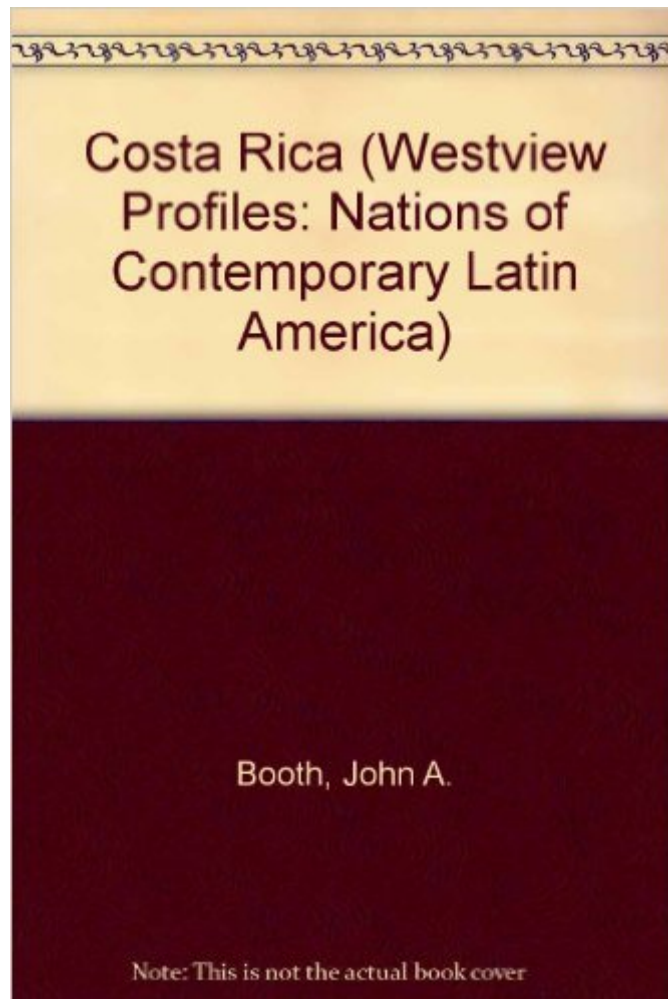


The book was found

Costa Rica: Quest For Democracy (Nations Of The Modern World: Latin America)



Synopsis

How did Costa Rica become Central America's first successful democracy? How does Costa Rican democracy work? How does democracy survive despite regional turmoil, foreign intervention, and economic crisis? Beginning with Costa Rica's history within the Central American context, John Booth traces democratic development in Costa Rica through its institutions, rules of the political game, parties, elections, and interest groups. After a review of socioeconomic and political forces, the author examines political participation and culture, political economy, and foreign affairs. Several democratization theories suggest that Costa Rica should not be democratic at all. Costa Rica's own myth portrays a nation democratic virtually since independence. Both are wrong. Booth reviews classical theories about democracy as a framework for understanding the Costa Rican case. A history of democratization debunks much of the foundation myth, revealing how developing class forces created the modern regime after the 1948 Civil War. Analyses of social structure, political participation, political culture, foreign affairs, and the recent transformation of the Costa Rican political-economic model reveal how regional unrest, foreign intervention, and economic crisis had transformed the state and its development model by the 1990s. Booth concludes by evaluating the prospects for Costa Rican democracy and its lessons for the rest of Latin America. The book's overview of Costa Rican politics is accessible and useful for students, scholars, and general readers.

Book Information

Series: Nations of the Modern World: Latin America

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Westview Press (July 2, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813376319

ISBN-13: 978-0813376318

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.2 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,600,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in [Books > History > Americas > Central America > Costa Rica](#) #2427 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Public Affairs](#) #3901 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America](#)

Customer Reviews

Placing Costa Rica in the Central American context, Booth evaluates common myths about Costa Rican democracy. He finds the glass half full and half empty: Costa Rica's demanding citizens and a responsive government interact vibrantly, yet 1980s-90s financial crises permitted neoliberal foreign lenders to somewhat erode democracy and undermine redistributive programs that once supported it. Citizens' beliefs and demands sustain democracy, but frustration with hard times and politicians eroded election turnout in 1998. Not a travel guide, the book should interest students, scholars, policy makers, travellers seeking depth of information. Beginning with theories about the nature of democracy and how it develops, Booth traces the growth of Costa Rican politics from militarism and elite rule in the late 19th c. through the development of full democracy since 1949. Chapters focus on how the present constitution and institutions work, social structure and civil society. There are also chapters political participation and culture, political economy under external neoliberal pressures, and foreign policy. Tables and an appendix provide abundant data on elections, politics, economy, and society through 1998.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Costa Rica: Quest For Democracy (Nations of the Modern World: Latin America) The History of Costa Rica (The Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations) Costa Rica: A Global Studies Handbook (Global Studies: Latin America & the Caribbean) Demanding Democracy: Reform and Reaction in Costa Rica and Guatemala, 1870's - 1950's Uruguay: Democracy at the Crossroads (Nations of Contemporary Latin America) Crisis in Costa Rica: The Revolution of 1948 (Latin American monographs, no. 24) Latin American Democracies: Colombia, Costa Rica, Venezuela INSIDE CENTRAL AMERICA: The Essential Facts Past and Present on El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica Costa Rica (Central America Today) Democracy More or Less: America's Political Reform Quandary (Cambridge Studies in Election Law and Democracy) Outsiders?: The Changing Patterns of Exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Progress in Latin America, 2008 Report (David Rockefeller/Inter-American Development Bank) Happier Than a Billionaire: Quitting My Job, Moving to Costa Rica, and Living the Zero Hour Work Week The Ticos: Culture and Social Change in Costa Rica Biografía de Costa Rica (Spanish Edition) A Guide to the Birds of Panama: With Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras Costa Rica: The Last Country The Gods Made Green Phoenix: Restoring the Tropical Forests of Guanacaste, Costa Rica Nature of the Rainforest: Costa Rica and Beyond (Zona Tropical Publications) The Green Republic: A Conservation History of Costa Rica Africans into Creoles:

Slavery, Ethnicity, and Identity in Colonial Costa Rica (DiÁlogos Series)

[Dmca](#)