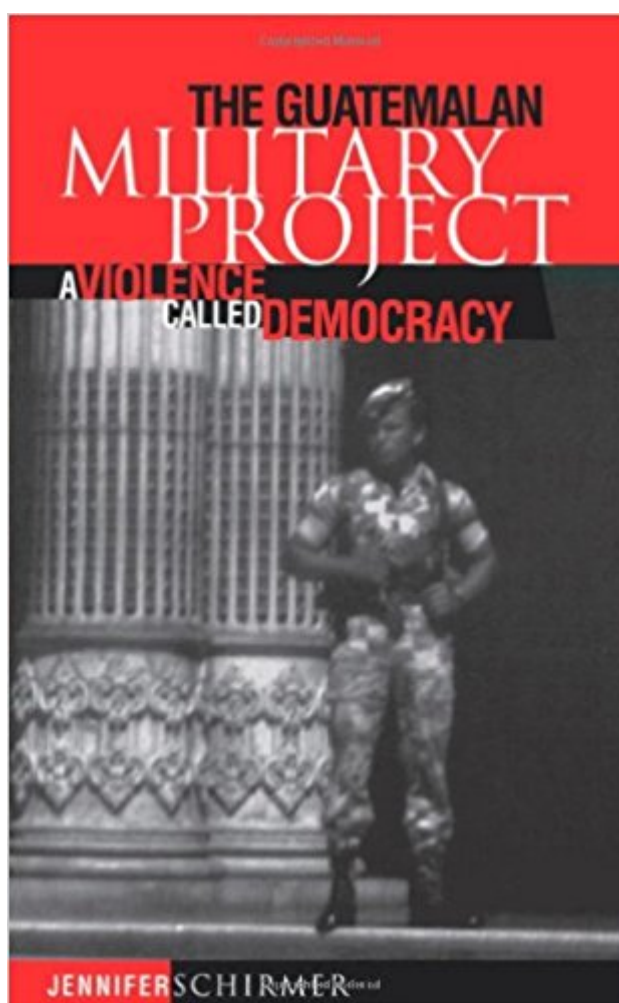




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The Guatemalan Military Project: A Violence Called Democracy (Pennsylvania Studies In Human Rights)



Synopsis

In 1999, the Guatemala truth commission issued its report on human rights violations during Guatemala's thirty-six-year civil war that ended in 1996. The commission, sponsored by the UN, estimates the conflict resulted in 200,000 deaths and disappearances. The commission holds the Guatemalan military responsible for 93 percent of the deaths. In *The Guatemalan Military Project*, Jennifer Schirmer documents the military's role in human rights violations through a series of extensive interviews striking in their brutal frankness and unique in their first-hand descriptions of the campaign against Guatemala's citizens. High-ranking officers explain in their own words their thoughts and feelings regarding violence, political opposition, national security doctrine, democracy, human rights, and law. Additional interviews with congressional deputies, Guatemalan lawyers, journalists, social scientists, and a former president give a full and balanced account of the Guatemalan power structure and ruling system. With expert analysis of these interviews in the context of cultural, legal, and human rights considerations, *The Guatemalan Military Project* provides a successful evaluation of the possibilities and processes of conversion from war to peace in Latin America and around the world.

Book Information

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"The Guatemalan Military Project is a remarkable achievement. As any journalist or diplomat who has spent time in Guatemala will attest, no group is more difficult to penetrate than the Guatemalan

armed forces. Over a period of a decade, Jennifer Schirmer succeeded in getting more than fifty Guatemalan officers to speak with uncanny candor about their actions." — Larry Rohter, New York Times "[An] indispensable account of the history of the Guatemalan military's rise to power and of the construction of a thoroughly militarized 'façade democracy'." — Journal of Latin American Studies

Jennifer Schirmer is a lecturer in social studies at Harvard University. She is also an associate with the Program on Non-Violent Sanctions and Cultural Survival at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard.

I worked in Guatemala from 1980 to 1998 (Human Rights Watch, author: Guatemala: Eternal Spring, Eternal Tyranny). If we were to choose three books to read to learn, in depth and without agenda, what happened and why during the 1980s, during what Amnesty International in 1981 aptly called "a government program of political murder," this would be one of them.

A very scholarly documentation of the Guatemalan Military's m.o. during their 36 year civil war. A chilling document of the brutality of a government upon its own people and the impunity by which it functioned. A no punches account. D.H. Clayton Ph.D.

one of the most powerful accounts about violence and war in Central America. The author's extensive interviews with key military officers give shocking evidence about the scope of the civil war in Guatemala. A must read for human rights scholars and activists !

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