

From Guatemala to Champaign-Urbana: A Global History of the Local Community

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The [Tienda Guatemala](#)
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Champaign Urbana Public Health District Informational Videos in Q'anjob'al



Local Facebook Event, Feb. 23, 2023

- “Masanil anima chi awtelay yin Swaxaq wajanil kuyoq q’anjob’al. Chi chalay anima ay yochwan chi kuy stxolilal q’anjob'al. Oxeb’ tzet yib’an hoqon kuywoq: tz’ib’elay q’anjob’al, gramatika yowalil yojtaq q'axponem q'anej, k'al jatnoj aj diksyonaryo yet traduksyon.

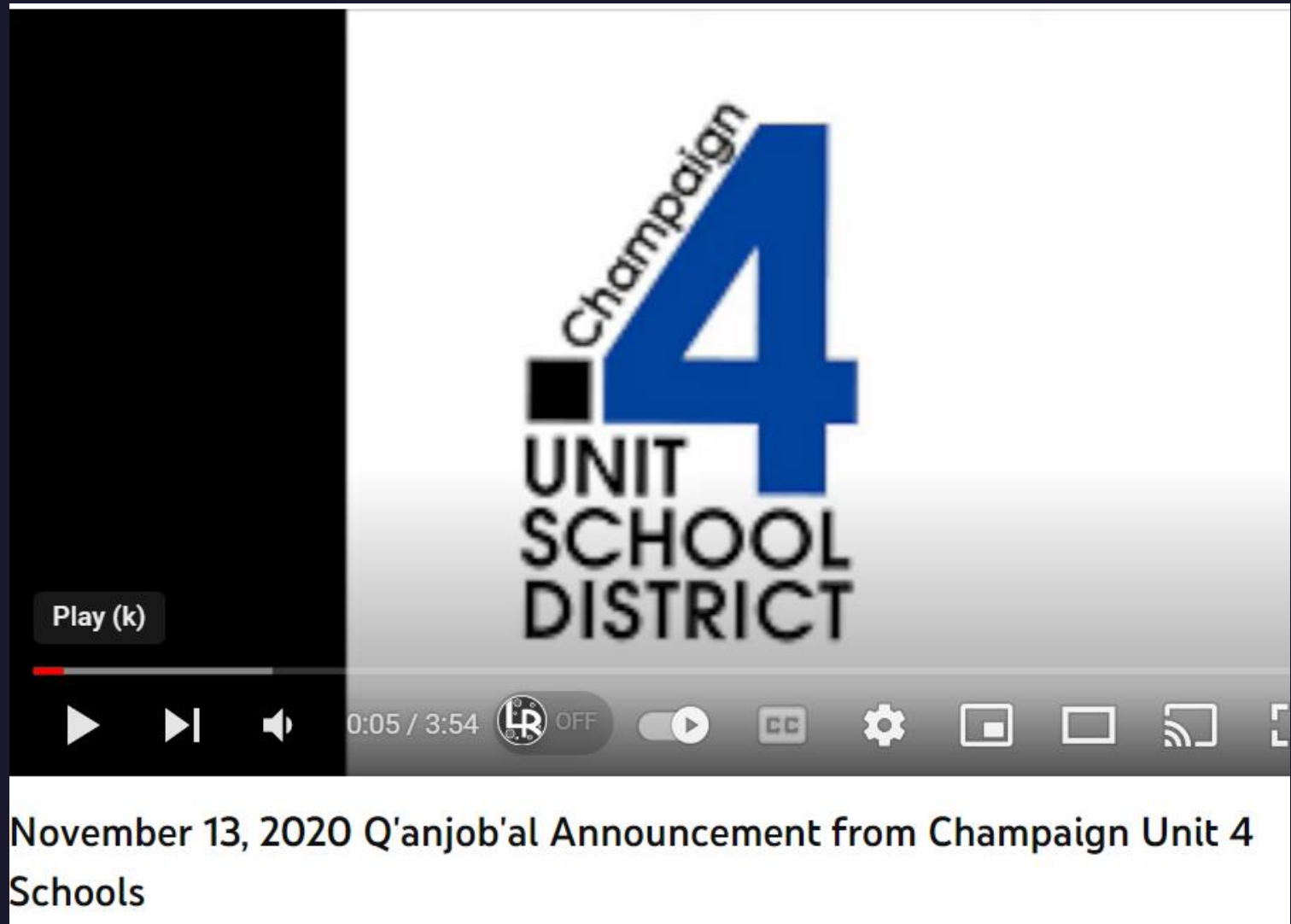
You are all invited to attend the Eighth workshop on the study of Q’anjob’al. It is open to all Q’anjob’al speakers interested in the language. The workshop will cover three topics: literacy in Q’anjob’al, grammatical topics for translation and dictionary building for translation

