



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Global Reading: Central America

Global Reading: Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama.

DB15373 Men of Maize: The Modernist Epic of the Guatemalan
Indians by Miguel Angel Asturias (magical realism fiction)

A rich, colorful allegory by a Nobel Prize-winning author centers on the conflict between Indians and aggressive reformers in Guatemala. Some strong language. 1967 Nobel Prize. 1949 (Guatemala)

DB43456 The Inhabited Woman by Gioconda Belli (magical realism fiction)
Aristocrat Lavinia Alarcon returns to her Latin American home to begin work after her university studies in Italy. At first an apolitical yuppie, she is gradually drawn into a guerilla movement under the influence of a fifteenth-century female rebel, whose spirit resides at Lavinia's home. Descriptions of sex. 1988. (Nicaragua)

DB20153 One Day Of Life by Manlio Argueta (historical fiction)
Protest novel reconstructs a day in the life of a peasant woman caught up in the brutal violence of El Salvador. Strong language and graphic descriptions of violence. 1980. (El Salvador)

DB19742 Salvador by Joan Didion (political essay)
In 1982 novelist and screenwriter Didion traveled to El Salvador with her author-husband in search of first-hand impressions about the turbulent situation there. This report relays the climate of terror and uncertainty that Didion encountered and also depicts the fear that surrounds daily life. 1982. (El Salvador)

DB62242 The Girl From Chimel by Rigoberta Menchú (juvenile biography)
Rigoberta's account of her childhood in Chimel, Guatemala, blends her memories with Mayan myths, beginning with her grandfather's founding of the village. She recalls dry season hardships and good time pleasures, as well as the lessons of peace and harmony taught by her ancestors. For grades 4-7. 2000. (Guatemala)

DB77695 The African Shore by Rodrigo Rey Rosa (literature)

Tangier. A mysterious owl connects two men: a shepherd who dreams of migrating to Spain while doing odd jobs at night for his uncle and a Colombian tourist who wanders the city while waiting to reclaim his passport. Translated from Spanish. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2013. (Guatemala)

DB47512 Our Man In Belize by Richard Timothy Conroy (biography)

Memoir of an American who served as vice-consul in Belize for two years in the early 1960s. He admits that his accounts of his experiences and the people he met there have "taken on a life of their own." But he does clearly remember the devastating hurricane of 1961. Some strong language. 1997. (Belize)

DB66585 Panama Fever: The Epic Story Of One Of The Greatest Human Achievements Of All Time- The Building Of The Panama Canal
by Matthew Parker (Panama)

History of the engineering feat of constructing the Panama Canal, which was begun by France in the 1880s but completed by the United States in 1914. Highlights the imperial vision behind the canal and the social inequities that befell its labor force. Some violence. 2007.

DB116984 The History Of Costa Rica by Monica Rankin (world history)

This chronologically organized volume documents the area's earliest inhabitants, then moves on through the colonial period, the process of nation-state formation in the 19th century, the volatile period of liberal reform, and the era of civil war and its aftermath. 2012.

DB115541 The History Of Honduras by Thomas Leonard (world history)

The History of Honduras provides a comprehensive history of the small Latin American country, detailing Honduras's geography and current political systems with emphasis on its politics and cultural life. Recent coups and political controversy make Honduras an important Central American nation for today's students to study and understand. 2010.