

UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER BACHILLERATO EN CIENCIAS

MONOGRAPH

"SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER IN THE LAST 20 YEARS"

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THIRD OF BACCALAUREATE - COURSE C

2019 - 2020



Gratitude

We thank God for blessing our lives, for guiding us throughout our existence, for being the support and strength in those moments of difficulty and weakness.

Thanks to my parents, for being the main promoters of our dreams, for trusting and believing in our expectations, for the advice, values and principles they have instilled in us.

We thank our teachers of the Javier Educational Unit, for having shared their knowledge throughout the preparation of our profession, especially Lcda. Patricia Sanchez and Lcdo. Andres Castells tutor of our research project who has guided with his patience, and his rectitude as a teacher.



Summary

In Mexico and the United States, there have always been drug-related conflicts that have been fighting for several years. Throughout this time, many drug traffickers have been responsible for extreme violence such as death, assault, organized crime, kidnapping, etc.

These events directly affected the United States, one of the largest buyers of medicines, and the authorities had to intervene and help each other with Mexico, but they did not produce the expected results.

Throughout their history, Mexico and the United States have faced a conflict that they have not been able to resolve. They tried different methods and strategies, but did not achieve their goal.

Narcotics took control of Mexico through the corruption of the authorities, which led to the refusal of the United States. Mexico has always tried to fight anesthesia, but its strategy also focuses on violence, but the fire is not extinguished with more fire and, therefore, has not been able to destroy the country's largest cartels. The disastrous consequences of the decade of war on drugs in Mexico.

Numerous figures show that the war on drugs has not reduced violence in Mexico, but intensified it. The damage caused by street violence and civil spending has been enormous. The disastrous consequences of the decade of the drug war in Mexico.

After ten years of conflict, drug trafficking continues in Mexico, a country with powerful drug cartels. The government has discovered that erroneous decisions and practices have been made that do not respect public order. This conflict plunged the entire country into an eternal war that did not indicate that it would end soon and only aggravate the quality of life of the exhausted population.

This led them to realize that it is not possible to exterminate drug trafficking, so it has led them to



seek other alternatives which is legalization, but still do not know if this is best for the population and for the country. So, to this day there are still conflicts and the search for a way to end this war.

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Introduction

This monographic work is an *investigation on the social consequences of drug trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico border in the last 20 years*, the purpose of which is not only to know the history of this war, but also to analyze the importance and significance that this drug war had and currently has. This war began in 2006 and has been causing countless deaths and violent situations, which have seen all the ways to stop it.

This issue is of enormous importance because it is a conflict that affects the whole world but especially America. It is a conflict that has taken more than a decade in Mexico and this has brought many social and political problems, creating a bad reputation and carrying several disasters throughout history, being a conflict that exists and is treated until today.

Several have been the authors and institutions that have dealt with this issue such as several books such as The History of Nacotrafico, The Poster of Sinaloa, writers such as G. Valdez, H. Mejia, among others. It has also been tried by several presidents and authorities to see how to put an end to all this. Also organizations such as the UN and the DEA to help with this very conflictive issue.

In Mexico since the war against traffic was inaugurated in 2006, although several years ago there was already traffic. It was especially trafficked to the United States from Mexico and Colombia by all methods which were: air, land and sea. Since then Mexico has been forced to try to disappear these posters as Sinaloa, Tijuana, etc., causing more than 150000 victims between dead and missing.

The monograph will consist of three chapters: the first will deal with the historical background on the causes and beginning of drug trafficking in Mexico and the United States. The second will deal with the consequences that this conflict has brought to the population of these countries. And finally



in the third chapter is about how this issue can be solved with as little violence and deaths as possible.

It goes without saying that this issue continues to this day and continues to seek the best alternative to deal with this issue without further cases of violence, to end this war that has become a horror for the history of Mexico.

Chapter I

Drugs in México

1.1 Start of drugs in México

German magazine der Spiegel (2005) mentions the following: "Within the grotesque Mexican war on drugs one never knows when reality ends and legend begins". That's exactly what it's all about, the war on drugs in Mexico. Drug trafficking in Mexico has been one of the events that has been going on for several years now, around the 1980s. There have been several posters, which have spread, grown or disappeared.

