

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to describe the work of the Peace Corps during its first period of volunteer activity in Colombia. To put it into perspective, the relations between Colombia and the United States throughout the XIX and XX centuries are analyzed in the first chapter. The second chapter offers a description of the American government's policies during the Cold War, with emphasis on the influence and scope of the Alliance for Progress in Latin America. The third chapter deals with the origin, operation, and development throughout the world of the main programs of the Peace Corps, as a semi-independent federal agency linked to the Presidency of the United States. The fourth and last chapter refers to specific areas of activity, objectives, as well as the positive and negative impacts of the Peace Corps in Colombia. Also included are the reasons for which this program of cooperation came to an end in 1981, its repercussion throughout Colombia, and its return in 2010.

Keywords: Peace Corps – United States – Colombia – development – Cold War