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Cartel and Gang Violence

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Within every country, there will always be problems. If it is corruption, unjust laws, or even danger. It is simply something we cannot avoid. We today have seen how we have evolved and turned to violence when confronted with problems. Through this, we've been able to see how gangs have been formed to fight violence with violence. These gangs and Cartels become a strong influence on society. They've come to influence many people worldwide, music, and governments.

Drug Cartels are organizations formed to produce and control the production of drugs. They fit under the description of organized crimes. They were usually more well-known in south american countries. Currently, some of the largest and strongest cartels are in Mexico. They primarily work with drugs therefore, they fight for territories to spread and sell drugs. This becomes dangerous as they gain power and status. According to "Rolling Stone"<sup>1</sup>, they sell to whoever moves the weight reliably or is a reliable customer. For example, they sell to many "reliable" gangs such as MS-13, Crips, Bloods, and Hells Angels. They also export to many other countries, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico are some of the largest consumers in conjunction with the U.S. They've made such a high-risk job for themselves, they keep a low profile, to not put themselves or their families in danger. Within every cartel group, they've created an organized structure to keep status and acquire sophisticated techniques. This is how they were able to create a strong relationship with the government and politicians.

As stated before, many countries have over time become corrupt due to violence and the power of cartels, many politicians have come to work closely with cartels and have been able to create the government in many cartels' favor. A well-known example of this is Mexico. Through time cartels have been able to find a weakness in the Mexican government. Through the 20th century, the government created a power monopoly. Government officials use their power to excuse many problems within the government. This has made it possible for cartels to infiltrate the government and create alliances with government officials. Cartels use this to their advantage to intimidate and obtain power within. One of these deals created made the government give a large sum of money to cartels to kill and for them not to sell drugs to children. Cartels will in return receive protection from police and other government workers. Through these deals,

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<sup>1</sup> [How the Cartels Work](#)

they've been able to bribe the government to gain their favor. This shows the grand influence cartels have given Mexico, and how powerful they truly are.

Narcos have been able to blend into society as regular people. Therefore, we have been unable to distinguish them from regular civilians. They could be anyone, your neighbor, a local business owner, or even a family member. The ex-leader of C.D.S Joaquín Guzmán, also known as 'El Chapo', was taken down and extradited into the U.S., leaving his three sons in charge of his empire. His youngest son Ovidio, also known as 'El Ratón' gained attention through social media. Many are not open about being part of the narco world on their social media, therefore many were shocked to see that Ovidio was very open about his opinions online. Until right now, he has been one of the only narcos to let people see or know about who they are. Through 'Twitter', I was able to find Ovidio's account and see a glimpse of his work, personality, and preferences. Through his account, I was able to find other Narcos who share similar behaviors and characteristics as Ovidio. I was able to find their opinions and thoughts on their work, and who they've worked with. These Narcos warn and show off their weapons to their followers and enemies with pictures, similar to how their other fellow narco followers do. I was also able to see their personalities through how they treat and talk about women. These narcos show their opinion on how men are superior to women by using misogynistic terms and threatening to "beat 'them' up if they are caught up in a man's business". Although we can't expect all Narcos to behave as Ovidio and his fellow Narco colleagues do, we can create an informed opinion based off of their behaviors that many, if not all Narcos behave and have similar characteristics. These characteristics include misogynistic behavior, disrespect, and ignorance toward many communities, and knowingly act inferior and possessive. Although these may not be all Narcos, I've created my opinion based on personal knowledge and extensive research.

We've seen that cartels' have infiltrated governments and created a strong influence on groups of people. Over time, they have influenced artists to create a subgenre of Mexican corridos, which they call narcocorridos or corridos bélicos. This sub-genre has become very popular over time. This has shown how cartels have influenced and become part of Mexico's culture in many different ways. Through this genre, many people seem to glorify or explore part of the narco world. To understand narcocorridos you need to understand how cartel systems work. Many artists also tell stories of drug traffickers and the influence of narcos through their music. This genre has become a big influence on Mexico's culture. Many influential singers in Mexican history have had a portion of their music be narcocorridos. These singers are 'Los Tigres Del Norte', 'Chalino Sánchez', 'Jenni Rivera', 'Los Tucanes De Tijuana', and 'Natanael Cano'. These singers have changed the Mexican music industry into what it is today. The power of cartels continues to have a strong impact on the music industry in Mexico, making it seem that the narco world is never-ending.

Gang and cartel-related violence have been an ongoing problem for decades in Latin countries. Many have suffered many losses in their families due to gang-related violence. In many countries, it is no longer safe to roam cities and areas alone due to the high crime rates. El Salvador was a prime example of this. El Salvador had the highest homicidal rates in the world and became horrified by the severity and oftenness of the crimes. El Salvador after decades have decided to take action, which no country has ever attempted to do. They began to imprison about 2% of their population in 2022 due to their relations with gangs. They had these prisoners clean up graffiti on the streets as part of their punishment. This made El Salvador a much safer place as a large percentage of its population was imprisoned. Many women and children can now walk safely alone. Yet many people wonder if the prisoners can get their basic needs or if it's even sanitary. Is having 400,000 people in jail safe? Although it not may be the most humane way to control the gangs and cartels in the area, it keeps innocent civilians safe and out of harm.

Gangs and Cartels have come a long way. They've infiltrated governments and even been able to change the music industry as it is. This has become a problem as Cartels continue to have a strong influence on the government. Narcos have become idolized through years as many continue to idolize the narco world. Idolizing the Narco life has become a dangerous way of living as you truly never know who you'll meet. Society has turned a blind eye to these people making it truly unable to see the reality of how dangerous the narco world truly is. Thankfully, many have been able to realize and make a change. El Salvador has been a great example of doing the right, instead of turning a blind eye. Making small changes like listening to locals about gang and cartel violence can make a big improvement to a change. Although many has not changed, we can still hope in the future that with these small changes we will be able to see improvement.