

TIERRAS LIBRES

A Documentary
by Edward Ellis



In 2001 Venezuela established a new agrarian reform law. The aim of the Land Law was to alleviate rural poverty, stimulate domestic agricultural production, and break up the system of large estates that has long reigned in the countryside. The law has aroused the wrath of conservative elites—a radical sector of the Anti-Chavez opposition.

While it has become normal to read media reports critical of Venezuela's elected authorities, little is said of the murky world of elite networks and the violence they propel. Even less is said of inequality or of the brave efforts made to slowly eradicate it. For these stories we must go to the Venezuelan poor and hear their testimonials—as Edward Ellis did to make his vivid documentary, *Tierras Libres*.

Martin Sanchez, former Consul General of Venezuela, will answer questions following the film.

Friday • February 24 • 7:30 PM

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