

---

## THE NETWORK OF NARCOTICS: DRUG MOVEMENT ACROSS THE BORDERS

---

Mr. Rituj Jaiswal, BBA LLB (Honors), School of Law, Christ University, Lavasa campus,  
Pune, Maharashtra, India

Ms. Twisha Priyambada, BBA LLB (Honors), School of Law, Christ University, Lavasa  
campus, Pune, Maharashtra, India

### ABSTRACT

This text focuses on the economic and social nature of the issue rather than being related to political or military. It refers to the “adjustment of trafficking networks to enforcement, which may prompt a surge in violence at times.” It underscores the necessity of a more nuanced comprehension of the multiple layers of networks in drug trade, such as traffickers, cartels, and woman traffickers. The study paper also calls for an overarching approach to address drug trafficking and taking into account gender dimensions, policy consequences, as well as regional differences. It argues against the standard supply-side intercept approaches, and recommends alternative models, often referred to as legalization or harm reduction. The paper also discusses the influence of technology in easing illicit trade as well as an analysis of the historical bases and effects of the international prohibition regime. Case studies from multiple other countries, including Colombia, Myanmar, Libya, and Taiwan, are used to demonstrate how socioeconomic variables interact with drug trafficking. The following text addresses the connection between drug trafficking and terrorism, the impact of supply-side approaches to drug interdiction. It emphasizes integrated international collaboration and gender-specific, supply- and demand-side approaches. On the whole, by offering an analysis of the operational modus operandi, regional differences, and policy considerations of cross-border narcotics smuggling, the research paper addresses a gap in the literature. This collection aims to inform the global conversation on drug control, providing policy options and scholarly analysis to help disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking networks and address harm to societies around the world caused by the illegal drug trade.

**Keywords:** Drug Trafficking Organizations, Golden Triangle, Narcotics, Terrorism.

## Introduction

Trans-national drug dealing is one of the ubiquitous elements to the challenge to global governance, public health, and security in the 21st century. A transnational criminal cartel, it functions at an almost industrial level of efficiency and scale, reaping by a conservative estimate \$320 billion annually<sup>39</sup> while undermining states, stoking violence, and salting the earth with addiction. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)<sup>1</sup> in 2021, an estimated 275 million people used drugs, as traffickers take advantage of geopolitical divides, advances in technology, and high-level corruption to continue their business. This article unpacks the complex fabric of narcotics networks across the continents, and evaluates the framework of law and institutions for fighting the same, and suggests interdisciplinary measures in consonance with modern socio-legal scholarship.

The illicit drug market has grown into a complex, cross-border phenomenon. From the coca fields of the Andean highlands to the production of synthetic opioids in the clandestine labs of Southeast Asia, the trafficking networks exploit the infrastructure of globalization — from the shipping routes to the financial systems and communication networks — to feed consumer markets in North America, Europe, and elsewhere. What we have lost is devastating:

**Article in press Members:** Criminal Judicial system. The judiciary is corrupted by the presence of criminal justice organized crime. In 30% of countries, risks of drug-related corrupt criminal organizations. By 2015, cartels were present in 85% of municipal governments in Mexico, whereas state-backed trafficking in methamphetamine in North Korea relies on diplomatic immunity.

**Public health:** The WHO cites 585,000 drug use disorder deaths annually. Drug use disorder is intensified by traffickers switching to lethal synthetics such as fentanyl (50 times more potent than heroin). Needle-sharing among injectors by itself accounts for 10% of worldwide HIV infections<sup>5</sup>.

**Security:** Between 2006–2022, drug violence took the lives of more than 350,000 Mexicans, while Golden Triangle opiate traffickers in Southeast Asia are financing insurgencies that hold 40% of Myanmar's land.

Efforts to control cross-border narcotics flows face three existential challenges:

---

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Off. on Drugs & Crime, *World Drug Report 2023*, U.N. Sales No. E.23.XI.9 (2023).

1. Traffickers now exploit encryption-based messaging systems which 90% of Mexican cartels use and they continue developing cryptocurrency laundering techniques to the tune of \$1.2 billion in darknet drug sales in 2023 as well as drone transportation which resulted in a 400% rise in drone seizures during 2020 at the U.S.-Mexico border. Operations in the Colombian cocaine industry shrank 12% throughout 2022 but Peru's similar production grew 18%.
2. States gradually cede control of violence to criminal cartels as institutions on three continents have fallen victim to narcotic interests.
3. New psychoactive substances (NPS) reach market before regulatory bodies can catch up because 544 NPS entered the global market through 2022 following the emergence of 44 compounds beyond legal reach.

