

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Leading to the U.S. overthrow of the Guatemalan President

1899

The United Fruit Company (UFC) is formed.

1936

Guatemalan President Jorge Ubico gives UFC total exemption from taxation and duty-free importation.

1944

A pro-democracy movement led by students, teachers, and labor unions forces Ubico to resign.

1945

Juan José Arévalo, a teacher, takes office as the first popularly elected president of Guatemala.

1946

The Guatemalan Congress passes the first Social Security Law, modeled after the United States' New Deal.

1947

The Labor Code (modeled after an American act) is formed which protects workers and labor unions.

1948

Arévalo forms a National Production Institute to aid small farmers.

1951

Jacobo Arbenz becomes the second democratically-elected president of Guatemala.

1952

Decree 900, also known as the Agrarian Reform Law, is enacted in Guatemala.

1953

UFC starts a newsletter on Guatemalan politics and sends it to more than 250 American journalists.

The official decision to overthrow Arbenz is made, with President Eisenhower's approval.

1954

UFC public relations plans a campaign to instill suspicion and fear in the U.S. about Guatemala's intentions.

CIA plants Soviet-marked weapons inside Guatemala to make it appear that Russians have a foothold there.

Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, recruits Carlos Castillo Armas as the dictator to succeed Arbenz.

The CIA begins a clandestine, fake radio campaign and psychological warfare against Guatemala.

The CIA establishes training camps in Nicaragua and Honduras and supplies them with weapons.

Castillo Armas leads invading troops into Guatemala, and Arbenz resigns.

1960-96

A Civil War in Guatemala leads to the genocide of over 200,000 Guatemalans.

1999

The U.S. apologizes for decades of supporting Guatemalan security forces in the brutal slaughter of its civilians.





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