



## Chapter 2 : Central America | Hidden Treasures: Seeking the Kingdom of God in Honduras

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It was Thursday morning, and the sun rose upon Trinity Valley, near Ojojona, in the heart of the south-central region of Honduras which would soon bear his name. The year was , and it began in national consternation. To that end, General Justin Milla was given command of the 2nd battalion of Federal troops and crossed the border into Honduras. Milla relentlessly assaulted the Honduran troops with heavy fire, was soon victorious, and set fire to the capital. On May 9, the President of Honduras was taken prisoner. On May 10, the government capitulated. He was a young man and only recently experienced as a captain, under orders, in battle. Having been in battles won and battles loss, he learned how men moved and how men fought. His active mind utilized those 23 days to survey the valley, creekbeds, commanding hilltops and routes of approach in that region. General Justo Milla by this time was hunting the rebels throughout the territory. On the eve of the inevitable battle, Morazan drew up a battle strategy and presented it to his commander, General Diaz. So impressed was the General with the plan that, he not only adopted it, but he entrusted command of the battle to Francisco Morazan. Francisco was determined that he would not fail. Blue is General Justin Milla. The plan divided their troops into three assault teams of men each, with three smaller teams held in reserve. The plan was well received by all. Wednesday night, under cover of darkness, they moved into position, and waited for the day. We might imagine the confidence of Milla and his men, as they descended into the valley of the trinity to the town below to confront their enemy once again. By this time, they had many victories behind them. And we might imagine the disdain Milla felt as he looked upon the small force arrayed in the streets below him. As he approached he would discern his opposition was only about an eighth of his size. He might have let out a laugh and joked a little with his officers. But perhaps by this time he had given up wondering anymore why these people would continue to resist him. He relied not upon size of his army, but the passion of his cause, and the plan and strategy of their leader. At last, General Milla gave the orders to fire, and the battle began. He would be confident, and perhaps relocate to a position to give him a good view of the battle as it unfolded as he expected. With the first gunshots ringing in the air, he might have been surprised, or at least, impressed, by the valiance of the defense. This is Your moment. This is Our battle. We have a Plan. Our brothers are relying upon us. Our wives and children our relying upon us. Our country and our commonwealth is relying upon us. The future is Yours! Gunshots rang out at that deadly range; and the enemy fell. Milla would be startled hearing unexpected battle on his left flank. Who were these defenders? What was inspiring their defense? Could they not see they were outnumbered? Diaz moved his confidently up the street, pressing the battle into the valley of the trinity. The fighting was furious. Milla was rushing to and fro, redirecting his troops, and barking orders to his surprised host. We can imagine the scene before Pacheco as his men completed their path to the valley. The enemy was below them, his brethren beyond them and to the left of them, and his enemy was fully engaged in that two front battle and completely unprotected in their rear. With a mighty shout and guns blazing they descended into that valley, the Valley of the Trinity. For five hours that battle raged. Milla and few of his officers survived and fled the scene of battle, leaving behind troves of munitions, supplies and official documents. Justin Milla was completely defeated. On the 26th of the same month, he reached the capital Comayagua, made a triumphal entrance, and was proclaimed the head of State of Honduras.

## Chapter 3 : Hillary Clinton is plotting disaster for Central America

*Honduras, like six out of the seven countries in Central America, is Latino. Its people are Latino, for the most part, and so is the culture. There's a machismo vibe about Honduras, especially in the "wild east" departments of Olancho and Gracias a Dios.*

