

The book was found

# Costa Rica: Background And U.S. Relations



## Costa Rica: Background and U.S. Relations

**Peter J. Meyer**  
Analyst in Latin American Affairs

June 2, 2009

Congressional Research Service  
7-5700  
[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)  
RLR593

CRS Report for Congress  
*Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress*



## Synopsis

Costa Rica is a relatively politically stable and economically developed nation with a long tradition of civilian democracy. Former president (1986-1990) and Nobel-laureate Oscar Arias of the National Liberation Party was elected President in 2006. Throughout his term, Arias has focused on expanding the country's social safety net and increasing free trade. He faced strong opposition to the country's inclusion in the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), but eventually secured its ratification and implementation. Arias has also been active in foreign affairs, establishing diplomatic relations with China and Cuba after decades without formal ties. Once a predominantly agricultural nation, Costa Rica has established a diversified economy with a strong export sector. Under President Arias, the country has increased its social investment, experienced significant economic growth, and seen a reduction in poverty. The global financial crisis and economic downturn, however, threatens to erase these gains. President Arias has responded to the crisis with an ambitious fiscal stimulus and social protection plan. While the plan may do much to mitigate the social impacts of the crisis, analysts believe it will be unable to prevent Costa Rica's economy from slowing considerably in 2009. In recent years, many have begun to recognize Costa Rica as a world leader in environmental protection. Successive Costa Rican administrations have sought to address the extensive deforestation and environmental degradation that resulted from decades of logging and agricultural expansion. The country's innovative policies, strong conservation system, and commitment to alternative energy have done much to restore Costa Rica's environment. Costa Rica is also party to a variety of international treaties and has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2021. This commitment to environmental protection has been a significant source of economic growth for the country as Costa Rica is now a top destination for ecotourism. The United States and Costa Rica have long enjoyed close relations as a result of the countries' shared commitments to strengthening democracy, improving human rights, and advancing free trade. The countries have also maintained strong commercial ties, which are likely to become even more extensive as a result of the implementation of CAFTA-DR. Costa Rica and the United States have worked together on a number of other issues as well, such as conserving Costa Rica's tropical forests and combating narcotics trafficking. For additional information see CRS Report RL31870, *The Dominican Republic-Central America- United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR)*, by J. F. Hornbeck, CRS Report RL34112, *Gangs in Central America*, by Clare Ribando Seelke, and CRS Report R40135, *Mérida Initiative for Mexico and Central America: Funding and Policy Issues*, by Clare Ribando Seelke and June S. Beittel.

## Book Information

File Size: 222 KB

Print Length: 18 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Congressional Research Service (June 2, 2009)

Publication Date: June 2, 2009

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B005OLF348

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,904,776 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #67

in Books > History > Americas > Central America > Costa Rica #307 in Kindle Store > Kindle

Short Reads > 30 minutes (12-21 pages) > Politics & Social Sciences #914 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > Latin America > Central America

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Costa Rica Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Costa Rica (Central America Travel, Costa Rica Tours, Backpacking Costa Rica, Costa Rica Guide) COSTA RICA THEN/COSTA RICA NOW: Prostitution is legal in Costa Rica. Talking about prostitution in Facebook will get you Life in prison with no paroll. Costa Rica's no longer permits Free Speech. Costa Rica, Nicaragua & Panama Handbook: Travel guide to Costa Rica, Nicaragua & Panama (Footprint Costa Rica, Nicaragua & Panama Handbook) Costa Rica: Background and U.S. Relations Your Complete Costa Rica Expat Retirement Fugitive and Business Guide: The tell-it-like-it-is guide to escape and start over in Costa Rica A Photographic Guide of the Common Amphibians & Reptiles of Costa Rica/ GuÃ- a fotogrÃ- a de los anfibios y reptiles mÃ- s comunes de Costa Rica (FotografÃ- a de Naturaleza) (English and Spanish Edition) Let's Go Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama: The Student Travel Guide (Let's Go: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, & Panama) Costa Rica: The Complete Guide: Ecotourism in Costa Rica (Color Travel Guide) COSTA RICA Country Studies: A brief, comprehensive study of Costa Rica COSTA RICA THEN/COSTA RICA NOW: A Gringo moves to the land of pura vida, & ends up held captive by an oppressive, sexist, racist dictatorship. (PB 1) The Costa Rica Escape

Manual: Your How-To Guide for Moving, Traveling Through, & Living in Costa Rica (Happier Than A Billionaire Book 4) The Costa Rica Escape Manual: Your How-To Guide on Moving, Traveling Through, & Living in Costa Rica (Happier Than A Billionaire) (Volume 4) The Gentlemen's Guide to Costa Rica: An insider's guide to the Costa Rica scene. COSTA RICA: SPANISH TRAVEL PHRASES for ENGLISH SPEAKING TRAVELERS: The most useful 1.000 phrases to get around when travelling in Costa Rica. Costa Rica Travel Guide: Typical costs, visas and entry formalities, health and medical tourism, weather and climate, wildlife, and a guide for each Costa Rican region Costa Rica Travel Guide: Typical costs, visas and entry formalities, health and medical tourism, weather and climate, wildlife, and a guide for each Costa Rican region (Dutch Edition) Butterfly Coloring Book For Adults: Black Background (Coloring Book For Adults With Black Background) (Volume 3) Gangs and Crime in America: Escalating Violence in El Salvador, Background and U.S. Relations, Central America Regional Security Initiative, Sanchez Ceren Administration, Anti-Gang, Counternarcotics Dominican Republic: Background and U.S. Relations Market, Socialist, and Mixed Economies: Comparative Policy and Performance--Chile, Cuba, and Costa Rica

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)