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Trans-pacific revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries

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TRANS-PACIFIC REVOLUTIONARIES & COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES

MAPING ACTORS AND TEXTUAL REFERENCES IN THE GLOBAL COLD WAR

Exchanges of people, texts and ideologies between Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America were intense during the Cold War.

Artists, journalists, intellectuals, and military officers moved between the shores of the Pacific Ocean after World War II. They rejected or supported the spread of communism. Many of them embraced the cause of the "free world", but others promoted the international peace movement or the organization of non-aligned countries.

The transmission of political propaganda or insurgent and counter-insurgent experiences and methods occupied a particular place, which deeply marked the historical experience of Colombia and Peru in the second half of the 20th Century.

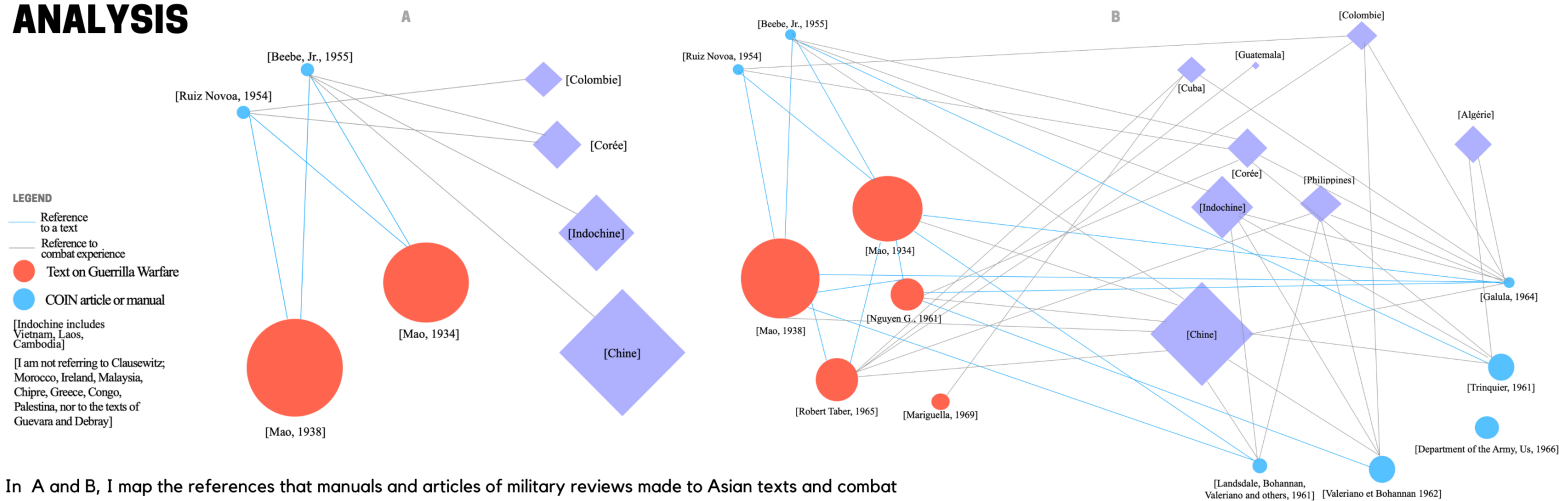
CIRCULATION(S)

Between 1950 and 1979 communist and anti-communist networks in countries like China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam and Japan had a real impact on Colombian and Peruvian public opinion and internal politics. As I intend to prove it, in this South American countries the formation of individual and collective identities were largely determined by phenomena of circulation that connected the Far East and Andean America.

METHODOLOGY

Comparative textual analysis is a solution to map and measure the movement of people, ideas and experiences in History. My methodology to think about trans-pacific circulations has two procedures: a) to trace the ways of production, diffusion and acquisition of written texts and b) to analyze the reception that South American officers made of the political and military concepts of Asian revolutionaries. By analyzing texts and textual cross references, I can observe the functioning and impact of networks of militants and combatants in the Pacific Ocean.

ANALYSIS



In A and B, I map the references that manuals and articles of military reviews made to Asian texts and combat experiences between the mid-1950s and throughout the 1960s. As shown in A, the texts by Ruiz Novoa and Beebe are among the first to articulate military reflections based on Asian experiences and applicable to other regions of the world. They observed the political role that Chinese, North Korean and North Vietnamese soldiers fulfilled in the civilian sphere through literacy campaigns or in the construction of agricultural terraces while fighting a war; they quote Mao Zedong and refer to the experiences of Colombia, Korea and Indochina.

Cuba and Algeria captured world's attention by demonstrating that it was possible to carry out radical transformations in spaces close to the great Western powers. However, as shown in B, the multiplication of counter-insurgency manuals continued to pay particular attention both to the classic texts on guerrilla warfare and to the combat experiences in Asia. As shown in C, the 1960s were a time of increased frequency of use of the terms insurgency, counterinsurgency, guerrilla, and counter-guerrilla. This change not only coincides with the multiplication of publications devoted to guerrilla and counter-guerrilla warfare, but also with the great world movements provoked by decolonization, the Third World Solidarity and the non-aligned countries.

BUILDING A CORPUS

I've found many of the documents of my corpus in diplomatic and military archives and libraries. Documents were published in different languages and are diverse: insurgent and counter-insurgent manuals, military reports and plans, government directives, military reviews, newspapers, magazines, and radio programs from 1934 (Mao Tse Tung's Strategic Problems of War in China) to 2000 (closed and open order manuals of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC).

AUTHOR

I have a PhD in history at Paris I (CRALMI). My research happens at the intersection of Transnational history, Contemporary history of international relations in Latin America and War Studies. I currently work on

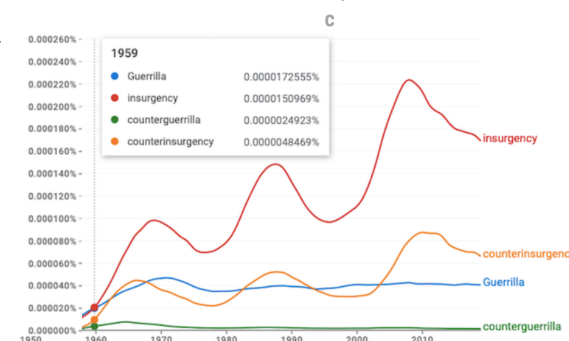
- Trans-pacific circulations of revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries between 1950 and 1979 between South America and the Far East.
- International relations and balances of power in the South American international space between 1820 and 1860



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FIRSTS CONCLUSIONS...

a) The amount of texts dedicated to Popular China and to the Korean and Vietnam Wars in the newspapers and military reviews could demonstrate that Asia seemed to be much more important in the public opinion and in the circles of military reflection of Colombia and Peru than Africa and the Middle East. b) The dissemination of military and political ideas of the Asian revolutionaries in these South American countries was partially done by military officers.