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. The people Honduras has been inhabited since well before the 1st century ce. Most of the American Indians are Lenca and are now found in the southwest, near the Guatemala border, close to the most important Indian centres of the pre-Columbian period. Small, isolated groups of non-Spanish-speaking Indians—such as the Jicaque , Miskito Mosquito , and Paya—continue to live in the northeast, although their numbers are declining. Of the total population, about nine-tenths is mestizo a mixture of Spanish and Indian. Blacks of West Indian origin and Garifuna Black Caribs make up a significant part of the population along the Caribbean coast, an area where English is widely spoken. The official language of Honduras is Spanish, and the predominant religion is Roman Catholicism , some two-thirds of the population being adherents. The largest of the remaining groups are Protestant, with notable congregations in the east and on the Bay Islands. There has been rapid growth in Protestant churches, especially since the upheaval caused by Hurricane Mitch in A pronounced shift in population took place during the early part of the 20th century from the interior to the hot, humid northern coast, where employment opportunities were provided by the United Fruit Company. These northwestern lowlands and the western and southern highlands constitute the most densely populated parts of the country. The population grew extremely fast during the mid century, posing a considerable problem in employment and housing. Although the rate of growth slowed somewhat by the s, it remained well above the world average. The majority of the population is rural, living in small villages or isolated settlements; more than half of Hondurans are urban residents. In the rest of the country, the mountainous, forested terrain and poor roads added to the local isolation. The economy Honduras is a poor country, and the majority of Hondurans work under extremely difficult conditions. The government has, however, adopted more active economic policies since the mid century. In striking banana workers led the trade union movement to one of its most resounding triumphs, which resulted in the promulgation in of a labour code that is considered one of the most complete instruments of its kind in Latin America. The code has generally resulted in a higher standard of living for the worker and better operating conditions for business; labour laws are not always strictly applied, however, and some workplaces are substandard. The economy is geographically divided between the highlands, where subsistence farming , stock raising, and mining have long dominated, and the lowlands, where plantation agriculture based largely on bananas is the chief occupation. In , however, Hurricane Mitch devastated large portions of Honduran agriculture and transportation infrastructure , requiring major reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

Chapter 4 : Honduras - Wikipedia

*No, It is a country in Central America, next to El Salvador; its the knee of that connects North America and South America.*

Mexican policemen robbed the Honduran of his savings en route, he said. Later, on the night of Oct. As Varela made his escape, he ducked under a freight car. It rolled over his right leg, severing it at the knee. This week Varela, 42, was back in Mexico, this time with crutches and a wobbly prosthesis, accompanied by 14 countrymen whom the Beast had similarly mangled. These hobbled men in sweat-stained T-shirts were no longer in search of the American Dream. For them it was too late. They were seeking safe passage for the thousands of migrants who keep making the trip. They hoped to persuade him to guarantee U. But he addressed the issue this week during a meeting in Honduras with President Juan Orlando Hernandez by saying that every migrant passing through Mexico would receive "absolute respect for their human rights. Its southern border, however, passes through territory too rough and wild to be closely monitored. Many migrants manage to make their way to major roads and highways, only to end up arrested at roadblocks. To avoid that fate, some head for the train. Varela and the others made no secret this week of their presence in Tapachula, a city in Chiapas state near the border with Guatemala, and they benefited from the spotty enforcement of immigration law in Mexico, freely visiting the municipal government headquarters in search of help. A government employee, however, told them that a meeting with the president was "impossible. It is not impossible to arrange a meeting with a fellow human being. Thousands of migrants disappear each year. Some who resist their attackers are thrown from the moving train. Other common hazards include misjudging a leap onto the Beast, or falling off while asleep. La Bestia, also known among migrants as "The Train of Death," is actually a series of freight trains that run on a network of rails extending north and south throughout Mexico. In Chiapas, many migrants climb aboard in the city of Arriaga. If they make it to Lecheria, on the outskirts of Mexico City more than miles away, they might continue on tracks that lead to the border states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua or Tamaulipas. From Lecheria, the Pacific rail route extends more than 2, miles and the journey can take two weeks or more, as migrants wait for the right northbound train or slip away for days at a time to hide from authorities. The risks are well-known in countries like Honduras. But so, too, is misery at home: According to the World Bank, 3 in 5 Hondurans were living below the poverty line in And so the migrants, including women and children, continue to float across the Suchiate and jump the train, dreaming of San Diego or San Antonio or Denver. The Mexican government estimates that , Central Americans attempt the trip each year. Among those, the Mexican government recorded cases of amputations from to But many people believe the number is higher. Varela is the spokesman for a group called the Assn. The group estimates that to amputee migrants live in Honduras. Once injured, the migrants are usually shipped back to their countries, where they had struggled to find work when they were able-bodied and, they say, social services are scant. Varela, a former golf caddy, said he occasionally gets hired to remove untreated wastewater with a bucket in his northern Honduran municipality of San Manuel. He said he was five months behind on rent.