The screenshot shows a Facebook event page for a workshop. At the top left, there is a red bar with the number '23'. Below it, the dates 'FEB 23 AT 1 PM - FEB 26 AT 4 PM' are displayed in red. The event title is 'Taller de gramática q'anjob'al' in white, with the location 'Champaign Il' below it. A red banner on the right side of the page contains text in Q'anjob'al: 'anima ay yochwan chi kuy stxolilal q'anjob'al.' followed by a green double arrow icon and 'Oxeb' tzet yib'an hoqon kuywoq: tz'ib'elay q'anjob'al, gramatika yowalil yojtaq q'axponem q'anej, k'al jatnoj aj diksyonaryo yet traduksyon.' Below this banner, the text 'Sa'b'il kuyoq' is written in bold white. Further down, the event details are listed: 'B'aytal: Urbana Champaign, Illinois', 'Sk'uh'al: Febrero 23-25, 2023', and 'Sb'sil anima: 35 anima yin masanil (35 people)'. At the bottom left, there are links for 'About' and 'Discussion'. At the bottom right, there is a button with a star icon and the text 'Interested'.

WRFU Radio
Hour in
Q'anjob'al



Champaign Unit
4
School
[Announcement](#)
on Covid-related
changes



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The video content area displays the logo for Champaign Unit 4 School District, which features a large blue number '4' with the word 'Champaign' written diagonally across its top-left side. Below the '4' are the words 'UNIT', 'SCHOOL', and 'DISTRICT' stacked vertically in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The video player controls are visible at the bottom, including a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 0:05 / 3:54. The video title below the player reads: 'November 13, 2020 Q'anjob'al Announcement from Champaign Unit 4 Schools'.



2019 Snapshot

“Champaign County is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in Illinois outside of Chicagoland. In 2016, 1 in 10 county residents, 1 in 8 Champaign residents, and 1 in 5 Urbana residents were immigrants—joining our community from over 76 countries around the world”

23,000 immigrants in Champaign County (25,000 in US 2020 Census)

the Y FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

New Americans in Champaign County

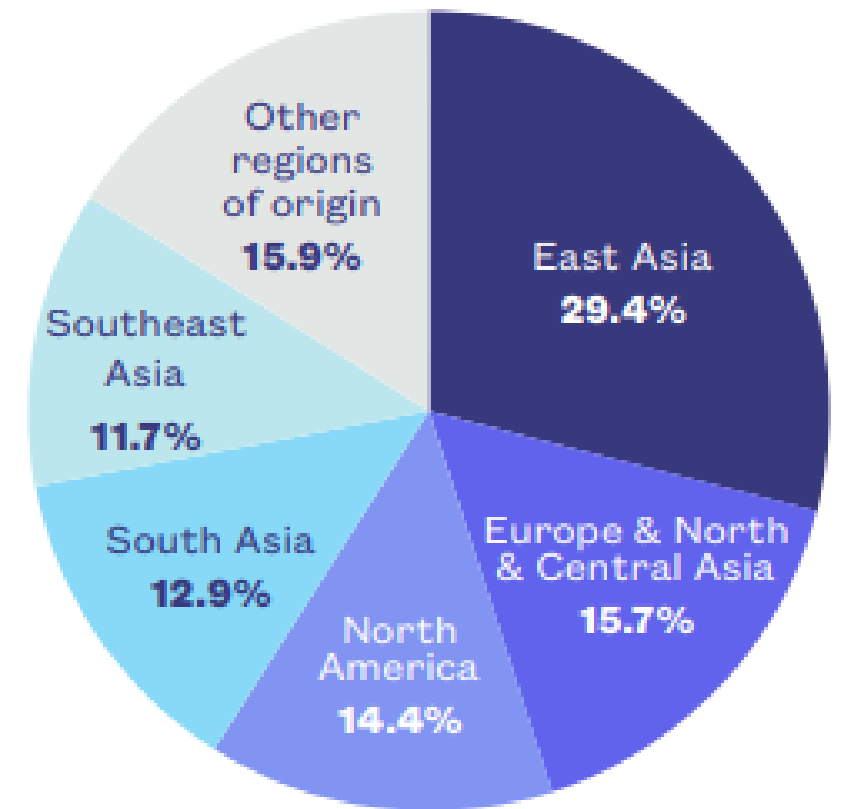
Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the County

YMCA of the University of Illinois
1001 South Wright Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
W: www.universityymca.org/welcome
P: 217-337-1500

Champaign County (NAWC Snapshot)

In 2016, the vast majority of the non-college student immigrant population* came from:

East Asia	e.g., China, Korea, & Taiwan
Europe & North & Central Asia	e.g., United Kingdom & Germany
North America	e.g., Mexico & Canada
South Asia	e.g., India & Pakistan
Southeast Asia	e.g., Philippines & Vietnam

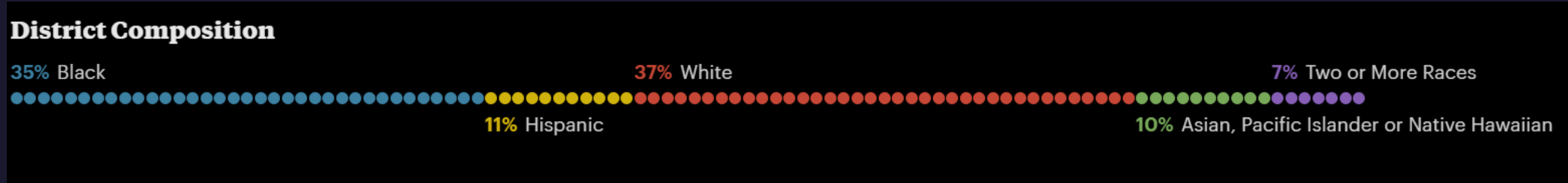


How to measure the community? In the US?

