

Chapter 1 : Using ergonomics principles to help Nicaraguan coffee harvesters

"In Focus Nicaragua", while a decent enough tool for those searching for a light primer on Nicaraguan history and culture, nevertheless contains glaring revisions of well-known historical events that helped shape important parts of Nicaragua's past.

Nicaragua finally became an independent republic in 1821. Costa Rica, Honduras, and other Central American countries united to drive Walker out of Nicaragua in 1852, [43] [44] [45] after which a period of three decades of Conservative rule ensued. Great Britain, which had claimed the Mosquito Coast as a protectorate since 1786, delegated the area to Honduras in 1821 before transferring it to Nicaragua in 1858. The Mosquito Coast remained an autonomous area until 1858. In his honor, the region was named "Zelaya Department". Throughout the late 19th century, the United States and several European powers considered a scheme to build a canal across Nicaragua, linking the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. United States occupation of Nicaragua In 1912, the United States supported the conservative-led forces rebelling against President Zelaya. On November 18, 1912, U. Zelaya resigned later that year. Mena fled Managua with his brother, the chief of police of Managua, to start an insurrection. In 1914, the Bryan-Chamorro Treaty was signed, giving the U. Marines, another violent conflict between Liberals and Conservatives took place in 1914, which resulted in the return of U. Marines, whom he fought for over five years. Marines withdrew from Nicaragua in January 1916, Sandino and the newly elected administration of President Juan Bautista Sacasa reached an agreement by which Sandino would cease his guerrilla activities in return for amnesty, a grant of land for an agricultural colony, and retention of an armed band of men for a year. Later that night, Sandino was assassinated by soldiers of the National Guard. Out of these six Axis countries, only Romania reciprocated, declaring war on Nicaragua on the same day 19 December. Luis Somoza Debayle, the eldest son of the late president, was appointed president by the congress and officially took charge of the country. The mishandling of relief money also prompted Pittsburgh Pirates star Roberto Clemente to personally fly to Managua on December 31, 1954, but he died en route in an airplane accident. In 1961, Carlos Fonseca looked back to the historical figure of Sandino, and along with two other people one of whom was believed to be Casimiro Sotelo, who was later assassinated, founded the Sandinista National Liberation Front FSLN. Somoza granted this, then subsequently sent his national guard out into the countryside to look for the perpetrators of the kidnapping, described by opponents of the kidnapping as "terrorists". The Reagan administration authorized the CIA to help the contra rebels with funding, armaments, and training. LaRamee and Polakoff, for example, describe the destruction of health centers, schools, and cooperatives at the hands of the rebels, [77] and others have contended that murder, rape, and torture occurred on a large scale in contra-dominated areas. Congress prohibited federal funding of the contras in 1984, the Reagan administration nonetheless illegally continued to back them by covertly selling arms to Iran and channeling the proceeds to the contras the Iran-Contra affair, for which several members of the Reagan administration were convicted of felonies. United States in 1986, found, "the United States of America was under an obligation to make reparation to the Republic of Nicaragua for all injury caused to Nicaragua by certain breaches of obligations under customary international law and treaty-law committed by the United States of America". The defeat shocked the Sandinistas, who had expected to win. Ortega vowed he would govern desde abajo from below. Ortega returned to the presidency with In the National Assembly approved changes to the constitution allowing Ortega to run for a third successive term. International monitoring of the elections was initially prohibited, and as a result the validity of the elections has been disputed, but observation by the OAS was announced in October. Local independent press organizations had documented at least 19 dead and over missing in the ensuing conflict. On May 2, 1987, university-student leaders publicly announced that they give the government seven days to set a date and time for a dialogue that was promised to the people due to the recent events of repression. The students also scheduled another march on that same day for a peaceful protest. As of May 1987, estimates of the death toll were as high as 63, many of them student protesters, and the wounded totalled more than 100. Ortega and his wife of acting like dictators joined in resuming anti-government rallies after attempted peace talks have remained unresolved. Nicaragua has three distinct geographical regions: They have

long been exploited for their natural resources. Surrounding these lakes and extending to their northwest along the rift valley.

Chapter 2 : Nicaragua Missions Trip: Shifting of our Personal Focus

Chile in Focus is an authoritative and up-to-date guide to Latin America's "suc Music, cinema, and handicrafts reflect the country's artistic diversity as well as its mixed ethnic traditions. Chile in Focus is an authoritative and up-to-date guide to Latin America's "success story."