**Chapter 5 : Honduras Lessons - LessonCorner**

*Great comparison of Honduras with the American south. I can definitely see that, although perhaps the women's clothes were a little tighter in Honduras. We kind of grouped Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador into one category for our Central America travels and Guatemala was on its own.*

Baroque painting in Central and South America is basically an extension of that of Spain and Portugal, and even the best rarely rises to the general standard of the European schools. Important paintings and sculptures tended to be imported from Europe. Pre-Columbian Central America Central America , an archaeological bridge connecting North and South America , was, before the arrival of the Europeans, home to various nomadic and sedentary cultures. Although the Maya were the most advanced pre-Columbian civilization in the hemisphere, they were never unified. Unlike the Aztec and Inca empires, their autonomous city-states remained independent, presaging the political fragmentation that would characterize Central America to the present day. What unity existed was cultural rather than political. There is scant evidence of human life in Central America before bce. Primitive human habitation in the region before that date is likely, perhaps as early as 40,000 bce, but civilized society did not emerge until the 2nd millennium bce. Between 2000 and 1000 bce, people of the region made the transition from hunting and foraging to plant cultivation. Pottery in the Parita Bay region of Panama, dating from about 1000 bce, reflected South American cultural influence, which eventually reached as far north as Guatemala and Chiapas. Mexican influence in Chiapas dates from at least 1000 bce, and thereafter it extended as far south as Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Central America thus became a meeting ground for Mesoamerican , South American, and Caribbean peoples. After 1000 bce, organized sedentary farming communities became numerous, and active commerce and communications developed among them. Although cassava manioc and other tubers were important to Indians of the Caribbean coast, corn maize was the primary staple food of most Central Americans, accompanied by a wide variety of beans, squash, and other vegetables and fruits. The Olmec culture and other Mexican influences substantially affected the development of Mayan civilization, while central Mexican Nahuatl influence challenged the Maya and stretched along the Pacific coast, notable especially among the Pipil of El Salvador and the Chorotega and Nicaraos of Nicaragua. Fugitives from the European conquistadores in the Caribbean increased this influence considerably at the close of the 15th century. The Miskito , Sumo , Rama, and other tribes on the Nicaraguan and Honduran Caribbean shores have survived to the present. Emergence of the Maya After 1000 bce an advanced Mayan civilization emerged in the highlands of Guatemala and El Salvador. Although the highlands remained heavily populated, these lowland cities became the centres for a higher civilization. Overcrowding, famine, climatic change , or major geologic catastrophes may have contributed to migration, but contact between the highland and lowland peoples continued as merchants carried cultural, economic, and social traits from one place to another. Mayan temple at Tikal in present-day Guatemala. But the Maya developed the highest culture of pre-Columbian America, which reached its height between 200 and 900 ce. Maya priests made discoveries in astronomy and mathematics comparable to similar advancements in ancient Egypt. They developed an advanced system of writing, and their hieroglyphs on stone monuments stelae , erected throughout the Maya lands, recorded their history. Brilliant Mayan artistic and scientific achievements in ceramics, sculpture, weaving, and painting, some of which were more advanced than European accomplishments of the same era, all showed remarkable artistic sensitivity. They developed an accurate calendar and complex systems of agricultural and water management. The Maya could not match their European counterparts in technology, however. Their architectural works were also less impressive than those of ancient and medieval European civilizations. Animals were not domesticated, and all work was done by human hand labour directed by an elite group. Decline of the Maya Mayan civilization began to decay after 900 ce, perhaps because of overpopulation, deforestation , and stresses in the social structure. The peoples of these cities, much influenced by invaders from central Mexico, built striking stone architectural monuments, but their scientific and artistic achievements were less remarkable than the earlier advances of the Classic period, and their economies remained underdeveloped. In the meantime, internal civil war and intervention from central Mexico sapped

