



ILM NC India

THE IVY LEAGUE MODEL UNITED NATIONS INDIA 2016



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Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to The Ivy League Model United Nations Conference India 2016 hosted by the International Affairs Association of the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League institution.

The Ivy League Model United Nations Conference is one of the most reputed high school conferences in the United States bringing together over 3000 delegates from across the globe in an unique academic, social and cultural experience. We are incredibly excited to bring this experience to India this year in what will be one of the largest and most academically, professionally and socially enriching Model United Nations symposiums.

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A large part of what makes ILMUNC India so incredible is the commitment of its amazing staff, as well as the immense preparation that goes into making this conference the phenomenal experience that it is. Our staffers are all leaders at the prestigious University of Pennsylvania, who come from a diverse range of majors, interests, classes, and schools – from Finance at the Wharton School of Business to Computer Science and Nanotechnology at the School of Engineering. At ILMUNC India, this academic excellence and personal passions that chairs bring truly bring a professional collegiate environment and distinct enriching experience to our high school delegates, both within and outside the committee room.

The Secretariat is working hard to ensure that the quality of the conference is unparalleled. This year will bring together close to 1000 delegates in 8 distinct committees. The topics we are discussing are pertinent issues in today's world and we are excited to witness the unique and diverse solutions that our delegates will bring to the table. The ILMUNC India team is continuously searching for ways to make the conference better and more engaging for our delegates. We are proud to announce technological advancement in the Model United Nations circuit including a groundbreaking mobile application that will soon be released.

Our delegates' experiences outside of committee are just as vital as their experiences within committee. At ILMUNC India we ensure that our delegates take away memories and experiences that will better them personally and professionally. Outside of the invaluable Model United Nations experience, we host numerous college and career fairs, personal mentoring sessions with current students and alumni, keynote speeches from prominent members of society and, of course, enthralling social events.

Our delegates are the most integral part of our story and I'd like to once again thank you for choosing to be a part of our next chapter of ILMUNC India 2016. We are certain that you will walk away from this conference with memories that you will cherish for a long time to come. Welcome to ILMUNC India 2016!

Sincerely,

Ana Rancic
Secretary-General
ILMUNC India 2016



SPECIAL SESSION ON DRUGS

INTRODUCTION TO THE BODY

The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (SSOD) last met in 1998, where it established the Political Declaration on Global Drug Control. After a decade, another meeting was held in Vienna in 2008 to discuss and ultimately establish a new Political Declaration and Plan of Action.¹ This incorporated an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem. The UN SSOD serves to discuss and establish international protocols to counteract drug trafficking across nation states and to promote civil liberties and cultural heritage through its jurisdiction. At the request of multiple member states, the next SSOD meeting will be held in 2016 - three years earlier than the next scheduled meeting in 2019 - due to an escalation in drug activity and attention directed towards the issues at hand.²

TOPIC A: LEGALIZATION OF ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES

Statement of the Issue

The legalization of addictive substances, such as narcotics, alleviative and palliative medications, as well as a variety of other harmful and abusive substances, is an issue that is gaining increased attention throughout the world. Regardless of nation state borders, the world drug problem is an

issue that affects nearly every member state within the General Assembly and has not been effectively counteracted. The legal and cultural consequences of the potential legalization of addictive substances are both complicated and inherently difficult. Depending on the culture, heritage, and religion of the members of each nation state, perspective and views vary on how addictive substances and their legal standing should be approached.³ Additionally, the world drug problem negatively affects many member states in a variety of ways, such as harming family units, denigrating economic and political agency, and destabilizing the greater pursuit of governmental stability. While the vast majority of member states see the world drug problem as a prevalent issue that must be solved, there are a number of approaches that can be taken to better address this global problem. Some argue that further restricting drug trafficking through harsher laws and legal restrictions will yield positive results in the form of lower drug trafficking numbers; many argue for the exact opposite.⁴ In fact, as a reactionary measure against these past actions, a number of member states have suggested and applauded efforts to legalize and de-stigmatize the addictive substance drug trade in order to fight the underground black market drug trade that affects so many.⁵ It is the duty of the UN SSOD to find the right balance between legalization and consequential policies in order to address the world drug problem.

History

The history of the legalization of addictive



substances is a complicated topic that spans many centuries as well as cultural differences in member states. Additionally, many substances that today would not be considered harmful addictive substances were heavily stigmatized and banned centuries ago. The types of addictive substances that have gained and lost favor is constantly ebbing and flowing.

Early Drug Laws

Perhaps one of the earliest signs of drug prohibition dates back to Islamic Sharia law, via the Qur'an, in the seventh century. In its most simplistic form, the law prohibited many addictive substances and intoxicants, similar to Catholic and Christian principles based on the Holy Bible.⁶ While these substances were certainly prohibited, the relationship between these substances and their respective religions is inherently more complicated than what is seen at first glance. For instance, the recreational and religious use of hashish played a prominent role in the Islamic religion for many years.⁷

Later on, in the 17th and 18th centuries, an influx of coffee from Asia and the Middle East prompted many European powers to ban the substance on the grounds of derangement and civil disobedience. Higher European authorities often associated it with an otherness and foreign disdain.⁸ However, over the course of many years, this prohibition on coffee soon became outdated and overturned. Also, at its height, all social classes consumed opium in the

majority of China, at a similar time. By the early 19th century, China's Qing Empire had placed a ban on opium, resulting in the Opium Wars with the British and Indian Empires. This ultimately led to the defeat of China's armies and navies.⁹

Modern Drug Regulations

The first modern drug regulations were passed in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The United Kingdom passed the Pharmacy Act in 1868 to prohibit the illicit selling of addictive and harmful substances to naive and unknowing buyers. In the United States, the first modern drug regulation was passed in San Francisco in 1875 to ban the smoking of opium in opium dens.¹⁰ This was largely seen as a way to legally reprimand Chinese immigrants and to limit both their power and their agency within this newly developed population.

