Analytical Narrative on Subnational Democracies in Colombia
Clientelism, Government and Public Policy in the Pacific Region
Chapter 5
The Local Democracies Post-agreement: Old Wine in New Vessels?

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Abstract In this chapter, we present a critical reflection on the territorial implications, the impact on democracy, power games, the reconstruction of the concept of nation, and the transformations that civil society will have to assume, in connection with the peace process that took place between the Juan Manuel Santos government and the FARC guerrillas in Havana-Cuba. The reader will find a position couched in the academic debate and with perspective of the conjunctural events that have reaffirmed the need to undertake research that delves into the history of what actually happened and yet has been rendered virtually invisible for many years in the regions. The post-agreement scenario inherited from the peace negotiations, advanced between the government of Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC guerrilla, poses a future full of challenges for the Colombian political regime. Once the internal war has been redefined as the main structural problem of Colombian society, a whole series of threats emerged that were silent under a constant of more than sixty years of armed conflict. The debate about these old-new conflicts that afflict the Colombian democracy is the main object of study of this chapter.

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One of the particularities that a researcher in social sciences must face is that his/her academic projects depend on uncertainties, not only of the political and social conjunctures, but also of the volatile behavior of various individuals and groups. In the logic of academic production, research projects are expensive and sometimes uncertain in their results, which is why a topic or problem, initially thought to serve as a response to the intellectual climate of the moment, can become obsolete or overwhelmed in the discussion that other colleagues have raised for having had greater fortune in the editorial process.

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A. Cendales et al., Analytical Narrative on Subnational Democracies in Colombia, SpringerBriefs in Economics, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-13009-1_5

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