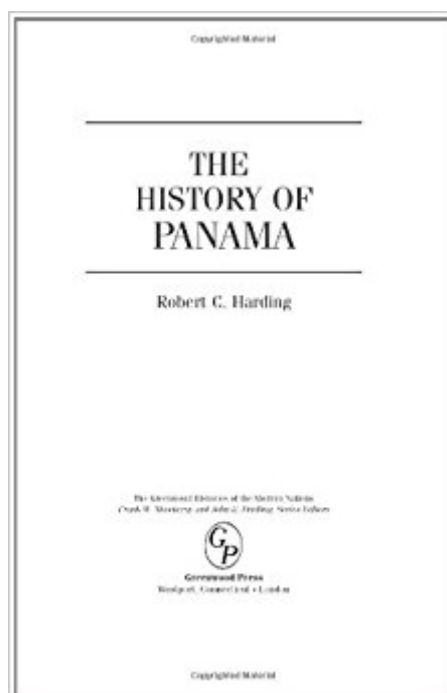


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The History Of Panama (The Greenwood Histories Of The Modern Nations)



Synopsis

As the narrowest stretch of land in the Central American isthmus, Panama's geographical location has for millenia made it the crossroads for traders, travelers, European pirates, and world superpowers. Panamanian history is replete with explicit or tacit domination by others. In the post-Columbus period, Panama was first a Spanish colony, then a province of Colombia, and then finally a quasi-territory of the United States during the 20th century. Suffering invasion by the United States in 1989 to oust dictator Manuel Noriega and then receiving full ownership of the Panama Canal at the end of 1999, Panama has rebuilt itself into a strong, if contentious democracy. This work chronicles and highlights the key events and figures in the country's past 500 years of history, from Columbus to current day. It begins with Panama's colonial period, demonstrating how even in its early day, the isthmus was seen by the Spanish as merely a transshipment point. It then examines the post-Spanish period when the Colombian province of Panama became a forgotten backwater until European powers began vying for canal rights, leading to an ill-fated French effort. The main portion of the book details the events, figures, and intricacies of the Panama-U.S. relationship, which dominated Panama's history for the entire 20th century. It closes with an examination of the gains and challenges the country has faced in the post-U.S. invasion years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a good historical overview of a nation that has impacted the world's economy since the American built canal was opened in 1914. Yet there is still a bit of ignorance about Panama. This

book correctly points out that Panama was for a short period fully independent of Colombia. Panama joined Gran Colombia under the leadership of Simon Bolivar. Later when Gran Colombia was dissolved, Panama was enticed to remain part of Colombia on being promised a large degree of autonomy. That promise was quickly ignored. Thus up to 1903 when Panama with heavy support from President Theodore Roosevelt separated from Colombia, Panama had no less than 82 uprisings against the domineering Bogota government. In short, Panama was an ignored and even an abused part of Colombia for about 80 years. This book addresses that reality and others quite effectively. For more academically sound information, readers may want to explore the historical treasure trove at the Panama Canal Museum housed at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. NB: Dr. Mellander has a Ph.D. in Latin American history and has written several books on Panama.

Lots I didn't know about Panama. That is likely true for most of us. A great first read. This is more of a basic guide but you can go on and read more Panamanian history with the lengthy list of resource materials Mr. Harding provides. For those more "canal specific" interests, the best book out there is David McCullough's wonderful "Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal". The audio version read by the wonderful Edward Herrmann is excellent.

http://www..com/Path-Between-Seas-Creation-1870-1914/dp/0743530187/ref=tmm_abk_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&sr=&qid=

Fascinating straightforward facts of how the U.S. influenced and helped create the current geopolitical Central American country of Panama. read it, you'll like it for the events never mentioned in modern history books.

This order arrived sooner than expected. Great customer service. This book, in addition to other books on Panama, is meeting my expectations. There is an old misconception about the History of Panama. Many historians believe that Panama was all ways a Colombian territory or province. Panama, upon its liberation from Spanish rule (1519-1821), joined Gran Granada also known as Gran Colombia. There were other territories that comprised this Bolivian idea of a collective nation building, (Venezuela, Peru, part of Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, and Panama). It existed as this collective from 1819-1831, than it dissolved. Colombia became a Latin American nation. Panama remained a territorial part of this new nation until 1903. Panama geographical location complicated its status: Dissolution of Gran Granada, The Gold Rush and commercial railroad building in

Panama, the Panama Canal Company originally constructed by the French canal builders financial inability to pay for more construction due to bankruptcy, and the U.S.'s geopolitical interests in completing the Panama Canal 1904-1914, at a high human costs. Panama eventually regained its canal and imperialism of the old evolved into a Panamanian dictatorship from 1968-1989, which ended with the downfall of the last modern Panamanian dictator, General Manuel A. Noriega.

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