

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war

****A Narco History: How the United States and Mexico Jointly Created the Mexican Drug War****

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war is a story woven through decades of complex political decisions, economic interests, and social upheaval. To understand the violent conflict that has gripped Mexico for years, it's essential to look back at the intertwined histories of both nations—how drug policies, bilateral relations, and covert collaborations helped shape the crisis now known as the Mexican Drug War.

This narrative is not about one country acting alone; rather, it's about a shared responsibility. The United States and Mexico, through a series of actions and reactions, inadvertently set the stage for a conflict that has cost thousands of lives and reshaped the landscape of both nations. Let's delve into this intricate narco history, exploring how decades of cooperation, conflict, and policy failures contributed to the ongoing violence.

The Roots of the Mexican Drug War: A Shared Legacy

The Mexican Drug War didn't erupt overnight. Its origins trace back to a time when drug trafficking was a relatively low-profile criminal enterprise. Both Mexico and the United States played pivotal roles, sometimes consciously, sometimes inadvertently, in creating the conditions for widespread violence and cartel dominance.

Early Drug Trade and U.S. Demand

One of the key drivers behind the rise of drug trafficking in Mexico has always been the massive demand for illegal substances in the United States. From the mid-20th century onward, American consumers fueled the market for heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and later methamphetamines.

Mexico's geographic position made it the perfect transit and production point for drugs heading north. Yet, during the early phases, Mexico was mostly a corridor rather than the primary producer. The U.S. was the largest consumer, and its policies often focused on interdiction rather than addressing root

causes like addiction or demand reduction.

U.S. Intervention and Prohibition Policies

The United States' war on drugs officially began in the 1970s under President Nixon, but its roots go deeper. Policies aimed at prohibition and interdiction intensified over the decades, pushing traffickers to adapt and diversify their routes and methods.

These crackdowns often led to unintended consequences. As the U.S. increased border security and law enforcement efforts, Mexican traffickers evolved from small-scale smugglers into powerful cartel leaders. This escalation was not met with a parallel increase in economic or social development in Mexico's border regions, leaving local populations vulnerable to cartel influence.

Mexico's Role: Corruption, Politics, and Economic Pressures

Mexico's internal dynamics cannot be overlooked in this narrative. While the United States focused on interdiction and enforcement, Mexico faced its own challenges, including corruption, political instability, and economic inequality—all fertile ground for cartels to grow.

Corruption and Complicity Within Mexican Institutions

One of the most tragic aspects of this narco history is how deeply cartel influence permeated Mexican institutions. Police forces, politicians, and even military personnel were often bribed or coerced, creating a system where criminal organizations operated with impunity.

This corruption was not born in isolation; it was exacerbated by systemic poverty and lack of opportunities. Many officials found themselves caught between serving the public and succumbing to cartel pressures. This blurred the lines of law enforcement and governance, making coordinated efforts to combat drug trafficking incredibly difficult.

The Economic Dimension: Poverty and Opportunity

Economic disparities in Mexico played a significant role in the drug war's development. Many impoverished communities, especially along the U.S.-Mexico border, saw the drug trade as one of the few viable means of survival.

The demand for drugs in the U.S. created lucrative incentives for local farmers and traffickers, who found themselves caught in a cycle of dependency on the narcotics economy. Without substantial economic reforms or alternative opportunities, this pattern was difficult to break.

The Turning Point: The Joint U.S.-Mexico Strategy and Its Fallout

By the late 1990s and early 2000s, it became clear that piecemeal efforts were insufficient. The two nations began to collaborate more directly, but this cooperation had mixed results and sometimes worsened the conflict.

Plan Mérida: A Bilateral Security Initiative

Launched in 2008, Plan Mérida was a landmark agreement aimed at combating drug trafficking and organized crime. The United States pledged billions in aid, training, and equipment to Mexican security forces, hoping to stem the tide of violence and drug flow.

