

21A 441
Fifth Writing Assignment
INTERPRETING THE KUNA DOCUMENTS

Handed out Thursday 22 April 2004
 Paper due Tuesday 4 May 2004

Based on the two readers of documents on the San Blas Kuna and on material introduced in class, put together an historical account and analysis of their dealings between 1903 and 1925 with the outside world, especially missionaries and the Panamanian state.

There are various ways in which you can organize your paper. You may, for example, make the backbone of your paper a single unified narrative, the story of Kuna struggles with the outside world over the course of twenty years. If so, you would analyze various aspects of those struggles (e.g. the impact of missionaries, what Panama's goals were, how villagers and policemen contended with each other) at moments in your story where they are relevant. On the other hand, you may not want to have a single narrative but instead consider different aspects of the struggle in discrete sections, like the following. Other possible topics can be found in the Kuna discussion questions.

Protestants & Catholics: Different Approaches to Missionizing
 Religion and Resistance
 What the Kuna and the Government Struggled over
 Frontier Indians Turn to Foreign Help Again: American
 Intervention in 1925

In any case, the important thing is to make sense of the documents, to tie them together and interpret them intelligently. They are obviously far from complete---there are many gaps in the story---but they are all relevant in one way or another. In your discussion, make sure you do two things:

1. Cite evidence from the documents to back up your interpretations, and preferably discuss the documents explicitly and critically. You may put your citations in endnotes at the end of the paper, or in parenthesis at the end of a sentence:

(1:1,p.6) i.e. Reader 1, Part 1, page 6.
 (2:3, 7/10/20) i.e. Reader 2, Part 3, letter dated 7/10/20.

2. Tie your interpretations of the Kuna material to other readings and ideas from the course. In other words, interpret the Kuna in terms of what you have learned. This is very important.

Minimum of six double-spaced typed pages, (exclusive of bibliography and endnotes).