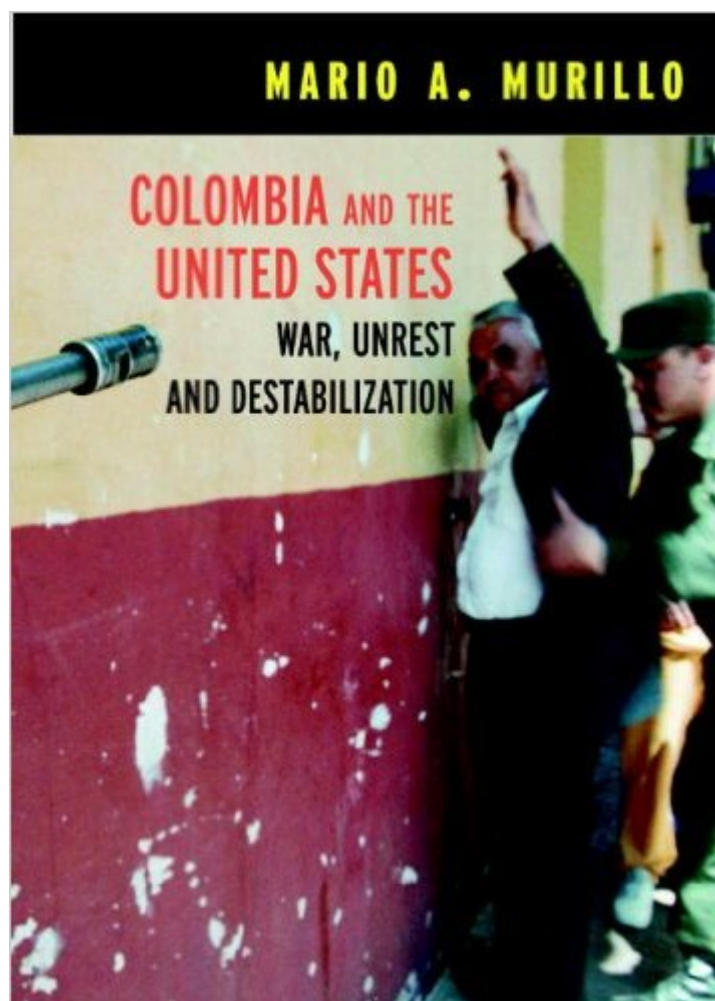


The book was found

Colombia And The United States : War, Unrest, And Destabilization (Open Media Series)



Synopsis

Every year the United States spends millions of dollars to help the war-ravaged country of Colombia. But help it with what? In *Colombia and the U.S.* Mario Murillo explores the misdirected and devastating impact that U.S. military "aid" continues to have on the war-torn people of Colombia. Beginning with a brief history of Colombia, Murillo analyzes the complex forces driving Colombia's current decades-old guerilla war, U.S. involvement, media perceptions, and possible paths to peace. Whether it has been the U.S.-led war against "drug trafficking," the newly constituted "war against terrorism," or, as we have seen over the last two years, a convenient marriage of the two, the main effect has been to allow the U.S. to further expand its role in Colombia. The foundations of Colombia's social, political, and military conflict are rarely addressed by U.S. policy. Murillo describes Colombia's history of institutionalized corruption, state neglect, far-reaching poverty, and political violence and how they precede by decades the introduction and expansion of the drug trade. *Colombia and the U.S.* argues that the conflict in Colombia is not about drugs, nor guerrillas, nor "terrorism," but rather about the unwillingness of the country's elite to open up spaces for truly democratic participation in areas of economic and social development and political representation.

Book Information

Series: Open Media Series

Paperback: 232 pages

Publisher: Seven Stories Press (September 2, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1583226060

ISBN-13: 978-1583226063

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #78,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > History > Americas > South America > Colombia](#) #25 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin American](#) #37 in [Books > History > Americas > Central America](#)

Customer Reviews

Colombia is a complex nation and is often misunderstood, according to Professor Mario A. Murillo.