Mayan strength and vitality. Returning to northern Guatemala, where they established the city of Tayasal as a place of refuge, some Maya maintained their autonomy until Disease and social disruption, brought with the Spanish conquest, annihilated a large part of the native population during the 16th century. A year later Christopher Columbus , on his fourth voyage, sailed along the Caribbean coast from the Bay of Honduras to Panama, accumulating much information and a little gold but again making no settlement. Other navigators from Spain followed, some seizing natives as slaves, and in Fernando V , the king of Spain, granted concessions for colonization of the region to Alonso de Ojeda and Diego de Nicuesa. Both suffered staggering losses from disease, shipwrecks, and hostile natives. Balboa turned the survivors into a disciplined and productive colony in Balboa cultivated good Indian relations, made extensive explorations, and found enough gold and pearls to make Castilla del Oro, as it was called, the first profitable colony in the New World. However, the explorations took their toll on the Indians of the region, however, many of whom were wiped out by European diseases. Pedrarias, however, distrusted the ambitious Balboa and, accusing him of treason, had him beheaded in Pedrarias expanded the colony but was responsible for enslaving and murdering the Indian population, despite royal orders for more humane treatment. Accompanied by a large force of Indian warriors from central Mexico and preceded by a smallpox epidemic , Alvarado faced little opposition until he reached Guatemala. Alvarado went on to conquer the Pipil of El Salvador in the same year, but a bloody rebellion by the Cakchiquel took four more years to quell. The discovery of gold in Honduras made the struggle more intense. Alvarado went on to participate in the conquests of Peru and of northern Mexico while retaining his governorship of Guatemala. Although none of his settlements in the Nicoya Bay region survived, he and his men began the permanent Spanish occupation of Costa Rica. Spanish domination of Central America was achieved by relatively few Spanish military forces but at a great cost in Indian lives. Remote areas, however, especially in northern Guatemala and along the Caribbean coast, remained outside Spanish control throughout the colonial period, eventually allowing Great Britain to colonize Belize and the Mosquito Coast of Nicaragua. Yet the conquest was not entirely military. The brutality of the Spanish conquest had repelled Las Casas in the Caribbean. After his Dominican monasteries in Nicaragua and Guatemala failed to bring better treatment to the Indians, he went to a province of northern Guatemala to pacify it without military force. His experiment in this province, which he called the Verapaz, was only partially successful, but it served as the basis for his arguments to the Spanish crown against abuse of the Indians. The resulting New Laws of began the suppression of the encomienda system of exploitation of Indian labour. Page 1 of 2.

### Chapter 6 : How Many Countries are in Central America? - calendrierdelascience.com

*Honduras Honduras is the knee of Central America, bordered to the south very little money for other purchases. very little money for other purchases. The water crisis in Honduras was made much worse in by an enormous hurricane .*

Our year-old daughter, Candi Darnforth, has been pioneering It has not been easy though -- very hot and humid, very dirty, lots of bugs, no running water, etc. They usually have to walk, sometimes through jungle and people are excitedly waiting for them with the chairs and Bibles ready! So, in , when The Watchtower began encouraging brothers to move to lands where the need is greater, the Honduras branch office received hundreds of letters from at least 24 countries From to , at least 35 families moved to Honduras from around the globeâ€”Canada, England, Germany, the United States, and even faraway New Zealand Some faced real challenges in trying to realize their plans. One family from Canada The mountain jungle canopy is dense A very helpful lengthy, informative article re: Early history of the preaching of the good news in Honduras, onward One of the true joys of traveling in Honduras is the people. It is difficult to say "the people" when referring to Honduras, since there are so many different people in this Central American country. A large majority is mestizo or ladino, meaning they have mixed European and Central American Indian forefathers. There are also Amerindians. In general, the people are friendly, curious about foreigners, sometimes shy, but almost always cordial and helpful. Honduras is a nation of 7. A total of approximately two million people live in Tegucigalpa, the capital, and in San Pedro Sula. The majority of the population lives in the western half of the country, and with the exception of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, the majority of the population lives in rural settings. Honduras is the knee of Central America, bordered to the south by Nicaragua and El Salvador and to the west by Guatemala. Families often work as subsistence farmersâ€”growing only what they can use to feed their own families, and leaving very little money for other purchases. Many women and children in the rural areas of Honduras walk far distances, spending up to six hours each day simply fetching water and carrying it home on their heads for bathing, cleaning and drinking. The vast majority of Hondurans approximately ninety percent are mestizos, people of mixed European and Indian descent. The remaining tenth of the population is made up primarily of indigenous Indians.

Chapter 7 : Central America - Wikipedia

*Honduras, a republic of Central America, is located in the center of Central America, with its territorial area expanding to over , km 2. It is surrounded by the Caribbean sea to the north and Pacific Ocean to its south.*