While well-intentioned, Plan Mérida also intensified military involvement in drug enforcement. This militarization often resulted in increased violence, as cartels fought back fiercely against government crackdowns. Innocent civilians frequently found themselves caught in the crossfire, exacerbating public distrust and social instability.

Unintended Consequences: Fragmentation of Cartels

One of the most critical outcomes of joint U.S.-Mexico efforts was the fragmentation of large cartels into smaller, more violent factions. When authorities targeted major cartel leaders, power vacuums emerged, leading to turf wars and escalated brutality.

This splintering made it harder to negotiate peace or manage violence, as dozens of groups competed for control. The drug war became more decentralized and unpredictable, challenging both countries' law enforcement agencies.

How Demand, Policy, and Geography Continue to Shape the Conflict

Even today, the legacy of this narco history continues to influence the Mexican Drug War. Understanding the ongoing dynamics helps explain why the

conflict persists and what potential paths forward might look like.

U.S. Drug Demand and Border Dynamics

The United States remains the largest consumer of illicit drugs trafficked through Mexico. Despite shifts in drug preferences, from cocaine to methamphetamine to synthetic opioids like fentanyl, the demand remains staggering.

The geographic reality of the shared border also complicates enforcement. Smugglers adapt quickly, using tunnels, drones, and corrupt officials to move drugs. The sheer length and complexity of the border make total interdiction nearly impossible.

The Importance of Addressing Root Causes

Many experts argue that without addressing the root causes—economic inequality, corruption, addiction, and demand—the drug war will continue in cycles of violence. Cross-border cooperation needs to expand beyond enforcement to include social programs, education, and economic development.

Lessons from History for Future Policy

The joint creation of the Mexican Drug War teaches us that unilateral approaches rarely work. Policies must be holistic, considering the socio-economic realities on both sides of the border. Transparency, accountability, and community involvement are crucial to breaking the cycle of violence and corruption.

Reflecting on a Shared Responsibility

A narco history how the United States and Mexico jointly created the Mexican drug war is a sobering reminder of how interconnected policies and actions can have far-reaching consequences. The drug war is not just Mexico's problem or the U.S.'s problem—it is a shared challenge that demands cooperative solutions grounded in empathy, pragmatism, and justice.

As both countries continue to grapple with this complex issue, revisiting the history behind the conflict offers valuable lessons. It highlights the importance of collaboration that goes beyond military aid and law enforcement, embracing community resilience, economic opportunity, and reform at every level.

The story of the Mexican Drug War is still unfolding, but understanding its origins allows us to better navigate the road ahead—towards peace, stability, and mutual accountability.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'A Narco History: How the United States and Mexico Jointly Created the Mexican Drug War'?

'A Narco History' explores the historical and political factors involving both the United States and Mexico that contributed to the origins and escalation of the Mexican Drug War.

Who authored 'A Narco History: How the United States and Mexico Jointly Created the Mexican Drug War'?

The book was authored by journalist and historian Ana Arana.

How does 'A Narco History' explain the role of the United States in the Mexican Drug War?

The book discusses how U.S. drug policies, demand for narcotics, and law enforcement strategies have influenced and exacerbated the violence and drug trafficking issues in Mexico.

What historical events are highlighted in 'A Narco History' as pivotal to the creation of the Mexican Drug War?

'A Narco History' highlights events such as the U.S. prohibition era, the rise of drug cartels in Mexico, and bilateral law enforcement cooperation that shaped the drug war.

Does 'A Narco History' suggest that the Mexican Drug War was inevitable?

The book argues that the conflict was not inevitable but was largely shaped by joint policies and actions taken by both the U.S. and Mexican governments.

What impact does 'A Narco History' attribute to U.S.

drug demand on Mexican drug trafficking?

It attributes a significant impact, stating that high demand for narcotics in the U.S. fueled cartel operations and violence in Mexico.

How does 'A Narco History' describe the cooperation between U.S. and Mexican authorities?

The book examines various joint efforts, including intelligence sharing and law enforcement operations, while also critiquing their effectiveness and unintended consequences.

