

# THE COSTA RICA READER

HISTORY, CULTURE, POLITICS

*Edited by Steven Palmer and Ivan Molina*

DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS *Durham and London* 2004

# Contents

Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction i

## I. *Birth of an Exception?* 9

Warriors and Sacred Struggle. *Pre-Columbian Distinctions* 13

A Conqueror Looks on the Bright Side. *Town Council of Castillo de Garci-Muno* 14

Hunting Indians. *Claudia Quiros* 16

The Execution of Pablo Presbere. *Jose Maria Figueroa* 22

The Trial of Pablo Presbere, Cacique of Suinse.

*Lorenzo Antonio de Granda y Balbin* 23

A Slave's Story. *Jose Cubero* 26

Free Blacks, Mulattoes, and Mestizos Seek Legitimacy. *Cabildo of Cartago* 29

Brotherhood of the Virgin. *Ricardo Fernandez Guardia* 31

Life and Labor in the Central Valley, circa 1821. *Ivan Molina* 35

The Fall of Morazan. *Unknown* 44

Libelous Pornography from 1841. *Jose Maria Figueroa* 48

Civilizing Domestic Life in the Central Valley, 1750-1850. *Eugenia Rodriguez* 49

## II. *Coffee Nation* 55

Privatization of the Land and Agrarian Conflict. *Silvia Castro* 57

Tico Sweepstakes. *Piojoaquin Ferndnde* 62

Witness to Heroism. *Geronimo Segura* 65

Holidays in Costa Rica, 1858. *Thomas Francis Meagher (illustrated by Ramon Pde%)* 69

Denunciation of the Lazarene Brothers. *Diego Quesada* 84

Building Civilization. *Fernando Zamora* 86

Getting to Know the Unknown Soldier. *Steven Palmer* 90

The Burning of the Meson. *Enrique Echandi* 97

### III. *Popular Culture and Social Policy* 99

Alleyway of Open Wounds. *Claudia Maria Jimenez* 101

Women of the Barrio. *Luisa González* 102

A District Laboratory in Costa Rica. *John Elmendorf Jr.* 109

Autobiography of a Shoemaker. *Juan Rafael Morales* 112

Maternity. *Francisco Zuniga* 121

Prospectus. *National Association of Coffee Producers* 123

The Red Door. *Teodorico Quiros* 127

Banana Strike Confidential. *Diplomatic Service of the United States of America* 128

Notice to West Indian Farmers! *West Indian Strike Committee* 132

Woman in Window. *Maximiliano* 134

A Governor and a Man Faces the Social Problem.

*Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia* 135

### IV. *Democratic Enigma* 139

Petition for Recognition of Voting Rights from a Humble Citizen, 1859.

*Santiago Cordova* 143

The Night of San Florencio. *La Prensa Libre* 146

An Outsider's View of Political Society in 1914. *Dana G. Munro* 149

Democrats and Feminists. *Steven Palmer and Gladys Rojas Chaves* 155

Women's Vote — the Day That They Get It. *Paco Hernandez* 160

Hail to the Jefe. *Alejandro Alvares Duarte Mora* 161

Unlikely Threesome. *Reformist Summit, 1943* 162

The Polarization of Politics, 1932-1948. *Ivan Molina* 163

Memories of Girlhood in '48. *Maria E. Robles Solano* 170

Democracy on the Brink: The First Figueres Presidency. *Kirk Bowman* 175

### V. *The Costa Rican Dream* 183

Means and Ends for a Better Costa Rica. *Rodrigo Facio* 187

In Defense of the Corner Store. *Constantino Ldscaris* 192

A Costa Rican Godfather. *J. L. Vargas* 198

Growing Up in the Dream. <i>Manrique Mata-Montero</i>	203
Alcoa No! <i>Student Protests, 19JO</i>	210
The Crisis: 1980-1982. <i>Jorge Rovira Mas</i>	212
The Family. <i>Anonymous</i>	219
Imperial Eagle versus Peace Dove. <i>Hugo Dia^</i>	223
A Dictionary of Costa Rican Patriotism. <i>Alvaro Quesada</i>	225

## VI. *Other Cultures and Outer Reaches* 229

Indigenous Figure. <i>Juan Manuel Sdnche^</i>	233
Dispossessed. <i>The Indigenous Community of Orosi</i>	234
West Indian Limon. <i>Paula Palmer</i>	237
Our Blood Is Blackening. <i>Clodomiro Picado</i>	243
Everyday Racism, 1932. <i>Anonymous</i>	245
My Mother and the Seawall. <i>Eulalia Bernard</i>	247
The Devil and Don Chico. <i>Marc Edelman</i>	249
Passing: Nicaraguans in Costa Rica. <i>Patricia Alvarenga</i>	257
Taking Care of Sibó's Gifts. <i>Gloria Mayorga,</i> <i>Juanita Sdnche^ and Paula Palmer</i>	264

## VII. *Working Paradise* 275

A Community Takes Care of Its Environs. <i>Owners of Montana de la Candelaria</i>	279
Caffeinated Miasmas. <i>Residents of Santo Domingo de Heredia</i>	281
Migration and the Costa Rican Environment since 1900. <i>Uli Locher</i>	284
From Rain Forest to Banana Plantation: A Workers' Eye View. <i>Ana Luisa Cerdas</i>	293
Pesticides and Parakeets in the Banana Industry. <i>Steve Marquardt</i>	298
The River of Milk. <i>Environmental and Administrative Tribunal, Ministry of</i> <i>Energy and the Environment</i>	310
La Loca de Gandoca. <i>Ana Cristina Rossi</i>	314

## VIII. *Tropical Soundings* 319

Social Development with Limited Resources. <i>Carmelo Mesa-Lago</i>	323
Visit Beautiful Costa Rica! <i>Tourism Propaganda of Another Era</i>	334

Corruption. <i>Alfonso Gon^ale^ and Manuel Solis</i>	336
The Contemporary Protest Movement	340
The Narcotizing of Costa Rican Politics. <i>Mercedes Muno^ Guillen</i>	342
Citizens 2000. <i>March against the Combo ICE</i>	344
On the Recent Protests against the Privatization of the Costa Rican Hydroelectric Company (ICE). <i>Rodolfo Cerdas</i>	345
Building Your Own Home. <i>Antonio</i>	349
Men in Crisis? <i>Sylvia Chant</i>	350
Are the Kids Alright? <i>Osvaldo Orias and Kenneth</i>	358
Costa Rica: A Millennial Profile. <i>Steven Palmer and Ivan Molina</i>	361
Demoperfectocracy. <i>Yolanda Oreamuno</i>	364
Suggestions for Further Reading	367
Acknowledgment of Copyrights	373
Index	379