

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

LATIN AMERICA

COLUMBIA

Snapshot

Country name: Republic of Colombia

Country Founded in: July 20, 1820 (From Spain)

Population: 43,593,035 (July 2006 est.)

Government Type: Republic; executive branch dominates government structure.

Geography/location in the world: Northeastern South America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean.



Number of people groups: 91

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population:

Roman Catholic 93.9%

All religions and % for each:

Protestant 2.9%

Independent 2.8%

Other/Small .9%

Ethnic Religions .7%

Islam .1%

Government interaction with religion: The government is tolerant of all religions.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Colombia

Basic Facts

Country name: Republic of Colombia

Country Founded in: July 20, 1820 (From Spain)

Population: 43,593,035 (July 2006 est.)

Demographics:

As of July 2006, the population of the Republic of Colombia is 43,593,035. The overall population density is about 109 persons per square mile. The population growth rate is at +1.46%. The birth rate is 20.48 births/1,000 people. The death rate is 5.58 deaths/1,000 people. The migration rate is -0.3 migrants/1,000 people. The infant mortality rate total is 20.35 deaths/1,000 live births. Life expectancy for men is 68.15 years and 75.96 for women. By 2003, there was an estimated amount of 190,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, 0.7% of the population.

Roughly 49.2% of the Colombian population, live below the poverty line. The unemployment rate is 11.8% (2005 est.). Some 76% of the population is considered urban.

The major cities are Bogota (6,422,198), Cali (2,128,920), Medellin (1,885,001), Barranquilla (1,549,197), and Cartagena (829,476).

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Language:

The official language of Colombia is Spanish and about 34 million people speak the language. However, there are several indigenous people groups that speak different languages.

www.nationmaster.com

Society/Culture:

About 91 people groups make up the Republic of Colombia. Colombia has a variety of Amerindian tribes, scattered partly in the north in the desert peninsula of La Guajira and high up in the Caribbean coastal ranges of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, as well as in the south, particularly in the Amazon region, with a few tribes in other areas such as the Tierradentro region.

The major ethnicity in Colombia is the mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white decent) who make up about 58%.

The primary people divisions are:

Mestizo (58%)

White (20%)

Mulatto (14%)

Black (4%)

Mixed Black-Amerindian (3%)

Amerindian (1%)

Colombia has a rich tradition of folklore. This tradition has formed out of the beliefs and practices of the Amerindian, Black, and Spanish people groups. There are a wide variety of festivals that occur throughout the year. In Barranquilla, there is an annual Carnival, combining influences from all three people groups. At the Carnival, you will find colorful costumes and masks, along with flutes and African drums. The Feast of St. Francis is celebrated in the Choco region in the Pacific. St. Francis is the patron saint of the miners, in this predominantly gold-mining region. The festival links up with many other celebrations along the rivers where the statues of various saints are paraded in canoes and on rafts. At this Feast, one would find all kinds of food, music, singing, and dancing.

Colombians celebrate the main Catholic holidays. The Holy Week is the most outwardly celebrated holiday in Colombia. In the town of Popayan, many statues of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and saints such as St. John the Evangelist are paraded by groups of cargueros (carriers) along the streets. Others walk alongside carrying lit candles called alumbrantes. It is considered a great honor to take part in the processions. Spanish traditionalists and various members of the Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem also take part in the procession, in formal dress and white capes.

Living conditions vary greatly according to social class. Main towns have wealthy suburbs with modern housing. In poorer areas there are often large shantytowns, and other housing built from various materials and corrugated metal roofs. On the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, the hotter climate allows for a type of housing that uses local cane, reeds, and palm branches. In these areas, many people sleep in hammocks rather than beds. Healthcare also varies greatly. The poor rely either on state hospitals, or on native healers called curanderos. Other people have access to more modern-equipped hospitals and care centers. Cars are expensive to maintain and the railways aren't developed, so many Colombians use buses for transportation. Another form of popular transportation is the air transport. This was developed early in Colombia because of the mountainous terrain. Many remote locations have airstrips.

Family life is very important to Colombians. They often have large families that spend a lot of time together, and keep in close contact with each other. The church has been influential in stressing the importance of family ties. Godparents or padrinos, play a supportive role in family life. At times they help the family with tuition or gifts. The men are depended on to find jobs to help support the family. In cases of extreme poverty, some children are abandoned to fend for themselves. Foster mothers have been appointed for a whole street, and with state help, they provide daytime shelter and meals during the day.

Clothing will vary according to the climate. Western-style clothing is worn throughout the country. Men on the coast often wear cotton shirts with colorful, bright patterns. Men and women wear woolen ruanas (originally evolving from Spanish capes) in the cooler areas of the Andes Mountains. Women of the middle to upper- class wear more stylish versions of the woolen ruana. Traditional peasant women wear fringed shawls, called panolones.

Colombia has a vast variety of fruits and vegetables and both are used in all sorts of authentic Colombian dishes. The traditional stew, called cocido in Bogota, can include 20 different kinds of vegetables as well as various types of potatoes. Another popular dish is the ajiaco. This dish includes a bright yellow potato known as papa criolla as well as chicken and corn, and is served with a slice of avocado and cream. A great variety of seafood is served on the coast of Colombia. Fish is often grilled or fried, flavored with coconut milk, and served with rice. In the Antioquia region and its capital, Medellin, rice and beans, served with cornmeal cakes known as arepas, and often with fried plantains, are part of the staple diet. The diet of the poor doesn't include as much variety. Their diet usually includes bread and potatoes, and occasionally other vegetables.

Soccer is the most popular sport to play in Colombia. Other sports such as baseball, basketball, volleyball, golf, tennis, and swimming are watched and played in Colombia as well. Also cycling, horse racing, boating, fishing, and rodeos are popular sports. A popular game played in the highlands is Tejo. It consists of tossing flat stones at explosive caps. Bullfighting is the most popular spectator sport.

<http://encarta.msn.com>

Timothy L. Gall, ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life. Vol. 2. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1998.

Government:

Colombia is a republic, ruled by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The executive branch dominates the government structure. Colombia adopted a new constitution in 2001. It replaced the 1886 constitution, providing a more decentralized, pluralistic, and democratic government.

The current president of the Republic of Colombia is Alvaro Uribe Velez (since August 7th 2002) and the Vice President is Francisco Santos. Velez was reelected for president on May 28, 2006. His term will last till 2010. The executive branch is also made up of the cabinet, which consists of a coalition of two dominant parties- the PL (Partido Liberal Colombiano) and the PCC (Partido Conservador Colombiano) and independents.

The Legislative branch consists of the Senate (102 seats, elected by popular vote to serve 4 year terms) and the House of Representatives (166 seats, elected by popular vote to serve 4 year terms).

The Judicial branch consists of four roughly coequal, supreme judicial organs; Supreme Court of Justice or Corte Suprema de Justicia (highest court of criminal law; judges are selected by their peers from the nominees of the Superior Judicial Council for eight-year terms); Council of State (highest court of administrative law; judges are selected from the nominees of the Superior Judicial Council for eight-year terms); Constitutional Court (guards integrity and supremacy of the constitution; rules on constitutionality of laws, amendments to the constitution, and international treaties); Superior Judicial Council (administers and disciplines the civilian judiciary; resolves jurisdictional conflicts arising

between other courts; members are elected by three sister courts and Congress for eight-year terms).

There are two large active insurgent groups in Colombia. They are the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC and National Liberation Army or ELN. The largest illegal paramilitary in Colombia is the United Self-defense Groups (AUC). These three groups cause a lot of problems for the country of Colombia.

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Economy:

Colombia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2005 was 97.73 billion, or about \$7,900 per capita. The GDP composition by sector is:

Agriculture: 12.5%

Industry: 34.2%

Services: 53.3%

Concerning the budget, Colombia's revenues are: \$46.82 billion. Expenditures: \$48.77 billion, including capital expenditures \$NA (2005). Public debt: 49.5% of GDP (2005).

National external debt: \$32.35 billion (2005).

The currency is the Colombian peso. The exchange rate: Colombian pesos per US dollar-2,320.75 (2005).

Colombia's export partners are:

United States: 39.1%

Venezuela: 11%

Ecuador: 5.3% (2005)

Colombia's import partners are:

United States: 29.1%

Venezuela: 7.2%

Mexico: 5.8%

Brazil: 5.4%

China: 5%

Germany: 4.6%

Japan: 4.3% (2005)

The Labor force is estimated at 20.52 million (2005). The Labor force- by occupation is:

Agriculture: 22.7%

Industry: 18.7%

Services: 58.5% (2000 est.)

The unemployment rate is 11.8% and 49.2% of the population live below the poverty line (2005).

Coffee is no longer the most important crop for Colombia. Between 1964 and 1986 the total exports of coffee ranged from about 40% to 65% of the annual total. By 1997 this

percentage had dropped to 21%. The country decided to encourage other agricultural exports because of the fluctuating world market conditions. Colombia's agricultural products include sugar, bananas, rice, potatoes, cotton, cocoa beans, corn, tobacco, cut flowers, oilseed, vegetables; forest products; and shrimp.