What solutions or alternatives does 'A Narco History' propose to address the Mexican Drug War?

'A Narco History' suggests rethinking drug policies, improving cross-border cooperation, and addressing socio-economic factors to reduce violence and trafficking.

Why is 'A Narco History' considered important for understanding U.S.-Mexico relations?

Because it provides a detailed analysis of how intertwined political, economic, and social factors between the two countries have shaped the drug war and bilateral relations.

How has 'A Narco History' been received by critics and scholars?

The book has been praised for its thorough research, balanced perspective, and insightful analysis into the complexities of the Mexican Drug War and U.S.-Mexico collaboration.

Additional Resources

****A Narco History: How the United States and Mexico Jointly Created the Mexican Drug War****

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war reveals a complex and intertwined geopolitical, economic, and social saga that has shaped one of the most violent and enduring conflicts in modern history. Far from being a simple consequence of domestic policies within Mexico, this drug war emerged as a byproduct of decades of cooperation, confrontation, and unintended consequences stemming from the policies and demands of both nations. Understanding this intricate narrative requires a deep dive into the cross-border dynamics, law enforcement strategies, and socio-political factors that have jointly catalyzed the conflict.

Origins of the Mexican Drug War: A Bilateral Conundrum

The Mexican drug war did not arise in isolation. It evolved as a result of bilateral dynamics between the United States and Mexico, where shifting policies on drug control, trade, and security intersected. From the early 20th century, Mexico served primarily as a transit country for drugs destined for the lucrative U.S. market. Over time, Mexico's role expanded into production and trafficking, intensifying the stakes for both countries.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the United States' War on Drugs aggressively targeted domestic consumption and supply chains, pushing traffickers to seek alternative routes and partnerships. Mexico, with its extensive border and less stringent enforcement, became a critical corridor. However, the U.S. demand for illicit drugs and Mexico's socio-economic conditions created a fertile ground for cartels to flourish. This mutual dependency between supply and demand underpinned the escalation of drug-related violence.

The Role of U.S. Drug Policy and Enforcement

U.S. drug policy has historically prioritized interdiction and criminalization, often focusing on supply-side measures. Programs such as Plan Colombia and later the Merida Initiative were designed to bolster Mexico's capacity to combat drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). However, these efforts frequently had unintended consequences.

The increased pressure on Colombian cocaine producers in the 1990s and 2000s shifted trafficking routes to Mexico, inadvertently empowering Mexican cartels. Simultaneously, U.S. border enforcement intensified, leading to more sophisticated smuggling methods, including tunnels, drones, and clandestine airstrips. Despite billions of dollars invested, drug availability in the U.S. market remained high, underscoring a fundamental flaw in a strategy that did not address demand reduction.

Mexico's Political Landscape and Corruption

Mexico's internal political dynamics and governance issues have played a significant role in how the drug war unfolded. Corruption within law enforcement and political institutions allowed drug cartels to operate with relative impunity. At various times, government officials colluded with cartels for financial gain or political leverage, creating a system where fighting drug trafficking became complicated by entrenched interests.

Moreover, Mexico's attempts to combat drug cartels, particularly under presidents Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón, marked shifts in strategy. Calderón's deployment of military forces in 2006 to confront cartels head-on

escalated violence dramatically. While intended to dismantle cartels, this militarized approach also fragmented criminal organizations, leading to turf wars and increased civilian casualties.

Economic and Social Drivers Behind the Drug War

Beyond policies and enforcement, economic and social factors have fueled the persistence of the Mexican drug war. Poverty, lack of opportunities, and weak social institutions in many regions have made drug trafficking an attractive economic alternative for marginalized populations.

Demand and Supply: An Economic Perspective

The U.S. remains the largest consumer market for illicit drugs, providing a powerful economic incentive for Mexican traffickers. The vast profit margins of drug trafficking have enabled cartels to maintain sophisticated operations, corrupt officials, and recruit members.

