Colombia: ¿Otra Nación conservadora? 
Discurso político, políticas públicas de seguridad y cooperación internacional en un estudio de caso (1998-2010)

Abstract

In 1998, the presidential candidates with possibilities of winning the election in Colombia, Andres Pastrana and Uribe Horacio Serpa, agreed on their proposal on Defence, where they intended to cease-fire with the Guerrilla in exchange for concessions that would be negotiated between equals. Twelve years later, the two presidential candidates who led in the polls, Juan Manuel Santos and Antanas Mockus, when talking about their plans for defense, not let see the possibility of concessions to the guerrillas by the Executive, but quite the opposite.

In order to understand why this change happened, this thesis studies what occurred during the presidency of Pastrana and what factors influenced the subsequent presidencies of President Alvaro Uribe, which caused that future candidates changed their platform 180 degrees in Defence and in their campaign speeches. The improvements on Defence and Economy during the Uribe era, together with the cooperation of the United States and the change in the opinion of the people of Colombia, motivated by the disappointment that the failed peace process between 1998 and 2002 caused, originated the differences in the proposals between 1998 and 2010.

After the analysis and before concluding, it is analyzed the regional situation, seeing the Colombian case as a model for other Latin American countries, which in different degrees are currently facing major challenges related to the violence caused by drug trafficking.

In the end, the work talks about Public Policy Theory. This case fits on the theory of British author John Kingdon, where problems, public policy and politics gave rise to this change in Defence policies. And finally, there is a comparison of Colombia with the United States. John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge said on the book the Right Nation, that American people move their average ideology to conservative positions. Colombia in recent years seem to go through a similar mechanism, but some polls indicate that this country has always had this tendency, with the difference that in recent times they had a leader and a particular situation that led to these policies at its best.