The mining industry has had the most impressive growth rate in Colombia. Colombia began exporting petroleum and coal by 1986. Oil production has also become a significant source of foreign investment. Other important industries for Colombia are: textiles, food processing, clothing and footwear, beverages, chemicals, cement; gold, and emeralds.

The end of the 20th century proved to be a difficult time for the economy of Colombia. The economy suffered as the oil prices were down, export demand was reduced, and there was a lull in the investment flow. Domestic growth and foreign investment were hindered by several issues. Colombia lagged with inadequate energy and transportation problems. Also, Colombia has struggled for years with widespread violence caused by drug trafficking and guerilla insurgencies. The last few years have seen an improvement with the more effective government budgets, a new focus on efforts to reduce public debt levels, an export oriented growth strategy, and an improvement of security in the country. Some ongoing issues President Uribe must deal with are the reforming of the pension system and reducing high unemployment.

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

www.encyclopedia.msn.com

Timothy L. Gall, ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. "Americas." Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001.

Literacy:

Colombia has a total 92.5% literacy rate. As of 2003, 92.4% of males and 92.6% of females over the age of 15 can read and write.

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

Land/Geography:

Colombia is in Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Panama and Venezuela, and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Ecuador and Panama. The country has a total area of 1,138,910 square kilometers. It is slightly less than twice the size of Texas. The Andes Mountains cover the central and western parts of the country, and extend north and south. The Colombian plains lie in the east, running as far as the Orinoco River which borders Venezuela. In the south, thick jungle extends to the Amazon River and the borders with Peru and Brazil. The variety of Colombia's natural features contributes to the beauty of its landscape.

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

www.encyclopedia.msn.com

Timothy L. Gall, ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. "Americas." Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001.

History

Archeological studies show that by 11,000 B.C., there were a variety of Amerindian groups living in what is now the country of Colombia. Geography greatly influenced the settlement and lifestyle of these people groups. Colombia has two major rivers valleys that run north and south, the Magdalena and the Cauca. People groups took advantage of these waterways. Colombia's most famous archeological site, San Agustin, is near the headwaters of the Magdalena. There is evidence of an early mixing of people and cultures here.

Pre-Colombian Peoples

The pre-Colombian Chibchas were an Amerindian group living in the highlands of Colombia. They were the prominent group in this era, and were an agricultural people group, living in the eastern chain of the Andes. They were so numerous that studies have estimated they numbered around one million people at the time of Spanish conquest. They were not as high-tech as the Aztecs or the Incas, but they were a very organized people. They had large-scale political confederations, a highly productive agriculture, traded pottery, cotton cloth, coca, salt, gold, and emeralds over a large area.

Another pre-Colombian group was the Tairona. They had close ties to the Chibchas. They spoke the same language, but lived separately. They occupied the lands surrounding the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, a large volcano near the Caribbean coast. They were highly sophisticated in comparison to the Chibchas.

The Spanish Conquest

In 1502, explorer Christopher Columbus made first contact with a Chibcha-speaking people near present day Santa Marta. Unfortunately, shortly after Columbus's visit, the Spaniards raided villages along the Caribbean coast searching for gold and slaves.

The Spaniards founded the settlement of Santa Fe de Bogota in 1538, and named the colony New Granada. This city is commonly called Bogota today, and is the capital of Colombia. Santa Fe de Bogota was used as a Spanish base, in order to expand control over the region.

The Spaniards simply over-powered the people with their weapons, horses, and attack dogs. The captured Indians were baptized as Christians and became slaves. They were required to work for the new Spanish landlords, paying tribute to the Spanish crown. The only region in Colombia where the Indians survived the conquest virtually untouched is in the Amazon lowlands of the east.

The Spaniards weapons were not the biggest enemy of the Indians. The Spaniards also brought with them their European diseases; smallpox, measles, and influenza. Also in the

coastal regions, the Spaniards and their African slaves spread their mosquito-born diseases such as malaria and yellow fever, to the Indians.

The Indians were not prepared for these medical assaults. They had no immunity to these diseases, and often died. Consequently, there became a huge decline of the Indian population. The Spanish solved this problem by replacing the Indians with more African slaves.

Intermarriage between the Spanish and Indians became quite common. This resulted in a large and growing population of mestizos, people of mixed Spanish and Indian descent. By the 17th century, the majority of agricultural work was completed by mestizos, working on large estates as tenants or sharecroppers. Some worked as cultivators of a small portion of land that they owned themselves, others worked as laborers and artisans.

The Colonial Order

A Spanish governing body based in Bogota, called the Audiencia of New Granada, created the viceroyalty of New Granada in 1717. This included the present-day countries of Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador. A Spanish viceroy, or royal governor, oversaw the viceroyalty. This region was Spanish' chief source of gold, and was also exploited for emeralds and tobacco. However, the value of these exports didn't compare with the value of the silver mining industry of New Spain (Mexico). The countries of the viceroyalty remained a relatively poor part of the Spanish empire. New Granada's economy was for the most part self-sufficient, except for the few who were wealthy, and could afford to import goods.

A major rebellion formed in New Granada in 1781 called the Comunero revolt. Spain raised taxes throughout its empire to finance its wars. The people of New Granada broke out in revolt. The revolt was violently stamped out by Spanish officials. But there was a growing dissatisfaction with Spanish rule among the people of New Granada. The enlightenment movement was going on in Europe during this time and some of its main ideas, such as questioning beliefs and authority, made it over to New Granada. Many of the Creole elite (Spaniards born in the Americas) began seeking independence from Spain.

Independence from Spain

Venezuelan Creole general Simon Bolivar led the New Granada forces in their fight for independence. He found it difficult to get slaves and Indians rallied together. Therefore the mestizos formed the majority of New Granada's forces. Independence of New Granada was declared on July 20, 1810. However it was not assured until August 7, 1819, when the Battle of Boyacá was won by Simon Bolivar's troops.

In 1821, Bolivar was elected as president over Gran Colombia (Colombia and Panama). Venezuela and Ecuador were finally liberated and then included in Gran Colombia. The next ten years proved to be difficult times in this new republic. The economy of Gran

Colombia was weak, the burden of war was great, administrating this large war torn territory became a very difficult task. Venezuela and Ecuador both declared for their independence in 1831.

The Struggle for Liberal Reform

The Roman Catholic Church became an issue of major division in Gran Colombia. Two political parties were formed in debating the church's power. The Liberals wanted to change the influence and power that the church held. They wanted to use its wealth for other causes and purposes. The Conservatives believed in maintaining the influence and power of the church. The Liberals tried to reform the country in several areas. They tried to create unrestricted markets for land and labor. They passed legislation to abolish slavery, allowed Indians to sell their land, and end the state monopoly on selling tobacco. In the 1850's the Liberal party instituted universal male suffrage. The Liberals appealed to the middle and lower classes for backing. The Conservatives were backed by the upper class, but they also appealed to the lower classes, defending the church.

These conflicts between the Conservatives and Liberals resulted in several civil wars throughout the 19th century. The Liberals were able to gain control over the national government following a bloody civil war. They installed several of their reforms, and in 1863 they organized a constitution that established a decentralized government. During another civil war in 1885, Liberal dissidents got together with conservatives and together they regained control of the government.

In 1886, leaders of both parties, Rafael Nunez (Liberal dissident leader), and Miguel Antonio Caro (Conservative leader), worked together and wrote a new constitution. This constitution remained for over one hundred years. It was rewritten in 1991 by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo. This new constitution gave the power and privileges back to the Catholic Church. It also gave limited suffrage to male adults who passed the literacy requirement, restricted civil liberties, centralized administration, and gave power to the executive branch.

"The War of the Thousand Days," began in 1899 as a Liberal revolt. The Liberals were not given meaningful representation in this new Conservative regime. The war lasted until 1902 and claimed over 100,000 Colombian lives. At that time, the population was just 4 million. The Liberals lost the war. Following the war, in 1903 Panama seceded from Colombia with the backing of the United States government.

Growing Economy and Stability

The loss of Panama enabled the two political parties to finally join forces to concentrate on promoting exports, and to stabilize the country. The Conservative party maintained control of the national government until the 1930's, but Liberals did participate in it. During this time, the economy began to improve in Colombia. After 1910, the coffee exports took off. Because most of Colombia's coffee was grown by individual farmers

who owned their own land, the profits from the coffee exports were widely shared. This helped boost the industrial development, especially the textile industry in Medellin.

Foreign investment increased with help from the banana production on the Caribbean coast and the oil fields of the central Magdalena River Valley. In the 1920's, the United States gave Colombia \$25 million to help compensate for their loss of Panama in 1903. During the economic growth of the 1920's, a labor movement developed and large strikes occurred among the banana and oil industries. In 1928 the Colombian army took the strike problems into their own hands, and massacred a number of the banana workers. This incident discredited the Conservative government. The start of the worldwide economic depression didn't help their cause either.

In 1930 the Conservatives handed over their power to the Liberals. The Liberals maintained control until 1946. President Alfonso Lopez Pumarejo served from 1934 to 1938, and began several social and economic reforms. In 1936 constitutional amendments gave the government power to regulate privately owned property in the national interest; established the right of workers to strike, subject to legal regulation; removed Roman Catholicism from its position as the official state religion; and shifted control of public education from the Catholic Church to the government. These changes didn't fair too well with the conservatives. They did not agree with the presidents' reforms and withdrew completely from the Liberal government. Interestingly, by the late 1930's, many of the moderate Liberals also withdrew their support for the presidents' reforms.