In addition to opium prohibitions, the 1920s saw the prohibition of alcohol in both Finland and the United States of America. Eventually, public displeasure and pressure forced the overturning of both measures in the early 1930s.¹¹

As a reactionary measure against active counterculture and rising drug abuse, many governments have made great efforts in supporting and maintaining perhaps the most significant legal legislation and action against addictive substances to this date: the "War on Drugs." Since the early 1960s, the United States has promoted this War on Drugs, and the cracking down on the use and



trade of addictive substances, particularly narcotics. This has led to a complete shift in many nations' legal systems as well as judiciary and penal organizations.¹² Particularly, President Richard Nixon - and later, President Ronald Reagan - vehemently attacked and campaigned against the abuse of drugs both nationally and internationally, supporting these efforts through diverted funds and increased military resources.¹³

Relevant International Action

Early on, a landmark overturning of the Royal Commission on Opium was established in 1912 at The Hague, and prohibited the consumption and trade of opium. The treaty eventually became international law in 1919 and was incorporated into the Treaty of Versailles.¹⁴ The League of Nations soon ratified this amendment, prohibiting the import, sale, distribution, export, and use of all narcotic drugs except for medical and scientific purposes.

Stemming from the War on Drugs, some major international milestones to note in the subsequent decades are the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961, the Convention of Psychotropic Substances in 1971, and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988.¹⁵ These three drug treaties are seen as mutually supportive and complementary of one another. More recently, in 2003, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime established a legally binding instrument in which supporting parties are obligated to take a

series of measures to fight transnational organized crime.¹⁶ Additionally in 2003, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption was established, urging member states to also join together to fight against drug dissemination.¹⁷

Additionally, there have been many campaigns both nationally and internationally that target drug use and narcotic trafficking. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) runs a “Do Drugs Control Your Life?” campaign in order to spread greater awareness. Another campaign titled “Your No Counts” has also been made widely available for the public.¹⁸

Current Situation

While the War on Drugs has raged on for over half a century, the world drug problem is becoming both worse and more prevalent. As a reaction to harsh drug laws and waves of law enforcement fighting the trafficking and consumption of drugs throughout the world, many critics of the War on Drugs have begun to speak up about the issue. In fact, many nations and prevalent leaders within the international community are starting to speak out against the harsh penalties for drug users and traders.¹⁹ They often contend that since these more stringent drugs laws have only served to facilitate increased violence and have diverted funds from other projects, the movement has begun to drain the social and political capital accumulation that a number of member states may achieve if they were able to put the resources to better use. For instance,



this call for legalization and decriminalization has been relevant especially with regard to marijuana, or cannabis. Proponents of legalization of marijuana, and similarly cocaine, argue that the legalization and taxation of these addictive substances would result in a much smaller illegal, or underground drug trade.

In 2008, Manuel Zelaya, the President of Honduras, called upon the UN to legalize drugs in order to prevent violent drug trade murders and to promote general welfare within Honduras.²⁰ Leaders in Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, and Costa Rica also made similar pleas. In 2011, Colombian President Juan Santos urged the United States and Europe to begin the process of legalization and decriminalization of addictive substances in order to diminish the black market effects of the drug traffickers within the region.²¹ Additionally, in a report dealing with HIV in 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) called for the decriminalization of addictive substances, particularly injected narcotics. Even in the United States, the birthplace of the War on Drugs, many states have begun decriminalizing and even legalizing a number of addictive substances, especially marijuana. While it is clear that the War on Drugs has had a profound effect on narcotic and drug regulations not only within the United States, but also internationally, many member states are coming to the realization that what has not worked in the past, will not necessarily work in the future either, even if significantly altered and bolstered. Simply put, the majority of policy critics, economists,

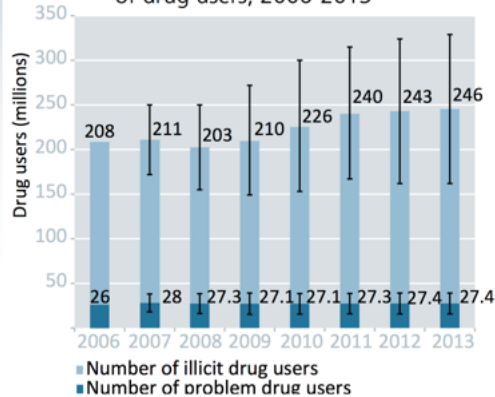
and narcotic experts are pushing and urging for less stringent drug and narcotic regulations in order to promote safety, fair trade, and health.

Analysis

Statistics

According to the World Drug Report, conducted by the UNODC, worldwide macroscopic drug use has remained stable over the past half decade, without a significant increase or decrease in drug activity or use.²²

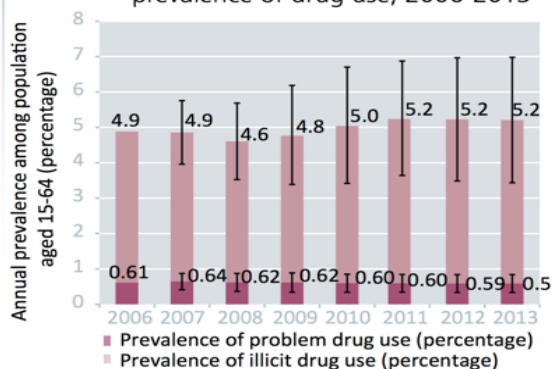
FIG. 1. Global trends in the estimated number of drug users, 2006-2013



Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire.

