

Wrapping up Marcos...
for now... heading back to
Nicaragua



Rafael Sebastián Guillén Vicente? (1957-)

Monday, March 18

Warm-up: What have we learned so far about the Zapatistas?

- “Twelve Women in the Twelfth Year”
- “War! First Declaration from the Lacandon Jungle”
- “Tomorrow Begins Today”
- “Why We use the Weapon of Resistance”
- “The Sea of my Insomnia”
- “Tlatelolco”

How does the Zapatista cause and context differ from the Cuban one?

How is the leadership/governance structure? Is there a “Zapatista ideology”?

Who and what are they fighting against?
How do they fight?

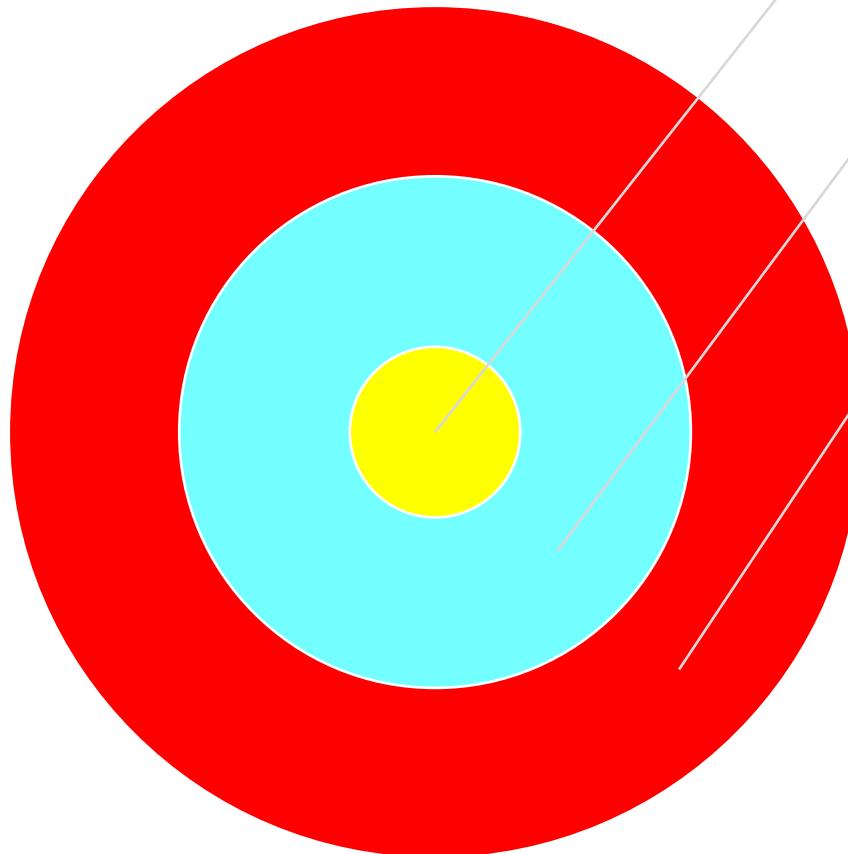
How do they view and incorporate history into their approach to change?

Is their war “just”? Why or why not?

What is the appeal for others (within or from outside of Mexico) to join and/or support their cause?

Recap: What have we seen so far?

The Zapatistas' Performance-based Political Approach



Why is our war just?

How does this movement respond to that?

What do we do to fulfill our goals and to spread our message?

Summarizing Zapatista Politics...

The Sierra Maestra (Cuba)



The Lacandon Jungle (Mexico)



Autonomous Territory

A “third” way/approach to politics

North Zone
Council of the Good Government.

Trafficking of weapons, planting
Of drugs, drug and alcohol use,
And illegal sales of wood are
Strictly prohibited. No to the
Destruction of nature.

You are in Zapatista rebel
Territory. Here the people rule
And the government obeys.



Zapatista politics

Does the EZLN follow a clear political program or plan?

