

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	xi
A List of Acronyms	xiii

Introduction: Reporting *Salvador* 1

Why an Anthropologist Studied a Press Corps. Discipline, Power, and Ideology. An Example of Institutional Influence. Framing the Violence. History and Structure of the Salvadoran War. A Structural History of SPECA. The *Salvador* Reporters.

PART ONE: WAR AND IDENTITY

1 War Games 29

Running with the Pack. Guerrilla Safari. Las Vueltas. Myth and Practice.

2 Terror and Control 41

The Effects of the "Safe Conduct" System. Accepting the Silence. Terror as a Means of Press Control. Threats. The Question of Spies in the Press Corps. The Textual Effects of Terror. "Boredom Punctuated by Terror."

3 On a White Horse 61

Rosa's Stories.

PART TWO: STRUCTURE AND PRACTICE

4 A Team, B Team 69

The Embassy and the Press. *A Team. B Team.* The Language of Team Competition. Interdependence and Ideological Control. The Political Control of SPECA.

5 Discipline and Publish 85

According to a "Western Diplomat." Brenda. "Editors Suck."
The Ray Bonner Effect.

6 The Source War 99

Her, Rigoberta Menchu. "The Blood Has to be Purged."

7 Practice 109

The Problem with Parachuting. Hard Work, Routine, Disease, and Insanity. The Second Floor. The Psuedo-Event as Press Ritual. The Press Conference as Drama. Manufacturing Consensus.

8 Recreational Rituals 127

The Opinion and Storytelling Ritual. War as "Fun." Ritualized Sexual Practices. Drugs and Alcohol. Burn-out.

9 War Photography 147

Images of Comandante Carmelo. Joe in El Mozote. Dancing in Perquin.

PART THREE: TEXT AND REPRESENTATION

- 10 **The Narrative Structure and Agenda of Objective Journalism** 169
Objectivity. Balance and Fairness. Objective Texts. The Argument Underneath.
News as Dramatic Narrative. Nationalism, Capitalism and the Central American
News Agenda. The Shifting Agenda Syndrome. "Caught Up in a Total Whirlwind."
11 **Peace Comes to Television** 191
El Salvador Peace Agreement.

PART FOUR: DIFFERENCE AND DOMINATION

- 12 **Alonzo's Dream** 199
"I am Afraid of What We Are Becoming."
13 **The Salvadorans of SPECA** 203
"Involved and in the Middle." Journalism in El Salvador. Objectivity is for
Gringos. Identity and Contradiction. The Colima Bridge Incident.
Jonna's Garden.
14 **Alternatives** 219
Multiperspectival, Polyvocal, and Global News Alternatives. Gender Censorship
and Feminist Alternatives. Maria. Existential Journalism.

Conclusion: Leaving the Camino 231

- Epilogue 235
Appendix: The Journalists 236
Notes 237
References 243
Index 251