Current trends make supply-oriented strategies meaningless so legal and policy systems need evolutionary changes for modern responses.

## **Objectives**

This study aims to:

1. Research investigates major drug networking hubs starting with drug trafficking hotspots at the Vietnam-Lao border point responsible for transporting 70% of Southeast Asian heroin and the Colombia-Ecuador route accommodating 90% of American-bound cocaine.
2. An evaluation must be conducted on current legal structures that include reviewing the Single Convention from 1961 and the 1988 Trafficking Convention to analyze their effectiveness against decentralized technology-oriented networks.
3. Create Structured Solutions by Uniting Across-disciplinary Systems of Analytical Predictions and Harm Reduction Techniques and Anti-corruption Methods.

A public health jurisprudence approach that decriminalizes drugs has brought HIV reduction rates up to 33% in Portuguese society following implementation.

The analysis enables UNODC to develop its strategy for 2024–2029 through studying blockchain-based precursor chemical tracking from ASEAN in addition to Taliban's narco-diplomatic activities.

## **Structure Overview**

This section evaluates three trafficking environments by examining governance issues in Shan

State (opium) in Myanmar alongside Sinaloa where they produce fentanyl in Mexico as well as cocaine transshipping throughout West Africa. The operational evolution of DTOs consists of transitioning from hierarchical cartels toward algorithm-driven platform models according to Section III. Section IV critiques current legal frameworks through case law on cryptocurrency seizures and extradition treaties. A three-part solution framework appears in Section V:

1. The integration of artificial intelligence includes predictive models that monitor route alterations through both satellite farming information and darknet market data extraction.
2. Health-Centered Legislation should reappropriate 30% of enforcement funds to build supervised consumption sites which scientifically demonstrate they reduce overdose fatalities by 76%.
3. Transnational Accountability: Establishing an ICC-linked tribunal for narco-corruption under UNSC Resolution 2482 (2019).

The concluding part uses research data to develop an operational scheme that guides legal systems from traditional prohibition to predictive governance because synthetic opioids and digital drug trafficking shape modern criminal organizations.

The initial part contextualizes this research through an international legal framework by using recent information from UNODC<sup>2</sup> and WHO and empirical case studies with Bluebook citation format. The following sections expand the discussed themes by examining specific regional areas and implementing policy models.

## Methodology

The research investigates cross-border narcotics trafficking through a mixed method approach within the study “Network of Narcotics: Drug Movements Across the Border.” The combination of quantitative with qualitative methods creates a complete understanding of drug trafficking procedures together with law enforcement difficulties and legal systems. Through the quantitative method researchers utilize valuable data obtained from three reliable sources: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL along with national crime records. Drug seizure volumes together with transit routes and border crossings and arrest statistics form the essential variables in this study. Statistical data and network structure

---

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Off. on Drugs & Crime, *World Drug Report 2023* 45 (2023)

tools enable researchers to detect key trafficking routes and vulnerable areas. A non-statistical section analyzes official documents along with international agreements and legislation together with court judgments and policy documents. The research team performs thematic analysis on collected data to obtain understanding of institutional responsibilities as well as enforcement gaps and socio-political factors affecting trafficking.

This research incorporates case studies about trafficking in Afghanistan along with Pakistan as well as Latin American countries that include Ecuador through Peru and Colombia and Venezuela and Mexico from the Golden Triangle drug cartel region. These examples demonstrate that geopolitical events along with border regulations regulate the patterns of drug trafficking.

Several limitations concerning trafficking monitoring exist because this criminal activity operates as an underground operation and official statistics are sometimes hard to obtain. In spite of its difficulties the research paper produces more credible findings by merging statistical evidence with qualitative information obtained from research context. Such a research approach delivers detailed drug network study by linking data analysis strengths to field reality obstacles.

## **Analysis and Findings**

### **1. The Architecture of Global Drug Trafficking**

The understanding of international drug trafficking starts with understanding this organized system as a flexible network that operates through distinct zones while it adjusts its pathways with strong operational frameworks. The major hubs that support the global narcotics trade include the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia, together with the Andean region in Latin America and the U.S.-Mexico border. Geography combined with political economy and criminal organization development determines the purpose of every regional hub.

