



Suggested Readings for Online Libraries

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION (MCAC) – Region# 16

1. GEOGRAPHY

- **For a complete regional Geographic Survey of the region:**

Blouet, Brian and Olwyn M. Blouet. *Latin America and the Caribbean*. 6th Edition. John Wiley & Sons, 2010.

- **For readings on Energy Policies and Climate Change in the region:**

Refer to several reports produced by the *Environmental Change and Security Program* at the *Woodrow Wilson Center* [Website]. Available at:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/environmental-change-and-security-program>

Refer to reports and articles published by the think-tank *Inter-American Dialogue* [Website]. Available at:

<http://thediologue.org/energy>

2. HISTORY

- **For complete Historical Overviews on the region:**

Department of State Office of the Historian [Website]. Available at:

<https://history.state.gov/>

Girard, Philippe. *Haiti – The Tumultuous History – From Pearl of the Caribbean to Broken Nation*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2010.

Meade, Theresa, *A History of Modern Latin America – 1800 to the Present*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith. *Modern Latin America*. 6th Edition. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Spence, Jack. “War and Peace in Central America,” *Hemisphere Initiatives*. Brookline, MA: November 2004. Available at:

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/hemisphereinitiatives/warpeace.pdf>

- **For details on the historical role of the USMC in the region:**



Fuller, Stephen. *Marines in the Dominican Republic 1916-1924*. Washington, DC: History and Museums Division Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps. Available at:
https://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Publications/The_Banana_Wars_1899_1934.aspx

Rosenau, William et al. *United States Marine Corps Advisors*. DRM-2013-U-005404 Strategic Studies, 7-25, CAN, August 2013. Available at:
<http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/138/Hip%20Pocket%20Briefs/CNA,%20USMC%20Advisors%20Aug2013.pdf>

Reynolds, Nicholas. *Just Cause: Marine Operation in Panama, 1988-1990*. Washington, DC: 1996. Available at:
http://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/Just%20Cause%20Marine%20Operations%20in%20Panama%201988-1990%20PCN%2019000313400_1.pdf

Spector, Ronald. *U.S. Marines in Grenada 1983, History and Museums Division Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps*. Washington, DC: 1987. Available at:
<http://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/U.S.%20Marines%20in%20Grenada%201983%20%20PCN%2019000309700.pdf>

4. SOCIETY:

- **For a detailed analysis on Society in region:**

Castañeda, Jorge. *“Mañana Forever? Mexico and the Mexicans*. New York: Vintage Books, 2012.

Jorge Castañeda was Mexico’s foreign minister from 2000 to 2003, and is now Global Distinguished Professor of Politics and Latin American Studies at New York University. His book offers a unique perspective on the current state of Mexican politics and culture from a Mexican viewpoint, as opposed to observations from political scientists and analysts outside the country.

Girvan, Norman. “Societies at Risk? The Caribbean and Global Change,” *Management of Social Transformations, Discussion Paper Series No.17. UNESCO*. Available at:
<http://www.unesco.org/most/girvan.htm#caribbean>

- **For detailed data on Gender in the region:**

United Nations Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [Website]. Available at:
<http://www.cepal.org/oig/default.asp?idioma=IN>

- **To understand Race and Ethnicity in the region:**

Wade, Peter. *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. 2nd Edition. New York: Pluto Press, 2010.



3. MILITARY CULTURE:

- **For insights on Civil-Military Relations in the region:**

Bruneau, Thomas, "Civil-Military Relations in Latin America: The Hedgehog and the Fox Revisited," *Revista Fuerzas Armadas y Sociedad* 19, No. 1-2. 111-131.

Available at:

www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA485204

- **For details on the Mexican Military:**

Ai Camp, Roderic. *Mexico's Military on the Democratic Stage*. Westport, CT: Praeger Security International, 2005.

A renowned scholar, professor and former U.S. Marine, Roderic Ai Camp explores the history of civil-military relations in Mexico, focusing on changes since 1990. The book provides an in-depth study of the sociology of the Mexican officer corps, their relationship with national elites and society.

Tarter, Jean. "Mexico – Chapter 5, National Security." *Library of congress Country Studies*. Washington, DC: Federal Research Division Pages, June 1996. Available at:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/mxtoc.html>

This chapter gives an excellent historical insight into the military culture of the Mexican armed forces. It analyses how the history and traditions of the Armed Forces began with the wars of Independence (1810-21), the war with the United States (1846) and how it evolved with the military phase of the Mexican revolution (1910-17), with the professionalization of the Armed Forces (1920-46) and so on until the late 1990's. This chapter also describes the organization of the Mexican Armed Forces.

