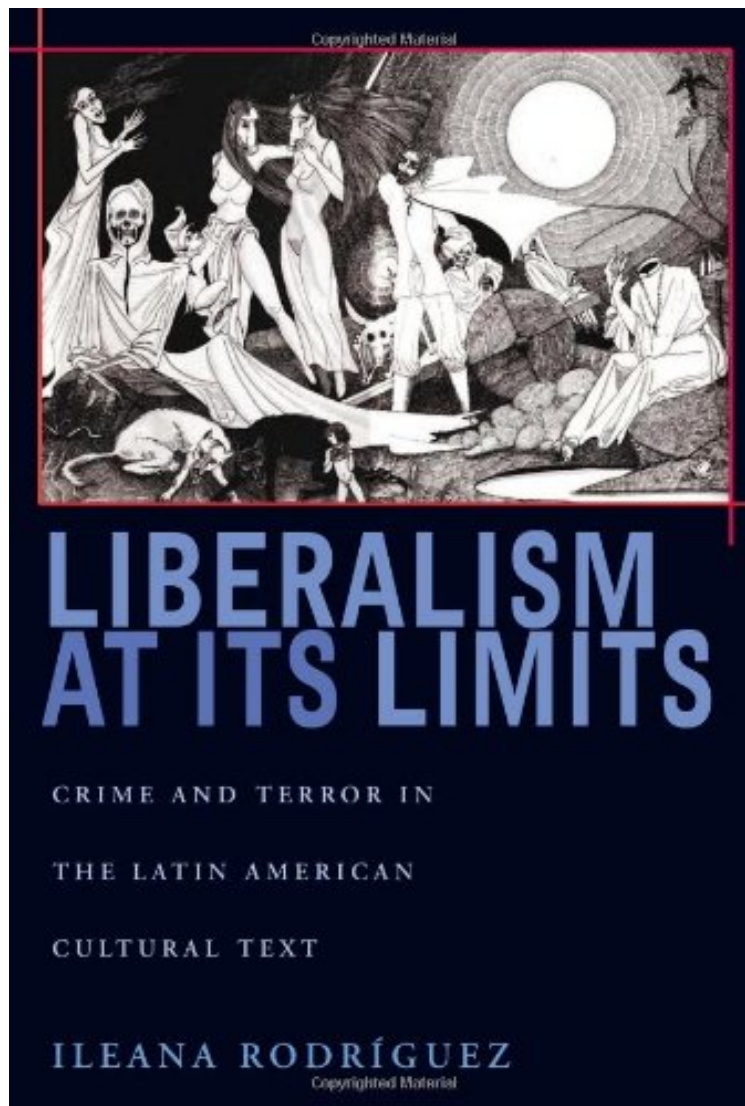


[Download] Liberalism at Its Limits: Crime and Terror in the Latin American Cultural Text (Pitt Illuminations)

## Liberalism at Its Limits: Crime and Terror in the Latin American Cultural Text (Pitt Illuminations)

*Ileana Rodriguez*

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**Ileana Rodriguez** : Liberalism at Its Limits: Crime and Terror in the Latin American Cultural Text (Pitt Illuminations) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberalism at Its Limits: Crime and Terror in the Latin American Cultural Text (Pitt Illuminations):

In *Liberalism at Its Limits*, Ileana Rodríguez considers several Latin American nations that govern under the name of liberalism yet display a shocking range of nondemocratic features. In her political, cultural, and philosophical analysis, she examines these environments in which liberalism seems to have reached its limits, as the universalizing project gives way to rampant nonstate violence, gross inequality, and neocolonialism. Focusing on Guatemala, Colombia, and Mexico, Rodríguez shows how standard liberal models fail to account for new forms of violence and exploitation, which in fact follow from specific clashes between liberal ideology and local practice. Looking at these tensions within the ostensibly well-ordered state, Rodríguez exposes how the misunderstanding and misuse of liberal principles are behind realities of political turmoil, and questions whether liberalism is in fact an ideology sufficient to empower populations and transition nation-states into democratic roles in the global order. In this way, *Liberalism at Its Limits* offers a critical examination of the forced fitting of liberal models to Latin American nations and reasserts cross-cultural communication as crucial to grasping the true link between varying systems of value and politics.

Ileana Rodríguez invites us to explore the limits of liberalism in Latin America. Her book is a tense and intricate weave that connects cultural studies with political science and history. State failures turn out to be over-determined by the inherent flaws in liberalism itself, magnified into outright breeches of reason in Latin America, and by the inauspicious context that tries liberalism. But readers will also perceive a profound admiration for both the challenging context and the political agility it can foster. At the limits of liberalism are intimations of resourceful hybridity that develop at the margins of spectacular failure. Doris Sommer, Harvard University