

Candidate E evidence

Pablo Escobar and the Illegal Drugs trade in Colombia. A biographical Account

Colombia has a major impact on drug trafficking in Latin America. It is known for producing the most cocaine out of any country in the world and some of the globe's richest, most powerful and dangerous men are from Colombia.

The main Drug Culture in Colombia kicked off in the 1960s, starting off with marijuana and gradually changing to cocaine in the 1970s when a man named Pablo Escobar, who is commonly referred to as the "world's greatest outlaw" came into power. Escobar started off as a petty criminal, taking part in low profile offences, such as forging high school diplomas and proceeding to sell them, various street scams and stealing vehicles.

He eventually fell into working for a drug dealer called Alvaro Prieto which then led him onto starting his own cocaine business in 1975. This business spread around Latin America and up into Miami, Florida

The law eventually started to take note of Escobar's actions and started to build up a case against him. Two officers arrested him but he later had them killed and the case was dropped. This is what led Pablo to later deal with authority by bribing or murdering them.

The cartel Pablo founded was named the Medellin Cartel and it was co-founded by his brother, Roberto Escobar and cousin, Gustavo Gaviria. Pablo was very fond of his family - his wife Maria Victoria Henao and their two children, son San Sebastian Marroquin and daughter Manuela Escobar. Most of his free time was spent with them and a lot of important decisions were made, revolving around the safety of his family. Ensuring their safety later proved to be difficult.

As time went on and Pablo Escobar and his cartel became more and more powerful, new circuits were made for shipments and more US states were being distributed to, such as California and New York. The Medellin Cartel was responsible for 80% of cocaine importation to the United States.

Escobar was reeling in a considerable amount of money at this point but he was running out of safe locations to keep it stored. As a result, much of it was buried around Colombia and lost. Occasionally someone still stumbles across it accidentally. Many go out looking for it but few have ever actually found it.

Aside from Escobar's involvement with drug trafficking, he was seen as a public hero amongst the poor people of Medellin due to the fact he donated millions of dollars to schools, hospitals and rundown neighbourhoods, gaining huge popularity and putting him in an even more powerful position than before. Pablo used this method to acquire the

allegiance of poverty-stricken individuals who became a kind of private army which he later used to attack the police in his dispute with the government.

Public attention sparked for Escobar when he ran for president of Colombia in the early 1980s. At this time the majority of the public was unaware of the drug cartel that Pablo was leading and from an outsider's view he could easily pass as a noble public figure. This all came to an end when, during the election, the major involvement that Pablo Escobar had with drug trafficking was revealed, resulting in Escobar dropping out of the campaign. It also marked the start of a relentless war between the Colombian and the US governments.

In Escobar's feud with the government his attacks, aimed at anti-narcotic police, became more severe and were responsible for more than 250 bomb attacks and dozens of massacres resulting in 1,142 dead civilians. Escobar planned the terrorist attack on the Avianca Flight 203 (a domestic passenger plane) that ended the lives of everyone on board along with 3 people who were struck with falling debris.

Escobar's reign came to an end on the 2nd December 1993 when he was tracked by the authorities using radiophone transmissions. This resulted in a police shootout with him and his bodyguard. They tried to escape by running across rooftops and into various alleyways but the shootout eventually ended in a fatal blow to Escobar's ear. It is unknown who took the last shot on Pablo and family members say that he shot himself but it's unlikely we will ever know.

Even after his death Pablo Escobar's influence is still felt and has changed drug trafficking around the world forever.

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Sources

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