

LA VIOLENCIA

A Brief History of La Violencia in Colombia

Both short stories “One of These Days” and “Lather and Nothing Else” take place during the time period known as “La Violencia” in the South American country of Colombia. “La Violencia,” which means “the violence” in Spanish, was a period of intense fighting and bloodshed in Colombia that lasted from the 1940s to the 1960s. It was a time of political turmoil and violence that left over 200,000 people dead. This violence was a result of a long-standing feud between the Liberal and Conservative political parties.

The violence began after the assassination of Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, a popular Colombian leader, in 1948. Gaitán's death sparked riots and unrest in the capital city of Bogotá, which became known as the “Bogotazo.” The violence quickly spread throughout the country, as the two political parties clashed in a bloody struggle for power.

The violence was particularly brutal, with victims often being tortured and killed in gruesome ways. The violence also had a devastating impact on the Colombian countryside. Peasant farmers were caught in the crossfire between the two political factions.

The violence eventually subsided in the 1960s, but it left a lasting mark on Colombian society. It contributed to the rise of rebel groups, who sought to challenge the government's authority. The effects of this conflict are still felt today.

La Violencia is a dark chapter in Colombian history, but it is important to understand its causes and consequences to appreciate the challenges that Colombia has faced in its quest for peace.

This summary was generated using Diffit and fact-checked by the K20 Center.