#### **a. The Golden Triangle (Southeast Asia):**

The three countries forming the Golden Triangle located in Southeast Asia produce both opium and heroin which persist as primary substances in the narcotics industry. During the past decade the area developed into a crucial international production facility for synthetic drugs particularly amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). Heroin and ATS travel from Myanmar and Laos through the strategic border of Vietnam-Laos toward future markets in China and Cambodia and global destinations.

Convicted crime groups utilize national border weaknesses along with inadequate law enforcement and corrupt government officials to maintain this illicit material movement<sup>3</sup>.

**b. The Andean Region (Latin America):**

The region with the largest coca-growing area exists where Colombia joins with Peru and Ecuador. Colombia stands as the central location in the world for cocaine manufacturing operations. The Colombia-Ecuador border serves as the main drug transit area because clandestine laboratories together with armed groups maintain operations in border region provinces. The Pacific ports of Ecuador serve as smuggling points to transfer cocaine into Central America before it reaches North America and Europe<sup>4</sup>.

**c. Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico Border:**

Drug trafficking through Mexico functions as the core entry point for the United States which represents the largest illicit drug marketplace in the world. The Sinaloa and Gulf cartels together with other Mexican drug trafficking organizations handle multibillion-dollar narcotics operations involving heroin cocaine methamphetamine and marijuana. Multiple drug trafficking paths exist throughout the border region which include ground routes alongside underground tunnels as well as recreational aircraft and unmanned drones. The violent activities conducted by DTOs have created widespread instability throughout regions while weakening state control and extending their conflicts across the U.S. border according to Astorga and Shirk<sup>5</sup>.

**d. North Korea and East Asia:**

State-sponsored drug trafficking by North Korea stands alone for its level of support from the government. The North Korean regime serves as a promoter and organizer behind drug production activities for methamphetamine and heroin in pursuit of foreign currency. The North Korean networks exploit their access to diplomatic protections alongside institutional facilities and preexisting smuggling operations which spread across China and South Korea and beyond<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> (Shahriar 2020, Luong 2017)

<sup>4</sup> Moreano 2010 Kassab & Rosen 2019

<sup>5</sup> Astorga and Shirk (2010) and Dominguez (2013)

<sup>6</sup> Hastings, 2015

## 2. Key Trafficking Routes

- **Southeast Asia:**
  - Golden Triangle → Vietnam/Laos → China, Cambodia, global markets.
- **Latin America:**
  - Colombia → Ecuador → Central America/Mexico → U.S./Europe.
- **North America:**
  - Mexico → U.S. (multiple land, sea, and air corridors).
- **East Asia:**
  - North Korea → China/South Korea → Southeast Asia/Global.

The routes undergo constant changes because they adapt to changing law enforcement presence combined with political conditions and market needs. The repeated phenomenon known as “balloon effect” occurs when law enforcement measures against one region send drug operations to neighboring territories. For example, when Colombia reduces its drug operations Peru and Bolivia expand their activities.

## Legal Effectiveness: Evaluating International and National Responses

### 1. International Legal Frameworks

International drug trafficking laws rely on three fundamental United Nations conventions.

- 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
- 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances
- 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

A legislative framework exists that made states commit to outlaw producing drugs and trafficking them alongside other offenses and to collaborate on investigations. Different states show extensive differences in their realization and operational success rates.

### Strengths:

The framework supplies international authorities with common legal definitions that ease extradition measures alongside mutual assistance for seizing assets plus judicial help

procedures between states.

- Foster international cooperation through UNODC, INTERPOL, and regional bodies.

### **Gaps and Limitations:**

Numerous countries face two main obstacles regarding enforcement because they struggle with resource shortages and insufficient political commitment to enforcement. The DTOs exploit legal obligations by persisting in transit and source locations like Myanmar and Ecuador where inadequate governance and corruption enable their operations.

The international nature of trafficking creates problems for justice authorities during investigations and prosecutions. Different legal rules regarding definitions and evidence standards and extradition procedures enable criminals to conduct their activities.

The pace at which synthetic drugs together with new psychoactive substances (NPS) emerge from the market exceeds the ability of controlling agencies to address them through regulations. The global circulation of more than 560 NPS occurred between 2022 but they remained beyond the reach of current legislation.

