Inside Honduras

## Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1502</td>
<td>Christopher Columbus lands on northern coast of Honduras.</td>
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<td>1821</td>
<td>Honduras declares independence from Spain as part of Central American Federation.</td>
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<td>1839</td>
<td>Honduras becomes independent republic.</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>New constitution promulgated.</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>Liberals removed from power.</td>
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<td>1865</td>
<td>New constitution promulgated.</td>
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<td>1876</td>
<td>Liberals regain power under Marco Aurelio Soto.</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>New constitution promulgated.</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>Tegucigalpa named national capital.</td>
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<td>1891</td>
<td>Conservatives elected to power.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>New constitution promulgated.</td>
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<td>1896</td>
<td>U.S. troops land in Honduras.</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>First banana concession granted to Vaccaro brothers, later to become Standard Fruit Company.</td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>Founding members of National Party (PN) split off from Liberal Party (PL).</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>U.S. troops land in Honduras for first of five times during next 20 years.</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>Policarpo Bonilla overthrown and replaced by Dávila.</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>U.S. banana merchant Sam Zemurray forms Cuyamal Fruit Company.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Dávila deposed by U.S. mercenaries and replaced by Manuel Bonilla.</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Trujillo Railroad Company wins contract to build railway, beginning United Fruit Company’s involvement in Honduras.</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>First Congress of Workers convenes and organizes Honduras Workers Federation.</td>
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<td>1923</td>
<td>Presidential elections won by General Tiburcio Carías Andino, who is prevented from taking office.</td>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>Carías’ forces take Tegucigalpa; new elections won by Paz Baraona.</td>
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1925 New constitution promulgated.
1926 Formation of Federation of Workers Societies of the North.
1929 United Fruit purchases Cuyamel for $32 million.
Formation of Honduran Syndical Organization.
1932 Carias begins 16-year dictatorship.
1936 New constitution promulgated.
1948 Carias steps down; Nationalist Party candidate Juan Manuel Gálvez elected president.
1952 Founding of Francisco Morazán military college.
1954 Elections won by Ramón Villeda Morales of Liberal Party; Vice-President Julio Lozano Díaz seizes power.
Successful strike by banana workers leads to widespread organizing among other workers.
Communist Party reorganized.
1955 United Fruit workers form Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers.
1956 Constituent elections overturned by coup; military junta led by Roque J. Rodríguez assumes power.
1957 Villeda Morales elected president; new constitution promulgated; new labor codes and social security law adopted.
1959 Abortive military coup.
1960 Resolution of Atlantic Coast border dispute with Nicaragua.
1961 Introduction of agrarian reform program.
1963 Shortly before finishing his term, Villeda ousted by army coup led by Colonel Osvaldo López Arellano.
1965 New constitution promulgated.
Peasant leader Lorenzo Zelaya killed.
1969 Four-day “Soccer War” with El Salvador over mistreatment of Salvadorans in Honduras and related issues.
1971 Ramón Ernesto Cruz elected president.
Pact of National Unity divides congressional seats evenly between National and Liberal Parties.
1972 Cruz deposed; López returns to power.
1974 Hurricane Fifi leaves 12,000 dead and 150,000 homeless.
1975 “Bananagate” scandal: United Brands pays “high government official” $1.25 million bribe for reduction in banana taxes and saves $7.5 million.
López is overthrown and Juan Alberto Melgar Castro takes power.
Army and local landowners kill 15 peasant demonstrators, including two priests.
1976 Border conflicts with El Salvador; OAS intervenes.
1977 Las Isletas banana cooperative destroyed by soldiers who arrive in Standard Fruit’s railroad cars.
1978 Melgar ousted after drug-related allegations surface; General Policarpio Paz García assumes power.
Chronology

1979  President Carter strengthens ties to Honduras after fall of Somoza in Nicaragua.

1980  Constituent Assembly elections.
      “Soccer War” officially ends after signing of treaty with El Salvador.

1981  Liberal Party candidate Roberto Suazo Córdova elected president—first civilian president in more than two decades.
      General Gustavo Alvarez retains power as chief of staff.
      John Dimitri Negroponte becomes U.S. ambassador to Honduras.
      First U.S. military advisors arrive in Honduras; joint U.S.-Honduran naval and air maneuvers.