On the supply side, rural areas in Mexico often lack viable economic opportunities. Farmers growing opium poppy or marijuana find these crops more lucrative than traditional agriculture. Efforts to eradicate these crops without providing alternative livelihoods have often backfired, exacerbating poverty and resentment.

Impact of the Border and Trade Policies

The U.S.-Mexico border, one of the busiest international frontiers, has been central to the drug trafficking problem. The implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 increased legal cross-border trade but also created new challenges for law enforcement.

While NAFTA boosted economic integration, it did not address illicit trade, which flourished alongside legitimate commerce. Traffickers exploited the high volume of goods crossing the border daily, blending illegal shipments with legal cargo. The complexity of border security measures has often lagged behind traffickers' adaptive strategies.

The Evolution of Cartels: From Smugglers to Paramilitary Organizations

The transformation of drug trafficking organizations into highly organized and violent groups is a crucial dimension of a narco history how the United

States and Mexico jointly created the Mexican drug war. Initially, many cartels operated as smuggling networks, but over time, they evolved into sophisticated entities with military capabilities.

Fragmentation and Violence

The Mexican government's crackdown efforts, supported by U.S. intelligence and funding, unintentionally led to the fragmentation of large cartels into smaller, more violent factions competing for control. This splintering increased the frequency and intensity of violent confrontations, making the conflict more deadly.

Paramilitary Tactics and Influence

Cartels adopted paramilitary tactics, employing heavily armed enforcers and engaging in battles against state forces and rival groups. Their influence expanded beyond drug trafficking into extortion, kidnapping, and infiltration of local governments. This blurred the lines between criminal organizations and quasi-political actors, complicating the security landscape.

Shared Responsibility and the Path Forward

Recognizing the joint role of the United States and Mexico in creating and sustaining the Mexican drug war is essential for crafting effective solutions. The conflict is not merely a Mexican problem; it is a binational issue rooted in shared policies, economic interdependencies, and complex social realities.

Collaborative Strategies and Challenges

Joint efforts like the Merida Initiative aim to enhance cooperation in law enforcement, intelligence sharing, and institution building. However, challenges remain, including sovereignty concerns, human rights issues, and differing priorities between the two nations.

Addressing Root Causes

Long-term resolution requires addressing the root causes of the conflict: reducing drug demand in the U.S., promoting economic development in Mexico, and reforming corrupt institutions. Alternative development programs for farmers, improved social services, and comprehensive drug policy reforms are

critical components.

- **Demand reduction:** Investing in prevention, treatment, and education in the U.S. to curb drug consumption.
- **Economic alternatives:** Supporting sustainable livelihoods in Mexican communities affected by drug cultivation.
- **Institutional reform:** Strengthening rule of law and accountability in Mexico's political and law enforcement sectors.

The trajectory of the Mexican drug war demonstrates the profound consequences of intertwined policies and socio-economic dynamics between two neighboring countries. A narco history how the United States and Mexico jointly created the Mexican drug war offers critical insights for policymakers, scholars, and citizens seeking to understand and ultimately address this enduring crisis.

[A Narco History How The United States And Mexico Jointly Created The Mexican Drug War](#)

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war:

A Narco History Carmen Boullosa, Mike Wallace, 2015

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The 1970s and the Making of the Modern US-Mexico Border Aaron Brown, 2024-07-08 During the late twentieth century, many Americans expressed concern about the security surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border due to the lack of progress in achieving meaningful and effective immigration regulation and an inability to control growing drug trafficking. Despite publicly and privately striving for cooperation on these issues, Mexican and American policymakers struggled to arrive at viable and sustainable solutions. In *The 1970s and the Making of the Modern US-Mexico Border: Fortifying a Frontier*, Aaron Brown analyzes US drug and immigration policies from the 1960s to 1980s, how they applied to Mexico and the border, and how this shaped modern U.S. perceptions of border security. Brown utilizes archival research, newspapers, and other sources to investigate how US policymakers, border residents, and activists shaped policies aimed at eliminating rising crime, economic stagnation, and global insecurity. At a time when the US-Mexico border is again the subject of heated political debate, this book can help readers understand the origins of the current crisis.