Note: Estimates are for adults (aged 15-64), based on past-year use.

FIG. 2. Global trends in the estimated prevalence of drug use, 2006-2013



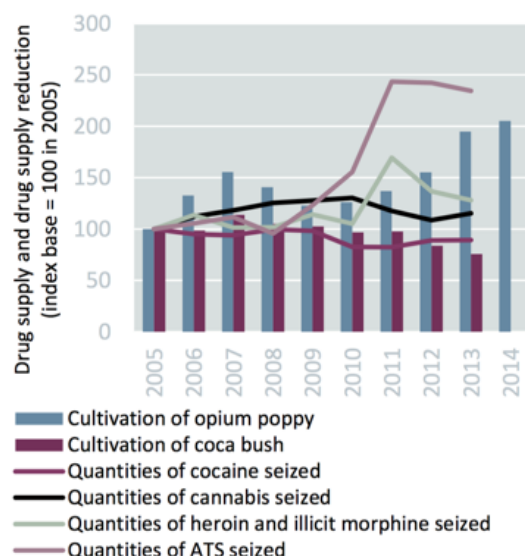
Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire.

Note: Estimated percentage of adults (aged 15-64) who have used drugs in the past year.



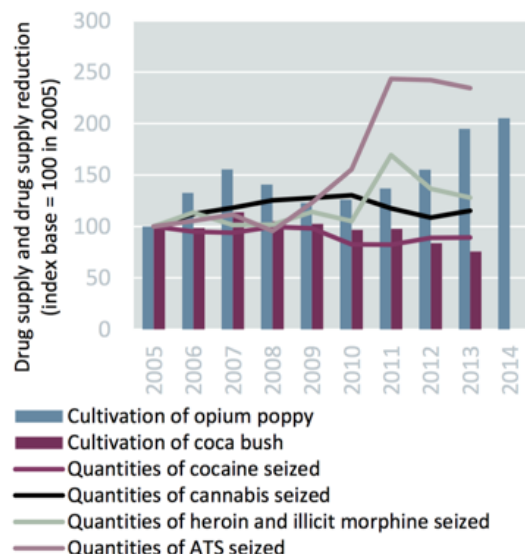
However, there have been many shifts in both drug supply and drug seizures, suggesting that this is a highly dynamic market.

FIG. 31. Global trends in main indicators of drug supply and drug supply reduction, 2005-2014



Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire and other official sources.

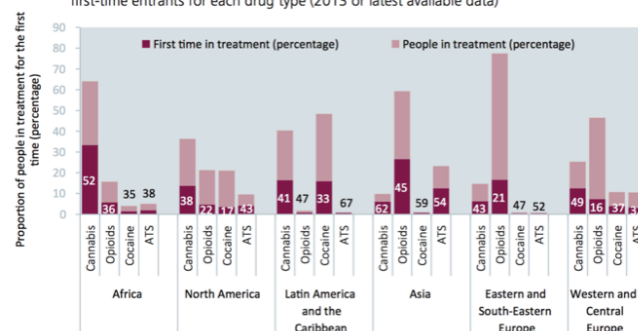
FIG. 31. Global trends in main indicators of drug supply and drug supply reduction, 2005-2014



Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire and other official sources.

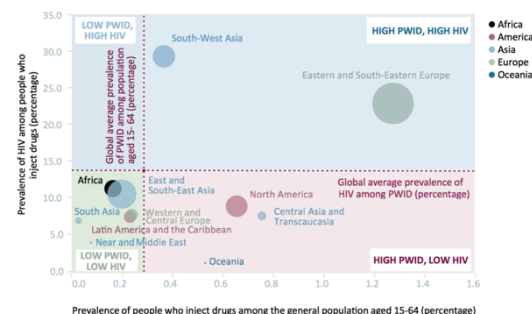
Additionally, there is much evidence that drug prevalence varies widely across region and across members states, as seen in figures 4 and 6 below from the World Drug Report, especially with regards to HIV.

FIG. 4. Percentage distribution of people in treatment, by primary drug type, by region and share of first-time entrants for each drug type (2013 or latest available data)



Source: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire.

FIG. 6. People who inject drugs living with HIV, in relation to the prevalence (percentage) of people who inject drugs and the prevalence (percentage) of HIV among this group, by region, 2013



Sources: UNODC, responses to annual report questionnaire; progress reports of UNAIDS on the global AIDS response (various years); the former Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use; and national government reports.

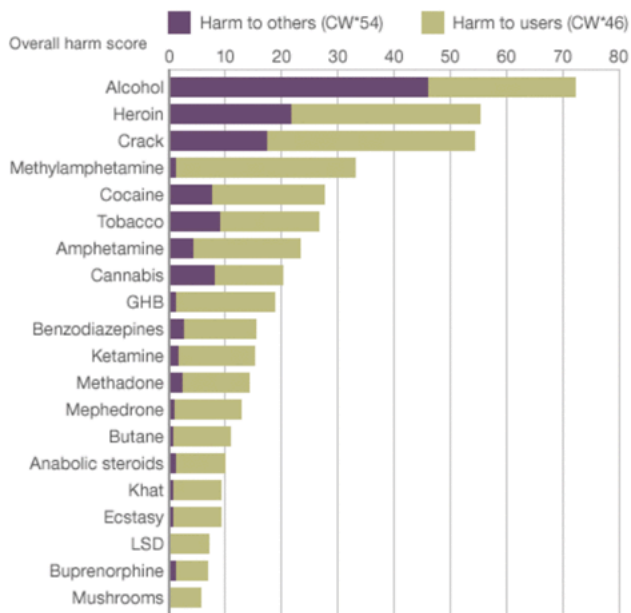
Notes: The number of PWID living with HIV is represented for each region as both a proportion of PWID in the general population aged 15-64 (horizontal axis) and as a proportion of PWID living with HIV (vertical axis). The areas of the circles are proportional to the number of PWID living with HIV. The orange dot and dashed lines represent the global average prevalence of PWID and the global average prevalence of PWID living with HIV.