5. ECONOMY (COMMERCE, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION)

- **For detailed information on the Economic Development of Mexico:**

De la Calle, Luis, and Luis Rubio. *Mexico: Poor No More, Developed Not Yet*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, January 2012. Available at:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/Mexico%20A%20Middle%20Class%20Society.pdf>

- **For updated discussions, webinars (under the tab *events*) and reports (under the tab *publications*) on Commerce and NAFTA:**

Refer to the *Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center* [Website]. Available at:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/mexico-institute>



- **For details on the state of Education in the region:**

UNESCO. *The State of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards a Quality Education for All – 2015*. Santiago, Chile: United Nations Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Santiago/pdf/state-of-education-in-LAC-towards-2015.pdf>

6. REGIONAL SECURITY

- **For an overview of U.S. Security Concerns in the region:**

Posture Statement of General John F. Kelly, USMC Commander, USSOUTHCOM Commander before the 113th Congress, *House Armed Services Committee*. February 26, 2014.

Available at:

http://www.southcom.mil/newsroom/Documents/2014_SOUTHCOM_Posture_Statement_HASC_FINAL_PDF.pdf

Stavridis, James, *Partnership for the Americas – Western Hemisphere Strategy and U.S. Southern Command* (Washington, D.C.: National Defense University Press, 2010).

Available at:

<http://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/Books/stavridis.pdf>

- **For updated analysis and reports on Migration and Migrants:**

Refer to the *Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center* [Website].

Available at:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/migration-and-migrants>

- **For updated analysis and reports on U.S.-Mexico Border Issues:**

Refer to the *Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center* [Website]. Available at:

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/border-issues>

Longmire, Sylvia, *Cartel: The Coming Invasion of Mexico's Drug Wars*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.

Longmire, Sylvia. *Border Insecurity: Why Big Money, Fences and Drones Aren't Making Us Safer*. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.

Meacham, Carl. "What Are the Domestic and International Implications of Inaction on U.S. Immigration Reform." *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. May 22, 2104.

Available at:



<http://csis.org/publication/what-are-domestic-and-international-implications-inaction-us-immigration-reform>

- **For updated analysis and reports on Mexico's Security and Rule of Law:**

Refer to the *Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center* [Website]. Available at: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/security-and-the-rule-law>

Lee, Brianna, "Mexico's Drug War," *Council on Foreign Relations*. March 5, 2014. Available at: <http://www.cfr.org/mexico/mexicos-drug-war/p13689>

7. REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

- **For updated reports and analysis on Security Cooperation with Mexico:**

Refer to "Security Publications" at the *Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center* [Website]. Available at: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication-series/security-cooperation>

Seelke, Clare R. and Kristin Finklea. "U.S.-Mexican Security Cooperation: The Mérida Initiative and Beyond," *Congressional Research Service*. April 8, 2014. Available at: <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41349.pdf>

- **For detailed analysis of Police Reform in the region:**

Sabet, Daniel. *Police Reform in Mexico – Informal Politics and the Challenge of Institutional Change*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2012.

In this book, Daniel M. Sabet debates why so many reform policies have failed to produce meaningful change and professionalization in Mexico's municipal departments. His analysis includes explanations of how corruption continues to thwart police reform efforts. His research also goes in depth on other issues affecting police reform including patronage politics and ineffective accountability mechanism. His work is enriched by a large amount of interviews with representatives of key groups involved in police reform, current and former police agents and officers, public officials, and member of civil society. Throughout the book the author does a comparative analysis of other hemispheric countries, especially on topics such as formal and informal rules of policing and politics.

Johnson, Stephen, Johanna M. Forman and Katherine Bliss. *Police Reform in Latin America - A Report of the CSIS Americas Program*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 2012. Available at: <http://csis.org/publication/police-reform-latin-america>



For information on the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI):

Meyer, Peter J., Clare R. Seelke. "Central America Regional Security Initiative: Background and Policy Issues for Congress," *Congressional Research Service*, May 7, 2013. Available at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41731.pdf>.

