

Study Guide
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Forum: General Assembly/ Drug and crime council
Issue: Mexican drug war
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Introduction:

In the general assembly we would like to bring up the awareness of the ongoing drug war in Mexico.

Mexico is home to one of the world's largest and most sophisticated drug networks, as well as weak and corrupt law enforcement institutions. Mexico's drug-related organized crime groups began their expansion of operations in the late 1980s after the dismantling of Colombia's drug cartels. In the absence of Colombian drug suppliers, Mexican cartels branched outside of their original roles as couriers for Colombian gangs to wholesalers. The biggest fish in the Mexican drug war is the most infamous, known as 'El Chapo' who has made some major movements in the drug industry is currently on trial in the US and many other drug kingpins have either been killed or jailed. Has the tide now turned in Mexico's brutal drug war?

How is it affecting other countries and especially the UN? It is just a matter of time when it will intervene the whole world.

Definition key:

Cartel:

is a group of apparently independent producers whose goal is to increase their collective profits by means of price fixing, limiting supply, or other restrictive practices. Cartels typically control selling prices, but some are organized to control the prices of purchased inputs. Antitrust laws attempt to deter or forbid cartels.

Drug cartel: is any criminal organization with the intention of supplying drug trafficking operations.

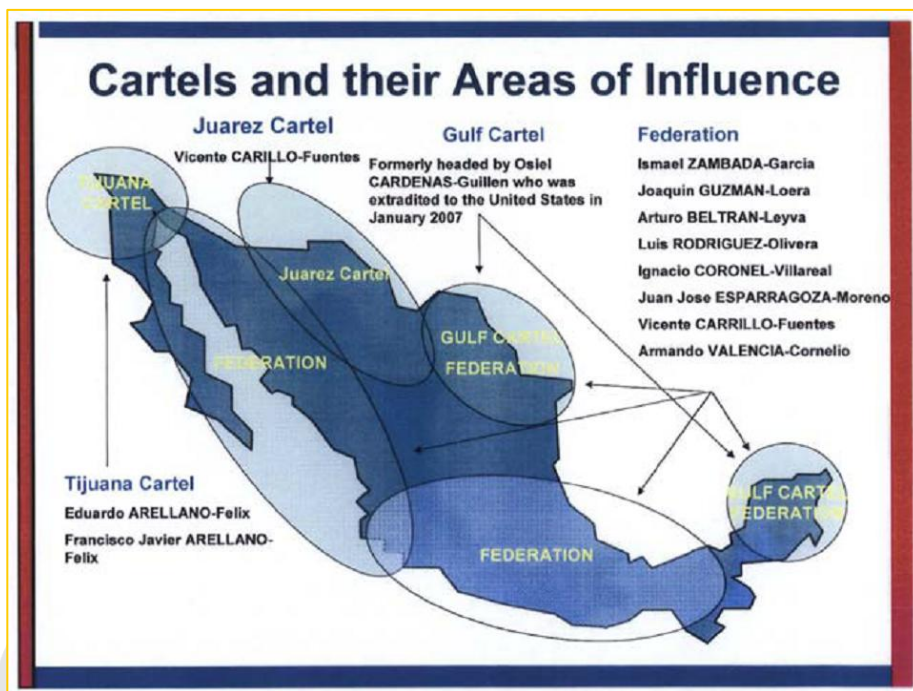
Drug trafficking: is a global black market dedicated to the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Most jurisdictions prohibit trade, except under license, of many types of drugs through the use of drug prohibition laws.



Background:

First Mexican traffickers' dates to early 30's of 20th century mostly due to American prohibition, first traffickers were smuggling alcohol. During World War II and 50's there is a decay in trafficking. All changes in late 60's. The 1960s brought us tie-dye, sit-ins and fears of large-scale drug use. Hippies smoked marijuana, kids in ghettos pushed heroin, and Timothy Leary, a Harvard professor, urged the world to try LSD. In popular imagination, the 1960s were the heyday of illegal drug use. With Richard Nixon in charge of the US presidential duty there is little attention given to drugs as a difficulty. In Mexico people (mostly within borders with US) are putting attention to a new plant called 'Marijuana', that cost a lot of money in the US. With coca plants migrating from South America, there is very few people actually planting it. In late 70's in Mexico first cartels are being established, but it's not cartels like we know today. They operate on way simpler base. All changes in 1980 with Sinaloan Kartel. Mexican cartels created a so-called union to make it easier to traffick drugs to US and to make bigger profits. Mostly, they were smuggling marijuana, later they started with heroin after that they began to operate as a transshipment for South American cartels smuggling cocaine due to Mexico's location. In that time there were very few Mexicans against drugs because almost every family was making a fortune. Throughout 80's and 90's several drug leaders were killed or arrested mostly due to US interest, Mexican government was passive about this issue and almost every ordinary cop was corrupted, corruption even span to the highest places in federal police. Everything changes in 2006 with presidential election where right winged candidate Felipe Calderón won election. It was huge success for right winged party called PAN. After 70 years ruling party has changed in democratic Mexico. On December 11, 2006, the newly elected President Felipe Calderón dispatched 6,500 Mexican soldiers to Michoacán, his home state, to end drug violence there. This action is regarded as the first major retaliation made against the cartel violence and is generally viewed as the starting point of the Mexican Drug War between the government and the drug cartels. As time passed, Calderón continued to escalate his anti-drug campaign, in which there are now about 45,000 troops involved along with state and federal police forces.

