

# Information Equity in the College Library

Washington Library Association Conference  
November 4, 2017

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Kathy Swart, Librarian , Pierce College  
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# Ideas we will explore today

How does the way information is curated shape our perceptions?

How do our perceptions shape reality?

What kinds of bias are inherent in the systems used to curate information?

# Our journey at the Pierce Library

“Where are the Black psychologists?”

# Dr. Safiya Noble



“Google provides an advertising algorithm, not an information retrieval algorithm.”

# What if we let Google tell us what about us is valuable?

Google asian girls|

- asian girls
- asian girls everywhere ucla
- asian girls dating I'm Feeling

About 87,300,000 results (0.41 seconds)

## Asian Girls: View Pics & Photos of Beautiful Asian Women

[thechive.com/category/girls/asian/](http://thechive.com/category/girls/asian/)

View pictures and photos of hot asian girls on theCHIVE. Pics of them in their bra and panties, taking selfies. Keep Calm And Chive On.

## 50 of the hottest Asian girls on the Internet : theCHIVE

[thechive.com/2015/10/03/from-asia-with-love-50-photos-3/](http://thechive.com/2015/10/03/from-asia-with-love-50-photos-3/)

Oct 3, 2015 - If you like Asian girls than get in here! ... 16. 9AbGWk5. 17. M1TTLV7. 18. tumblr nqeqmytija1qzkyono1 540 From Asia, with love (50 Photos).

## Cute Asian Girls - Reddit

<https://www.reddit.com/r/AsianCuties/> Reddit

Welcom to /r/AsianCuties! Pics of cute Asian girls. Nudity is acceptable, no hardcore content please. Please tag submissions nudity or risque content as NSFW!

New - Subscribe to our newsletter - Wiki - Rising

## Hot Asian girl undressing - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMxOKsaryaA>

May 3, 2015 - Hot Asian girl undressing suscribete e ami canal ddale like comentnta gracias.

## 22 Things to Know Before Dating an Asian Girl - Cosmopolitan

[www.cosmopolitan.com/.../things-to-know-before-dating-a-...](http://www.cosmopolitan.com/.../things-to-know-before-dating-a-...) Cosmopolitan

Mar 25, 2015 - Don't assume I know how to speak fill-in-the-blank-Asian language. I didn't necessarily grow up speaking any language other than English.

## Meet gorgeous Asian Girls With Dating profiles Newly ...

[www.chnlove.com/newest\\_ladies/](http://www.chnlove.com/newest_ladies/)

6 days ago - Gorgeous Chinese women and girls from China seeking men for love, relationship and romance. Browse Chinese women pics and chat with ...

Google latina women|

- latina names
- latina actresses under 40
- latina women's health

About 215,000,000 results (0.57 seconds)

## Images for latina women

Report images



## More images for latina women

## Engage The Exotic - Spanish Women - Photos of Latin Women

[www.latin-wife.com/latin-women-profiles/](http://www.latin-wife.com/latin-women-profiles/)

International Introductions to beautiful Spanish women. Photos of Latin women from South America seeking marriage. Love has no borders, find a Spanish wife.

## 7 Reasons Every Man Should Date A Latina At Least Once ...

[www.returnofkings.com/.../7-reasons-every-man-should-date-a-latina-at-...](http://www.returnofkings.com/.../7-reasons-every-man-should-date-a-latina-at-...)

Mar 17, 2015 - Latin women can be very intimidating. Their fiery personalities are another part of their culture they embrace. Incidentally, this acts as a highly ...

## Search for Local Single Latino Women - LatinoPeopleMeet ...

[www.latinopeoplemeet.com/v3/externalsearch/single-latino-women](http://www.latinopeoplemeet.com/v3/externalsearch/single-latino-women)

Search for Local Single Latino Women. Search pictures and profiles of Latino Singles near you right now. Discover how online dating sites make finding singles ...

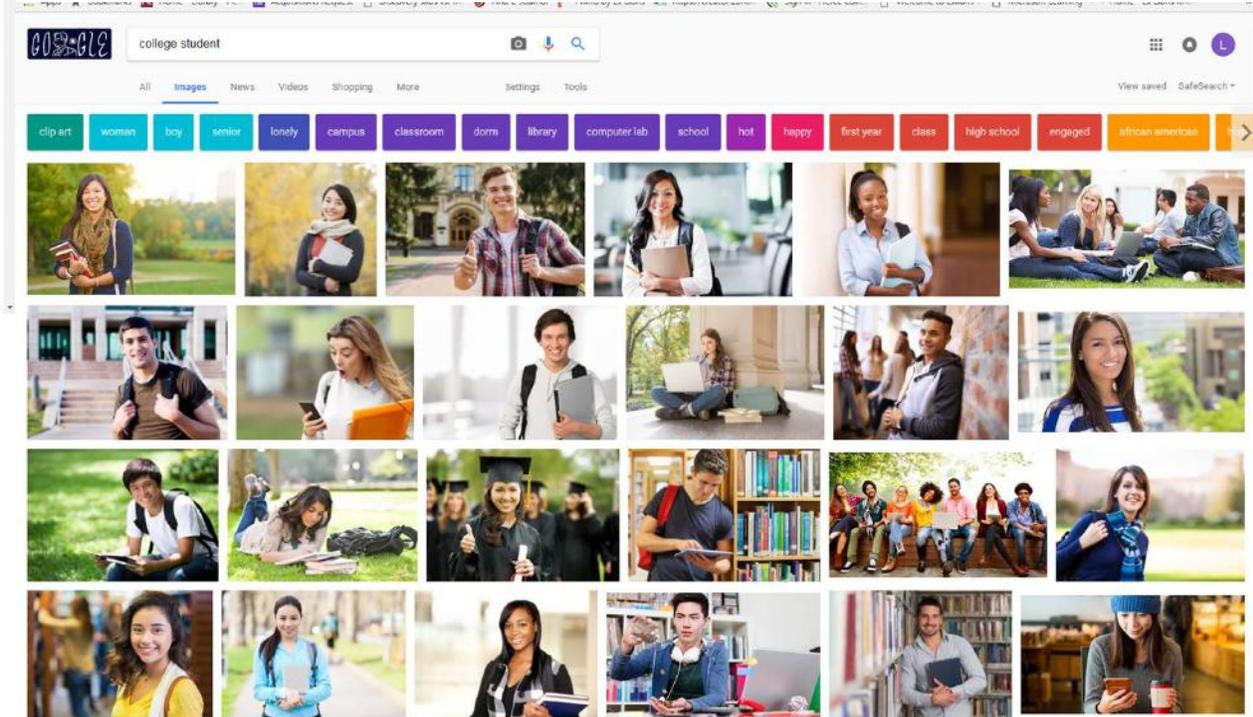
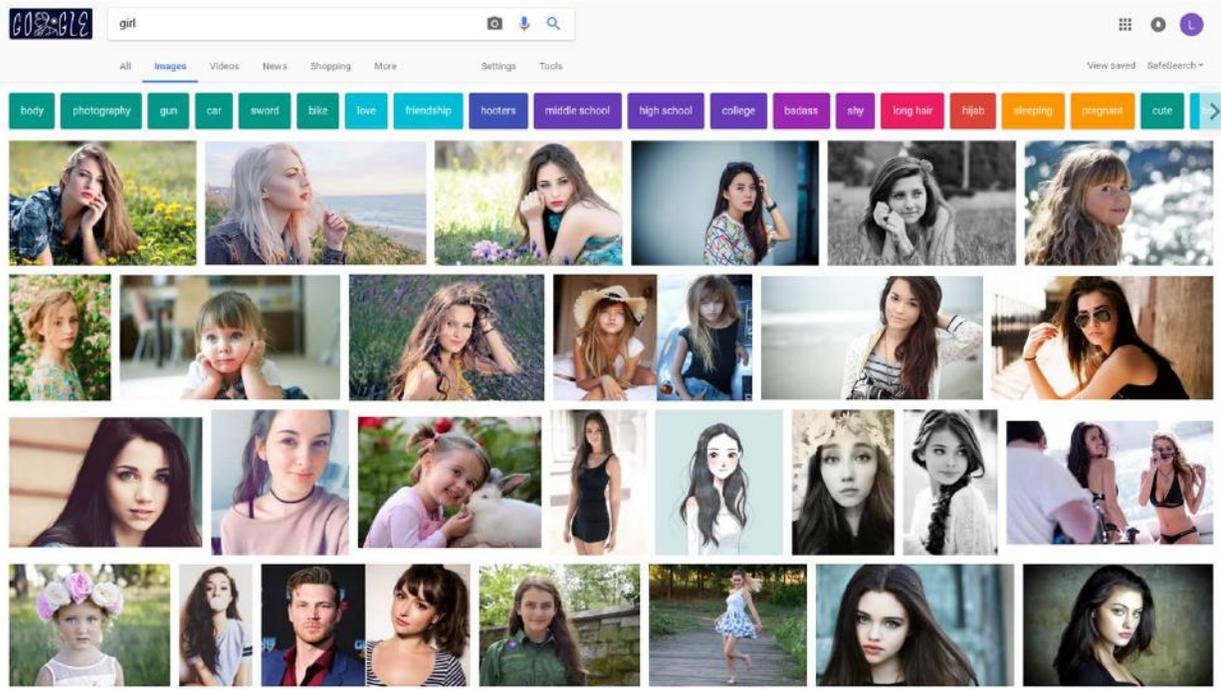
## Latina Singles - Match.com

