Preface

This project stretched over a quarter century and three university posts in two countries. Most of the fieldwork took place in the early to mid-1990s, when I worked in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. I began to write it up in 1997 in Puebla, Mexico, while teaching in the Social Science and Humanities Research Institute of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. The book came together in Brooklyn, New York, while I was employed at the College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Final editing took place following my retirement from CUNY and my move to Willimantic, Connecticut, a mere six miles from UConn. This is the second of three books on northern Morazán. The first book (*The El Mozote Massacre*) focused on a place and event; *From Popular to Insurgent Intellectuals* addresses a group of people and their roles before and during the revolutionary war; the final volume, yet to be written, will offer an integral ethnography of northern Morazán over the fifty-year period between 1960 and 2010 and will draw on the entire corpus of material I obtained during ten field trips there. Different phases of my fieldwork received financial support from the Fulbright-Hays Foundation (1994–1995) through grant no. Po19A.40011 and from the National Science Foundation (2010–2012) through grant no. BCS 0962643.

I take full responsibility for the shortcomings of the result, but any merits must be widely shared. In northern Morazán, I chalked up debts with far too many people to thank individually, but I do want to recognize the contributions of Abraham Argueta, Fabio Argüeta Amaya (“Beniton,” 1943–2010), Andres Barrera (“Felipe”), Roberto Carrillo, Benito (“Sebastian”) and Cristobal (“Manelio”) Chicas, Ismael Romero (“Bracamonte”), Santos Lino Ramírez (“Chele Cesar”), Francisco López, Jacinto Márquez (“Oscar”), Fr. Rogelio Ponseele, and Fr. Miguel Ventura. Carlos Henríquez Consalvi (“Santiago”), the “Voz de la
Radio Venceremos” during the war and founder of the Museum of the Word and Image after it, has been a constant source of encouragement. “Santiago” also responded promptly for my requests to publish various photographs in possession of the museum, two of which he took.


At various points in time, the following persons transcribed taped interviews: Elise Springer and Claudia Santalices in the United States; Marina Muñiz in Puebla, Mexico; and a team of young transcribers led by Sofía Máximo in Mexico City. Julie Ann Cottle provided an initial English translation of the interviews with Fabio Argueta. Lesley Gill helped prepare many of the photographs for publication and cartographer Mike Siegal of the Rutgers University Department of Geography put his considerable talents to work in producing the maps. Kimberly Guinta has been a kind and attentive editor at Rutgers University Press, and John Donohue at Westchester Publishing Services expertly shepherded the manuscript through production. The corrections and suggestions of copy editor Diane Ersepke and of John Donohue made this book much more reader friendly.

A number of people read portions or the entirety of some version of this manuscript and provided both critical feedback and encouragement. These include Jennifer Casolo, Erik Ching, Nancy Churchill, Kate Crehan, Lesley Gill, Ricardo Macip Ríos, Peter Mayo, Gavin Smith, Lena Voigtländer, and two anonymous reviewers. The manuscript sent to Rutgers was influenced by my reading of Augustine Sedgewick’s wonderful Cofeeeland. Finally, I cannot thank enough Mary Gallucci, Jerry Phillips, and Nancy Churchill, my partner of more than forty years, for their love and friendship, which was as important to me in bringing to fruition this project as it was more than a quarter century earlier during the research and writing of The El Mozote Massacre.

I dedicate this book to the memory of Fabio Argueta Amaya (1943–2010) and to Jacinto Márquez, whose interest in and contributions to historical memory in northern Morazán have and continue to be a source of inspiration.
From Popular to Insurgent Intellectuals