Contents

Acknowledgments xiii
Introduction 1

I. Birth of an Exception? 9

Warriors and Sacred Struggle. Pre-Columbian Distinctions 13

A Conqueror Looks on the Bright Side. Town Council of Castillo de Garci-Muñoz 14

Hunting Indians. Claudia Quirós 16

The Execution of Pablo Presbere. José María Figueroa 22

The Trial of Pablo Presbere, Cacique of Suinse.

Lorenzo Antonio de Granda y Balbín 23

A Slave's Story. José Cubero 26

Free Blacks, Mulattoes, and Mestizos Seek Legitimacy. Cabildo of Cartago 29

Brotherhood of the Virgin. Ricardo Fernández Guardia 31

Life and Labor in the Central Valley, circa 1821. Iván Molina 35

The Fall of Morazán. Unknown 44

Libelous Pornography from 1841. José María Figueroa 48

Civilizing Domestic Life in the Central Valley, 1750-1850. Eugenia Rodríguez 49

II. Coffee Nation 55

Privatization of the Land and Agrarian Conflict. Silvia Castro 57

Tico Sweepstakes. Pío Joaquín Fernández 62

Witness to Heroism. Gerónimo Segura 65

Holidays in Costa Rica, 1858. Thomas Francis Meagher (illustrated by Ramón Páez) 69

Denunciation of the Lazarene Brothers. Diego Quesada 84

Building Civilization. Fernando Zamora 86

Getting to Know the Unknown Soldier. Steven Palmer 90 The Burning of the Mesón. Enrique Echandi 97

III. Popular Culture and Social Policy 99

Alleyway of Open Wounds. Claudia María Jiménez 101
Women of the Barrio. Luisa González 102
A District Laboratory in Costa Rica. John Elmendorf Jr. 109
Autobiography of a Shoemaker. Juan Rafael Morales 112
Maternity. Francisco Zúñiga 121
Prospectus. National Association of Coffee Producers 123
The Red Door. Teodorico Quirós 127

Banana Strike Confidential. Diplomatic Service of the United States of America 128
Notice to West Indian Farmers! West Indian Strike Committee 132

Woman in Window. Max Jiménez 134

A Governor and a Man Faces the Social Problem.

Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia 135

IV. Democratic Enigma 139

Petition for Recognition of Voting Rights from a Humble Citizen, 1859.

Santiago Córdova 143

The Night of San Florencio. La Prensa Libre 146

An Outsider's View of Political Society in 1914. Dana G. Munro 149

Democrats and Feminists. Steven Palmer and Gladys Rojas Chaves 155

Women's Vote—the Day That They Get It. Paco Hernández 160

Hail to the Jefe. Alejandro Alvares Duartes Mora 161

Unlikely Threesome. Reformist Summit, 1943–162

The Polarization of Politics, 1932–1948. Iván Molina 163

Memories of Girlhood in '48. María E. Robles Solano 170

Democracy on the Brink: The First Figueres Presidency. Kirk Bowman 1

V. The Costa Rican Dream 183

Means and Ends for a Better Costa Rica. Rodrigo Facio 187 In Defense of the Corner Store. Constantino Láscaris 192 A Costa Rican Godfather. J. L. Vargas 198 Growing Up in the Dream. Manrique Mata-Montero 203

Alcoa No! Student Protests, 1970 210

The Crisis: 1980-1982. Jorge Rovira Mas 212

The Family. Anonymous 219

Imperial Eagle versus Peace Dove. Hugo Díaz 223

A Dictionary of Costa Rican Patriotism. Álvaro Quesada 225

VI. Other Cultures and Outer Reaches 229

Indigenous Figure. Juan Manuel Sánchez 233

Dispossessed. The Indigenous Community of Orosi 234

West Indian Limón. Paula Palmer 237

Our Blood Is Blackening. Clodomiro Picado 243

Everyday Racism, 1932. Anonymous 245

My Mother and the Seawall. Eulalia Bernard 247

The Devil and Don Chico. Marc Edelman 249

Passing: Nicaraguans in Costa Rica. Patricia Alvarenga 257

Taking Care of Sibö's Gifts. Gloria Mayorga,

Juanita Sánchez, and Paula Palmer 264

VII. Working Paradise 275

A Community Takes Care of Its Environs.

Owners of Montaña de la Candelaria 279

Caffeinated Miasmas. Residents of Santo Domingo de Heredia 281

Migration and the Costa Rican Environment since 1900. Uli Locher 284

From Rain Forest to Banana Plantation: A Workers' Eye View.

Ana Luisa Cerdas 293

Pesticides and Parakeets in the Banana Industry. Steve Marquardt 298

The River of Milk. Environmental and Administrative Tribunal, Ministry of Energy and the Environment 310

La Loca de Gandoca. Ana Cristina Rossi 314

VIII. Tropical Soundings 319

Social Development with Limited Resources. Carmelo Mesa-Lago 323 Visit Beautiful Costa Rica! Tourism Propaganda of Another Era 334 Corruption. Alfonso González and Manuel Solís 336

The Contemporary Protest Movement 340

The Narcotizing of Costa Rican Politics. Mercedes Muñoz Guillén 342

Citizens 2000. March against the Combo ICE 344

On the Recent Protests against the Privatization of the Costa Rican
Hydroelectric Company (ICE). Rodolfo Cerdas 345

Building Your Own Home, Antonio 340

Building Your Own Home. Antonio 349

Men in Crisis? Sylvia Chant 350

Are the Kids Alright? Osvaldo Orias and Kenneth 358

Costa Rica: A Millennial Profile. Steven Palmer and Iván Molina 361

Demoperfectocracy. Yolanda Oreamuno 364

Suggestions for Further Reading 367

Acknowledgment of Copyrights 373

Index 379