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Colombia and the United States: The Making of an Inter-American Alliance, 1939-1960

Bradley Lynn Coleman

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Economic ties with the United States were important to Colombia even in the early twentieth century, as the U.S. was the major market for coffee, Colombia's leading export and source of revenue. A 1940 trade agreement strengthened pre - World War II relations between Bogota and Washington, and Colombia's position as a close ally of the United States became evident during World War II, although its commitment to the Allied cause did not include troop participation. Colombia's strategic proximity to the Caribbean and the Panama Canal and its pro-American stance within the region were helpful to the Allied nations.Though its relations with the United States were strained during the late 1940s and throughout most of the 1950s due to the pro-Catholic Conservative government's persecution of the nation's few Protestants, Colombia's partnership with the United States prompted it to contribute troops to the UN peacekeeping force during the Korean War (1950-53). Colombia also provided the only Latin American troops to the UN Emergency Force in the Suez conflict (1956-58).Filling a gap in the available literature on U.S. relations with less developed countries, author Bradley Coleman provides new research on the development of the U. S.-Colombian alliance that will serve as an invaluable resource for scholars of U.S. and Latin American diplomacy.

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