Who is the enemy they fight against?



The EZLN and the Politics of Inclusion

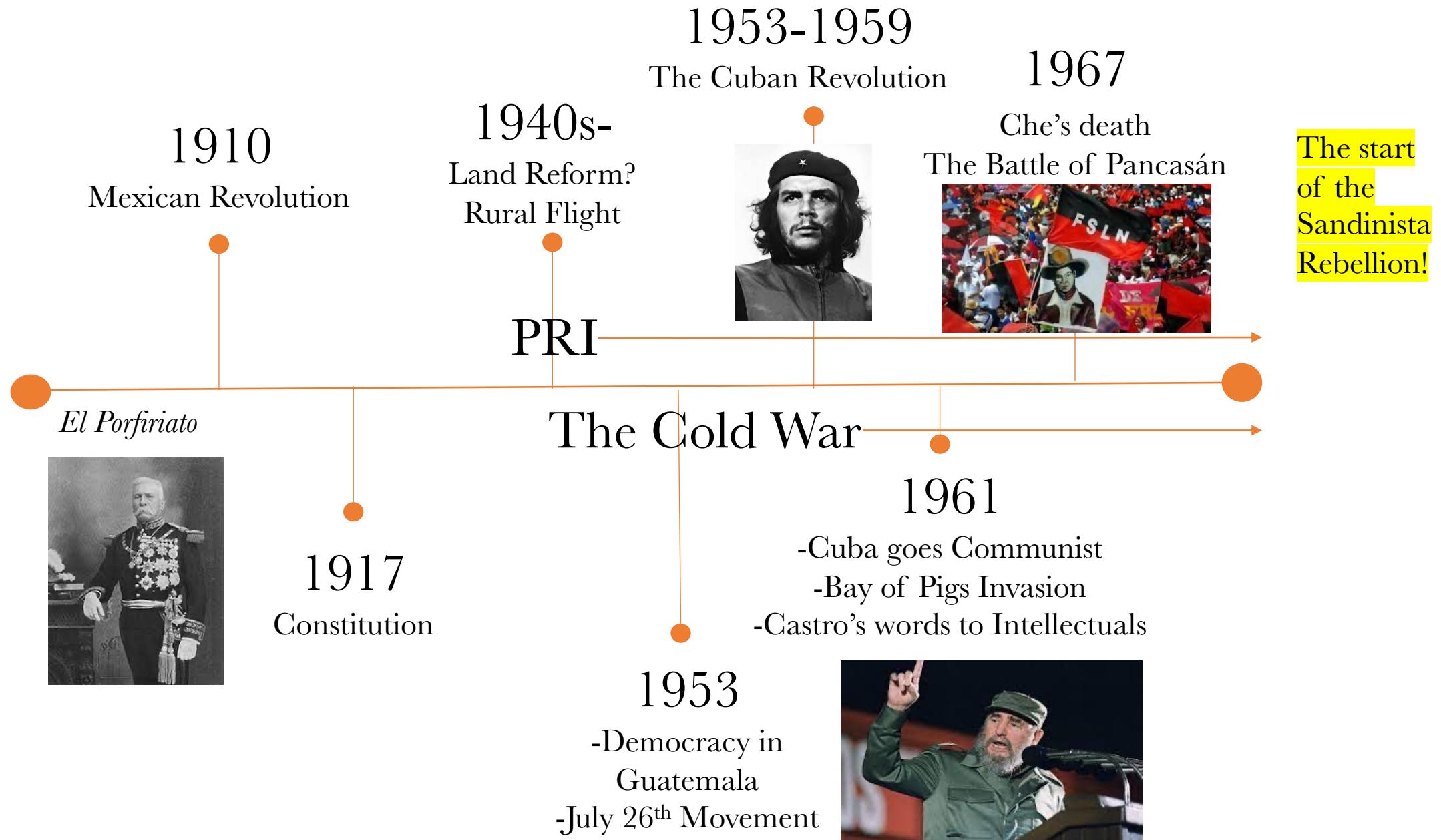
“She. Has no military rank, no uniform, no weapon. Only she knows she is a Zapatista. Much like the Zapatistas, **she has no face or name**. She struggles for democracy, liberty, and justice, just like the Zapatistas. **She is part of what the EZLN calls “civil society”—a people without a political party, who do not belong to “political society,” made up of leaders of political parties.** **Rather, she is a part of that amorphous yet solid part of society that says, day after day, “Enough is enough!”** (26).