- “Since the onset of the pandemic, remittances have increased— from USD 10.5 billion in 2019 to USD 11.3 billion in 2020 and 15.3 billion in 2021—providing critical support to recipients as the rest of the economy contracted. In fact, the scale of remittances to Guatemala in 2020 almost equaled all of the country’s exports and far exceeded government revenue, and by 2021 had almost certainly surpassed both.”
- Estimated 44% increase in migration from Western Highlands 2013-2020 (IOM)
- Estimated (US census) 1.2 million Guatemalan Americans 2020

https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi-huehuetenango-report-eng_final.pdf

School Statistics Unit 4



- <https://projects.propublica.org/miseducation/district/1709420>
- Non-white students (63%) make up between 40-88% of the student body at Unit 4 schools. (2015-6 school year)
- The schools measure “Hispanic” (11%) but these are self identifications that are often underreported.





A brief geographic tour.
Population, land forms...

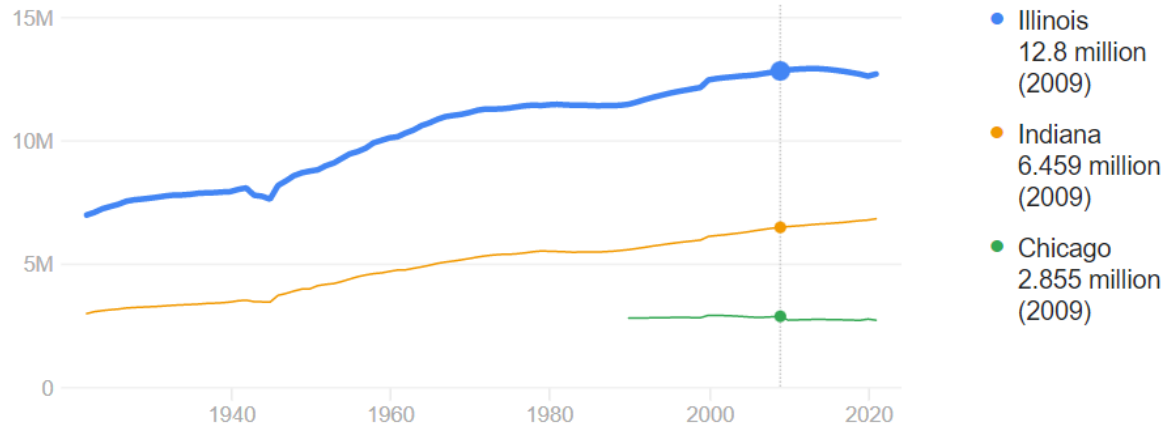


Guatemala
about 75% the
area of Illinois.
(108,000 sq Km
to 145,000 sq
km)



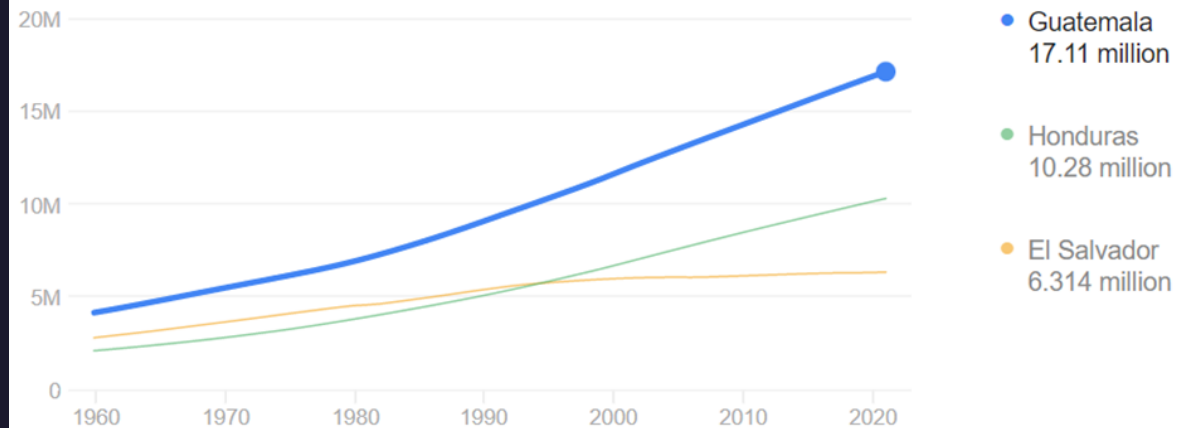
Population of Illinois and Guatemala

12.67 million (2021)



Guatemala / Population

17.11 million (2021)



Guatemala City Metro Area Population: 3 m. (2023)

Below: Rate of Pop. Growth over the decades reveals the impact of the civil war, 1966-96, and the 2008 Economic Crisis.



