

broad transition away from highland Quito and its focus on rural indigenous people, toward lowland Guayaquil and its urban working class, and away from traditional Marxist class struggle toward multi-class collaboration. The transition toward moderation blurred ideological lines, as well as the lines between the personal and the political. Even though internal tensions may have inhibited the PCE's influence in formal politics, Becker argues that the party's shift toward grassroots organizing in the second half of the decade paved the way for the emergence of the new left of the 1960s.

The author's sympathy for the PCE does not prescribe his analysis, nor do his conclusions feel overdetermined. Becker's meticulous attention to detail—a product of his commitment to including the evidence—establishes his credibility. He handles sensitive material with appropriate care, leaving no meat on the archival bones provided by US intelligence, and making clear when he is reading against the grain of the (obviously unreliable) source material. The results are totally convincing. However, although Becker gives secondary attention to ways in which indigenous identity politics figured into the PCE's program, explicit reference to the Afro-descendant population is almost completely missing here—a surprising omission given the party's ongoing demographic transformation.

Those expecting a book about secret agents, covert operations, and subverted democracy may feel misled by the title, but this is an excellent case study of the 1950s in Latin America, a period too long dismissed as prologue to the 1960s. As the Cold War intensified, Ecuador may not have been the eye of the storm, but the story of the Ecuadorian left tells us a great deal about the left in Latin America as a whole.

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SISTER CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND EL SALVADOR

Long Journey to Justice: El Salvador, the United States, and Struggles Against Empire. By Molly Todd. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2021. Pp. 272. \$79.95 cloth. doi:10.1017/tam.2022.23

Molly Todd explores the long-standing sister-cities relationship that brought together progressive activists in the United States and rural activists in El Salvador. The civil war in El Salvador, originating in the early 1970s and intensifying in the 1980s, displaced a significant portion of the country's population, mostly in rural areas. In the mid 1980s, a repopulation movement emerged, with the goal of the displaced returning to their abandoned communities. With encouragement and assistance from the country's

largest politico-military organization, the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), rural activists in refugee camps developed links to US activists and together established the sister cities program, the first one linking Madison, Wisconsin, with Arcatao, in the department of Chalatenango.

According to Todd, this sistering network was not only novel but also helped to dismantle the authoritarian system in El Salvador by pressuring both the Salvadoran state and the US government. Moreover, while the peace accords that ended the war in 1992 dealt mostly with democratization rather than the socioeconomic roots of the war, activists in El Salvador and the United States were able to push for progressive changes in health, education, and mining operations, in what Todd describes as a grassroots process for creating a better, more just El Salvador.

To make her case, Todd uses secondary sources as well as archives from the network of progressive organizations that comprised the US-El Salvador sister-cities network that sprouted in the United States and in El Salvador in the 1980s, though pointing out that the documentation in El Salvador, as might be expected, is much less available. Todd begins by examining the origins of the sister-cities network, pointing out that Salvadorans in the United States were instrumental in encouraging US activists to organize on behalf of the human and political crisis in El Salvador. Although the sistering relation was unequal because activists in the US had more resources, Salvadorans were instrumental in the process. A key goal of the sistering project was to raise awareness in the United States about the humanitarian crisis in El Salvador and the role of the US government in that crisis, prompting US citizens to take action.

Todd then moves on to show that these efforts at raising the consciousness of US citizens paid off: a great deal of pressure on the Salvadoran state and Washington allowed displaced peasants to return to their communities and take on a greater political role in their communities. The second half of the book moves to the postwar era, though Todd argues that the sistering movement that emerged during the war had a definitive impact on the peace negotiations as well as post-conflict El Salvador. Grassroots organizing in both the United States and El Salvador helped to undermine the Salvadoran authoritarian structures and the ensuing political structures. Moreover, the sistering movement also helped to change Salvadoran social and economic structures.

This well-researched and well-written book is the first attempt to examine the transnational relationship that emerged between cities in the United States and countries in Central America, mostly Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, in the 1980s. More importantly, the book attempts to show that this transnational social movement not only led to important political and socioeconomic changes, but also had the potential to create a more just and participatory society. At the same time, Todd acknowledges the difficulties that these groups encountered, pointing out that the journey toward peace and justice is a long-term and difficult process.

This book will be of interest to anyone interested in international human rights, social movements, grassroots organizing, progressive politics, and El Salvador.

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LULA'S EARLY RISE TO PROMINENCE

Lula and His Politics of Cunning: From Metalworker to President of Brazil. By John D. French. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020. Pp. 520. \$29.95 cloth.

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John French takes on a complex and admirable task in his biography of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, broadly known as “Lula.” His subject is arguably one of Brazil’s most consequential political figures, along with Dom Pedro II and Getúlio Vargas. Unlike those other men, Lula is not only still alive—he is also mounting a campaign to return to the presidency, which he occupied from 2003 to 2011.

French is the ideal scholar to undertake a project such as this. He has long focused on the politics of organized labor in Brazil, and he is a keen observer of the relationship between unions and leftist political parties. And, that orientation shapes this biography. The real strength of the book, and in some significant ways also its weakness, is the focus on Lula’s style of leadership at the union level. This biography is a throwback to the old days of “Great Man” history, which French makes clear in an afterword defending that focus. Indeed, the question usually posed by biographies of people who lead social and political movements is whether that person made the movement, or the movement made the person. Unlike most biographers who see some nuance in this equation, French is clear throughout that Lula and his “politics of cunning” made the movement and altered Brazilian politics.

The book has several strengths that make it a valuable contribution to the historiography. French concentrates his research and analysis on Lula’s childhood and young adult years, along with his rise to prominence in the Metalworkers Union in São Paulo’s industrial suburbs. The material on Lula’s early years is very well done, but French is at his best in describing his early work years and his introduction to life in the union. In these chapters, Lula learns much from his more radical brother, Frei Chico, and the union functionaries and leadership, especially its long-serving president, Paulo Vidal.

As well done as these sections are, the real genius of the book is in French’s careful reconstruction of Lula’s rise to the union presidency. The book painstakingly details the personalities and politics that Lula navigated in the 1970s and the ways changing