

Robson, Pål André, "Neoliberalism and Social Response: A Preliminary Study of the Peasantry in Alfaro Ruiz, Costa Rica." Advisor: Ciska Raventós. Macalester College. 2009. 47 pp.

Field research was conducted in the canton of Alfaro Ruiz on how the farmers there have responded to various economic and political reforms on the behest of neoliberal ideology and transnational elites. This study argues that due to the strong social democratic history of Costa Rica, the neoliberal reforms left a majority of the public disillusioned in a social and political impasse. This impasse can be seen in the farming community of Alfaro Ruiz and how it attempts to deal with these reforms in various ways. Methods applied include interviews and historical research. The paper contains a discourse on Costa Rica's political economy from the 1950s and up until the signing of the CAFTA in 2007 as well as an analysis and discussion of the interviews conducted with the farmers themselves.