[www.match.com/online-dating/latino/single-women.html](http://www.match.com/online-dating/latino/single-women.html) Match.com

Match.com - Single Latina Women. Finding a woman with whom you are compatible and who shares the same beliefs as you is simple when you are connected ...

## Meet Latin Women for Marriage, an Exotic Latin Bride

# What if we let Google tell us what we can be?



# Google algorithm at work

- Search for “martin luther king”

The screenshot shows a Google search for "martin luther king jr". The search bar contains the text "martin luther king jr" and shows "About 5,730,000 results (0.98 seconds)". Below the search bar are tabs for "All", "Images", "News", "Books", "Videos", "More", "Settings", and "Tools".

The search results list several entries:

- Martin Luther King Jr. - Biography** (nobelprize.org)
- Martin Luther King Jr. - Wikipedia** (wikipedia.org)
- Martin Luther King Jr. - Minister, Civil Rights Activist - Biography.com** (biography.com)
- About Dr. King | The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent ...** (thekingcenter.org)
- Martin Luther King Jr. - Black History - HISTORY.com** (history.com)
- Martin Luther King Jr. - A True Historical Examination** (martinlutherking.org)
- The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute |** (kinginstitute.stanford.edu)

A knowledge panel for "Martin Luther King Jr." is displayed on the right, including a photo gallery, a description, and biographical details:

- Martin Luther King Jr.** (American minister)
- Born:** January 15, 1929, Atlanta, GA
- Assassinated:** April 4, 1968, Memphis, TN
- Famous speech:** I Have a Dream

A speech quote is visible: "It is dark; only light can do that. Hate cannot do that. ...reat to justice everywhere."

A callout bubble points to the 6th search result, stating: "#6 result is a hate site".

At the bottom, there is a "Books" section with a "View 30+ more" link and several book covers.

# What is Google's position on information curation?

“Our search results are generated objectively and are independent of the beliefs and preferences of those who work at Google. A site's ranking in Google's search results is automatically determined by computer algorithms using hundreds of factors to calculate a page's relevance to a given query. **The only sites we omit from our search results are those we are legally compelled to remove or those maliciously attempting to manipulate our results.**”

(from an interview conducted by Huff Post reporter Keith Thomson -- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/keith-thomson/white-supremacist-site-ma\\_b\\_809755.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/keith-thomson/white-supremacist-site-ma_b_809755.html))

# What is our profession's position on information curation?

"Intellectual freedom can exist only where two essential conditions are met: first, that all individuals have the right to hold any belief on any subject and to convey their ideas in any form they deem appropriate, and second, **that society makes an equal commitment to the right of unrestricted access to information and ideas regardless of the communication medium used, the content of work, and the viewpoints of both the author and the receiver of information.**"

*Intellectual Freedom Manual, 7th edition*



Don't be evil



Be just

# How is money involved?

-Google has acquired over [200 companies](#)

You Tube



Picasa

# Speaking of Wikipedia...

## Did Media Literacy Backfire?

As I detailed in my book *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens*, too many students I met were being told that Wikipedia was untrustworthy and were, instead, being encouraged to do research. As a result, the message that many had taken home was to turn to Google and use whatever came up first. They heard that Google was trustworthy and Wikipedia was not.

-danah boyd, Social Scientist

# Google is an ADVERTISING company

Fortune magazine article header and top section.

PAID CONTENT  
Creating the Power Plant of the Future  
From Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Group

4 No-Annual Fee Business Credit Cards That Give You 0% I...  
Compare Cards

ENTERTAINMENT  
Pokémon Go Has a Treat For Halloween

TECH  
Facebook Is Testing Its News Subscription Tool, But Only...

PAID CONTENT FROM SALESFORCE

FORTUNE PARTNERS TOP SERVICE LEADERS AWARD  
Know a Customer Service Leader? Get them Recognized. salesforce

TECH • ADVERTISING

## How Google and Facebook Have Taken Over the Digital Ad Industry

f t in e



**you**IBM  
This is customer service to the power of IBM.  
Get started now →

**You May Like**

**3 Things A New Leader Should Enact For Success**  
by Kellogg's Executive Development

HONDA  
Sophistication comes standard. 2017 Honda Accord COMPARE NOW

LinkedIn article header and content.

LinkedIn Sign in Join now

## Google, the World's Biggest Advertising Company, Wants to Start Blocking Ads

Published on May 2, 2017 | Featured in: Marketing & Advertising, Technology

Barry Davis | Follow  
Owner of HoIStocks.NYC with 53 Years Experience, Most simila... 291 12 60

Google is many things. They're a search engine, self-driving car company, and even a phone maker. Yet while their parent company, Alphabet, makes a nice chunk of change from their crazy and innovative projects, there's one source of revenue that nets the company hundreds of billions each year: ads.

Google is first and foremost an ad company. They show you ads in searches and most websites on the internet. They mine your Gmail account for information about how to sell you ads better. They even use your phone to learn more about you for the express purpose of showing you ads you want to see. This makes up the bulk of the company's revenue, and is how the company became one of the biggest tech companies in under 20 years.

So why would Google, an ad company, make the decision block ads in their Chrome web browser? Better yet, why would they prevent a sizable percentage of web users from seeing ads if they make money?

**Google makes billions on ads**

Last week, Alphabet/Google (\$GOOG) announced a whopping \$21.4 billion made in advertising revenue. This was up around \$3 billion from the previous year. Google sells

What about the library?

# How is money involved?

-Pierce College library results and content neutrality



# Other Library Consolidation



**SALEM PRESS**  
An Imprint of EBSCO Publishing



Together, Follett and Baker & Taylor will provide librarians, patrons, educators, students and families with unprecedented access to the best physical and digital content wherever reading and learning take place.

“Creates the world’s largest single source of curated content and multimedia” - From the Follett website

Primo searches Pierce College collections and beyond [Sign in \(when off campus\)](#)

Search for  in Everything - books, articles, videos

[Advanced Search](#)

"it's a logical impossibility to create a querying tool that doesn't have any form of bias." Andrew Asher, assessment librarian at Indiana University at Bloomington

# How inclusive are LC Subject Headings?

## COLLG 110 College Success Library Resources Activity

In this activity, you will explore the physical space of the library. Follow the directions carefully and answer the questions completely for each section.

**Before you leave the classroom**, use the Library of Congress (LC) Classification System handout to identify and record subject areas of interest to you and your partner.

For example: name Super Student name Elated Learner  
subject Nursing subject Business  
LC class RT LC class HD

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Your partner's name \_\_\_\_\_

Your subject \_\_\_\_\_ Your partner's subject \_\_\_\_\_

LC class \_\_\_\_\_ LC class \_\_\_\_\_

## Circulating Books

**Directions:** Go to the tall shelves of books. Use the Library of Congress Classification System to find your subject area that you identified above.

