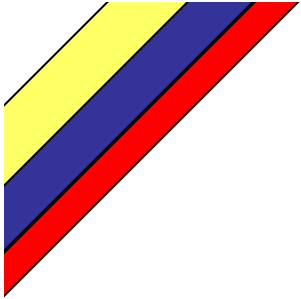


Representations of Violence in Colombian Literature

Juliana Bernal Ostos

AHS Capstone

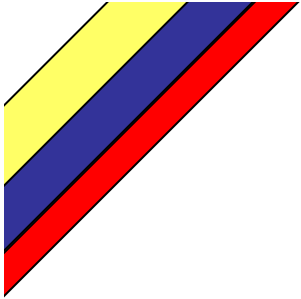
May 2nd, 2007



Motivation for the project

- Learn about my country
- Read novels by
 - Gabriel Garcia Marquez
 - Laura Restrepo
- Gain insight into repercussions of current war





Violence in Colombia 1945 - Present

1945 – 1953

- Bipartisan violence
 - 500,000 casualties

1954 – 1964

- Mafia violence
 - Coffee lands

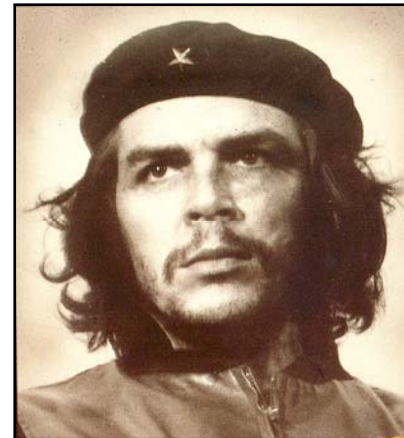
1961 – 1989

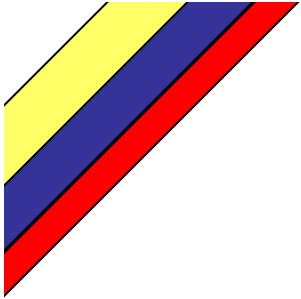
- Revolutionary guerrillas
 - National Liberation Army (ELN)
 - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)

- Paramilitaries

1989 – Present

- Big mess
 - Drugs
 - Guerrillas
 - Paramilitaries
 - Army



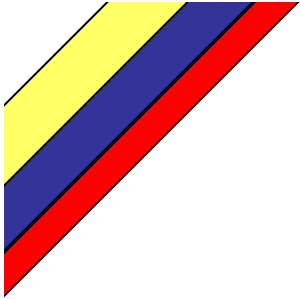


Violence in Colombia Corruption



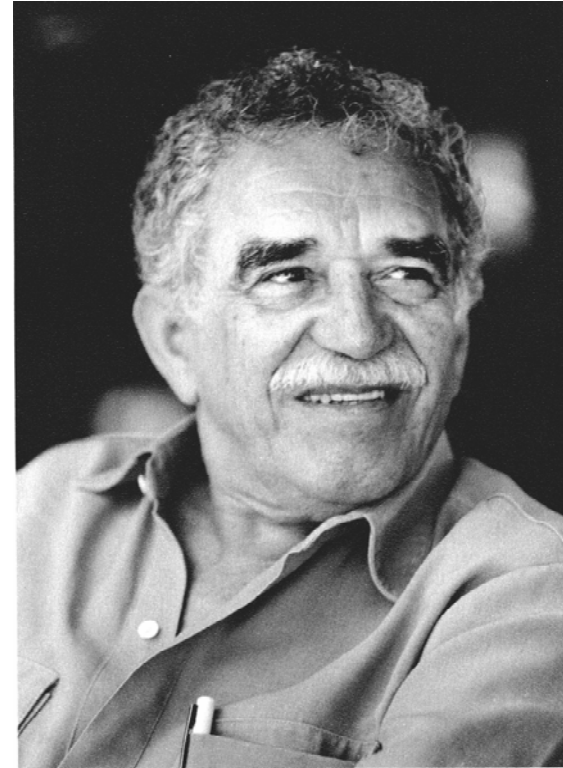
- El Proceso 8,000
 - Drug lords funded presidential campaign
 - 1995
- Parapolítica
 - Paramilitaries had multiple politicians on payroll
 - 2006