The political subject of the EZLN is everyone and no one at the same time...

Now let's turn toward
Nicaragua...



A Revolutionary Timeline



What can you “infer” about Nicaragua from these images?

- On the next slide, you will see several images (graffiti and others) that represent Nicaragua’s (political) past and present.
- What can you infer from these images? Do they support or contrast the touristic promotion of the Central American country that was playing as you entered our Zoom room?

DICTATORSHIP | EXPLOITATION

then and now



Carlos Fonseca | FSLN



Colonialism- Independence – Resources –
National Disasters - Corruption



Sandino



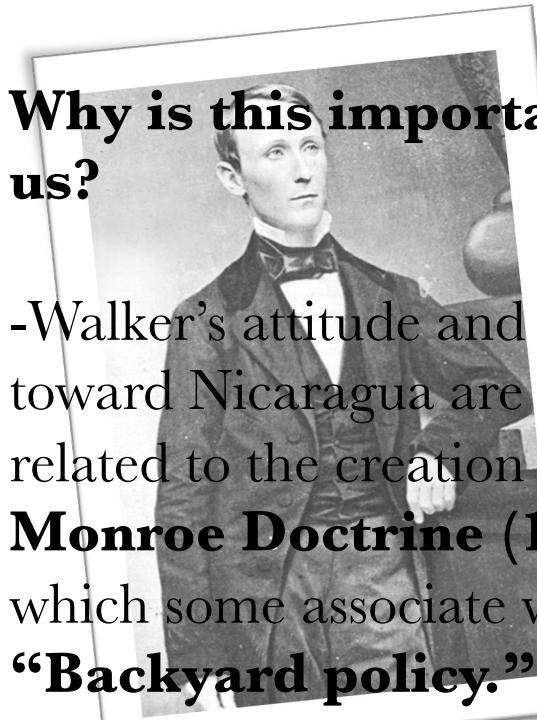
A FEW “SIGNIFICANT” MEN

William Walker

Why does he matter?

Why is this important to us?

-Walker's attitude and actions toward Nicaragua are directly related to the creation of the **Monroe Doctrine (1823)**, which some associate with the **“Backyard policy.”** (even though the Doctrine initially pushed an anti-interventionist approach).



Who was he?

-A North operator)

What di

-He declared one year;

How did

-He was 1

Armies in 1960.



ary

1856);

ruled for

American

Augusto Sandino (1895-1934):

Model of Anti-imperialist left

Who was he?

A peasant and rebel leader from Nicaragua who was against US occupation of Nicaragua;

Why was he important?

- He organized a guerrilla fight and an anti-imperialist campaign between the years of 1927-1933 **from the mountains**.

- Even the US marines were incapable of beating him in combat... so...

How did it all end?

Then dictator Anastasio **Somoza García** and his **National Guard** assassinated him in 1934.



The Somoza Dynasty (1937-1979)



Anastasio Somoza García

- Head** of the National Guard (1930s)
- President** of Nicaragua: 1937-1947 and 1950-1956
- “**Puppet**” politician (US Marine Corps)

Interesting fact...



Interesting fact...

