**Colombia Notes**

* FARC--revolutionary armed force in colombia
* Leftist movement borne from politics to fight for land reform
  + Land is for the richest 20 families in the country
* Never had a leftism movement as its neighbors--and so any leftist movement was pushed out of the cities and exists in the jungle, and rural areas
* Paramilitary groups also took on a life of their own during this time
  + Peace treaty with previous President (for amnesty)
  + Continuing to thrive even after this agreement
  + Many war crimes--like below
* Falsos Positivos
  + Number of military days off=number of FARC members you kill
  + Led to mass killing/faking of killers.
  + Kidnapped innocent people, and set them up in FARC gear
  + Every actor in Colombia is culpable for some crimes against humanity

FARC territories

* Primarily in the Pacific- Narino, Cauca, Valle de Cauca, Putumayo, Caqueta, Choco. Areas with a lot of coca production
* ELN exists in areas closer to Venezuela--smuggling economies
* Only 7000 soldiers in all of Colombia that are FARC, and only 300 in Narino--but network is wide-reaching

Who are they?

* Often people from rural areas--indigenous populations particularly--who were kidnapped as children, or who had no economic opportunities where they were living
* Man have never lived in cities and have spent most of their lives in rural areas.

Linkages to drug trafficking

* Official position--taxes on drug trade in their territories
* Why would smallholder farmers in Colombia grow coca if it’s so dangerous?
  + It’s a smart economic choice-- rather than drive for 5 hrs to the market, dealers come to your farm, take your crop, pay you money
* Dangers--aerial spraying of coca fields, health impacts and production impacts

Is it like Boko Haram?

* Many young members--poor folks who have no other access to fire
* Doesn’t target civilians for violence (but do kidnap for ransom)
* Community support, since they are supporting Colombian economy
* Boko is splintered, FARC is very cohesive, and you can negotiate with their leader

What does a no vote v. a yes vote do for drug trafficking?

* FARC agreed to disengage for drug trafficking, if yes.
  + Could mean less, but could mean another group would fill the space.
* Would have received 5 seats in house and senate--would have transitioned them back into political life.
  + Lots of fear among colombia, and they worry they will turn into Venezuela
* Many people viewed the treaty as a “gay” treaty, since it accounted for gender norms and other gendering aspects of Colombia (sensitive approach)
  + This could be a reason there were many no votes
  + Church may have mobilized, to an extent, against the treaty
  + Colombia ratified gay marriage and adoption, but propaganda has still been prevalent
* Is there hope? And what is that hope hinging on?
  + Legally, government has authority to just deal with the agreements without popular support
  + Government doesn’t want to speak directly to the FARC?
  + National debate on the topic, better publicized, and consulting the ELN