

The Globalization of Mexican Cartels

Mackenzie Casey

What are Mexican cartels?

Criminal organizations founded in Mexico that operate in everything ranging from illicit drugs, arms smuggling, kidnapping, fuel theft, money laundering and more.

Timeline of most influential cartels

Guadalajara Cartel (1970s-1990s)

Sinaloa Cartel (1987-present)

Remnant of Guadalajara cartel

Los Zetas (1999-present)

Jalisco Nueva Generación Cartel (2009-present)

Is the situation being handled or getting worse?

Despite political and military actions taken by both governments, Mexican cartels have successfully stayed ahead of the U.S. and Mexico's government while continuing to expand their reach and inventory.

Why have the cartels not been stopped?

- Flawed policies
- Endless money and influence
- Little to no moral code
- The governments are attempting to bandage a bullet wound.

Key policies/acts used by governments and their aftermath.

- Prohibition of Alcohol 1919
 - Guadalajara Cartel
- Operation Condor & Intercept 1970s
 - Short-lived
- The “Kingpins Strategy” 1990s
 - Increase in homicide rates
 - More cartels
- Plan Colombia 1999

Policy 1: The Harrison Narcotics Tax Act and the Volstead Act: 1919-1933

Purpose:

- Decrease the number of addicts of drugs and alcohol
- Regulate who received drugs and when-only physicians had the ability to prescribe drugs.

Cause/Effects:

- Black market
- Rise of Guadalajara Cartel

Guadalajara Cartel

- Founded in 1970s by Quintero and Gallardo
- Grandfather of modern Mexican cartels
- **Kiki Camarena Case**
 - Rise of DEA
 - Kingpin Strategy
- Capture of Quintero and fall of great cartel
- Split into multiple cartels/much violence

More than simply drug traffickers

- Kidnapping
- Drug trafficking
- Army for hire
- Money laundering
- Smuggling arms
- Fuel theft

Policy 2: The “Kingpins Strategy”

Purpose:

- Developed by the DEA to “weaken, dismantle and destroy” drug trafficking and criminal organizations
- Targets dangerous leadership and management to take down the full operation
- Sought to enable activities such as production, transportation, distribution and finances (Royal United Services Institute)

Cause/Effect:

- Increased violence
- More cartels

Sinaloa Cartel

Largest and most powerful drug trafficking organization

Originally lead by 'El Chapo' Joaquin Guzmán

Hold a lot of power over portions of the military and federal police to maintain control

Los Zetas

Originally an army for hire for the infamous Gulf cartel

Became their own organization in 2010

Known for unprecedented violence and brutality

Operates in protection for criminal organizations, human smuggling, arms trafficking, and extortion

Policy 3: “Hugs, not Bullets”

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador claims to run a different administration than past yet has not introduced a single policy to stop the CJNG cartel

When questioned by a reporter about the cartel’s latest violent act he responded, “We will fight them with intelligence and not force. We will not declare war.”

Inaction and fear does not inspire change; it simply enables evil’s agenda

Jalisco Nueva Generación Cartel

- One of the newest and deadliest cartels to date, CJNG is led by Nemesio Oseguera Ramos, alias “El Mencho”
- CJNG was born after the Milenio Cartel, finance managers for the Sinaloa cartel, split after the capture of their then-leader, Óscar Orlando Nava Valencia, alias “El Lobo”
- The two groups that formed were “La Resistencia” and “Torcidos”
- The Torcidos are now what is known as CJNG

Biblical Perspective on Fighting Evil

Ephesians 6:12

- For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Who is our enemy?

- We live in a fallen world, a world in desperate need of Christ. Improved and efficient policy will help but evil will continue to reign until Christ returns.

Possible Solutions to Stopping Mexican Cartels

- More Christians in positions to create policy and inspire change
- Policies and actions that attack the beast from the root

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