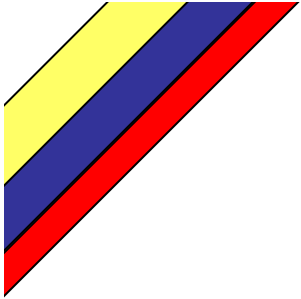


Gabriel García Márquez

- Colombian
- Journalist
- Writer
- Nobel Prize winner, 1982
- Major figure of the “Boom” period in Latin America literature
- Peace mediator



"Que la gratificante presencia del Nobel sea el mejor augurio para que podamos trascender estos 100 años de soledades y dolores, y al fin los tiempos puedan parir eternidades de paz y de vida para Colombia". ELN Military Chief, Dec 2005

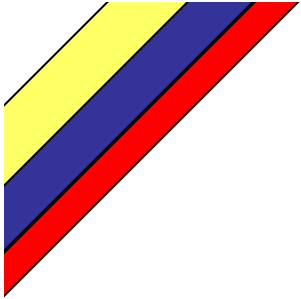


Laura Restrepo



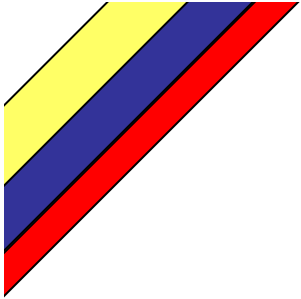
http://www.acompaz.org/IMG/jpg/laura_restrepo.jpg

- Colombian
- Journalist
- Writer
- Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz Prize winner, 1997
- Alfaguara Prize winner, 2004
- A figure of “Post Boom” period in Latin American literature
- Peace mediator between the government and the guerrilla movement M-19, 1983



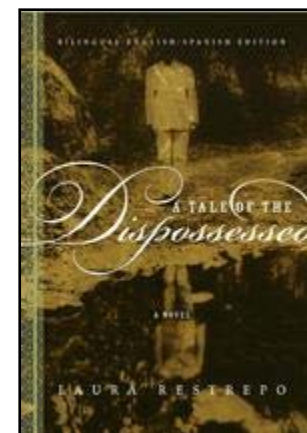
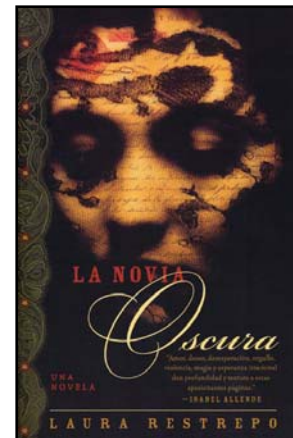
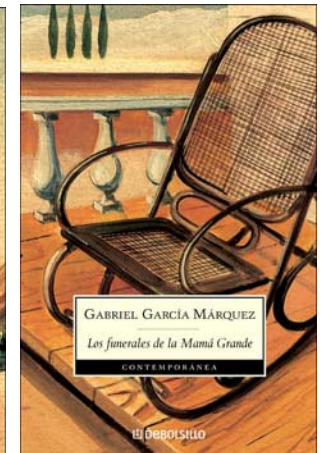
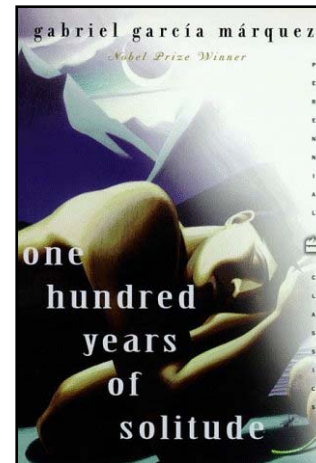
Goal of the project

“To analyze the recurrence of violence in Colombian society and the literary representations of its causes and long term effects.”



