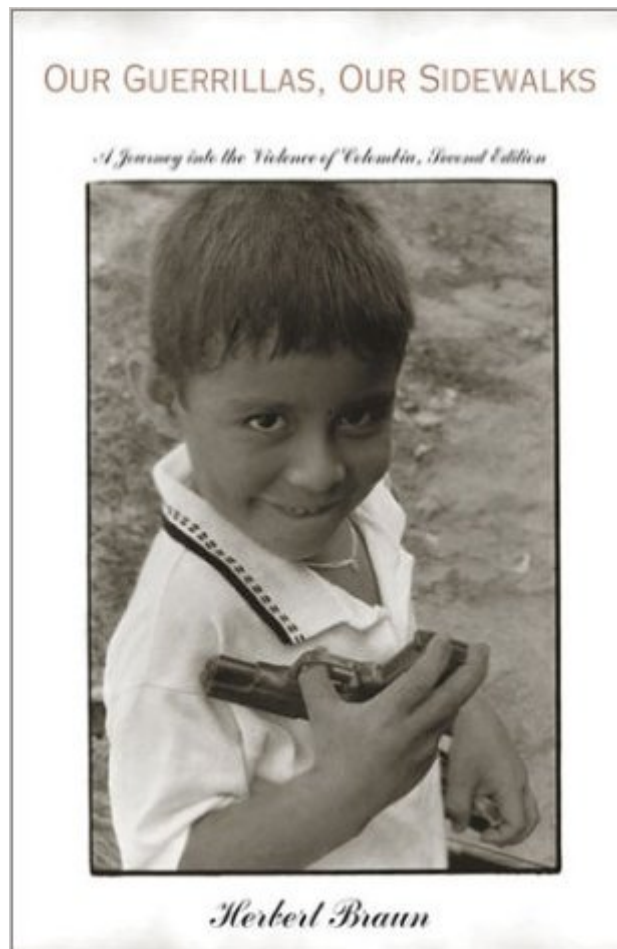


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# Our Guerrillas, Our Sidewalks: A Journey Into The Violence Of Colombia



## Synopsis

This remarkable book tells the story of one man's kidnapping in Colombia from the first-person perspectives of all those involved: the guerrillas, the victim, his wife, his friends, and his brother-in-law, Herbert Braun. In this second edition, the author has added a new chapter that recounts the endurance of Colombia and Colombians in the face of escalating kidnapping and violence, explores the current political situation in Colombia, and reevaluates his own complex response to the guerrillas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Our Guerrillas, Our Sidewalks is a fascinating book that chronicles the 1988 kidnapping of the author's brother-in-law, Jacob Gambini, by Colombia guerrillas. The book moves between Braun's narrative of the events and multiple other narratives including the kidnapee himself (represented mostly as 'Jake'), Jake's wife, and other people who were directly involved in the ordeal. There are also guerrilla quotes and newspaper articles throughout the book. The book essentially begins with the kidnapping and ends with the subsequent release of Jake Gambini. Using a variety of sources, Braun tells the story of the kidnapping while lending the reader a genuine feel of Colombian life and consciousness, and of the struggles and tension experienced by a nation founded with (and living in) violent revolution. Although Braun has a German name, he spent at least a significant part of his early life in Colombia, enough to be firmly rooted in Colombian consciousness. Braun is the brother of Jake's wife, Ulla. Braun and Ulla's mother, at the time the book was written, lived in Colombia. Previous to the kidnapping, Jake owned a successful oil company in Colombia, so although the

family did not live entirely in Colombia, it had many ties to the country. Braun had written articles and published books on Colombian violence and history even before his brother-in-law was kidnapped by guerrillas, so obviously the motivation and ability for writing this book was very strong. The variety of perspectives displayed in the book creates a unique plot flow, with very effective chapter movement. Each chapter's title represents the current stage of kidnapping in the plot.

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