Narcoterrorism in Latin America

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Abstract
Narcoterrorism is the use of drug trafficking in any form (including taxation on the growth and transportation) to fund terrorist activities. What differentiates narcoterrorist organizations from drug cartels is that narcoterrorist organizations have a political ideological mission driving them rather than just the economic ideology of high potential profits from drug harvesting and smuggling.

Thesis
This paper explores and analyzes why Latin America has been such a conducive environment for the growth of narcoterrorism, as well as investigate the new developing threat of Islamic terrorist organizations attracted to the region in order to finance their operations and what this means for the United States.

FARC
The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is a narcoterrorist group of Marxist origin operating in Colombia. Their main goal is to replace the government of Colombia with a “people’s republic.”

Shining Path
The Sendero Luminoso is a narcoterrorist group that developed out the Communist Party of Peru. Their aim is to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat.

Hezbollah
Hezbollah is a Shi’a Islamic terrorist organization based in Lebanon, but currently spreading to Latin America—especially the TBA. One of the main goals of this extremist group is the elimination of Israel.

Conclusion
Homegrown narcoterrorist organizations no longer pose the greatest threat in Latin America, but the emergence of Islamic terrorist groups capitalizing on the history of narcoterrorism. This is a threat to security that the US must take seriously.