

[Ebook pdf] Media Power in Central America (The History of Communication)

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Rick Rockwell, Noreene Janus

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Rick Rockwell, Noreene Janus : Media Power in Central America (The History of Communication) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Media Power in Central America (The History of Communication):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Media Control is a bad thing! By Andrew M. Maxey This book summarizes the history and current status of media in Central America and Panama, describes how economic and political realities in developing countries tend to concentrate media power in the hands of a few, and explains why this is a bad thing. The authors contend that 1) economic development depends in large part on the stability that comes

from broad-based and informed democratic participation of a country's populace, 2) media control can limit the development of democratic institutions and further oligarchic systems, and 3) increased support for free and open media in the developing world is necessary to sustain economic development and democracy strategies. The book closes by citing the growing importance of wireless internet as one of the ways to break monopolistic media systems. This is an important book that explains why expanded internet access is not just a luxury for the developing world; social and economic stability may depend on the ability of common citizens to communicate in systems that parallel but are not controlled by the established media powers.

Media Power in Central America is the first book in a generation to explore the media landscape in Central America. It captures the political and cultural interplay between the media and those in power in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Nicaragua. Highlighting the subtle strangulation of opposition media voices in the region, the authors show how the years since the guerrilla wars have not yielded the free media systems that some had expected. Country by country, the authors deal with the specific conditions of government-sponsored media repression, economic censorship, corruption, and consumer trends that shape the political landscape. Challenging the notion of the media as a democratizing force, *Media Power in Central America* shows how the media are used to block democratic reforms in the region and outlines the difficulties of playing watchdog to rulers who use the media as a tool of power.

"*Media Power in Central America* is unique in the field, very readable, and tells an exciting story about the relationship between strong commercial media and authoritarian regimes. Rockwell and Janus provide a valuable description and analysis of the history, politics, culture, and economics of the print and electronic media in the six countries." About the Author
Rockwell is an assistant professor in the School of Communication at American University and has more than twenty years of experience as a working journalist, in both print and broadcast media. NOREENE JANUS is Communications for Development Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Academy for Educational Development. She has also served as the head of communications research for the Latin American Institute for Transnational Studies in Mexico City.