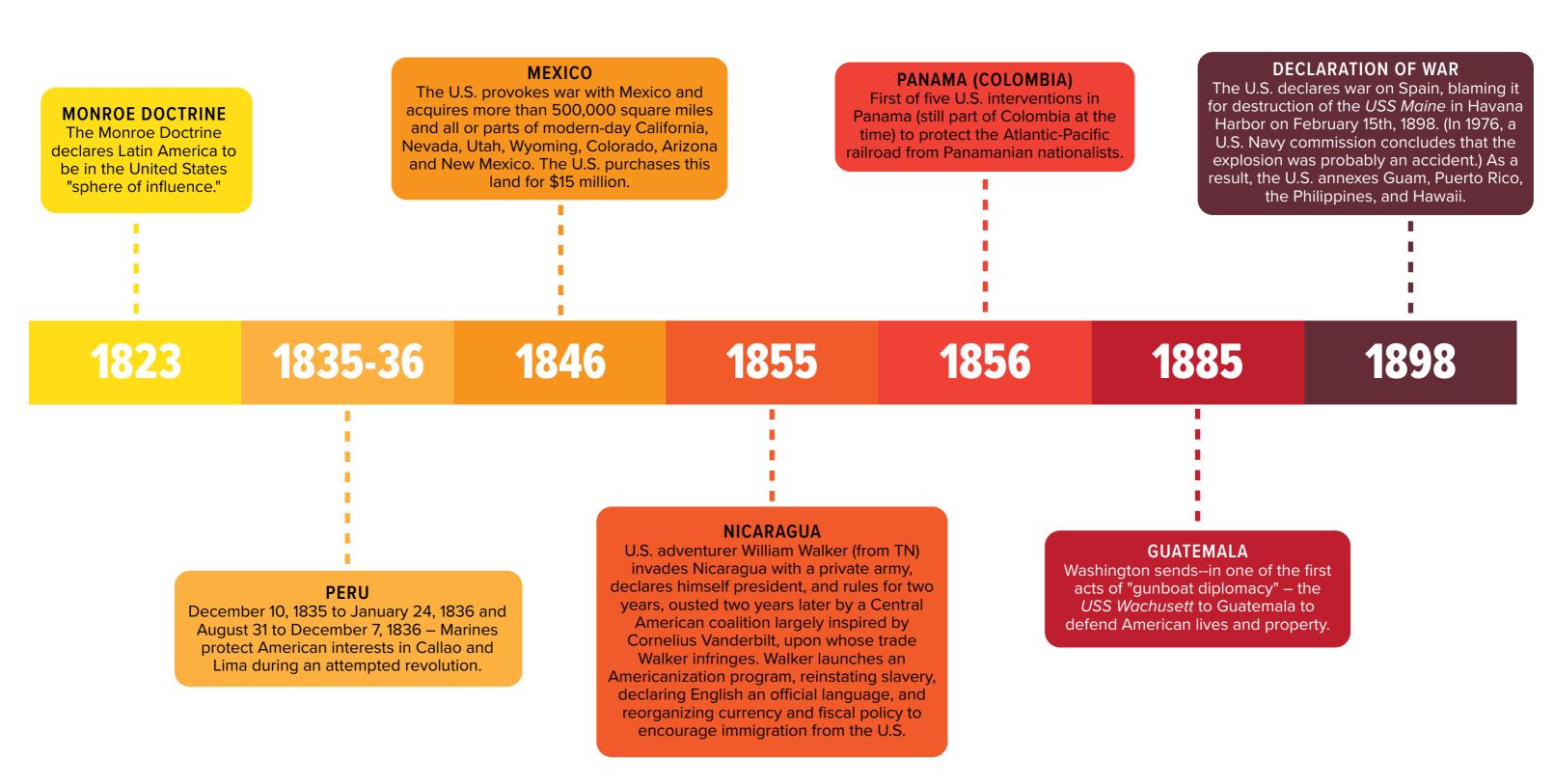
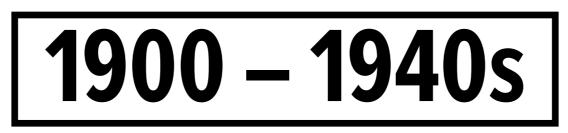


