

National Security Archive

Peru: Human Rights, Drugs and Democracy, 1980-2000 *A compelling primary source portrait of civil war, terrorism and repression*

See the full picture of two decades of upheaval



Peru: Human Rights, Drugs and Democracy, 1980-2000, is a uniquely detailed collection of records documenting U.S. foreign policy at work in Latin America, as well as the fascinating story of domestic politics in Peru.

These documents, virtually all previously classified, and incorporating the latest U.S. government releases, provide a look inside the civil war, internal repression, and growing authoritarianism during three successive Peruvian administrations, as witnessed by the U.S. embassy in Lima, U.S. military officials, and U.S. intelligence. Simply put, there is no available compilation of materials on the subject that comes close to the quality and extent of coverage provided by this collection.

The set includes close to 2,000 documents, collected from archival sources, hundreds of FOIA requests, and State Department releases to Peruvian Truth and Congressional Commissions. While a few documents are included from the 1960s and 1970s, the bulk of this collection begins with the 1980 inception of civil war between insurgent militants from the Shining Path (and later from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, or MRTA), and official and non-official government forces.

Human rights in crisis



The documents chronicle human rights violations committed by both insurgent forces and the military, focusing on cases pinpointed by the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They include State Department cables describing interviews with Peruvian police and military officers, who detailed their direct participation in torture, extrajudicial executions, and attempted bombings.

The documents reveal the growing political crisis faced by consecutive Peruvian presidents Fernando Belaunde, Alan Garcia and Alberto Fujimori. While the civil conflict began to recede with the capture of key Shining Path leaders, including Abimael Guzman in 1992, this collection also delves into the full span of political events and scandals from Fujimori's 10-year administration, culminating in his flight to Japan and later trial on charges of human rights abuse and corruption.



Of particular interest are the 1992 autogolpe (self-coup), when Fujimori dismissed Congress and suspended the Constitution, later electoral fraud and bribery scandals (from National Security Advisor Vladimiro Montesinos' involvement in 1998 arms smuggling to the airdrop of weapons to the Colombian insurgent guerrilla organization FARC), and the 2000 elections which brought down Fujimori's regime. The set also explores key aspects of U.S. military, anti-drug and human rights policies toward Peru, which serve as case studies of the complexities of the United States' involvement in Latin America. A notable example, which has continuing policy ramifications, was the evolving counter-narcotics program waged in Peru with U.S. assistance.

The collection contains almost 2,000 documents on 313 fiche. A printed guide is available: *Peru: Human Rights, Drugs and Democracy, 1980-2000, Guide and Index* (ISBN: 978-1-4345-0067-0).



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