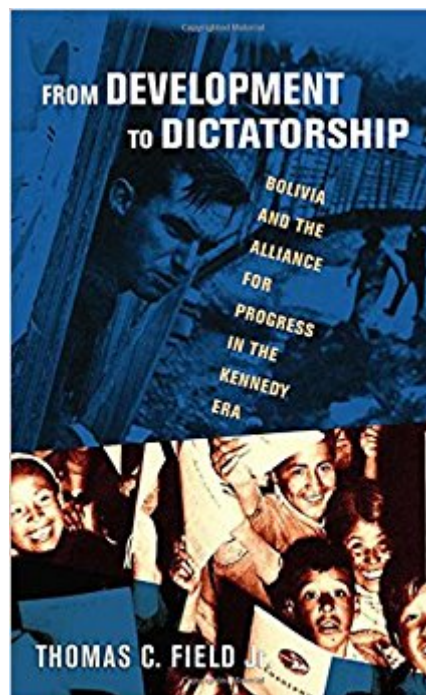




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# From Development To Dictatorship: Bolivia And The Alliance For Progress In The Kennedy Era (The United States In The World)



## Synopsis

An "Outstanding Academic Title" (Choice, January 2016) Winner of 2015 Thomas McGann Award (Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies) "...a fascinating, original, and impeccably documented book with marked narrative suspense." - former Bolivian President Carlos Mesa, July 2016 "Field's lucid and scholarly account...provides an impressive amount of detail on the convoluted politics of the time." -- John Crabtree, Perspectives in Politics "Challenges triumphalist interpretations of the Cold War and points to the violent consequences of the Cold War in Latin America." -- Jeremy Kuzmarov, Journal of Cold War Studies "From Development to Dictatorship is meticulous and engaging - a difficult balance to achieve." -- Robert Smale, Labor During the most idealistic years of John F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress development program, Bolivia was the highest per capita recipient of U.S. foreign aid in Latin America. Nonetheless, Washington's modernization programs in early 1960s Bolivia ended up on a collision course with important sectors of the country's civil society, including radical workers, rebellious students, and a plethora of rightwing and leftwing political parties. In From Development to Dictatorship, Thomas C. Field Jr. reconstructs the untold story of USAID's first years in Bolivia, including the country's 1964 military coup and its turn toward anticommunist, development-oriented dictatorship was the logical and practical culmination of the military-led modernization paradigm that provided the liberal underpinnings of Kennedy's Alliance for Progress. In the process, he explores several underappreciated aspects of Cold War liberal internationalism: the tendency of "development" to encourage authoritarian solutions to political unrest, the connection between modernization theories and the rise of Third World armed forces, and the intimacy between USAID and CIA covert operations. Challenging the conventional dichotomy between ideology and strategy in international politics, From Development to Dictatorship engages with a growing literature on development as a key rubric for understanding the interconnected processes of decolonization and the Cold War.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Field's comprehensive use of archival material has enabled him to produce a compelling case study of the Alliance for Progress that provides new insights into the causal link between development and authoritarianism. His nuanced analysis has resulted in insightful conclusions that reveal the important intersection of ideology and strategy within Cold War international relations."--Mark Seddon, [International History Review](#) "A splendid piece of scholarship. Extensively and inventively researched, engagingly narrated, and consistently thought-provoking, this is an example of international history at its best . . . gripping in a manner that is rarely found in academic studies . . . a highly impressive achievement."--Thomas Tunstall Allcock, [H-Diplo Roundtable Reviews](#)

"Field emphasizes that it was Washington's relentless promotion of modernization schemes by any means necessary that drove Bolivia to the brink of civil war. This superb study serves as a model for future explorations of the Alliance for Progress in Latin America."--Stephen M. Streeter, author of [Managing the Counterrevolution](#), [Journal of American History](#) "A devastating (and accurate, I would conclude) analysis of...top-down, militaristic-authoritarian development policy. This book is extremely well-researched (the use of interviews and international archives in particular), well-argued, and well-written." [Students of Latin American history, development studies, and U.S. foreign relations will benefit from reading this book.](#)--James F. Siekmeier, author of [The Bolivian Revolution and the United States](#), [H-Diplo Roundtable Reviews](#)

