

The book was found

# Paper Cadavers: The Archives Of Dictatorship In Guatemala (American Encounters/Global Interactions)



## Synopsis

In *Paper Cadavers*, an inside account of the astonishing discovery and rescue of Guatemala's secret police archives, Kirsten Weld probes the politics of memory, the wages of the Cold War, and the stakes of historical knowledge production. After Guatemala's bloody thirty-six years of civil war (1960–1996), silence and impunity reigned. That is, until 2005, when human rights investigators stumbled on the archives of the country's National Police, which, at 75 million pages, proved to be the largest trove of secret state records ever found in Latin America. The unearthing of the archives renewed fierce debates about history, memory, and justice. In *Paper Cadavers*, Weld explores Guatemala's struggles to manage this avalanche of evidence of past war crimes, providing a firsthand look at how postwar justice activists worked to reconfigure terror archives into implements of social change. Tracing the history of the police files as they were transformed from weapons of counterinsurgency into tools for post-conflict reckoning, Weld sheds light on the country's fraught transition from war to an uneasy peace, reflecting on how societies forget and remember political violence.

## Book Information

File Size: 7982 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0822356023

Publisher: Duke University Press Books (February 26, 2014)

Publication Date: February 26, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00JRUUK9TQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #502,934 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #56

in Books > History > Americas > Central America > Guatemala #197 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > History > Americas > Latin America > Central America #685 in Books > Politics &

Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin

## Customer Reviews

What it is: A much-needed examination of the Guatemalan National Police archive consisting of 75 million papers documenting the forced disappearances of "subversives" during the 1970s-1980s. The book does NOT investigate specific documents in the archive, but rather theorizes about what an archive is and provides information on the process of creating the archive. The book was valuable to me as someone studying this topic and as someone whose family member "disappeared" during this era. More detail: For many Guatemalans, these official documents hold the promise of closure: disclosing what happened to their family members. However, as Weld emphasizes archives aren't just there for us to simply "download" or extract information from. They must be organized/mediated, and contain gaps and errors. She provides an in-depth background of how the archive was initially kept in order to surveil and scare individuals into submission (people did not want to be marked or placed in a police file), and she discusses the National Police's role in the disappearances. Weld then moves on to discuss how activists took up the 75 million documents, decades later, taking on the daunting task of ordering them. They also repurposed the documents as a tool to seek social justice and democracy; in essence, they turned the archive into a threat for state authorities because they hold incriminating information. Why it's important: Weld's study is the first of its kind to investigate the archives of the nation that initiated the practice of forced disappearance in Latin America. It is also significant because the disappearances in the city remain relatively understudied compared to the massacres/genocide that occurred in the highlands.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Linked Labor Histories: New England, Colombia, and the Making of a Global Working Class (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Confronting the American Dream: Nicaragua under U.S. Imperial Rule (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Blazing Cane: Sugar Communities, Class, and State Formation in Cuba, 1868â€“1959 (American Encounters/Global Interactions) The Dictator's Seduction: Politics and the Popular Imagination in the Era of Trujillo (American Encounters/Global Interactions) The Dictator Next Door: The Good Neighbor Policy and the Trujillo Regime in the Dominican Republic, 1930-1945 (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Tropical Zion: General Trujillo, FDR, and the Jews of SosÃ³a (American Encounters/Global Interactions) From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender,

Labor, and Globalization in Nicaragua (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Emperors in the Jungle: The Hidden History of the U.S. in Panama (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States (American Encounters/Global Interactions) Top 100 Drug Interactions 2016: A Guide to Patient Management (Hansten, Top 100 Drug Interactions) Processing the Past: Contesting Authority in History and the Archives (Oxford Series on History and Archives) The Undead: Organ Harvesting, the Ice-Water Test, Beating Heart Cadavers--How Medicine Is Blurring the Line Between Life and Death Honeymoons In Guatemala: A travel guide of Guatemala, a honeymoon planner and some romance advice Guatemala y sus Orquideas / Guatemala and its Orchids (Spanish and English Edition) True Bigfoot Stories: Horrifying Encounters Of Bigfoot Horror: What Would You Do? What's The Truth? (True Bigfoot Stories, Cryptozoology, True Bigfoot ... True Bigfoot Encounters, Predator Book 1) The Law of the Sea and the Polar Regions: Interactions between Global and Regional Regimes (Publications on Ocean Development) Broccoli and Desire: Global Connections and Maya Struggles in Postwar Guatemala Terror in the Land of the Holy Spirit: Guatemala under General Efraín Ríos Montt 1982-1983 (Religion and Global Politics)

[Dmca](#)