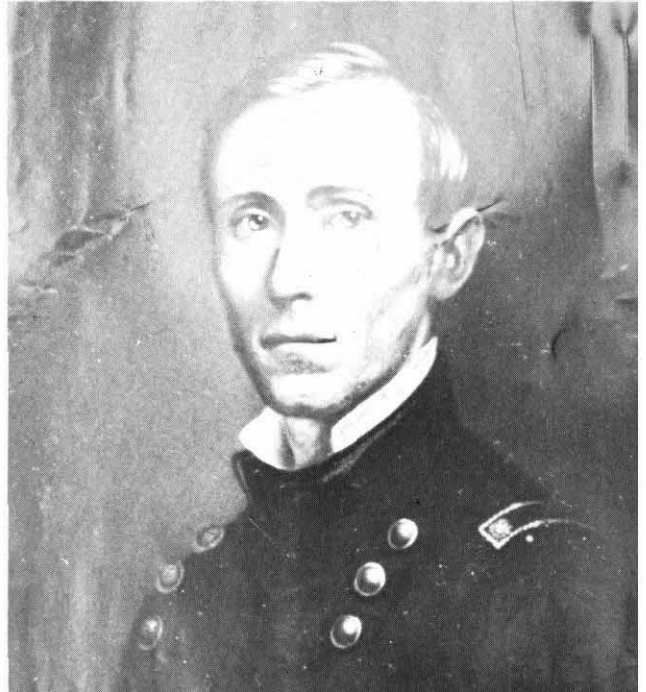


## WILLIAM WALKER

The Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny

BOOK FOUR: WAR OF LIBERATION

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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*The Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny*

by Alejandro Bolaños-Geyer

*VOLUME IV*

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WAR OF LIBERATION

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## The War of Liberation

Up to June, 1856, Walker enjoyed the support of the Leonese and fought the Legitimists and Costa Rica. It was only after he usurped the presidency that all Nicaraguans and Central America united in a War of Liberation to expel him. Nicaraguan poet Juan Iribarren then set the battle cry in rhyme:

*CANCION.  
Centro-americanos  
El arma empuñad  
Y morid peleando  
Por la libertad.*

But Walker was the *Gray-Eyed Man of Destiny*, and patriots like Iribarren saw in him the living embodiment of *manifest destiny*. The enemy was not only his person; the enemy was the Colossus of the North, bent on conquest. The racist, arrogant, covetous "Yankees" were the enemy:

*En el seno mirad de la patria  
A los fieros beduinos del Norte:  
.....  
¿Qué pretenden aqui esos bandidos  
Que nos vienen allende los mares?  
Quieren ellos destruir nuestros lares  
Sojuzgar nuestra libre Nacion.  
Pues la tierra que tanto codician,  
Con su sangre la rieguen y abonen;  
Que sus huesos al mundo pregonen  
Lo que pudo su loca ambicion.  
.....*

*Al que negro nació como á un hombre  
De inferior condicion lo desprecian:  
;Y los Yankees de libres se precian!  
;Y los Yankees se llaman cristianos!*

.....  
*Guerra á muerte á esos hombres ingratos  
Guerra al Yankee de robos sediento,  
Que reciba un severo escarmiento  
Su perfidia, su horrible traicion.<sup>1</sup>*

War to the death . . .  
War to the Yankee hungry for plunder!

That war, which is the subject matter of the present volume, is the indispensable root that anchors both the Sandinista revolution and the subsequent U.S. interventions in Central America in true historical perspective.

Once more, I wish to express my gratitude to those who have contributed with their advice and personal attention to the tasks of this work, in particular: to professor Steven Blakemore for his attentive, critical reading of my manuscript, to my son-in-law Julio Velázquez for the maps, and to my brother-in-law Thomas Bacott for the photomechanics of the illustrations.

A. B. G.

*Lake Saint Louis, Missouri, April 22, 1990.*

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<sup>1</sup>"Canción," *Boletín Oficial* [León], 10/17/1856, p.4, c.1.

NICARAGUA

HONDURAS

GULF OF FONSECA

SEGOVIA

Jinotega

MATAQIALPA

El Sauce



OCCIDENTAL

CHINANDEGA

El Pozo

REALEJO

LEON

Boaco

Comapa

MOSQUITIA

LAKE MANAGUA

San Jacinto

La Libertad

Nagarote

Tipitapa

JUICALPA

MANAGUA

Acoyapa

ORIENTAL

MASAYA

GRANADA

San Ubaldo

LAKE NICARAGUA

CHONTALES

Nandaime

Moyogalipa

OMETEPE

PACIFIC OCEAN

MERIDIONAL

Tola

RIVAS

VIRGIN BAY

El Gigante

CARIBBEAN SEA

SAN JUAN DEL SUR

SAN CARLOS

Change Bend

Castillo

SAN JUAN DEL NORTE (GREYTOWN)

Santa Rosa  
GUANACASTE  
(MORACIA)  
(LIBERIA)

COSTA RICA

SAN JUAN RIVER

Colorado River

San Carlos River

Sarapiquí River



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