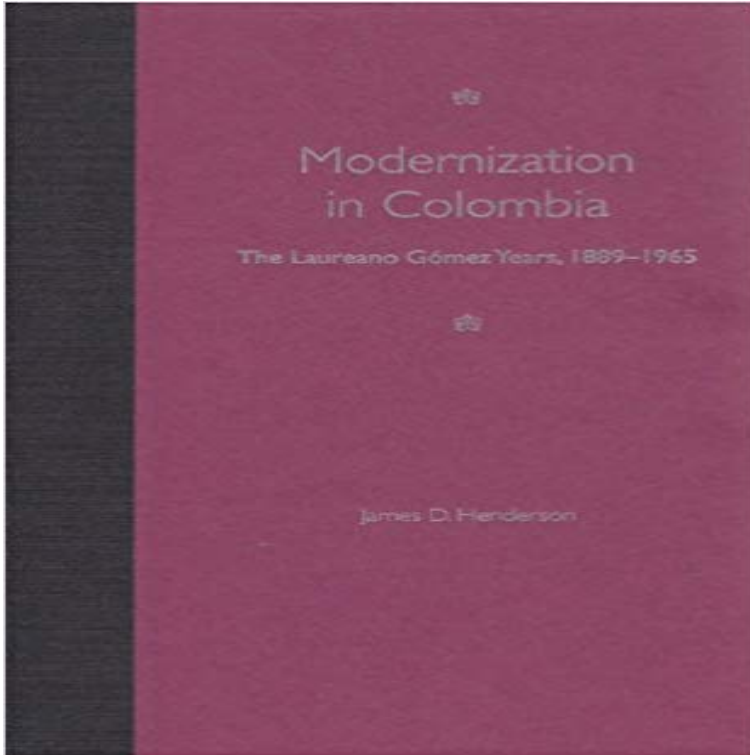


## Modernization in Colombia: The Laureano Gomez Years, 1889-1965



The research involved in putting this manuscript together is truly awesome and involves a major synthesis of Colombian political, economic, urban, and social history which has not been achieved to date either in Spanish or in English.-- Maurice P. Brungardt, Loyola University of New Orleans  
Henderson's life-and-times study of Laureano Gomez provides a cogent analysis of a rapidly modernizing Colombia as well as a vivid portrait of one of the most powerful 20th-century Latin American conservative thinkers and politicians.-- Jane M. Rausch, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
The life of Laureano Gomez (1889-1965), Colombia's combative Conservative politician and reviled public figure, serves as the backdrop for this modern history of one of the hemispheres' least understood nations. Tracing the complex process of development in Colombia, James Henderson explores the civil violence that defined the Gomez era even as the country experienced economic growth unparalleled in the rest of the Americas. Gomez was a consummate debater, a spellbinding orator, and an influential newspaper editor. Early in his career he was a thorn in the side of Liberals and Conservatives alike, while in later years he led the Conservative opposition in Congress. He made and unmade presidents, served as president himself, and all the while figured prominently in Colombia's transition to modernity. Henderson gives us the best and worst of Gomez and his adversaries during this era, a time of alternating political peace and progress, punctuated by spells of extremist invective and bloody violence. Thus he shows that much of recent Colombian history is rooted in developments from the Gomez years. Few Colombians can speak calmly of Gomez, and many blame him for the violence that plagued the country from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s. Henderson's objective and



Years, 1889-1965. By James D. Henderson. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2001. Photographs.

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