1. Think about the word circulating. What do you think it means that a book "circulates?"
2. Bring back a book from each of the subject areas you and your partner identified.

## Reference Books

**Directions:** Go to the short shelves of books near the library classroom. Use the Library of Congress Classification System to find your subject area that you identified above.

1. Think about the word reference. What do you think it means that a book is a "reference" book? What type of information is found in these books?

*In response to constituent requests, the Policy and Standards Division of the Library of Congress, which maintains Library of Congress Subject Headings, has investigated the possibility of cancelling or revising the heading *Illegal aliens*. PSD also explored the possibility of revising the broader term *Aliens*. It concluded that the meaning of *Aliens* is often misunderstood and should be revised to *Noncitizens*, and that the phrase *illegal aliens* has become pejorative. The heading *Illegal aliens* will therefore be cancelled and replaced by two headings, *Noncitizens* and *Unauthorized immigration*, which may be assigned together to describe resources about people who illegally reside in a country*

[-Library of Congress to Cancel the Subject Heading “Illegal Aliens”, March 22, 2016](#)

**[DISCUSSION DRAFT]**

APRIL 7, 2016

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Librarian of Congress to retain the headings “Aliens” and “Illegal aliens” in the Library of Congress Subject Headings.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. BLACK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Librarian of Congress to retain the headings “Aliens” and “Illegal aliens” in the Library of Congress Subject Headings.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*

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# Systems



Photo by CWCS Managed Hosting



# QUESTIONING AUTHORITY: HOW REFERENCE AND LC DISTORT HISTORY

A Case Study with Brazil's Dictatorship

# QUESTION

Librarians value multiple perspectives.

But is it a perspective—or something else—when traditionally authoritative sources omit half the truth?



Teachers – Argentina -- Drama

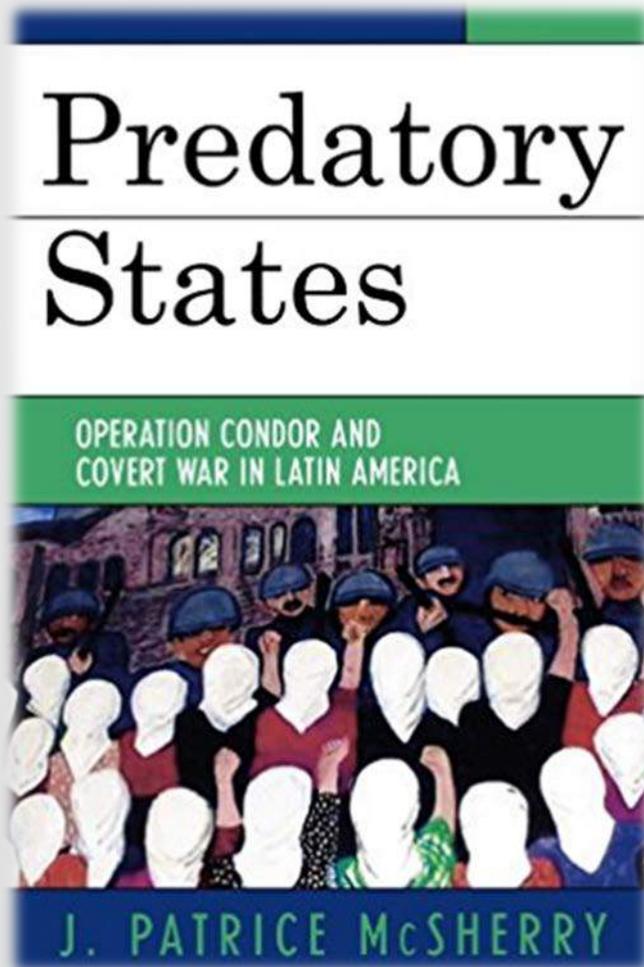
Adopted children – Argentina – Drama

Political corruption – Argentina – Drama

Feature Films

Foreign films

Motion pictures, Argentine



- U.S. forces involved in Operation Condor
- Linked to U.S. security establishment
- The U.S.'s "parallel state"
- U.S. clandestine operations in the name of "democracy."

Operación Condor

State-sponsored terrorism – *Latin America*

Political crimes and offenses – *Latin America*

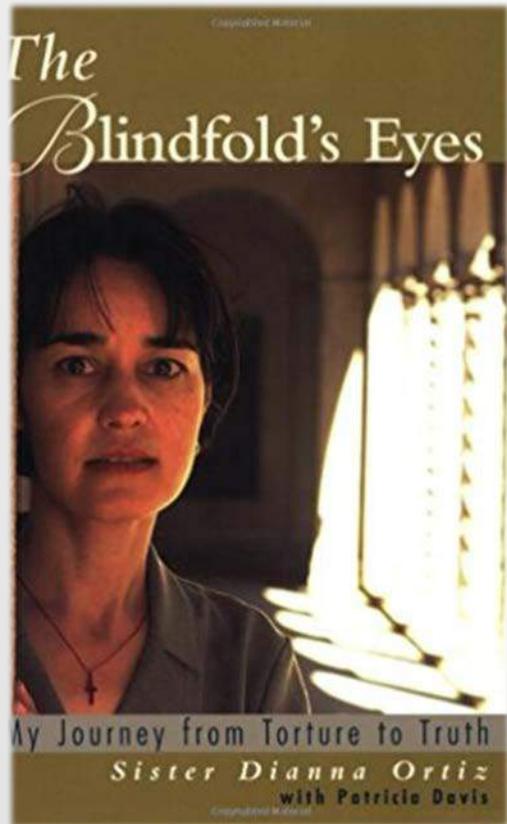


American nun

Kidnapped by U.S.-backed Guatemalan junta

Tortured by American military officer

Case ignored by U.S. government



Ortiz, Dianna

Nuns – Guatemala – Biography

Nuns – United States – Biography

Christians

Monasticism and religious orders for women

Torture

Torture—Guatemala

Torture victims—United States

*Coups d'etat—Guatemala?*

# Where is Guatemala?

## Coups d'état

— Ethiopia

NT Ethiopia—History—Attempted coup, 1989

## Coups d'état (May Subd Geog)

[JC494]

Here are entered general works about coups d'état. Works on individual coups d'état and attempted coups are entered under the name of the country with appropriate historical subdivision, e.g. France--History--Coup d'état, 1851.

UF Coup d'états

Coups (Coups d'état)

BT Government, Resistance to  
History

Political science

Revolutions

## —Algeria

NT Algeria—History—Coup d'état, 1961

## —Angola

NT Angola—History—Attempted coup, 1977

## —Argentina

NT Argentina—History—Attempted coup,  
1951

Argentina—History—Coup d'état, 1966

Argentina—History—Coup d'état, 1976

## —Benin

NT Benin—History—Coup d'état, 1972

## —Greece

NT Greece—History—Coup d'état, 1909

Greece—History—Coup d'état, 1967 (April  
21)

Greece—History—Coup d'état, 1967  
(December 13)

Greece—History—Coup d'état, 1973 (May  
22-23)

Greece—History—Coup d'état, 1973  
(November 24-25)

