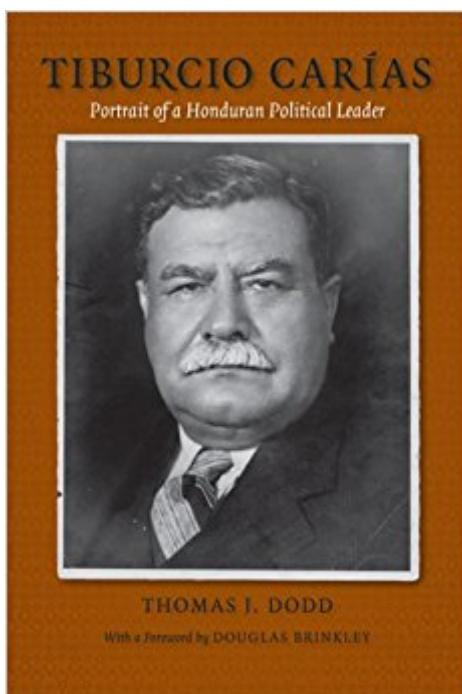


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# Tiburcio Carías: Portrait Of A Honduran Political Leader (Eisenhower Center Studies On War And Peace)



## Synopsis

Honduras's longest-serving head of government, Tiburcio CarÃ- as (1876--1969) was a larger-than-life figure who had the air of an ordinary, approachable person. During his rule from 1933 to 1949, he variously employed the tactics of a liberal, a conservative, a constitutionalist, and a dictator. Modern Honduras cannot be understood without comprehending his influence. In the -- amazingly -- first biography of this powerful Latin American caudillo, Thomas J. Dodd, a former ambassador to Uruguay and to Costa Rica, offers a vital, riveting account of CarÃ- as's life and career. Dodd shows CarÃ- as to have been a pragmatist and political survivor. His regime, unique in Central American and Caribbean history, was neither a brutal military government nor draconian and despotic. Unlike Somoza, Batista, Trujillo, and other contemporary dictators, CarÃ- as was not assassinated, driven from office, or exiled. He completed his term, stepped down, and remained active in Honduran politics until his death. The National Party he created remains a major political force to this day. Through extensive research into his subject, including correspondence with harsh critics as well as admirers, Dodd achieves a balanced assessment of CarÃ- as. The leader created domestic order and political and social stability when he unified his country. At the same time, he allowed local political chieftains and militias to remain in place. His reign was part of a larger sweep of Honduran history from the 1870s to 1949 that witnessed the rise of agrarian capitalism and U.S. domination of the nation's primary economic resource, banana exports. After CarÃ- as's death, thousands of Hondurans from across the ideological spectrum turned out to praise the former dictator as a "restorer of peace" and "benefactor of the nation." Dodd's superb combination of biography and political history explains CarÃ- as's rise to power and shows how the trajectory of his public career reflected the life of his country.

## Book Information

Series: Eisenhower Center Studies on War and Peace

Hardcover: 296 pages

Publisher: LSU Press (September 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807130370

ISBN-13: 978-0807130377

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #3,274,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > History > Americas > Central America > Honduras #1328 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Latin America #7947 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Presidents & Heads of State

## Customer Reviews

Thomas J. Dodd was U.S. ambassador to Uruguay and to Costa Rica in 1993--1997 and 1997--2001, respectively. He is now an adjunct professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He previously taught at Instituto Tecnologico de los Estudios Superiores in Mexico, in Georgetown's Department of History, and at American University's School of International Service. His other books are *Managing Democracy in Central America: A Case Study*; *United States Election Supervision in Nicaragua, 1927--1933*; and *The Panama Crisis, 1900--1904: Letters of Tomás Herrán*. He lives in Washington, D.C.

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