

The Ripple Effect – Source Document

“It’s estimated that over 150,000 Maya were killed between 1960 and 1996.”

“It’s estimated that of the 200,000 people killed during the Guatemalan Civil War, more than 80% were Indigenous Mayas.”

Human Rights Data Analysis Group. (1999). Guatemala: Memory of Silence. Commission for Historical Clarification.

<https://hrdag.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/CEHreport-english.pdf>

“...the CEH estimates that the number of persons killed or disappeared as a result of the fratricidal confrontation reached a total of over 200,000.” (p.17)

“Eighty-three percent of fully identified victims were Mayan and seventeen percent were Ladino.” (p.17)

“The United Fruit Company alone came to control 42% of Guatemala’s farmland in a period of just 20 years.”

Agyeman, O. (2014). Power, Powerlessness, and Globalization: Contemporary Politics in the Global South. Lexington Books.

“Under the dictatorial rule of Jorge Ubico beginning in 1931, the American-owned United Fruit Company (UFC) gained control of 42 percent of Guatemala’s land along with privileged exemption from taxes and import duties.” (p. 45)

“While the nation’s economy has more than tripled in size since the turn of the century...”

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=GT>

GDP, Guatemala, 2000: US\$19.29 billion

GDP, Guatemala, 2014: US\$57.85 billion (figure used, so as to line up with most recent poverty data)

GDP, Guatemala, 2021: US\$85.99 billion (most recent data available)

“... the number of people living in extreme poverty in Guatemala has actually *increased* by 32% over the same period,”

<https://ourworldindata.org/poverty>

Number of people living in extreme poverty, Guatemala, 2000: 1.11 million

Number of people living in extreme poverty, Guatemala, 2014: 1.46 million (most recent data available)

“... and more than three quarters of the rural population currently live below the national poverty line.”

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/rural-population-poverty-at-national-poverty-lines?tab=chart&country=GTM>

Share of rural population living below national poverty line, Guatemala, 2015: 76.1% (most recent data available)

“... with foodstuffs accounting for almost half the nation’s exports.”

<https://oec.world/en/profile/country/gtm>

Total export value, Guatemala, 2020: \$12.2 billion

Vegetable products and foodstuffs export value, Guatemala, 2020: \$5.97 billion

“Guatemala has the fourth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world – with 47% of children under five stunted by lack of food. For indigenous children, that figure is 58%.”

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/guatemala/overview>

“Guatemala has the fourth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world and the highest in LAC, with Indigenous and rural populations disproportionately affected. Chronic childhood malnutrition (and stunting) affects 47 percent of all children under the age of five, 58 percent of indigenous children, and 66 percent of children in the lowest income quintile.”

“In the days of The United Fruit Company, 3% of landowners owned more than 70% of the nation's arable land.”

Agyeman, O. (2014). *Power, Powerlessness, and Globalization: Contemporary Politics in the Global South*. Lexington Books.

“At the time... 2 percent of landowners controlled 70 percent of the arable land.” (p. 45)

“Today, they own around 65%...”

Dürr, J. (2016). *The political economy of agriculture for development today: the “small versus large” scale debate revisited*. *Agricultural Economics*, 47(6), 671–681. doi:10.1111/agec.12264

See Table 1: Guatemalan Commercial Farms (p. 675)

Farm Share – 3.2%; Land Share – 65.5%

“In the last ten years alone, over 100 human rights activists have been murdered in Guatemala.”

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/global-analysis>

According to Global Analysis Reports of Front Line Defenders from 2013 to 2021, 105 human rights activists have been killed in Guatemala.

“A report by the Solidarity Center identified 101 unionists who were killed between 2004 and 2018.”

Anner, M. (2021). *What Difference Does a Union Make? Banana Plantations in the North and South of Guatemala*. Solidarity Center.

<https://www.solidaritycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/What-Difference-Does-a-Union-Make-January-2021-1.pdf>

“From 2004 to 2018, 101 labor unionists were killed.” (p. 8)

“The number of Guatemalan’s being apprehended at the US border has increased by more than 400% in recent years...”

Bermeo et al. (2022). *Root Causes of Migration from Guatemala: Analysis of Subnational Trends*. *Duke Sanford Center for International Development*.

<https://dcid.sanford.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Migration-Policy-Brief-Guatemala-FINAL.pdf>

“Apprehensions of Guatemalans at the U.S. southern border averaged 61,000 people from 2012-2017, rising to 116,000 in 2018 and 264,000 in 2019, an increase of more than 400%.” (p. 1)

“As the US decreases its corn production in favour of biofuel plantations, for example, there is a direct impact on the price of corn for families below the poverty line in Guatemala.”

Rosenthal, E. (2013). *As Biofuel Demand Grows, So Do Guatemala’s Hunger Pangs*. *New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/06/science/earth/in-fields-and-markets-guatemalans-feel-squeeze-of-biofuel-demand.html>

“Now that the United States is using 40 percent of its crop to make biofuel, it is not surprising that tortilla prices have doubled in Guatemala, which imports nearly half of its corn.”

“Indeed, the UN estimates that of the US\$540 billion per year being spent on agricultural subsidies, 87% is environmentally and socially harmful.”

UN Environment Programme. (2021). *UN report calls for repurposing of USD 470 billion of agricultural support that distorts prices, environment and social goals*.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-report-calls-repurposing-usd-470-billion-agricultural-support>

“Yet 87 per cent of this support, approximately USD 470 billion, is price distorting and environmentally and socially harmful.”