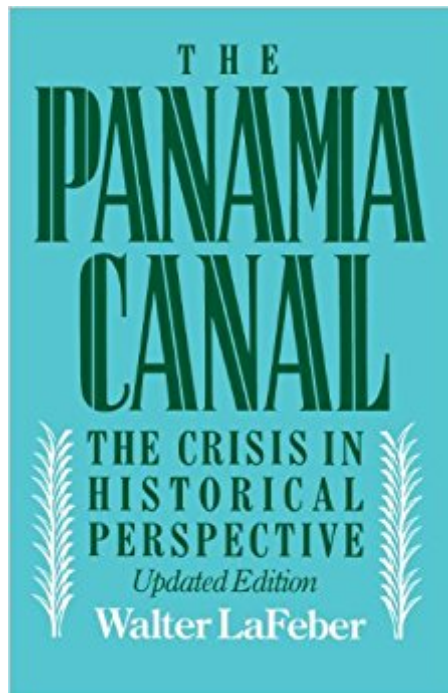




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The Panama Canal: The Crisis In Historical Perspective



Synopsis

This newly updated edition of Walter LaFeber's widely praised study of the evolution of U.S.-Panama relations contains two new chapters on the events that have occurred since the Panama Canal Treaty in 1978. This new edition offers particularly detailed examinations of the 1988 attempt to oust Manuel Noriega and Noriega's role in aiding the Nicaraguan Contras, as well as invaluable background information for understanding the 1989 crises. LaFeber argues that the interdependent, but turbulent, relationship between Panama and the United States continued into the 1980s with the U.S. using General Manuel Antonio Noriega to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. U.S. officials in the Reagan administration also subordinated widespread knowledge of Noriega's drug trafficking in order to keep Panama in line with the U.S. policy towards Nicaragua. But by 1986, the United States both knew and demanded too much of Noriega, and the relationship finally began to fragment. LaFeber's updated volume remains the essential source for anyone who wants a complete picture of U.S.-Panama relations from Balboa to the present.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Noted historian LaFeber (history, Cornell), author of the acclaimed *Inevitable Revolutions* (LJ 12/1/82), has updated his 1978 classic, bringing his discussion of U.S.-Panama relations up to the 1980s. This edition also marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. Even though this was written before the October 1989 failed coup attempt to oust Manuel Noriega, LaFeber notes that "Even if the General Noriega disappeared, the political relationship between

Panama and the United States must be rebuilt and rethought." LaFeber also has provided an updated bibliographic essay.- Judy Quinn, "Library Journal"Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Noted historian LaFeber has updated his 1978 classic, bringing his discussion of U.S.-Panama relations up to the 1980s."--Library JournalPraise for the first edition:"The best overall synthesis of a vital theme in American diplomatic history."--History: Reviews of New Books"Timely and enormously useful."--Ronald Steel, The New York Review of Books"A balanced, unemotional indictment of the history of the United States in Panama."--The Nation"A well-written, comprehensive analysis of U.S.-Panamanian relations regarding the canal and its surrounding zone."--American Political Science Review"The best general study of U.S.-Panamanian relations I have read."--American Historical Review"The best account in English of Panama's political and economic history."--Journal of American History"A smooth and engaging narrative of relations between the United States and Panama from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present."--Michael Mandelbaum, The New York Times Book Review"This work will remain one of the best on the subject."--Hispanic American Historical Review

Professor LaFeber is a true professional historian. The book, which is relatively brief, discusses the political history of US-Panamanian relations and the Panama Canal. The emphasis of the book is NOT on the construction of the Canal. The book is well documented. I am looking for a good book to read about the construction and engineering of the Panama Canal. I might read the "Path Between the Seas" by David McCullough. But my understanding from a reviewer of McCullough's "Path Between the Seas" is that "three-quarters of the book is about the politics and planning prior to the actual building of the canal." So I may get the McCullough book and just read parts.

Professor LaFeber writes a book about the political history of Panama. Start from the discovery of Panama by Rodrigo de Bastidas. Write things that in Panama are not written. For example, some President corruption, corruption of another nephew President, the corruption of one of the sons of another President. Write "..... (.....) began his presidency in bankruptcy and ended millionaire". Describe the widespread corruption of PanamÃ¡ politicians. I found a single mistake in the book on page 77 where he writes that Ernesto de la Guardia was in charge of the Presidency after the overthrow of Arnulfo Arias first presidency. It was Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia. Very instructive. Despite its brevity is full of information. For those who want to know the history of Panama

uncensored.

great book about panama canal history, there were things that not even not about my own canal, being from panama

LaFeber book is the ultimate history for US-Panamanian relations. His telling of this history is replete with personal insights into the actors on both sides. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in a good overview of this often rocky relationship.

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