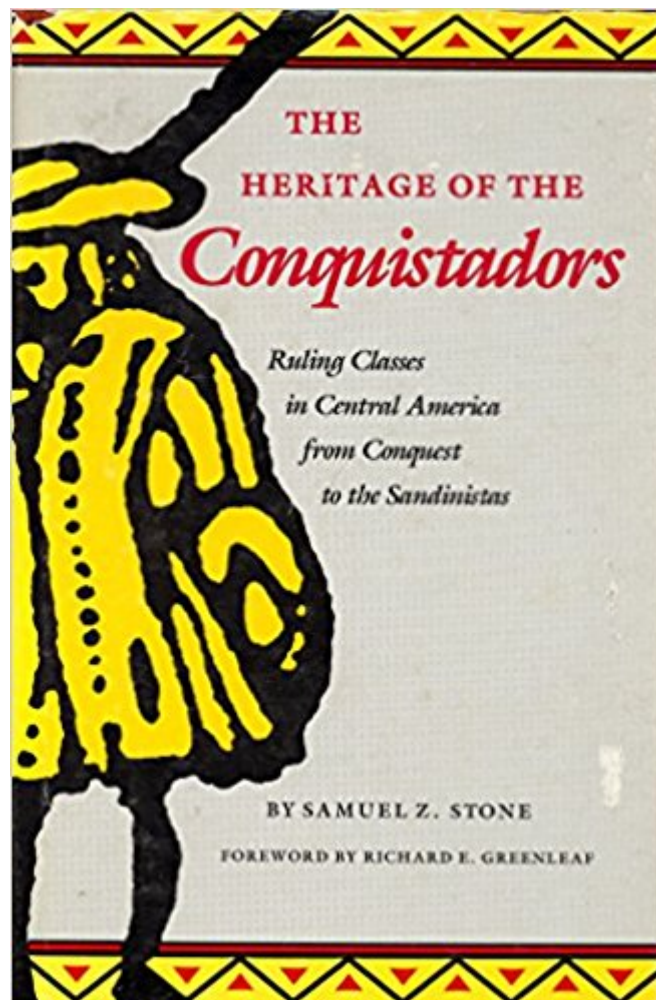




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Heritage Of The Conquistadors: Ruling Classes In Central America From Conquest To The Sandinistas



Synopsis

In *The Heritage of the Conquistadors* Samuel Z. Stone demonstrates that the ruling families of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are rooted in a common ancestry. This crossbreeding, so to speak, often confuses the outside world's understanding of such developments as the Salvadoran insurgency, the fall of Somoza, and the rise of the Sandinistas.

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Stone, a leading analyst from Costa Rica, combines historical and genealogical research to connect the dominance since the Spanish conquest of a small ruling class of families to contemporary implications for political and economic development in Central America. He uses Costa Rica as a case study to illustrate how social origins influence economic production and politics. Despite meticulous research, the connection between ruling class values and policies is not always explicit, nor are other explanations fully incorporated in the arguments, which have a tendency to be somewhat anecdotal. Still, his is a provocative thesis, using an eclectic approach that borrows from popular literature and the social sciences. Recommended for academic libraries.- Roderic A. Camp, Central Coll., Pella, Ia. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Samuel Z. Stone, a citizen of Costa Rica, is the author of the prize-winning *La Dinastia de los conquistadores: La Crisis del Poder en la Costa Rica Contemporanea* (1975) and other works.

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