

Political Science 560: International Relations

**BOUNDED RATIONAL ANALYSIS – CASE STUDY:
MILITARY INTERVENTION -- GUATEMALA, 1953**

Due at the beginning of class 11 April 2017 (6%)

I expect, and will grade accordingly, that you will comply with the following:

- 1) All written work will be single-spaced with normal default spacing, 1" margins, and of required length or the handwritten equivalent. You will use a font with a size of 11 or 12 and a face such as Times New Roman or the equivalent. Examples of faces you will not use are `courier new` and `O C R`. *Failure to use an appropriate font can cost a 1.0 cut.*
- 2) When you draw from a reading or another source, credit the reading or source with a note in the form – (Bressler, p. 180). *If I find inadequate sourcing, I will assign a cut of up to a full letter grade.*

You may not collaborate on this task.

TASK: Apply your bounded ability to consider rationally the situation in Guatemala in 1953 and make a recommendation regarding U.S. action.

Your analysis will be in accordance with Ingram, “Bounded Rational Policy Analysis,” found on my website.

In 1954 the United States intervened with force unilaterally in Latin America for the first time since the promulgation of its Good Neighbor policy in 1933. Planning for this action began in the early 1950s. The actual policymaking process was complex, but for this task it is late 1953. You are the new junior State Department advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence, General Walter Bedell Smith. He is about to make a recommendation to President Eisenhower regarding Operation PBSUCCESS. He is not sure what his recommendation ought to be. Because you have not been involved in the planning and do not know his inclinations, **he has asked you to analyze the situation and recommend a course of action.**

An adequate basis for your analysis is below:

a. Required readings:

◆ March 11, 1952- National Intelligence Estimate

<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54Guat/d6>

◆ February 13, 1953-Letter From the Ambassador to Guatemala

(Schoenfeld) to the Secretary of State's Special Assistant for Intelligence (Armstrong)

<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54Guat/d34>

◆ September 11, 1953-Memorandum for Director of Central Intelligence (Smith) <http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54Guat/d51>

a. To learn more about the situation, the CIA link to Original Documents at http://www.foia.cia.gov/browse_docs.asp

b. Useful history of the situation and consequences (Careful with these. They are written after 1953 and have information that was not available in 1953.):

◆ A good history of U.S. foreign policy would help put the situation in context and inform you of the outcome and consequence. In lieu of such a reading, I suggest Wikipedia's "Good Neighbor policy" and "1954 Guatemalan coup d'etat."

◆ 2010, Project on National Security Reform, Carolyn Schintzius, "Reversing the Revolution: the U.S. Intervention in Guatemala in 1954"

This is an application of bounded rational analysis. Although I encourage additional research, you need not use anything beyond the required readings at a. above.

Do not attempt to put yourself into the 1950s. You are bounded by whom you are today. You should not try to think as they might have back then. Playacting, even in bounded terms, will not work well.

Be careful. While you must not put yourself into the 1950's, you cannot use information you could not have known then. You can be well aware of the outcome and use that awareness in your analysis, but you cannot explicitly use that information in that analysis.

Given what you know, do the analysis and make a recommendation. Any analysis you write could have been written back then, **if you do not use information from after the date of the last of the documents provided in the required readings in a. above.**

Although he has asked for only a one-page draft memorandum, you will use additional pages with informational footnotes to provide the reader (me) the supporting information, analysis of the points in the memorandum, and references. I will look to see how you developed what you put in the memorandum. These footnotes are critical to your assignment.

I want page one in the following format:

◆ **Introduction paragraph that states your recommendation and the broad outline of your support for that recommendation (your thesis).**

◆ **Paragraph two that states your goal(s) and supports that statement.**

◆ **Following paragraphs that support your recommendation.**

If you support military intervention, then you must support your choice and build a case against the problems. If you do not support military intervention, then you must build a case against it and develop what needs to be done to achieve your goal.

BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT USING WHAT YOU MAY HAVE WRITTEN FOR ME ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE. WHATEVER YOU PRESENTED BEFORE HAS FLAWS, EVEN IF THE GRADE WAS AN A.