In recent decades, there has been a rapid proliferation of different coffee certification initiatives seeking to advance environmentally friendly and socially responsible systems of coffee production and trade. Fair Trade, for example, is a certification scheme that attempts to build an alternative trade network between the global North and South by linking socially and environmentally conscious consumers in the North with disadvantaged producers in the South engaged in socially and environmentally sustainable agriculture. While Fair Trade has promoted premiums for social development of participating coffee producers and strengthened the institutional capacities of the cooperatives involved, studies have shown that its ability to significantly enhance the work conditions of coffee laborers remains limited. More than 40, families are involved in coffee farming and provide the equivalent of , permanent agricultural jobs. However, Nicaragua still remains one of the poorest countries in the world the 2nd poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. While ergonomics has been widely applied in many industrially developed countries in designing better methods and tools to improve work conditions and productivity, this common practice is still scarce among Nicaraguan coffee farms. One of the reasons for the lack of ergonomics applications in Nicaragua is probably the lack of trained ergonomics practitioners. Picking coffee cherries using a large harvesting basket Picking coffee cherries using a small basket Picking coffee cherries using a newly developed harvesting bag One of our research collaborators, Ms. Kate Stewart spent some time in Nicaragua and noticed that the harvesting baskets used by most coffee harvesters are awkward. A quick biomechanical analysis of this basket identified a few problems that may cause discomfort and injuries to the harvesting workers. The present study was then launched to compare the newly developed prototype bag with conventionally used baskets in coffee harvesting activities. Additionally, the study goals were to: Implement a participatory ergonomics intervention among Nicaraguan coffee harvesting workers to improve their work conditions, Use the ergonomics application as a showcase to conduct ergonomics studies in developing countries and demonstrate that simple solutions can make a difference in terms of improving work conditions, and Involve local Nicaraguan researchers in the project so that they can gain practical experience in ergonomics research and application. How was this study done? Two harvesting baskets small and large and the newly designed bag were compared during various coffee harvesting tasks in order to evaluate their physical impacts on the harvesting workers. Coffee harvesting jobs include the following major tasks: Lifting and carrying the large sack: At the end of the day, workers lift the large sacks and carry them down the hill to be processed. The large sack was usually filled up by the end of a shift up to almost lbs. Field EMG data collection to measure muscle activities The muscle loads were measured with surface electromyography EMG techniques during the different tasks. Small electrodes were attached to the surface of 3 shoulder muscles 2 on the top of the shoulders " responsible for lifting the upper arms, and one on the shoulder scapula bone " responsible for right upper arm rotation and lifting up to the side and one low back muscle. Muscle activities during the different coffee harvesting tasks using the different equipment were measured and transmitted telemetrically to a laptop computer where the signals were recorded and stored. These recordings were later analyzed in the laboratory. A "Muscle Aches and Pains Symptoms Survey" was distributed to workers to obtain information about aches or pain levels when different equipment was used as well as their opinions about the equipment. Three Nicaraguan researchers assisted with this study. This also provided them with opportunities to have hands-on experience in conducting ergonomics field research. Who were involved in this study? Nineteen coffee harvesting workers from 2 coffee farms in Northern Nicaragua participated in this study. Nineteen harvesting workers from two coffee farms in Northern Nicaragua participated in this study. The coffee harvesting is mainly a male dominant occupation. Only two female subjects were included in this study. The participants were informed about this study by the Nicaraguan researchers who spoke Spanish. What did we find? Based on the survey, some workers felt more

comfortable with the new bag, but others still preferred the small basket. However, in general, the large basket was considered very uncomfortable. Most workers reported that the bag did not hurt their back as much as compared to the baskets. This seems to reflect the original design idea of the bag, which was to reduce the loading on the low back that the old large basket caused. Some complained that the bag was too big and some also commented that the bag was uncomfortable during walking. These comments indicate that there are some usability issues with the bag design that might have not been adequately considered when it was developed. During the coffee cheery picking task, no significant differences were found for most of the shoulder and low back muscle loadings between the three pieces of equipment. These findings were consistent with the worker reported discomfort results. No significant differences were found on the discomfort scores between the bag and the baskets for all body parts. During the coffee cheery picking task, however, the large basket caused a significantly higher load than the bag on the right shoulder muscle that is responsible for rotating and lifting the upper arm sideways. Workers also reported that the large basket was considered poor. The increased shoulder muscle load might be related to the large diameter of the basket that forced the workers to lift their upper arms sideways during coffee cherry picking. Workers also commented that the bag was uncomfortable during walking. This could be partially explained by the fact that the diameter of the bag might still be too big, forcing the workers to lift their arms during walking. This finding gave us direction in modifying the bag to make it smaller. This also suggests that it is critical that the shoulder belt of the bag be properly adjusted so the bag does not interfere with arm movements. During the task of dumping a full basket or bag, use of the bag significantly lowered the low back muscle load compared to both baskets. This fulfilled the original design objective to reduce the physical load on the low back. However, the bag seemed also caused higher shoulder muscle load on the left body side compared to the small basket. This may suggest that we may have to carefully consider the design of the release mechanism on the side of the bag to make it easier to release a full bag. The bag significantly lowered the load on the low back during dumping coffee cherry task. Comparing muscle loadings between the different coffee harvesting tasks, it was obvious that the task of lifting and carrying the lbs large sack was the most physically demanding task. The muscle loading on the low back and shoulders were significantly higher during this task than any of the other coffee harvesting tasks. Although the present study did not focus on improvements to this task, we had discussions on possible solutions with farm owners and harvest workers. We would hope that in the near future they may identify and implement feasible solutions to help improve the work conditions for the coffee harvesting workers. The task of lifting and carrying the large sack at the end of day caused high risk to the workers. Who collaborated with us on this project? We hope that this experience will help them in the future to conduct ergonomics research and applications in Nicaragua. End of main content, page footer follows.

