



# Demographic Diversity and Change in the Central American Isthmus

By Anne R. Pebley, Luis Rosero-Bixby

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This book is the first English-language collection of recent research on demographic, social, and environmental issues in Central America. The region's experience with ethnic and cultural identity provides food for thought for scholars concerned with the meaning of ethnicity and the consequences of cultural change. Countries in the region also have grappled with the complex issues of promoting economic growth and reducing poverty while avoiding environmental destruction. The chapters in this volume provide important and often novel insights into these and many other demographic, social, and policy issues in the Central American Isthmus. For the first time in the English language, Central America's rich demographic history comes into focus in this volume. Editors Anne R. Pebley and Luis Rosero-Bixby provide the first and only English translations of works originally presented at the International Conference on the Population of the Central American Isthmus. The chapters in this volume offer insights on a broad range of subjects, including estimates of the indigenous population, differences in education and earnings, trends in fertility and maternal and child health, migration, the environment, and many other demographic, social, and policy issues in the region.

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## **Demographic Diversity and Change in the Central American Isthmus** By Anne R. Pebley, Luis Rosero-Bixby **Bibliography**

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

A broad range of topics is covered..... Well written and accessible.

CHOICE

#### **From the Publisher**

The chapters in this volume were originally presented at the International Conference on the Population of the Central American Isthmus, organized by the Central American Population Program (PCP) at the University of Costa Rica in collaboration with colleagues at RAND. Both the papers at the conference and the subset that are included in this volume represent research in a broad range of disciplines including demography, public health, anthropology, history, sociology, human ecology, and economics. The conference played an important role in bringing together an international group of researchers working on related issues in the region. The objective of this volume is to provide, in one central location, a collection of recent research on demographic, social, and environmental issues in the Central American Isthmus for English-speaking readers, both those who are not familiar with the region and those who know it well. For Spanish-speakers, the same collection of papers has been independently published as *De los Mayas a la planificación familiar: Demografía del Istmo* (L. Rosero Bixby, A. Pebley, and A. Bermúdez Méndez, editors) by the Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

#### **From the Back Cover**

The Central American Experience from a Demographic Perspective [The Central American Isthmus] is a fascinating region from a demographic point of view. It includes, for example, the secret of the extinction of one of the greatest human civilizations, . . . [t]he three most densely populated countries in the Western Hemisphere, the countries with the highest birth, death and population growth rates in the Americas, [and] paradoxically the country which enjoys the highest life expectancy in Latin America. The Isthmus has [also] become . . . the second most important source of immigrants into the United States . . .

Luis Rosero-Bixby, *De los Mayas a la planificación familiar: Demografía del Istmo*

What measures are Central American countries taking to reduce high birth and death rates? How has global economic change affected living standards in the region? Who are the indigenous peoples of the Isthmus and how are they faring? Can economic growth be achieved without destroying the natural environment?

Demographic Diversity and Change in the Central American Isthmus, edited by Anne R. Pebley and Luis Rosero-Bixby, is the first English-language collection of recent research on demographic, social, and environmental issues in Central America. The region's experience with ethnic and cultural identity provides food for thought for scholars concerned with the meaning of ethnicity and the consequences of cultural change. Countries in the region also have grappled with the complex issues of promoting economic growth and reducing poverty while avoiding environmental destruction. The chapters in this volume provide important and often novel insights into these and many other demographic, social, and policy issues in the Central American Isthmus.

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