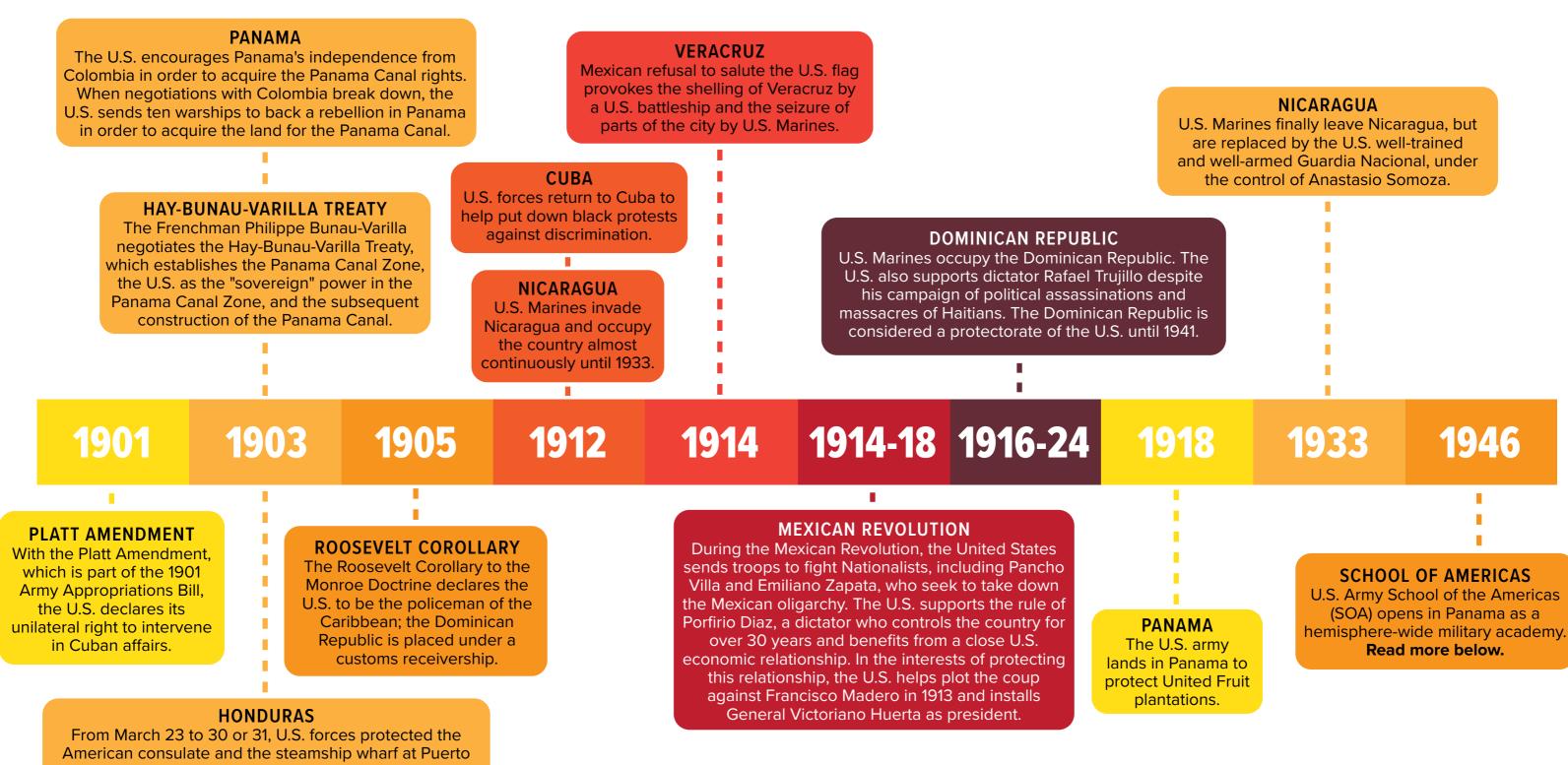
# TIMELINE OF U.S. ACTS OF AGGRESSION IN LATIN AMERICA

In slightly less than a hundred years, from 1898 to 1994, the U.S. government has intervened successfully to change governments and/or to suppress popular movements and insurgencies in Latin America a total of at least 41 times. That amounts to once every 28 months for an entire century.<sup>1</sup> Direct intervention occurred in 17 of the 41 cases - these incidents involved the use of U.S. military forces, intelligence agents or local citizens employed by U.S. government agencies. In another 24 cases, the U.S. government played an indirect role - local actors played the principal roles, but either would not have acted or would not have succeeded without encouragement from the U.S. government.