Ethnic Diversity in Guatemala (2018)

50% of the population is “**Mestizo**” (mixed indigenous and European) sometimes termed “**Ladino**” in Guatemala.

44% of the population is Indigenous^[2] and consist of 23 Maya groups (42%) and one non-Maya group (Xinca, 2%).

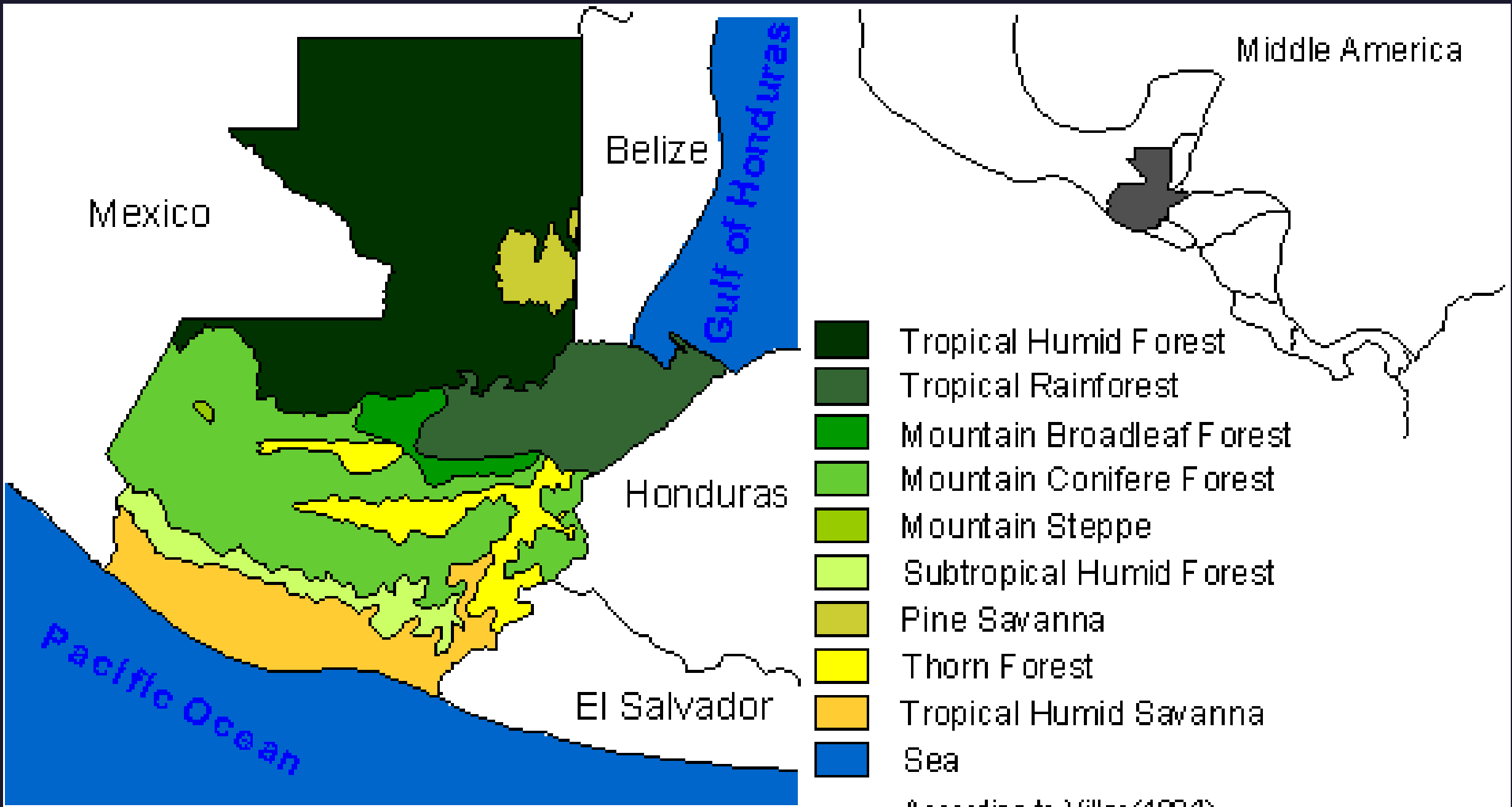
10% European Origins (German, Spanish...)

African descent 0.2%, **Garifuna** (mixed West and Central African, Island Carib, and Arawak) 0.1%, foreign 0.2% (2018 est.)

