

Notes

- 1 For excerpts of Alvarado's account, see Roque Dalton, *Las Historias Prohibidas del Pulgarcito* (San Salvador: UCA Editores, 1988), pp. 9–17.
- 2 The story of *La Matanza* is told in great detail in Thomas P. Anderson, *Matanza: El Salvador's Communist Revolt* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1971).
- 3 William Durham, *Scarcity and Survival in Central America: The Ecological Origins of the Soccer War* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1979), p. 48.
- 4 For a moving collection of first person stories of the popular church in El Salvador, see Scott Wright, *A Spring Whose Waters Never Run Dry* (Washington, DC: EPICA, 1990).
- 5 Among the best treatments of the remarkable life of Monseñor Romero, are James R. Brockman, *Romero: A Life* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989) or María López Vigil, *Piezas Para un Retrato* (San Salvador: UCA Editores, 1993).
- 6 This figure is very difficult to confirm because of the large amount of covert aid for which there has never been a proper accounting. See Benjamin Schwarz, *American Counterinsurgency Doctrine and El Salvador: the Frustrations of Reform and the Illusions of Nation Building* (Washington, DC: The Rand Corporation, 1992), p.2.
- 7 Testimony taken from *Project Salvador Update* (translation by Patty Lawless), October 1996, pp 1–2.
- 8 Teresa Whitfield, *Paying the Price: Ignacio Ellacuría and the Murdered Jesuits of El Salvador* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994), Chapter 10.
- 9 IDESES/CRIES, *Proceso de paz en El Salvador: La solución política negociada* (Managua & San Salvador: CRIES, 1992).
- 10 For a good summation of the content of the peace accord, see Jack Spence, et. al., *A Negotiated Revolution? A Two Year Progress Report on the Salvadoran Peace Accords* (Cambridge, MA: Hemisphere Initiatives, 1994).
- 11 Interview with Anders Kompass, then Director of UNDP office in San Salvador, March 1994.
- 12 Doug Farah, "Salvadorans Still Up in Arms Over Land Reform", *The Washington Post*, November 21, 1995, p. A12.
- 13 See Mitchell Seligson, et. al., *El Salvador Agricultural Policy Analysis Land Tenure Study*, (USAID Contracts Nos. DAN-4084-z-11-8034-00 and LAG-4084-C-00-2043-00), September 1993.
- 14 See Kevin Murray, et.al., *Rescuing Reconstruction: The Debate on Postwar Economic Recovery in El Salvador* (Cambridge, MA: Hemisphere Initiatives), 1994.
- 15 CIDAL, "Maquila Troubles," *Proceso*, November 6, 1996, p. 4 (English translation by publisher).
- 16 Alvaro de Soto & Graciela de Castillo, "Obstacles to Peacebuilding," *Foreign Policy*, Vol. 94 (Spring), pp.69–83.
- 17 For an in-depth analysis of this contradiction, see James K. Boyce (ed.), *Economic Policy for Building Peace: The Lessons of El Salvador* (Boulder: Lynne Reiner, 1996).
- 18 See, for example, USECOM, *Free and Fair: The Conduct of El Salvador's 1994 Elections* (Washington, DC: USECOM, 1994).
- 19 United Nations, *De La Locura a la Esperanza: La Guerra de 12 Años en El Salvador* (New York & San Salvador: United Nations, 1993), p. 132.
- 20 Quoted in, "Gender in Focus: Adjusting Development Strategies for Gender," *El Salvador Information Project*, San Salvador, September 1994.
- 21 For a complete discussion of the twisted tale of Finca El Espino, see Andrew Wheat, "El Salvador's Land Deform," *Multinational Monitor*, September 1996, pp. 16–19.
- 22 Sources include the UN Human Development Report for 1995, *Estudios Centroamericanos* for May-June 1994, and the Salvadoran government's 1994 *Multi-Purpose Household Survey*.
- 23 See the collected proceedings of a 1993 conference on just this theme in *Reforma Social y Pobreza* (New York: InterAmerican Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme, 1993).
- 24 *El Salvador: Meeting the Challenge of Globalization*, (Washington, DC: The World Bank, 1996), p. xiii.
- 25 Roberto Rubio Fabian, et. al., *Crecimiento estéril o desarrollo?* (San Salvador: Equipo Maíz, 1996).

