

# **LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIO DE COLOMBIA ó EJERCITO DEL PUEBLO**

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

**LAUREN D. PEARCE**

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC) is an organization rooted deep in the history of Colombia. Due to its long history, the FARC has played different roles in different time periods, and consequently is viewed by different people in vastly different ways. To some, the FARC is the hero of the commoner, to others a terrorist organization, and to others still, a narco-trafficking ring. In order to understand what the FARC is today, it is necessary to understand its history. The FARC is an organization that was born out of necessity, out of fear, and out of violence and has evolved in response to the ever-changing politics in Colombia. They are an organization that tried to negotiate with the Colombian government several times, only to be slaughtered upon reentry into society. They are an organization that protected villages from the brutal Colombian military during La Violencia. In its early years, the FARC was an organization formed to protect the citizens of Colombia, yet the modern FARC attacks military targets with zero concern for civilians in their way. The FARC of today is not the FARC of 1964.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Colombia**

scene of Colombia following the “Banana Massacre” of 1928. In 1928, the workers employed by

cea5( offi)--4(m)2-4()-4( 21.6ETBT1 0 0 -4(ng)1(, a)-5(m)-)17(i4(l)-4(i)-4(a)[c)-( ot)-4()11(npa)t)-4( up)6(, a2.7



## **The Founding of the FARC**

The FARC was born out of the violence during and after La Violencia and the corresponding loss of faith in government. Referring to La Violencia, Pedro Marín, founder of the FARC, wrote, “

supported by the military, had an even more brutal reputation. Children and teenagers in the

overthrew the established government of Gomez and placed General Rojas in power. Since this