In 1946, the Liberal vote for president was split (divided over social reform) between two candidates, Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, and Gabriel Turbay. The Conservative candidate, Mariano Ospina Perez, took advantage of the split Liberal vote and won the presidency. Even though he named a bipartisan cabinet, tensions rose between the Conservative and Liberal parties. Violence broke out in many rural areas. During this time, Gaitan became the leader of the Liberal party. He denounced the violence that was occurring.

An Era of Violence

On April 9, 1948, Jorge Eliecer Gaitan was assassinated in front of his law offices in downtown Bogota, Colombia. His murder began a decade of violence and bloodshed between the Liberal and Conservative parties called La Violencia (The Violence). The violence subsided in 1958, but the loss of life during this time was estimated at 180,000 dead.

After Gaitan's assassination, large crowds of his supporters took control of downtown Bogota. They burned churches and other pro-Conservative buildings, and looted many businesses. It took the Colombian army three days to take the city back under control. Liberal partisans defied government officials in many towns and villages in the country. The Liberal opposition formed guerilla forces that were based in the countryside.

The exchanges of violence were enough for the two parties to meet and try to end this violence. Unfortunately, the tension was too much for either side to bear, and they couldn't come up with an agreement.

The Liberal members withdrew from the government and boycotted the presidential election of 1950. The Conservative candidate, Laureano Gomez, became the next president of Colombia. Gomez worked hard to defeat the guerilla forces. The government police worked together with paramilitary groups to defeat the Liberal guerilla forces. They also terrorized Liberal civilian supporters. In February of 1953, a new constitution was proposed by the Conservative party. Most moderates on both sides believed that this new constitution would lead to a totalitarian regime. In June, with the help of moderates from both sides, a military junta overtook the Conservative government.

In 1954, a constitutional convention elected General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla to a four-year term. Rojas offered amnesty to Liberals in revolt. He succeeded in convincing many to end the violence. However, by 1956, violence was increasing again in the countryside. Moderates from both sides began to criticize the totalitarian policies of Rojas' regime. In 1957, Rojas was replaced by another military coup. Finally, on December 1, 1957, Liberal and Conservative parties agreed to an arrangement called the National Front. In this agreement, both parties will share all government offices equally. They also will alternate the presidency between them every twelve years. The tenure was extended to sixteen years later the next year.

The National Front

The National Front governments brought a temporary end to the large-scale violence that was occurring in Colombia. The four presidents that served under the National Front are Liberals Alberto Lleras Camargo, 1958-1962, and Carlos Lleras Restrepo, 1966-1970; Conservatives Guillermo Leon Valencia, 1962-1966, and Misael Pastrana Borrero, 1970-1974. During the 1960's, new guerilla forces, inspired by the Cuban Revolution, formed in Colombia. The guerillas were interested in changing Colombia's economy from a capitalist economy to a socialist economy. One group that became a major political force later is the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias Colombianas (FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). These guerilla forces didn't become a threat to the government until the end of the National Front.

The National Front governments started agrarian reforms in order to build the national development and political stability in Colombia. These reforms included increasing spending on education, health, and housing. The United States helped aid Colombia with these initiatives in a program known as the Alliance for progress. The United States also gave military aid to Colombia in order to suppress the guerillas. Many suggest that the National Front failed because it didn't address so many of the other social problems in Colombia. Others suggest that the government of the National Front limited the prospects for third parties. Also the people were not really behind the

government. An estimate of less than one-fifth of those eligible to vote, voted in the 1970 presidential election. Competitive elections returned in 1974.

A New Era of Violence

After the National Front ended, the governments had to deal with the rise of the leftist guerillas and the right-wing paramilitary forces. The guerillas wanted to take control of the government and establish a socialist regime in its place. However, after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, socialism became less appealing. The guerillas also stopped receiving support from the Soviets. Insurgency became the main income of the guerilla forces. They support themselves through methods that undermine their revolutionary ideals, such as kidnapping, extortion, and income for protecting the drug business. Estimates as of 2001, of the guerilla group FARC, are as many as 18,000 men and women. The other main guerilla group in Colombia is the Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional (ELN, Army of National Liberation). The ELN are estimated to have 5,000 men and women in its forces. The ELN have had several talks of disarmament in the 21st century.

Since the 1980's the government has put forth a lot of effort trying to negotiate with the guerilla forces. Conservative president Belisario Betancur (served from 1982-1986) made the first effort to negotiate in 1984. He announced a truce with the guerillas that same year. FARC responded by establishing a new political party, The Union Popular (UP, Patriotic Union). FARC never disarmed, and they gained military and political power through UP. Many right-wing forces saw that UP was a front for FARC, and they violently repressed this political movement. Right wing forces killed hundreds of UP members, including the UP presidential candidates in 1986 and 1990.

In November of 1985, violence broke out again in Bogota. M-19 guerillas seized the Palace of Justice, the location of the country's Supreme Court. Colombia's army raided the building. One hundred people were killed including eleven of the Supreme Court justices. Later the M-19 guerillas demobilized, and its leaders actually played a key role in the writing of the new constitution in 1991. This constitution provided a more decentralized, pluralistic, democratic government. Provisions were made that gave new political parties the ability to form.

Throughout the 1990's the Colombian government was again, trying to negotiate with guerillas to end the violence. In 1998, the Conservative President, Andres Pastrana, made several negotiations with FARC. He presented FARC with a safe haven in southeastern Colombia. No government soldiers could enter this safe haven. Peace negotiations between FARC and the government occurred from 1999-2001. In 2000, the two agreed on several issues, including agrarian reform (FARC's most important matter). After FARC was issued a safe haven, the ELN requested for one too. The ELN was concerned with nationalizing Colombia's oil industry. They successfully bombed the country's most important oil pipeline. The ELN never received their safe haven under Pastrana, nor under President Uribe's government. The security was tightened along the pipeline.

The paramilitary of the right-wing were encouraged by the government in order to protect the rural communities from the guerillas. The main paramilitary group that has worked with the government is the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC, United Self-Defense Groups of Colombia). Other paramilitary groups formed as wealthy landowners hired protection from the extortion and kidnapping of the guerillas. Paramilitary groups were placed all over the countryside. The paramilitary forces were especially strong in the southeast (FARC's strongest region) and the northwest (ELN's strongest region). Rarely have the paramilitary forces fought the guerillas head on. The strategy of the paramilitary forces is to use terror to deny the guerillas any support from the sympathizers of the civilian population. International human rights organizations have blamed paramilitary groups for the majority of the human rights violations in Colombia. They also accused the Colombian armed forces with joining paramilitary groups against the guerillas and their allies.

The Drug Trade

The drug trade has had a major effect in Colombia. After 1980, Colombia began exporting large amounts of Cocaine and other drugs. The value of the illegal drug exports amounted to almost half the value of Colombia's legal exports from 1980 to 1995. The drug exports helped Colombia avoid the debt that hurt much of Latin America's countries in the 1980's.

The Colombian drug lords became extremely wealthy. Their business was centered in the cities of Medellin and Cali. In the late 1980's, the United States began pressuring Colombia's government to fight drug trafficking. The government began threatening the drug traffickers with extraditing them to the United States, where the punishment is more severe. Pablo Escobar, the head of the Medellin drug cartel, responded to this law enforcement with the bombing of Colombia's major cities. Hundreds of Colombians were killed. He was eventually captured and killed. Drug money was also involved in the assassinations of three presidential candidates in 1990.

At the end of the 1990's, Colombia's government made efforts to do away with the coca plant (which is used to make cocaine), and the poppie flower (which is used to make opium). In 1999 the government came up with the Plan Colombia. This was a program that focused on minimizing the cultivation of coca and poppie crops in the Southeastern region of Colombia (the region largely controlled by FARC). In 2000, the United States gave Colombia 1.3 billion in aid. This money was used for military helicopters and planes, so the Colombians could fumigate the coca and poppy fields. Many opposed this procedure, claiming that the spraying was dangerous to humans and to the environment. Supporters of Plan Colombia disagreed. Early reports stated that the coca production continued to rise.

Recent Trends

At the end of the 1990's, the unemployment level rose to almost 20% (one of the highest levels in Latin America). This was due to the cutting back of tariffs, which protected

Colombia's industry and agriculture. This unemployment level dropped in the early 2000's.

The economy in the 1990's suffered greatly because of all the violence that occurred. Colombia had the highest rate of kidnappings in the world, and the highest homicide rate in the Americas. These numbers turned investors off.

Alvaro Uribe ran as an Independent, and won Colombia's presidency in 2002. He was a former Liberal, who won the support of the Conservatives after he pledged to double the size of Colombia's military and police in its efforts against the leftist guerillas. He has negotiated with the guerillas and has emphasized the need for international mediation to end the conflict.

Under Uribe, the United States took a more active role, militarily. By 2003, the United States was active in protecting Colombia's northern pipeline. FARC responded to these efforts with bombing cities and targeting U.S. forces.