American consulate and the steamship wharf at Puerto Cortes, Honduras, during a period of revolutionary activity. U.S. forces also arrived in Honduras to protect American citizens, businesses, and political interests in 1907, 1911, 1919, 1922, 1924, and 1925.

### **1946 - PRESENT** SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (SOA)

In 1946, the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) opens in Panama as a hemisphere-wide military academy. Its linchpin is the doctrine of National Security (or, "anti-communist counterinsurgency training,") by which the chief threat to a nation is internal subversion; this will be the guiding principle behind dictatorships in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Central America, and elsewhere. On September 21, 1984, the school is expelled from Panama under the terms of the Panama Canal Treaty.

Prior to this expulsion, politicians and journalists in Panama have been complaining that civilian graduates from the school have engaged in repressive and anti-democratic behavior. Since 2001, the school has become known as the **Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)** and is based at Fort Benning, Georgia (USA).

The military academy has trained 65,000 Latin American soldiers over six decades. And its roster of graduates who eventually come to lead their countries is impressive - were it not for the fact that they are considered some of the continent's most notorious dictators of the last century.

Outraged at its program, the U.S. House of Representatives votes to close SOA in 1999, but it opens almost immediately afterwards under the harder-to-remember name of Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). In 2013, a researcher named Ruth Blakeley concludes after interviews with WHINSEC personnel and anti-SOA/WHINSEC protesters that "there was considerable transparency [...] established after the transition from SOA to WHINSEC" and that "a much more rigorous human rights training program was in place than in any other US military institution". **SOA or WHINSEC, others may beg to differ with her assessment.** 

INFAMOUS ALUMNI

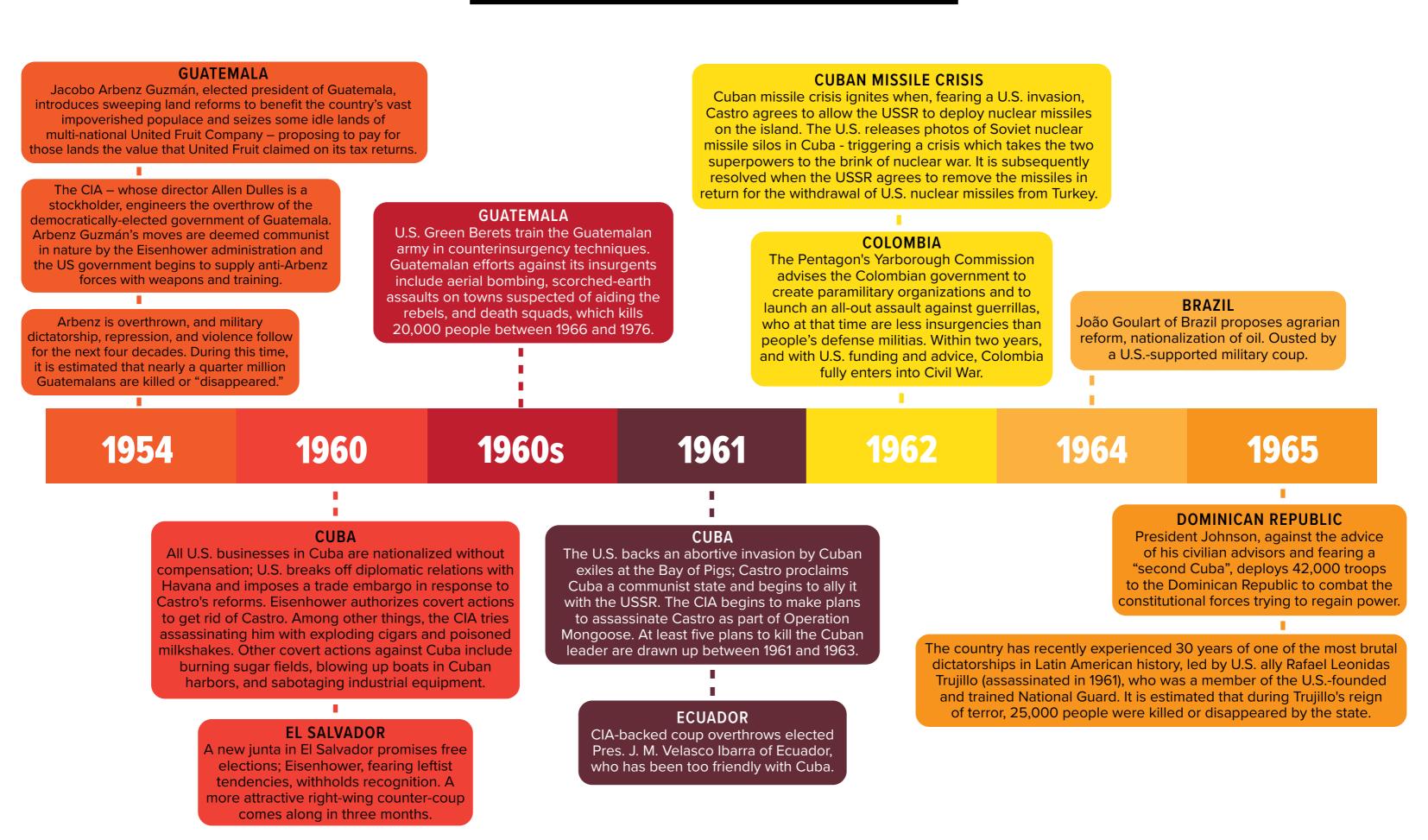
Overall, the School of the Americas has produced soldiers and generals responsible for the massacre and torture of tens of thousands of people across Latin America. From among its infamous alumni are 11 former Latin American dictators including: Argentina's Leopoldo Galtieri, Rios Montt of Guatemala and