Legalization: Con

Perhaps the best and most effective way to analyze the issue of addictive substance legalization is to review the traditional argument against the legalization of these substances. Firstly, it must be noted that a variety of addictive substances, especially narcotics and psychotropics, are inherently harmful for public consumption. Following is a figure detailing the explicit harms of drug abuse sorted by drug, according to the BBC.



Most harmful drugs



*Cumulative Weight
Source: The Lancet

In addition to being highly addictive and harmful to one's self, as shown above, a variety of narcotics may also be harmful to others. Proponents for harsh drug laws see legal and military deterrents against drugs as a necessary and useful barrier to entry for drug cartels, potential users, and traders. Without these prohibitions, drug use would rise, leading to many harmful effects to society.

While it is easily acknowledged that a number of addictive substances are harmful not only to the person taking the drug, but also to others, the legalization of addictive substances has also been argued to potentially result in political and social instability. Those who support stringent drug laws often make the argument that the lifting of the policies would lead to an even more uncontrollable market, yielding a drug-fed anarchy. It may also result in social unrest and destabilization.

Additionally, many contend that allowing people to freely use addictive substances would result in a lack of social productivity and an increase in apathy for achievement.

Legalization: Pro

One of the most fascinating, and perhaps strongest argument that supporters for addictive substance legalization posit is the deterrence of a black market. By this, supporters mean that by decriminalizing addictive substances, both the use and trade, prevalent drug cartels and black market forces will cease to exist in the form that they do currently. With the legalization of addictive substances, a black market would have little reason to exist, as the risk of being caught is much lower, while the penalties are as well. With this lack of black market forces, supporters believe that the drug trade will in fact become more controlled, subject to quality assurance, statistical inference, as well as legal oversight. Proponents of this argument believe that by legalizing these substances, the violence and war aspect of the drug trade will decrease measurably and begin to resemble the tobacco market, where few lives are lost in trade disputes.

Another argument in favor of the legalization of addictive substances stems from the inconsistencies of drug enforcement. They cite that a number of more harmful drugs are legal to consume, while a number of less harmful drugs have been barred from consumption and trade. Most notable is the disparity between marijuana (a relatively low risk drug) and



alcohol (a relatively dangerous but legal substance), according to the Lancet figure previously mentioned.

Lastly, and perhaps more pragmatically, is an economic argument in favor of the legalization of addictive substances. It is conservatively estimated that the world drug trade market generated a massive 326 billion US dollars in 2003 alone. Proponents of legalization argue that legalizing and taxing these substances would increase tax revenues for both developing and developed nations, and increase funds to support public works initiatives, infrastructure, education, and general world health. The taxing of narcotics and other addictive substances can also serve as a meaningful and significant source of cash flows for developing nations.

Possible Solutions:

Stay Stagnant

Perhaps the most unlikely, and most criticized solution to the world drug problem is to simply accept the status quo and do nothing. While it is true that the world drug problem results in a large number of deaths and significant loss of capital each year, the current initiatives of being harsh on drug use and trade may ultimately be the best route to pursue. Proponents of this argument believe that the world simply has not yet reaped the returns on the war on drugs, and has to keep legalization of drugs stagnant.

Modify Existing Policies

A more active policy solution to the world drug problem is to use the framework of the war on drugs as a template for change. More specifically, proponents of this arguments believe that significant and meaningful consequences of drug trade and use is a necessary and useful deterrent for harmful drug use, but the current policies may simply be out of date and need to be modified.

Establishment of New Policies

Perhaps the route that has the most momentum at this point in time, particularly from the countries most affected by the drug trade, is to completely rehaul the drug penal system and legal establishments put in place by the war on drugs. Supporters of this argument believe that the war on drugs only serves to create an unnecessary and dangerous black market for addictive substances, leading to a large and significant loss of capital both social and monetary.

Bloc Positions

South America

Within South America, there is overwhelming and nearly unanimous support for the decriminalization and legalization of addictive substances in order to reduce violence across borders. Most nations have already paved the way for decriminalization. For example, Uruguay has already legalized marijuana and Bolivia currently allows the use of coca for medicinal purposes.²⁴



North America

Though less supportive than South America, the United States and Canada are beginning to shift both in culture and in terms of politics towards the war on drugs and the legalization of addictive substances. In many states, medicinal marijuana is legal and recreational marijuana is legal in Washington and Colorado. Canada is also poised to legalize the drug as soon as next year.²⁵ Overall, gradual decriminalization and legalization of addictive substances is starting to take place.

