



Narcoland: The Mexican Drug Lords and Their Godfathers

By Anabel Hernandez



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The product of five years' investigative reporting, the subject of intense national controversy, and the source of death threats that forced the National Human Rights Commission to assign two full-time bodyguards to its author, Anabel Hernández, *Narcoland* has been a publishing and political sensation in Mexico.

The definitive history of the drug cartels, *Narcoland* takes readers to the front lines of the “war on drugs,” which has so far cost more than 60,000 lives in just six years. Hernández explains in riveting detail how Mexico became a base for the mega-cartels of Latin America and one of the most violent places on the planet. At every turn, Hernández names names – not just the narcos, but also the politicians, functionaries, judges and entrepreneurs who have collaborated with them. In doing so, she reveals the mind-boggling depth of corruption in Mexico’s government and business elite.

Hernández became a journalist after her father was kidnapped and killed and the police refused to investigate without a bribe. She gained national prominence in 2001 with her exposure of excess and misconduct at the presidential palace, and previous books have focused on criminality at the summit of power, under presidents Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón.

In awarding Hernández the 2012 Golden Pen of Freedom, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers noted, “Mexico has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists, with violence and impunity remaining major challenges in terms of press freedom. In making this award, we recognize the strong stance Ms. Hernández has taken, at great personal risk, against drug cartels.”

This updated edition includes a new chapter detailing the arrest of “El Chapo” Guzman, the notorious leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, whose incredible escape from his previous incarceration was exposed as an inside job by this book.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

First published in Mexico as *Los señores del narco* in 2010, this dry translation brings Mexican investigative journalist Hernández's exposé about drug trafficking in Mexico to an English-speaking audience. Five years in the making, it's an in-depth, unforgiving look at the deep-rooted corruption that has allowed the cartels to flourish; they now influence and control vast swaths of the country. Numerous anecdotes and interviews flesh out a decades-long narrative, touching on everything from CIA and DEA involvement, to how the drug lords run their empires from prison, to the way these powerful men live and die. It's a scathing, sobering report, as Hernández lays the blame not just on the drug cartels, but on all those who exercise everyday power from behind a false halo of legality to make their law of 'silver or lead' a reality. While appendices containing glossaries of acronyms and short bios do much to reduce reader confusion, there's still an immense and exhausting amount of information to absorb. Those willing to slog through the dense bits will find a thought-provoking portrait of the crime and corruption that dominates our southerly neighbor. (Sept.)

From [Booklist](#)

Most Americans are aware of the carnage wrought upon Mexico by the powerful drug cartels. Still, this account of the rise and continued domination by these cartels is both shocking and unsettling. Hernandez, a widely respected investigative journalist, first published this work in Mexico in 2010, and many of her charges and warnings have been confirmed by subsequent events. According to Hernandez, Mexico is already a "narco-state." That is, the cartels have become thoroughly embedded into key sectors of Mexican society, including the military, the police forces, the courts, and both the local and federal legislatures. Utilizing seemingly authentic secret files and credible sources, she exposes high-level corruption with mind-numbing details, and she doesn't shrink from flinging accusations of both incompetence and complicity at former president Calderon, hailed in the U.S. for launching the "war" against the cartels. Critics within Mexico have accused Hernandez of painting with too broad a brush. Perhaps so, but she still presents a convincing portrait of a society poisoned by its worst elements and presenting a serious challenge for our own country. --Jay Freeman

Review

"An investigative magnum opus."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"A riveting story ... an incredibly brave journalist."

—*NPR Morning Edition*

"This is a book that you read twenty-five pages at a time and then take a break from, shaking your head in disbelief that everything it contains could really have occurred. That it did only makes Hernández's undertaking all the more necessary."

—*Barnes & Noble Review*

"Rigorous, disturbing narrative of how drug cartels infiltrated Mexican society's highest levels ... Essential reading for a serious understanding of how the war on drugs is destroying the social fabric of South American nations."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“The most remarkable feature of Anabel Hernández’s brave and invaluable account of Mexico’s blood-drenched drug wars is that she survived long enough to write it.”

—*Sunday Times*

“Braving the wrath of drug traffickers and government officials alike ... Hernández has exposed the corruption at the heart of the drug war that has killed over 80,000 of her compatriots since 2006.” —*Nation*

“Anabel Hernández accuses the Mexican state of complicity with the cartels, and says the ‘war on drugs’ is a sham. She’s had headless animals left at her door and her family have been threatened by gunmen ... *Narcoland* became, and remains, a bestseller: more than 100,000 copies sold in Mexico. The success is impossible to overstate, a staggering figure for a nonfiction book in a country with indices of income and literacy incomparable to the American–European book-buying market.”

—Ed Vulliamy, *Observer*

“Anabel Hernández exposes the most murderous drug organization in Mexico, the Mexican government. Of course, this level of corruption is only possible thanks to the moral and financial support of the leaders in Washington. Here’s the story the media never has the time to tell you.” —*Charles Bowden author of Murder City: Ciudad Juárez and the Global Economy’s New Killing Fields*

“Jaw-dropping reading.”

—*Independent*

“While many Mexican politicians and officials merely pretend to fight the drugs producers, Anabel Hernández has taken a genuine stand in favour of the rule of law and decency in her society. [*Narcoland*] is in itself an important statement. She deserves our respect and admiration for making it.”

—*Spectator*

“A searing indictment of a war on drugs Hernández believes was a sham from the start.”

—*Financial Times*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Tate:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students since they are still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that query above. Every person has several personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great along with important the book *Narcoland: The Mexican Drug Lords and Their Godfathers*. All type of book would you see on many options. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

June Ross:

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Josephine Weeks:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for you is Narcoland: The Mexican Drug Lords and Their Godfathers this publication consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book ideal all of you.

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