The goal of the medical cartels has been to control the country and develop drug trafficking throughout the world, especially to the United States and South America. The first narco-trafficker who began to traffic drugs was Miguel Felix Gallardo who appeared around 1980, called "the chief of chiefs" or "the godfather", who was the same one who founded the first Guadalajara cartel, which trafficked marijuana in Mexico and to the United States. By this fact, he started a war of the narcos of Mexico against the whole world and with the countries that surround him, and especially against the DEA. It was also consolidated with the famous Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, transporting around 300 kilograms from Colombia to Mexico and half of that number directed to Miguel Felix Gallardo who later sent it to U.S. lands. Elaine Shannon (1988) in her book *Desesperados: Latin Drug Lords, U.S. Lawmen, and War America Can not*

win mentions: "In those days, a cargo of that size had never been seen west of the Rocky Mountains, since it was the first time a Mexican narco established an air bridge between all of America.

1.2 Traffic backgrounds

Everything that happened led to several strong antecedents which have marked the dispute between Mexico and the United States. The main and most significant antecedent was the relationship between the countries of Mexico and the United States, which is based in the eighties with the first traffic to U.S. territory that led to change and modification in U.S. drug policy and pressure exerted by that country against the Mexican government, especially after the assassination of DEA agent Enrique Camarena.

Drug trafficking, from the *porfiriato* to the new millennium, brings this link between government authorities at all levels and traffickers closer:

From the beginning of the formation of the drug trafficking field in Mexico, it acquired particular characteristics, because it was born in the shadow of political interests and subordinated to it. This is how it continued for decades. What changed over time was the mediation between the political and drug trafficking fields. The progressive breakdown of the post-revolutionary political system based on presidentialism and the state party, the advance of the political opposition in Congress and in state governments and, finally, the alternation in power, which implied the displacement of that party (PRI) the federal executive power through democratic elections in 2000, created for the first time in Mexico the conditions of possibility for a greater relative autonomy of the field of drug trafficking with respect to political power: hence the recourse to current, desperate emergency measures, such as the increasing use of the armed forces, to try to recover the mechanisms of containment and relative control of the drug trafficking business that had operated for years. (Camarena, 2005, p.161-162).

The strong and marked connection of the political classes, security and drug traffickers led to the causes of increased violence in the last two decades. Creating a mismatch in corruption and collision networks, which allowed the deaths and violence of organized crime.

Although in the Fox administration they succeeded in reducing corruption and enforcing laws, diminishing the power of drug trafficking organizations and the lack of political will, they were not able to greatly reduce drug penetration with security or organized crime.

Organizations in Tijuana, Sinaloa, Juarez, and the Gulf changed the way they trafficked by creating new techniques to continue their illicit activities and accommodated the new political scheme at the local, state, and federal levels. Therefore: "The apprehension of first-level traffickers and their main operators had no known impact on the supply of drugs in the U.S. or Mexican markets" (Astorga, 2007, p.95).

Although drug trafficking is not a recent event but has existed for several years, in the last 20 years the violence caused by organized crime carried out by drug cartels has become more frequent and visible. And thanks to this fact, "the war against drug trafficking" has grown.

1.3 Consequences

The events that have occurred throughout the history of drug trafficking between the countries of Mexico and the United States have brought several consequences. They have led

to some changes in the policies of these two countries, restricting many connections and alliances.

A national public health emergency due to the opiate crisis, he said that this leads us to take measures to address this rapidly expanding drug use epidemic. Specialists said that heroin use has reached alarming levels in the last five years. (Trump, 2017, parr.7)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention mentioned that drug abuse grew brutally, which led them to analyze and reveal a statistic that added up to around 59,000 deaths in 2016, with two-thirds of this amount related to drug use. Becoming the leading cause of death, which surpassed the deaths caused by firearms that were about 33,000 in the same period, and almost the same caused by traffic accidents were about 40,000.

Between the years 2007 and 2012 the number of consumption of these substances was around 80%, going from 373,000 to 669,000 and between 2000 and 2010, deaths caused by drug overdose increased to 55%.

According to the DEA, around 2008 and 2012, heroin trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico border increased fourfold. All these facts and more were what revealed the drug epidemic that the country suffers, multiplying the security at the border and regulating the relationship between these two countries.

A study by Annals of Internal Medicine reveals that the United States has the highest death rate from drug overdose in both men and women (35 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in men and 20 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in women), more than double the other countries in our study. In 2016, there were an estimated 63,000 deaths from overdose (Chen, 2017).

Presidents like Bush, Obama, Donald Trump have created new laws against illicit substances, contributing millions to the DEA and Mexico to put an end to the largest cartels in the Americas.

