The FSLN as Ruling Party

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Abstract
This overview of the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua offers an interdisciplinary study of the domestic and foreign challenges that faced the Sandinista government during its ten years in power. Based on extensive research in Nicaragua during the revolution, the essays examine important aspects of both the revolution and the US-orchestrated counter-revolution that brought it to an end. After an introduction to the historical background of the revolutionary period, contributors offer a survey of specific groups and institutions within the revolution, such as women, the Church and the armed forces, and provide an assessment of Sandinista public policy and performance in such areas as agrarian reform, health care, education and housing. The impact and implications of the counter-insurgency Contra war, financed by the United States, are also analyzed, as well as efforts made over the years to promote a negotiated peace.

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