Abstract
This article examines the dispute between two powers: the Catholic Church and the liberal state, generated as a result of the enactment in 1870 of a secular education reform, which became known as the Organic Act on Public Education. Regulations that became the epicenter of tensions and disputes between Church and State, which involved different sectors of Colombian society. This situation was not outside the Colombian Caribbean region in this struggle had its particular dynamics that involved actors in regional and local policy. They built a speech on a topic along the republican has been debated in our country. This article takes a look at this process, which is discussed especially the case of Magdalena, one of the three sovereign states that existed in the region during the federal period.

Keywords
Educational reform, Catholic Church, secularism, liberalism, Colombian Caribbean, state of Magdalena, conservatism, schools, sovereignties.