

Fujimori: weighing pluses and minuses

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Fujimori is admired as well as hated in Peru. Here's how Peruvians generally see the upside and the downside of his 10-year presidency:

PROS:

- Ended the four-digit inflation he inherited from his predecessor and restored confidence in the economy.
- Wiped out the Maoist Shining Path insurgency, which had taken the lives of thousands of Peruvians and appeared increasingly close to seizing power.

CONS:

- Allowed his closest adviser, intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos, to install a network of corruption that drained hundreds of millions of dollars needed to develop the impoverished nation.
- Intimidated political opponents, made a legally questionable bid to seek a third presidential term, and, according to the charges in his trial next month, authorized the use of death squads to kill suspected Shining Path supporters.