

# Devil's Dandruff, The White Bride, and Crystal Ice: The Rise of Drug Cartels and Narco-Trafficking in Contemporary Mexico

- My project traces the gradual development of Mexico's narcotics trade from the early twentieth century to the present, paying close attention to the Mexican state's suppressive efforts and, at times, tacit support for the trade. I posit that drug cartels emerged from within the structural confines of the political party (PRI) that unilaterally ruled Mexico from the 1920s to 2000.
- Preliminary research has uncovered a web of complicity that connected northern Mexican drug traffickers, state governors, military and police officials, and politicians in the creation of drug cartels; and, the fostering of an extremely profitable transnational narcotics economy. This process began during the late 1970s as Andean narcotics traffickers moved away from the Caribbean toward Mexico as primary point of entry into the U.S. markets.
- This research yields key findings applicable to contemporary narco-wars in Mexico; namely, that a clandestine economy of corruption and power connects drug cartels and ruling political parties in intimate fashion.



AREAS OF CARTEL INFLUENCES IN MEXICO



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