

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

**A BRIEF HISTORY**

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gained the support of the Colombian army. Despite the polarization of its politics, Colombia

## **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, ~~ØRWH~~ The police and armed Conservatives would destroy the villages, kill inhabitants, burn their houses, take people prisoner and disappear them, steal livestock and rape the women. The goal of the Conservative groups was to inflict ~~WHUURURUWKHSRSDWLRQ~~ response to the violence at the hand of the military and paramilitaries, a teenager named Pedro Marín fled the

supported by the military, had an even more brutal reputation. Children and teenagers in the countryside matured in an environment where the military was to be feared for their brutality and the guerrillas respected for their protection. In addition, the guerrilla-controlled areas historically have been areas of extreme poverty, which with the exception of military raids, received absolutely no support from the Colombian government. This combination of factors made it easy for the FARC to recruit guerrillas.

One author says, "Beyond those simple tenants, their ideology is hard to pinpoint. The

overthrew the established government of Gomez and placed General Rojas in power. Since this point, traditional government has been slowly wrenching power from the military, but frequently the two have not been operating as one force. The paramilitary groups further complicate the