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The Course of Mexican History Susan M. Deeds, Michael C. Meyer, William L. Sherman, 2018 Part I. Pre-Columbian Mexico -- The first Mexicans -- Mesoamerica's golden age: the classic period -- Times of trouble: post-classic Mexico -- The rise of the Aztecs -- Aztec society and culture -- Part II. Colliding worlds -- The Spanish invasion -- The settlement of new Spain -- Part III. Living in the viceroyalty -- The imperial system entrenched -- The colonial economy -- The colonial church -- Colonial society: race, ethnicity, class, gender, and identity -- Culture and daily life in New Spain -- Part IV. Reform and reaction: the move to independence -- The Bourbons restructure New Spain -- Society and stress in the late colonial period -- The wars for independence -- The first Mexican

empire -- Part V. The trials of nationhood -- The early Mexican Republic -- Santa Anna, the centralized state, and the war with the United States -- Society and culture in the first half of the nineteenth century -- Part VI. Liberals and conservatives search for something better -- The reform and the French intervention -- The restored republic: nascent modernization -- Society and culture in the middle of the nineteenth century -- Part VII. The modernization of Mexico -- The Porfiriato: order and progress -- The costs of modernization -- Society and culture during the Porfiriato -- Part VIII. The Revolution of 1910 -- Madero and the liberal indictment of the Porfiriato -- Revolts and dictatorship obstruct the democratic overture -- The illusory quest for a better way -- Society and culture during the revolutionary years -- PART ix. The revolutionary aftermath -- Calles: supreme chief of an institutionalized revolution -- Cardenas and the essence of the revolution -- Society and culture in the postrevolutionary period -- Part X. Development and dissent under a one-party system -- From revolution to evolution -- The lull and the storm -- Failures of development in the one-party state -- Society and culture: a new internationalism -- Part XI. Crisis and change in an era of globalization -- The neoliberal state: a path to democracy? -- The challenges of democratization -- Progress and problems -- Society and culture in an era of crises and global entanglements

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war:

A History of Modern Latin America Teresa A. Meade, 2022-08-09 Explores the modern history of Latin America using an intersectional approach, newly revised and updated. *A History of Modern Latin America: 1800 to the Present*, Third Edition offers a lively account of the rich political, cultural, and social history of the independent nation-states of Latin America and the Caribbean. Viewing Latin American history through the lens of social class, gender, race, and ethnicity, this accessible textbook explores the complex set of personalities, issues, and events that intersect to form the Latin American historical landscape. Written in a clear and engaging narrative style, the fully updated third edition examines specific events in different nations and periods to illustrate broader historical trends and interpretations. Concise chapters feature first-hand accounts of the life history of both prominent and ordinary people to contextualize topics such as African slavery in the Americas, the struggle for Haitian independence, the patriarchal rules governing marriage in Brazil, the construction of the Panama Canal, indigenous uprisings in the Mexican Revolution, the impact of immigration on Latin American life, the opening of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, and more. Presents documents and excerpts from fiction to serve as concrete examples of historical ideas Examines gender and its influence on political and economic change Highlights the role of music, art, sports, movies, and other popular culture in the formation of Latin American cultural identity Includes a summary of European colonialism and an overview of Latin America in the 21st century Provides end-of-chapter review questions, discussion topics, and suggested readings Part of the popular Wiley Blackwell Concise History of the Modern World series, the third edition of *A History of Modern Latin America: 1800 to the Present* is an excellent textbook for introductory and intermediate undergraduate students as well as high school students taking advanced/honors Latin American history courses.