Check new design of our homepage! Famous People from Honduras Honduras is a republic of Central America that has had several living legends shine for it on the international front. Some of the best writers, painters, poets, etc. Historyplex Staff Honduras, a republic of Central America, is located in the center of Central America, with its territorial area expanding to over , km<sup>2</sup>. It is surrounded by the Caribbean sea to the north and Pacific Ocean to its south. To its west is Guatemala and to its southwest is El Salvador, while to its east lies Nicaragua. The country is home to people from different ancestries such as from the Mayan Indians, Garifuna communities, etc. Small minorities of African, Asian, Arab, European, and indigenous Indian descent are also a part of the Honduran population. There have been several famous people from Honduras who have etched their names in history. His expertise and knowledge helped the nation to a great extent. Once he retired from politics he delved into writing, and then left for his heavenly abode in He also was a famous journalist and leading politician of those times. Since he opposed the American involvement in Honduras, most of this literary works are violent stories with strong plots. Roberto published his first book when he was almost 30 years old. He studied and became an expert in financial and economic issues connected to agronomy. The topics of his research include vascular biology, inflammation, and regulation of cell proliferation. He is famous for his inventions which included the function and metabolism of the compound nitric oxide. He played for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League from - and retired after a knee injury before the season. Today, this famous football player resides in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was a great person who worked for the cause of eradicating poverty and helping the poor.

**Chapter 8 : Honduras - The green heart of central America**

*That, however, is a formidable mission in a country of million where 20 people are murdered a day, five times the rate in America's most violent large city, Chicago.*

Prior to , Honduras referred to only the eastern part of the province, and Higueras referred to the western part. The word was coined by Nicaraguans and derives from the last name of the Spanish Honduran General Florencio Xatruch , who in led Honduran armed forces against an attempted invasion by North American adventurer William Walker. The nickname is considered complimentary, not derogatory. Pre-colonial period See also: In the west, Mayan civilization flourished for hundreds of years. Spanish conquest " Main article: In addition to Spanish resources, the conquerors relied heavily on armed forces from Mexico" Tlaxcalans and Mexica armies of thousands who remained garrisoned in the region. Resistance to conquest was led in particular by Lempira. Many regions in the north of Honduras never fell to the Spanish, notably the Miskito Kingdom. Trujillo and Gracias were the first city-capitals. The Spanish ruled the region for approximately three centuries. Spanish Honduras " Honduras was organized as a province of the Kingdom of Guatemala and the capital was fixed, first at Trujillo on the Atlantic coast, and later at Comayagua , and finally at Tegucigalpa in the central part of the country. Silver mining was a key factor in the Spanish conquest and settlement of Honduras. When local slave trading stopped at the end of the sixteenth century, African slaves, mostly from Angola , were imported. Although the Spanish conquered the southern or Pacific portion of Honduras fairly quickly, they were less successful on the northern, or Atlantic side. They managed to found a few towns along the coast, at Puerto Caballos and Trujillo in particular, but failed to conquer the eastern portion of the region and many pockets of independent indigenous people as well. The Miskito Kingdom in the northeast was particularly effective at resisting conquest. The Miskito Kingdom found support from northern European privateers, pirates and especially the British formerly English colony of Jamaica , which placed much of the area under its protection after Independence Honduras gained independence from Spain in and was a part of the First Mexican Empire until , when it became part of the United Provinces of Central America. It has been an independent republic and has held regular elections since In the s and s Honduras participated in several failed attempts at Central American unity, such as the Confederation of Central America " , the covenant of Guatemala , the Diet of Sonsonate , the Diet of Nacaome and National Representation in Central America " Although Honduras eventually adopted the name Republic of Honduras, the unionist ideal never waned, and Honduras was one of the Central American countries that pushed the hardest for a policy of regional unity. Neoliberal policies favoring international trade and investment began in the s, and soon foreign interests became involved, first in shipping from the north coast, especially tropical fruit and most notably bananas, and then in building railroads. In , a projected railroad line from the Caribbean coast to the capital, Tegucigalpa , ran out of money when it reached San Pedro Sula. Comayagua was the capital of Honduras until , when the capital moved to Tegucigalpa. Thousands of workers came to the north coast as a result to work in banana plantations and other businesses that grew up around the export industry. Banana-exporting companies, dominated until by the Cuyamel Fruit Company , as well as the United Fruit Company , and Standard Fruit Company , built an enclave economy in northern Honduras, controlling infrastructure and creating self-sufficient, tax-exempt sectors that contributed relatively little to economic growth. American troops landed in Honduras in , , , , and Henry coined the term " banana republic " to describe Honduras, [32] publishing a book called Cabbages and Kings , about a fictional country, Anchuria , inspired by his experiences in Honduras, where he had lived for six months. Henry refers to the nation as a "small maritime banana republic"; naturally, the fruit was the entire basis of its economy. But its real meaning is sharper: Constitutional crises in the s led to reforms in the s. One reform gave workers permission to organize, and a general strike paralyzed the northern part of the country for more than two months, but led to reforms. In , the northern part of what was the Mosquito Coast was transferred from Nicaragua to Honduras by the International Court of Justice. The relationship reached a low when El Salvador met Honduras for a three-round football elimination match preliminary to the World Cup. After the week-long