Chapter 3 : Nicaragua in Focus : Nick Caistor :

Nicaragua In Focus: A Guide to the People, Politics and Culture by Hazel Plunkett What happened to Nicaragua? In the s it was a byword for revolution, a bogeyman for U.S. governments and a symbol of Latin America's quest for new paths to development and social justice.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. The Sandinista government The new government inherited a devastated country. About , people were homeless, more than 30, had been killed, and the economy was in ruins. The following May it named a member Council of State, which was to act as an interim national assembly. In the junta was reduced to three members and the council increased to In 1980 the government expropriated the property held by Anastasio Somoza Debayle , members of his government, and their supporters. Local banks and insurance companies and mineral and forest resources were nationalized, and the import and export of foodstuffs were placed under government control. The Sandinista revolution represented a hopeful change toward democratization. It attempted to redress the enormous inequality and poverty in the country with a range of programs designed to improve the lives of the poor. Democratization, however, was halted by two key obstacles. First, shortly after taking power, the Sandinista leaders began restricting certain freedoms and confiscating property. Second, the United States interpreted the Sandinista revolution as a possible shift toward communism and suspended economic aid to Nicaragua in the early s. Indeed, the Sandinista government established close relations with Cuba and other Soviet-bloc countries. All political opposition in the country was weakened. This included the offer of free land titles to peasants and supporters of the state in exchange for government service or for establishing agricultural cooperatives. In response to the actions of the Sandinista government, in U. Ronald Reagan authorized funds for the recruiting, training, and arming of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, who, like others already organized by the Argentine army, would engage in irregular military operations against the Sandinista regime. These insurgents, who came to be called Contras , established bases in the border areas of Honduras and Costa Rica. The Contra army grew to about 15, soldiers by the mids. Eventually, the Nicaraguan government also expanded its military forces, acquired crucial equipment such as assault helicopters, and implemented counterinsurgency strategy and tactics, which enabled it in the late s to contain and demoralize the Contras but not defeat them. Ortega was inaugurated in January , and two years later the new Constituent Assembly produced a constitution that called for regularly held elections, the first for national office to take place in The Reagan administration denounced the election as a sham, and a U. An annual inflation rate of more than 30, percent in was followed by severe and unpopular austerity measures in Government programs in health, education, housing, and nutrition were drastically curtailed. In , after intense international efforts to end the civil war and bring democracy to the country, a regional peace agreement was signed between the Sandinista government and the Contras, who had stopped receiving military aid from the United States. These events gradually moved the focus of the Nicaraguan conflict from combat to politics. The general elections were held under careful international observation. Contra activity increased during the electoral period. On February 25, , the U. Nicaragua from to The Chamorro government reversed many Sandinista policies and overall sought national reconciliation, pacification, and reform of the state. Chamorro negotiated the formal demobilization of the Contras in June and cut the army from more than 80, soldiers to fewer than 15, In she was able to obtain the resignation of Gen. Humberto Ortega, brother of Daniel Ortega and chief of the army during the Sandinista regime. His departure not only signified greater civilian control of the military but also increased its stability. In pursuit of national reconciliation, Chamorro eventually found herself in a tacit legislative coalition with the FSLN and a handful of UNO moderates. The coalition, however, failed to achieve a real rapprochement; instead, the ideological polarization that was inherited from the Somoza dictatorship and the civil war continued between Sandinistas and their opponents. For nearly four years the legislative body remained unstable because of these tensions, which were further manifested in civil disobedience and recurring waves of violence. Armed civilian Sandinistas, who were known as Recompas, emerged to fight the Recontras. The Chamorro government managed to disarm most of these combatants by The conflicts between the Recompas and the Recontras

