Police and Public Security in Mexico

Edited by Robert A. Donnelly & David A. Shirk

Overview

- Background

- Summary

- Lessons

- Recommendations

- Policy Horizon

- Comments

POLICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY IN MEXICO

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Book Summary

Police and Public Security in Mexico

- Large-scale troop deployments throughout Mexico beginning late 2006
- Militarization of public security a concern
  - Human rights worries
  - Potential for corruption; open-ended?
  - Net effectiveness
- Role of the police
  - Effectiveness of police indicator for militarization

Marcos Pablo Moloeznik
"The Militarization of Public Security and the Role of the Military in Mexico"

- Militarization not new; part of longer-term trend
- Military involvement dependent partly on competence of police
- Military's role becoming more institutionalized

Guillermo Zepeda Lecuona
"Mexican Police and the Criminal Justice System"

- Rigor of inquisitorial system & inadequacies of affidavit-based justice system

- State, federal justice reforms (accusatorial system) applied unevenly at state level

Jorge Rocha Quintero
"Public Security and Human Rights: Reflections on the Experience of Jalisco"

- False dichotomy between civil liberties, security
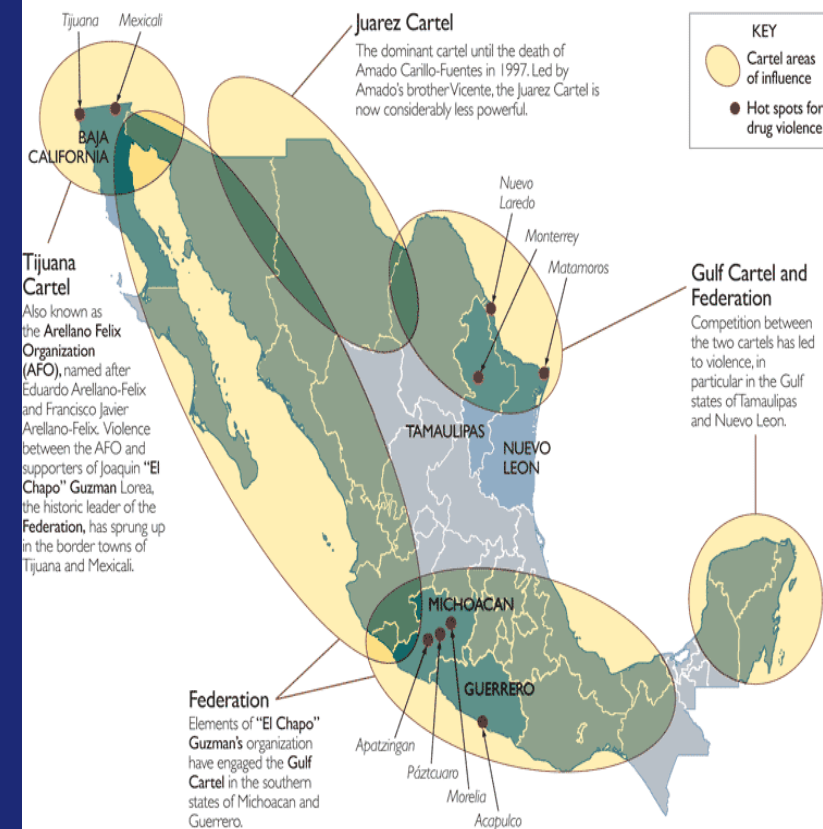- Social construction of crime and stereotyping of vulnerable groups

Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos

Carlos Antonio Flores Pérez
"Organized Crime and Official Corruption in Mexico"

- End of "grand bargain" organized crime vs. state

- Political plurality and fragmentation of state-mafia relations

- Organized crime more brazen in attacks on public targets

The Mexican Drug Cartels' Areas of Influence

KEY
- Cartel areas of influence
- Hot spots for drug violence

Juarez Cartel
The dominant cartel until the death of Amado Carillo-Fuentes in 1997. Led by Amado's brother Vicente, the Juarez Cartel is now considerably less powerful.

Tijuana Cartel
Also known as the **Arellano Felix Organization (AFO)**, named after Eduardo Arellano-Felix and Francisco Javier Arellano-Felix. Violence between the AFO and supporters of Joaquin **"El Chapo" Guzman** Lorea, the historic leader of the **Federation**, has sprung up in the border towns of Tijuana and Mexicali.

Gulf Cartel and Federation
Competition between the two cartels has led to violence, in particular in the Gulf states of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

Federation
Elements of "El Chapo" Guzman's organization have engaged the Gulf Cartel in the southern states of Michoacan and Guerrero.

Source: The Merida Initiative: "Guns, Drugs, and Friends", S. Prt. 110–35, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, 110th Cong., 1st Sess., December 21, 2007, pp. 7–8, at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_senate_committee_prints&docid=f:39644.pdf (July 11, 2008).

