

The aim of this diploma thesis is the U.S. effort to build a “showcase for democracy” in Guatemala during the Eisenhower administration that was doomed from the beginning. The U.S. government itself lacked both the continuous commitment at the top and the unify of purpose necessary to mount such an undertaking. Guatemalan leaders had their own interests, which did not always coincide with those of their U.S. sponsors. Although the United States certainly had leverage and did use it, at same time, it was attempting to create political stability.