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In the 1980s, Guatemala's state-sponsored violence reached genocidal proportions and led to community ruptures, endemic fear, deepened distrust, and unprecedented levels of daily violence that have continued into the post-war period. Tragically, the war's resolution has not ended the country's volatility and insecurity. Reconciliation is challenging and requires a much deeper structural overhaul. It is problematical for a society that has been created on a rigid, ethnic-based, and highly divisive foundation now to take steps toward reclaiming a non-existent pre-war period of concord. An inclusive and just society, which respects the fundamental human rights of all, is essential yet sorely lacking. Moving in this direction is hindered by the historic impunity enjoyed by the military and the powerful, as well as a dysfunctional judicial system in need of reform.

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The continuum of violence in post-war Guatemala. In A. Waterston (Ed.), *The Anthropology of war: Violence and the State*. (2006). Confronting violence in postwar Guatemala: An introduction. *The Journal of Latin American Studies*, 38(1), 1-22. doi:10.1017/S0022216X06002000
Stewart, J. (2006). Guatemala - Guatemala - Civil war years: Castillo Armas emerged from the resulting status official. He extirpated communist influence, quashed agrarian reform, and broke labour and political power brought down by an assassin's bullet in July 1957. For the next nine years military men ruled with scant regard for human rights. He also thought by some to be behind government violence in the largely Indian-populated regions of the country. He brought Indians into Mexico, suggesting that the administration might be clearing lands for others to appropriate.