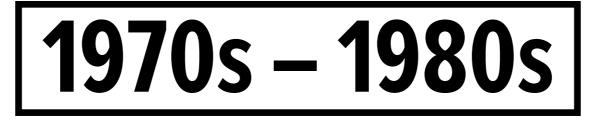
Raoul Cédras of Haiti. Other notorious graduates include: El Salvador death squad leader Roberto D'Aubuisson who has killed and tortured thousands during El Salvador's civil war.

**1950s – 1960s** 

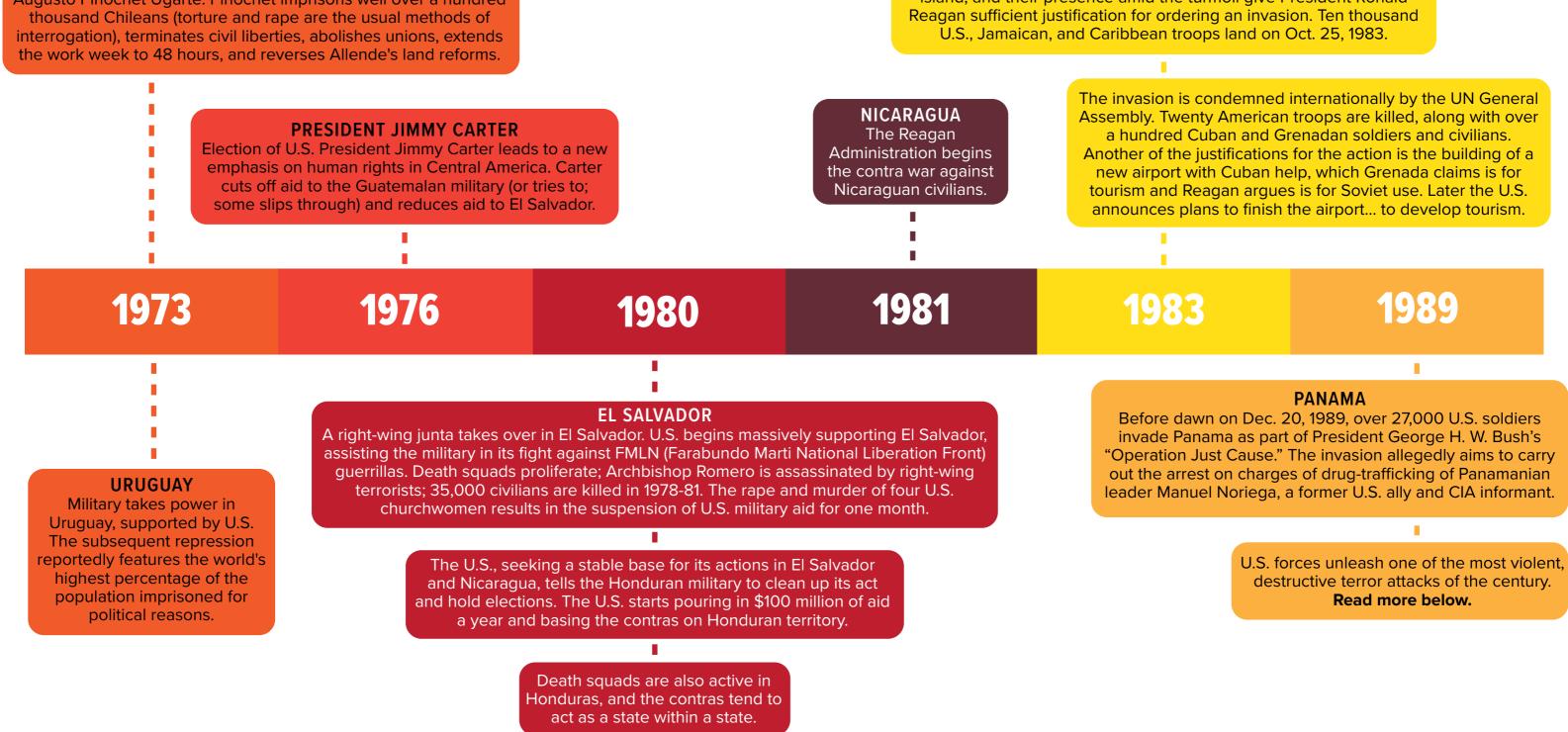
"Here is the School of the Americas. It's a combat school. Most of the courses revolve around what they call "counter-insurgency warfare." Who are the "insurgents?" We have to ask that question. They are the poor. They are the people in Latin America who call for reform. They are the landless peasants who are hungry. They are health care workers, human rights advocates, labor organizers. They become the insurgents. They are seen as "the enemy." They are those who become the targets of those who learn their lessons at the School of the Americas."

- FATHER ROY BOURGEOIS





CHILE



## **1989 U.S. INVASION OF PANAMA**

**Before dawn on Dec. 20, 1989, over 27,000 U.S. soldiers invade Panama** as part of President George H. W. Bush's "Operation Just Cause." The invasion allegedly aims to carry out the arrest on charges of drug-trafficking of Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega, a former U.S. ally and CIA informant.

**U.S. forces unleash one of the most violent, destructive terror attacks of the century.** They systematically burn apartment buildings and shoot people indiscriminately in the streets, including at least one journalist caught in the chaos. People are crushed by tanks, captured Panamanians are executed on the street, and bodies pile on top of each other; many are burned before identification.