gradually receded, and several constitutional reforms were adopted that shifted power from the president to the National Assembly, ended conscription, guaranteed private property rights, and prevented close relatives of the president from serving in the cabinet or succeeding the president. Agency for International Development. It also reduced the public-sector budget and returned some expropriated property to landowners whose land had been seized by the Sandinista government. In agriculture, emphasis was placed on large-scale farming for export rather than on domestic subsistence. The penalty was later changed from prison time to house arrest. Seeming to have traded the uncompromising Marxism of his past for more-pragmatic politics, Ortega promised to uphold the free-market economic reforms of his predecessors. For its part, the government focused on the difficult task of stamping out official corruption and improving general economic conditions, particularly for poorer Nicaraguans. Nicaragua continued to push for regional stability and peaceful relations with its neighbours. A long-standing maritime dispute with Honduras was settled by the International Court of Justice in 1990. In the same court settled a longtime conflict with Costa Rica over the use of the San Juan River, which runs along the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border. In October the Nicaraguan Supreme Court lifted the constitutional ban on consecutive reelection of the president, which permitted Ortega to run again and win the November presidential election, though there were allegations of election fraud. The Nicaraguan government then resold much of that oil at market prices and plowed much of the profits into popular social programs that helped to lift many Nicaraguans out of poverty with general poverty falling from about 42 percent to about 30 percent between 1985 and 1990, according to one measure. At the beginning of the 21st century, per capita income in Nicaragua had been among the lowest in Latin America, and unemployment and underemployment had been stubbornly high. Unemployment slid to about 7 percent, and GDP growth topped 6 percent in 1999 before falling to about 4 percent in 2000. Ground was officially broken in December on the canal, which was slated to be roughly three times longer than the Panama Canal. However, the effective start of the project was delayed until 2002, largely in response to concerns about its environmental impact, especially on Lake Nicaragua. Ortega was reelected by a wide margin. He captured more than 72 percent of the vote, though the voting was conducted without international observers and was boycotted by many in the opposition, who called the election a farce. As her influence increased in the new government, she and Ortega began to be perceived as copresidents. Over several days the focus of the demonstrations shifted to a general denunciation of the Ortega-Murillo regime and spread from Managua to other Nicaraguan cities. In the process dozens of protesters were killed in clashes with police and government-dispatched counterdemonstrators. Although most of the demonstrations were peaceful, some protestors were armed with Molotov cocktails and makeshift mortars. The government accused the protestors of mounting a coup. In July police and paramilitary forces loyal to the government retook two places that had become strongholds of resistance, the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in Managua and Monimbo, a suburb of Masaya, which significantly had been a focus of and a catalyst for anti-Somoza rebellion during the Sandinista revolution. Estimates of the deaths that had resulted from the violence that began in April were as high as 100. In calling for an end to the violence, a UN human rights spokesman accused police and authorities of extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary detentions, and denial of the right to freedom of expression.

Chapter 4 : Nicaragua Economy - GDP, Inflation, CPI and Interest Rate

This rather slender book purports to be an overview of the history, culture, and economics of Nicaragua. In reality it is an apologia for the Sandinistas and for Daniel Ortega in particular.

Chapter 5 : Nicaragua - The Sandinista government | calendrierdelascience.com

What happened to Nicaragua? In the 1980s it was a byword for revolution, a bogeyman for U.S. governments and a symbol of Latin America's quest for new paths to development and social justice. But since the Sandinistas' electoral defeat in 1990 it has dropped out of the headlines.

Chapter 6 : Nicaragua - Wikipedia

Focus Nicaragua will begin operations on April 27th and we are very excited for this new adventure. With over 17 years of experience and call center sites across the globe, Focus Services has become one of the fastest growing call centers in the world by providing low cost, high quality outsourcing solutions.

Chapter 7 : infocus missions

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Chapter 8 : Nicaragua in Focus: A Guide to the People, Politics and Culture by Nick Caistor

"Nicaragua in Focus" is an authoritative and up-to-date guide to this fascinating country. It explores the land, history and politics (including the crucial and difficult relationship with the U.S.), economy, society and people, culture and environment, and includes tips on where to go and what to see.

Chapter 9 : New Focus Services Nicaragua - Focus Services

While Latin America is focused on the region's packed electoral calendar and Venezuela's ongoing crisis, Nicaragua has become the region's latest flash point of turmoil and government repression.