

How Difficult It Is to Be God: Shining Path's Politics of War in Peru, 1980-1999.

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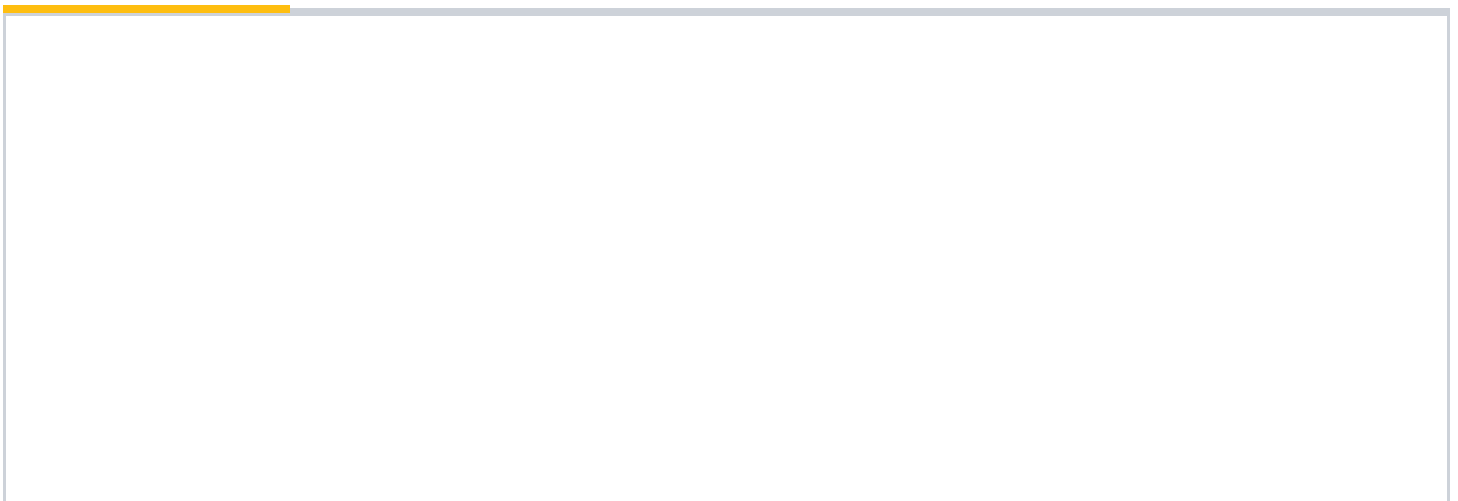
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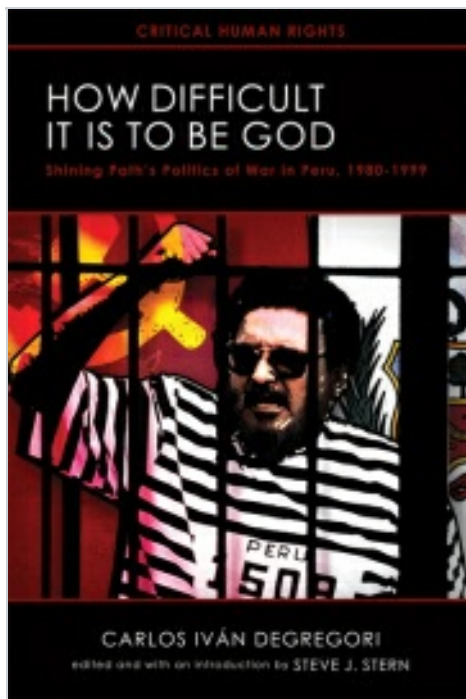


How Difficult It Is to Be
God: Shining Path's
Politics of War in Peru,
1980–1999



In this Book





How Difficult It Is to Be God: Shining Path's Politics of War in Peru, 1980–1999

*Carlos Iván Degregori; Edited and with an introduction by Steve J. Stern;
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Hershberg, Judy Rein, Steve J. Stern, and Kimberly Theidon*

2012

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Series: [Critical Human Rights](#)

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SUMMARY

The revolutionary war launched by Shining Path, a Maoist insurgency, was the most violent upheaval in modern Peru's history, claiming some 70,000 lives in the 1980s–1990s and drawing widespread international attention. Yet for many observers, Shining Path's initial successes were a mystery. What explained its cult-like appeal, and what actually happened inside the Andean communities at war?

✪✪✪ In *How Difficult It Is to Be God*, Carlos Iván Degregori—the world's leading expert on Shining Path and the intellectual architect for Peru's highly regarded Truth and Reconciliation Commission—elucidates the movement's dynamics. An anthropologist who witnessed Shining Path's recruitment of militants in the 1970s, Degregori grounds his findings in deep research and fieldwork. He explains not only the ideology and

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