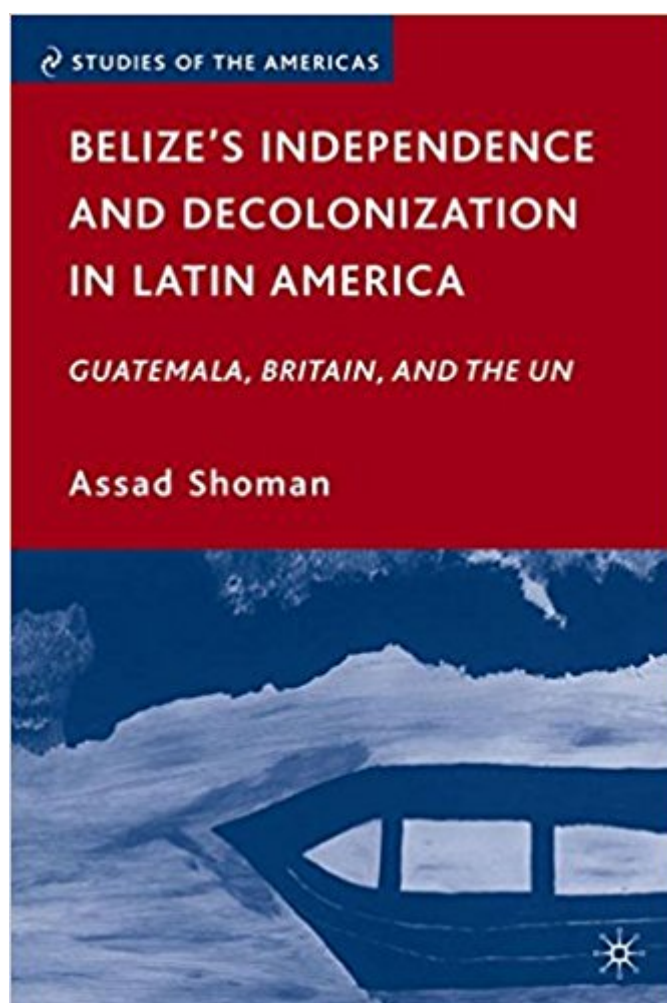




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Belize's Independence And Decolonization In Latin America: Guatemala, Britain, And The UN (Studies Of The Americas)



Synopsis

Belize, a small British colony in Central America faced with a territorial claim and military threats from neighboring Guatemala, overcame disadvantages of size and power by implementing a strategy of internationalization that utilized new international norms and international organizations, in particular the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations. This book, written by a key player in the independence struggle, details the history of the territorial claim and of the international campaign that made it possible for Belize to achieve secure independence with all its territory despite pressures from Britain and the United States to cede land and compromise its sovereignty.

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Customer Reviews

"This is a unique and important book. It is unique not only because there is no other study of this subject but also because the case of Belize is itself unique. Belize has been claimed by its neighbor, Guatemala, since the nineteenth century and this persistent threat, revived in the 1940s, resulted in the independence of the British colony being delayed until 1981, long after most British colonies in the Caribbean and elsewhere had achieved sovereignty. The author writes clearly, without academic or legalistic jargon, so his work is accessible to an educated but non-specialist readership." - O. Nigel Bolland, Charles A. Dana Professor of Sociology and Caribbean Studies, Emeritus, Colgate University

ASSAD SHOMANÂ has been involved since 1971 in negotiations with Britain and Guatemala and is currently part of the Belizean team charged with guiding the country toward a resolution of the dispute by submission to the International Court of Justice.

The process of decolonization and internationalization of Belize's independence movement is not widely discussed. This account allows readers to gain a first clear prospective of the process and the role of prominent players in the process. This book should be required reading for all Belizeans, as it puts Belize's struggle for independence within a regional and international context. The information revealed has not been widely debated or discussed in Belize and few knew of the varying views held by regional powers during the independence process. It's refreshing to learn how international diplomacy had to be marshaled to garner support methodologically by building consensus within the English speaking Caribbean, Commonwealth, Non-aligned movement and eventually Latin America and the UN. Belizeans and students of Belize's history need to be aware of the role played by the UK, the US, Mexico as well as Cuba, Panama and African states in Belize's bit for independence which had formidable opposition from the US and Guatemala and others.

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