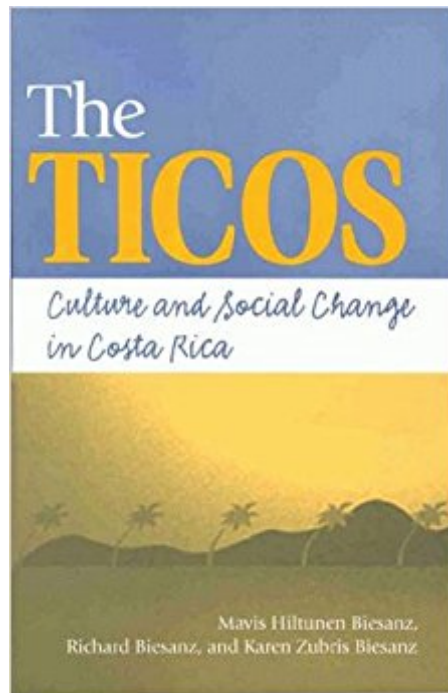




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The Ticos: Culture And Social Change In Costa Rica



Synopsis

Written with the perspective of more than half a century of first-hand observation, this unparalleled social and cultural history describes how Costa Rica's economy, government, education and health-care systems, family structures, religion, and other institutions have evolved, and how this evolution has affected and reflected people's daily lives, beliefs, and their values. The authors are particularly concerned with change and continuity since the economic crisis of the early 1980s and the structural adjustment that followed. Providing a comprehensive introduction to a country they know well, the Biesanzes also contribute astutely to an understanding of the reciprocal influence of structural adjustment and national culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Costa Rica is unique among Latin American cultures. Ticos, as Costa Ricans call themselves, have a higher standard of living than their neighbors, with a higher literacy rate, a well-developed social security system, widespread access to electrical power, and a traditional system of education. Much more than a land of coffee and bananas, Costa Rica boasts more teachers than soldiers?it has even abolished its army. This book is divided into 11 chapters covering history, government and politics, the economy, the family, education, and religion. The authors draw on their experiences in the country, interviews with people from all walks of Costa Rican life, and secondary sources. The result is a solid monograph on Costa Rica that points out the contradictions in its perception by the rest of the world. The conclusions dwell on Costa Ricans' distrust of changes that await the country in future decades. Recommended for academic libraries and public libraries that collect in the

history and culture of our neighbors to the South. ?Boyd Childress, Auburn Univ. Lib., ALCopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

When I was researching Costa Rica as a candidate place for retirement, despite some effort, I was unable to find much literature beyond the standard travel and retirement guides and a few rather dry tomes of some international institutions. I was therefore delighted to come across and read *The Ticos*. The writing is a nice blend of hard facts and well-researched statistics with deductions from personal interviews, all of which is neatly intertwined with astute personal observation and personal anecdotes. It is very well-written. The language flows as easily as in a good novel. All in all, a most interesting book. I strongly recommend it to foreign residents of Costa Rica. I equally recommend it to those considering Costa Rica as a country for residence, whether for retirement or business.

--Chris Couzens, *La Voz*, June 1999
When a new book by the Biesanzes comes out, observers of Costa Rica sit up and take note. *The Ticos*, a penetrating analysis of this society, is downright enjoyable reading, even for those who know (or care) little about this corner of Latin America. --Rod Hughes, *The Tico Times*, December 24, 1998

The book should really be titled "A Negative, One-Sided and Outdated View of Culture and Social Change in Costa Rica". The writers appear to write this with an agenda of presenting a very distasteful view of Costa Rica and their elitist take is not well-hidden. Now that I have read it (and wasted my money on it), I fail to see how a nearly 20 year old book on Costa Rican culture, with very limited sources, could add anything meaningful to a reader's perspective. I would urge anyone considering this book to save the money and spend time reviewing several of the much more current blogs and websites which provide great detail and insight into the CURRENT culture in Costa Rica and are much more balanced.

Beware: Don't let this book be the only guide to Costa Rica. It was written in the last century, copyright 1999. It seems to be illuminating as far as the country's history goes, but some facts are definitely wrong (surrounding the Spanish conquista, among others). But most glaring, without being updated, it is somewhat misleading.

If you are thinking about moving to Costa Rica, I suggest you read this book about its people, their history, their beliefs and why they are the way they are. It is an eye-opener. Many people (particularly Americans) move to Costa Rica expecting it to be like USA cheap. Some of them forget

it is a foreign country and they are the immigrants. This book helps you learn what makes Ticos tick and why they are so special in Central America.

This is a good book about the Tico culture in Costa Rica. Other research is needed for those who plan to visit or move to Costa Rica to learn about petty theft, the risk of greater crimes, such as burglary, and lax law enforcement. This book does highlight the characteristics of the Ticos.

Wow this book really has so great info in it. It really helps you crawl into the mindset of the country and why things are as they are.

I think the writers should rework this book. There is much I want to know about Tico culture that is not here. Too much outdated info. Seems more like an old textbook. I was excited about getting this book, but not now. Get some approach ideas from YouTube.

It was a good book about Tico history and culture. The major downside is that it was published in 1999, so some of the information isn't very relevant/up to date.

The stories were interesting

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