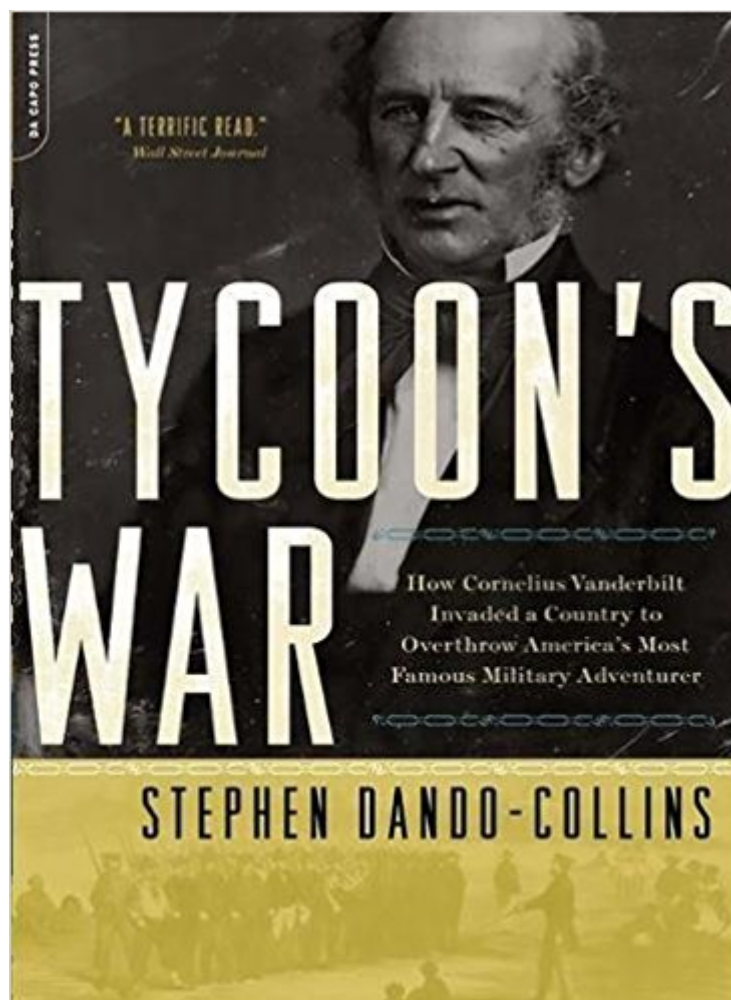




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Tycoon's War: How Cornelius Vanderbilt Invaded A Country To Overthrow America's Most Famous Military Adventurer



Synopsis

Written by a master storyteller, Tycoon's War is the remarkable account of an epic imperialist duel; a violent battle of the capitalist versus the idealist, money versus ambition, and a monumental clash of egos that resulted in the deaths of thousands of Americans. This incredible true story; impeccably researched and never before told in full; is packed with greed, intrigue, and some of the most hair-raising battle scenes ever written.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dando-Collins (Caesar's Legion) recounts the conflict between tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt and adventurer William Walker over the control of Nicaragua from 1855 to 1857. Walker, with mercenary support, entered Nicaragua's civil war in 1855 on the side of the Democratico forces against the Legitimistas. Historians have seen the Tennessee native as wishing to reintroduce slavery to Nicaragua and encourage settlement by American Southerners. Dando-Collins claims that Walker initially acted out of personal ambition, seeking to emulate Sam Houston of Texas. Only after he was elected president of Nicaragua in 1856 did he turn to slaving-holding interests to support colonization and to bring in African labor. Dando-Collins's basis for his defense of Walker? That he came from a family hostile to slavery and there is no record that he supported the practice of slavery himself. Even if the paper trail is not there, Walker's willingness to reintroduce and thus expand slavery demonstrates tolerance for the institution and/or unscrupulous desire for power. His actions put him into conflict with Vanderbilt, who controlled a major portion of shipping routes that used Nicaragua as overland transit between the Atlantic and Pacific. After the Democratico government

