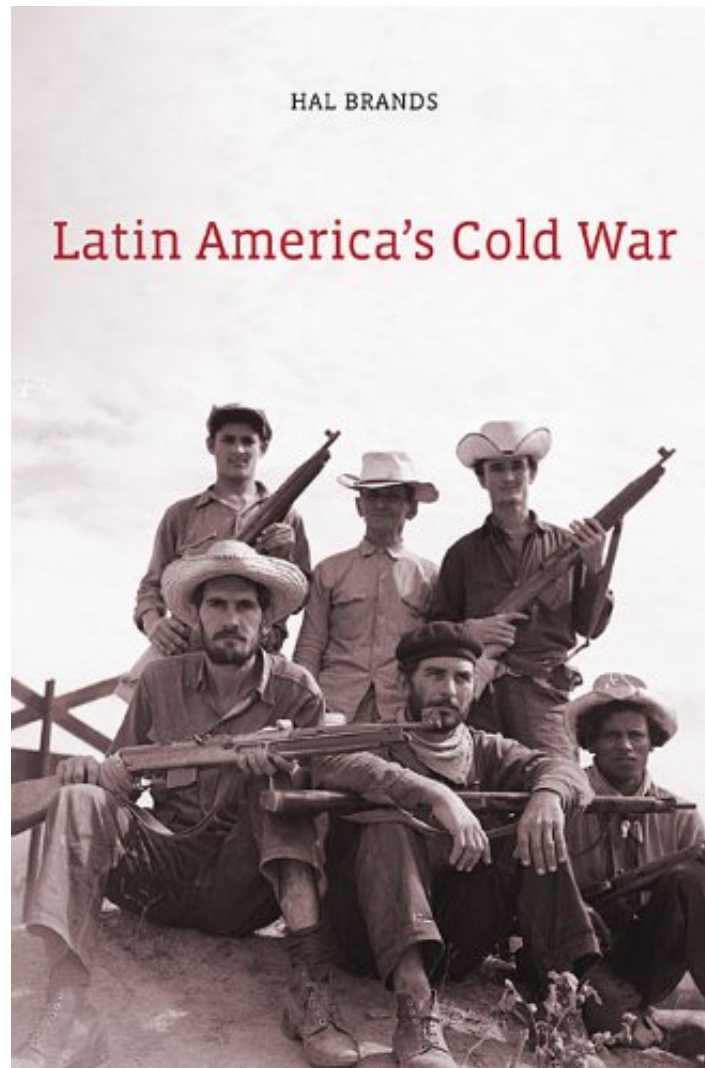


Latin America's Cold War

by

Hal Brands



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Synopsis

For Latin America, the Cold War was anything but cold. Nor was it the so-called “long peace” afforded the world’s superpowers by their nuclear standoff. In this book, the first to take an international perspective on the postwar decades in the region, Hal Brands sets out to explain what exactly happened in Latin America during the Cold War, and why it was so traumatic. Tracing the tumultuous course of regional affairs from the late 1940s through the early 1990s, *Latin America’s Cold War* delves into the myriad crises and turning points of the period—the Cuban revolution and its aftermath; the recurring cycles of insurgency and counter-insurgency; the emergence of currents like the National Security Doctrine, liberation theology, and dependency theory; the rise and demise of a hemispheric diplomatic challenge to U.S. hegemony in the 1970s; the conflagration that engulfed Central America from the Nicaraguan revolution onward; and the democratic and economic reforms of the 1980s. Most important, the book chronicles these events in a way that is both multinational and multilayered, weaving the experiences of a diverse cast of characters into an understanding of how global, regional, and local influences interacted to shape Cold War crises in Latin America. Ultimately, Brands exposes Latin America’s Cold War as not a single conflict, but rather a series of overlapping political, social, geostrategic, and ideological struggles whose repercussions can be felt to this day.

What people say about this book

Johan, "Brands vs de riguer. Regarding Latin America's Cold War experience, Brands takes on the dominant narrative that the US was a bad guy. His task is not easy. There are flaws, which I will also not go into in great detail in the interest of keeping the review short. He's looking at a region that has wild variations, as anyone who has traveled through the Andes can attest. He also crams his work into the Cold War, though in all countries there were factors pre-dating the Cold War that need to be considered. That being said, he directly contradicts established experts in the field, and while he makes some critical omissions, he successfully challenges the accepted narrative. This is an important contribution, because while the US did often support bad people/systems based in its fear of communism, there were also numerous examples (which I won't go into, lest I spoil his points) of the US doing the right/moral thing. Anyone who is a student of the Cold War in Latin America, or modern Latin American History, should read and OWN this book."

Erik Novoa, "A must read to understand the western hemisphere during the Cold War. This is an excellent, authoritative depiction of the Cold War in Latin America. It helps understand various Latin American perspectives and the United States' involvement in helping or exacerbating issues before, during, and after the Cuban Revolution."

M. Edgecomb, "Five Stars. easy to read and understand. Well written."

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