

0. PABLO ESCOBAR and the WAR on DRUGS - Story  
Preface

1. YOUNG PABLO ESCOBAR

2. PABLO ESCOBAR BECOMES a DRUG TRADER

3. PABLO ESCOBAR - LOCAL HERO

4. PABLO ESCOBAR - THE PEOPLE'S LEADER

5. PABLO ESCOBAR and NATIONAL POLITICS

6. PABLO ESCOBAR - MURDER and MAYHEM

**7. PABLO ESCOBAR and the WAR on DRUGS**

8. PABLO ESCOBAR - A DOUBLE LIFE

9. PABLO ESCOBAR - NARCO TERRORISM

10. PABLO ESCOBAR SURRENDERS and ESCAPES

11. PABLO ESCOBAR - LIFE UNRAVELS

12. PABLO ESCOBAR in the EYES of HIS FAMILY



This AP/World Wide Photos image depicts a DEA agent guarding 5,137 pounds of cocaine captured from a Panamanian ship which had docked in Miami, Florida. Fair Use.

Fighting back, to protect himself and his illegal enterprise from the net of America's "War on Drugs," Pablo Escobar relied on bribes to low-level and high-level government employees. His sister, Luz Maria, recalls:

*I guess Pablo had money for every security organization. He had money for the doorman up to the general. (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)*

He also had money for planes to transport himself, his entourage and his heaps of cocaine. Jaime Gaviria tells us those planes were located in many different places:

*Four or five planes with friends landed. Some came, some went, we saw all that and it was they who were later called the Cartel. In Pablo's hanger there were three helicopters, two Cheyenne, one Navajo [types of planes], 5, 6, or 7 planes, that was in Medellin. I didn't know what was going on in in Bogota, Manizales, Cali, or Panama, or any other part of the world. That was incredible. (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)*

While some Americans—like DEA agents Steve Murphy and Javier Pena—were assigned to "find Escobar," other Americans were training Pablo's aviation mechanics how to maintain his fleet of planes.

Was Escobar connected to other crime lords throughout the world? Jaime says the answer to that question is yes:

*Pablo was connected with every mafia in the world: Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama - and - down in the Southern Cone together with Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, he had great power worldwide. He wasn't a silly rookie. Pablo - he was some character - like a president of any country in the world. (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)*

There was a newspaper, however, whose reporters dared to question, or oppose, Escobar's ongoing immunity (which allowed him to remain a free man despite his crimes). *El Espectador* was totally against Pablo.

Escobar wasted no time in fighting back, alleging the paper (and its journalists) were part of the country's establishment:

*The newspaper El Espectador that represents the Colombian oligarchy ... such journalism distorts the news and turns it into a cheap and harmful poison attacking people. I didn't want to be hard on El Espectador, but you have seen the lies written about our programs. ("Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)*

In 1986, when a director of the newspaper was murdered, Escobar was accused of the crime. A few months later, the building which housed *El Espectador* exploded.

Many people believed that Escobar, or his criminal organization, was behind the murder and explosion.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PABLO-ESCOBAR-and-the-WAR-on-DRUGS-Pablo-Escobar-Narcos>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PABLO-ESCOBAR-and-the-WAR-on-DRUGS-Pablo-Escobar-Narcos>