1982  General Gustavo Alvarez instigates change in constitution that reduces presidential authority; Constituent Assembly approves Honduras' fourteenth constitution.
      Foreign Ministers of Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador form Central American Democratic Community.

    Feb.  Reagan administration pledges 50 percent hike in military aid to Honduras.
          Four clandestine cemeteries discovered.
          Newsweek reveals Negroponte in control of contra operations against Nicaragua.
          U.S. training base opens at Puerto Castilla.
          Joint U.S.-Honduran Big Pine I and II military and naval maneuvers begin.
          Contadora group meets for first time to develop dialogue and negotiation in Central America; parties to peace accords include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

    April  Strikes and land occupations declared “subversive acts” in new decree.

    June  Honduran army participates in joint operations with Salvadoran army against FMLN guerrillas.

    July  Joint U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers along Nicaraguan border.

    Aug.  Honduran armed forces on full alert after border clashes with Nicaragua.
          Strike by 30,000 teachers.

    Nov.  Newsweek reveals Negroponte in control of contra operations against Nicaragua.

      Contadora group meets for first time to develop dialogue and negotiation in Central America; parties to peace accords include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

1984  Alvarez ousted by younger officers and goes into exile; General Walter López Reyes named commander in chief of armed forces.
      Grenadier I joint military exercises along Salvadoran border with U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran troops.
      60,000 demonstrators in Tegucigalpa and 40,000 in San Pedro Sula protest U.S. presence in Honduras.
      Honduran government halts U.S. training of Salvadoran soldiers at Puerto Castilla.
      Army publishes report on human rights violations blaming left and rightwing non-Hondurans.
Kissinger Commission recommends $8 billion developmental aid to Central America and increased military assistance to Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
U.S. military aid has soared 20-fold since 1980.
Nicaragua agrees to sign Contadora treaty, but Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras refuse to sign.

1985
Liberal Party candidate José Azcona Hoyo declared winner of presidential elections although National Party candidate gains most votes.
Constitutional crisis over appointment of judges.
Nicaraguan contras linked to 200 death squad killings in Honduras.
MISURA contra leader Steadman Fagoth expelled.
Formation of National Union of Rural Workers (CNTC).
Big Pine III, Universal Trek '85, and Cabañas '85 joint military exercises.
Honduran army enters Colomoncagua refugee camp, killing two Salvadoran refugees and abducting ten others.

1986
López Reyes resigns as head of military and is replaced by Regalado Hernández.
Blazing Trail joint exercises.
Third revised Contadora treaty presented. Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras refuse to sign.

1987
Mass repatriation of refugees from Mesa Grande camps in Honduras.

Feb.
Costa Rican President Arias assumes leadership role in regional peace initiatives; meets with representatives from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

Aug.
Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua sign Esquipulas II Peace Accords.

1988
Honduras requests UN peacekeeping force to patrol its borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Mar.
Arias accuses El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua of not complying fully with Esquipulas accords; criticizes presence of U.S. troops in Honduras.

1989
Esquipulas peace talks held in El Salvador after four postponements.

Oct.
Major union federations and popular organizations come together in “Plataforma de Lucha” coalition.

Nov.
National Party (PN) presidential candidate Rafael Leonardo Callejas wins elections and PN candidates capture 71 of 128 seats in Congress.

1990
President Callejas implements structural adjustment program led by a reduction in value of lempira by half.

March
Thousands of contras abandon their bases in Honduras in wake of electoral victory by National Opposition Union (UNO) in Nicaragua.
1991  Congress approves amnesty law, paving way for eventual return of exiled political leaders and guerrillas.

1992  Last of 30,000 Salvadoran refugees repatriated under sponsorship of UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

March  Congress passes Agricultural Modernization Law, removing teeth from agrarian reform legislation in effect since 1962.