The government began formal peace talks with the paramilitary AUC in 2004. The AUC agreed to disarm several thousand of its members, but they wanted total amnesty on any charges related to drugs or human rights violations. The United States wanted to extradite a number of AUC leaders for drug trafficking. Needless to say, the parties have not come to an official agreement. In March of 2006, Colombia's government finalized a free trade agreement with the United States. In May of 2006, Uribe was reelected, carrying more than 60% of the vote. Many Colombian voters believed Uribe helped calm the violence, and helped to isolate and weaken FARC forces.

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761564636_11/colombia.html.

Timothy L. Gall, ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. "Americas." Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001.

Christian History

Spanish explorers came to South America in 1499, bringing with them their Catholic religion and traditions. The first Catholic diocese was established in 1534 and the first seminary in 1582. Catholicism has since been the dominant form of religion in Colombia. The power and the influence of the church became a major issue in Grand Colombia.

Two political parties were formed in debating the church's power. The Liberals wanted to change the influence and power that the church held. They wanted to use its wealth for other causes and purposes. The Conservatives believed in maintaining the influence and power of the church. By 1853 separation of church and state was established. Also at this time, civil marriage and divorce were introduced. Protestantism was brought to the country in 1825. Protestants weren't recognized by the government until 1930, when the Liberal party came to power. Today, Protestant churches are rapidly growing in Colombia, but the country is still about 90% Catholic.

People Groups:

16217

Achagua (500)

The Achagua people speak Achagua, and their primary religion is Christianity (70%). About 12% of the Christians are evangelical. They do not have any Bible translations, Jesus films, or radio broadcast. They do have some audio Gospel recordings called “Words of Life.” They are an indigenous Colombian tribe.

46907

Amaruwa (150)

The Amaruwa people speak Cuiba. Their primary religion is not available. As of 2005, they do not have any Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcast, or Gospel recordings.

00000

Americans (19,000)

The primary language that the Americans living in Colombia speak is English. Christianity is the primary language of Americans (87%). About 35% of the American population is evangelical. They have Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcast, and Gospel recordings.

16218

Andoque (300)

The Andoque people speak Andoque. Their primary religion is Christianity (60%). About 20% of those are evangelical. They do not have any Bible translations, Jesus films, or radio broadcast. They do have some audio Gospel Recordings entitled, “Words of Life.”

16268

Arab, Palestinian of Colombia (12,000)

The Arab people primarily speak South Levantine Arabic. Their primary religion is Islam (80%), however about 20% are Christians. They have Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel Recordings. They are classified as Levant Arabs. Levant, is a broad label for several groups of Arabs: The Jordanian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Arabic Jewish, Chaldean, and Syrian Arabs.

00000

Arab, Syro-Lebanese (23,000)

These Syro-Lebanese Arab people primarily speak South Levantine Arabic. Their primary religion is Islam (70%). They are about 30% Christian. They need a New Testament recording, but they do have Bible translations, Jesus films, and a Gospel recording.

16275

Awa-Cuaiquer (14,000)

The Awa-Cuaiquer people primarily speak Awa-Cuaiquer. Their primary religion is Christianity (65%). Approximately 6% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 35% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

They do have Bible translations and Gospel recordings available. They do not have the Jesus film or radio broadcasts available.

This people group live: in the Pacific slopes of the Andes, Narino, from Ecuador border north, and near Barbacoas.

www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=kwi

00000

Bara, Waimaha (700)

The Bara people primarily speak Waimaha. Their primary religion is Ethnic religions (60%). They are about 40% Catholic, but are less than 2% evangelical. They have portions of the Bible translated. They do not have the whole New Testament. They do not have any Gospel recordings, or Jesus' films, or radio broadcasts available.

16281

Barasano, Southern (500)

The Barasano people primarily speak Barasano. Their primary religion is Christianity (70%). About 5% of these Christians are evangelical. About 30% of Barasano practice ethnic religions. The Barasano have a translation of the New Testament and other portions of the Old Testament. They do not have any Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

16219

Bora (800)

The Bora people primarily speak Bora. Their primary religion is Christianity (65%). Of that percentage, 5% are evangelical. About 35% of the population practice ethnic religions. The Bora have a translation of the New Testament and other portions of the Old Testament. They also have some radio broadcasts and a Gospel recording entitled "Words of Life." They do not have the Jesus film.

The Bora live in the providence of the Igaraparana (tributary of the Putumaya).

www.ethnologue.com

16220

British (3,800)

The British primarily speak English and their primary religion is Christianity (70%). About 8% of this percentage is evangelicals. About 30% of the British population in Colombia is non-religious. They have full Bible translations, radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films.

16221

Cabiyari (277)

The primary language of the Cabiyari is Cabiyari. The primary religion of the Cabiyari is Christianity (80%). About 6% of the Christians are evangelical. The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

They live in the Cananari River (tributary of the Apaporis and Vaupes) region of Colombia. There is a high degree of intermarriage with the Barasana. The Cabayari do not have any Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, or Gospel recordings.

www.ethnologue.com

16222

Cacua (275)

The primary language of the Cacua is Cacua. Their primary religion is Christianity (70%). Approximately 7% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

Many of these people are monolingual, especially children. They live in the Wacara and Lower Vaupes region. They are a nomadic people group of hunters and gatherers. Bible translation portoins and Gospel recordings are available to the Cacua. However, they do not have any Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

www.ethnologue.com

16223

Camsa (4,022)

The primary language of the Camsa is Camsa. The literacy rate in the first language is 40%. The literacy rate in the second language is 85%. The primary religion of the Camsa is Ethnic religions.

These people live in the equatorial regions of the Sibundoy Valley and the Putumayo. They have Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have any Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

www.ethnologue.com

46905

Canamomo (25,000)

The primary language of the Canamomo is not available. The primary religion of the Canamomo is not available. This people group does not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts.

16224

Carabayo (200)

The primary language of the Carabayo is Carabayo. The primary religion of the Carabayo is Ethnic religions (99%). They are 1% Christian.

They are also known as the Amazonas Macusa. Macusa means “savage,” and is applied to uncontacted people groups. They live along the Amazonas area, halfway between the San Bernardo and Pure rivers. The people do not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts.

www.ethnologue.com

16225

Carapana (800)

The primary language of the Carapana is Carapana. The primary religion of the Carapana is Christianity (80%). About 7% of that number is evangelical.

The people live in the Cano Ti (tributary of the middle Vaupes River), upper Papuri, and Pira-Pirana rivers, Vaupes region. They have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

www.ethnologue.com

16226

Carijona (400)

The primary language of the Carijona is Carijona. The primary religion of the Carijona is Ethnic religions (90%). About 10% of the population practices Christianity.

They are located in the Upper Vaupes, Yari, and lower Caqueta river regions. To get to this region, apparently it would take 1 hour by motorized boat or 2 to 3 hours by canoe south of Miraflores, around Puerto Nare. Apparently this group practices intermarriage with other tribes. The people are hunters, fisherman, and agriculturalists. They are former rubber hunters. They were reported to have come from the Yari Indian area originally. They are male decent groups that are exogamous. Gospel recordings are available to the Carijona, but Bible translations, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films are not.

www.ethnologue.com

16227

Catio (30,000)

The primary language of the Catio is Embera-catio. The primary religion of the Catio is Ethnic religions. The Catio have Bible translations and Gospel recordings, but they do not have radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

16228

Central Tunebo (5,900)

The primary language of the Central Tunebo is Central Tunebo. The primary religion of the Central Tunebo is Ethnic religions (60%). The other 40% of the population practices Christianity (20% are Evangelical). The Central Tunebo has a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament, but they do not have any Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

16229

Chami (15,000)

The primary language of the Chami is Embera-chami. The primary religion is Ethnic religions. The Chami have a Bible translation and Gospel recordings, but do not have the Jesus film or radio broadcasts.

00000

Chibcha (2,100)

The primary language of the Chibcha is Spanish. The primary religion is Christianity (90%). About 5% of the Christians are evangelical. Also about 10% of Chibcha believe in ethnic religions. These people have access to the complete translation of the Bible, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

The Chibcha are an indigenous people group located in the eastern cordillera of the Andes. The Chibcha trade goods with other neighboring tribes, but they stay pretty isolated otherwise. Apparently the legend of El Dorado was attributed to them. Some say that is because of their legend of covering new rulers with gold dust each year and then washing them in a sacred lake. At the time of the Spanish conquest, the Chibcha were thought to be the most highly developed of the Colombians. They were agriculturalists, miners, potters, and weavers. They were also involved in melting and casting gold and copper ornaments. They were conquered by the Spanish Conquistador Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada in between 1536 and 1541.

www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0811779.html

16230

Chimila (2,100)

The primary language of the Chimila is Chimila. The primary religion of the Chimila is Ethnic Religions (55%). The Chimila are also about 45% Christian (4% evangelical). The Chimila have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have access to any Jesus films, radio broadcasts, or a translation of the Bible.

