

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Echeverría

President of Costa Rica

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Echeverría was born in Costa Rica on Jan. 9, 1940. He obtained a bachelor's degree in economics and law from the University of Costa Rica in 1962 and a doctorate in economics from the University of California in 1966.

Prior to entering politics in 1963, Mr. Rodríguez taught economics at the University of Costa Rica. He was also in the agro-export business, primarily in cattle breeding.

Mr. Rodríguez is a member of the Social Christian Unity Party. He has held numerous government posts, including Minister of Planning from 1966 to 1970. He was elected Deputy to the Legislative Assembly in 1990, a function he held until 1993. He also served as President of the Assembly in 1991 and 1992.

Elected President of Costa Rica in February 1998, Mr. Rodríguez took office on May 8 of that year.

Mr. Rodríguez is married and has two children.

Francisco Flores

President of El Salvador

Francisco Flores was born on Oct. 17, 1959. He has an undergraduate degree in political science from Amherst College in Massachusetts and a master's degree in philosophy.

Mr. Flores taught university in El Salvador for 14 years before beginning his political career as President of the National Assembly. The candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Mr. Flores was elected President of El Salvador on March 7, 1999.

Mr. Flores and his wife, Lourdes Rodríguez de Flores, have two children.