## —Grenada

NT Grenada—History—Coup d'état, 1979

## —Guinea

NT Guinea—History—Coup d'état, 1984

Guinea—History—Attempted coup, 1996

## —Guinea-Bissau

NT Guinea-Bissau—History—Coup d'état,  
1980

## —Haiti

NT Haiti—History—Coup d'état, 1946

Haiti—History—Coup d'état, 1989

Haiti—History—Coup d'état, 1991

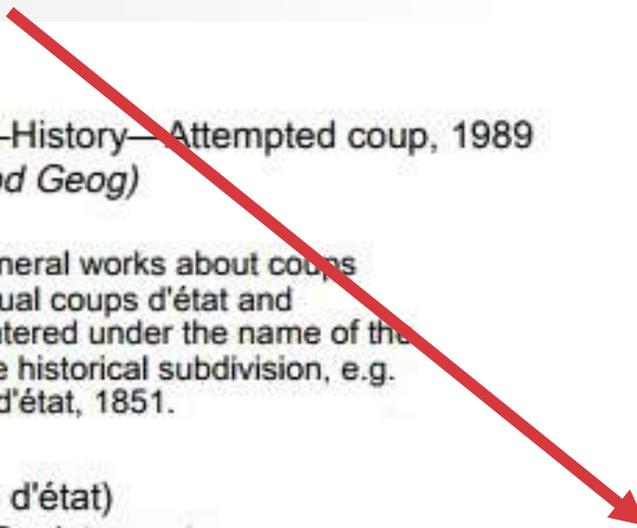
## —Honduras

NT Honduras—History—Coup d'état, 1904

Honduras—History—Coup d'état, 2009

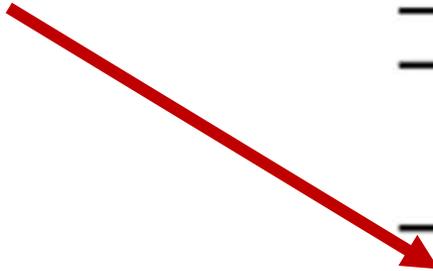
## —Indonesia

NT Indonesia—History—Coup d'état, 1965



USE Villa Guastavillani (Bologna, Italy)  
Guastec Indians  
USE Huastec Indians  
Guastec language  
USE Huastec language  
Guasteca Indians  
USE Huastec Indians  
Guasteca language  
USE Huastec language  
Guasteco Indians  
USE Huastec Indians  
**Guatavita, Lake (Colombia)**  
UF Laguna de Guatavita (Colombia)  
Lake Guatavita (Colombia)  
BT Lakes—Colombia  
**Guatemala**  
—**Antiquities**  
NT Aqua Tibia Site (Guatemala)

—**History**  
[F1461-F1477]  
—**To 1821**  
—**1821-1945**  
—**Revolution, 1871**  
[F1466.45]  
—**20th century**  
—**October Revolution, 1944**  
[F1466.45]  
UF October Revolution, Guatemala, 1944  
—**1945-1985**  
—**Revolution, 1954**  
[F1466.5]  
—**Campaigns** (*Not Subd Geog*)  
NT Gualán, Battle of, Gualán,  
Guatemala, 1954  
—**Civil War, 1960-1996**  
—**1985-**





# Brazil – History – **Revolution**, 1964



# BRAZIL'S 1964 COUP AND THE UNITED STATES

JFK with Lincoln Gordon,  
Ambassador to Brazil.



# BEFORE THE 1964 COUP

1961 - Vice President João Goulart replaced former President Quadros

Goulart wanted reforms:

- economic and social
- Brazilian-based industrialization
- Agrarian reform
- Profit remittance limits
- Nationalization of foreign companies such as **Hanna Mining**.



João Goulart

# MILITARY COUP ON APRIL 1, 1964

U.S.-backed coup overthrew democratically-elected Goulart.

Institutional Acts deprived citizens of rights.

- “Subversives” fired
- Political opposition, union leaders, peasant league workers  
Intellectuals, academics, military officers loyal to Goulart  
purged
- 10,000 people interrogated, 6,000 indicted, 4,500 expelled  
from service
- Political parties abolished
- Artificial parties created for appearances (Yes and Yes Sir!)
- Popular vote abolished
- Governors chosen by military regime



# AFTERMATH

- 21 years of brutal dictatorship followed.
- Students, the clergy, unionists, parties on the left, and anyone suspected of opposing the dictatorship were arrested, tortured, and killed.



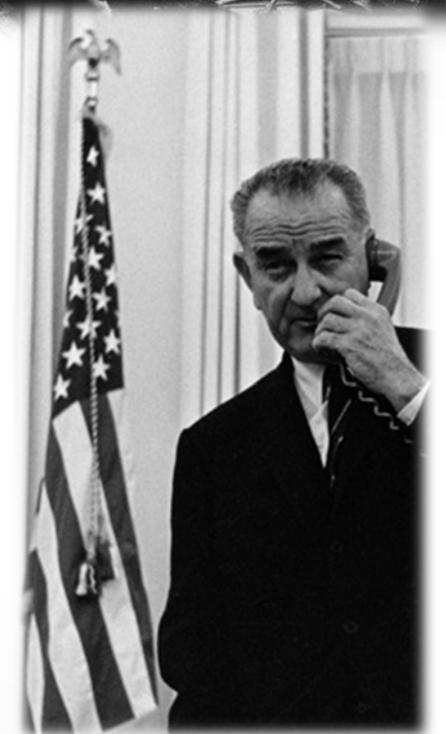
# U.S. ROLE IN THE COUP

Recently released recordings of JFK and Johnson prove that the U.S. government, which disliked Goulart's profit remittance limits and nationalization of Brazil's resources, gave the green light for a military coup. The U.S. had already:

- Intervened heavily in Brazil's affairs via CIA and USAID (Black 127-133, Green 19-48)
- Spent \$5 million trying to prevent Goulart's victory in congressional elections in 1962
- Paved the way for coup via organizations like IPES (Black 82-86) and IBAD (Black 76-77), a CIA front (Leacock 65).

Afterwards

CIA: "The change in government will create a greatly improved climate for foreign investments" ("The 1964 'Made in Brazil' coup").



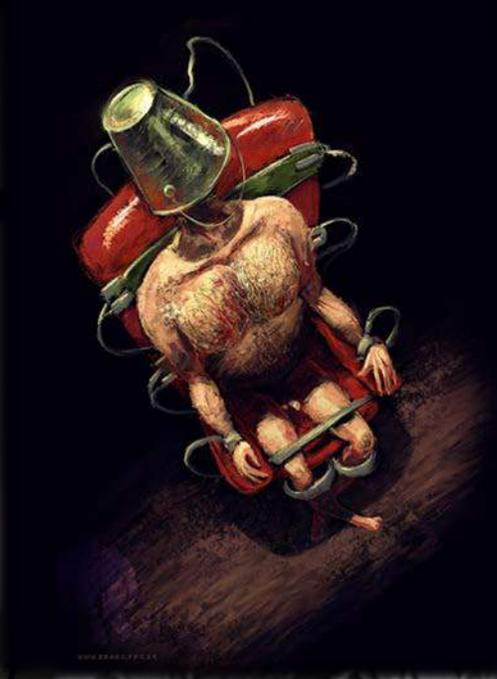
# U.S. ROLE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

- In Brazil “the police, drawing on training provided by the U.S., began routinely torturing political prisoners and even opened a torture school on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro to teach police sergeants how to inflict the maximum pain without killing their victims” (Langguth “U.S. has a 45-year History of Torture”).
- Dan Mitrione was sent by USAID’s Office of Public Safety to train Brazil’s police (Langguth *Hidden Terrors*).
- USAID funding, training, and personnel resulted in 100,000 police being trained “in the dark arts of rule-by-terror” (Ames).
- When reports of torture reached the U.S., American businesses\* asked that hearings on this matter be closed because the reports “threatened their interests” (Green 241).

\*General Electric, Dow Chemical, Phillips Petroleum, J. Walter Thompson, Morgan Guaranty, Celanese Union Carbide, Cummins Engine.