8. ORGANIZED CRIME and ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING:

- **For articles on illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, and persons; terrorism; special operations; regional cooperation; humanitarian assistance; human rights; gangs; and other topics related to regional and international security.**

Refer to *DIÁLOGO*, a professional military magazine published by the *U.S. Southern Command* for more than twenty years. It is published quarterly to address the current issues most important to the armed forces and other security professionals. Available at: http://dialogo-americas.com/en_GB

- **For information on current Criminal Groups in the region:**

Access the *Country Profile* page of the Criminal Database of the Americas, at *Insightcrime* which provide updates on these groups in a select number of countries in the region, explains how they came to be and what kind of threats they pose. Available at: <http://www.insightcrime.org/mexico-organized-crime-news>

- **For a detailed analysis on gangs in Mexico and in the region:**

Bagley, Bruce. "Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in the Americas: Major Trends in the Twenty-First Century," *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*. August 2012). Available at: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/BB%20Final.pdf>

Chalk, Peter. *The Latin American Drug Trade: Scope, Dimensions, Impact, and Response*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2011. Available at: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1076.html>

This monograph is based on research conducted during 2009-2010 as part of a study, "U.S. Security Roles in Latin America," that identified and analyzed the major security trends in Latin America and the implications of regional developments for the stability of friendly states and broader U.S. interests. Transnational crime remains a particularly serious problem in Latin America, with most issues connected in some way to the drug trade. This book examines the scope and dimensions of Andean cocaine and heroin production and trade, including drug sources, consumption patterns, drug trafficking routes, drug related crime, etc.



Defort, Magdalena. "Capo-Militaries: An Illicit Modus Operandi of Armed Forces and Intelligence Services in Peru, Mexico, and Venezuela." *Small Wars Journal*. February 18, 2013.

Available at:

<http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/capo-militaries-an-illicit-modus-operandi-of-armed-forces-and-intelligence-services-in-peru>

This article provides an analysis of a paradox: the institutions in charge of providing security, including the armed forces and intelligence services, are the source of the most dangerous criminal organizations threatening state security. Capo-militaries, by their diverse portfolio of activities, such as the use of sophisticated weapons, logistics, and tactics, have become threats to national and international security. The origins of their modus operandi are from both the inside and outside of governmental structures. On one hand, military personnel desert the armed forces to organize their own illicit criminal networks. On the other hand, military criminals operate inside governmental structures as well as in the underworld through illicit networks.

Ellis, Evan. "Drugs, Gangs, Transnational Organized Crime, and 'Malgoverned Spaces' in the Americas." *Air & Space Power Journal*. March 2015. Available at:

http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/apjinternational/apj-s/2015/2015-3/2015_3_04_ellis_s_eng.pdf

Felbab-Brown, Vanda. *Peña Nieto's Piñata: The Promise and Pitfalls of Mexico's New Security Policy against Organized Crime*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institute, 2013.

Available at:

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2013/02/mexico-new-security-policy-felbabbrown>

This study analyzes the security issues facing, after several years of extraordinarily high homicide levels and gruesome brutality in Mexico. Peña Nieto has promised to prioritize social and economic issues and to refocus national security policy on reducing violence. The Mexican public is exhausted by the intensity of violent crime as well as by the state's blunt assault on drug trafficking groups. Peña Nieto is seeking to bring violent crime down, but achieving this goal will not be easy. Major questions remain about the outlines of the security strategy Peña Nieto has sketched, and some approaches to reducing violence would come with highly negative side-effects.



Garzón, Juan Carlos, Marianna Pacheco Olinger, Daniel Rico, and Gema Santamaría. *The Criminal Diaspora: The Spread of Transnational Organized Crime and How to Contain its Expansion*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2013.

Available at:

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/CriminalDiaspora>

The report provides an examination of the multiple factors leading to the international expansion and diffusion of organized crime networks, primarily in Latin America. Government efforts to dismantle or displace criminal groups have helped push them beyond national borders, while new markets and rising demand for illicit products have led criminal groups to expand their networks.

Grayson, George. *The Impact of President's Felipe Calderon's War on Drugs on the Armed Forces: The prospects for Mexico's "Militarization" and Bilateral Relations*. Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, January 2013. Available at:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/PUB1137.pdf>

In the absence of honest, professional civilian law-enforcement agencies, former President Felipe Calderón assigned the Mexican military the lead role in his nation's version of the "War on Drugs" that he launched in 2006. While the armed forces have spearheaded the capture and/or death of several dozen cartel capos, the conflict has taken its toll on the organizations in terms of deaths, corruption, desertions, and human rights violations. The sharp expansion of the armed forces' duties has sparked the accusation that Mexico is being "militarized." Dr. George W. Grayson examines the ever expanding involvement of the armed forces in Mexican life by addressing the question: "Is Mexican society being 'militarized'?" If the answer is "yes," what will be the probable impact on relations between the United States and its southern neighbor?