The Chimila are located in the south and west lowlands of Fundacion, and scattered in the central part of the Magdalena Department.

www.ethnologue.com

16252

Chinese, Han (10,000)

The primary language of the Chinese is Mandarin Chinese. The primary religion of the Chinese in Colombia is Christianity (60%). They are about 2% evangelical. About 20% of the Chinese population is Buddhist, and another 20% practice Ethnic religions. They have a complete translation of the Bible, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

16231

Cocama-Cocamilla (900)

The Cocama-Cocamilla people group is trilingual in Spanish, Portuguese, and Cocama. Their primary religion is Christianity (81%). About 19% of the population practices Ethnic religions. They have Bible translations and Gospel recordings available, but do not have any radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

They reside in the lower Putumayo region of Colombia.

www.ethnologue.com

46904

Coconuco (6,141)

The primary language of the Coconuco is Spanish. The primary religion for the Coconuco is Ethnic religions. They do not have a Bible translation, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, or Gospel recordings.

16232

Cofan (700)

The primary language of the Cofan is Cofan. The primary religion of the Cofan is Ethnic religions (90%). About 8% of the population practices Christianity (1% evangelical). The Cofan has a translation of the New Testament. They however do not have any Jesus films, radio broadcasts, or Gospel recordings.

They are located on the Colombia-Ecuador border area, of the Putumayo Province.

www.ethnologue.com

16233

Cogui (11,000)

The primary language of the Cogui is Cogui. The primary religion of the Cogui is Christianity (65%). About 25% of the Christians are evangelical. About 35% of the rest of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Cogui have portions of Bible translations available to them. They also have access to Gospel recordings. They do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

The Cogui are located at the northern, eastern, and western slopes of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

www.ethnologue.com

16234

Colombian (44,529,000)

The primary language of the Colombian people is Spanish. The primary religion is Christianity (96.3%). Only 4.6% of the Christian population is evangelical (the rest is Catholic). The Colombians have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

16239

Coreguaje (2,600)

The primary language of the Coreguaje is Koreguaje. The primary religion is Ethnic religions (80%). About 20% of the population practices Christianity (14% evangelical). The Coreguaje have a translation of the New Testament, along with other portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Coreguaje do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

46903

Coyaima (24,500)

The primary language of the Coyaima is Spanish. The primary religion of the Coyaima is Christianity (80%). Only 7% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Coyaima do not have access to Bible translations, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films. They do have access to Gospel recordings.

16241

Creole Islander (26,000)

The Creole Islander populations primarily speak Islander Creole English. Their primary religion is Christianity (90%). About 18% of the Christian population is evangelical. They are also about 5% non-religious, and about 5% Ethnic religions. They only have access to portions of Bible translations. They do not have access to radio broadcasts either. They do have access to Jesus films and Gospel recordings.

16242

Cubeo (7,900)

The primary language of the Cubeo is Cubeo. The primary religion is Christianity (80%). About 40% of the Christians are evangelical. Another 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Cubeo have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Cubeo people are located in the Vaupes, Cuduyari, Querari rivers and tributaries, of the Vaupes Region. These people are agriculturalists that practice an exogamous marriage pattern with speakers of other languages.

www.ethnologue.com

16243

Cuiba (2,900)

The primary language of the Cuiba is Cuiba. The primary religion of the Cuiba is Ethnic religions (90%). About 10% of the population practices Christianity (6% evangelical). The Cuiba have access to a translation of the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have radio broadcasts or Jesus films available. The Cuiba are located in the region of the Casanare and Capanapara rivers and tributaries. The Cuiba are a semi-nomadic band of hunters, gatherers, and agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16244

Curipaco (7,066)

The primary language of the Curipaco is Curipaco. The primary religion of the Curipaco is Christianity (60%). Approximately 25% of the Christian population is Evangelical. Another 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Curipaco have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings, but Jesus films and radio broadcasts are not available. The Curipaco reside in the region of the Guainia, Isana, and Inirida rivers. They are agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16235

Deaf (2,157,094)

The primary communication of the deaf is by Colombian sign language. The primary religion of the deaf is not available. The deaf do not have access to a translation of the Bible, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

16245

Desano (2,136)

The primary language of the Desano is Desano. The primary religion of the Desano is Christianity (60%). About 4% of the total Christian population is evangelical. About 40% of the population practice Ethnic religions. The Desano have access to a translation of the New Testament and portions of translations from the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. However, the Desano do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts. The Desano live in the regions of the Papuri and Abiyu rivers (tributary of the Vaupes), Paca River (tributary of the Papuri), and Macu Parana River (tributary of the Papuri), plus other tributaries of the Papuri.

www.ethnologue.com

16246

Eastern Tunebo (500)

The primary language of the Eastern Tunebo is Tunebo, Barro Negro. The primary religion is Christianity (60%). Only 3% of Christians are evangelical. Also about 40% of the population practice Ethnic religions. Currently the Eastern Tunebo do not have

access to any Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts. The Eastern Tunebo live in the isolated eastern plains of the Andes foothills, just above Paz de Ariporo, in Barro Negro. The Tunebo are big corn agriculturalists as well as hunters, gatherers, and fisherman.

www.ethnologue.com

46902

Eduria (150)

The primary Language of the Eduria is Barasana. The primary religion of the Eduria is Ethnic religions. Currently the Eduria do not have any Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

23157

Embera-Baudo (6,000)

The primary language of the Embera-Baudo is Embera-Baudo. The primary religion of the Embera-Baudo is Christianity (85%). About 35% of the Christian population is evangelical. Another 15% of the population practice Ethnic beliefs. Christianity is the main religion, but somehow, the people do not have any translations of the Biblical texts. They also do not have any Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Embera-Baudo live in the Baudo River basin and Pacific (North) coastal rivers between cabo Corrientes, and south of the San Juan River.

www.ethnologue.com

00000

Embera-Catio (19,000)

The primary language of the Embera-Catio is Embera-Catio. The primary religion of the Embera-Catio is Christianity (60%). About 35% of the Christian communities are Evangelical Christians. About 40% of the population practice Ethnic religions. The Embera-Catio have portions of the Bible available to them, but they need a translation of the whole Bible. They also have Gospel recordings. The Embera-Catio does not have Jesus films or radio broadcasts available.

The Embera-Catio resides in the Upper Sinu, San Jorge, and San Pedro Murri rivers region.

00000

Embera-Chami (13,000)

The Embera-Chami primarily speaks Embera-Chami. The primary religion of the Embera-Chami is Christianity (65%). About 18% of the Christian community is Evangelical. The other 35% of the population practices Ethnic religions. They have Bible portions and Gospel recordings available to them. However they do not have any Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Embera-Chami are located in the Departments of Risaralda, Caldas, Antioquia, Valle, including the Municipio of Caramanta.

www.ethnologue.com

16265

Embera, Northern (20,000)

The Embera, Northern primarily speak Embera, Northern. The primary religion of the Embera, Northern is Ethnic religions (89%). About 11% of the population is evangelical Christians. The people have a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have some Gospel recordings, but do not have the Jesus film or radio broadcasts available.

They are located in the Atrato River basin in Choco Department, Pacific coastal rivers from Cabo Corrientes, to Antioquia (Rio Verde) Department.

www.ethnologue.com

16282

Embera-Tado (1,300)

The primary language of the Embera-Tado is Embera-Tado. The primary religion of the Embera-Tado is Christianity (80%). Only 7% of the Christian population is Evangelical. About 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Embera-Tado do have some Gospel recordings, however they do not have a translation of the Bible, or Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

These people live secluded in the Upper San Juan River Region, and Andes, Risaralda Region, near the Chami.

www.ethnologue.com

00000

French (5,100)

The French people living in Colombia primarily speak French. Christianity is the primary religion of the French (76%). About .2% of the French people are Evangelical Christians. The other 24% of the population are non-religious. The French have access to complete Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

00000

German (4,100)

The German people living in Colombia primarily speak German. Christianity is the primary religion of the German (78%). About 4% of the German Colombians are Evangelical Christians. The other 22% of the population are non-religious. The

Germans have access to complete Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

16247

Guajibo (26,000)

The Guajibo primarily speak Guahibo. Christianity is the primary religion of the Guajibo (70%). Approximately 25% of the Christians are Evangelical. Another 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions and about 10% practice other/small religions.

The Guajibo have access to the translation of the New Testament as well as other portions of the Old Testament texts. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Guajibo do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Guajibo live in the Casanare, eastern Meta, Vichada, Guaviare, Guainia states, and plains regions. The Rio Tomo Guajibo are a nomadic people. The Guajibo are hunter and gatherers, fisherman, and swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16248

Guambiano (25,000)

The Guambiano primarily speak Guambiano. Christianity is the primary religion of the Guambiano (70%). Approximately 30% of the Christians are Evangelical. The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Guambiano have access to a translation of the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Guambiano do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Guambiano live in the Central Andes range near Popayan, and Cauca, in concentrated areas. They live on the mountain slopes and are agriculturalists of potatoes and onions.

www.ethnologue.com

46901

Guanaca (723)

The Guanaca primarily speak Spanish. Their primary religion is Ethnic religions. They do not have any access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

16249

Guanano (1,172)

The primary language of the Guanano is Guanano. The primary religion of the Guanano is Christianity (70%). Approximately 16% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions. They have access to Bible translation of the New Testament, along with portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Guanano do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Guanano live in the Lower Vaupes River region. Many work as fishermen and swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16250

Guaviare Macusa (400)

The Guaviare Macusa primarily speaks Nukak Maku. The primary religion of the Guaviare Macusa is Ethnic religions (98%). About 2% of the population practices Evangelical Christianity. Currently the Guaviare Macusa does not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts.

