

# Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

## Terror in Latin America



# Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

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## History

- ❑ Created out of turmoil and fighting in the 1950's.
- ❑ Established in 1964 by Colombian Communist Party.
- ❑ Latin America's oldest, largest, most capable insurgency of Marxist origin.
- ❑ Led by Manuel Marulanda (a.k.a. "Tirofi jo")
- ❑ Senior Military Commander Jorge Briceño (a.k.a. "Mono Jojoy")



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## History cont..

- ❑ Were granted control over their own land in Southern Columbia by President Pastrana
- ❑ This action backfired on Pastrana, and as soon as he left office, President Uribe began to take control back from the FARC



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## □ Activities

- High profile attacks
  - Feb 2003 car-bombing of Bogota nightclub, killing 30 people wounding 160
  - Feb 2003 captured and still holds 3 US contractors
- Well-documented ties to drug trafficking
- Kidnapping, extortion schemes, unofficial “tax” of countryside for “protection and social services
- Weapons from Nicaragua, El Salvador, & former Soviet Union bloc nations



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## Social Movement

- ❑ Wanted equal opportunities
- ❑ Wanted equal distribution of wealth and land
- ❑ Political constraints
  - No representation
  - Patriotic Union (UP) representatives murdered
  - No mechanism to acquire institutional changes
- ❑ Ideologies that give legitimacy to organization



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## Strategy

- High profile
- Outside-in
  - Recruit rural citizens/”protection” for villages
  - Agrarian members
- Exhaustion
  - Kidnappings
  - Drug trafficking
  - Murdering those connected to Colombian government



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## Operations

### □ Phase II

- Not directly engaging Colombian Military
- No significant progression
  - Given territory was take back by newest president
- Status in society has not changed



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## BOS

### ▣ Mobility/Survivability

- Move along borders of Venezuela, Nicaragua and El Salvador
- Able to maintain control of some land (field for drugs)
- Operates in Jungles of South East and plains at the base of the Andes



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- Command and Control
  - 27 Battalions in the country
  - Rank structure

Still led by Manuel Marulanda

Same leadership creates a unity of command



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