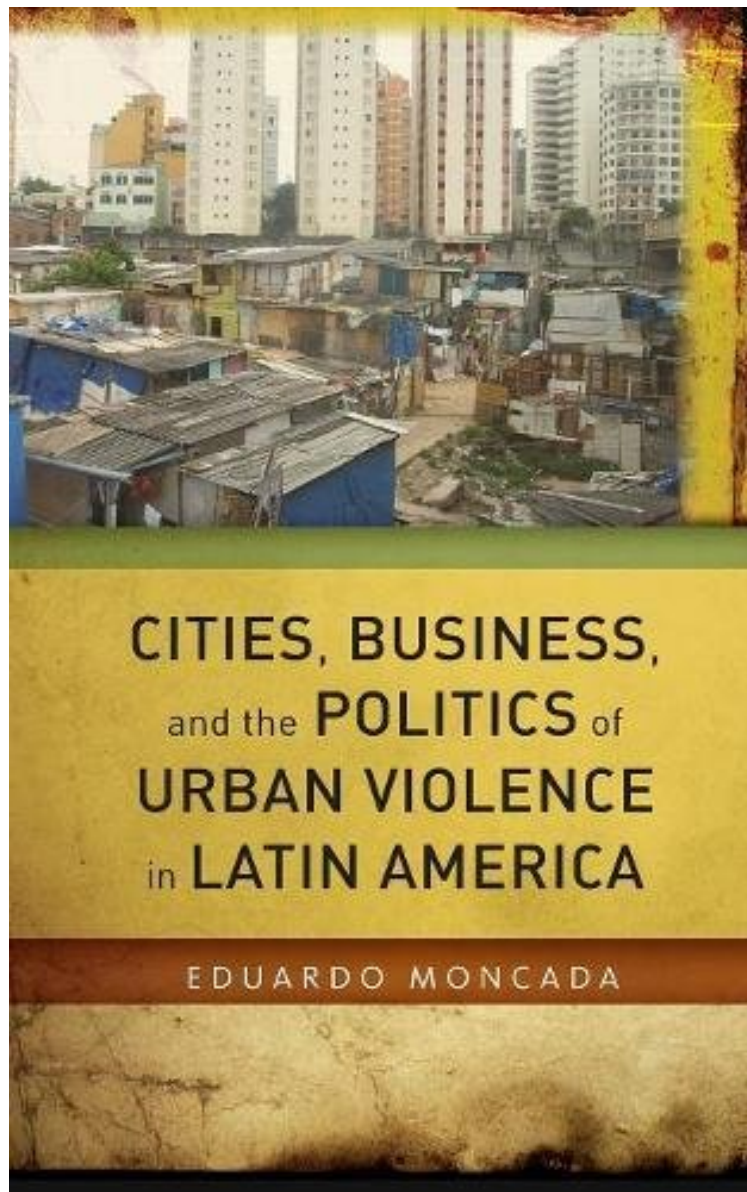


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Cities, Business, and the Politics of Urban Violence in Latin America

Eduardo Moncada

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Eduardo Moncada : Cities, Business, and the Politics of Urban Violence in Latin America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cities, Business, and the Politics of Urban Violence in Latin America:

This book analyzes and explains the ways in which major developing world cities respond to the challenge of urban violence. The study shows how the political projects that cities launch to confront urban violence are shaped by the interaction between urban political economies and patterns of armed territorial control. It introduces business as a pivotal actor in the politics of urban violence, and argues that how business is organized within cities and its linkages to local governments impacts whether or not business supports or subverts state efforts to stem and prevent urban violence. A focus on city mayors finds that the degree to which politicians rely upon clientelism to secure and maintain power influences whether they favor responses to violence that perpetuate or weaken local political exclusion. The book builds a new typology of patterns of armed territorial control within cities, and shows that each poses unique challenges and opportunities for confronting urban violence. The study develops sub-national comparative analyses of puzzling variation in the institutional outcomes of the politics of urban violence across Colombia's three principal cities—Medellin, Cali, and Bogota—and over time within each. The book's main findings contribute to research on violence, crime, citizen security, urban development, and comparative political economy. The analysis demonstrates that the politics of urban violence is a powerful new lens on the broader question of who governs in major developing world cities.

"Urban violence carries with it profound human, social, and economic costs--and it can vary with dramatic swings that puzzle citizens, scholars, and politicians alike. With *Cities, Business, and the Politics of Urban Violence in Latin America*, Eduardo Moncada provides an extremely insightful contribution to our understanding of this phenomenon, which drives elections and debates in cities well beyond Latin America ... the book provides key lessons for scholars interested in violence and urban issues, regardless of their regional focus."--Eleonora Pasotti, *Journal of Politics*"The stubbornly high crime rate afflicting Latin America ... has been met with an equally frustrating inability to curb it. Assessing the range of actors and policies responsible for this failure in Colombia's three main cities, Eduardo Moncada's book zeroes in on the relationship between local government and business, creating an explanatory framework that is both clearly formulated and historically grounded ... This book, deeply historical and clearly presented, demonstrates the utility of understanding the full trajectory of reform to know how it might fare in other cities."--Mark Ungar, *Latin American Politics and Society*"This book is a consummate piece of deliberate and nuanced social science scholarship. It is carefully crafted, rich with analytic importance and built upon a research design that should be much more thoroughly used in political science today. The comparative method, which recognises cities (rightly) as sites of power and agency, is a substantial contribution to ongoing debates to the discipline and the study of Latin America. In addition, I find Moncada's work to be a very welcome qualitative and locally situated contribution in a field that increasingly side-steps larger questions of context in favour of method. Moncada's contribution is, then, substantial in two ways. He offers us important new knowledge about the role of elites as a lever for effective policy, and a diligent and situated method for answering pressing comparative urban questions that rightly does not take 'the State' as a normative departure point. I eagerly recommend this book to colleagues and students in Latin American studies and beyond." - Graham Denyer Willis, *Journal of Latin American Studies*

About the Author Eduardo Moncada is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, Columbia University.