seized his company's assets, Vanderbilt, with the tacit encouragement of the U.S. government, supplied Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador with money for arms to depose Walker in 1857. While Dando-Collins presents the story readably, his questionable historical interpretation limits his book's value. Only for academic collections seeking comprehensive coverage. --Stephen Hupp. West Virginia Univ. Lib., Parkersburg Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Magill Book Review, October 2009 "Highly recommended" •Bookgasm.com, 2/18/10 "A riveting read of battle and adventure in Central America of the 1850s" |An amazing story of how deeply entrenched Americans have been in Central American life and politics |If you have any interest in Central American history |this is a fascinating book, and well worth your time. •History in Review, 5/3/10 "A well-written history, with much interesting information, and it reads like a drama." •The Lone Star, November 2010 "Tells, for the first time, the complete story of this epic clash of wills" |Reveals the incredible truth behind Vanderbilt's legendary financial empire, showing just how far he was willing to go to keep it. This very interesting book will amaze you. •

Tycoon's War is the minor account of a potentially big story woven out of a short period in the lives of a shipping entrepreneur and a man with illusions of conquest grandeur. This brief encounter in the 1850s, based primarily on William Walker's recollections, inspires further research beyond Stephen Dando-Collins's rich narrative.

Vanderbilt's motivations are clear; to fill a need for speedy transport from the Atlantic to the Pacific after California was admitted to the Union and to get rich in the process. What compelled Walker is far less clear. Hints at the expansion of slavery are there but never developed. Also, why did Walker establish his capital in Granada rather than Masaya or León? These are important questions which once answered will provide a more thorough understanding of North American interest in Nicaragua that extends to the present day. Some readers may find the detailed accounts of the actual battles tedious and gratuitous but again Dando-Collins relies on the accounts of Walker and a few survivors for their moment of masculine glory [excuse the gender slight]. What I enjoyed very much about this book was the detailed process of travel from coast to coast. Ocean steamers to river steamers to lake steamers to overland coach to yet another ocean steamer. I hope the author considers a second study which explores the financial backing and the work of

recruitment in supplying the adventurers who joined Walker in his ill-fated venture at the isthmus crossing of Nicaragua in the 1850s.

A few years ago I was in Nicaragua and heard about the American adventurer named William Walker, (who actually was President for a short while). I never thought I would find a well written story about Walker and his life until I ran across this gem. A great historical story that is little known. Walker's demise seems to have been caused by picking the wrong side in a feud involving shipping passengers and gold during the gold rush of 1849...Vanderbilt had the money and the political connections that eventually overwhelmed Walker, notwithstanding the chaos in Central America at the time.

This book was recommended by a doctor friend in Costa Rica who has built a remarkable adventure lodge (eco, fishing, birding, kayaking, etc.) in the jungle at Greytown, a settlement prominent in the book. The book is very well written about an exciting part of Central American history. I recently traveled to the eastern part of Nicaragua one to see my friends lodge, Rio Indio (Indian River), but really became interested after I returned and read the "Tycoon's War". I frequent Costa Rica and love the beauty of the land which is typical to the Greytown area of Nicaragua. I have been on parts of the San Juan River where parts of the book takes place. For these reasons I have a special interest in the topic but I can still highly recommend this read to others vaguely interested in Nicaragua, adventure, Vanderbilt, the gold rush, etc.

Well written history text.

An interesting and informative account of a particular period in time in which American history and Nicaraguan history collided.

Like most modern, internet-age text, the writer's prose is very simple. Quotes from filibusters make evident that language has become lost color over time. He uses a few annoying modern ready-made phrases, such as "in order to physically reintroduce slavery". Physically makes no sense there, but nowadays it's often used common parlance in stead of more meaningful words.

A most revealing and interesting telling of the William Walker story his quest to control the Central American nation of Nicaragua and the interaction with Cornelius Vanderbilt.

The other side to William Walker's "The War in Nicaragua". Interesting times in this Central American country. Big money and big plans.

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