Guatemala



2022 population density. <http://www.geo-ref.net/en/gtm.htm>

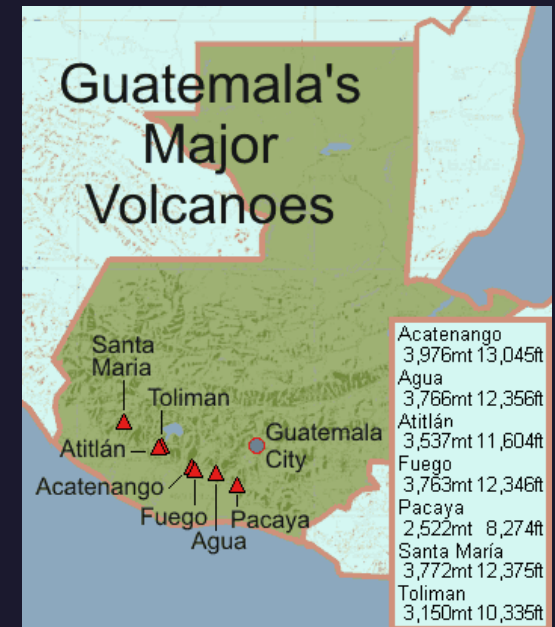


According to Villar (1994)

The Peten, or the northern Highlands

3-5% of the population, but was once part of the Mayan heartland.



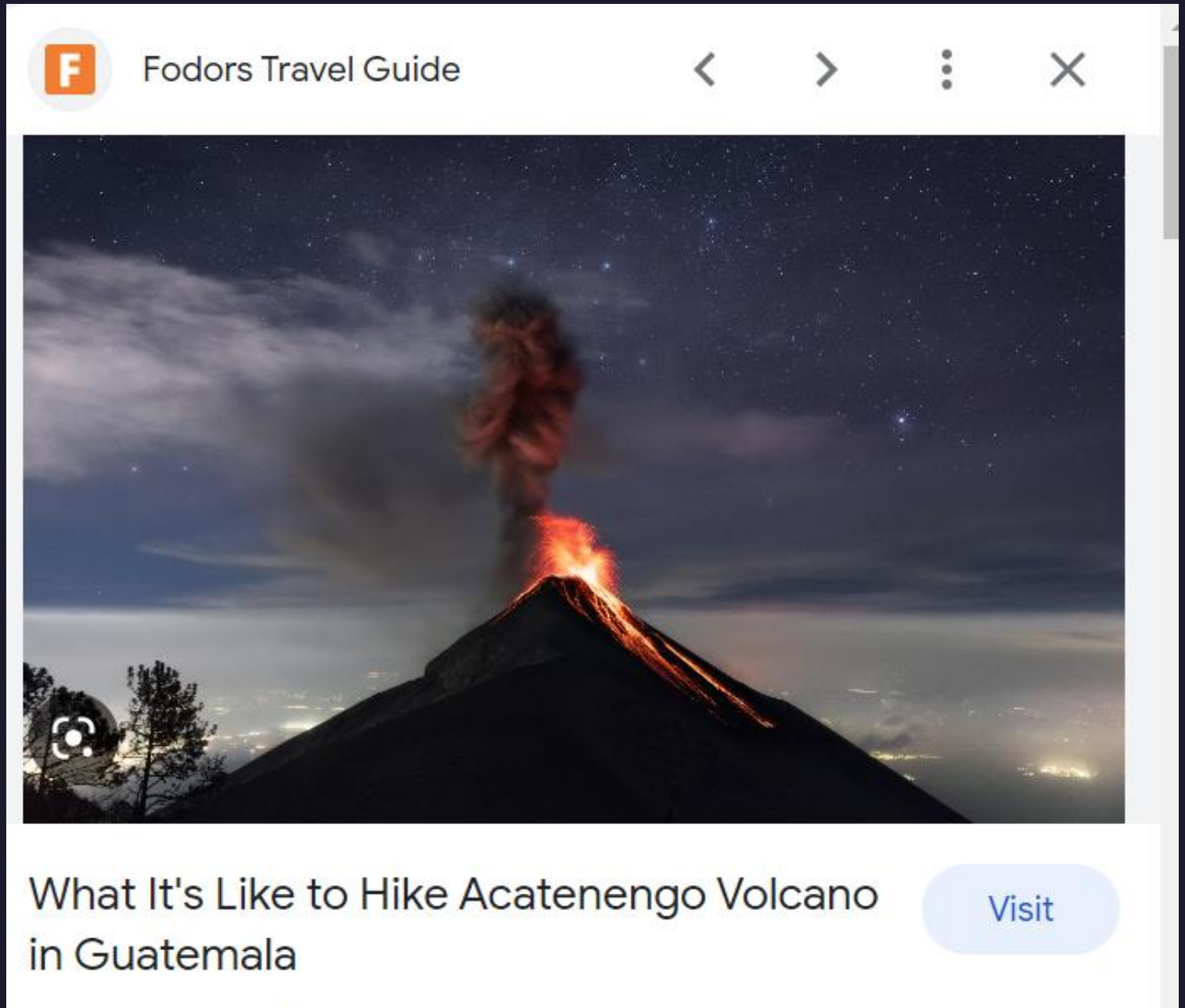


The Volcano Belt

From Fodor's Travel site (2018 eruption). Honestly I don't know what kind of travellers they are appealing to...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTwYAo0u6wg&t=5>

s



The screenshot shows a mobile browser interface for Fodor's Travel Guide. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Fodor's logo (an orange square with a white 'F'), the text 'Fodors Travel Guide', and standard browser navigation icons (back, forward, menu, close). Below the navigation bar is a large video thumbnail showing a volcano erupting at night. The volcano's peak is illuminated by a bright orange and red glow from the eruption, with a plume of dark smoke rising into a dark, starry sky. The foreground shows the dark silhouette of the volcano's slope and some distant lights. Below the video thumbnail, the text reads 'What It's Like to Hike Acatenengo Volcano in Guatemala'. To the right of this text is a light blue button with the word 'Visit' in white text.

