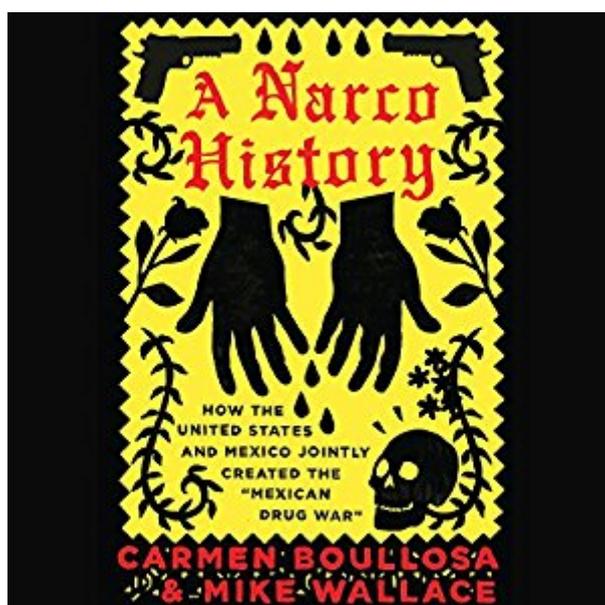


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A Narco History: How The United States And Mexico Jointly Created The "Mexican Drug War"



Synopsis

The term Mexican Drug War misleads. It implies that the ongoing bloodbath, which has now killed well over 100,000 people, is an internal Mexican affair. But this diverts attention from the US role in creating and sustaining the carnage. It's not just that Americans buy drugs from and sell weapons to Mexico's murderous cartels. It's that ever since the US prohibited the use and sale of drugs in the early 1900s, it has pressured Mexico into acting as its border enforcer - with increasingly deadly consequences. Mexico was not a helpless victim. Powerful forces within the country profited hugely from supplying Americans with what their government forbade them. But the policies that spawned the drug war have proved disastrous for both countries. Written by two award-winning authors, one American and the other Mexican, *A Narco History* reviews the interlocking 20th-century histories that produced this 21st-century calamity and proposes how to end it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book should be required reading for anyone looking to understand modern U.S.-Mexico relations, since the topic is so important to understand so many others (violence in Mexico, illegal immigration into the U.S., etc.) and the relationship between the two countries. Written by a Mexican poet/novelist and her American historian husband, it provides a good walk through of the drug trade from before the Mexican Revolution up to just prior to the latest U.S. presidential elections. During the journey, it shows the history of both countries, the shift in drug policy over time, the reasons and their unintended consequences which have led to the current situation in Mexico. I think most

readers will be struck by learning of the level of brutality, not just in numbers but in the actions of all the players (which are numerous indeed). As someone who has lived most of his life in the Juarez/El Paso border area, I especially appreciated a section in chapter 9 that covers how and why the violence got so bad in my hometown starting with the Calderón administration. In a few concise pages, it covered not only the drug trade factors, but also the macro economic and social ones that came together to cause it. Having lived through it, I can attest to its accuracy.

This is a terrific, pithy book which I read straight through. The story moves quickly through the origins of American (and, consequently, Mexican) anti-drug policy over the last hundred years, with the narrative expanding to cover in greater detail the dramatic rise in cartel power since 1980. The overarching theme of the book is how American drug appetites, combined with America's 'War on Drugs', are the lifeblood of the cartels. To their credit, though, the authors don't push this theme obtrusively, or engage in America-bashing. They let the story speak for itself in clear, calm prose. Nothing in the book is probably revolutionary to someone with a decent understanding of the situation in Mexico, but the overall portrait is artfully done and quite powerful. For me personally, I will never again look at American drug policy the same way, without thinking of all the destruction it rains down on Mexico. I felt there was not a single wasted paragraph in the whole book. Read in conjunction with *The Beast* by Oscar Martinez, I have immensely greater appreciation for the horrors visited upon both Mexicans and Central American migrants passing through Mexico.

A good read that filled me in on the long history of drugs and relations between Mexico and the U.S. It seemed like a good overview.

Price was right and delivered in timely manner.

I'm still shaking my head after reading this book. It's crazy this is happening on our border.

A very well written and educational book.

Good read. Thank you.

Great read, demonstrates complex ideas and events through an easy to follow timeline.

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