

# Killing Pablo Escobar



**Killing Pablo Escobar** marked a significant turning point in the war on drugs and the fight against organized crime in Colombia. Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, often referred to as the "King of Cocaine," was one of the most notorious drug lords in history, leading the Medellín Cartel and responsible for the production and distribution of vast quantities of cocaine in the United States and beyond. His reign of terror, which included a series of violent acts against rivals, law enforcement, and even civilians, made him a prime target for both Colombian authorities and the United States government. This article delves into the events leading up to Escobar's death, the impact of his criminal empire, and the aftermath of his assassination.

## The Rise of Pablo Escobar

Pablo Escobar was born on December 1, 1949, in Rionegro, Colombia. He grew up in a modest family and quickly turned to a life of crime. His early ventures included petty theft and the sale of contraband cigarettes, but he soon moved on to more lucrative opportunities in the drug trade.

## The Formation of the Medellín Cartel

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Escobar played a pivotal role in establishing the Medellín Cartel. This organization became one of the most powerful drug trafficking operations in history, dominating the cocaine trade in the United States. The cartel's rise can be attributed to several factors:

1. Corruption: Escobar used bribes to gain influence over law enforcement and government officials, allowing him to operate with impunity.
2. Violence: The Medellín Cartel was notorious for its brutal tactics, including assassinations and bombings, to eliminate rivals and instill fear in the population.
3. Innovation: Escobar was an early adopter of new smuggling techniques, including the use of submarines and small aircraft to transport cocaine.

By the early 1990s, the Medellín Cartel was responsible for supplying an estimated 80% of the cocaine entering the United States.

## **The War on Drugs Intensifies**

As Escobar's power grew, so did the efforts to bring him down. The Colombian government, supported by the United States, initiated a concerted campaign against the Medellín Cartel. This period was marked by violence, as Escobar retaliated against law enforcement and rivals.