16251

Guayabero (1,500)

The primary language of the Guayabero is Guayabero. The primary religion of the Guayabero is Christianity (80%). About 30% of the Christian population is Evangelical Christians. The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Guayabero have access to portions of Bible translations and they also have some Gospel recordings. Unfortunately the Guayabero do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Guayabero resides in the Upper Guaviare River, Meta, and Guaviare states. The Guayabero are hunters, gatherers, and swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

46900

Huitoto, Nipode (1,073)

The Huitoto, Nipode primarily speak Huitoto, Nipode. The primary religion of the Huitoto, Nipode is not available. Currently they do not have any Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts available.

16253

Hupde Maku (200)

The Hupde Maku primarily speaks Hupde. The primary religion of the Hupde is Ethnic religions (80%). About 20% of the population practices Christianity (0% Evangelical). The Hupde have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have any access to radio broadcasts, Jesus films, or Bible translations.

The Hupde Maku lives in the region of the Papuri and Tiquie river systems.

The name, "Macu," is offensive. Apparently the Hupde are subservient to the Tucano and other Tucanoan Indians. Some are nomadic between Colombia and Brazil.

16254

Ica, Arhuaco (16,000)

The Ica primarily speaks Arhuaco. The primary religion of the Ica is Ethnic religions (80%) The other 20% of the population practices Christianity (9% Evangelical). The Ica people have access to Gospel recordings, but they do not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Ica lives in the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

16255

Inga (20,000)

The primary language of the Inga is Inga. The primary religion of the Inga is Christianity (70%). Only 3% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 30% of the Inga population practices Ethnic religions. The Inga has access to the translation of the New Testament and other portions of the Old Testament. They do not have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films. The Inga people group resides in the Subundoy Valley, in and around Santiago, San Andres, and Colon; Aponte, Department of Narino. They are intensive agriculturalists and craftsmen.

00000

Jamaicans (234,000)

The Jamaicans primarily speak Jamaican Creole English. The primary religion of the Jamaicans in Colombia is Christianity (94.4%). About 8% of the Christian population is Evangelical. About 5% of the population practices Ethnic religions, and another .6% of the population practices other/small religions. The Jamaicans do not have any Bible translations, or radio broadcasts. However the Jamaicans do have access to Gospel recordings and Jesus films.

42200

Jew of Colombia (5,700)

The primary language of the Jews of Colombia is Spanish. The primary religion is Judaism. The Jews of Colombia have access to whole Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

16256

Jungle Inga (10,000)

The primary language of the Jungle Inga is Jungle Inga. The primary religion of the Jungle Inga is Ethnic religions (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Christianity (3% Evangelical). The Jungle Inga has no access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, or Gospel recordings. They live in the Upper Caqueta and Putumayo rivers region. They are intensive agriculturalists.

00000

Kamentsa (4,600)

The primary language of the Kamentsa is Camsa. The primary religion of the Kamentsa is Ethnic religions (60%). About 40% of the population practices Christianity (3.7% Evangelical). The Kamentsa have access to a translation of the New Testament and other translations of portions of the Bible. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Kamentsa do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

46899

Kankuamo (7,500)

The primary language of the Kankuamo is Spanish. The primary religion of the Kankuamo is Christianity. Unfortunately the Kankuamo do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts. +

16269

Kuna (1,300)

The primary language of the people is Kuna. The primary religion of the Kuna is Christianity (70%). About 36% of the Christian population is Evangelical. Approximately 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Kuna have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. The Kuna also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Kuna live in the North Coastal region near the Panama isthmus.

www.ethnologue.com

43719

Lowland Quechua (7,500)

The primary language of the Lowland Quechua is Quechua, Napo Lowland. The primary religion of the Lowland Quechua is Christianity (90%). About 11% of the Christian population is Evangelical. Another 10% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Lowland Quechua have access to a translation of the New Testament and other portions of the Old Testament. The Lowland Quechua also have access to Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts, but do not have access to Jesus films.

The Lowland Quechua live in the Napo Lowland of Colombia.

www.ethnologue.com

46898

Macaguaje (50)

The primary language of the Macaguaje is Siona. The primary religion of the Macaguaje is Ethnic religions. The Macaguaje do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

43720

Macaguan (600)

The Macaguan primarily speak Macaguan. The primary religions are Christianity (50%) and Ethnic religions (50%). About 13% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Macaguan do not have access to any Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts.

The Macaguan reside in the Arauca, Agualinda, and San Jose de Lipa regions, between the Lipa, Ele, and Cuiloto rivers and Cano Colorado, and other locations.

www.ethnologue.com

16258

Macuna (1,200)

The Macuna primarily speak Macuna. The primary religion is Christianity (70%). Only 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. About 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Macuna has access to the translation of the New Testament and other portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Macuna do not have access to any Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Macuna resides in the Lower Pira-Pirana, Vaupes Region; and Apaporis tributaries and Miriti-Parana. The Macuna are swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16259

Malayo (4,000)

The Malayo people group primarily speaks Malayo. The primary religion of the Malayo is Christianity (60%). About 23% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The rest of the population practices Ethnic religions (30%). The Malayo does not have access to any Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Malayo resides in the southern and eastern slopes of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

www.ethnologue.com

16260

Meneca Huitoto (2,000)

The Meneca Huitoto primarily speaks Huitoto, Minica. The primary religion of the Meneca Huitoto is Christianity (65%). Approximately 18% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 35% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Meneca Huitoto has access to a translation of the New Testament as well as a translation of portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Meneca Huitoto does not have access to any Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

46897

Mirana (300)

The primary language of the Mirana is Bora. The primary religion of the Mirana is not available. The Mirana do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

16261

Motilon (1,200)

The primary language of the Motilon is Motilon, Bari. The primary religion of the Motilon is Christianity (70%). About 30% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Motilon have portions of the Bible translated and also have access to Gospel recordings. They do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

16262

Muinane (200)

The Muinane primarily speaks Muinane. The primary religion of the Muinane is Christianity (80%). Only 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. About 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Muinane have access to a translation of the New Testament and portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. However, the Muinane do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

The Muinane are located in the Upper Cahuinari, (tributary Caqueta) and Amazonas regions.

www.ethnologue.com

46896

Muisca (1,859)

The primary language of the Muisca is Spanish. The primary religion of the Muisca is not available. The Muisca do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts. The Muisca people of today are descendents of the Muisca that lived in the Andes Mountains of central Colombia from around AD 1000-1550. Today they are best known for their gold work.

www.archaeology.about.com/cs/glossary/g/muisca.htm

16263

Murui Huitoto (2,300)

The Murui Huitoto primarily speaks Huitoto, Murui. The primary religion of the Murui Huitoto is Christianity (85%). Only 3% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 15% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Murui Huitoto has a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. However, they do not have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Murui Huitoto resides in the region of the Caraparana, Putumayo, and Leticia rivers.

www.ethnologue.com

43718

Nhengatu (3,300)

The Nhengatu people primarily speak Nhengatu. The primary religion of the Nhengatu is Christianity (90%). There are no Evangelical believers among the Christian population. About 5% of the population practices Ethnic religions, and another 5% practices small/other religions. The Nhengatu have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Nhengatu do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films. The Nhengatu lives in the Vaupes region of Colombia.

www.ethnologue.com

46895

Nonuya (199)

The primary language of the Nonuya is Bora. The primary language of the Nonuya is Ethnic religions. The Nonuya do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

16264

Northern Barasano (891)

The primary language of the Northern Barasano is Waimaha. The primary religion of the Northern Barasano is Ethnic religions. The Northern Barasano has access to Bible translations, but do not have access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

16250

Nukak Maku (400)

The primary language of the Nukak Maku is Nukak Maku. The primary religion of the Nukak Makuk is Ethnic religions. The Nukak Maku does not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Nukak Maku lives in the Jungle region between the Guaviare and Inirida rivers, and up to Maparipan. The Nukak Maku are avid hunters.

www.ethnologue.com

16266

Ocaina (200)

The primary language of the Ocaina is Ocaina. The primary religion of the Ocaina is Christianity (79%). Only about 2% of the Christian population is Evangelical. Another 21% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Ocaina have access to portions of Bible translations and Gospel recordings. The Ocaina do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Ocaina lives in the Upper Igará-Paraná tributaries, and the Amazonas Region.

www.ethnologue.com

46894

Pacabuy (N/A)

The Pacabuy primarily speak Spanish. The primary religion of the Pacabuy is Christianity.

The Pacabuy, however do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Pacabuy resides in the upper northwest corner of Colombia in the states of Magdalena and Bolivar. They live in houses and they raise chickens and pigs, and grow plantains, yucca, beans, and cocoa beans. The men often support their families by working on neighboring farms.

www.teamcafe.org

16267

Paez (120,000)

The Paez primarily speak Paez. The primary religion is Christianity (65%). About 38% of the Christian population is Evangelical. About 35% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Paez have access to the translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings and Jesus films. However, they do not have access to radio broadcasts.