Rigoberto López Pérez (poet)

-Luis allowed the CIA-trained Cuban rebels to embark from Nicaragua in their attempt to take down Castro during the Bay of Pigs Invasion (Playa Giron)

Luis Debayle Somoza

-**President** of Nicaragua: 1956-1967

Anastasio Somoza Debayle



Head of the National Guard (1967-1979)

President of Nicaragua from 1967-1972; 1974-July 17, 1979 (the Sandinista Triumph)

Assassinated in **Operation Reptile** by the Sandinistas in 1980
(Paraguay)

Sources: Crawley, Eduardo. *Dictators never die: a portrait of Nicaragua and the Somoza Dynasty* (1979).
Alegría, Claribel. *Death of Somoza* (1996)

Key players of the FSLN (1961-1979; 1981-1990)



Carlos Fonseca (1936-1976)
-Founder of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)
-Assassinated in the mountains

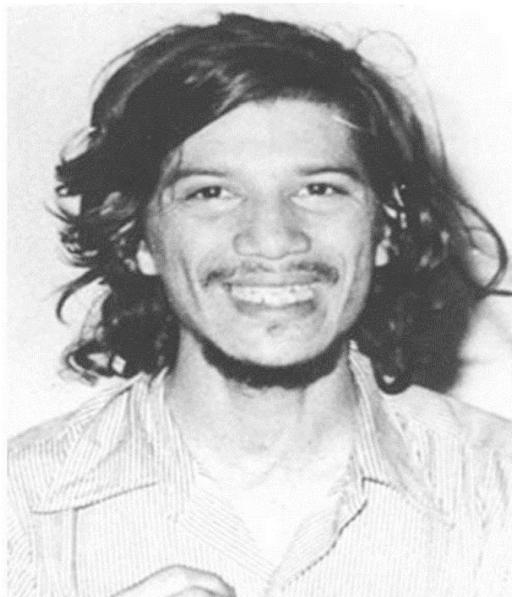


Tomás Borge (1930-2012)
-Co-founder of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)
-Author



Edén Pastora (1933-2007)
-Leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front
-FSLN officer
-Died in battle

Our author / Participant Revolution



Omar Cabezas, 1969. Foto: Archivo OSN. CHM-EN.

- **Omar Cabezas**
- working class student
- son of Opposition leader

Fire from the Mountain: the Making of a Sandinista (1982, 1985)

Published in 1982
(Spanish), 1985 in
English

Fire from the Mountain

Won the *Premio Casa de
las Américas* in 1982:
Testimonial Genre

To write the text, Omar
Cabezas first told the
story, then transcribed it.

What is a “testimony” or “testimonial narrative”?

