

# A Congressional Perspective of the Drug War Along the Border



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Committee on Intelligence  
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# Objectives

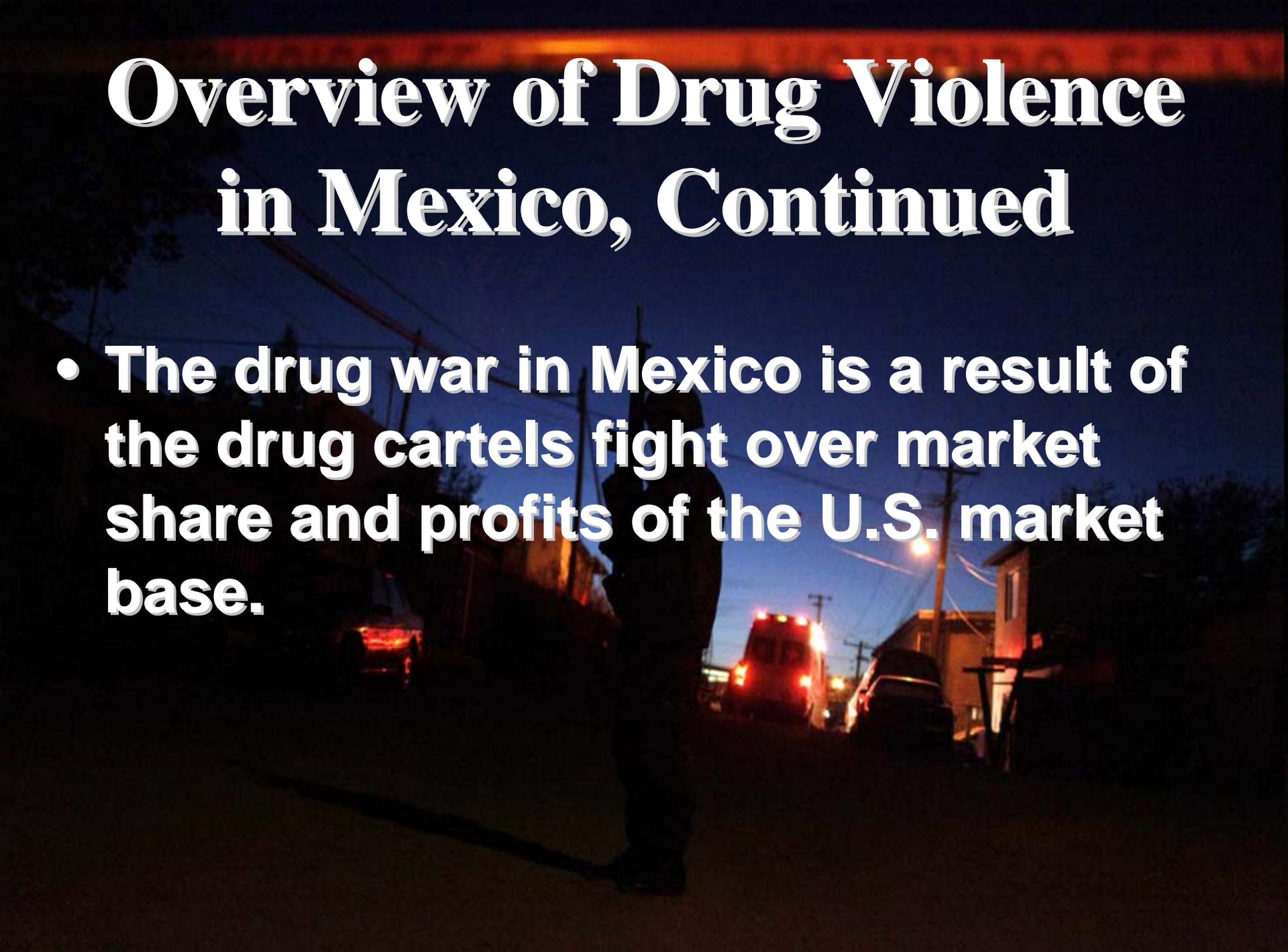
- 1. Describe the ongoing drug violence in Mexico.**
- 2. Describe the importance of trade with Mexico for the United States and Texas.**
- 3. Analyze policy perspective.**

# **Overview of Drug Violence in Mexico**

- In December 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderón recognizing the threats to Mexico's democratic institutions undertook a comprehensive approach to break the power of the drug cartels.

