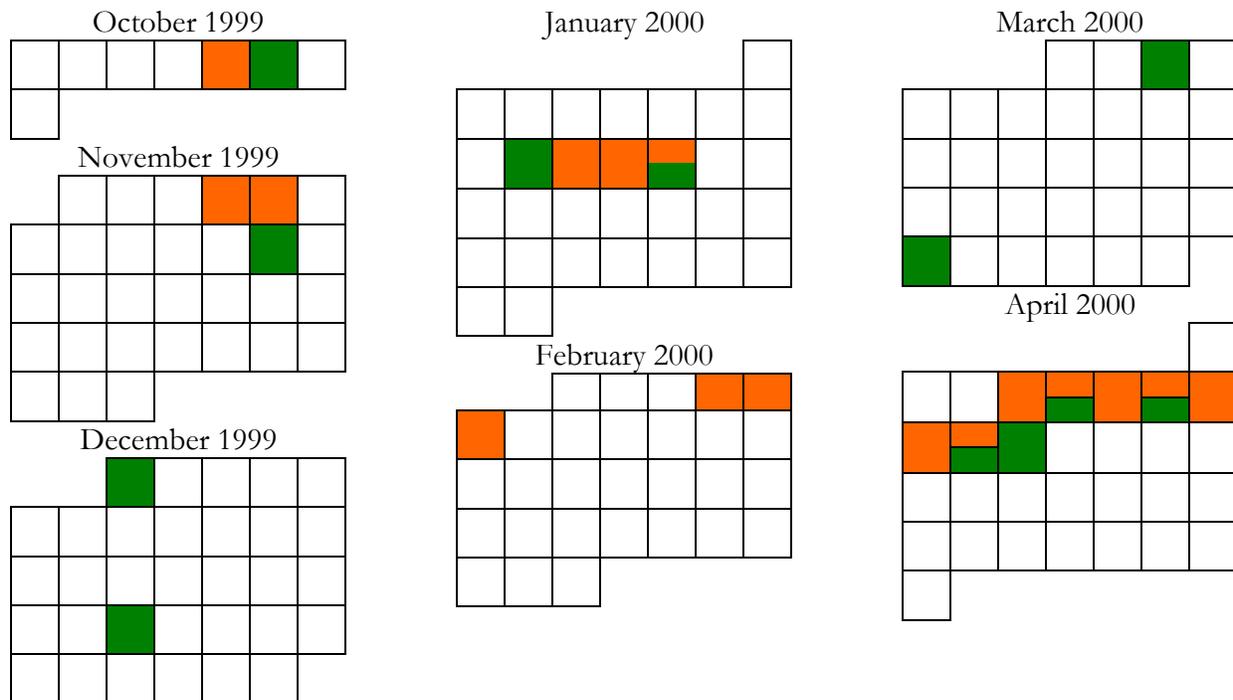


Figure 1: Chronology of events in the Water War



The major events of the conflict can largely be broken down into moments of *concerted public pressure*, exercised through blockades, and moments of *demonstrating the broad backing* behind the movement, through mass meetings, cabildos, assemblies, and an unofficial referendum. In the following brief chronology of the Water War, orange and green highlight these two moments: orange for exerting pressure and green for demonstrating a mandate.

October 28: Rural blockades led by the Regantes the along Cochabamba–Oruro highway

October 29: Multisectoral assembly calls for revoking Law 2029 and annulling the Aguas del Tunari contract.

November 4–5: Rural blockades led by the Regantes and periurban Water Committees along Cochabamba–Oruro, Sacaba, and Valle Alto highways.

November 12: Assembly of Representatives of Provincial and Cercado Organizations meets, de-recognizes the Civic Committee, and

finds the Coordinadora for the Defense of Water and Life.

December 1: Protest of first rate hikes in Plaza 14 de Septiembre

December 22: Coordinadora protest, joined by transport and education workers and FEJUVE.

January 10: The Coordinadora organizes assembly in Plaza 14 de Septiembre

January 11–13: Grand Blockade for Civil Dignity, the first civic strike, is organized by the Coordinadora and, on January 11 alone, by the Civic Committee.

January 13: Cabildo in Plaza 14 de Septiembre
The Cabildo ratifies the rejection of the Aguas del Tunari contract and Law 2029, and declares Manfred Reyes Villa, Edgar Montaña (former president of the Civic Committee) and other officials “traitors to the region” for their role in the contract. Marchers stone the Civic Committee offices, along with stores that did not observe the strike, the Municipal Casa de Cultura, and other public offices. Negotiations involve the Coordinadora, but it does not sign without public backing.

February 4–6: The Coordinadora calls for a blockade-free gathering in the central square, under the banner “peaceful takeover of Cochabamba.” However, the government deploys police around the city center to frustrate the gathering. On the streets of downtown, riot police and protesters face off in an open battle for downtown. The government concedes that the rate hike will be annulled.

March 3: Coordinadora organizes protest march.

March 26: Coordinadora organizes consulta popular, an unofficial referendum on water issues that draws the participation of over 50,000 people.

April 4–10: Coordinadora organizes a third civic strike, the “Great Battle”

April 4: Blockades in rural and periurban areas.

April 5: Converging marches into a cabildo in Plaza 14 de Septiembre, which decides on the “peaceful takeover” of the Civic Committee offices and Semapa headquarters. Limited property destruction at both sites.

April 6: Public occupation of the Plaza. Late evening negotiations are interrupted by police intervention evicting protesters from the plaza and arresting Coordinadora delegates for several hours.

April 7: Mass march in support of the Coordinadora. Coordinadora leaders are arrested. Cabildo decides on indefinite civil strike.

April 8: Banzer’s government announces a state of siege in the country at 10:30 am. Thousands mobilize in defiance of a curfew and ban of meetings. Government troops open fire as widespread downtown confrontations rage. Victor Hugo Daza, a 17-year-old not participating in the protests, is shot dead; his body is carried to Plaza 14 de Septiembre.

April 10: A new mass march reinforces protester control over the central Plaza. The government and Coordinadora sign an agreement agree to the reversion of Semapa to public control and the modifications to Law 2029 demanded by the Coordinadora.

April 11: Law 2066 modifies 36 articles of Law 2029, recognizing the role of neighborhood councils, water committees, cooperatives, and traditional rights (*usos y costumbres*) in water management.