Drug cartel in Mexico:



Drug cartels have operated in Mexico for well over a century and until not long ago without significant violence occurring. Since 2006, however, when the Mexican government started to actively prosecute cartels with military force, violence has erupted to unseen levels. As the efforts against drug cartels increased, so too did the killings, mostly of drug cartel members, and expansion of cartels into new areas.

Before 2005, drug cartels operated in about 20% of the 2456 municipalities in the country, but by 2010, cartels had spread to nearly 40%. The dramatic expansion of drug cartels into new territories provides a unique opportunity to assess the immediate socio-economic impact of cartels suddenly moving into new areas which had never previously experienced drug trafficking or drug violence.

Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán:

is a Mexican suspected drug lord and former leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, a criminal organization named after the Mexican Pacific coast state of Sinaloa where it was formed. He entered the drug trade as a teenager.

Guzmán's Sinaloa Cartel transports multi-ton cocaine shipments from Colombia through Mexico to the United States, the world's top consumer and has distribution cells throughout the U.S. The organization has been involved in the production, smuggling, and distribution of Mexican methamphetamine, marijuana, ecstasy and heroin throughout America and Europe. By the time of his 2014 arrest, Guzmán had exported more drugs to the United States than any other trafficker, including more than 500 tons (500,000 kg) of cocaine in the U.S. alone.

He is mainly known for his violent actions (he claimed in 2014 that he has killed 2,000-3,000 people)

and powerful influence (as he was able to continue the Sinaloa Cartel in prison through bribes and later, he has successfully orchestrated daring escapes from maximum-security prisons in his home country).

The Gulf Cartel: is a criminal syndicate and drug trafficking organization in Mexico and perhaps one of the oldest organized crime groups in the country. It is currently based in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, directly across the U.S. border from Brownsville, Texas.

The Beltrán Leyva cartel: (BLO) was a Mexican drug cartel and organized crime syndicate, headed by the five Beltrán Leyva brothers: Marcos Arturo, Carlos, Alfredo, Mario Alberto and Héctor. Founded as a branch of the Sinaloa Cartel, the Beltrán Leyva cartel was responsible for transportation and wholesaling of cocaine, heroin and marijuana (and the production of the last two). It controlled numerous drug trafficking corridors, and engaged in human smuggling, money laundering, extortion, kidnapping, murder and gun-running.

The BLO was one of Mexico's most powerful drug cartel that had effectively infiltrated the ranks of various Mexican government agencies and Mexico's Interpol

The Sinaloa Cartel: is an international drug trafficking, money laundering, and organized crime syndicate established during the mid-1980s, the 'Federation' was partially splintered when the Beltrán-Leyva brothers broke apart from the Sinaloa Cartel.

The United States Intelligence Community considers the Sinaloa Cartel "the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world" According to the U.S. Attorney General, the Sinaloa Cartel was responsible for importing into the United States and distributing nearly 200 tons of cocaine and large amounts of heroin between 1990 and 2008.

As of 2017, the Sinaloa Cartel is the most active drug cartel involved in smuggling illicit drugs into the United States and trafficking them throughout the United States.

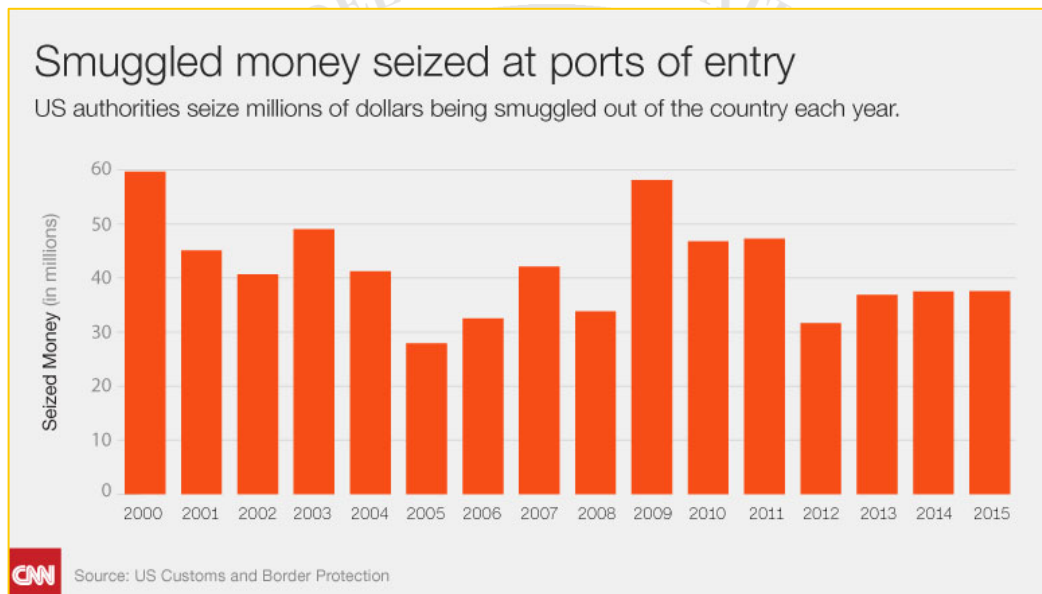
"El Chapo" (Shorty) is the boss of the Sinaloa cartel. In his last-known photo, the 5-foot 6-inch son of a poor rural family wears a schoolboy haircut and a plain-coloured puff-coat. Despite having virtually no formal education, Forbes estimates Joaquin Guzman Loera is worth \$1 billion. This month the U.S. Treasury declared him the most influential trafficker in the world. He has eluded capture for more than a decade, is known for coming up with original ways to smuggle, like putting cocaine in fire extinguishers, and is suspected of helping Mexicans and Colombians launder as much as \$20 billion in drug profits.

