

The End of the War on Drugs? Re-imagining the US-Colombia Relationship

Description

by Erin K. McFee

On June 19, Colombia elected Gustavo Petro as its president. The election of the former mayor of Bogotá and ex-M-19 guerrilla fighter represents a historic break from a [nearly uninterrupted](#) two-hundred-year run of government by [white mestizo elites](#). If implemented, the [three pillars](#) of his campaign platform—environmental reforms, women’s equality, and peace—would transform the Andean country, which has been plagued by more than half a century of internal armed conflict.

But his administration will face serious challenges, including strong [political opposition, a faltering economy with rising inflation](#), and a Venezuelan [migration crisis](#). Despite the 2016 peace deal with Colombia’s largest insurgent group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country’s violence has [spiked](#) in recent years, largely due to the previous administration’s active opposition to full implementation of the peace accord’s provisions. And to make matters worse, Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel has expanded its presence in Colombia.

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