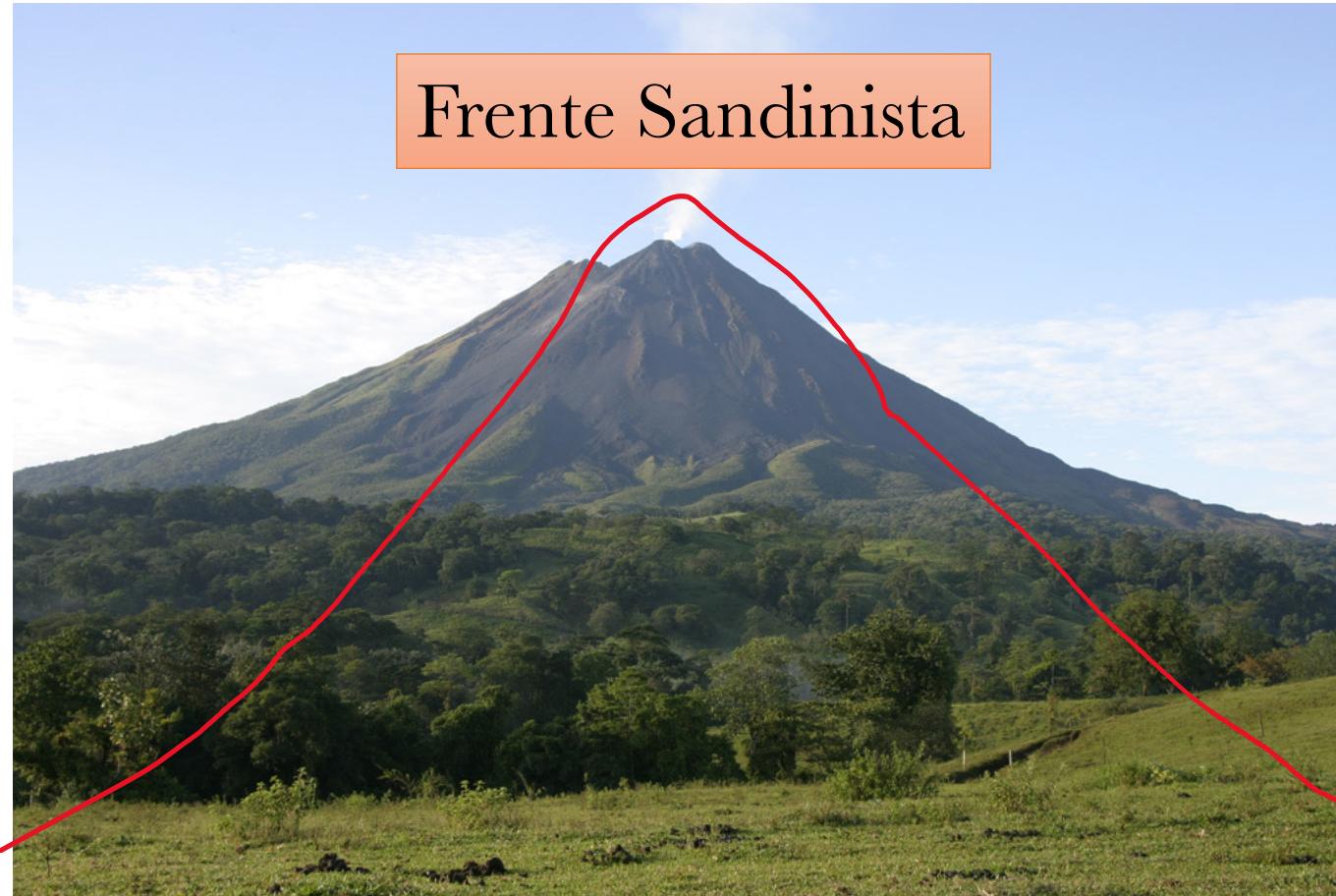


The testimony

“A novel or novella-length narrative in book or pamphlet told in the first person by a narrator who is also the real protagonist or witness of the [urgent] events he or she recounts, and whose unit of narration is usually a “life” or a significant life experience” (24-25).

