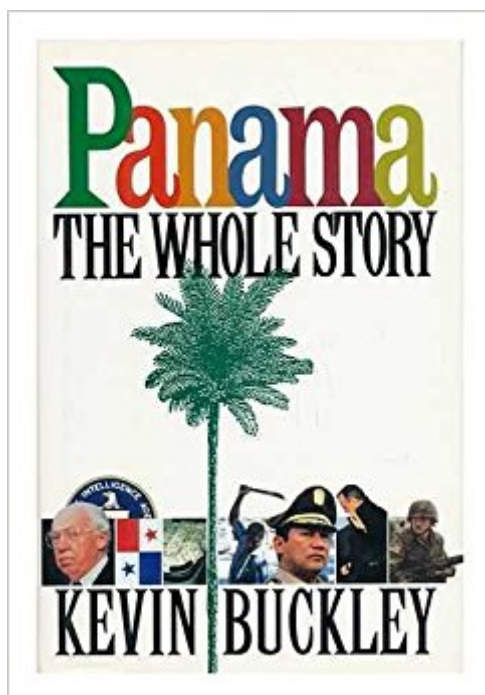


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Panama: The Whole Story



Synopsis

Written by a seasoned journalist and updated to include Noriega's trial, this account of U.S. involvement in Panama "reads like a spy thriller" (Publishers Weekly). Buckley shows that U.S. policymakers were fully aware of Noriega's drug-trafficking activities and his association with the Medellin cocaine cartel when they worked with him. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

In a tense narrative that reads like a spy thriller, Buckley traces Manuel Noriega's ascension to power and his ties to the U.S. government. The book begins with an account of the murder of Noriega opponent Hugo Spadafora in 1985, which set in motion the chain of events culminating in Operation Just Cause in December 1989. Buckley raises questions about the invasion ("the single bloodiest event in Panama's history") and suggests that very little benefit to either side was accomplished other than the ouster of Noriega. The author describes Noriega's daily life in the "Dictator's Suite" at the Metropolitan Correctional Center near Miami and explains how his "long record of service" to Washington is in large part responsible for the bizarre legal tangle that threatens to delay his trial indefinitely. A former Newsweek bureau chief in Saigon, Buckley presents a gripping account of Central American-style hubris in action and grievous foreign-policy bungling on the part of the Americans. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The author, a former Newsweek correspondent, vividly describes events leading up to the "Just Cause" invasion of Panama by U.S. troops. His book covers the complexities of Panamanian

political intrigues, the corruption, the political culture, the involvement of the United States with Manuel Noriega, and the interaction between Noriega and the major domestic and international actors from 1986 through January 1990. Using details and anecdotal information, Buckley fleshes out the motivations and actions of each character, maintaining throughout a sense of suspense and mystery, even for the specialist familiar with the events. Highly recommended for all libraries.-

Roderic A. Camp, Central Coll., Pella, Ia. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kevin Buckley exhausts a good amount of energy in his research on Manuel Noriega and to some extent on Panama's evolution as a nation. He states that "Panama was a US creation." There are many who would side with Mr. Buckley, including the Historian David McCullough. I strongly disagree with both of these men. First, Panama had close to 300 years under Spanish rule. It was a Spanish territory under the El Nuevo Reino de Nueva Granada. Colombians would argue vehemently that this Nuevo Reino de Nueva Granada was Colombia. It would be so far from the truth; it would be like saying "Colombians discovered the Americas." This would not be true, either. It was a Spanish centralized government and Panama, New Granada (Later known as Colombia) and Venezuela were governed as Spanish colonies. Where Mr. Buckley and Mr. McCullough have failed to see historical facts and information has been in one historical point: The Beginning of Panama's Spanish colonial system to its declaration of Spanish rule on November 28, 1821; its decision to join "Voluntarily" not Colombia or New Granada but a "collective union," known as Gran Colombia, in 1822. In 1830, Gran Colombia disintegrated due to Bogota's power vacuum and political greediness to usurp more and more power at others expenses, Ecuador and Venezuela. Panama had no choice but to remain as a Colombian* (*The name changed 5 times to finally the Republic of Colombia in 1863) province. There were no fewer than 50 attempts at secession from Colombia. Colombia exploited Panama by have treaties signed such as the Bidlack-Mallarino, to prevent Panamanians from seceding from Colombian rule. The US got involved and assisted Panama in gaining its separation from Colombia, taking control of the Panama Canal 1904-1999 and no "Panamanian ever signed the original treaty, ZERO! It was deceptive from the very beginning. So, if Mr. Buckley and Mr. McCullough wish to challenge this information or anyone else, read Robert C. Harding's book on the History of Panama; Alex Venero's "Before the Five Frontiers

My friend Kevin has a way of putting the reader directly into every page.

Since 1989, when the United States invaded Panama, there have been no shortage of books

looking to explain what exactly led up to the American intervention there. Who is Noriega? What did he do to make himself so useful to the United States government in the early 1980s, and how did he fall from grace so spectacularly? Buckley's book is good, very good, and worth a read for any student of central American history, foreign policy, United States military history, and the like. It was also used as a source for David Harris' excellent book, "Shooting the Moon," which I recommend wholeheartedly (it's actually better than this one is).

I enjoyed reading through this history on Panama. I have very little background on South and Central America and this book definitely helps illuminate the dark

The book is about the history of Panama in 1985-1989. In it is described as Noriega goes to be the man of the United States of America to Panama in an undesirable. According to the author, this transformation begins when Noriega refused to cooperate and provide Panama to prepare the Contras trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua and to cooperate with other Central paramilitary movements. Also refused to agree to bases in Panama. From his little collaboration begins the campaign in a U.S. newspaper and supported by some Panamanians ends with the invasion of Panama. The book is incredibly objective despite being written by an American citizen who writes things as they are. It is highly recommended for those who wish to have a true knowledge of the facts and why of things. When you write this type of review, it appears that they are not useful, but it is an objective review of the book, is my opinion of the work, not of events. Rate the review is not helpful not just because you disagree with what it says does not think it is the aim of qualifying them (the review).

Buckley shows how America sometimes creates its own problems. This is shown by the rise and fall of Manuel Antonio Noriega (MAN for short). MAN played both sides of the street. He supported the Contras and yet also supported the Marti front in El Salvador. He turned in drug smugglers but also facilitated the mass importation of cocaine to the U.S. from Columbia. Yet the United States supported him until he became an embarrassment to U.S. Foreign policy. Bush I met with him twice. MAN was also a killer. He used his PDF to suppress the opposition. MAN was also a drunk most of his waking hours. Why the U.S. ever supported him is beyond me. Buckley shows the contradictions in U.S. policy. Eventually, the U.S. had to use extreme force in Operation Just Cause to topple MAN's regime. This is a nice read about an embarrassment in U.S. Foreign policy. For another nice read on the same subject see "In the Time of Tyrants". The only improvement in this book would be

the addition of pictures.

Cheap yet works perfectly. OK The product has an excellent edge, works wonderfully on my homemade bread! she says it is very beautiful , good product with high quality.

This is a good primer on the history of Panama but it stops in 1989. I haven't found a book that goes past 1989 yet.

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