Palm Oil plantations in the coastal Lowlands

(palm oil a relatively new
and controversial export
crop)



Castle of San Felipe in the Eastern Tropical Lowlands

Guatemala does not have natural harbors appropriate for maritime commerce. (internal travel also difficult with the mountains). This Spanish fort guarded against pirates.



Proposed Cruise Ship terminal, Puerto Barrios Guatemala.

Recently several cruise ship and private yachting facilities have been proposed for either coast of Guatemala. There are serious environmental objections, as well as concern that they would not benefit the populations displaced.



Western Highlands/ Cloud Forests

This is the
home region of
most
Guatemalans in
Champaign-
Urbana.



The World According to Stratfor

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dt8uBiL4LZg>
- Everything about this clip bothers me.
- “difficult terrain limits govt control” ? Well, for the majority of the population, the difficult terrain saved them from extermination in the colonial and modern eras.
- “36 year war directly influenced by the Cold War”? Sort of skips the US complicity in supporting a war of ethnic cleansing.
- “Few resources” ? Perhaps, more honestly they could say “few resources of interest to outside investors” although that has changed.

Reading on the Local Guatemalan Community

2021 article on Guatemalans in CU <http://publici.ucimc.org/2021/11/the-border-we-build-every-day-guatemala-in-champaign-urbana/>

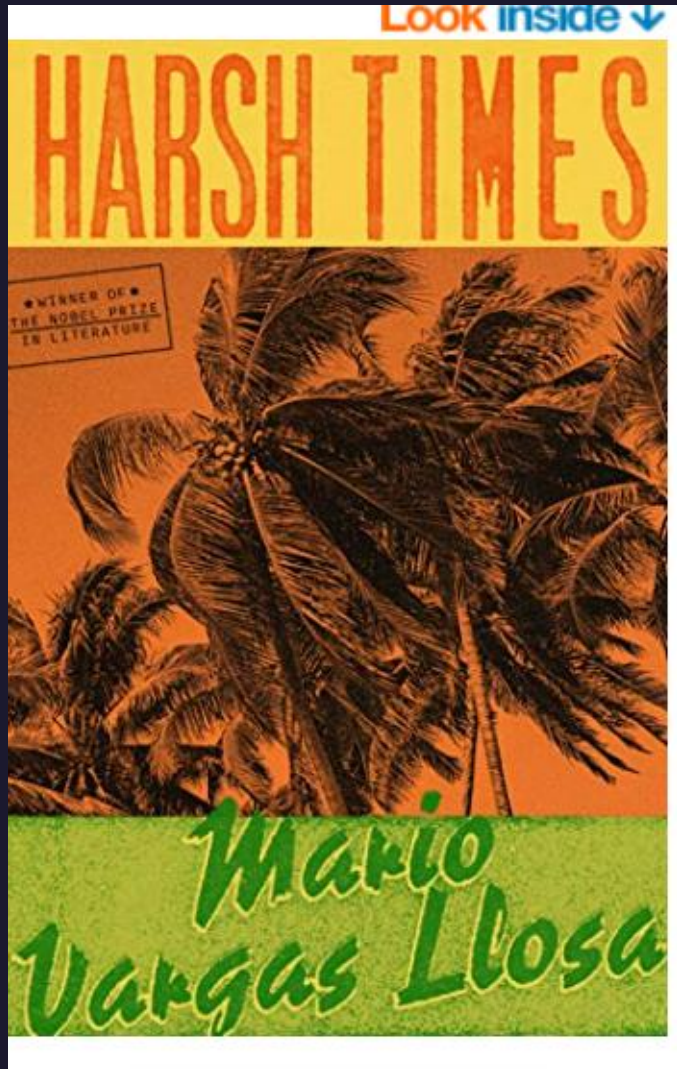
2022 on Migration/Human rights in Guatemala <http://publici.ucimc.org/2022/11/in-guatemala-ethnic-cleansing-moves-from-the-village-to-the-courtroom/>

2020 Portrait of local Q'anjob'al school aide July 2020
<http://publici.ucimc.org/2020/07/mateos-story-connecting-with-the-twice-marginalized/>

2018 article on family local reunification case
<http://publici.ucimc.org/2018/11/after-four-months-in-detention-8-year-old-girl-reunited-with-family-in-c-u/>