Europe

Many European nations were the first to legalize and decriminalize addictive substance use. Most European member states propose and support the legalization and decriminalization of addictive substances. Portugal, for instance, decriminalized all drugs in 2001 and overall drug use as well as drug induced deaths. The Netherlands, while notorious for their seemingly lax drug policies, have taken an approach to marijuana that is less harsh than that of the United States, but not as liberal as the full-scale legalization under consideration in other nations.²⁷

Asia

Asian countries, particularly southern Asian countries often carry the most stringent drug prohibition laws in the world. This is perhaps due to the fertile and ideal climate conditions that lend themselves to effective cultivation of a variety of narcotics such as opiates. They are also traditionally, and culturally, more conservative than most western

nations. Throughout China and southeast Asia, approximately half a million drug users are held annually in detention centers, and much of Asia remains invested in traditional approaches to curbing drug use.²⁸

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. Should addictive substances be more or less regulated?
2. Should addictive substances be decriminalized or legalized?
3. Which addictive substances, if any, should be legalized or decriminalized?
4. Does this resolution take into account transnational borders?
5. What is the most effective way to combat the drug problem?
6. What public health measures should be established?
7. What, if any, rehabilitation efforts for drug users should be established?
8. Should the recommendation of a sin tax be used?
9. How can the drug trade be actively and effectively monitored to assure safety?
10. How does the indigenous culture of a member state play a role in these legal precedents?

Conclusion

Since the dawn of the “War on Drugs,” the legal abolition and stringent sentencing laws placed on substance abusers has reigned supreme.



Though laws, sentencing reviews, and jurisdiction of addictive substances range throughout the world, with extremes in both directions, the time has come to better contextualize and define the legality of addictive substances. With the illegal intercontinental drug trade ruled throughout the world by sophisticated and powerful drug cartels, the UN SSOD has a unique and meaningful role in curbing the harm that this drug trade has on society at large. Delegates within the committee should ultimately discuss whether the legalization of addictive substances is the right path to take in order to curb their harms on society. The delegates must ultimately propose a framework by which to better contextualize these addictive substances for years to come.

TOPIC B: NARCOTICS TRADE AND SMUGGLING

Statement of the Issue

Drug traffickers have become popularized in the media due to their wealth and opulent lifestyles. TV shows like *Narcos* depict ruthless and wealthy drug lords fighting over the control of cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana markets. Despite a decades-long drug war, narcotics continue to be smuggled across borders all over the world. Colombian cocaine still pours into Mexico and the United States, while Afghani heroin spreads across Asia and Europe, contributing to the growing world heroin epidemic. Narcotics trade and smuggling is

not only responsible for the destruction of countless lives of those affected by drug addiction but also empowers criminal organizations around the world. Drug cartels gruesomely battle for territory and smuggling routes, leading to the destruction of numerous communities. The communities affected are not only those where the drugs are produced but also those where the drugs are consumed. In 2014, over 10,000 people overdosed on heroin in the United States alone.²⁹ The reality is that narcotics trade has allowed drugs as dangerous as heroin to freely travel across country borders, and the end seems nowhere in sight, as over 33,700 kilos of cocaine were seized in 2014.³⁰ Furthermore, the narcotics trade is an extremely lucrative business. As early as 1998, the world narcotics trade was estimated to be worth over 400 billion US Dollars, more than the GDP of Norway.³¹ The narcotics trade is so lucrative that it has allowed drug smugglers to politically control communities, cities, and even nations.

History

Early Beginnings

Narcotics smuggling, in some shape or form, can be traced as far back as 18th century China. With the growing influence of the British East India Trading Company, opium use began to skyrocket in China. However, the Qing Dynasty Emperor saw opium as a “threat to the morality” of the nation, and as such banned any imports of the substance in 1810. However, the British largely ignored this



edict, and the number of opium users rose all the way to 12 million by 1838.³² This can be considered the first instance of large-scale illegal narcotics trade in history, as the British only ended up increasing their profits after the outlawing of opium. The price of opium rose, and as such, the British only saw increased reason to illegally smuggle opium into the country. Ultimately, rising tensions and multiple violent incidents including the destruction of several opium stocks by the Chinese military led to the First Opium War, the first large scale conflict due to drugs. This moment was extremely significant in that it created the precedent for a new source of conflict: control over drug trade routes and rights. The nation that controlled the smuggling routes controlled the drug market. At the time, before air travel, underground tunnels, and cars, accessible smuggling routes were far and few. The British depended on a small number of naval and ground routes to access the important Chinese provinces, and their control over these routes allowed them to dominate the illicit drug trade for many years to come. After two Opium Wars, the Chinese economy was weakened, as it was forced to pay reparations to the British and French governments. As the 20th century approached, multiple nations began to outlaw opium and other narcotics. In 1912, the International Opium Convention was signed, which was the first piece of international drug control legislation in history. This piece of legislation mandated that nations, to the best of their ability, limit the production and distribution of narcotics such as opium and cocaine.³³

Beginnings of a Global Drug Trade

The wave of anti-drug legislation that passed through the world in the early 20th century set the stage for the illegal drug trade. In the late 19th century, most drugs that are now illegal, such as cocaine and heroin, were used in certain common medications. Bayer, the company that today manufactures Bayer Aspirin, was one of the largest producers of medical heroin in the world.³⁴



A bottle of Bayer Heroin, which could be used for stomach ailments³⁵

As such, after the Opium Wars, illicit drug trade was not a major global issue, as much of the trade remained mostly legal on the global scale. However, as legislation began to pass, the legal supply began to drastically decrease. By 1914, opiates and cocaine were banned in the United States through the Harrison Act.³⁶ By 1918, America banned alcohol, effectively eliminating drugs from the country and much of the global market. Prohibition is an interesting case study of the creation of an illicit power structure after the elimination of a particular



substance from the market. Before Prohibition, there was not much of a “proper” Mafia within the United States. However, during Prohibition, people still wanted alcohol, and those who could provide found themselves in positions of power. Similar to what happened in China, providers were competing for the same markets. Since they operated outside of the law, they could use violence and extortion to maximize their profit and control. Over the course of Prohibition, thousands died in Mafia related violence, alcohol consumption did not really decrease, and an entire underground criminal system that previously did not exist was formed. It led to the existence of kingpin Mafiosos like Al Capone, who were celebrities in their own right and controlled greater amounts of wealth than most at the time.³⁷