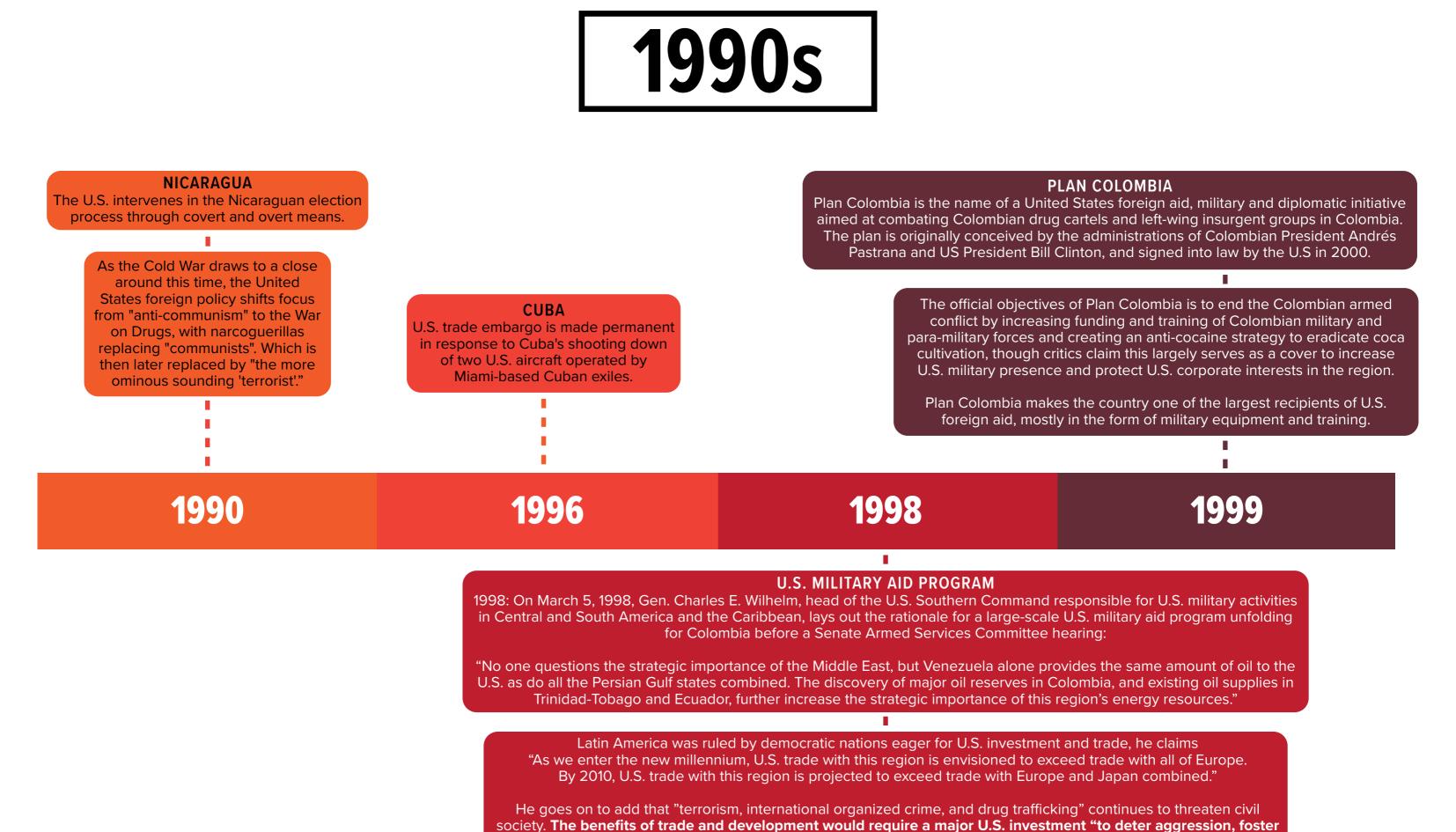
The aggression is condemned internationally, but the message is clear: the United States military is free to do whatever it wants, whenever it wants, and they will not be bound by ethics or laws.

"They would burn a house, and then move to another and begin the process all over again. They burned from one street to the next. They coordinated the burning through walkie-talkies"