Plan of action

- Define violence
- Read:
 - El coronel no tiene quien le escriba
 - Los funerales de la Mamá Grande
 - Cien años de soledad
 - Dulce compañía
 - La novia oscura
 - La multitud errante
- Read Colombian history
- Compare representations of causes and effects of violence from each author
- Write

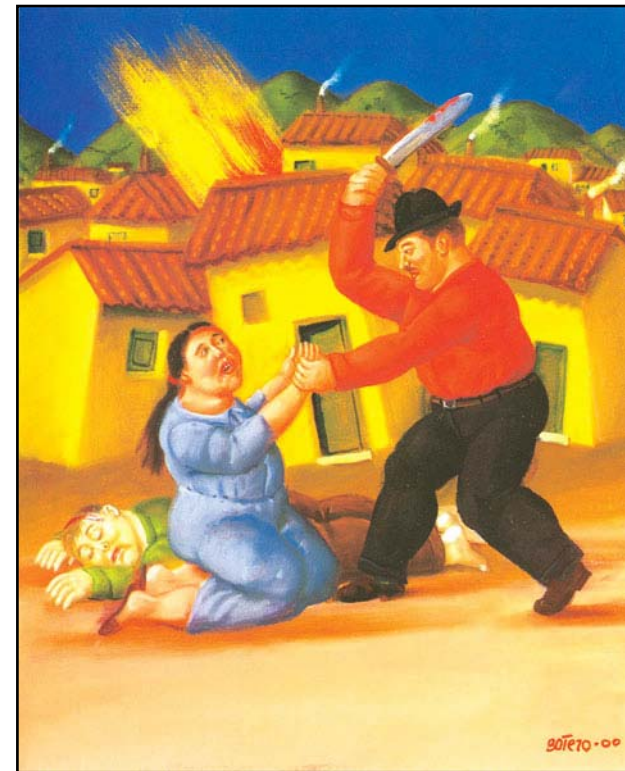


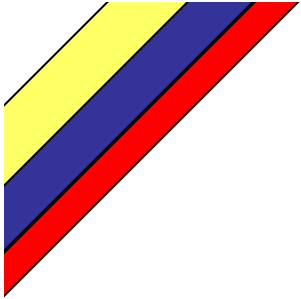


Definition of Violence

“El resultado material del abuso de autoridad o conflicto de autoridad entre dos entidades.”

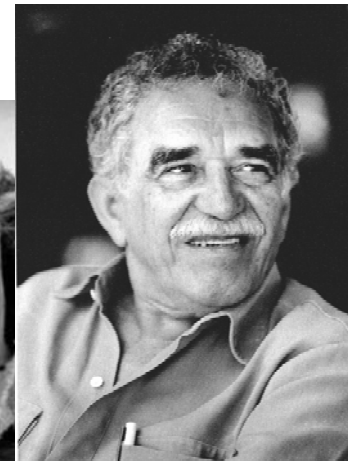
- Authority:
 - The ability to influence other people’s actions
- Many forms of violence
 - Physical aggression
 - Threats
 - Corruption
 - Economic
- Violence occurs in several stages in the novels
 - Political - corruption
 - Family - abuse
 - Socio-economic - inequality

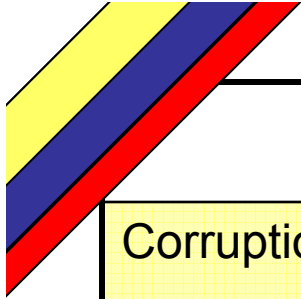




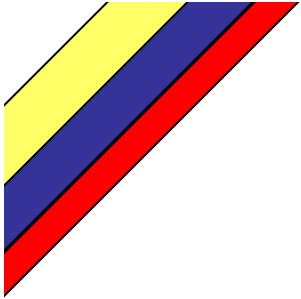
Findings - General

- Authors present violence in the same stages: political, family, socio-economic
- Causes of violence that are presented are generally the same
- Effects are similar, but the degree of the effects is different