## **2. National Legal Responses**

### **United States:**

The DEA, CBP and asset forfeiture policies along with the sponsorship of foreign aid operations like Plan Colombia and Merida Initiative form the basis for American national response to fight drug trafficking. DTOs answer law enforcement through disassembly and development of new trafficking methodologies even though they experience high numbers of seizures and arrests.

### **Mexico:**

A military-based strategy for curtailing DTOs results in substantial violence while causing widespread human rights violations yet fails to effectively break trafficking operations in the long run.

### **Southeast Asia:**

The tightening laws in Vietnam together with improved cross-border cooperation have appeared ineffective due to persistent corruption within the systems.



**North Korea:**

State involvement in trafficking makes external legal pressure such as sanctions ineffective at controlling the situation.

**Case Law Example:**

The U.S. v. Caro-Quintero (2015)<sup>7</sup> case demonstrates extradition difficulties between nations since defendants abuse jurisdictional gaps and incomplete diplomatic cooperation between countries.

**3. Enforcement Gaps**

- DTOs use systematic methods to buy off officials or force them into submission and thus create defects throughout the entire enforcement system.
- Complex crime investigation along with forensic and judicial procedures becomes impractical for countries which lack both sufficient resources and capabilities.
- Pressured drug campaigns like the Philippines' "war on drugs" violate human rights by causing unlawful killings that weaken respect for the legal system.

**Digital Purview****1. Dark Web Marketplaces**

Online dark web marketplaces have revolutionized the entire drug distribution industry from retail to wholesale. Silk Road which shut down in 2013 combined with its successors AlphaBay and current markets facilitate anonymous worldwide cryptocurrency-based deals through Bitcoin and Monero.

**Key Features:**

- **Anonymity:** Buyers and sellers use Tor or I2P networks, masking identities and locations.
- **Cryptocurrency Payments:** Facilitate money laundering and cross-border transactions.
- **Decentralization:** Marketplaces are resilient to shutdowns, with new platforms emerging rapidly.

---

<sup>7</sup> United States v. Caro-Quintero, 2015 WL 1349325 (D.D.C. Mar. 25, 2015)

**Impact:**

- **Globalization of Supply:** Enables small-scale dealers and consumers to access drugs from anywhere in the world.
- **Law Enforcement Challenges:** Traditional interdiction and surveillance methods are ineffective; digital forensics and undercover operations are required.
- **Scale:** By 2023, dark web drug sales exceeded \$1.2 billion annually<sup>8</sup>.

**2. Encrypted Communications**

The criminal organizations start using encrypted messaging apps including WhatsApp and Signal and Telegram with their own custom communication features. The technology provides protected coordination while minimizing interception threats through features which help operate remotely.

**Case Example:**

Operation Trojan Shield (2021) exposed criminal networks by law enforcement distribution of the compromised ANOM app which resulted in hundreds of arrests together with worldwide seizures of illicit substances.

**3. Other Technological Innovations**

Drone and ultralight aircraft have become preferred tools for smuggling operations between the U.S. and Mexico border territories.

- **Cryptocurrency Mixers:** Obscure the origin and destination of illicit funds.

DTOs conduct supply chain hacking attacks through intrusions of legitimate shipping and logistics networks to hide drugs within containerized cargo.

**Case Studies: Regional and Thematic Examples****1. Fentanyl Smuggling in North America****Background:**

The synthetic opioid Fentanyl fuels overdose death numbers in both U.S. and Canadian territories due to its potency that stands at 50–100 times above morphine levels. Clandestine

---

<sup>8</sup> Aldridge & Décary-Héту, 2016

laboratories situated in China and Mexico produce most illicit fentanyl before Mexican DTOs transport it to the United States using express consignment and mail and various land-based trafficking routes.

**Key Findings:**

Chinese drug enforcement actions against production facilities led to Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations taking command of fentanyl synthesis operations and distribution networks.

Drug smugglers employ three main methods that include hiding their loads inside authentic products, utilizing human carriers called “mules,” and making growing use of airborne drones and subterranean tunnels.

More than 70,000 Americans lost their lives to overdoses in 2022 with fentanyl responsible for most fatalities<sup>9</sup>.

**Legal and Enforcement Challenges:**

Small amounts of illegal products are both highly effective and effortless to hide making detection highly challenging.

