

# Book <em lang="es">Historia del Banco de la República, cien años</em> (<em lang="es">Banco de la República</em>: One Hundred Years of History)

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AUTHORS AND/OR EDITORS Uribe-Escobar, José Darío Bedoya-Ospina, Juan Guillermo Boada-Ortiz, Alberto Cardozo-Ortiz, Pamela Andrea Echavarría-Soto, Juan José Gamba-Tiusabá, Camila Gómez-González, José Eduardo Gómez-Pineda, Javier Gómez-Restrepo, Carolina Hernández-Correa, Gerardo Hernández-Gamarra, Antonio Hommes-Rodríguez, Rudolf Jaramillo-Echeverri, Juliana Junguito-Bonnet, Roberto López-Enciso, Enrique Antonio Meisel-Roca, Adolfo Melo-A., José Elías Ocampo-Duque, Marcela Pérez-Reyna, David Alejandro Rodríguez-Niño, Norberto Sánchez-Torres, Fabio José Tenjo-Galarza, Fernando Urrutia-Montoya, Miguel Vargas-Herrera, Hernando

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On the occasion of the centenary of the issuance of Law 25 of 1923, through which *Banco de la República* was created, the Bank has decided to complement and update the institutional history originally published in 2015, a volume that remains an excellent compendium of the facts and circumstances that marked the first century of central banking activity in Colombia.

We believe that the editorial guidelines of the original publication are still valid and relevant: on the one hand, we wanted to include in this work a wide range of experts on issues related to economic, monetary, exchange, and credit policies in Colombia, who would contribute varied historical and analytical views in the chapters they were asked to write, without requiring the authors specifically to be historians by profession. On the other hand, in order to approach certain particularly significant or idiosyncratic topics, such as the cultural activity of *Banco de la República*, it was considered better to include its history throughout the institutional life of the Issuer in a single section. This combination, in our opinion, ensures that there are no serious omissions in the recording of strategies, shocks, crises, successes, and institutional setbacks in the biography of *Banco de la República*.

In this context, for the updated edition (chapter 13), Pamela Cardozo, Fernando Tenjo, and Hernando Vargas studied the most recent period of the Bank's history, which coincided with an unprecedented shock in modern history: the COVID-19 pandemic. This economic and social shock simultaneously affected developed and emerging nations, and it requires an analysis that contrasts the economic policy responses of our country with those of other countries, both the most advanced or solvent (none of which were prepared for a challenge of such nature), as well as nations in economic and financial conditions comparable to ours. It was also timely to examine the interaction of the various economic policy responses in the context of the relationship between international and local financial markets. The study of this case will undoubtedly serve as an analytical reference, hopefully for many years to come, trusting that we will not witness its repetition or the emergence of

similar circumstances [...].