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The War on Drugs David Farber, 2021-11-30 Essays offering a revealing look at the history and legacy of the “War on Drugs” in the United States. Fifty years after President Richard Nixon declared a “War on Drugs,” the United States government has spent over a trillion dollars fighting a losing battle. In recent years, about 1.5 million people have been arrested annually on drug charges—most of them involving cannabis—and nearly 500,000 Americans are currently incarcerated for drug offenses. Today, as a response to the dire human and financial costs, Americans are fast losing their faith that a War on Drugs is fair, moral, or effective. In a rare multi-faceted overview of the underground drug market, featuring historical and ethnographic accounts of illegal drug production, distribution, and sales, *The War on Drugs: A History* examines how drug war policies contributed to the making of the carceral state, racial injustice, regulatory disasters, and a massive underground economy. At the same time, the collection explores how aggressive anti-drug policies produced a “deviant” form of globalization that offered economically

marginalized people an economic life-line as players in a remunerative transnational supply and distribution network of illicit drugs. While several essays demonstrate how government enforcement of drug laws disproportionately punished marginalized suppliers and users, other essays assess how anti-drug warriors denigrated science and medical expertise by encouraging moral panics that contributed to the blanket criminalization of certain drugs. By analyzing the key issues, debates, events, and actors surrounding the War on Drugs, this timely and impressive volume provides a deeper understanding of the role these policies have played in making our current political landscape and how we can find the way forward to a more just and humane drug policy regime.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: Journalism, Satire, and Censorship in Mexico Paul Gillingham, Michael Lettieri, Smith T. Benjamin, 2018-12-15 Since the 2000 elections toppled the PRI, over 150 Mexican journalists have been murdered. Failed assassinations and threats have silenced thousands more. Such high levels of violence and corruption question one of the fundamental assumptions of modern societies, that democracy and press freedom are inextricably intertwined. In this collection historians, media experts, political scientists, cartoonists, and journalists reconsider censorship, state-press relations, news coverage, and readership to retell the history of Mexico's press.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: Dangerous Love Jennifer Leigh Syvertsen, 2022-11-01 A free open access ebook is available upon publication. Learn more at www.luminosoa.org. The relationships between female sex workers and their noncommercial male partners are often assumed to be coercive and anchored in risk, dismissed as "pimp-prostitute" arrangements by researchers and the general public alike. Yet, these stereotypes unjustly erase the complexity of lives we imagine to be consumed by social suffering. Dangerous Love centers a framework of love to rethink sex workers' intimate relationships as commitments to collective solidarity and survival in contexts of oppression. Combining epidemiological research and ethnographic fieldwork in Tijuana, Mexico, Jennifer Leigh Syvertsen examines how individuals try to find love and meaning in lives marked by structural violence, social marginalization, drug addiction, and HIV/AIDS. Linking the political economy of inequalities along the border with emotional lived experience, this book explores how intimate relationships become dangerous safe havens that fundamentally shape both partners' well-being. Through these stories, we are urged to reimagine the socially transformative power of love to carve new pathways to health equity.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: Agrarian Revolt in the Sierra of Chihuahua, 1959-1965 Elizabeth Henson, 2019-03-26 The early 1960s are remembered for the emergence of new radical movements influenced by the Cuban Revolution. One such protest movement rose in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. With large timber companies moving in on the forested sierra highlands, campesinos and rancheros did not sit by as their lands and livelihoods were threatened. Continuing a long history of agrarian movements and local traditions of armed self-defense, they organized and demanded agrarian rights. Thousands of students joined the campesino protests in long-distance marches, land invasions, and direct actions that transcended political parties and marked the participants' emergence as political subjects. The Popular Guerrilla Group (GPG) took shape from sporadic armed conflicts in the sierra. Early victories in the field encouraged the GPG to pursue more ambitious targets, and on September 23, 1965, armed farmers, agricultural workers, students, and teachers attacked an army base in Madera, Chihuahua. This bold move had deadly consequences. With a sympathetic yet critical eye, historian Elizabeth Henson argues that the assault undermined and divided the movement that had been in its cradle, sacrificing the most militant, audacious, and serious of a generation at a time when such sacrifices were more frequently observed. Henson shows how local history merged with national tensions over one-party rule, the unrealized promises of the Mexican Revolution, and international ideologies.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: One Hundred Years of Solitude, Struggle, and Violence along the US/Mexico Border John Thomas,