# **Overview of Drug Violence in Mexico, Continued**

- The drug war in Mexico is a result of the drug cartels fight over market share and profits of the U.S. market base.**



# **Overview of Drug Violence in Mexico, Continued**

- **Mexico is in the fight of its life, partly because of their geographical location, next to the biggest illegal drug market in the world.**
- **The cartels are fighting back to force the Mexican government to back down and let the cartels move their drugs at will. In Mexico, neither high-profile arrests nor mass troop deployments have stopped the cartels from unleashing gruesome acts of violence.**

# Footage of Drug War Shoot Out



# **Importance of Mexico to the U.S. and Texas Economy**

- **The U.S. is Mexico's largest trading partner, buying more than 80% of Mexican exports in 2008. Mexico is the third largest U.S. trading partner after Canada and China.**
- **U.S. goods exports to Mexico were \$151 billion in 2008, up 8.5% from 2007. U.S. goods imports from Mexico were \$234 billion in 2008, up 4.7% from 2007.**
- **More than 80% of Mexico's total global exports of \$291 billion go to the U.S.**
- **Nearly half of Mexico's total global imports of \$309 billion come from the U.S. and are valued at \$152 billion dollars.**
- **Texas shares a 1,200 mile border with our number one trading partner, Mexico. Texas exported 62 billion dollars of goods to Mexico in 2008.**

**The following video  
contains some extremely  
graphic images.**

**Viewer discretion is advised.**

# Footage of Cartel Killings



# **Maquila Industry in El Paso/Cd. Juarez**

- **340 plants in Cd. Juarez**
- **70+ Fortune 500 companies**
- **243,000+ employees**
- **3,100 managers live in El Paso**
- **14,000 direct employment in El Paso**
- **30,000+ indirect employment in El Paso**
- **\$8 billion annual purchases**



# Policy Perspective

A map of North America, including Alaska, the United States, and parts of Canada and Mexico. The map is light blue and tan, with state and national boundaries. Labels include 'Arctic Ocean', 'Hudson Bay', 'Atlantic Ocean', 'Gulf of Mexico', 'MEXICO', 'HAWAII', 'CUBA', 'BELIZE', 'GUATEMALA', 'EL SALVADOR', and 'HONDURAS'. The title 'Policy Perspective' is centered at the top in a large, bold, black serif font.

- **Our Nation is in the midst of one of the greatest financial crises it has ever seen, and rising health care costs are a serious concern. With every crisis comes opportunity.**
- **As lawmakers look to reform America's health care system, the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders must play an important role and be given equal weight to medical care provisions.**

# Policy Perspective, Continued

- **House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor released the following summary of the House Bill on Health Care Reform on July 14, 2009.**
- **A required core set of benefits provides coverage for essential health care services and items to ensure that consumers will no longer have to worry about being stuck in an inadequate insurance plan if they get sick. The levels of coverage will be defined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services working with the new Benefits Advisory Commission.**



# Policy Perspective, Continued

- **The House Bill also creates a new Health Choices Administration with a Commissioner, appointed by the President.**

- **Benefits Must Include: Inpatient Hospital Services, Outpatient Hospital Services, Physician Services, equipment and supplies, Incident to Physician Services, Preventive Services, Maternity Services, Prescription Drugs, Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services, Well Baby and Well Child Visits, Oral Health, Vision, and Hearing Services for Children Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.**



# Policy Perspective, Continued

- **Office of National Drug Control Policy Director R. Gil Kerlikowske met with Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora to discuss efforts to reduce drug consumption and fight narco-trafficking July 27, 2009 in Mexico City.**

A portrait of R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. He is a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a white dress shirt, a dark tie, and a blue lanyard with white text that reads "HOUSE DRUG POLICY". He has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera.

**“The United States is placing a greater emphasis on treatment and prevention with the goal of reducing the number of Americans using drugs.”**

**-Gil Kerlikowske**

# **Four Strategic Goals of the Merida Initiative**

- **Break the power and impunity of criminal organizations.**
- **Assist the governments of Mexico and Central America in strengthening border, air, and maritime controls.**
- **Improve the capacity of justice systems in the region.**
- **Curtail gang activity in Mexico and Central America and diminish the demand for drugs in the region.**