1.3.1 Consequences in Mexico.

Mexico is a country which produces a drastic amount of substances such as cocaine, methamphetamines, marijuana and heroin. Most of this production goes to the United States, which accounts for 90% of Mexico's consumption, making it the largest buyer of drugs.

Mexico's cartels annually generate revenues of about \$35 billion and \$45 billion, producing six times more than the pharmaceutical remedies industries. The cartels that dominate Mexico are the Michoacán Family, the Gulf Cartel, the Zetas, the Beltrán-Leyva Organization, the Sinaloa Cartel, the Tijuana Cartel and the Juarez Cartel.

In 2006, during Felipe Calderón's presidency, violence from trafficking rose dramatically. In 2010 they sent 36,000 soldiers to burn and disappear several fields of illicit substances and interrogate suspects. Calderon also hired 10,000 investigators, which resulted in a 10% reduction in federal fines for failing lie detector and other tests. The government has set an objective which leads to create an interconnection in real time with the Mexican police force through a national database that will facilitate the tracking of criminals associated with drug trafficking. Among the planned judicial reforms are the introduction of oral trials, negotiation of the penalty with the Public Prosecutor's Office, alternative methods of case resolution, as well as the possibility of working with anonymous judges in drug-related criminal cases to increase the efficiency and security of the judicial process. Above all, the government is taking the

sentences of convicted traffickers very seriously and has increased extraditions to the US.

Governments in Mexico have spent millions of dollars on security and soldiers alongside the United States to stop trafficking and end cartels, a fact that continues to occur today and continues to increase deaths, kidnappings and drug use.

Chapter II

Traffic drugs and social consequences

2.1 Social impact in the United States and Mexico

Intuition shows that the drug business has a negative impact on the country's economy.

But it is more difficult to confirm and evaluate than it seems. Drug trafficking includes violence, fear, blackmail and death. But it also brings a lot of money.

Andres López (2019) claims that: "That war will end when 90% of Mexicans live in peace, tranquility, security" (p.24).

The increase in drug-related homicides has a significant impact on property prices, especially in the poorest areas. We reaffirm that crime is not only costly, but also has a declining impact on income distribution, as it has a greater impact on people on lower incomes. One difficulty is to find the causal consequence of this violence. The arrival of the cartel affects the economy or the fact that a good economic performance attracts cartels. Conflicts over the division of space lead to a higher level of violence.

Econometrics speaks of an endogeneity problem. A certain empirical strategy is needed to ensure in which direction cause and effect move.

As a result, violence has increased in several states such as Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Nuevo Leon, Nayarit, Michoacan and Tamaulipas over the fight for control areas.

In these conflict-ridden states, there is a fierce fight for drug control, through which the country's government tries to contain violence through internal conflicts, which since 2006 has been referred to as the "war on drug trafficking", an unstoppable wave of crimes that has already killed 50,000 people, increasing the scale and violence of violence, and attacks on civilians.

Those states where there was no extreme or unusual violence were the central states, which were largely controlled by the only cartel that covered most of Mexico's eastern zone, so they did not compete with the invading cartels.

Mass murders have been reported to date, and after the seizure of 135 tons of marijuana in Tijuana at the end of October 2010, massacres of young people whose members interfered with radio signals threatened 135 future murders as they only continue to kill.

2.2 Legal aspects

The traffic drug made many legal issues, so both countries needed to modificate their laws and needed to act in a strong and violent way. The internal conflict is far from over, there is no quick fix, and the United Nations says that these kinds of threats and murders should intimidate and demoralize the population to gain power. Meanwhile, Janet Napolitano, US secretary of security, warned of a possible link between the Los Zetas crime and al-Qaeda terrorists, which for some Mexican politicians is just a pretext

for a possible military invasion of Mexico to other wars and invasions of American history through the proliferation of conflict weapons such as in Panama or Nicaragua. Mexico is one of the countries with the largest arms exports to other countries. During the operation, the U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Administration arbitrarily released high-caliber weapons south of the border. It has provided weapons to Mexican drug traffickers to identify and stop them. Its owners; however, all the arsenal available to the U.S. agency has been lost, so these weapons are used to increase violence and tend to commit murders in the northern states of Mexico. The operation has not been suspended and no information is yet available on the US Government's arms trade in Mexico.