Map 1 • B 2163 ☎ heritage.org

María Eugenia Suárez de Garay
"Mexican Law Enforcement Culture: Testimonies from Police Behind Bars"

- Ethnography of the police

- Police cultures and structural corruption

- Collectivization to individualization of security responsibilities

Elena Azaola
"The Weaknesses of Public Security Forces in Mexico City"

- Ethnography of police forces, Mexico City
- "In their own words"

Case Study: Chihuahua

Daniel Sabet
"Two Steps Forward: Lessons from Chihuahua"

- Administrative and policy continuity
- Complications of institutional design
- Prestige of international-accreditation programs, CALEA

Lessons

Lesson 1:

Mexico's public security problem is twofold: common crime and organized crime

Lesson 2:

Police are neither the cause nor the solution of the problem

Lesson 3:

Nonetheless, police can play a pivotal role, in either a positive or a negative sense…

Lesson 4:

Better law enforcement, requires more professional "democratic," and community-oriented policing.

Lesson 5:

The military gambit has been both dangerous and ineffective in reducing organized crime

Heriberto Lazcano, Head of Zetas

Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

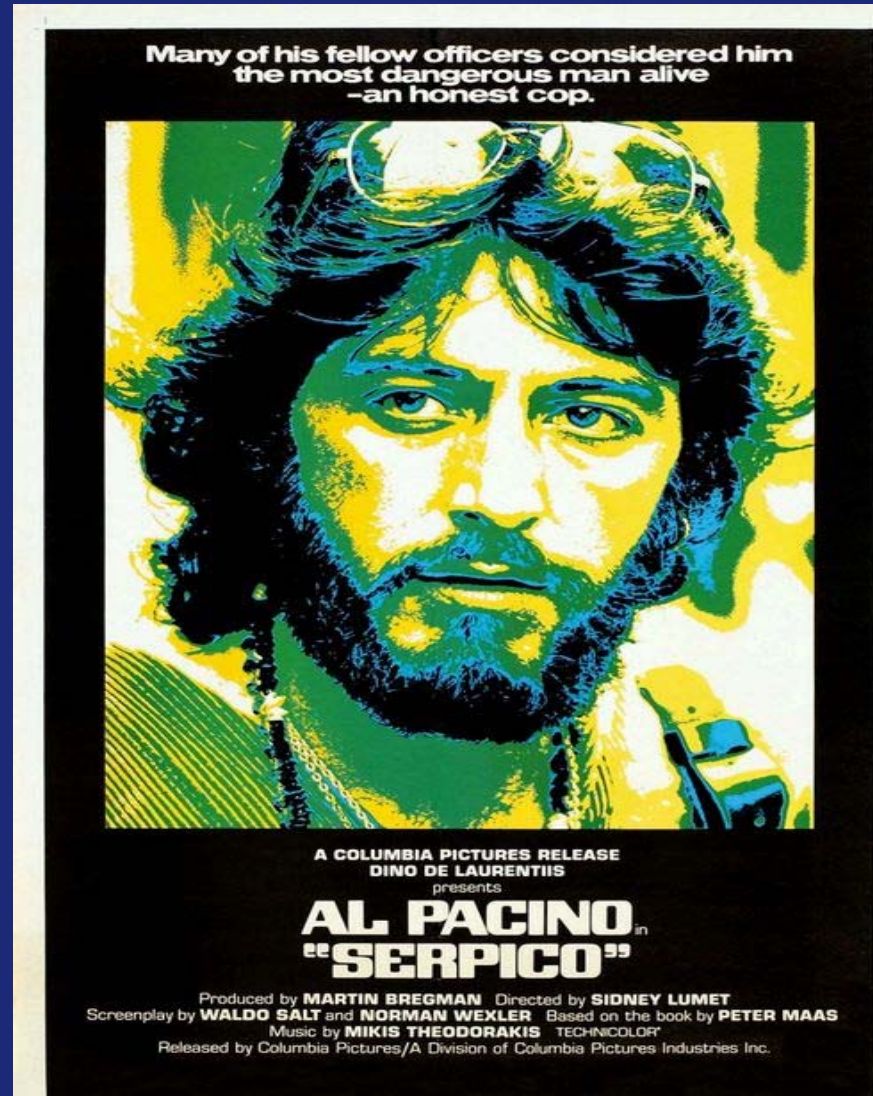Provide more professional working conditions and civil service protections

Recommendation

Promote judicial reforms and due process for the accused to raise the bar for police and prosecutors

Recommendation 3:

Strengthen and institutionalize internal and external control mechanisms

Recommendation 4:

Promote continuous career development and greater continuity across administrations

Policy Horizons

- Realizing that the military is not the answer

- Debating the future of local police forces

- Realizing that progress is not inevitable after 2012

Comments

Discussants

- **Marcelo Bergman**, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)

- **Michael McCullough**, American Bar Association

¡Gracias!

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