war, as many as , Salvadoran immigrants were expelled. Melgar Castro '78 and Paz Garcia '82 largely built the current physical infrastructure and telecommunications system of Honduras. A constituent assembly was popularly elected in April to write a new constitution, and general elections were held in November. The constitution was approved in and the PLH government of Roberto Suazo won the election with a promise to carry out an ambitious program of economic and social development to tackle the recession in which Honduras found itself. He launched ambitious social and economic development projects sponsored by American development aid. Honduras became host to the largest Peace Corps mission in the world, and nongovernmental and international voluntary agencies proliferated. The Peace Corps withdrew its volunteers in , citing safety concerns. Though spared the bloody civil wars wracking its neighbors, the Honduran army quietly waged campaigns against Marxist-Leninist militias such as the Cinchoneros Popular Liberation Movement, notorious for kidnappings and bombings, [42] and against many non-militants as well. The operation included a CIA-backed campaign of extrajudicial killings by government-backed units, most notably Battalion Honduran President Carlos Roberto Flores said that fifty years of progress in the country had been reversed. Across Honduras 33, houses were destroyed, and an additional 50, damaged. Some 5, people killed, and 12, more injured. Geography of Honduras A map of Honduras. Honduras consists mainly of mountains, with narrow plains along the coasts. A large undeveloped lowland jungle, La Mosquitia lies in the northeast, and the heavily populated lowland Sula valley in the northwest. Natural resources include timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, antimony, coal, fish, shrimp, and hydropower. Climate The climate varies from tropical in the lowlands to temperate in the mountains. The central and southern regions are relatively hotter and less humid than the northern coast. Like other countries in the region, it contains vast biological resources. Honduras hosts more than 6, species of vascular plants, of which described so far are orchids; around reptiles and amphibians, more than bird species, and mammalian species, of which half are bats. Honduras has rain forests, cloud forests which can rise up to nearly 3, metres or 9, feet above sea level, mangroves, savannas and mountain ranges with pine and oak trees, and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. In the Bay Islands there are bottlenose dolphins, manta rays, parrot fish, schools of blue tang and whale shark. Environmental issues Deforestation resulting from logging is rampant in Olancho Department. The clearing of land for agriculture is prevalent in the largely undeveloped La Mosquitia region, causing land degradation and soil erosion. The President of Honduras is both head of state and head of government. Executive power is exercised by the Honduran government. Legislative power is vested in the National Congress of Honduras. The judiciary is independent of both the executive branch and the legislature. The National Congress of Honduras Congreso Nacional has members diputados, elected for a four-year term by proportional representation. After managing to stand for a second term, [57] a very close election in left uncertainty as to whether Hernandez or his main challenger, television personality Salvador Nasralla, had prevailed. Jaime Rosenthal and Gilberto Goldstein are among the elite of Honduras, both successful businessmen and politicians. Foreign relations of Honduras Honduras and Nicaragua had tense relations throughout and early due to a boundary dispute off the Atlantic coast. The General Assembly of the United Nations voted to denounce the coup and called for the restoration of Zelaya. Several Latin American nations, including Mexico, temporarily severed diplomatic relations with Honduras. In July, full diplomatic relations were once again re-established with Mexico. After the coup, Honduras withdrew its membership. This interest in regional agreements may have increased the alarm of establishment politicians. When Zelaya began calling for a "fourth ballot box" to determine whether Hondurans wished to convoke a special constitutional congress, this sounded a lot to some like the constitutional amendments that had extended the terms of both Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales. These presidents are barely in office when they typically convene a constitutional convention to guarantee their reelection," said a Spiegel International analysis, [63] which noted that one reason to join ALBA was discounted Venezuelan oil. The Honduran Supreme Court agreed, saying that the constitution had put the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in charge of elections and referenda, not the National Statistics Institute, which Zelaya had proposed to have run the count. The United States maintains a small military presence at one Honduran base. The two countries conduct joint peacekeeping, counter-narcotics, humanitarian, disaster relief, humanitarian, medical and civic action exercises. Administrative divisions

Further information: Honduras is divided into 18 departments.