The Paez lives in the Central Andes Range, near Popayan, Cauca. The Paez are peasant agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

23152

Palenquero (3,400)

The primary language of the Palenquero is Palenquero. The primary religion of the Palenquero is Christianity (97%). Only about 6% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 3% of the population is non-religious.

The Palenquero do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Palenquero lives in the Village of San Basilio de Palenque, southeast of Cartagena.

www.ethnologue.com

46893

Pastos (25,000)

The Pastos primarily speak Spanish. The primary religion of the Pastos is Ethnic religions. The Pastos do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

16270

Piapoco (5,500)

The primary language of the Piapoco is Piapoco. The primary religions of the Piapoco are Ethnic religions (50%) and Christianity (50%). About 38% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Piapoco have access to a translation of the New Testament as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Piapoco do not have access to Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Piapoco live in the tributaries of the lower Vichada River region, as well as the Meta and Guaviare rivers. The Piapoco are hunters and gatherers and swidden agriculturalists.
www.ethnologue.com

16271

Piaroa (1,000)

The Piaroa primarily speak Piaroa. The primary religion of the Piaroa is Ethnic religions (90%). About 10% of the population practices Christianity (0% Evangelical).

The Piaroa have access to a translation of the New Testament as well as portions of the Old Testament. The Piaroa also have access to Gospel recordings and Jesus films.

The Piaroa live near the region of Saliba. They are agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16272

Piratapuyo (1,000)

The Piratapuyo primarily speak Piratapuyo. The primary religion of the Piratapuyo is Christianity (60%). Approximately 15% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Piratapuyo have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Piratapuyo lives in the Amazonas, as well as the Papuri River and lower Vaupes region. Many also live near the Roman Catholic mission at Teresita.

www.ethnologue.com

47037

Pisamira (61)

The primary language of the Pisamira is not available. The religion of the Pisamira is Ethnic religions. The Pisamira do not have Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts available.

16276

Playero (200)

The primary language of the Playero is Playero. The primary religions of the Playero are Christianity (50%) and Ethnic religions (50%). The Playero do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Playero lives in the Arauca River, Venezuelan border, and Arauca Division region, on the banks of the Arauca River, from Gaviotas Island to Arauca.

www.ethnologue.com

16273

Providence Deaf (28)

The primary communication for the Providence Deaf is through Providencia Sign Language. The primary religion of the Providence Deaf is Christianity.

The Providence Deaf do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Providence Deaf lives in the Providencia Island off the coast of Nicaragua. The high deaf population is thought to be caused by in-breeding. The Providence Deaf are integrated in daily activities, and apparently the system is about one hundred years old.

www.ethnologue.com

16274

Puinave (4,000)

The Puinave primarily speak Puinave. The primary religion of the Puinave is Christianity (60%). Approximately 35% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Puinave has access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Puinave lives in the Territory of Guainia, in the Inirida River and tributaries.

www.ethnologue.com

46892

Quillasinga (5,000)

The primary language of the Quillasinga is Spanish. The primary religion of the Quillasinga is Christianity.

The Quillasinga do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

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Romany, Calo (8,600)

The Romany, Calo people primarily speak Cali. The primary religion of the Romany, Calo is Christianity (70%). Only 4% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Romany, Calo do not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts. They do have access to Gospel recordings.

16278

Saija (8,800)

The primary language of the Saija is Epena. The primary religion of the Saija is Christianity (60%). About 20% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions. The Saija have access to portions of translations from the Bible, as well as Gospel recordings. They do not have Jesus films or radio broadcasts available.

16279

Saliba (1,900)

The primary language of the Saliba is Saliba. The primary religion of the Saliba is Christianity (55%). Only 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 45% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Saliba do not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

They do have access to Gospel recordings.

The Saliba are located in the Meta and Casanre River region. The Saliba are known to be swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

22299

Siona (900)

The Siona people group primarily speaks Siona. The primary religion of the Siona is Christianity (60%). Approximately 20% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Siona have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have Gospel recordings available, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Siona lives on both sides of the Putumayo River. The Siona are known to be swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16280

Siriano (1,300)

The primary language of the Siriano is Siriano. The primary religion of the Siriano is Christianity (70%). Only about 6% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Siriano have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have Gospel recordings available, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Siriano are swidden agriculturalists living in the Vaupes Region of the Paca and Vina Rivers.

www.ethnologue.com

46891

Siripu (160)

The Siripu primarily speak Cuiba. The primary religion of the Siripu is Ethnic religions. The Siripu do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

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Spaniards (12,000)

The Spaniards of Colombia speak Spanish. The primary religion of the Spaniards is Christianity (95%). Only 0.5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 5% of the population are non-religious.

The Spaniards have access to a translation of the whole Bible, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

16283

Tanimuca-Retuama (800)

The Tanimuca-Retuama primarily speaks Tanimuca Retuara. The primary religion of the Tanimuca-Retuama is Ethnic religions (70%). The other 30% of the population practices Christianity (2.8% Evangelical).

The Tanimuca-Retuama has portions of translations of the Bible, as well as Gospel recordings and Jesus films. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

The Tanimuca and the Retuama are two ethnic groups that live closely together and speak the same language. They live near the Guacaya and Oiyaka rivers (tributaries of the Miriti-Parana), as well as the Miriti-Parana, Apaporis, and Popeyaka rivers of the Amazonas Region. Apparently both ethnic groups work for one rubber hunter. They are also swidden agriculturalists.

16284

Tariano (332)

The Tariano primarily speaks Tucano. The primary religion of the Tariano is Christianity (60%). Only 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Tariano have access to translations of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings. The Tariano do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Tariano lives in the Lower Papuri, Vaupes Region. They are nearly extinct.

www.ethnologue.com

16285

Tatuyo (700)

The primary language of the Tatuyo is Tatuyo. The primary religion of the Tatuyo is Ethnic religions (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Christianity (4% Evangelical).

The Tatuyo have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have Jesus films or radio broadcasts available.

The Tatuyo resides in the Vaupes Region, near the headwaters of the Pira-Pirana, and the Upper Papuri. The majority of the population marry Carapana, Northern Barasano, or Barasana women. They are swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16286

Ticuna (8,800)

The Ticuna people group primarily speaks Ticuna. The primary religion of the Ticuna is Ethnic religions (60%). The other 40% of the population practices Christianity (0% Evangelical).

The Ticuna have access to a translation of the New Testament as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but they do not have Jesus films or radio broadcasts available.

The Ticuna lives in the Amazon River Region. The Ticuna are a very artistic tribe. They are involved in basketry, wood and stone sculpture, and mask making.

<http://indian-cultures.com/Cultures/ticuna.html>

www.ethnologue.com

46890

Totoro (3,654)

The Totoro people primarily speak Spanish. The primary religion of the Totoro is Christianity. Unfortunately the Totoro do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Totoro lives about 17 km west of Silvia.

www.ethnologue.com

23158

Tucano (2,000)

The Tucano primarily speak Tucano. The primary religion of the Tucano is Ethnic religions.

The Tucano have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Tucano lives in the region of Colombia near the Upper Papuri River, and its tributaries. Many of the people work as Swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16287

Tunebo: Angosturas (100)

The Tunebo:Angosturas primarily speaks Tunebo, Angosturas. The primary religion of the Tunebo: Angosturas is Ethnic religions.

The Tunebo:Angosturas do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

This people group is nearly extinct.

16289

Tuyuca (1,100)

The Tuyuca primarily speak Tuyuca. The primary religion of the Tuyuca is Christianity (60%). Approximately 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Tuyuca have access to portions of the Bible and Gospel recordings. The Tuyuca do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

The Tuyuca lives in the Inambu, Tiquie, and Papuri Rivers region.

16290

Vlach Gypsy (41,000)

The Vlach Gypsy primarily speaks Romani Vlax. The primary religion of the Vlach Gypsy is Christianity (90%). Only 4% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 10% of the population is non-religious.

The Vlach Gypsy people have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

Gypsies live scattered throughout the world. They live as nomads, wandering from place to place. Gypsies usually have several specialized trades. When their trade is not needed in one place, they will move on to another place. They are known as musicians, dancers, fortune tellers, and skilled craftsmen. They also have the stereotype of being thieves and beggars.

16291

Waunana (7,800)

The Waunana primarily speaks Woun Meu. The primary religion of the Waunana is Christianity (65%). Of the Christian population, 0% is Evangelical. The other 35% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Waunana have access to a translation of the New Testament, along with portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings and Jesus films, but do not have radio broadcasts available.

22298

Wayuu (162,000)

The primary language of the Wayuu is Wayuu. The primary religion of the Wayuu is Ethnic religions (70%). About 20% of the population practices Christianity (9% Evangelical). Another 10% of the population practices other/small religions.

The Wayuu have access to a translation of the New Testament as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have Jesus films and Gospel recordings available, but do not have radio broadcasts.