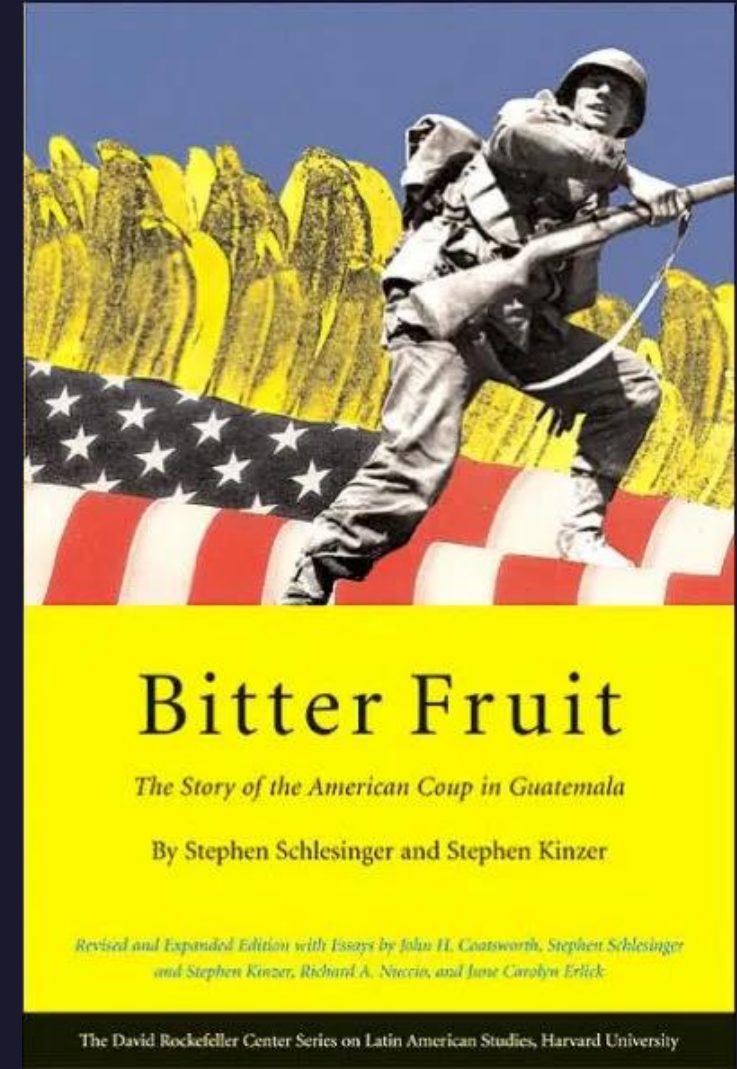


2019 New American Welcome Center Snapshot of CU, <https://universityymca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/New-Americans-in-Champaign-County-Report-.pdf>