Mugshot of Al Capone from 1929³⁸

Beginnings of a Global War on Drugs

Over the course of the 20th century, demand for drugs around the world began to skyrocket.³⁹ This was partially due to industrialization, which encouraged people to move into the city seeking employment and new opportunities. However, during early industrialization, working conditions were often brutal, and many workers used alcohol and other drugs as coping mechanisms. Furthermore, industrialization led to an overall increase in affluence in Europe and the United States, allowing people to buy even more drugs. This growth in global drug use led multiple nations to pass legislation in hopes of curtailing the increase in drug use. For example, many nations in Europe increased their inspections of goods coming into their nations, in hopes of finding illegal or smuggled drugs. Nations such as the United States took a slightly different approach, ultimately leading to a declaration known as “the War on Drugs” by President Nixon in 1973.

At this time, demand for cocaine and marijuana was growing exponentially, both in Europe and the United States.⁴⁰ A large amount of production was happening in Colombia, which saw a drastic increase in violence with the development of cocaine exports. The violence targeted anyone who went against the cartels, whether it was police officers, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents or innocent civilians. As governments attempted to push back with force, cartels responded with only more force, in hopes of keeping control of a multi-billion dollar market. In Colombia, Pablo Escobar became the



most notorious and ruthless cocaine smuggler. He started his operation in 1975, eventually expanding it into what would become the renowned Medellín Cartel. At one point, the Medellín Cartel accounted for over 70% of the global supply of cocaine, making Pablo Escobar one of the wealthiest men in the world, valued at over \$30 billion dollars in 1990.⁴¹ Drug smuggling only increased with variations in means of transportation, as planes grew larger and faster - making smuggling more difficult to detect. As such, the United States and several other countries amplified the war on drugs by hiring more border patrol, furthering inspections of planes and ships, and attempting to lower the demand for the drug rather than the supply itself.

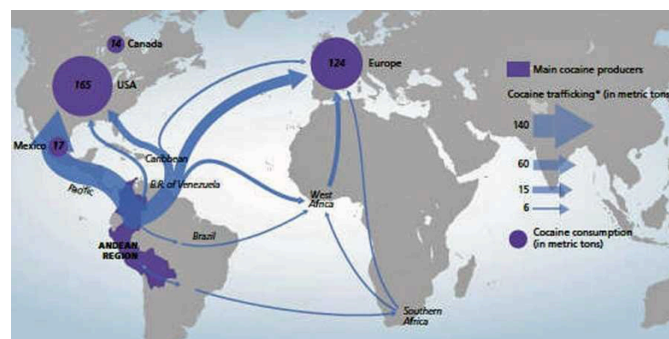


Photo of Pablo Escobar from the Associated Press

As the 1980s approached, programs such as D.A.R.E, founded in 1983, began to appear internationally.⁴² The goal was to reduce the consumption of drugs around the world, in hopes that this would ultimately lead to a decrease in violence associated with drug trafficking. To

some degree, demand for drugs went down during the 1980s, especially when compared with the omnipresent drug scene of the 1970s. In the 1990s, the international drug war intensified, especially in North America. This was largely due to the passing of NAFTA, which allowed goods to flow more freely between Mexico, the United States, and Canada, thus increasing the potential opportunities for drug smuggling across borders. Furthermore, drug related crime continued to increase well into the 1990s, especially in poor areas of the United States, Europe and South America.

The War on Drugs continues to this day, with largely mixed results. The imports of cocaine have gone down, but those in heroin have increased.⁴³ Furthermore, drug-related violence has significantly decreased in Columbia, but in Mexico, cartels like the Sinaloa Cartel have only become more ruthless in hopes of dominating marijuana and heroin smuggling routes.



Map Showing Cocaine Producers and Consumers around the Globe⁴⁴



Relevant International Action

Due to the global scope of narcotics trafficking, the United Nations has taken a very direct role in attempting to reduce the amount of illegal narcotics smuggling. Before the UN even existed, a treaty known as the International Opium Convention was adopted in 1912 by a pre-emptive League of Nations. As previously mentioned, this convention required that countries, to the best of their abilities, restrict the smuggling of cocaine and heroin. Much of the early action done by the international community was largely focused on cocaine and opium, as they were by far the most consumed drugs around the world. The next treaty came in 1933, with the signing of the Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs.⁴⁵ This treaty separated drugs into two groups, with group one including morphine and cocaine, while group two included medically applied drugs, such as codeine. While both categories of drugs were placed under tighter regulation, group one drugs were not seen as medically advantageous, and as such, they faced further restriction.