Jones, Nathan. "Understanding and Addressing Youth in "gangs" in Mexico," *Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center*. August 2013. Available at:

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/jones_youth_gangs.pdf

- **For details on the Drug Legalization debate in the region:**

Refer to a series of reports on this debate on *Insight Crime*. Available at:

<http://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/gorilla-in-the-room>

Hakim, Peter, Juan Carlos Hidalgo and Vanda Felbab-Brown. "How Will the OAS Report Affect the Drug-Policy Debate?" *Latin America Advisor*, May 31, 2013. Available at:

<http://www.thedialogue.org/page.cfm?pageID=32&pubID=3317>

This report is a response to concerns expressed by Latin American leaders at the April 2012 Summit of the Americas that the region had failed to curb drug-related problems. Much of the response to the report has focused on its suggestion that countries consider decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana, but the report also highlights the importance of a public-health approach to drugs and recognition of differences in drug problems among countries.



OAS, *Scenarios for the Drug Problem in the Americas, 2013-2025*. Washington, DC:

Organization of the American States, 2013. Available at:

http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/Scenarios_Report.PDF

This report provides possible future scenarios for the drug problem in the Americas over the coming years. It takes the current trends as a starting point and incorporates in the scenarios relevant political, economic, social, cultural, and international dynamics. The scenarios are constructed by a team of outstanding individuals from security, business, health, education, indigenous cultures, international organizations, the justice system, civil society, and politics, including former and current government officials from across the Americas. They created four scenarios based on their own diverse experiences and understandings. The report includes a set of interviews of 75 leaders from across the Hemisphere, including current and former Heads of Government.

Pachico, Elyssa, David Gagne, and Kyra Gurney. "U.S. Marijuana Reform: Impact in Latin America?" *Insight Crime*. November 7, 2014. Available at:

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/marijuana-reform-us-impact-latin-america-stand>

UNODC, *Transnational Organized Crime in Central America and the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment*. Vienna, Austria: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, September, 2012.

Available at:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/TOC_Central_America_and_the_Caribbean_english.pdf

9. GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES:

- **For an understanding the region's Strategic Relevance for the United States:**

Ellis, Evan, "Strategic Insights: The Strategic Relevance of Latin America for the United States." *Strategic Studies Institute*. December 2014. Available at:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/index.cfm/articles/The-Strategic-Relevance-of-Latin-America/2014/12/08>

Ellis, Evan. "Strengthening America's Adversaries." *The Cipher Brief*. September 30, 2015.

Available at:

<http://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/strengthening-americas-adversaries>

- **For an understanding of Russia's involvement in the region:**

Ellis, Evan. "The New Russian Engagement with Latin America: Strategic Position, Commerce, and Dreams of the Past." *U.S. Army War College*. June 2015. Available at:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/PUB1275.pdf>

- **For an understanding China's involvement in the region:**



CAOCL - Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning

Regional, Culture and language Familiarization - RCLF



Latin America, the Caribbean and China: Sub-regional Strategic Scenarios. Edited by Adrián Bonilla Soria and Paz Milet García. San José, Costa Rica: Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – FLACSO and Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina – CAF, July 2015.

Available at:

<http://www.flacso.org/secretaria-general/latin-america-caribbean-and-china-sub-regional-strategic-scenarios>

Ellis, Evan. “The Strategic Dimension of Chinese Engagement with Latin America.” *Perry Paper Series*, No.1, 2013. Available at:

<http://chds.dodlive.mil/files/2013/12/pub-PP-ellis.pdf>

Ellis, Evan. “China-Latin America Military Engagement: Good Will, Good Business, and Strategic Position.” *Strategic Studies Institute*, August 25, 2011.

Available at:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1077>

10. U.S. POLICY IN THE REGION:

- For U.S. Regional Policy overviews:

Refer to the Military Education Research Library Network (MERLN) – here you will access the *Congressional Research Service, White House, Department of Defense, Department of State*, and other sources of research and analysis. Available at:

<http://ndu.libguides.com/ARA>

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs [Website]:

<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/index.htm>