Moreover, "the nature of Colombia's internal conflict has been completely distorted by the prism of drug-war politics," he adds in the opening chapter. To this end, the author provides hard-hitting facts to support his claim that United States aid to Colombia, "is very often used by the Colombian political and economic elite to promote its own agenda." Murillo does not stop there...he exposes Colombia's feeble legal system. "In Colombia, the Constitution and its laws are often ignored and rarely enforced, either because of a lack of bureaucratic capacity on the part of the state to do so, or because of an absence of political will on the part of the ruling elite to execute those laws that are designed to protect the public," he reports. The author has few kind words for President Alvaro Uribe. Murillo attacks the politically motivated violence "by the state and its paramilitary apparatus." He also is critical of the corruption of the traditional political parties, run predominantly by elites... "who compete for the spoils that serve as an incentive for cycles of generalized corruption." The origins of the conflict, the myths behind Colombian democracy, the principal actors in today's conflict and the many views in the United States are studied in detail in this text. The analysis of the paramilitaries in Colombia is brilliant... particularly in respect to the millions of displaced people and the terrible treatment of Afro-Colombians. Still and all, the best part of this book is the call for change. Murillo slams Alvaro Uribe's unconditional support for George W. Bush and worries that the impunity of the violent actors in Colombia will continue to fuel the civil war. In conclusion, the author clearly states that a pure military solution is impossible and that only true democratic reforms can stop the violence. Recommended. Bert Ruiz

With the presidential elections right around the corner, or as Mario Murillo, author of "Colombia and the United States (War, Unrest and Destabilization)" (Seven Stories Press), might put it: the elections right around the corner, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Vélez is vying for Colombia's first-ever re-election. Rising quickly to the National House in Bogotá on a promise to use military might to solve Colombia's ills, Uribe has ridden a wave of popularity he created from his "strong hand, big heart" slogan to his image of a hard-working man. He has even appeared in public in a poncho and campesino hat with a ranchero look strengthening his popularity. For those unfamiliar with the Colombian conflict, Murillo's book serves as good starting point, showing how the conflict has been oversimplified in the media and why one should be wary of doing so. The historical context Murillo presents is surprisingly thorough for a 200-page book, banking on a wide variety of Colombian and American sources, including an author's interview with a high-level FARC leader. Murillo's stellar Chapter 6, "Colombia in the News: Structural Damages in a Post 9-11 World", is reason enough to read this book. Murillo's unique research yields gripping data regarding not only

how (or how little) the media covers the conflict in one of the countries receiving the most U.S. military aid, but the surging Orwellian doublespeak that appears in Colombian and U.S. media. Despite the likelihood of another Uribe term, Murillo offers a refreshing voice calling for non-military/non-Uribe solutions to conflict in Colombia.

This is a good book to get some review of events that have happened in Colombia. The author though writes with a clear bias and criticism of the path to a better Colombia. Almost 10 years later I think his perspective has turned out not to have been accurate.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Colombia and the United States : War, Unrest, and Destabilization (Open Media Series) Ecuador and the United States: Useful Strangers (United States and the Americas) (United States and the Americas) (The United States and the Americas) Scott 1998 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps: Confederate States, Canal Zone, Danish West Indies Guam, Hawaii, United Nations : United ... Catalogue of United States Stamps) Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers 2013: Confederate States-Canal Zone-Danish West Indies-Guam-Hawaii-United Nations: United ... Postage Stamp Catalogue: U.S. Specialized) War Plan Red: The United States' Secret Plan to Invade Canada and Canada's Secret Plan to Invade the United States De Los Maras a Los Zetas. De Colombia a Chicago: Los Secretos Del Narcotr fico De Colombia a Chicago (Best Seller (Debolsillo)) (Spanish Edition) Las Guerrillas del Llano: Una visi n de la violencia en Colombia (1948-1953) (Actores de la Violencia en Colombia) (Spanish Edition) Surgery Open Heart: A Surgical Nurse Guides You Through Open Heart Surgery (Open Heart Surgery, Aortic Valve / Mitral Valve Replacement, Coronary Artery Bypass, Aortic Aneurysm, Myxoma) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) Grenada: The Struggle Against Destabilization Paraguay and the United States: Distant Allies (The United States and the Americas) A Guide Book of United States Paper Money 2nd Ed. (Guide Book of United States Paper Money: Complete Source) Illustrated catalogue of United States Cartridge Company's collection of firearms : the most complete collection in the United States Scott 2017 Specialized United States Postage Stamp Catalogue (Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps) Handbook of United States Coins 2017: The Official Blue Book, Paperback Edition (Handbook of United States Coins (Paper)) Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins (Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins) A Guide Book of United States Coins 2015: The Official Red Book Spiral (Official Red Book: A Guide Book of United States Coins (Spiral))

American History: The People & Events that Changed American History (People's History, American, United States of America, American Revolution, Patriot, United States History Book 1)
Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974 (Oxford History of the United States) Media Control, Second Edition: The Spectacular Achievements of Propaganda (Open Media Series)

[Dmca](#)