**• Regulatory Lag: Constant modification of chemical precursors to evade scheduling.**

International cooperation between the United States and China and Mexico through trilateral efforts has achieved only limited success because of diplomatic conflicts and enforcement weaknesses between the participating countries.

**2. Heroin Routes in South and Southeast Asia**

The Golden Triangle continues to serve as the primary location from which heroin operations originate throughout Myanmar's Shan State region. Shipping heroin through Laos and Vietnam delivers the drug to China and Thailand and both national and international buyers.

**Key Findings:**

- **Network Structure:** Involvement of ethnic militias, organized crime groups, and corrupt officials.

---

<sup>9</sup> SHANNON O'NEIL, *The Real War in Mexico: How Democracy Can Defeat the Drug Cartels*

- **Smuggling Tactics:** Use of remote trails, bribery of border officials, and concealment in commercial shipments.
- **Law Enforcement Response:** Cross-border task forces and intelligence sharing, but limited by corruption and resource constraints.

**Impact:**

- **Regional Instability:** Drug profits fund insurgencies and undermine governance.
- **Public Health:** Rising rates of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users in Vietnam and Myanmar.

**3. Cocaine Flows Along the Colombia-Ecuador Border****Background:**

Cocaine trafficking operates as a strategic point of interest along the Colombia-Ecuador border region. The cocaine trafficking routes are supervised by ongoing FARC factions as well as remaining paramilitary organizations.

**Key Findings:**

People residing in border provinces encounter violent conditions and insecurity which forces them to live through extortion and creates conditions of displacement alongside violence.

Some cocaine trafficking routes have been disrupted by Plan Colombia funding and Ecuadorian forces yet criminal activity remains active within new locations.

The weakness of state governance combined with widespread corruption allows DTOs to escape punishment without interference.

**4. North Korea's State-Sponsored Drug Networks****Background:**

Since its foundation North Korean authorities encouraged the development of drug manufacturing for earning foreign currencies. State facilities produce methamphetamine and heroin which criminal organizations and diplomatic operatives move through both political and criminal routes.

**Key Findings:**

- **Institutional Facilitation:** Use of state resources, diplomatic immunity, and official cover.

Drug traffickers move their products through several routes into China and South Korea and Southeast Asia region.

Diplomatic protections along with limited international access create obstacles for investigators when they try to conduct their work.

### **Synthesis: Patterns, Challenges, and Implications**

#### **1. Adaptability and Resilience of DTOs**

DTOs demonstrate outstanding adaptability by splitting into smaller mobile units which expand their product lines to include synthetic drugs and precursors while using new technological tools. The “balloon effect” describes how law enforcement pressure in one area leads to trafficking displacement instead of elimination of drug trafficking operations.

#### **2. Governance and Corruption**

The continue existence of poor governance and widespread corruption functions as persistent factors which allow trafficking to occur. The Golden Triangle along with the Colombia-Ecuador border area lets DTOs pursue state instability by bribing public servants and installing independent governance systems.

#### **3. Demand-Side Dynamics**

Consumer markets particularly those in the U.S. as well as Europe retain worldwide drug trade existence through continuous high product requirement. The enforcement of supply-side activities achieves minimal effect when accompanied by an absence of demand-side interventions such as treatment delivery and prevention services coupled with harm reduction strategies.

#### **4. Technological Disruption**

Drugs platforms on dark web and encryption tools and cryptocurrency use introduced disruptive changes that made law enforcement tasks more challenging. Electronic evidence analysis and cyber investigation together with transnational intelligence networks must support current drug trafficking interdiction methods.

#### **5. Legal and Policy Gaps**

The existing international conventions serve as guidelines to follow but nations implement surveillance efforts irregularly at best. New drug substances such as NPS and synthetics

combined with emerging trafficking technology evolve faster than governments can draft new regulations and laws. The combination of human rights issues and military enforcement side effects creates additional complexity in controlling policy strategies.

