Geography of Drugs
Links between US and Latin America

- Coca plant grown almost totally in Andes
- 85% of cocaine consumed in USA
- Most marijuana sold in US is grown in Latin America
- **USA is the world’s #1 consumer of illegal drugs and most of the product is moved through Latin America**
Where grown?

- marijuana
Where Grown?

- Cocaine is grown in the slopes of the Andes mts. Especially in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia
COCA FARMING
Why do farmers grow coca?

- Coca grows well on marginal land
Why do farmers grow coca?

• Farmers make 10x more money than selling normal crops
Why do farmers grow coca?

**Quick yield:**
- 4-5 harvests per year
- bush lives 30+ years
Why do farmers grow coca?

• Don’t need to get your crop to market; they come to you
CARTELS

• Cartel - an international syndicate, combine, or trust formed esp. to regulate prices and output in some field of business
Cartel Functions

- Delivery of product
- Intimidate/Pay Off authorities
- Secure production materials/locations
- Launder profits
Cartel Dual Image

• “above the law”
• death threats and extreme violence make conviction difficult
Cartel’s Dual Image

- **Champions of the poor**
  - Sponsor little league teams
  - Build houses
  - Build parks and zoos
Effects of trafficking

- Economies become dependent on drug industry
- Drug industry provides cash that support other businesses
Effects of trafficking

1. Officials paid off
2. Plata o Plomo – “silver or lead”
3. They just kill you

Become corrupt or die, you decide
## Effects of trafficking

### Murdered mayors

Where mayors have been assassinated in Mexico since the beginning of 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Doctor Gonzalez</td>
<td>Nuevo Leon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>El Naranjo</td>
<td>San Luis Potosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>Tamaulipas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 16*</td>
<td>Santiago</td>
<td>Nuevo Leon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Santo Domingo de Morelos</td>
<td>Oaxaca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>San Jose del Progreso</td>
<td>Oaxaca</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Guadalupe</td>
<td>Chihuahua</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Zapotitlan Tablas</td>
<td>Guerrero</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>El Mezquital</td>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Guadalupe y Calvé</td>
<td>Chihuahua</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Kidnapped on Aug. 16, found dead two days later.

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Judy Triebel

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Effects of trafficking
Effects of trafficking

• US deaths in most recent conflict in Iraq
  5,000

• US deaths in Afghanistan
  2,000

• Drug related Murders in Mexico/USA since 2006:
  35,000
SMUGGLING

• Boats “Go Fasts”
Planes
People
Fire Extinguishers
Mr. Potato Head
Puppies
Routes
Texas

Cartel Smuggling Routes

- Criminals gain access using infiltration routes along the border and rally points within the State
- Criminals follow major corridors throughout Texas
Florida
California