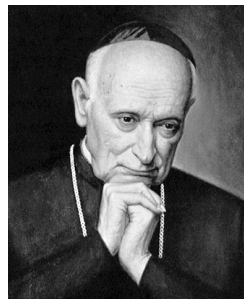


Mindszenty Report



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Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation

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The Magic Dragon Drug Cartels and the Mexican Border War

The 1963 song, *Puff the Magic Dragon* has a rich lineage, which includes poems by Ogden Nash and Leonard Lipton. The song's popularity increased during the 1960s because of the alleged double entendre of some of its lyrics, which implied the smoking of marijuana. Thanks to America's increasing need for even harder drugs, this probable urban legend has given the song a legacy that has kept it from sinking into vinyl oblivion.

A Fragile Historical Context

America's insatiable demand for drugs has projected the country's immigration difficulties with Mexico in a new and more violent light. The mushrooming crisis on the border threatens to erupt into a fireball of chaos and turmoil. This scenario is not surprising, given the fragile historical context of past American relations with Mexico that dates back to the early 19th century. The advent of Texas colonists and the expansionist phenomenon, known as *Manifest Destiny*, led to several military confrontations in the 1840s that culminated in the humiliating defeat of the Mexican army and the subsequent loss of millions of acres of land that now comprise at least five American states.

Since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which ended the war in 1848, Mexico has remained embittered and resentful of the Yankee *Colossus of the North*. Despite many years of political and economic partnership with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) over the past two decades, an endemic hostility toward America still lingers throughout Mexican society. This national anger is deeply embedded in the indigenous movement La Reconquista, which is dedicated to the return of all lost Mexican lands.

The last few Mexican presidents have emphatically reminded their people of their violent history with the U. S. In 1997 before a raucous Chicago throng which included the radical group La Raza, then- President Ernesto Zedillo proclaimed *I have proudly affirmed that the Mexican nation extends beyond the territory enclosed by its borders*. La Raza Unida or the Unified Race is an association of gangs formed in the late 1960s and early 1970s with chapters throughout the American Southwest. Their avowed purpose

is to return large regions of the American Southwest that formerly belonged to Mexico by whatever means necessary. In 2004 then President Vicente Fox echoed his predecessors' sentiments when he reminded Mexicans of their belief *in a nation of history, blood and soil that pre-existed, and supersede any pledge of allegiance any Mexican may make to another country, especially to the United States*.

An Open Civil War

Mexico's historical rancor serves as the backdrop for a drug war that not only has enflamed both national borders but has also threatened each country's relative stability. The March 7th issue of *The Economist* reported that the Mexican Revolution of 1910-17 gave birth to a seemingly powerful state, democratic in appearance but authoritarian in nature, in which its major political party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, monopolized power. In such a system, the police were not required to solve crimes but only had to keep order. Organized crime and drug-related gangs and militias are now reaping what the politicians sowed 90 years ago. While illegal immigration is the most commonly perceived border problem for the U. S., it is the powerful drug cartels that loom as a far greater national public menace.

According to Clayton Reid in the March 2009 *Newsmax*, corrupt government officials use massive piles of money gleaned from illegal drugs to bribe local officials into turning a blind eye to the carnage while terrified citizens flee to safe havens. Journalist George Friedman warns that Mexico is near the point of an open civil war. Heavily armed with weapons purchased in America, drug traffickers wage a constant war with each other and Mexico's police force. Each day the media reports the carnage of beheadings, mutilations and other gruesome murders. The constant barrage of bloody violence often rivals the news from Baghdad or Fallujah during the worst months in Iraq. Over 10,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence, with over 6000 deaths in 2008 alone. That same year there were 950 kidnappings in Mexico, making Mexico City the #1 city for kidnapping in the world.

For example the town of Ciudad Juarez, a city of 1.3 million across the border from El Paso, is purported to be one

of the most violent spots on the face of the earth. The drug cartels have created an atmosphere of violence that has made it virtually impossible to enforce local drug laws. The cartels have truckloads of American weapons, including M-16s, hand grenades, and grenade launchers. After the murder of several of his deputies, Chief of Police Roberto Orduna Cruz resigned early in 2009 in fear for his life and that of his family.

Thanks to the violence and the widespread bribing of Mexican officials, all leading social and economic indicators warn that Mexico, which has the world's 12th largest economy, is teetering on a slippery slope of economic uncertainty that points to its eventual collapse. According to Fred Burton, a former State Department counterterrorism official, *as the Mexican economy worsens, there will be increased violence.*

To combat this deteriorating problem, in addition to sending 25,000 federal troops to confront the cartels, and a campaign to root out corruption in the police force and in the courts, President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa proposed a *strategic partnership* with the United States that would establish a bilateral group of experts to explore a closer security co-operation. This superficial solution may read nicely on paper but can only translate into greater expenditures for the U.S. government without the likelihood of attaining any identifiable progress, given Mexico's lack of political and military resolve to police their American borders and eradicate their drug cartels.