**Chapter 9 : Secret Island - Belize, Central America - Private Islands for Sale**

*After the overthrow of the Spanish King by Napoleon, Honduras and others declared their independence from Spain in 1821. Then, Honduras, as well as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua formed the United Provinces of Central America, but that federation quickly dissolved, and Honduras became an independent republic in 1822.*

US drug enforcement agents shot dead pilot in Honduras 09 Jul The drug gangs threaten the very viability of the Honduran state, but it is unclear whether any of the presidential contenders really has an answer. This week, The Telegraph witnessed the scale of the problems at first hand after accompanying one of the new military patrols through some of the toughest slums of the capital, Tegucigalpa, a sprawling jumble of neighbourhoods that stretches across a bowl-shaped valley. The maze of shanty homes - where dirt tracks pass for roads and open sewers run along walls daubed with gang graffiti and threats to kill informants - used to be a no-go zone for the security forces. The police were too scared, too ill-equipped, too inefficient and often too complicit in gang crime to venture there. Col Raudales has troops under his command at the school, part of 1, military police involved in the crackdown. That, however, is a formidable mission in a country of 8. Sandwiched between Nicaragua to the south and Guatemala to the north, Honduras has the dubious distinction of being the original "banana republic", a term coined by the American writer William Sydney Porter, known by his pen name O. Henry, who fled there in the 1890s to escape embezzlement charges. But while Porter used the phrase to describe a country in hock to unscrupulous fruit corporations, today it is a trade of a far more ruthless nature that dominates the landscape. Some 80 per cent of the cocaine that reaches US soil is now trafficked via Honduras, either spirited there by sea or flown into remote air strips carved out of the jungle in the inaccessible wilderness of the north-east. As US-led counter-trafficking operations have squeezed cartels to the south in Colombia and the north in Mexico, the drug gangs have turned to the country as an alternative staging post. The drugs are overwhelmingly smuggled through La Mosquitia, a sparsely-populated, lawless and near-impenetrable rainforest along the Nicaraguan border and Caribbean coast. But they have also imported their ruthless rivalries. Senior Honduran military personnel privately acknowledge that they are waging a losing battle against the vastly better-resourced "narcos" despite the backing of the US Drug Enforcement Agency. Last week, The Telegraph obtained photographs from a recent military operation in La Mosquitia that illustrate the scale of that challenge. The pictures show airstrips cut out of the jungle by bulldozer and the lights and lamps used for night-time landings. The pictures also show small planes that are burned and abandoned by the smugglers. The flights are usually one-way trips from Venezuela, ending in deliberate crash landings with the mission accomplished. The average payload is worth much more than the plane itself. While the drug dealers get rich, ordinary Hondurans suffer - not that many of those in the areas plagued by gangs are willing to speak out. The year-old has been robbed several times, but counts that as the least of his worries during the recent crime wave. First his brother was stabbed to death during a home break-in. Then his year-old son, a college student, was gunned down on his way home from buying a soft drink and bag of crisps from a street stand. Life is worthless to them. Their morning newspapers provide daily diet of murder and mayhem illustrated by gruesome photographs of blood-soaked corpses. And at the city morgue, where a cloying sickly odour seeps into the street from the front office, a refrigerated trailer has been parked outside to handle the overflow of corpses awaiting autopsy by over-whelmed staff. The violence is most open and brutal in the hilltop barrios where grinding poverty comes with million dollar views. Alongside the kidnappings, robberies, assaults and murder, there is also the all-pervasive imposition on small businesses, even schools, by gangs of so-called "war tax", the local term for protection rackets. Her bodyguard returned fire and the target escaped with minor injuries. Her father Roberto was appointed president after a coup, although the assault was not believed to be political. We are sliding into the world of failed states. And it was often what the locals did not say that was most illuminating. And the two frontrunners in a five-person field with no clear favourite offer dramatically different solutions. Juan Hernandez, the candidate for the ruling conservative National Party, is running on a traditional law-and-order ticket and has pledged to strengthen the military police presence on the streets. But after decades in which the "banana republic" has done much to live

up its literary reputation, many Hondurans are sceptical that any president can make a difference to their lives. Elba Ordonez, who ekes out a living selling the fruit for which the country was once famous, was recently robbed of her taking by armed men as she waited for a bus. Her only focus was the daily grind for survival, she said.