

# Abstract

*The following research analyses the impact of the War on Drugs in Mexico. Albeit acknowledging the importance of the United States in the counter-narcotic efforts, the research is focused on the actors that experienced the conflict in the first place: the Mexican state, the cartels and the Mexican population. The research exits the realist perspective and discusses the case study from a constructivist point of view, with a focus on the securitisation of the narcotic aspect. The research concludes that, despite a decade long conflict, organised crime is still present. The War on Drugs strategy did not manage to respect the initial promise of dismantling drug cartels and instead pushed them towards a structural and territorial fragmentation as well as hyper-militarisation. Moreover, the rigid approach led to a diversification of illicit activities which are currently a direct threat for human security. The final results show that organised crime has high probabilities of surviving due to several key-factors: economic resources, violent means, corruptible legal actors, a constant demand of illicit goods and ungoverned spaces.*

**Key words:** “war on drugs”; “Mexico”; “kingpin”; “cartel”; “narco”