A Homeland Invasion

If Mexico does dissolve into a *drugocracy*, the consequences for the U. S. would be extremely ominous. The situation in Mexico is so serious it cannot help but penetrate America's porous border with a steady stream of violence that will disrupt its Southwest. Mexican gangs are already running billions of dollars worth of drugs into the United States and funding violent criminal organizations in many towns and cities.

The U.S. Justice Department's National Gang Intelligence Center reported that Mexican drug gangs are killing people in towns from El Paso to Brownsville. El Paso has also experienced an influx of upper middle income Mexicans fleeing the violence in Juarez, Mexico, one of the most dangerous and deadly places on earth. In a Birmingham, Alabama suburb, the bodies of five Mexican men were found slain and brutally mutilated. Their murders appear to be the work of Narco-terrorists, according to DEA officials on the scene. Narco-terrorism has seeped as far inland as Florida and Wisconsin.

According to a recent report by the National Drug Intelligence Center, *the influence of Mexican drug trafficking organizations over domestic drug trafficking is unrivaled. Mexican drug cartels now control most of the U.S. drug market*, with an amazingly sophisticated communication system that has organized over 230 gangs across America. Membership in these gangs is over one million with the Mexican drug lords playing major roles in U.S. crime rings.

This threat is increased by the fact that in some areas of the United States the cartels have entered into partnerships with local gangs.

The Zetas, former Mexican soldiers who have become the paramilitary wing of the Gulf Cartel, have been linked to killings as far north of the border as Dallas, according to court records and press accounts. The *Sinaloa Cartel* is flourishing in the Houston drug trade. In Phoenix, suspected Mexican traffickers dressed as SWAT police officers recently attacked a home with high-caliber weapons. Fred Burton says *Mexican cartels not only utilize U. S. street gangs as dealers and enforcers, they already control street drug traffic in cities like Atlanta.*

Jeremy Schwartz Cox, writing in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, points out that officials fear the cartels will bring not just drug violence, *but peripheral cash-generating crimes like kidnapping, extortion and protection rackets, all common problems in Mexico.* According to ABC News our federal government has virtually ignored the *use of kidnapping by Mexican drug cartels for ransom or revenge.* This is already happening in Arizona. Phoenix is now the second most notorious city in the world for kidnappings with brutal dismemberments if the ransom is not paid fast enough.

A Security Priority

Former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, the new Homeland Security chief, has called for stationing National Guard troops along the border permanently, while Michael Chertoff, the former Homeland Security chief, says a *contingency plan for border violence* has been developed that would include use of U.S. military assets, which is probably *officialspeak* for United States military forces.

Retired Clinton drug czar General Barry McCaffrey recognized the seriousness of this issue in his recent report, which warned that *the dangerous and worsening problems in Mexico... fundamentally threaten US national security. He reiterated the fact that the United States cannot afford to have a Narco state as a neighbor.*

The steady flow of illegal immigrants, fueled by American business' demand for cheap labor, has not only overburdened most Southwestern communities with spiraling welfare, crime and health care costs, it has also muddied the waters of the *war on terror*. There have been reports that the drug lords also are looking to stockpile cash, despite the tough economy through alliances with al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas.

The real crime on the border is that for years American leaders have failed to secure them. Now Americans citizens are paying a high price for this lack of diligence. The southern border is under siege from a heavily armed enemy that is well funded and is ruthless and barbaric. This homeland threat is far greater than Iraq, Iran, or Afghanistan has ever been. Fences are only a band-aid solution to a problem that permeates the business-government alliance that influences much of American government.

The Church and the Drug Cartels

The Catholic Church, not only champions the cause of the millions of Mexico's poor, but also condemns the drug violence that has caught the poor people in crossfire. Last September Pope Benedict XVI expressed his concern that *due to the eagerness for power, healthy ways of living together and doing things political have deteriorated, and too the phenomena of corruption, impunity, infiltration of narcotics trafficking, and organized crime have increased.* The Pontiff sympathized with the Mexican poor's need to migrate from places *where many work in precarious conditions, defenseless and confronting difficulties different in cultural context to their social and religious idiosyncrasies.*

The Church in Mexico has not been silent under the guidance of its prelate, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, the Archbishop of Mexico City, the largest Catholic archdiocese in the world. Installed in 1995, Cardinal Rivera has sharply rebuked both the drug cartels and government corruption in the drug trade on numerous occasions. In his Ash Wednesday homily the Cardinal decried the deep governmental corruption that characterized drug trafficking. He urged Catholics to *fight violence and corruption with the weapons of prayer, penance, fasting and a morally sound life.* Archbishop Jose Luis Chavez Botello of Antequera, Oaxaca echoed his message when he underscored the drug trade's *deep corruption of our political system and its connections with organized crime.*

Illegal Zones of Protection

In America, Catholic prelates complicate the important border issues with their unrealistic attacks on America's Mexican immigration policies. Their defiant opposition to legitimate American law has jeopardized local law enforcement agencies' ability to police American borders and ferret out drug dealers from the human tide of illegal aliens that regularly breach the United States border.