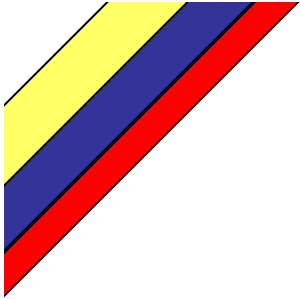


	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Laura Restrepo
Corruption	Economic interests	Economic interests
	Politicians ≠ the people	Politicians ≠ the people
	Powerless victims	Victims take to arms
	Opaque corruption	Transparent corruption
Family abuse	Parental abuse	Parental abuse
	Parents can kill children in life	Parents can cause harm, but not to the point of death
	Family abuse affects whole community	Family abuse affects whole community on a secondary plane
Class difference	No middle class	No middle class
	Hatred for the rich	Disconnect between rich and poor



En realidad, su negocio no era la muerte de los pobres sino la expulsión de los ricos. Después de que el alcalde les perforaba las puertas a tiros y les ponía el plazo para abandonar el pueblo, José Montiel les compraba sus tierras y ganados por un precio que él mismo se encargaba de fijar... A ese ritmo, en menos de un año estaba liquidada la oposición, y José Montiel era el hombre más rico y poderoso del pueblo.

(GGM. “La viuda de Montiel,” 85)



Esa noche, mientras [don Apolinar] jugaba dominó con Aureliano, le ordenó al sargento romper la etiqueta para contar los votos. Había casi tantas papeletas rojas como azules, pero el sargento sólo dejó diez rojas y completó la diferencia con azules...

Lo que en realidad cause indignidad en el pueblo no fue el resultado de las elecciones, sino el hecho de que los soldados no hubieran devuelto las armas...

Don Apolinar Moscote le explicó, en estricta reserva, que los soldados se habían llevado las armas decomisadas como prueba de que los liberales se estaban preparando para la guerra.

(GGM. Cien años de soledad, 122-123).



El hombre de la bata manchada le hizo el examen a la vista de todos, con absoluto desinterés, cigarrillo en la boca y sin interrumpir una discusión sobre la legitimidad de las elecciones que sostenía con un colega alto y desgarrado que tampoco parecía médico, ni siquiera mecánico, sino jirafa de zoológico.

Al terminar con la niña, el hombre pasó al escritorio a estampar firma y sello en una tarjeta de cartulina rosa, echó al cajón los cincuenta pesos y sin lavarse las manos gritó:

- ¡La siguiente!

(LR. La novia oscura, 85)

Un investigador francés que vino por esos años hizo averiguaciones y echó cifras y nos dejó saber que las prostitutas de Tora le pagábamos más al Estado en controles de salud y en multas, que la Tropical Oil Company.

(LR. La novia oscura, 91)

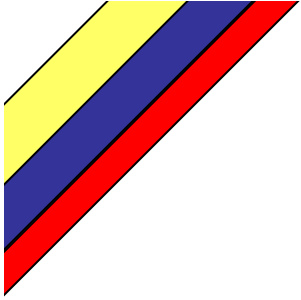


Fernanda contó con un ambiente propicio para mantener al niño escondido como si no hubiera existido nunca. Tuvo que recibirlo, porque las circunstancias en que se lo llevaron no hacían posible el rechazo. Tuvo que soportarlo contra su voluntad por el resto de su vida, porque a la hora de la verdad le faltó valor para cumplir la íntima determinación de ahogarlo en la alberca del baño.

(GGM. Cien años de soledad, 343).

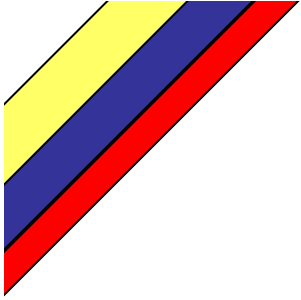
Después del parto yo a mi niño no lo volví a ver, todos los días y a todas horas preguntando por él, hasta que fue mi madre, compadecida, la que me hizo la confesión.

(LR. Dulce Compañía, 45)



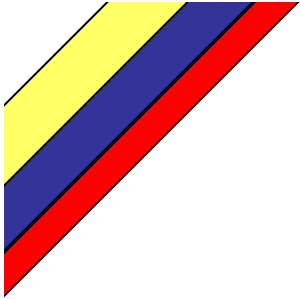
Take-home message

Violence stems from the lack of a real mechanism for solving conflicts, like a judicial system, that is accepted by both the people and those in positions of authority.



