

**Abstract**<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1848129>

References (48)

Citations (2)

[Download This Paper](#) | [Share](#) | [Email](#) | [Add to MyBriefcase](#) | [Purchase Bound Hard Copy](#)

## Land Reform as a Counterinsurgency Policy: Evidence from Colombia

[Michael Albertus](#)

University of Chicago - Department of Political Science

[Oliver Kaplan](#)

University of Denver - Josef Korbel School of International Studies

January 24, 2012

*Journal of Conflict Resolution, Forthcoming***Abstract:**

Can targeted land reform reduce levels of civil war conflict by mitigating the factors that contribute to rural rebellion? This paper uses new micro-level data on land reform and insurgency at the municipal level from Colombia from 1988-2000, a country with high rates of land inequality and informal land ownership, to test whether land reform undercut subsequent guerrilla activity. The reform had two distinct aspects. Politically powerful large landholders blocked most large-scale reform, which resulted primarily in an enduring, low-intensity and geographically dispersed reform that spurred low levels of insurgent activity. Larger-scale reforms were only implemented in areas that threatened serious violence and had the potential to harm elite interests, and in these limited areas reform reduced guerrilla activity. This suggests that while land reform can be an effective counterinsurgency policy, it may be politically difficult to implement at a sufficient scale because it threatens the status quo.

**Number of Pages in PDF File:** 50**Keywords:** Insurgency, civil war, Colombia, land reform, land titling

Accepted Paper Series

**Paper statistics**

Abstract Views:	742
Downloads:	156
Download Rank:	105,526
References:	48
Citations:	2

### Suggested Citation

Albertus, Michael and Kaplan, Oliver, Land Reform as a Counterinsurgency Policy: Evidence from Colombia (January 24, 2012). Journal of Conflict Resolution, Forthcoming. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1848129> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1848129>

### Contact Information

**Michael Albertus (Contact Author)**

University of Chicago - Department of Political Science ( [email](#) )  
Chicago, IL 60637  
United States

**Oliver Kaplan**

University of Denver - Josef Korbel School of International Studies ( [email](#) )  
Denver, CO 80208  
United States