USAID’s Dan Mitrione



# TORTURED BY THE DICTATORSHIP



Dilma Rousseff,  
Former  
President of  
Brazil



Frederick Morris,  
American pastor



Augusto Boal, theater director, creator of  
Theater of the Oppressed



Paulo Coelho, world  
renowned author



Marcos Arruda,  
Geologist, economist

# TORTURED TO DEATH



**Chael Charles Schreier**  
medical student



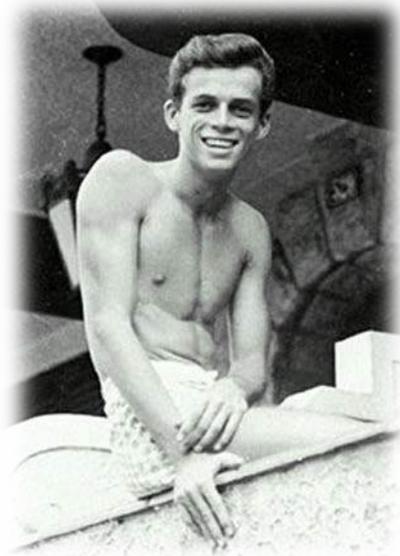
**Maria Auxiliadora Lara  
Barcelos**  
Medical student



**Tito de Alencar Lima,**  
Dominican priest



**Vladimir Herzog,**  
journalist



**Stuart Angel,**  
student



**Luiz Eduardo Merlino**  
journalist



**Data e local de nascimento:**  
8/7/1948, Rio de Janeiro (RJ)  
**Data e local da morte:**  
1/4/1971, Rio de Janeiro (RJ)

**Marilena Villas Boas Pinto,**  
psychology student



**Alexandre Vannucchi  
Leme,** geology student

Imprisoned: 50,000  
 Exiled: 5,000-10,000  
 Tortured:  $\geq 10,000$   
 Killed:  $\geq 6,544$

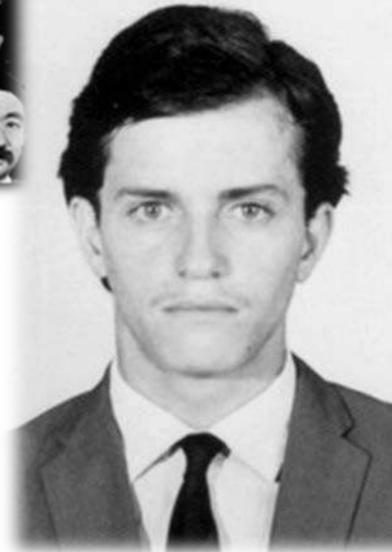
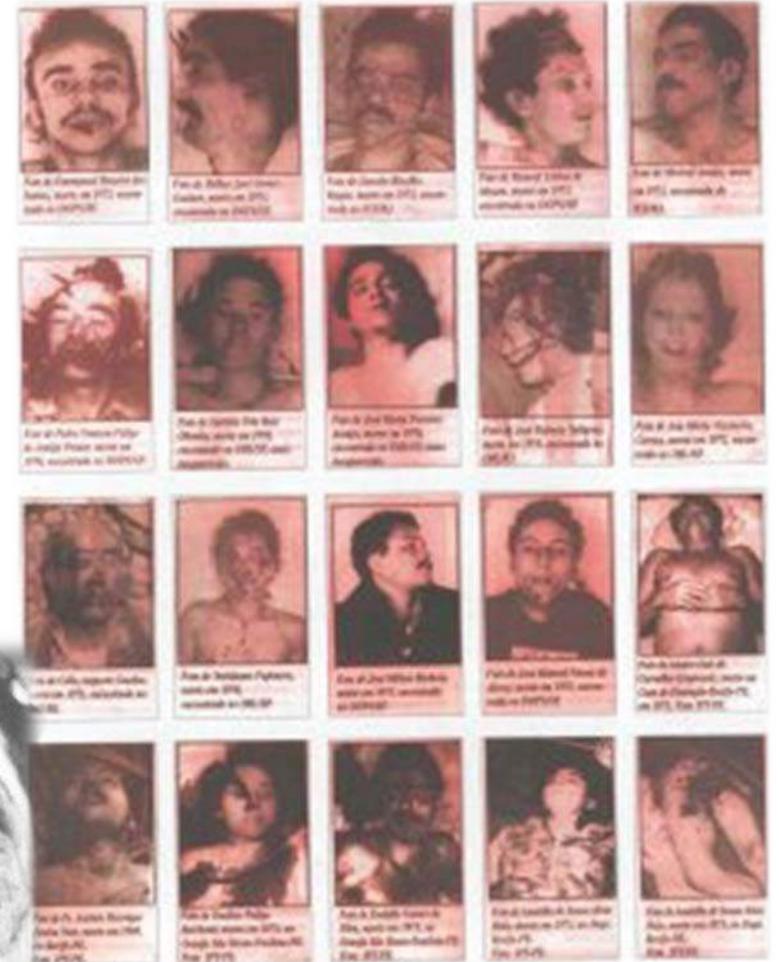


Foto de Antônio Carlos Bicalho  
 Lana, morto em 1973, encon-  
 trada no DOPS/SP.



# RESEARCHING LATIN AMERICA





“President João Goulart was overthrown because he was a **Communist.**”

-- Erin, April 2016

“Before the 1964 coup, Brazil was a **Communist** country.”

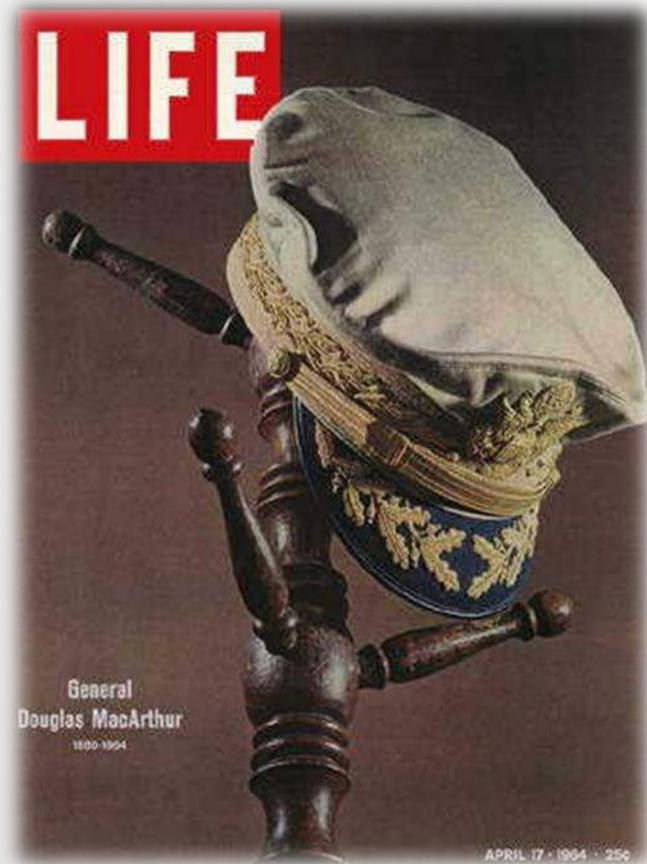
-- Brenna, May 2017

“Brazil’s Peasant Leagues were started by **Communists.**”

-- Miracle, May 2017



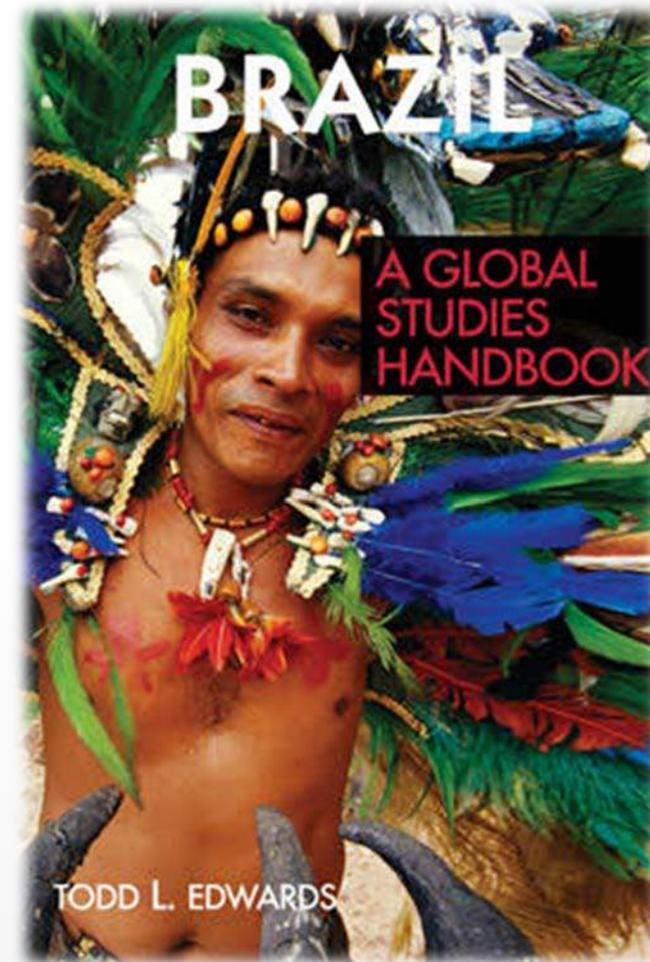
# ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA, 1964





