

WILLIAM WALKER

The Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny

BOOK TWO: THE CALIFORNIAS

by Alejandro Bolaños-Geyer



William Walker *The Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny*

William Walker (1824-1860), the “Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny,” is the indispensable root that anchors the Sandinista revolution and current U.S. involvement in Central America in true historical perspective.

Walker was the hottest news personality between the Mexican War and the Civil War—for a time the most talked of figure in the United States. Yet today probably not one U.S. citizen in ten thousand has ever heard of William Walker—a lost character in American history.

But although forgotten even in his home state of Tennessee, Walker is still vividly remembered in Central America as a devil with horns and a tail. Elementary school books proudly acclaim the *National War* of 1856-57, when the ruthless imperialistic invader William Walker and his Yankee mercenaries were driven out of Nicaragua by the *freedom fighters* of the five Central American republics.

William Walker was a “quiet, modest student” before he was suddenly transformed in 1849 into the “bold, daring, dauntless revolutionist and warrior.” The great change in his character, which occurred on the death of his fiancée, has never been explained satisfactorily. His many shifts in occupation from doctor to lawyer to journalist and to soldier of fortune have never been explained either. Walker remains as much a mystery today as he was to his contemporaries, even to his closest friends.

These pages record the process of unraveling the mystery of the “Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny,” unlocking the hidden springs of Walker’s mind; and they bring into sharp focus the stormy scenes during the early stages of U.S. imperialism climaxing in the Mexican War.

Walker’s forays into Mexico, Nicaragua, and Honduras, until his death by firing squad at Truxillo in 1860, will be the subject of succeeding volumes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Alejandro Bolaños-Geyer is a native Nicaraguan. He was born in Masaya and educated at the *Colegio Centroamérica* in Granada and at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri (M.D., 1948). He practiced Internal Medicine in Managua for twenty years before he retired in 1972 to do research on William Walker.

He is the author of *El Testimonio de Scott* (1974), *The War in Nicaragua as reported by Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* (1976), *The War in Nicaragua as reported by Harper’s Weekly* (1976), *El Filibustero Clinton Rollins* (1976), *James C. Jamison Con Walker en Nicaragua* (1977), and *1984 in Managua* (1988).

In 1982 he founded the Nicaraguan Information Center in St. Charles, Missouri and in 1985-86 he edited the *Voice of Nicaragua* newsletter.

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WILLIAM WALKER
THE GRAY-EYED MAN OF DESTINY
VOLUME TWO

ALEJANDRO BOLAÑOS-GEYER

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1989

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BOOK TWO:
THE CALIFORNIAS

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

JULY 4, 1846: COL. JOHN C. FREMONT RAISES THE BEAR FLAG AT SONOMA (BEAR, STRIPE, AND STAR STAINED ON WHITE COTTON WITH THE JUICE OF BERRIES), AND DECLARES THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE "CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC."

JULY 7, 1846: COMMODORE JOHN D. SLOAT RAISES THE STARS-AND-STRIPES OVER MONTEREY AND OFFICIALLY TAKES CALIFORNIA FOR THE UNITED STATES.

LIFE-SPAN: THREE DAYS

REPUBLIC OF LOWER CALIFORNIA

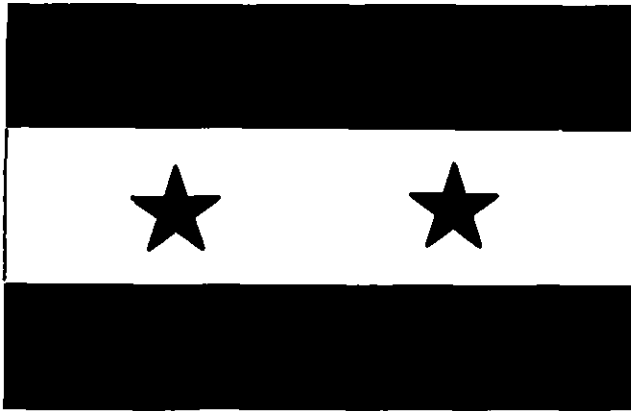
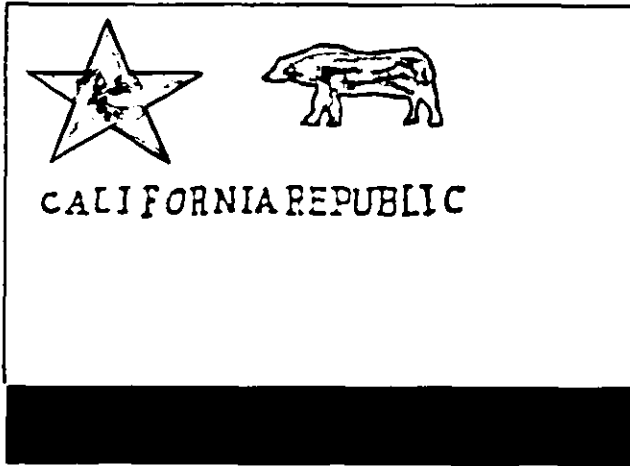
NOVEMBER 3, 1853: COL. WILLIAM WALKER RAISES THE TWO-STAR FLAG AT LA PAZ (THREE HORIZONTAL STRIPES, RED, WHITE AND RED, WITH TWO GOLDEN STARS IN THE WHITE), AND DECLARES THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE "REPUBLIC OF LOWER CALIFORNIA."

JANUARY 18, 1854: PRESIDENT WILLIAM WALKER CHANGES THE NAME OF HIS "REPUBLIC OF LOWER CALIFORNIA" TO "REPUBLIC OF SONORA."

MAY 8, 1854: COL. WILLIAM WALKER, "PRESIDENT OF SONORA," SURRENDERS AT LA PUNTA.

LIFE-SPAN: SIX MONTHS

TWIN PHANTOM REPUBLICS



REPUBLIC OF LOWER CALIFORNIA

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