2018-01-23 This book features oral histories, mainly of members of the ranching families who have lived in the Mexican State of Sonora and the corresponding territory in the US that stretches from Tijuana on the California border to Agua Prieta on the Arizona border. The elders in those families recall the tales that their grandparents told, providing a century of perspectives on the revolution in economics, culture, and drug trade that the area has witnessed. The book uses the voices of those who have lived through the vicissitudes of border life to paint this cultural upheaval in gripping, personal terms.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: The Political Economy of Robots Ryan David Kiggins, 2025-08-31 This collection examines implications of technological automation to global prosperity and peace. Focusing on robots, information communication technologies, and other automation technologies, it offers brief interventions that assess how automation may alter extant political, social, and economic institutions, norms, and practices that comprise the global political economy. In doing so, this collection deals directly with such issues as automated production, trade, war, state sanctioned robot violence, financial speculation, transnational crime, and policy decision making. This interdisciplinary volume will appeal to students, scholars and practitioners grappling with political, economic, and social problems that arise from rapid technological change that automates the prospects for human prosperity and peace.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: The Taken Javier Valdez Cárdenas, 2017-01-26 A massive wave of violence has rippled across Mexico over the past decade. In the western state of Sinaloa, the birthplace of modern drug trafficking, ordinary citizens live in constant fear of being “taken”—kidnapped or held against their will by armed men, whether criminals, police, or both. This remarkable collection of firsthand accounts by prize-winning journalist Javier Valdez Cárdenas provides a uniquely human perspective on life in Sinaloa during the drug war. The reality of the Mexican drug war, a conflict fueled by uncertainty and fear, is far more complex than the images conjured in popular imagination. Often missing from news reports is the perspective of ordinary people—migrant workers, schoolteachers, single mothers, businessmen, teenagers, petty criminals, police officers, and local journalists—people whose worlds center not on drugs or illegal activity but on survival and resilience, truth and reconciliation. Building on a rich tradition of testimonial literature, Valdez Cárdenas recounts in gripping detail how people deal not only with the constant threat of physical violence but also with the fear, uncertainty, and guilt that afflict survivors and witnesses. Mexican journalists who dare expose the drug war’s inconvenient political and social realities are censored and smeared, murdered, and “disappeared.” This is precisely why we need to hear from seasoned local reporters like Valdez Cárdenas who write about the places where they live, rely on a network of trusted sources built over decades, and tell the stories behind the headline-grabbing massacres and scandals. In his informative introduction to the volume, translator Everard Meade orients the reader to the broader armed conflict in Mexico and explains the unique role of Sinaloa as its epicenter. Reports on border politics and infamous drug traffickers may obscure the victims’ suffering. The Taken helps ensure that their stories will not be forgotten or suppressed.

a narco history how the united states and mexico jointly created the mexican drug war: The Political Economy of Robots Ryan Kiggins, 2017-09-16 This collection examines implications of technological automation to global prosperity and peace. Focusing on robots, information communication technologies, and other automation technologies, it offers brief interventions that assess how automation may alter extant political, social, and economic institutions, norms, and practices that comprise the global political economy. In doing so, this collection deals directly with such issues as automated production, trade, war, state sanctioned robot violence, financial speculation, transnational crime, and policy decision making. This interdisciplinary volume will appeal to students, scholars and practitioners grappling with political, economic, and social problems that arise from rapid technological change that automates the prospects for human prosperity and peace.

