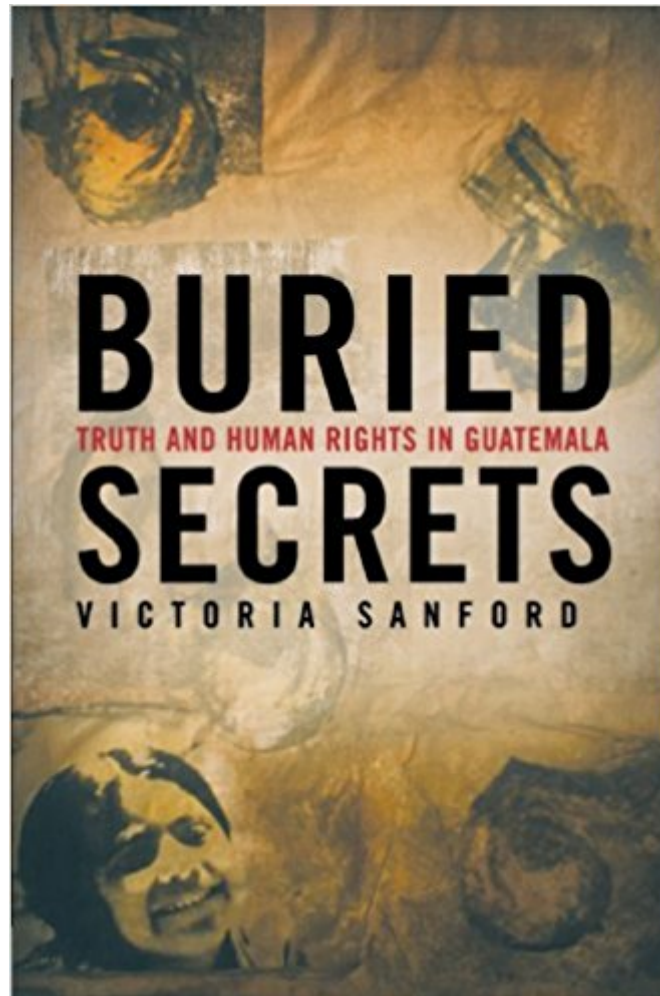




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Buried Secrets: Truth And Human Rights In Guatemala



Synopsis

Between the late 1970s and the mid 1980s, Guatemala was torn by a civil war which came to be known as La Violencia. During this time of mass terror and extreme violence, more than 600 massacres occurred in villages destroyed by the army, one and a half million people were displaced, and more than 200,000 civilians murdered. 83% of the victims were Maya, the indigenous people of Guatemala. *Buried Secrets* brings these chilling statistics to life as it chronicles the journey of Mayan survivors seeking truth, justice, and community healing and demonstrates that the Guatemalan army carried out a systematic and intentional genocide against the Maya. Victoria Sanford provides us with an insider's look at the workings of the Commission for Historical Clarification through the exhumation of clandestine cemeteries. The book is based on exhaustive research, including more than 400 testimonies from massacre survivors, interviews with members of the forensic team, human rights leaders, high-ranking military officers, guerrilla combatants, and government officials. *Buried Secrets* traces truth-telling and political change from isolated Maya villages to national political events, and provides a unique look into the experiences of Maya survivors as they struggle to rebuild their communities and lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'No book on this topic has approached the thoroughness and raw impact of Victoria Sanford's *Buried Secrets*.' - Christian Parenti, San Diego Union-Tribune '...Sanford critically and eloquently documents the U.S. sponsored violations of human rights in Guatemala.' - Lilliana Patricia Sandeman, San Antonio Express-News 'This landmark book reaches out to those who are trying to

understand Guatemala...' - Jim Przepasniak, El Paso Times 'Victoria Sanford leads us into a powerful and heartbreaking history of testimonies. Her journey into this war zone ... is clear-eyed, haunting and, above all, close to the ground.' - Michael Ondaatje, Author of Anil's Ghost 'The genocide in Guatemala and how survivors have dealt with it constitutes, in Victoria Sanford's gripping and compassionate tale, a crucial lesson in ways in which to keep memory and hope alive.'

- Ariel Dorfman, Author of Death and the Maiden

VICTORIA SANFORD is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Faculty Fellow at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. She was a Bunting Peace Fellow at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, a Kellogg Fellow at Notre Dame, and a Rockefeller Fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. She has worked with Maya refugees since 1986 and in Maya communities since 1993. She co-authored the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation's report to the Commission for Historical Clarification.

Great book even though it covers a pretty heavy subject. I personally read it for a class but if you enjoy international history is give it a shot.

A most have resource for those students and experts of the Guatemalan history, human rights and Latin American issues. Dr. Sanford's research is brilliant!

I haven't gotten very far. Too much explanation to begin the book,

Read first few chapters. Honest and insightful by someone on the ground. I appreciated her combination of ethnographic detail and keen insights into individuals like soldiers, rebels, etc.

My main complaint about this book is that as a whole, this book is repetitive. I understand that some of the chapters are other studies printed elsewhere and that this is a compilation of these studies by the author, but the result is a slightly-frustrating read due to the repeating information. The topic, however, deserves our attention. The genocide in Guatemala during the Guatemalan civil war is an ugly part of the history of the USA, and I think few of our citizens understand the violent legacy that we encouraged and funded through the oppressively violent and corrupt Guatemalan army. It's shameful. If you know nothing about the topic, then this book would be an appropriate place to start but be warned that some of the material is heavily repeated throughout the text.

my bueno

Excellent book

I bought this to understand what people are going through in Guatemala because of a missions trip we are taking. Slow but I am getting through it

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