# “FOSSILIZED” PROPAGANDA

Exhibit A: Latin American reference handbook, 2008





## Facts



1964 military **coup**

1964 “**Revolution**”

“Hardly surprising” / The only solution to Goulart’s presidency / Caused by “class conflict” and the need to “safeguard the country’s direction and development”

Military **dictatorship**

Military “**Republic**”

**João Goulart**, deposed democratically-elected president

“Foolish” man / “ineffective leader” / Tried to steal from the elite and give to the poor / Tried to “mobilize the masses against the ruling class”

Military regime’s human rights abuses

1 vague mention

U.S. support of Brazil’s dictatorship

Completely omitted



# AUTHOR: TODD L. EDWARDS

After his Latin American Studies Ph.D., the author went straight to **Wall Street. . .**

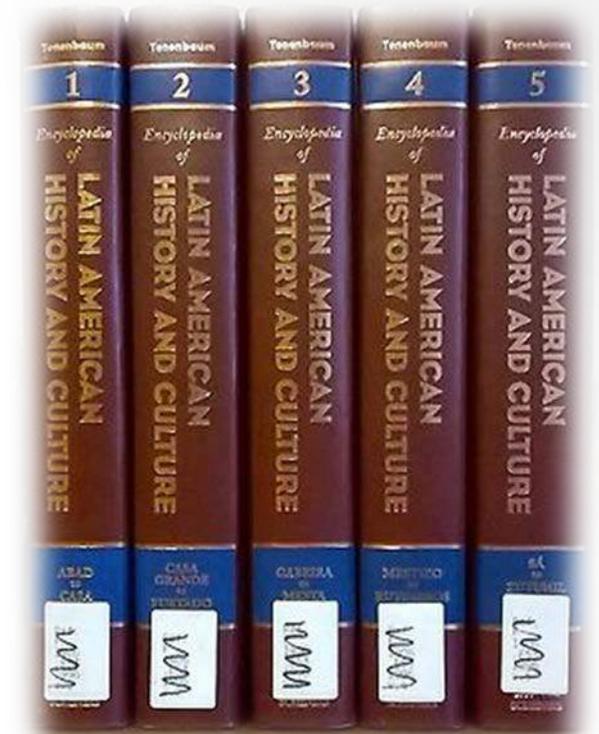
. . . where he worked as an “**investment strategist** for Latin America”

Now he is a Principal at **Cambiar Global Select**, specializing in “**macroeconomic and policy research efforts**” in Latin America (“Cambiar”).



# FOSSILIZED PROPAGANDA

**Exhibit B:** Latin American studies encyclopedia

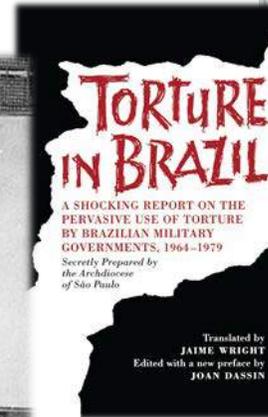
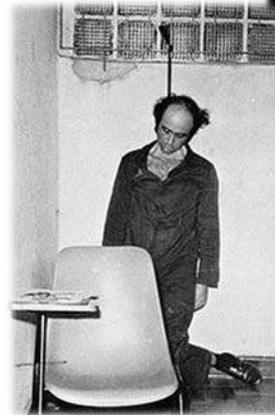


# OMISSION



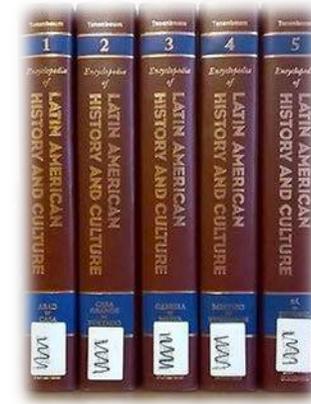
- No index entries for:

- CIA/USAID's role in Brazil's 1964 coup
- Higher War College (Escola Superior de Guerra)
- IPES (Instituto de Pesquisas e Estudos Sociais)
- IBAD (Brazilian Institute for Democratic Action)
- Operation Cleanup
- Operation Condor
- Operation Brother Sam
- Torture used by regime
- *Torture in Brazil* (report)
- Vladimir Herzog





# DISTORTION



Military coup

USAID's repression training

Military move against Goulart

*Acção Popular*, largely peaceful activists

"Revolution"

"economic assistance"

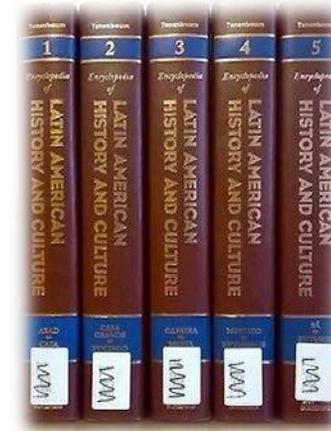
"Goulart fled"

"guerilla group"

# WHITEWASHING

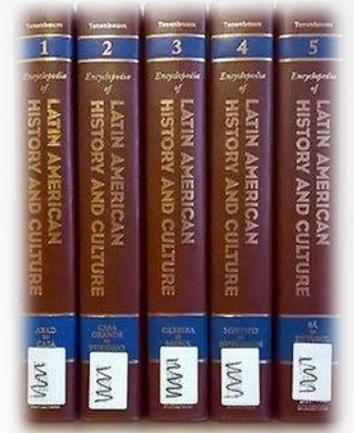
## AI-5 (Institutional Act no. 5)

- Turned President into dictator
- Closed Congress
- Eliminated civil rights
- Eliminated *habeus corpus*
- Banned elections
- Banned unions
- Instigated massive censorship
- Imprisoned, tortured, and murdered civilians



“citizens’ political rights were canceled”

# ONE CONTRIBUTING HISTORIAN



- Wrote glowing portraits about Brazil's dictators.
- Claimed Goulart had "Communist allies" in labor unions
- Claimed the public supported the military coup
- Called the Left were "violence-minded" (363)
- Mocked the idea of U.S. imperialism (362)
- Disseminated lies about the threat Communism posed to Brazil (Maicon 131).



