

Comparing and Contrasting the US and Colombian Government

The United States is considered one of the most powerful countries in the world. The US constitution was enacted in 1776 and the Colombian constitution was enacted in 1886, but it was replaced in 1991, with this change the country grew more. Colombia has 32 departments and 1 capital district and US has 50 states and one district. This paper will examine the Colombian government comparing and contrasting it with the United States government.

One of the distinctions between both countries is how Colombia and the United States elect the president and have a different set days for elections. Election day in the United States is held every four years on the second Tuesday after the first Monday of November. In Colombia, the first round is held the last Sunday of May and the second round is held the third Sunday of June. The United States elects the president through the Electoral College system, however, Colombia does not have Electoral College system, they elect the president with direct popular vote. According to John Hudak and Brian Faughnan, in the US presidents are elected using a single round, with the Electoral College. The selected candidates compete in the 50 states, where the winner takes all (Hudak and Faughnan 4). In Colombia it's a different process, Colombian presidents are elected with the National Direct vote with a second runoff. Turnout rates in Colombia are not that high. For the May 25, 2014 election, 40.1% of the population turned out to vote. For the June 15, 2014 second round election, 47.9% of the population turned out (USAID Election Guide). According to the Electoral System, one important advantage that Colombia Elections System has is that the TRS (double round system) allows the voters to have a second

chance to vote for their best candidate, who will fulfill their needs, and even to change their minds between the first round and the second round (ACE).

One quality that the United States government has in comparison to Colombian government is the National Security system. Colombia has suffered from the wars on drugs and terrorism, the country have faced serious problems with this situation. According to Gustavo Silva “Too many people have died in the violence that surrounds the world of cocaine, and too much government money has had to be allocated to the defense of the nation.” This situation has affected citizens economically and emotionally. The United States on the other hand, has a more secured nation with more military for the protection of its citizens. In the US military, there are 1, 520, 300 people protecting the nation while Colombia has only 440, 220 people in the military, which is not enough to combat the violence and crime. During the past several years, United States foreign policy toward Colombia has experienced significant transformation, said Arlene Tickner (Ticker, 74). They have fought the war against drugs in Colombia. During the Mid 1900’s Colombia was identified as an international dangerous nation. Now, with the intervention of the United States, Colombia it’s not dangerous anymore.

In Colombia health care is more affordable than the United States health system. There the healthcare system is accessible for everyone. The healthcare in Colombia has a good system and it is of high quality. According to Michael Evans, “The new governing document deemed a person’s health a basic human right that applies to all citizens and foreign residents.” In Colombia it is easier to have access to this types of services since it is free or in some cases, they have to pay, but the costs are very low compared to US. According to the article, Colombia has better healthcare system than U.S. and Canada “The World Health Organization (WHO) ranks

Colombia's healthcare system as number 22 out of the 191 countries they review. That is better than Canada, which ranks number 30, and the U.S., which ranks number 37.” Anyone thinking about moving abroad will be happy to know that Colombia has an excellent health care system available. The Healthcare system in Colombia, says, “Hospitals and clinics in Colombia’s major cities have many bilingual doctors. The majority of expats (especially those from the U.S.) will find the cost of healthcare very affordable.” They have very good sources and available options for healthcare.

The US economy is stronger than the Colombian economy. In the world, US revenue is ranked to be one of the highest. According to the Nation Master data in 2013, United States ranked the 1st place making \$2.45 trillion, 23 times more than Colombia. Colombia ranked the 23rd place making \$107.80 billion. For Colombians, economy has been its main problem. Due to their economy, the country does not have a strong military and faces and also the citizens have to leave their country to find jobs. For the United States, in the other hand, their economy seems to grow more in the following years. Heather Long reported, “The United States is projected to grow 2.7 percent in 2018 as President Trump’s tax cuts boost growth, the International Monetary Fund said, delivering more positive economic news as the president passes his one-year mark in the White House” (Long). In the last months the economy has been increasing. Trading Economics analysis shows that “The US economy expanded an annualized 2.9 percent on quarter in the last three months of 2017, higher than 2.5 percent in the second estimate and beating market expectations of 2.7 percent” (TE).

To summarize, United States and Colombia are very similar in their governments and in its structures. Both contrast in their process, in some systems one is more effective than the

other. Colombian government is more effective with the healthcare system benefiting Colombians and foreign residents with a more accessible system for the healthcare, allowing them to have access to medical services for free or for very low prices. In fact, United States should consider having a more accessible healthcare system for everyone who lives in the country. In the other hand, United States it's more effective with national security system since it is stronger than Colombia, this protection benefits the citizens because we as Americans feel more secure in our country.

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