

**Taylor, Rebecca, "Myth, Memory, and Cultural Markers of National Identity: Contemporary Perceptions of the 1948 Conflict in Costa Rica." Advisor: Patricia Fumero. Grinnell College. 2007. 41pp.**

During the months of March and April 2007, I studied contemporary perceptions of the armed conflict of 1948 in Costa Rica. Working with the assumption that groups create and mobilize memories based on the needs of the present, I interviewed ex-combatants and people in positions of influence to understand the utility of a collective memory of 1948 and the subsequent foundation of the Costa Rican welfare state. Based on the participation of three ex-combatants in a recent protest against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), the study related the memory of 1948 with the challenges to national identity presented by Costa Rica's ratification of CAFTA.