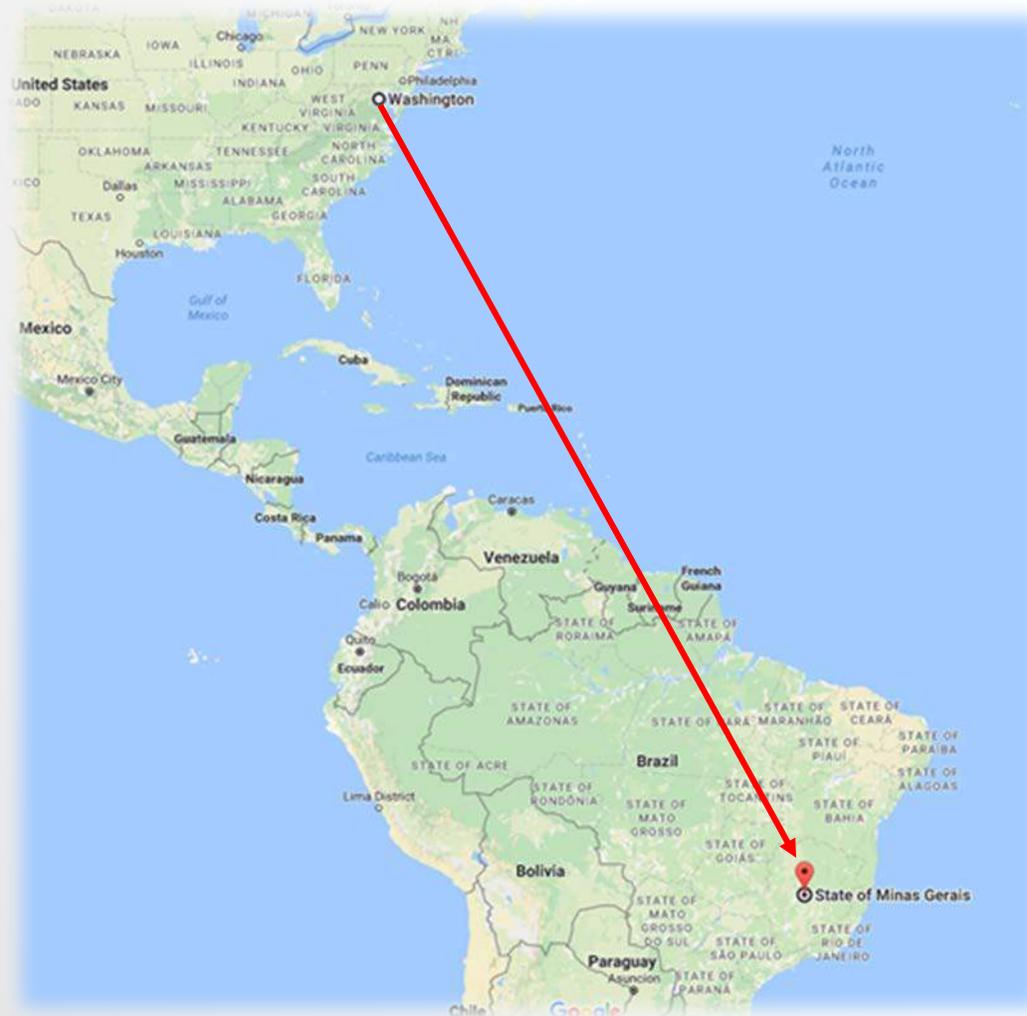


# HIS EDUCATION

- B.A. in Philosophy
- M.B.A.
- B.S.c in Metallurgical Engineering

In 1959 – 1962, he served as Executive Vice President of Mineração Novalimense, part of the U.S. **Hanna Mining Corporation**

IN 1959, HE WAS SENT TO "ORGANIZE HANNA'S OPERATIONS IN BRAZIL."



# HANNA MINING & THE 1964 COUP

## 1961

- Brazil's Congress investigated Hanna Mining's claim to Brazil's richest iron ore deposit.
- Goulart's expropriation decree challenging Hanna's claim was expected to pass Federal Court of Appeals.
- U.S. and Hanna Mining protested the decree.

## 1963

Hanna Mining funded a military conference at Arizona State University calling for an "*anti-Communist* counter-offensive in Latin America."

## 1964

Hanna Mining provided trucks for troops who carry out the coup.

# KEY FIGURES IN HANNA MINING

- **Herbert Hoover Jr.**, engineering consultant to Brazil, Undersecretary of State
- **George Humphrey**, Secretary of the Treasury under Eisenhower
- **John J. McCloy**, former president of the World Bank, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, partner in Rockefeller-associated law firm

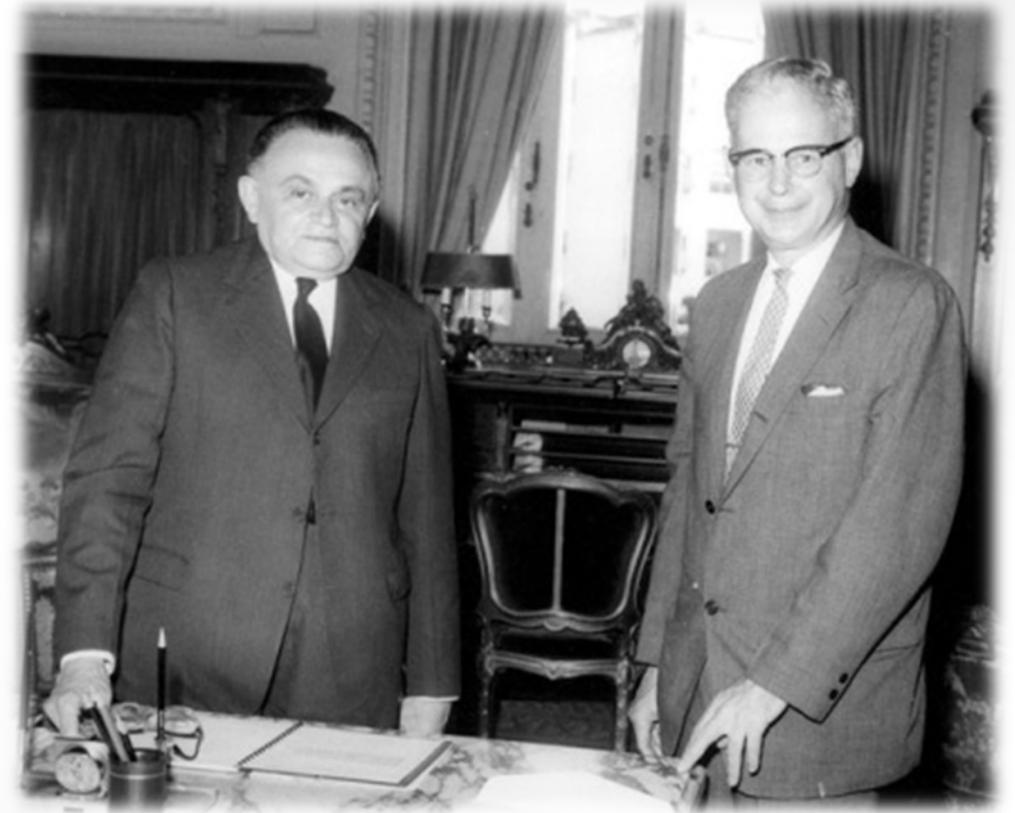


John J. McCloy

# AFTER THE COUP

Hanna Mining's McCloy led U.S. Ambassador Gordon to dictator Castelo Branco's office to explain that restoring Hanna's mining concession:

*"might be a condition for receiving U.S. economic assistance"* (Black 88).