In 1946, regulation of international drug smuggling was transferred from the League of Nations to the recently formed United Nations under the Protocol Amending the Agreements, Conventions, and Protocols on Narcotic Drugs. This also allowed for the solidified establishment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had ECOSOC oversight. This Commission was largely responsible for maintaining an internationally

consistent level of drug scheduling. At the time of its formation in 1946, only 20 drugs were under the control of the Commission. Today, however, that number has increased to over 90, in hopes of establishing an international protocol on potentially dangerous and smuggled drugs.⁴⁶

However, the Commission took a largely advisory role in scheduling, meaning that it would make recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Secretary General. Much of the power of enforcement was established in the same treaty in 1946, and was given to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The INCB is a semi-independent organization; it is not part of the United Nations, but it has members elected by ECOSOC and serves a fairly judicial role in preventing narcotics smuggling. The Board has the power to investigate non-compliance in any member country, and can threaten to lower quotas for import/export of opium used to manufacture medications. As such, much of the enforcement lies in economic sanctions.⁴⁷

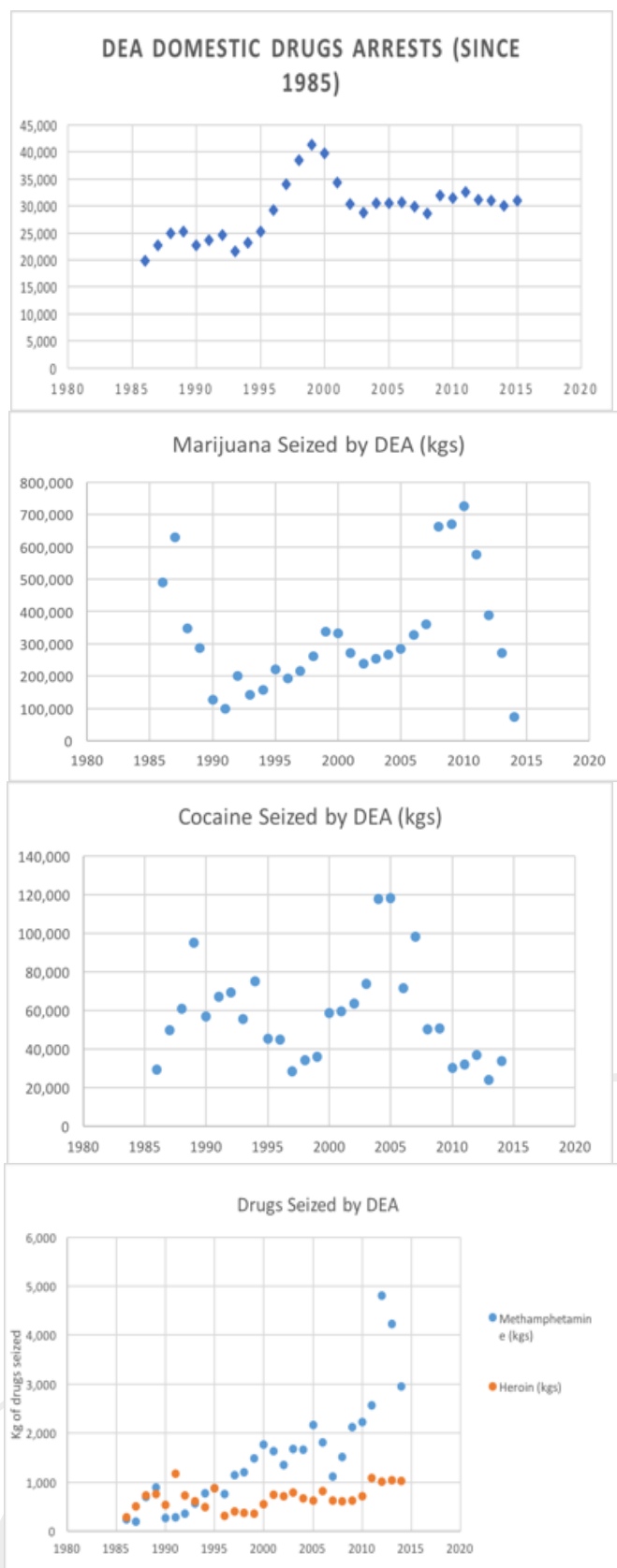
The three major treaties that follow are largely what are used today as means of enforcement in international drug smuggling: The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)⁴⁸, The Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)⁴⁹, and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic of in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)⁵⁰. The first treaty banned the production of narcotics such as opium or cocaine unless under a proper international license. The



license would be given to legitimate corporate operations growing the plants for the purpose of making medication. The second treaty was signed due to the development of new psychoactive drugs that had not commonly existed in 1961, such as methamphetamines and benzodiazepines. The treaty further limited the production of these drugs, virtually banning them. Finally, the third and most recent treaty provided additional legal measures of enforcement of the two previous treaties. As a whole, these three treaties dictate the actions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which was created in 1997. While having functions outside of drug trafficking, the office largely aimed to compile all the different international treaties and organizations that had been formed under one enforcement roof, directly reporting to the United Nations. Furthermore, it provided a central means of discussing pressing drug-related issues, rather than dealing with multiple bureaucracies. In 2016, this same group held the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs. This was largely due to an intensifying drug war leading to high rates of death in countries such as Mexico, high rates of incarceration in America, and increasing rates of heroin addiction and overdose. As such, the issue has become more pressing throughout the international community.

Analysis

Relevant Statistics





from DEA's website unless otherwise cited.⁵¹ According to the data, most drug seizures by the DEA have decreased from their peaks in the early 2000s. As such, it would appear that, in fact, the war on drugs was working, and that the UN was accomplishing its goal in battling drug smuggling. The reality, however, is that the seizures of some drugs are actually increasing fairly exponentially. Specifically regarding drug seizures of heroin and methamphetamine, it is clear that the most dangerous drugs are actually the ones on the rise. Heroin seizures have been steadily increasing since the early 1980s, and methamphetamine has seen the largest increase. However, the argument remains that the importing of certain drugs is decreasing, but this is due to multiple factors. Firstly, the continuous international crackdown on drug smuggling has definitely contributed to an overall decrease in drug market around the world. However, this decrease has been extremely uneven. For example, the opium fields in Afghanistan remain some of the most used in the world to produce heroin, and the instability in the region has only exacerbated the problem. Furthermore, the drug counter-culture that existed in the 70s and 80s is not nearly as present anymore, so the overall demand for certain drugs has decreased naturally. However, the growth of heroin use can largely be explained by the ever-increasing chronic pain epidemic. When people can no longer afford their legal opiate medication, they resort to heroin, in hopes of receiving a similar analgesic effect but for a much lower price.⁵²

Secondly, more thorough inspections at borders, largely due to increases in terrorism, have contributed indirectly to an increase in drug seizures. While many border agents will be looking for terrorists and as such performing extra searches, they may also end up searching the vehicle of a drug smuggler. Governmental action against drug smugglers has definitely increased over the years, but the demand for cheap drugs continues to be a persistent factor of the problem.

