

Lauria-Santiago, Aldo, and Leigh Binford, eds. *Landscapes of Struggle: Politics, Society, and Community in El Salvador*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004.

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Volume 26, Number 1, Summer 2006

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/jcs26_1br04

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Publisher(s)

The University of New Brunswick

ISSN

1198-8614 (print)

1715-5673 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Kaufman, N. (2006). Review of [Lauria-Santiago, Aldo, and Leigh Binford, eds. *Landscapes of Struggle: Politics, Society, and Community in El Salvador*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004.] *Journal of Conflict Studies*, 26(1), 151–153.

resolution and human relations. To specialists in particular, hopefully it will encourage further discussion on the potential role these multiple spheres of thought may be able to play in better understanding the dynamics of reconciliation processes.

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Lauria-Santiago, Aldo, and Leigh Binford, eds. *Landscapes of Struggle: Politics, Society, and Community in El Salvador*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004.

In recent years the field of conflict studies has widened considerably as new analytical approaches have increasingly linked conflict with development, and related war and peace to broader historical, cultural, and economic processes. These contributions remind us that any analysis of violent conflict and post-war transitions needs to be grounded in an examination of particular social relations and historical legacies. Drawing from a variety of historical, anthropological, and sociological perspectives, this volume provides a much-needed interdisciplinary dialogue that sheds new light on the fine-grained complexities of the Salvadoran experience before, during, and after the 12-year civil war that wracked the small Central American country during the 1980s.

While the generalized nature of much previous writing on El Salvador has primarily addressed macro-structural issues and political violence, this book's most salient theme is its attention to how familiar large-scale, state-centered processes have been assembled out of locally-based, small-scale interactions and diverse actors. In particular, the book attempts to take apart overly schematic and simplistic assumptions that viewed coffee cultivation as a homogenizing force controlled by a small oligarchic elite, and strives to take the agency and autonomy of peasants more seriously as geographically and socially varied actors consciously manoeuvring in accordance with particular needs and interests.

The book is organized into three sections that follow a loose chronology. The first section, with chapters by Aldo Lauria-Santiago, Victor Hugo Acuna Ortega, Erik Ching, Kati Griffith and Leslie Gates, and Carlos Benjamin Lara Martinez, reconsiders prewar El Salvadoran history in a broad effort to clarify the linkages between local-level and national-level processes. This section provides a historical backdrop that attempts to connect the specific experiences of seemingly marginal people and communities with the formation of the national

state since 1890. The chapters focus in turn upon struggles for local resources among a late-nineteenth century indigenous community; the complex relations of patronage and repression that linked a nascent military regime with local actors and elites during the 1930s; the existence and role of an often-overlooked middle class; the intersection of gender categories with labor-state relations in the 1950s and 1960s; and finally a study that traces the historical continuities and ruptures that connect the formation of rural peasant communities in the mid-twentieth century with the way these communities function in the present.

The second section considers El Salvador's civil war between 1980 and 1992 and its aftermath. While previous studies have traced the political and military chronology of the war, this section explores the micro-level dynamics and consequences of the revolutionary experience as well as the many dilemmas generated out of transitions to peace. Chapters by Leigh Binford, Elisabeth Wood, Vince McElhinny, Lisa Kowalchuk, and Irina Carlota Silber explore in turn the role of peasant catechists as organic intellectuals; the repopulation of a community in the conflicted Tenancingo municipality; the many dilemmas of post-war reconstruction for civil war ex-combatants; the internal organizational challenges within peasant movements in the post-war context; and the contradictions of post-war discourses of development leading to disillusionment and demoralization among formerly revolutionary, highly-organized peasant communities. The chapters in this section make an important contribution to the embryonic field of ethnographic/anthropological approaches to war and attempt to problematize how peace is 'lived' by the majority of poor Salvadorans.

The three chapters in the final section shift attention to several cross-cutting themes in Latin American social sciences: ethnicity, criminal violence, and migration. All three chapters draw on sophisticated discursive and culture studies techniques; Henrik Ronsbo explores the tensions between local, regional, and global accounts of indigenusness and the resulting contradictions for indigenous Salvadorans who do not fit within standard definitions of "Indianness"; Ellen Moodie explores discourses around violence and crime in post-war El Salvador; while David Pederson's study challenges dominant portrayals of remittance flows from Salvadorans living in the United States.

Ultimately, the essays collected in this volume provide the reader with a state-of-the-art survey of current social science research on El Salvador. The book is essential reading for Latin Americanists interested in the El Salvadoran experience, and is also useful as an anthropological study of conflict and the multi-faceted consequences of peace; this kind of sensitive treatment is urgently needed for other case studies. The depth with which the various contributors scrutinize local experiences is also a weakness, however, as such close attention to micro-level details and the interstices of "everyday life" in El Salvador limits the broader applicability of some of the chapters and risks losing sight of how these experiences are connected with wider national- and global-level trends and

actors. In particular, detailed discussion of the peace process itself and subsequent structural reforms are noticeably absent, leaving the reader somewhat disconnected from the political and economic frameworks within which individual- and community-level experiences are located.

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Winslow, Deborah, and Michael D. Woost eds., *Economy, Culture and Civil War in Sri Lanka*. Bloomington IN: University of Indiana Press, 2004.

The Sri Lankan civil war, a 20-year conflict between the Sinhalese dominated government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), provides the backdrop for this edited series of seven essays. The LTTE's goal is the creation of a Tamil homeland and the right to self-determination. Deborah Wilson and Michael Woost's book is divided into three parts: Articulations of National Economic Policy and Ethnic Conflict; Articulations of Class, Ethnicity, and Violence; and Articulations of Civil War in Everyday Life. By the terms "articulations," the editors are referring to their interpretation of Stuart Hall's previous work on cultural theory. According to Hall, articulations are about social linkages that are possible, yet not necessarily inevitable, and always changing. In addition to these seven essays, the editors provide an introduction that clearly and accurately describes the situation in Sri Lanka and provides a brief history of the civil war.

The book is an interdisciplinary exploration of the relationship between the economy and conflict that grips Sri Lanka. The general theme throughout the book maintains that the war is not merely grounded in the goals and intentions of the opposing sides, which is the more traditionalist view of conflict, but also in the everyday orientations, experiences, and material practices of the Sri Lankan people. Part economics, and part political science and sociology, the book offers a top-down exploration of conflict and a bottom-up approach as well. The focus of the work is both macro and micro in its exploration of conflict, culture, and civil war.

In part one, two essays by Shastri and Richardson provide overviews of the conflict from above, focussing on the macro view. In their essays they propose a relationship between policy and conflict that provide the basis for later works. They both focus on changing economic policy over time, how these changes are linked with violence, and the consequences for the Sri Lankan people.

In part two, Gunasinghe and Hettige explore the ways that economic poli-