Dictator Castelo Branco and Lincoln Gordon



# MYSTERY HISTORIAN: JOHN W. F. **DULLES**



Son of John Foster **Dulles**

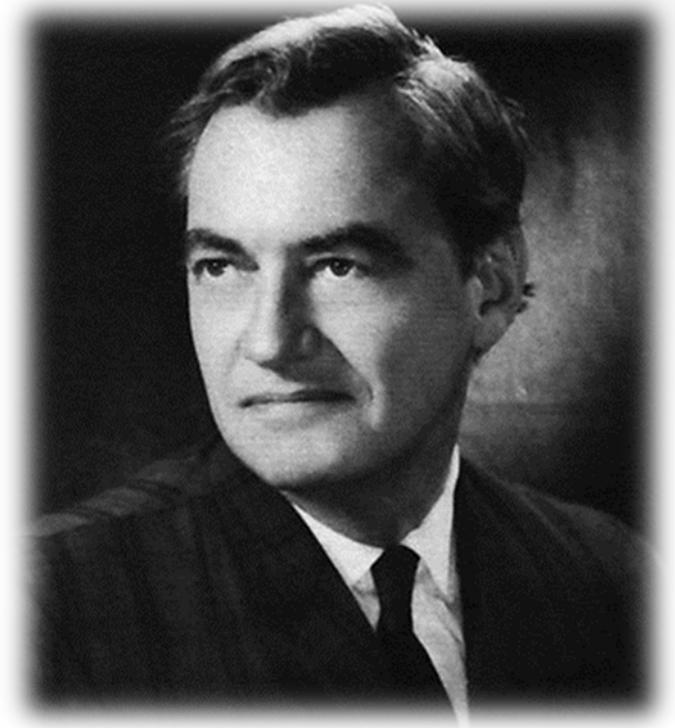
Fervent anti-Communist



Nephew of Allen **Dulles**

CIA Director

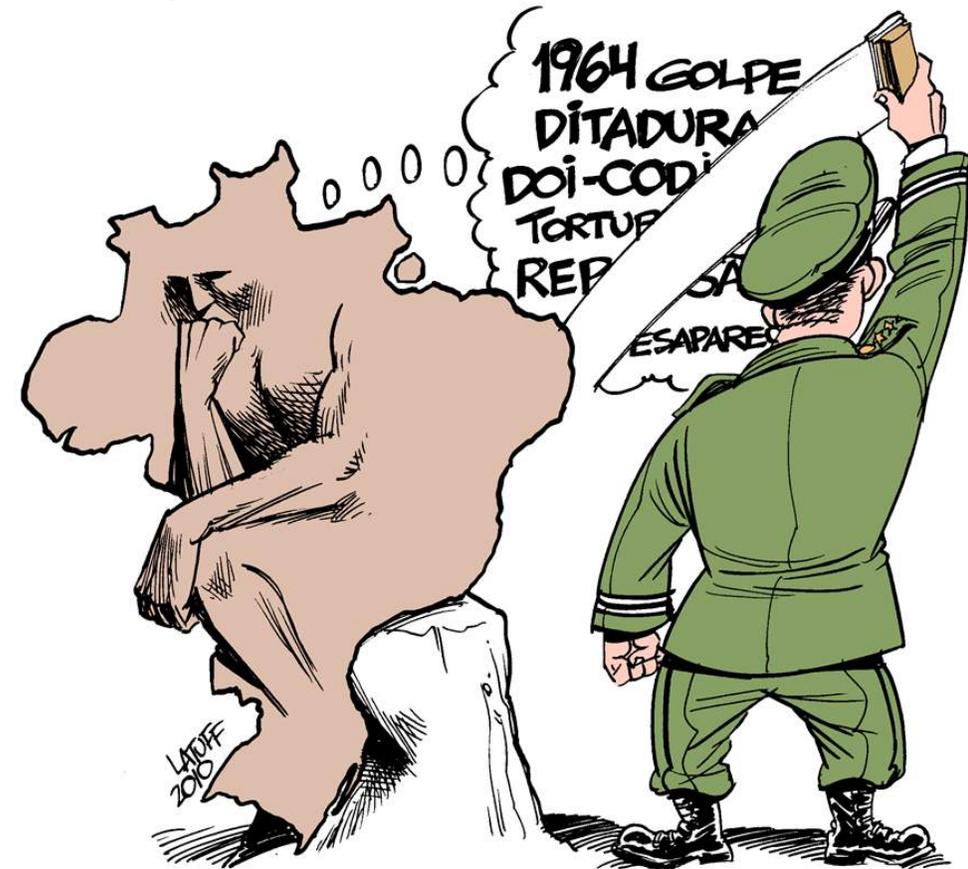
Fervent anti-Communist



# FAKE NEWS → FAKE HISTORY

"the U.S. government was able to manage the news to hide U.S. involvement in the coup and to present a skewed version of reality. . .The result was distorted reporting, which may have served short-term United States [corporate / financial / geopolitical] interests, but at the cost of misleading the public and perpetuating the cold war mentality.

This in turn, **prevented a rational assessment of American foreign policy goals** and perceptions, and may have resulted in further misconceptions concerning proper U.S. policies in the Third World, which resulted in a far greater blunder later in the decade that had disastrous consequences for the United States" (Weiss).



# WHAT CAN LIBRARIANS DO?



*Maria Georgopoulou, Cleaning up the West Wing basement, The Gennadius Library, 12/3/14,  
<http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/gennadius/newsDetails/cleaning-up-the-west-wing-basement>*

# IN THE CLASSROOM

Encourage students to evaluate reference sources as carefully as any other source.

“ Authority is granted very lightly.”

-- Suzanne Schadt, President of SALALM, Professor/Librarian



# ACRL'S AUTHORITY CONCEPT



“ Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

...various communities may recognize different types of authority...

Experts view authority with an attitude of **informed skepticism** and an openness to new perspectives, additional voices, and changes in schools of thought. Experts understand the need to **acknowledge biases that privilege some sources of authority** over others...and to ask relevant questions about **origins, context**...while **remaining skeptical of the systems that have elevated that authority** and the information created by it” (ACRL).

# IN THE CLASSROOM

Use examples to stimulate critical thinking:

- “Why would a reference book omit that important fact?”
- “Who wrote this and why? What are their associations?”
- “How can I find better information?”

Give “deep evaluation” assignments asking students to:

- analyze systems granting authority
- scrutinize authors’ backgrounds

Give Wikipedia improvement assignments

# WIKIPEDIA REVISION ASSIGNMENTS

Chile's 1973 coup and Nueva Canción



# Nueva Canción entry in 2015

"There was a change of government...



...and Nueva Canción  
music **fell out of favor.**"

# I revise the entry, adding facts

- ▶ U.S. involvement in coup
- ▶ human rights abuses
- ▶ Victor Jara's death

My revision is deleted. In its place:

“In 1973, a Chilean coup d'état left Allende and **several supporters** dead.”



# I revise again, citing multiple sources

“In 1973, the United States/CIA-backed<sup>[12][13]</sup> right-wing military coup overthrew Allende’s democratic government, bombing the presidential palace, which killed Allende and others. Pinochet's forces then rounded up 5,000 civilians into two soccer stadiums for interrogation, torture, and execution<sup>[14]</sup>. In a stadium-turned-prison Victor Jara was beaten, tortured, and his wrists were broken<sup>[15]</sup>. After several days he was executed and shot 44 times. His wife Joan Jara writes, “where his belly ought to have been was a gory, gaping void.”<sup>[16]</sup> Jara is the most well-known victim of a regime that killed about 30,000 people, “disappeared” at least 3,065, and tortured more than 38,000, bringing the number of victims to 40,018.<sup>[17]</sup>”



# IN THE LIBRARY

- Analyze reference collections and weed, replace or supplement problematic texts with updated, more diverse perspectives.
- Write publishers and database vendors to push for updates and revisions to remove fossilized propaganda.

# SUCCESS REVISING ONLINE REFERENCE

**From:** Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 3:52 PM  
**To:** Kathy Swart <[KSwart@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:KSwart@pierce.ctc.edu)>  
**Subject:** Entry on Brazil in World Geography database

Dear Professor Swart,

After receiving your phone call last week, I had my team reevaluate the content and, after consulting several resources, updated the Brazil entries, accordingly. I again reviewed the content today after receiving your note and made some changes.

Here are the links to the updated content:

<http://worldgeography2.abc-clio.com/Topics/Display/1166847>

<http://worldgeography2.abc-clio.com/Topics/Display/1115069>

<http://worldgeography2.abc-clio.com/Topics/Display/1114447>

I truly appreciate your feedback. Accuracy of content is of paramount concern, and we take all feedback seriously.

Sincerely,

*Manager, Editorial Development*  
World Geography & Culture/Issues

ABC-CLIO  
2655 W. Midway Blvd, Suite 250 | Broomfield

**From:** [Witalec, Janet](mailto:Janet.Witalec@cengage.com) [mailto:[Janet.Witalec@cengage.com](mailto:Janet.Witalec@cengage.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** Kathy Swart <[KSwart@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:KSwart@pierce.ctc.edu)>  
**Cc:** [Poelman, Kimberley S](mailto:kimberley.poelman@cengage.com) <[kimberley.poelman@cengage.com](mailto:kimberley.poelman@cengage.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: GALE CUSTOMER : Another problematic entry - World History in Context

Dear Professor Swart,

Your email was forwarded to me because I am the content strategist for the World History in Context database, in which you found the article in question: "Brazil Stifles Dissent with Institutional Act Number 5: December 13, 1968." As you note, this article was first published in *Global Events: Milestone Events Throughout History*. Per the editor of this title, there was an academic advisor for each volume who specialized in the history of the particular region; these advisors reviewed all articles to ensure accuracy and integrity.

The above being said, a number of our editors and history specialists took a closer look at the article and concluded that sentences should be revised to more directly state the role U.S. financial interests played in the 1964 coup. While this is implied in the article to some degree, it is agreed the point could be further developed.

Our editors are working on the revision now, and changes should be live in World History in Context in the next two weeks.

Thank you for reaching out to us. We do take your feedback and scholarship seriously.

Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns.

Best,

[Janet Witalec](mailto:Janet.Witalec@cengage.com)  
*Janet Witalec*

My name is Kimberley and I am the Director of Sales for Gale covering accounts including Washington State. I wanted to reach out to you to let you know that we received your feedback to Gale and thank you for taking the time to compile a detailed concern regarding Rousseff in the Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture. We immediately launched an internal investigation into your concern and hope to have a response available shortly.

I apologize for not immediately letting you know this however your concern was escalated quickly and is in the process of being addressed.

Kind regards,

Kimberley

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