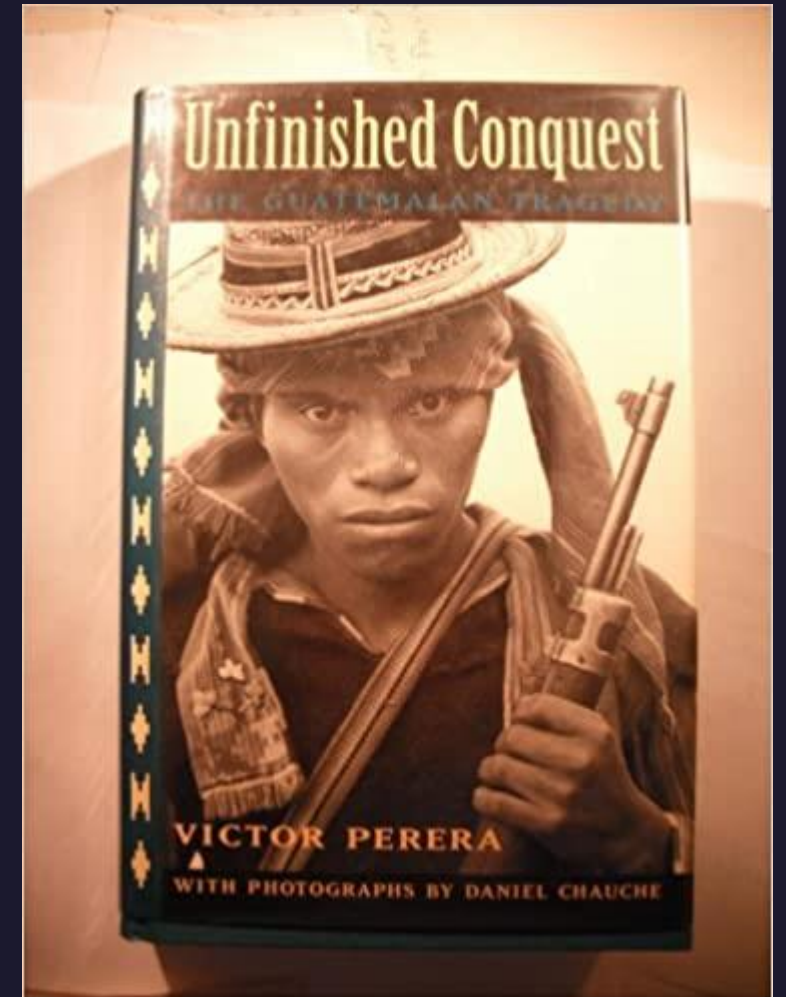
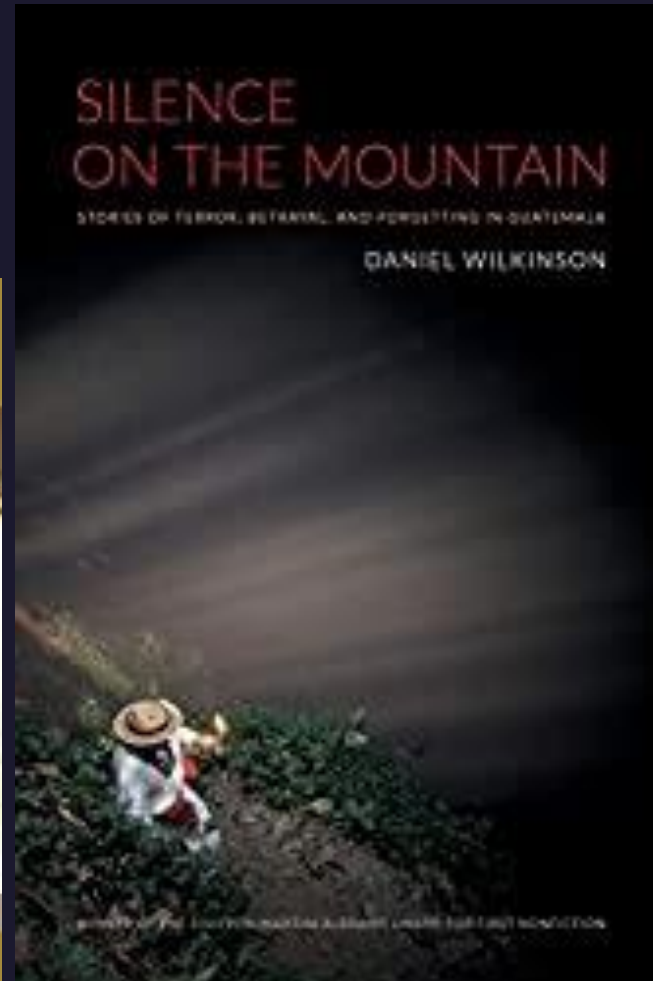
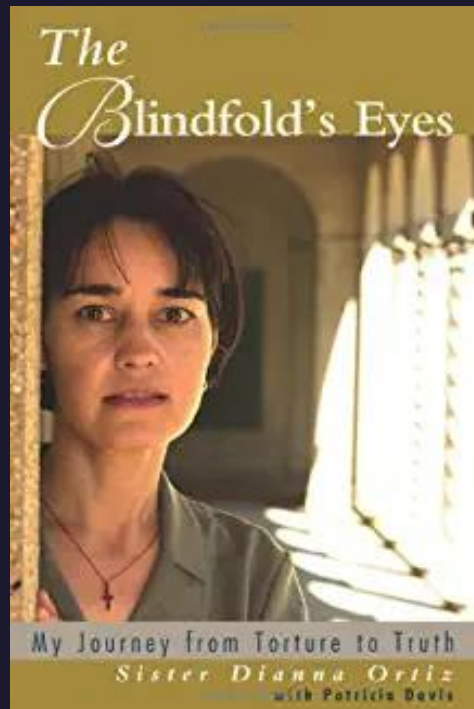
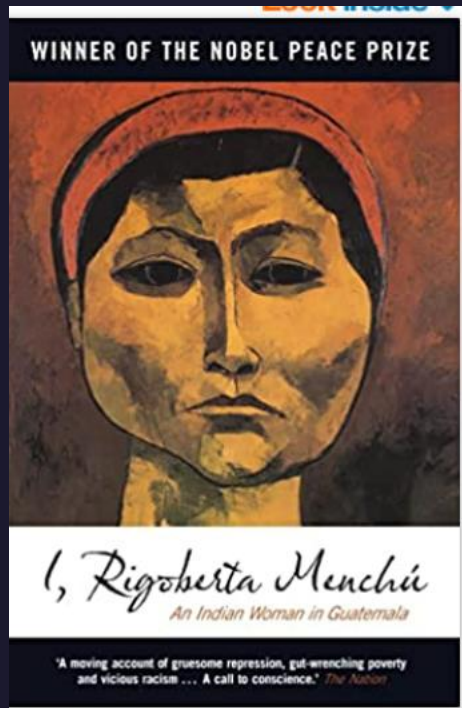


Vargas Llosa's 2021 novel is obsessed with the illusions of the coup.

Schlesinger and Kinser are interested in the CIA/Eisenhower/United Fruit Circle more than the Guatemalans.



Civil War years 1960s-90s



Classic Guatemalan Literature and Film

