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A Glimpse of the National Conflicts in Colombia From 2018 to Present

Background

In Colombia, the conflicts among the government, far-left guerrillas, and far-right paramilitaries are deeply rooted in the country's modern history. [7] The three sides, each representing the state authority, the rural classes, and the business owners and cartels, frequently clashed due to social inequality and their diverged political ideologies. The long-lasting sporadic conflicts over half century has led to one of the longest and deadliest domestic conflicts in the world.

Introduction

In 2016, after years of multi-lateral negotiations, Colombian then-President Santos reached a peace deal with Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to promise ceasefire with the long standing far-left guerilla group. However, due to the failure of the later peace referendum and more importantly the deeply rooted social inequality, the country merely caught a breath before entering another period of instability until today.

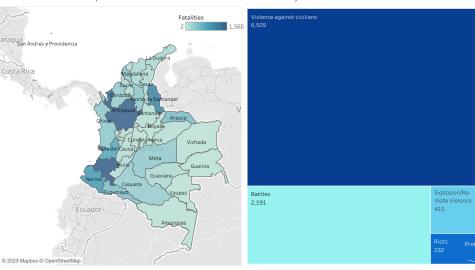
Data

Since 2018, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) has been collecting data on conflicts and violence occurred in Colombia. Based on the Project's collections from 2018 to today, this data story presents an overview of the current situation of the Colombian Conflict, an anlysis of conflicts in specific departments, and a comparison of conflict status quos among other unstable Latin countries.

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Colombia Fatalities Map

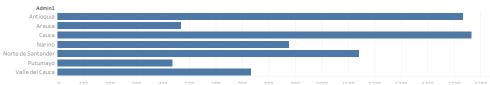
Fatalities by Events

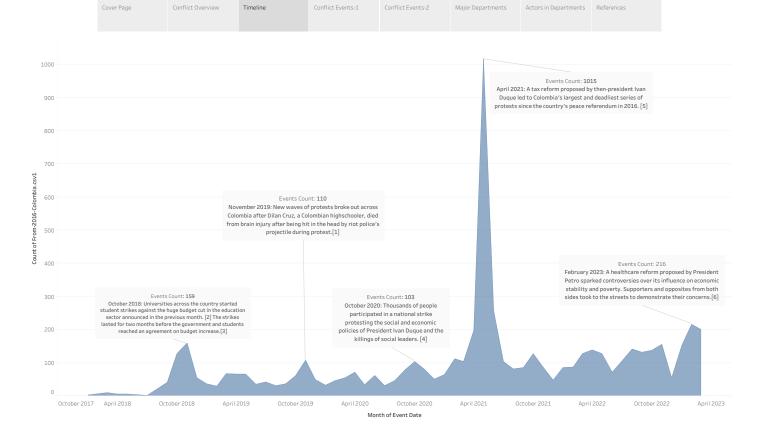


Conflicts events mostly occurs in western regions such as Antioquia, North Santander, Cauca, Valle de Cauca, and Narino. Among them, Cauca, Antioquia and Santander all have over 1100 casualties respectively in the time period of 2018-2023.

The fatal consequences of conflicts disproportionately fell on the civilians, with more than 60% of fatalities being Civilian casualties, followed by battles, which takes up about 20% of the fatalities. Other reasons include explosions, remote violence, riots, and even peaceful protests.

Departments with Major Fatalities





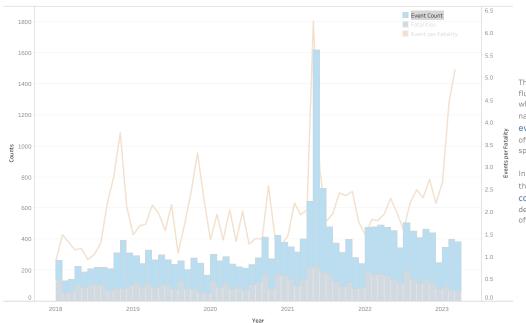
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Fatalities by Conflict Events %



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Fatalities vs. Events



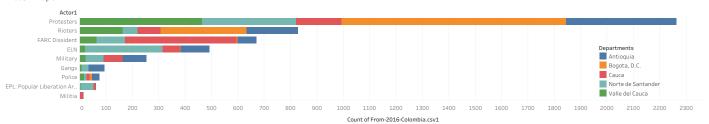
The number of conflicts events fluctuated around 400 until 2021, when the Duque's tax reform provoked national strikes with more than 1600 events happened in the single month of May 2021. Hence we can see a huge spike in the month.

In addition, it is noteworthy that over the half decade, about 1.5-4 conflicts are associated with one death, implicating the precarious state of Colombia's peace process.



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Actor-Dept.



Actor: FARC dissident



Actor: ELN - National Liberation Army



Actor: Military



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