Prior to Vatican II papal statements prudently recognized the need to reconcile migration rights with national protection and the common good. Since 1965 the Church's concept of immigrant rights has moved more closely to the

extreme. Many Catholic leaders have denied any limitations on Mexicans' right to cross national borders in search of work or for family reunions. Los Angeles' Cardinal Roger Mahony and Washington's Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, both of whose stance on abortion laws are much more passive, have led the vanguard of what many view to be an unconstitutional position that holds the right to immigrate as more fundamental than that of a nation to protect its borders from illegal invasions. They have done this without citing any authority, moral or otherwise, where a state's right to regulate its own borders has to be sacrificed for the mass invasion of citizens from a foreign country.

Cardinal Mahony is also a leader in the Church's *Sanctuary Movement*, which provides a zone of protection, especially in many urban areas, where illegal immigrants are shielded from police apprehension, prosecution and deportation. While designed to stimulate needed immigration reform, the Sanctuary Movement, in effect, encourages Catholics to defy the valid laws of their nation. It has also distracted government officials from the larger border issues of drugs and violence. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches *Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.*

The narcotic allure of the Magic Dragon has tested the strength of American tolerance and resourcefulness. Billions in appropriations have not helped. The Mexican border is a festering problem with serious human consequences that cannot be left to the whimsy of negotiation. On March 24th a new White House initiative was announced to deploy an additional 450 law enforce officers to the border. Other cooperative options are being discussed, including posting National Guard troops along the border.

The situation is very volatile, things are changing every day. With so few viable options, Mexico might just be the first foreign test of Obama's presidential mettle.

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Conference in 2009

THE CHURCH TEACHES FORUM LOUISVILLE, KY - July 17-18

The Galt House-East Tower
Fourth Street at the River, Louisville, KY
Friday Evening Mass, Banquet, Keynote Address
Welcome/Introduction by Rev. Edmund McCaffrey
THEME: MARY: MEDICINE FOR A SICK AMERICA & WORLD

Speakers on Friday

Most Reverend Raymond Burke, Rome
Reverend Benedict Groeschel, NY

Speakers on Saturday

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Louisville
Reverend Roger Arnsparger, Charlotte, NC
Most Rev. Thomas Doran, Bishop of Rockford, IL

Info: Eternal Life-Rev. Edmund McCaffrey, President
902 East Stephen Foster, Bardstown, KY 40004
Tel: 1-800-842-2871 Fax: 1-502-348-2224

Scandal at Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame has invited President Barack Obama to speak at the commencement and to receive an honorary doctorate of law degree on May 17, 2009. Considering President Obama's anti-life positions on partial birth abortion, Freedom of Choice Act, and embryonic stem cell research, this scandalous action shows blatant disregard for the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who issued a document in 2004 called Catholics in Political Life. The document reads, "Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

The Cardinal Newman Society, a Catholic nonprofit dedicated to bringing about Renewal of Catholic Higher Education, launched an online petition drive to Notre Dame President Rev. John Jenkins expressing outrage over this invitation. The website at NotreDameScandal.com has received more than 221,500 signers as of 3/31/09. Please join and sign the petition today. If you do not have internet access, please call at 703-367-0333 x104 to sign the petition over the phone.

The 1531 apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe when Mary said "I am the woman who has crushed the head of the serpent" take on an even greater significance in these trying times because the miraculous appearances were in Mexico. Our Blessed Mother left her image on the cloak of Juan Diego, which has been enthroned in the basilica of the Guadalupe National Shrine in Mexico City. In 1945 Pope Pius XII proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Americas. Here are some of her words:

"...do not fear any illness or trouble, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life?..."

The Most Important Person on Earth is a Mother

Cardinal Mindszenty's respect for Mothers was deep and abiding. Below is the Cardinal's quote on a 5 1/2" x 3" prayer card.



The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body ... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation ... What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

— *Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty*

Order a supply of cards with the beautiful pro-life message. Insert with your letters, bills; give out at church and meetings.

Cost includes postage:

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| 50 cards | \$4.00 | 500 cards | \$32.50 |
| | | 1,000 cards | \$60.00 |

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MR. CHIPS MEETS DR BILL: THE WAR FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION—Reviews 40 years of radical leftist educators changing the college campuses into Marxist laboratories of atheism, anti-Americanism and unrestricted relativism. Documents the staggering ratio of liberal educators outnumbering conservatives; the virtual secularization of many Catholic colleges is one of the shameful aftermaths. Ask for 2/09

THE HAWAIIAN CANDIDATE: PRESIDENT OBAMA AND HIS CURIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH RADICALS—Traces the character and conflicted youth of Barack Obama and his political development, especially his Saul Alinsky, Chicago and ACORN connections. Obama's associations with terrorist Bill Ayers, radicals Louis Farrakan, Rev. Jeremiah Wright and Muslim Rashid Khalidi are examined. Ask for 1/09

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