

Sandinista Revolution: An Era of Rebellion and Reform for the
Nicaraguans

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Group Website

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We chose our topic by considering many of the current political events occurring in the U.S. We chose the Sandinista Revolution as it shows connection to the major geo-political issue of current U.S. involvement in Latin America through providing an example of previous U.S. intervention during the Cold War. The revolution directly relates to the annual theme of Revolution and Reform as it is a revolution itself, and it resulted in major reforms both in Nicaragua and internationally. We chose to do a website as it is easier to make look presentable than something like an exhibit, and there are tutorials readily available to help with the website creation. It was also familiar for some of our members that had previously made websites and so had some level of knowledge.

We searched for several online sources (both primary and secondary) when researching, aiming to gather information from different perspectives, those mainly separated into the U.S. perspective (a majority of the available sources) and that of others. The primary sources are meant to provide opinions on the revolution during the time of the revolution (as well as pictures of people), while the secondary sources are more for the purpose of providing an overview of the events and buildup. During this first major search, there wasn't really any kind of focus while searching for data, just trying to get any data available. We then looked for sources that specifically talked about the relation to the Contras and U.S. involvement as that was a key focus that we wanted to mention.

In order to prepare for making the website, we took notes on all of our gathered sources and then assimilated these notes on one main google document. These notes were categorized into groups like background information, main events, etc. We then made similar categories on our website and used the notes from each category on the google document in order to write (relatively) short blurbs of information. After doing so, we selected images or other media that went along well with what was written and added them to our website. We struggled with getting everything done in a timely manner, but in the end it all worked out.

Our historical argument is that due to the previous failure of Nicaraguan resistance against U.S. imperialism combined with the rise and rule of the autocratic Somoza family, the Sandinista Movement was formed. It endeavored to complete what revolutionary Augusto Sandino failed to do in the past, which was to bring democracy and self-rule back to Nicaragua. This consequently ignited the spirit of reform in other

Latin American countries, and brought left-wing groups into the main sphere of international politics. The current president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, was a key figure in the Sandinista Movement, a testament to the fact that the movement greatly influenced the Nicaraguan government along with the governments of other Latin American countries.