Los Zetas Cartel - Comprised of former elite members of the Mexican military. Initially they worked as hit men for the Gulf Cartel, before becoming independent. The group has a reputation for being particularly savage and is known for massacres, killing civilians, leaving body parts in public places and posting killings on the internet. The group's main asset is not drugs, but organized violence, including theft, extortion, human smuggling and kidnapping, according to the Congressional Research Report.

The drug income:

There are seven cartels in Mexico vying for control of smuggling routes into the United States, a bountiful sellers' paradise. South of the border it costs \$2,000 to produce a kilo of cocaine from leaf to lab, the DEA said. In the U.S., a kilo's street value ranges from \$34,000 to \$120,000, depending on the ZIP code where it's pushed.

U.S. authorities estimate that the Mexican drug cartels send between \$19 billion and \$29 billion back to Mexico from the United States, according to the Department of Justice. Authorities successfully seize millions of dollars each year that are being smuggled back south to Mexico from the United States. Still, it is a fraction of the estimated profits for the cartels.



Drug violence:

Mexican authorities have been waging a bloody war against drug trafficking organizations for more than a decade with limited success. Independent researchers estimate that since 2006, the year President Felipe Calderon launched an intensive counternarcotic campaign, drug cartels have contributed to the killings of more than one hundred thousand people, including politicians, students, and journalists. There were nearly twenty-three thousand reported homicides in 2016.

Drug-related violence in Mexico and other Central American countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have caused an unprecedented number of people—an estimated 500,000 people each year according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees—to flee into Mexico in an attempt to reach the United States.

OPPONENTS:

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: The Mexican cartels wanted help from Russian Federation in form of the weapons to defend themselves from the U.S. According to multiple sources, drug users in Russia have numbered between 7.3 to 8.5 million for the past several years. Indirect work between cartels and Russia as no longer hidden.

COLUMBIA: This country warns of an increase of Mexican immigrants in Columbia conducting drug related criminal activities which are grading criminality in whole country but mostly in Bogota.

Criminal groups have flown to Bogota, Columbia to hide themselves and they started working on their new job connected with shipment of cocaine.

HONDURAS: Long, one of the poorest countries in Latin America is now occupied by criminal groups which are mostly being made in Columbia by Mexican immigrants. They are trying to move the criminal organisation into newer countries.

Recently, Honduras has become a strategic point of moving drugs to the U.S. The Honduras police is one of the most corrupted and mistrusted police forces in Latin America.

NICARAGUA: In Nicaragua are trumpeting their counternarcotic efforts, which they say have kept cartels out of the country. But a series of prosecutions of alleged crime bosses shows that sophisticated, large-scale drug trafficking groups do indeed operate in the Central American nation.

UNITED KINGDOM, NETHERLAND: Drug cartels of Mexico are in streets of European countries. Mexico's cartel groups have recently tried to destabilize European presence in protection.

ROMANIA: Mexico's cartel has formed an alliance with a Romanian criminal group because of quick capability to import large amounts of cocaine into the UK on a weekly basis.

BELIZE: Mexican cartel found a new way how to do a quick shipment to the different countries through Belize because the way from Honduras has been already found.

This place is lucrative just because this is the only English-speaking nation in Caribbean area.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

Mexico has lost. They cannot overcome the economic might of the drug-purchasing residents of the United States. The United States refuses to fully fund the war effort and impose the legal framework to help those who are addicted to stop through intervention or prison.

In our committee, we would like to find a solution on how to prevent drug business and it's spreading through the World. Also find solutions to people that are heavily dependent on drug trade. Delegates should focus on the most peaceful and diplomatic solutions to this problem.

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