

Nicaragua Resource Guide

Working in Central America can be an incredibly fulfilling and life changing experience, but it is one that requires preparation and reflection. The social and economic realities of Nicaragua will undoubtedly call forth questions, reactions, and confusion. You will be prompted to analyze some of the overall as well as everyday causes of the pervasive poverty that you will witness. These conditions are a product of a history that has been determined by geography, culture, politics, economics, international relations, among other social forces.

Seeds of Learning staff have developed this list of resources to use as a tool to assist you in preparing for your SOL volunteer experience. We ask that you learn as much as you can about Nicaragua before you go which will help to contextualize your experience there. It has consistently been our experience that the more people educate themselves before they travel, the richer their experience will be.

We appreciate and welcome your feedback and suggestions to help us improve our reference list. Thank you for joining a SOL work group and helping SOL to fulfill its mission of increasing access to education and cross-cultural understanding .

Websites

- 1) **World Health Organization**- Basic national statistics www.who.int/countries/nic/en/
- 2) **Wikipedia**- General overview, (see History, Politics, Geography) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicaragua
- 3) **Nicanet**- Current news briefs in English, (free email list serve) www.nicanet.org
- 4) **Tortillas con Sal**- News reporting and commentary, English and Spanish www.tortillaconsal.com
- 5) **Envio**- Nicaraguan magazine with political and economic analysis www.envio.org.ni/index.en
- 6) **Upside Down World**- News of activism and politics in Latin America <http://upsidedownworld.org/main/>

Movies

1. [Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution](#) An excellent 4-part documentary done by Al Jazeera and broadcast on July 17, 2009. [Nicaragua: An Unfinished Revolution part 1](#) YouTube has parts 1-4, each about 10 minutes long. It's very well done and an extremely comprehensive political history that focuses on the revolution and where Nicaragua is today politically.
2. [Deadly Embrace: World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Nicaragua](#) After five years of IMF and World Bank assistance, Nicaragua experienced the worst economic collapse in its history. Deadly Embrace traces the history of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua, and its economic plight as influenced by the IMF, the World Bank and US agencies.
3. [Hombres Armados](#) (Men with Guns), (1997) John Sayles' social, religious, political, military realities in this movie, while being generic to the region, are very accurate to the general sentiment and complexity of the times. Set in an unnamed Central American country, it is the story of one man's discovery of what actually happened in the political history of his nation, and what happened to his students.
4. [Dying to Live](#) is a profound look at the human face of the immigrant. It explores who these people are, why they leave their homes and what they face in their journey. <http://www.nd.edu/~latino/dyingtolive/film.shtml>
5. [The End of Poverty?](#) A documentary discourse on why poverty exists when there is so much wealth in the world. Helps understand not only the US economic system but the foundations of today's global economy.
6. [Dreaming Nicaragua](#) A sensitive and lyrical portrayal of four children living in extreme poverty in Nicaragua.
7. [Pictures from a Revolution](#) In 1981, Susan Meiselas published her photographs documenting the Sandinista revolution. Ten years later, Meiselas returns looking for the people who appear in the photographs: where are they now, what do they

remember, what do they think of their country and of the revolution?

8. [Harvest of Empire](http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2013/4/30/see_democracy_now_s_juan_gonzalez_speak_at_upcoming_screenings_of_harvest_of_empire), This is a movie and book about roots of immigration stemming from US policy in Latin America http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2013/4/30/see_democracy_now_s_juan_gonzalez_speak_at_upcoming_screenings_of_harvest_of_empire

Books

1. [Nicaragua, Living in the Shadow of the Eagle](#) by Thomas W. Walker and Christine J. Wade.
2. [The Death of Ben Linder: The Story of a North American in Sandinista Nicaragua](#) by Joan Kruckewitt
3. [The Country under my Skin](#) and [A Memoir of Love and War](#) by Gioconda Belli
4. [Nicaragua: Surviving the legacy of US Policy](#), Photography by Paul Dix <http://nicaraguaphototestimony.org/>
5. [Blood of Brothers : Life and War In Nicaragua](#) by Kinzer, Stephen.
6. [Life Is Hard : Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power In Nicaragua](#). By Lancaster, Roger N.
7. [Nicaragua in Focus: A guide to people politics and culture](#) by Hazel Plunkett

Articles

1. [Mango, Mango. A family, a Fruit Stand, and Survival on \\$4.50 a day](#), by Douglas Haynes. Great article that encapsulates many current realities and struggles of the working class and marginalized in Nicaragua today, <http://blog.longreads.com/2014/08/26/mango-mango-a-family-a-fruit-stand-and-survival-on-4-50-a-day/>
2. Poverty in Nicaragua drives children out of school and into work, by Nina Lakhani. Current educational reality and statistics about school retention, attendance and challenges. <http://gu.com/p/48akj/sbl>

Curriculum

1. [Inside the Volcano: A Curriculum on Nicaragua](#). Multi lesson resource that is still relevant though it is dated. Great concepts to explore history and politics and balances of power. Warning this is a big PDF file and therefore slow to download. <http://www.teachingforchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Inside-the-Volcano.pdf>