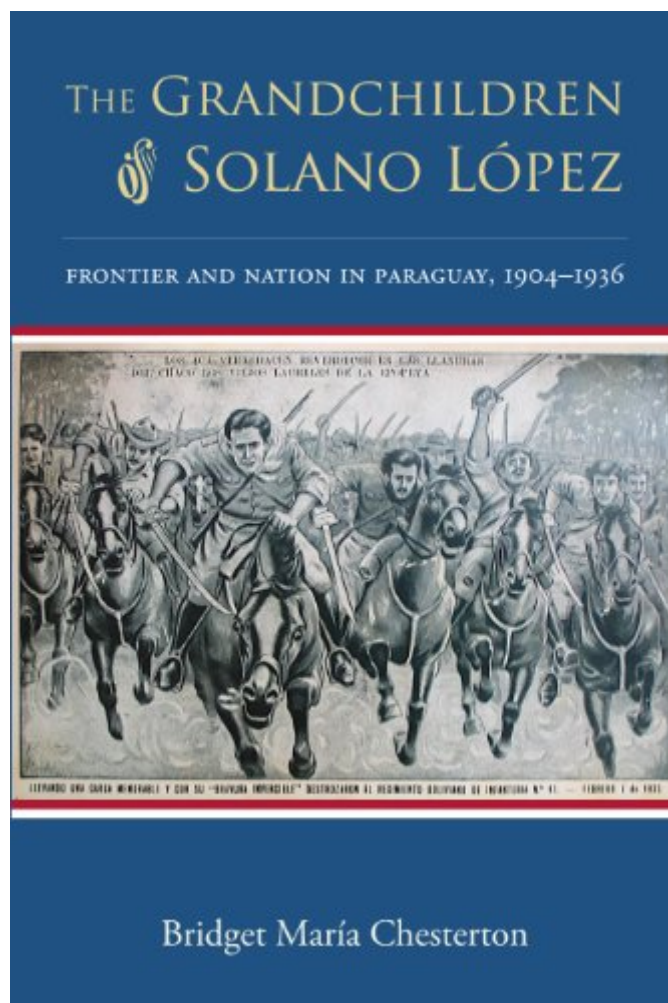


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The Grandchildren Of Solano LÃ³pez: Frontier And Nation In Paraguay, 1904-1936



Synopsis

Paraguay's Chaco frontier, one of the least known areas in one of the least known countries in South America, became the unexpected scene of the bloodiest international war in the Americas, the Chaco War between Paraguay and Bolivia (1932-35). A picture postcard from the Chaco War era shows a large heart, emblazoned with the word "Paraguay," pumping its way through the flat dusty wilderness of the Chaco and leaving a zigzag trail of smashed Bolivian forts and soldiers along the way. This visual propaganda shows why the Paraguayans were sure they would win the war: they were brave, passionate soldiers. They considered themselves invincible descendants of the great hero of the War of the Triple Alliance (1864-70), Marshal Francisco Solano López (El Mariscal). But Solano López was not universally revered. A controversial figure, he was widely believed to have led Paraguay into economic, social, and cultural ruin. The debate over López's actions shaped the country's culture and politics for over a century after the War of the Triple Alliance. Bridget MarÅ-a Chesterton's in-depth examination of Paraguay's unique nationalism and the role of the frontier in its formation places the debate over López in the context of larger themes of Latin American history, including racial and ethnic identity, authoritarian regimes, and militarism.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS Bridget MarÅ-a Chesterton's in-depth examination of Paraguay's unique nationalism and the role of the frontier in its formation places the debate over López in the context of larger themes of Latin American history, including racial and ethnic identity, authoritarian regimes, and militarism.

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Customer Reviews

Warning: This is a more academic-related work, of a somewhat "technical" nature, tied to the author's specific thesis. See the Table of Contents. And as set forth in Chapter 1, Introducing the Chaco Frontier. Primarily arguing that specific forces particular to Paraguay in the period from 1870-1932 led to a unique Paraguayan nationalism regarding the Chaco region; this nationalism of both the elite and masses leads them determined to ensure that the Chaco Region becomes an integral part of Paraguay, even if it means full-scale war with Bolivia. And that these forces then culminate in the February 1936 Revolution that overthrew the government of the Liberal victors, replacing it with a radical populist movement, which only lasted about 18 months in power but which forever significantly changed the course of Paraguay's political, economic, and cultural history. This is NOT a good general introduction to Paraguay as a nation, land mass, or people nor to either the Chaco Dispute (approx. 1879-1931) or Chaco War (1932-35), Chaco Peace Negotiations (1935-39), or the Febrerista Revolution (1936-37). I would strongly recommend that anyone who wants to read this FIRST read these three works: 1. Paul Lewis' Political Parties and Generations in Paraguay's Liberal Era, 1869-1940 (1993); 2. Leslie Rout's Politics of the Chaco Peace Conference, 1935-1939 (1970), and 3. David Zook's The Conduct of the Chaco War (1960). Then AFTER reading Ms. Chesterton's work, read Paul Lewis' The Politics of Exile, Paraguay's Febrerista Party (1968). I think that anyone who has this background will get the absolute maximum "benefit" of her scholarship and apply it elsewhere.

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