

Drug Cartel

- A criminal organization created to control the production & sale of illegal drugs such as marijuana or cocaine.
- The structure of large drug cartels in Mexico often include: **“Falcons”** or low-ranking street supervisors who report on the day to day activities of selling drugs or competing with other drug cartels; **“Hitmen”** or armed men that carry out assassinations, kidnappings & thefts; Lieutenants or high-ranking supervisors who are in charge of the falcons & hitmen; & **“Drug Lords”**, or the leader of an entire drug trade organization or cartel.
- Most of the drugs that are produced or traded through Mexico end up being sold in the United States. The U.S. is the largest consumer of illegal drugs in the world.
- Today, many Mexicans feel that drug cartels operate with “impunity” or without fear of being punished by the government because they are so powerful & wealthy.



BBC:

Mexico's Drug Cartel War--Tijuana

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| 1 | Who consumes most of the drugs grown in Mexico? Why are Mexican drug cartels involved in trafficking Columbian drugs? | |
| 2 | Describe at least two of the significant challenges that the Mexican military faces in destroying the drug trade in Mexico? | |
| 3 | Why are journalists a particularly vulnerable target in Mexico? | |
| 4 | Why have local & federal authorities been unable to stop or punish the more than 70,000 murders in Mexico between 2005 & 2013? | |
| 5 | Why does the narrator describe "El Chapo" Guzman as too "powerful" for Mexican government to "touch"? | |
| 6 | Explain the meaning of the Mexican phrase "silver or lead". How does this phrase describe how the drug cartels influence the government? | |

BBC:

Mexico's Drug Cartel War-- Juarez

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| 1 | What is the most important or disturbing information you learn about how Mexico's drug war is impacting the city of Juarez? | |
| 2 | Do you agree with the U/S. government's concern that violence in Mexico will "spill over" into the U.S.? Why or why not. | |
| 3 | Explain how 90% of the guns used by Mexican drug cartels come from the U.S. | |
| 4 | Explain why the Mexican journalist, Anabelle Hernandez, believes corruption is Mexico's number one problem & "poverty, impunity, kidnapping" will not be eliminated until corruption is ended. | |
| 5 | Why do you think "El Chapo" Guzman has been able to live & operate his drug cartel with "impunity" or without punishment? | |
| 6 | What is one question you have about Mexico's political, social & economic stability after watching this documentary? | |