Finally, it would appear that in most countries, political strife over drugs has gradually decreased. Colombia is nothing like the country it was 25 years ago under Pablo Escobar, where killings had basically become routine. While Colombia still produces a large amount of cocaine, it is not at the same centrally controlled levels that it was previously. However, certain nations such as Mexico find themselves in a more precarious position than before. Many of the Mexican border territories, for example near Tijuana and elsewhere, have become hotbeds for violence even worse than in the past. Most drug smuggling between the US and Mexico happens at the land border, and so they tend to experience the most violence.

Thus, when looking at this topic and attempting to find answers, one should focus on how to reduce levels of drug trafficking without blatant sovereignty infringements, how to reduce the demand for drugs overall, and how to reduce the violence accompanied with drug trading.



Possible Solutions

Reduce bureaucracy and put all drug enforcement under one umbrella

Many of the issues in enforcing international drug laws is that the enforcement and development of these laws occurred in two different groups from different time periods. Many of the treaties dictating international drug law are fairly old and need to be updated, which has complicated their enforcement. Furthermore, the fact that enforcement and drug legislation are under different groups within the UN complicates drug smuggling enforcement. As such, a potential solution would be to unite the existing drug bodies, such as UNODC and INCB, under one special committee within the United Nations. This way, anti-drug smuggling resolutions will not have to go back and forth between different organizations that may have different motives.

Place designated INTERPOL agents or a force of drug-related UN peacekeepers at most problematic borders

One of the simplest potential solutions may be to train a specific anti-drug UN peacekeeping force, which would work particularly on identifying common drug smuggling routes, in hope of intercepting the dealers using them. Furthermore, by placing them at the problematic borders, they can help local law enforcement in their inspection capabilities, in hopes of decreasing the amount of drugs crossing multiple borders. This would be fairly simple to implement in that most nations

would probably like the extra manpower to track down illicit drugs. The training of peacekeepers would be simple in that they already possess military experience, and would only require specific drug smuggling training.

Choke Off the Demand

One of the simplest economic solutions would be to reduce the demand for illicit drugs. For marijuana, this would be as simple as legalizing the drug, since at that point, no one outside the law is required as a supplier. This could be extended to other drugs that would not place a serious burden on society with their legalization. For example, there is no medical reason to legalize heroin, but some other drugs other than marijuana are already legal in certain other countries.

Bloc Positions

Mexico, Central America, and South America

South America is the most directly affected area by the production of drugs. While safer today than in the past, Colombia continues to be shaken by cocaine turmoil, and much of the population sees no end in sight. As such, South America is the most motivated in reducing drug smuggling around the world, in hopes that it can achieve a decrease in drug violence.⁵³



North America

The United States has a higher incarceration rate than any other nation in the world, with a large amount of people serving for drug related offenses.⁵⁴ This has been one of the biggest criticisms of the war on drugs. The United States has fundamentally tried to solve the drug problem by lengthening mandatory minimum prison sentences and putting the worst dealers behind bars. Canada has pursued some similar methods, but has also embraced drug education.

Europe

Europe has had to deal with less of a drug problem than North and South America since most nations in it possess few borders with drug producing countries. As such, Western Europe is generally somewhat spared from drug turmoil. However, about a third of the heroin that is produced in Afghanistan travels to Europe through the Balkan route. Therefore, the bloc would endorse any resolution seeking to reduce the amount of drug smuggling.⁵⁵

Asia

Asian countries have strong laws prohibiting the consumption of certain drugs, and so the demand has not been very high in certain nations. Asia does, however, contain multiple drug producing areas, such as Afghanistan and the Near and Middle East has also reported high levels of amphetamine seizures in recent years.⁵⁶ Therefore, in hopes of reducing violence related to trafficking, this

bloc would endorse resolutions seeking to reduce trafficking altogether.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How has your country been directly affected by drug smuggling? Is it a producing or consuming nation, or both?
2. Has your country taken any specific steps to decrease the amount of drug smuggling?
3. How will you deal with the ever-increasing bureaucracy of international drug law?
4. Do you view drug legalization as a potential solution to drug smuggling?
5. What innovative solutions does your country bring to the table, especially in regards to reducing violence in relation to drug smuggling?
6. What drugs are consumed the most in your country? Where are they coming from?
7. Would you step up the War on Drugs?
8. Are there any foreseeable consequences for your plans to reduce drug smuggling, such as increased incarceration rates?



Conclusion

While the issue of narcotics trade and smuggling has varying effects on different nations around the world, it is still a topic worthy of international attention. Drug trade often leads to violence that threatens many lives every day while drug addiction is also just as capable of detrimentally affecting people's lives. However, some responses to these problems, such as the War on Drugs and other legislation, have produced mixed results. It is up to this committee to determine the best possible means of protecting those affected by the drug trade and reducing the power of drug cartels worldwide.

India 16



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