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Drug Trafficking in Mexico and the United States Gabriel Ferreyra, 2020-06-22 Gabriel

Ferreyra presents a comprehensive analysis of drug trafficking in Mexico and the United States by examining the roots, development, consolidation, and cultural ramifications of this phenomenon in the past century as well as its negative consequences in contemporary Mexico. Ferreyra discusses the most devastating effects correlated to drug trafficking such as high murder rates, gruesome violence, disappearances, and mass graves to emphasize how Mexican society bears the brunt of this phenomenon while the United States insists on the futility of drug prohibition. Unlike other publications, this book provides an interdisciplinary social science approach where drug trafficking is conceptualized as a multifaceted social, political, economic, and cultural problem, rather than just a criminal justice issue. *Drug Trafficking in Mexico and the United States* also revisits the war on drugs and provides an argument how drug control is the primary force behind drug trafficking. In that respect, there is an analysis on how the DEA has reinforced the war on drugs model and why it became a reactionary agency that opposes any comprehensive alternative to the American drug problem besides drug control. The author concludes with recommendations to implement forward-thinking measures such as decriminalization, reclassification, and legalization of drugs to effectively address the illicit drug trade.

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Latinx Ciné in the Twenty-First Century Frederick Luis Aldama, 2019-09-24 Today's Latinx motion pictures are built on the struggles—and victories—of prior decades. Earlier filmmakers threw open doors and cleared new paths for those of the twenty-first century to willfully reconstruct Latinx epics as well as the daily tragedies and triumphs of Latinx lives. Twenty-first-century Latinx film offers much to celebrate, but as noted pop culture critic Frederick Luis Aldama writes, there's still room to be purposefully critical. In *Latinx Ciné in the Twenty-First Century* contributors offer groundbreaking scholarship that does both, bringing together a comprehensive presentation of contemporary film and filmmakers from all corners of Latinx culture. The book's seven sections cover production techniques and evolving genres, profile those behind and in front of the camera, and explore the distribution and consumption of contemporary Latinx films. Chapters delve into issues that are timely, relevant, and influential, including representation or the lack thereof, identity and stereotypes, hybridity, immigration and detention, historical recuperation, and historical amnesia. With its capacious range and depth of vision, this timeless volume of cutting-edge scholarship blazes new paths in understanding the full complexities of twenty-first century Latinx filmmaking. Contributors Iván Eusebio Aguirre Darancou Frederick Luis Aldama Juan J. Alonzo Lee Bebout Debra A. Castillo Nikolina Dobрева Paul Espinosa Mauricio Espinoza Camilla Fojas Rosa-Linda Fregoso Desirée J. Garcia Enrique García Clarissa Goldsmith Matthew David Goodwin Monica Hanna Sara Veronica Hinojos Carlos Gabriel Kelly Jennifer M. Lozano Manuel M. Martín-Rodríguez J. V. Miranda Valentina Montero Román Danielle Alexis Orozco Henry Puente John D. "Rio" Riofrio Richard T. Rodríguez Ariana Ruiz Samuale Saldívar III Jorge Santos Rebecca A. Sheehan

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The Routledge Handbook of Cultural Legal Studies Karen Crawley, Thomas Giddens, Timothy D Peters, 2024-05-20 This handbook provides a comprehensive introduction to the cutting-edge field of cultural legal studies. Cultural legal studies is at the forefront of the legal discipline, questioning not only doctrine or social context, but how the concerns of legality are distributed and encountered through a range of material forms. Growing out of the interdisciplinary turn in critical legal studies and jurisprudence that took place in the latter quarter of the 20th century, cultural legal studies exists at the intersection of a range of traditional disciplinary areas: legal studies, cultural studies, literary studies, jurisprudence, media studies, critical theory, history, and philosophy. It is an area of study that is characterised by an expanded or open-ended conception of what 'counts' as a legal source, and that is concerned with questions of authority, legitimacy, and interpretation across a wide range of cultural artefacts. Including a mixture of established and new authors in the area, this

handbook brings together a complex set of perspectives that are representative of the current field, but which also address its methods, assumptions, limitations, and possible futures. Establishing the significance of the cultural for understanding law, as well as its importance as a potential site for justice, community, and sociality in the world today, this handbook is a key reference point both for those working in the cultural legal context – in legal theory, law and literature, law and film/television, law and aesthetics, cultural studies, and the humanities generally – as well as others interested in the interactions between authority, culture, and meaning.

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