"Thomas Field's new book on the Alliance for Progress in Bolivia demonstrates just how comfortable America's Cold War foreign policy establishment was with dictatorship as its preferred method of rule in Latin America. Dictatorship and development became the twin pillars of the Alliance for Progress, Field's important book demonstrates. These sorts of historical narratives are necessary for modern readers to understand the roots of American foreign policy problems today." [Erik Loomis](#), author of [Out of Sight: The Long](#)

and Disturbing Story of Corporations Outsourcing Catastrophe, on the Lawyers, Guns & Money blog "Field shows how U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding was employed to arm peasant militias against militant miners, all in the name of development. Field's book is well-researched and his work benefits from a deep engagement with Bolivia."

— Andrew J. Kirkendall, author of *Paulo Freire and the Cold War Politics of Literacy*, H-Diplo State of the Field "A tremendous contribution to the historiography."

— Philip E. Muehlenbeck, author of *Betting on the Africans: John F. Kennedy's Courting of African Nationalist Leaders*, H-Diplo Roundtable Reviews "A compelling local portrait of the violence that anticommunist development brought on the Bolivian left, the fracturing of the country's nationalist and revolutionary parties under the pressures of U.S. intervention, and the forms of political mobilization that the Bolivian state fought and cultivated in the Andean mines and villages."

— Amy C. Offner, H-Diplo Roundtable Reviews "From Development to Dictatorship is impressively researched and clearly written and makes significant contributions to the history of Bolivia and U.S. foreign relations in the Kennedy era. Thomas C. Field Jr.'s detailed coverage of this period of Bolivian-U.S. relations sheds light on the direction the Bolivian military took; the role of developmental ideology in Bolivia's drift toward militarism; the influence of the United States in shaping Bolivia's internal political processes; and the ways that the developmental goals of the Alliance for Progress were intimately connected to the anticommunist, militarist, and authoritarian themes of Kennedy/Johnson policies. This is a very strong addition to the literature and our understanding of why Bolivia's revolution ended as it did."

— Kenneth D. Lehman, Squires Professor of History, Hampden-Sydney College, author of *Bolivia and the United States: A Limited Partnership* "In *From Development to Dictatorship*, Thomas C. Field Jr. probes intriguing and important questions about the Alliance for Progress. Field's most impressive archival research in the United States, Bolivia, Great Britain, and France yields magnificent results by providing an exceptionally clear understanding of the actual goals and workings of the Alliance."

— Mark Gilderhus, LBJ Chair of History, retired, Texas Christian University, author of *The Second Century: U.S.-Latin American Relations since 1889* "From Development to Dictatorship will have an influence on more than our understanding of the land that beguiled Che Guevara. The product of remarkable interviews and of deft multi-archive international history, his intricate reconstruction of the Bolivian revolutionary scene in the early 1960s sets a high standard for reaching conclusions about the effect of U.S.-led development in any country at any time. Whether you believe that the 'Best and the Brightest' championed development in the Third World as an act of enlightened self-interest or because of naked imperialism, this book absorbs your attention and makes you reconsider one of the defining

impulses of the Kennedy era." "One Hell of a Gamble" In *From Development to Dictatorship*, Thomas C. Field Jr. offers a new and compelling interpretation of John F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress, focusing on the case of Bolivia. His evidence is impressive and his analysis rigorous. This is a thought-provoking book.

Piero Gleijeses, The Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), author of *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976* "This outstanding book serves as a model for international history. Thomas C. Field Jr. displays a remarkable knowledge of Bolivian history and culture. He further demonstrates that bilateral relations are complex and that generalizations about inter-American relations are often undermined when scholars conduct case studies that are thoroughly grounded in archival sources in both the United States and individual Latin American countries."

Stephen G. Rabe, Ashbel Smith Chair of History, University of Texas at Dallas, author of *The Killing Zone: The United States Wages Cold War in Latin America*

Thomas C. Field Jr. is Associate Professor at the Embry-Riddle College of Security and Intelligence.

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