Of the cartels that inherited the Guadalajara cartel, only the Sinaloa cartel has the right to transport and distribute large quantities of drugs abroad, although its chief executive officer, Joaquin Guzman, was captured for the third time and sent to the United States. An active and determined multi-poster division facing each other, such as the Beltran Leiva Cartel, the New Generation Jalisco, the United Warriors, the Mihokan family and the Knights Templar.

The other three disappeared or were reduced by the wars between them and the capture or loss of their superiors, small organizations that limit the struggle between them and other organizations located in Mexican cities, even though the Los Zetas cartel had international contacts for the purchase and sale of drugs abroad, lost by its disappearance to the Zeta "Northeast Cartel" group. At the local level, Jalisco Nueva is the main competitor to the Sinaloa cartel for location control, although, according to the

Mexican authorities had exceeded control of Sinaloa's national and international traffic cut off by Chapo Guzman's extradition.

This is corroborated by the awards given by the US government for the information that led to the arrest or death of Nemesio Osger Cervantes, aka El Mencho, the leader of Jalisco's next generation cartel. In 2019 the president declared to treat the end of the war against drug trafficking.

Lopez Obrador (2019) president of Mexico in an interview states:

It has not stopped capos because it is not our main function, the main thing is public security, that is what is fundamental, not spectacular. They lost a lot of time on that and didn't solve anything, they haven't managed to reduce the violence in Mexico either and it's possible that, in fact, they have been a key factor that contributed to the drastic increase in the number of homicides in these years. (p.26)

2.2.1 Principals cartels and narcos

In Mexico there have been throughout its history several drug traffickers, who have been looking for USA and Mexico for years. The drug trafficking business is not going to end because with the passage of time we are more people, and this is never going to stop. Since the start of the drug trafficking business until now there has been a big difference. Today there are a lot of drugs, but back then, the only ones we knew were marijuana and poppy. (Guzmán, 2005) The six main narcos that have been in Mexico are:

- Héctor Beltrán Leyva. Who was captured in 2014 and 4 years later died of a cardiac arrest. Poster of the Beltrán Leyva.
- Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, El Mencho. From the Jalisco Nueva Generation poster, considered one of the most non-dangerous.

- Chapo Guzmán. One of the most powerful and millionaire narcos in the world.
 Arrested in the USA on 17 counts of trafficking.
- Miguel Ángel and Omar Treviño. Coming from the Zetas Cartel, one of the bloodiest, arrested in 2013 and 2015 respectively. Extradited to the USA.
- Mario Cárdenas Guillén. Gulf Cartel Leader, captured in 2012. One of the main competitors of the Sinaloa Cartel (Chapo Guzmán). His extradition trial is pending.
- Vicente Carrillo Fuentes. Juarez Cartel Leader. He was offered 5 million to capture him, was arrested in 2014 and 4 years later received an injunction against his imprisonment as it was considered that the accusations against him are not substantiated.

Chapter III

The solution to drug traffic in Mexico-USA ends

3.1 The methods they have used throughout history

The War on Drugs is an internal armed conflict in Mexico that challenges the State of Mexico, citizen groups and public defenders of cartels to fight various illegal activities, including drug trafficking. The situation began on December 11, 2006, when the federal government announced the creation of organized crime in Michoacan, which reported 500 drug cartel murders in 2006. To counter them, the Mexican government has given priority to the deployment of armed forces. Since the beginning of the conflict, the federal police have been mobilized in the company by the security forces of federal agencies and various communities. They joined the army and navy.

Between December 2006 and January 2012, approximately 60,000 people were killed in gunfire, clashes between rival gangs and attacks in power. This figure includes victims of drug traffickers, law enforcement officials and civilians. Civilians are journalists, human rights defenders and administered or unidentified persons killed by cartels. Other estimates suggest up to 150,000 deaths. Among the drug traffickers killed during government operations were Arturo Beltran Leiva, Ignacio Coronel Villarreal, Antonio Ezekil Cardenas Gillen and Nazario Moreno. The number of murders of persons who are not involved in criminal activities is unknown and is considered as damage caused to the State by various organizations.

The armed forces are focusing on defeating the cartel's supreme command in the hope that it will be destroyed with its leader as soon as the organization is created. As a result, many cartels are threatening the battle for the vacant position. Normally, cartels are divided into two parts and chaos is created. Drug cartels are more aggressive and energetic than before, and cartels currently have a significant share of power in Mexico.