The Wayuu lives in the Guajira Peninsula on the Caribbean coast.

www.ethnologue.com

16292

Western Tunebo (800)

The primary language of the Western Tunebo is Tunebo, Western. The primary religion of the Western Tunebo is Ethnic religions (60%). Approximately 40% of the population practices Christianity (only 2% Evangelical).

The Western Tunebo have portions of the Bible translated. They do not have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Western Tunebo resides in the region of the Santander del Sur. They make their living by being agriculturalists, fisherman, and hunters and gatherers.

www.ethnologue.com

16293

Yagua (600)

The primary language of the Yagua is Yagua. The primary religion of the Yagua is Ethnic religions (80%). Approximately 20% of the population practices Christianity (0% Evangelical).

The Yagua have access to a translation of the New Testament as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

46889

Yanacona (17,000)

The primary language of the Yanacona is Spanish. The primary religion of the Yanacona is Christianity. Apparently, they do not have access to a translation of the Bible, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

16294

Yari (700)

The primary language of the Yari is Yari. The primary religion of the Yari is Ethnic religions (99%). Only 1% of the population practices Christianity (0% evangelical). The Yari do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

The Yari live near the Yari River in the Caqueta Region. Apparently, about 50 years ago 140 Yari moved and settled on the upper Vaupes River, near Puerto Nare.

47038

Yauna (200)

The primary languages of the Yauna are Yahuna and Macuna. The primary religions of the Yauna are Christianity (50%) and Ethnic religions (50%). Only 3% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Yauna do not have any Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts available.

16295

Yucuna (1,200)

The primary language of the Yucuna is Yucuna. The primary religion of the Yucuna is Christianity (80%). Approximately 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Yucuna have access to translations of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. They also have access to Gospel translations, but do not have Jesus films or radio broadcasts available to them.

The Yucuna resides in the Miriti- Parana (tributary Caqueta) of the Amazonas Region. Some of the Yucuna have moved to La Pedrera, Ararcuara, and some to Leticia. Many of the Yucuna work as swidden agriculturalists.

www.ethnologue.com

16296

Yukpa (4,700)

The Yukpa primarily speak Yukpa. The primary religion of the Yukpa is Christianity (75%). Approximately 35% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 25% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Yukpa have access to Gospel recordings, but they do not have access to Bible translations, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Yukpa live in many areas in Colombia. The Yukpa live on the Colombian/Venezuelan border. They also live in Serrania de Perija, and near the Casacara River. The Yukpa men use Spanish for buying and trading goods.

16297

Yuruti (700)

The primary language of the Yuruti is Yuruti. The primary religion of the Yuruti is Christianity (60%). Only 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic religions.

The Yuruti has access to portions of translations of the Bible. They also have access to Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Yuruti resides in the Vaupes Region, near the Upper Paca River (tributary of Papuri) and Cano Yi River.

The Yuruti work as agriculturalists, hunters and gatherers, and fishermen. The Yuruti have an interesting marriage pattern that requires that spouses must be from different language groups. The children grow up speaking both of their parents' languages, but they are identified with the language of their father. The tribes own name is Wajiaraye. The names Yuruti and Juriti apparently are incorrect spellings.

00000

Zambo (615,000)

The Zambo primarily speak Spanish. The primary religion of the Zambo is Christianity (90%). Only 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 10% of the population practices Ethnic religions (5%), and other/small religions (5%).

The Zambo have access to translations of the complete Bible, Gospel translations, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

The Zambo are mixed black and Amerindian.

46888

Zenu (30,000)

The primary language of the Zenu is Spanish. The primary religion of the Zenu is Ethnic religions. The Zenu do not have access to any Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

All of the information on people groups has been gathered from two websites, unless noted. These two websites are www.peoplegroups.org and www.joshuaproject.org.

Religions

Non-Christian

Amerindian tribal religions are practiced by several lowland and jungle tribes in the interior. A few of these tribes include the Arhuaco, Coreguaje, Cuna, Guajiro, Macu, Barasano, and Tatuyo.

The Baha'i religion has apparently grown since its beginnings in 1964. There were 161 local spiritual assemblies by 1973. As of 1995, the population had grown to 55,000 in 252 assemblies.

Judaism presently is the religion of around 10,000. They mostly reside in the larger urban cities such as Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, and Barranquilla.

Other religions include Islam, Hinduism, and spiritism.

Jehovah's Witnesses, as of 2001, have around 1480 congregations and some 103,000 members. The Jehovah's Witnesses claim as many as 260,000 adherents

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), as of 2001, has over 248 congregations and around 86,000 members. The Mormons claim as many as 145,000 adherents.

Roman Catholics

Roman Catholics make up about 90% of the total religious adherents in Colombia.

Colombia has a rich Catholic tradition that has lasted since the 16th century. The first Catholic diocese was established in 1534 and the first seminary in 1582. The power and the influence of the church became a major issue in Grand Colombia. In 1991, the new Colombian constitution gave greater freedom to ethnic and religious minorities. The religious minorities had suffered years of persecution. The Roman Catholic Church in Colombia was finally placed on equal footing with other religions.

The Roman Catholic Church has over 2700 congregations and 20, 106,000 members with 38,000,000 adherents in Columbia. Catholics are growing at a rate of + 1.4% annually

Orthodox Christians make up about .02% of the total religious adherents in Colombia. This population numbers around 7500 and is increasing at + 0.3 % annually.

Evangelical Christians

The first Protestant missionary arrived in Colombia in 1825. This missionary was an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Foreign Bible Society published the first New Testament in South America by the second half of the 19th century.

Protestants weren't recognized by the government until 1930, when the Liberal party came to power. They have been the product of a lot of ridicule and persecution over the years. During La Violencia, 1948-1957, many Protestants were killed. Also during this

time, 270 Protestant schools were closed and 60 churches were destroyed, including ¾ of all the churches of the Gospel Missionary Union. However Protestantism grew rapidly during this time (7,908 in 1948 and 33,156 by 1960). After Colombia's new constitution was drafted in 1991, Protestantism gained new freedom in the country. Protestant growth has been rapid ever since. In 1933 around 15,000 evangelicals served in Columbia. By 2000 the number had swelled to over 2 million.

Seventh Day Adventist have around 700 congregations and 155,000 members in Columbia with as many as 360,000 adherents.

The Pan American Mission, an independent evangelistic group, reports 470 congregations and as many as 30,000 members. The group claims up to 150,000 adherents

New Testament House Churches, a loose network of independent congregations, number over 2000 groups with as many as 60,000 worshippers. These groups witness and minister to as many as 130,000 adherents.

The International Charismatic Mission has 43,000 members in one congregation

The Assemblies of God have 525 congregations with 24,000 members and 115000 adherents.

The Christian Crusade has 250 congregations with over 25000 members

The Association of Interamerican Churches has 145 congregations and over 30,000 members.

The Foursquare Gospel Group reports 1300 congregations and over 40,000 members with 75,000 adherents

Christian and Missionary Alliance has 217 congregations and 23000 members

Carib Association of Evangelical Churches reports 620 congregations with a total of 26,300 members

Columbian Baptist Convention reports 121 congregations with 14,300 members. The group reports over 40,000 adherents

Association of Evangelical Churches of EC has 120 congregations with more than 5200 members

David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 2001; Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk. *Operation World*. 21st Century Edition. WEC International, 2001.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should pray thanksgiving to God for the remarkable growth of the Gospel in Columbia. This prayer should also be for continued and increasing freedom to proclaim the Message. Prayer also should be raised for the safety of Christian workers who often face Martyrdom from the general violence of the country as well as religious persecution from established groups. Both nationals and ex patriot missionaries face threats. Evangelicals should pray for boldness for the Columbian Christians who spread the Gospel under difficult conditions.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should lift up prayer for the people of Colombia in general and the Christians in particular as they live in constant violence and the threats of violence. Columbia has the reputation for being one of the most violent countries in the world.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should move to strengthen existing evangelical groups through leadership training, literature, and encouragement.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should help Columbian Evangelicals to foster a network of mutual care and cooperation as they all seek to win this nation's peoples.
5. Evangelical Christians and Churches should increase efforts to reach the indigenous peoples of the interior. This effort could include making Scripture available in the languages and other evangelistic and church materials. Methods for sharing the Message with followers of Traditional Religion should be developed and local Christians trained in their use.
6. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop methods for sharing the Message with Roman Catholics and train local Christians in their use.
7. Evangelical Christians and churches should continue emphasis on witness and service to the physically and spiritually needy in Columbia. Tens of thousands of street children and over 1 million refugees should attract the attention of Evangelicals. Students who have been highly influenced by Marxism make up an additional needy group.

Links:

www.colombiatimes.com/
www.colombiaupdate.com/
www.colombiajournal.org/
www.pages.infinet.net/colombia
www.wikitravel.org/en/Colombia
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia
www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35754.htm
www.peacebrigades.org/colombia.html
www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/colombia/colombia.html
www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/samerica/co.htm
www.ciponline.org/colombia/index.htm
www.colhrnet.igc.org
www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk/
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www.plancolombia.org/
www.justiceforcolombia.org/

www.zmag.org/CrisesCurEvts/Colombia/colombiatop.cfm
www.topix.net/world/colombia
www.bogota-dc.com/