Thank you!

Questions?



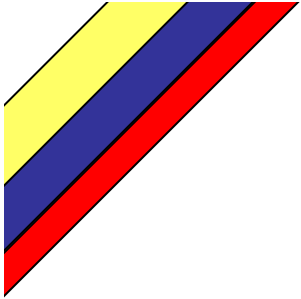
Violence in Colombia 1945 – 1953



Bipartisan violence

'The parties that furiously dispute the palm of martyrdom, contribute decisively to the fact that acts of violence are provoked, that those responsible escape punishment, that incidental criminality is covered with party banners, and that witnesses are found to protect the offenders or to shift responsibility to the innocent'

– President Alberto Lleras Camargo



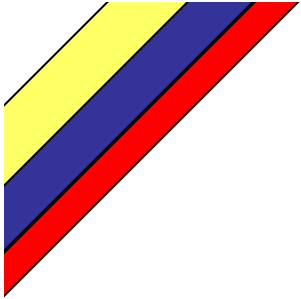
Violence in Colombia 1954 – 1964

“Mafia” violence

‘The bloodshed of these years grew out of the earlier years of partisan slaughter, in the sense that the participants had become socialized to murder as social instrument during the first phase. Now, however, the principal aim of organized homicide was not political power but rather economic gain.’

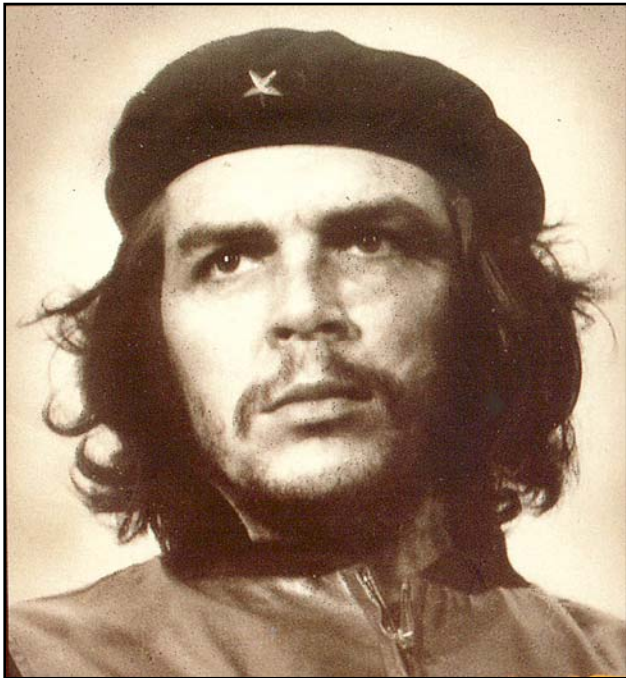


Fight for coffee plantations



Violence in Colombia 1961 – 1989

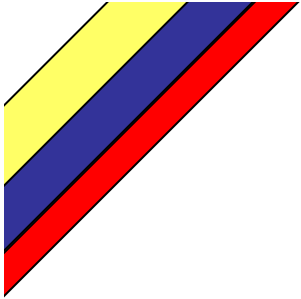
Revolutionary guerrillas



‘These were the years of insurrectional struggle by guerrilla organizations whose aim was revolutionary transformations of the social order and the state that protects it and of reaction against the revolutionary movements by the military and paramilitary organizations’

Today’s guerrilla groups were founded in 1960s

- National Liberation Army (ELN)
- Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)



Violence in Colombia 1989 – Present

The violences of the 1990s

‘Although the connections among the diverse types of violence still have not been established precisely, the most accepted hypothesis points to the drug traffic as triggering the upward leap of criminality in Colombian society.’

Guerrilla war:

- 200,000 force out of homes, 11,000 deaths in combat, 23,000 murders
- Fueled by drug money
- Control large territory

