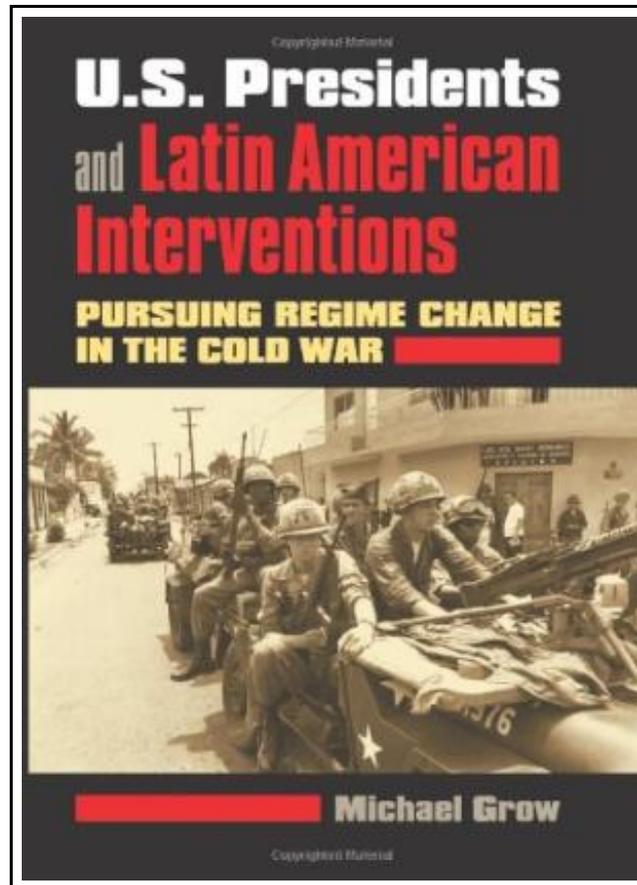# U.S. Presidents and Latin American Interventions: Pursuing Regime Change in the Cold War (Hardback)

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University Press of Kansas, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Lyndon Johnson invaded the Dominican Republic. Richard Nixon sponsored a coup attempt in Chile. Ronald Reagan waged covert warfare in Nicaragua. Nearly a dozen times during the Cold War, American presidents turned their attention from standoffs with the Soviet Union to intervene in Latin American affairs. In each instance, it was declared that the security of the United States was at stake - but, as Michael Grow demonstrates, these actions had more to do with flexing presidential muscle than responding to imminent danger.From Eisenhower s toppling of Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954 to Bush s overthrow of Noriega in Panama in 1989, Grow casts a close eye on eight major cases of U.S. intervention in the Western Hemisphere, offering fresh interpretations of why they occurred and what they signified. The case studies also include the Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961 and Reagan s invasion of Grenada in 1983, as well as the fullest examination currently available of JFK s little-known 1963 intervention against the government of Cheddi Jagan in British Guiana.Each intervention was part of a symbolic geopolitical chess match in which the White House sought to project an image of overpowering strength to audiences at home and abroad - in order to preserve both national and presidential credibility. As Grow also reveals, that impulse was routinely reinforced by local Latin American elites - such as Chilean businessmen or opposition Panamanian politicians - who actively promoted intervention in their own self-interest.LBJ s loud lament - What can we do in Vietnam if we can t clean up the Dominican Republic? - reflected just how preoccupied our presidents were with proving that the U.S. was no paper tiger and...

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