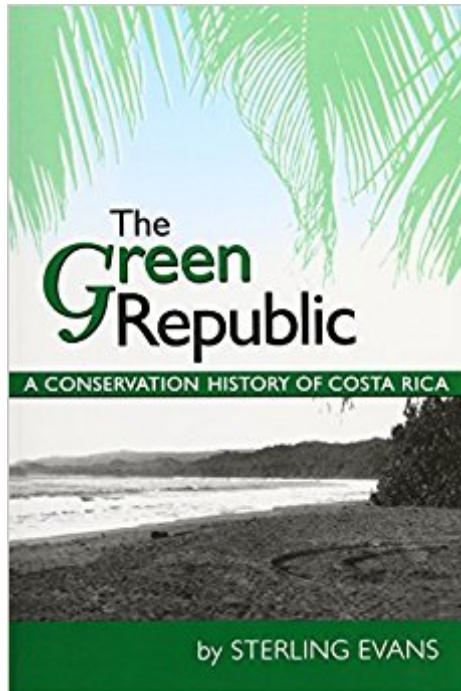




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The Green Republic: A Conservation History Of Costa Rica



Synopsis

With over 25 percent of its land set aside in national parks and other protected areas, Costa Rica is renowned worldwide as "the green republic." In this very readable history of conservation in Costa Rica, Sterling Evans explores the establishment of the country's national park system as a response to the rapid destruction of its tropical ecosystems due to the expansion of export-related agriculture. Drawing on interviews with key players in the conservation movement, as well as archival research, Evans traces the emergence of a conservation ethic among Costa Ricans and the tangible forms it has taken. In Part I, he describes the development of the national park system and "the grand contradiction" that conservation occurred simultaneously with massive deforestation in unprotected areas. In Part II, he examines other aspects of Costa Rica's conservation experience, including the important roles played by environmental education and nongovernmental organizations, campesino and indigenous movements, ecotourism, and the work of the National Biodiversity Institute.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Using a wide range of sources, including interviews, archives, and newspapers, Evans paints a complex and nuanced picture of how conservation emerged in twentieth-century Costa Rica....This lucid and thoughtful work will be useful to historians and policymakers, and as a textbook for graduate and undergraduate courses on agriculture, development, and conservation in Latin America." (Hispanic American Historical Review)

Sterling Evans teaches environmental history at Humboldt State University in northern California.

Evans' book was extremely helpful when I needed to know more about the timeline of Costa Rican conservation. This book was concise and informative, which was helpful when writing a paper. A professor of mine commented that this book was perhaps the best he's read when it comes to the history of conservation in Costa Rica. I have not done as much research as my professor has on this topic but I have to say, when it came to writing a paper, everything I needed was in this book (Evans also did a great job in providing a stepping stone for further research; he definitely pointed you in the right direction). Now, if you are looking to read this for leisurely purposes, I think you would enjoy this book if you were interested in Costa Rica's conservation history. It really is fascinating to me. It shows a rough template on how they managed (for the most part) to get an entire country interested in the health of their environment. So, if you are interested in this particular topic, this is a must read!

Sterling Evans' *The Green Republic* is a fascinating account of the development of the NP of Costa Rica. I've visited most of the parks in CR and after reading *The Green Republic* I have a greater appreciation for them and high admiration for the Costa Rican individuals and non-natives who through hard work, luck and perseverance have created a system of parks unique to Latin America and the world. I particularly enjoyed the anecdotes about the individuals and also the tremendous amount of facts the book contains--facts that have a purpose as they paint a complex picture of a country struggling to do the right thing despite enormous pressures to cash in for the easy dollar. The book perhaps does read a bit dry at times, but the overall story is well told and worth the time and money. Great book!

A superior book that will interest ecotourists, conservationists and amateur naturalists wish to learn more about the green soul of this irresistible country. For about the same price, another book that details the history of conservation in the country's diverse geographical zones (seacoasts, prairies, jungles, and volcanic highlands) is "Costa Rica: The Last Country The Gods Made."

i had to read it for an assignment, so i didn't really enjoy it. if i had to read it for fun, i probably would have enjoyed it more. it was well spoken.

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