Calderón relied mainly on the army to protect and combat cartel activities. The army has not yet achieved significant results in the fight against violent cartels, partly because of the need to provide data from state and municipal companies. However, these companies are suspected of being corrupt and, in many cases, do not work very closely with the military. But this has not helped to eliminate cartels, but they bring more disasters and violent situations, increasing the number of deaths and organized crime, without successfully stopping trafficking.

On January 30, 2019, President Andres Manuel López Obrador introduced a new policy against organized crime, but his comment was met with criticism as the murder rate continues. Andres Lopez (2019) says: "There will no longer be a war against drug trafficking and that he wants peace, starting from scratch" (p.19). Which is impossible, and that's why he was criticized by several politicians.

3.2 The law that traffic drug in Mexico stop

The French newspaper Le Monde (2014) states the following:

This spiral, finally, sanctions the terrible failure of the so called military strategy carried out six years ago by Felipe Calderón with the constant support, particularly financial and military, of the United States, which represents the main drug trafficking market. (p.19)

The harsh policy has failed and has led the country into a situation of extreme violence, but many experts believe that drugs are only part of the problem. This has led them to think about other ways to stop drug trafficking and reduce the number of deaths they cause. One of the proposals was to legalize all types of drugs.

Although marijuana, poppy and other drugs were legal in Mexico for a short period of 6 months in 1940, it is now legally impossible to buy green grass in the country. Little progress has been made in ending the criminal liability of small users and the doors of drug use have already been opened, but these "liberal conquests" are still very limited. The President-elect's transition team, Andres Manuel López Obrador, has announced its intention to legalize drugs in order to calm the country, which reached a record high in 2017 and will reappear in the coming years.

In any case, some experts believe that legalization is insufficient because the problem is deeper. When drugs are legalized, they engage in other activities as harmful as drug trafficking: trafficking in human beings, trafficking in human beings, sales protection, illicit currency control, money laundering, smuggling, etc. The cartels operate with 25 criminal typologies.

The proposal to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes, and then poppies and other drugs to end domestic violence, is just another large-scale measure: an amnesty law for farmers who have been forced by a drug addict to cultivate or maintain illegal and non-illegal crops or human rights abusers; transitional justice; truth commissions; reintegration of members of organized crime into civilian life in accordance with crime; complex reparation; reduced penalties for those who provide proven information on the commission of certain crimes and the recovery of economic areas.

U.S. drug authorities and Mexico have revealed new plans to fight Mexican drug cartels in Chicago.

Alberto Elias Beltran, PGR's Deputy Legal Adviser and International Legal Adviser, met with members of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where they worked to strengthen their cooperation. Nations for security.

The new plans include:

- Put more emphasis on attacking the financial infrastructure of drug trafficking groups
- Take measures that include strong measures in all organized crime value chains, based on more effective and immediate action
- Establish a Chicago-based working group to focus on international cartel investigations
- Pay for bilateral cooperation to stop the flow of arms from the United
 States to Mexico
- Plan regular meetings as part of an increasingly close bi-national collaboration to fight the scourge of organized crime.

At a joint press conference with Mexican government officials in Chicago and Anthony Williams (2019), DEA's Chief Operating Officer, said that the cartel's objective was crucial because the only objective of these organizations is one thing: money.

Conclusions

At the end of the monographic work it is concluded that:

- Mexico for many years has been dealing with drug cartels and this has affected
 and brought several antecedents which affect the relationship with the United
 States which the main is affected by drug trafficking. It has not been possible to
 stop and they have tried in various ways but they have not been able to.
- It has brought several social problems with which they have not been able to deal, for example the connection they had with the United States or the deaths caused by the Narcos. Also, the disappearances of thousands of people and this has led to citizens not being able to live peacefully in their country and this has led to many changes in laws as well as presidents.
- The various attempts to stop the traffic have been unsuccessful, as the same
 cartels still exist today. They have always wanted to fight fire and it has not
 turned out positively, and it has led them to the idea of legalizing some drugs to
 stop the acts of violence that have taken place during these years.

Recommendations

At the end of this work it is recommended:

- Drugs and trafficking is something very dangerous that takes thousands of deaths for years as well as disappearances and organized crime, so this leads to the authorities that have to deal with this to avoid more acts of this as there have been for more than a decade.
- Stop acting with more violence because it has not led to anything good for Mexico as much as the United States. Create new laws and make a good relationship with the surrounding countries.
- Leave the old ways of stopping the traffic as it affects the society and create some new way or law to stop this that each time becomes something worse and stronger.

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