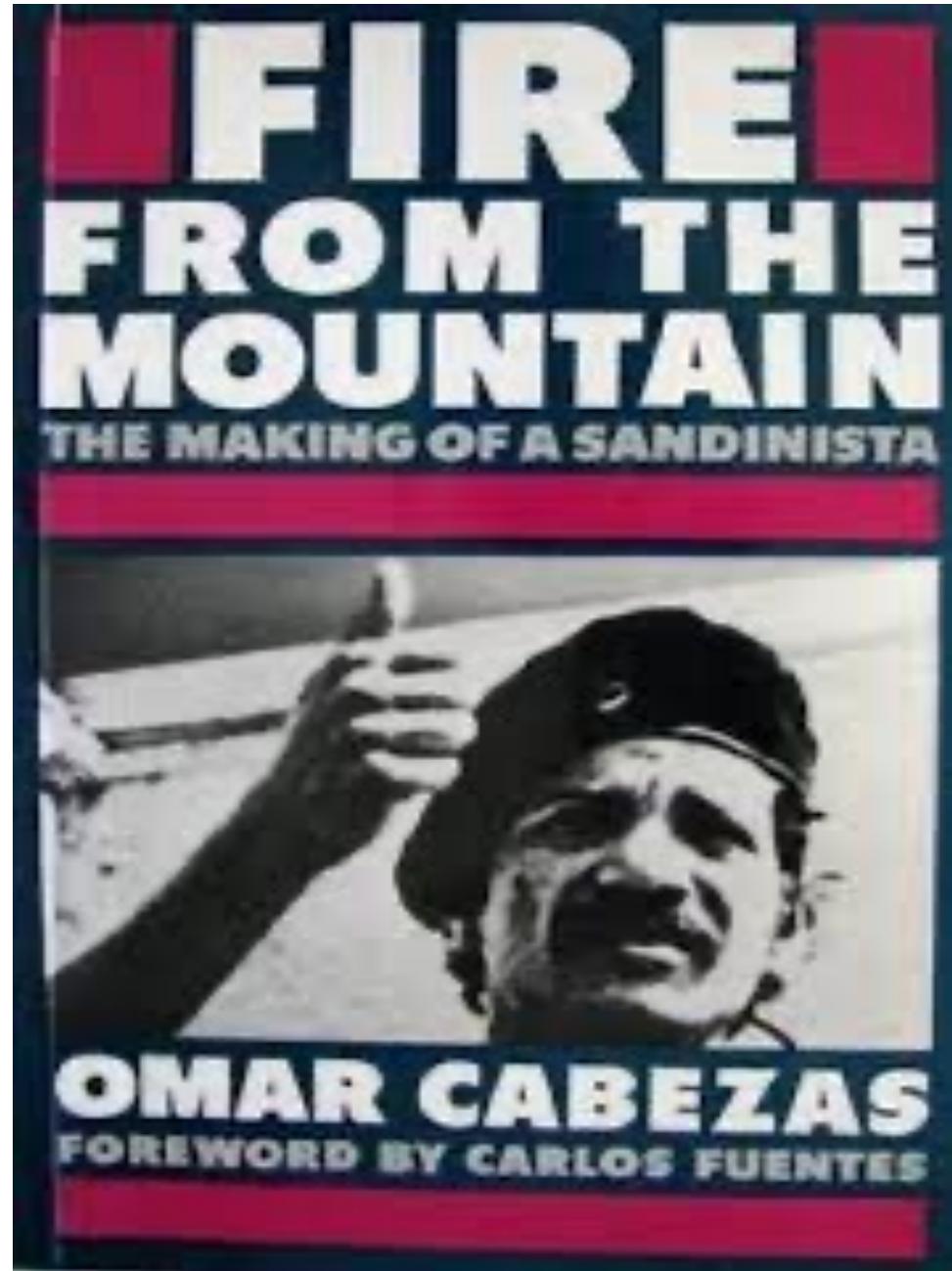
(The Real Thing: Testimonial Discourse and Latin America (1996, Ed. G. Gugelberger),

In Che Guevara's *Reminiscences*, we only see what Revolution looks like on the Sierra Maestra.



First impressions

- What image of the book does the title provoke?
- The first chapter is titled “Holy Week”. What does this make you think of?
- Let’s take a look at the first paragraph of the book to see what we learn from Cabezas!



“Holy Week”

- “During **Holy Week** my hometown is a ghost town, with medieval trimmings. Holy Week in León is hot, the car seats are hot, the park benches are hot, even the water out of the tap is hot. Everything in that town is hot during Holy Week. The hair on your head is hot, your thoughts are hot – believe me, **Holy Week** in León is hot! Look, it’s so hot there are practically no cars out in the street. In the center of town there aren’t even people – they all go to the sea. I’m talking about the middle class, who live where the streets are paved, where the rich people live, in the center of town” (1).

For Wednesday: read from Cabezas's *Fire from the Mountain* these chapters:

- “**Holy Week**”: Introduction to León, social classes, politics, revolution (and what he thinks of it!), and space (the sea vs. Lezama’s)
- “**Strength and Numbers**”: The Guard vs. The Frente (and “being like Che”)
- “**Sandino and the Indians**”: Students and their theories, Subtiava and how he earns their support (*provides additional context; optional reading*)