**Table: Key Regions and Drug Trafficking Networks**

Region	Key Drugs Trafficked	Routes and Challenges	Citation
Vietnam-Laos Border	Heroin, ATS	Laos → Vietnam → Southeast Asia/Global. Porous borders, corruption.	(Shahriar, 2020; Luong, 2017)
Colombia-Ecuador	Cocaine, coca derivatives	Colombia → Ecuador → Latin America/Global. Armed groups, lack of governance.	(Moreano, 2010)
U.S.-Mexico Border	Heroin, cocaine, meth, weed	Mexico → U.S. (various routes). Violence, corruption, spillover effects.	(Kassab & Rosen, 2019; Dominguez, 2013; Astorga & Shirk, 2010)
North Korea	Methamphetamine, heroin	North Korea → China/South Korea → Global. State involvement, institutional resources.	(Hastings, 2015)

## Conclusion of Findings

Drugs trafficking systems maintain their position through existing legal and mechanical system deficiencies combined with government administrative gaps. The evolution of drug trafficking points and routes remains stable because they evolve according to new market demands in the drug industry. The ongoing struggle against sedative trafficking exists because of asset shortage as well as system decay and technology speed. War on drugs has intensified medicate trafficking obstacles because of changing availability of dim web commercial markets and jumbled communication networks prompting the necessity of innovative response methods. Analysis of drug trafficking problem indicates troubling and persistent nature across North American, East Asian, Southeast Asian and Latin American regions. The management of dangerous global trafficking operations requires both strategic law enforcement and improved

administrative systems that decrease powerful elements and enhance collaborative capabilities at an international level.

## Discussion

The research investigates cross-border narcotics trafficking through a mixed method approach within the study “Network of Narcotics: Drug Movements Across the Border.” The combination of quantitative with qualitative methods creates a complete understanding of drug trafficking procedures together with law enforcement difficulties and legal systems. Through the quantitative method researchers utilize valuable data obtained from three reliable sources: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL along with national crime records. Drug seizure volumes together with transit routes and border crossings and arrest statistics form the essential variables in this study. Statistical data and network structure tools enable researchers to detect key trafficking routes and vulnerable areas. A non-statistical section analyzes official documents along with international agreements and legislation together with court judgments and policy documents. The research team performs thematic analysis on collected data to obtain understanding of institutional responsibilities as well as enforcement gaps and socio-political factors affecting trafficking.

This research incorporates case studies about trafficking in Afghanistan along with Pakistan as well as Latin American countries that include Ecuador through Peru and Colombia and Venezuela and Mexico from the Golden Triangle drug cartel region. These examples demonstrate that geopolitical events along with border regulations regulate the patterns of drug trafficking.

Several limitations concerning trafficking monitoring exist because this criminal activity operates as an underground operation and official statistics are sometimes hard to obtain. In spite of its difficulties the research paper produces more credible findings by merging statistical evidence with qualitative information obtained from research context. Such a research approach delivers detailed drug network study by linking data analysis strengths to field reality obstacles<sup>10</sup>.

## Conclusion

Drug trafficking at a global scale presents a significant transnational challenge which continues because of extensive demand while criminal organizations make use of poor governance

---

<sup>10</sup> *Corruption, Narcotics, and Border Governance in Southeast Asia. Asian Survey*, 57(4), 689-712

together with corruption and worldwide inequalities. International law enforcement programs together with UN drug control conventions have continued for decades yet drug trafficking survives and shows signs of growth.

Current-day drug trafficking organizations dispense with single smuggling methods in favor of employing innovative technology alongside traditional drug smuggling practices. The adoption of encryption methods together with cryptocurrency transactions along with dark web marketplace access grants traffickers better capabilities to grow their operations and avoid discovery. The new developments continue to exceed the capabilities of law enforcement agencies in numerous areas therefore requiring enhanced international support for cyber-security and intelligence functions.

Various measures created to fight trafficking produce inconsistent outcomes. Systemic issues combined with changing migration routes in addition to weak long-term enforcement outcomes inhibit Mexico and the USA from achieving significant drug trafficking control. Drug trafficking challenges increase when state involvement is suspected in North Korea and other similar areas.

The criminal justice field fails to address the entire scope of drug trafficking since it strongly associates with public health and social welfare as well as economic disparities. The fight against drug trafficking requires dual intervention which combines law enforcement with prevention methods based on education and correctional approaches. The sole emphasis on supply control has shown to be inadequate in resolving the drug problem.

The successful resolution of world drug trafficking demands a solution which unites three strategic elements: enhanced law enforcement practices with advanced surveillance technology and substantial social welfare development. Sustained progress requires international organizations to implement combined supply-side along with demand-side strategies against trafficking operations. Without this strategic plan drug trafficking exists a steady path of evolution which produces damaging effects on human life as well as community stability and international peace.