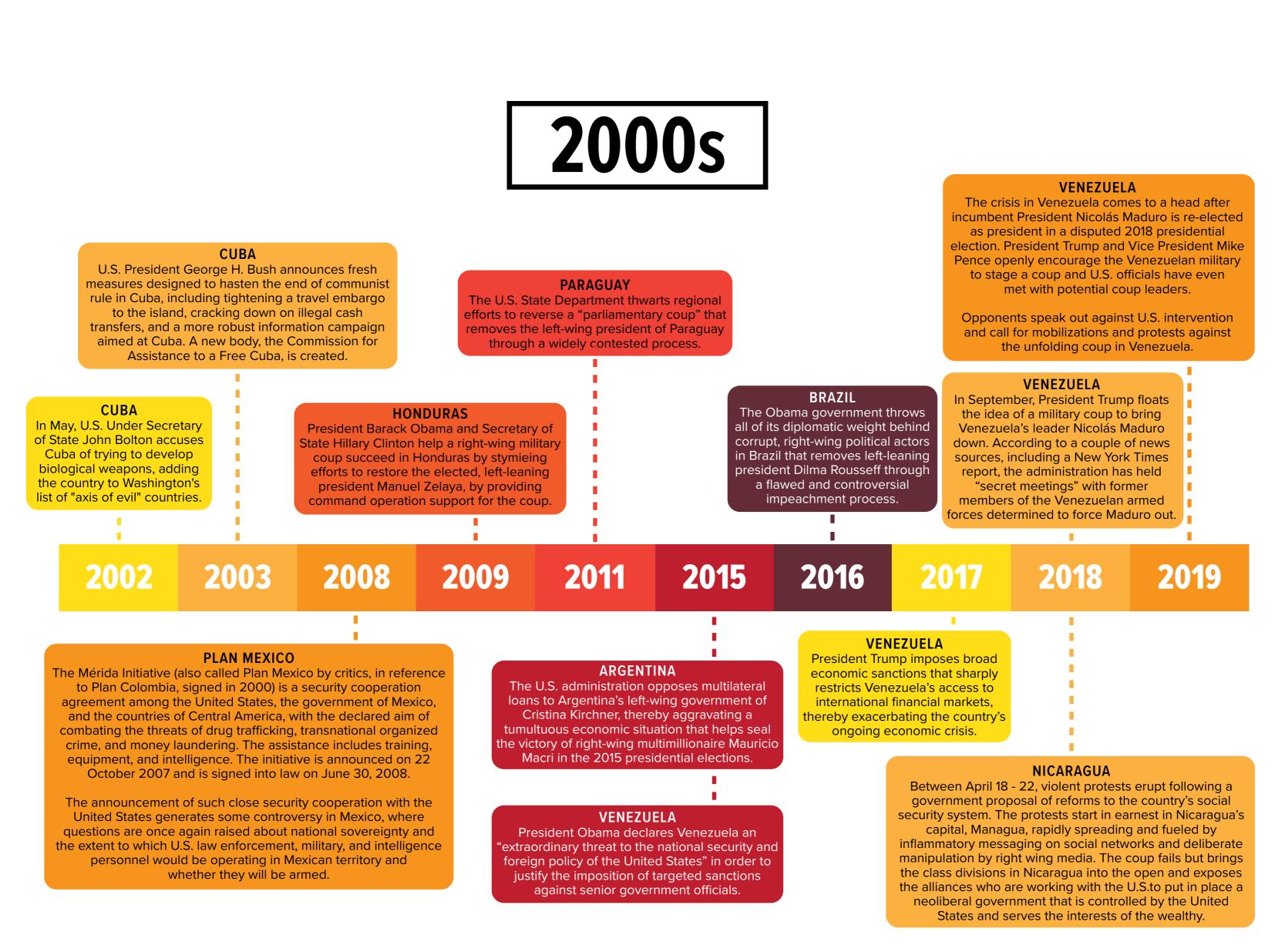
Witnesses recount U.S. soldiers setting residential buildings on fire, which begins at 6:30 in the morning. Video footage shows the charred remains of rows of housing complexes in El Chorillo, one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. "They would burn a house, and then move to another and begin the process all over again. They burned from one street to the next. They coordinated the burning through walkie-talkies," says one witness.

Survivors are reportedly hired to fill mass graves for \$6 per body. Ambulance drivers begin to call El Chorillo "Little Hiroshima". About 20,000 people lose their homes and become refugees as a result of the U.S. invasion. The official explanation for the American ouster is Noriega's drug trafficking, which Washington has known about since the 1970s, and has not been at all bothered by.

The exact number of people who are killed during the invasion of Panama remains unknown and forever debated. The best estimates are at least 2,000 to 3,000 Panamanians, but this may be a conservative figure, according to a Central American Human Rights Commission (COEDHUCA) report, which states: **"Most of these deaths could have been prevented had the US troops taken appropriate measures to ensure the lives of civilians and had obeyed the international legal norms of warfare."** 



peaceful conflict resolution, and encourage democratic development while promoting stability and prosperity."





#### **ABOUT VETERANS FOR PEACE**

Veterans For Peace is a global organization of Military Veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Our network is comprised of over 140 chapters worldwide whose work includes: educating the public, advocating for a dismantling of the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significantly, working to end all wars.

#### TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: www.veteransforpeace.org

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