Oxfam in El Salvador

Oxfam began working in El Salvador in 1970. Oxfam has always worked through communities, popular organisations, churches and NGOs, supporting and providing solidarity to the victims of the conflict and the poor.

Community organisations supported by Oxfam are helping people to acquire the technical and organisational skills which will give them

a secure livelihood. Reconciliation at community level and nationwide is giving people the confidence to build a more hopeful future – putting the old distrust and insecurity behind them.

Oxfam is funding reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in former war zones. In San Vicente, an area of heavy fighting which was abandoned during the war, Oxfam supports people who have returned to their communities in developing agricultural production and co-operatives. They have helped to establish community credit schemes and offer technical advice to small farmers, trying to encourage new ventures like fruit and dairy production in addition to corn. Oxfam also supports small coffee producers in their efforts to break through the monopolies and find new markets for their coffee in Europe and North America.

Oxfam funds women's projects, carrying out training and education programmes with women in former war zones, providing leadership training in communities which were affected by the war, to enable them to get together and lobby for their basic rights and those of their communities. With Oxfam's help, women are talking to local government authorities, and demanding services for their communities.

Urban poverty has reached dramatic levels and an increasing number of shanty town communities are ignored by mainstream government programmes. Oxfam supports organisations providing legal and technical assistance and training with the aim of helping these communities find self-sufficient ways of making a living. Oxfam also supports credit programmes for small-scale loans through communal banks. The credit is combined with training and technical help in business administration, basic financial administration and accounting.



Jenny Matthews / Oxfam

Facts and Figures

Land area: 20,720 sq. km.

Population: 5.94 million (1995)

Population growth rate: 3.3% p.a. (1990-94)

Urban population as percentage of total: 45%

Urban population average growth rate:
2.8% p.a. (1960-93)

Average number of children born per woman:
4 (1992)

Maternal mortality: 300 per 100,000 births

Infant mortality: 42 per 1,000 live births

Under-5 mortality: 56 per 1,000 live births

Percentage of children under 5 malnourished:
22% (1989-95 average)

Average life-expectancy: 67 (UK 76)

Adult literacy: 70% (72% men, 68% women)

GNP per capita: 1,320\$

External debt: 2,770 \$M

Average economic growth 1985-94:

2.2% p.a.

Public expenditure, as percentage of GNP:

military 1.7%;

education 1.8%;

health services 2.6%

One doctor for every 1,563 people

**Percentage of population with access to
health services:** 40%; **to safe water:** 55%;
to sanitation: 81%

Principal exports: *maquila* goods: 764.9\$M;
coffee: 339 \$M

Main trading partner:

53% of total exports to USA

Sources: Economic Intelligence Unit
Country Profile and Country Report;
UNDP, Human Development Report 1996;
World Bank World Development Report 1996.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to Mike Lanchin, who provided interviews, background material, and analysis, and who edited and commented on early drafts of the text. His understanding of the country and its people was of immense help to me in writing this book.

While I can not hope to mention all of the dozens of people who lent their support to this project, I would be particularly remiss if I did not recognise Ellen Coletti, who not only edited the text several times, but provided an

indispensable reality check throughout. Mark Smith wrote the original story about his neighbour, Santiago, and Jack Spence reviewed the entire text, avoiding many hideous factual errors. Simon, Yanci, Galio, Pati, and Arely at the Oxfam office in San Salvador opened their work to my prying eyes and guided me in the most helpful way possible. As usual, the responsibility for all errors and shortcomings is mine.
Kevin Murray, June 1997

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Sources and further reading

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