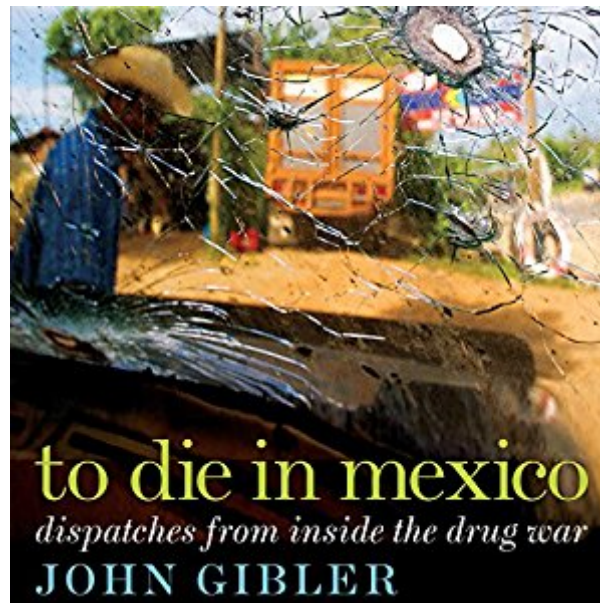




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# To Die In Mexico: Dispatches From Inside The Drug War



## Synopsis

"Gibler is something of a revelation, having been living and writing from Mexico for a range of progressive publications only since 2006, but providing reflections, insights, and a level of understanding worthy of a veteran correspondent." (Latin American Review of Books) Combining on-the-ground reporting and in-depth discussions with people on the frontlines of Mexico's drug war, *To Die in Mexico* tells behind-the-scenes stories that address the causes and consequences of Mexico's multibillion dollar drug trafficking business. John Gibler looks beyond the myths that pervade government and media portrayals of the unprecedented wave of violence now pushing Mexico to the breaking point.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an amazing story of what is really going on with the "War on Drugs" and its impact on both sides of the border. Tells how average Mexican families in many parts of the country live in constant fear of intimidation and execution. The expanding drug cartels that are in endless turf wars usually work in collusion with law enforcement and government officials. Journalists or other honest citizens who try to expose the situation risk their lives. The body count exceeds 100,000. Mexico, not Columbia, is now home to the biggest cocaine cartels. Hard to believe this is going on and that support from U.S. "anti-drug" dollars fuels the process. Well documented with many individual stories and first hand accounts. A must read.

I have read several books on the topic of the current drug war in Mexico from Bowden to Campbell. While I enjoyed each, I found Gibler's book *To Die In Mexico* to be the best in providing both the 35,000 foot view while detailing the situation on the ground. Gibler's book puts the drug war in the context of a larger geopolitical arena in which the drug industry has actually kept a weak global economy turning and how agreements like NAFTA allow shipments of drugs to reach its consumers in the United States. Gibler's book will take you from the streets of Culiacan to Ciudad Juarez to Reynosa, where you meet survivors of murder attempts, families of the dead who cry for justice, and journalists who try to do their jobs in the backdrop of hopeless violence. The book's theme focuses on one word; impunity or the ability for the killers to work unencumbered by the rule of law. The book illustrates this theme in several ways such describing how murders and kidnappings can happen on busy city streets while federal police and/or the army can be less than a block away. Impunity is also seen in the authorities inability or unwillingness to take action despite knowing identities and location of the killers. And finally impunity dictates the way that journalists in Mexico City, Monterrey, and Juarez are allowed to do their jobs in covering the drug war. By reading this book, one gets the sense that this situation is hopeless since the Mexican government is powerless to stop the drug war, especially given the fact that it seems to favor one cartel over the other and is even implicit in assisting one group get the upper hand. The book seems to question whether legalization or decriminalization can provide a solution or if it could create more problems for an already impoverished Mexican state. The book is recent, citing events that have occurred in 2010 and 2011 so people following the situation in Mexico will recognize news events in which they may already be familiar. And it does a thorough job of identifying the key cartels battling for control of each plaza. I believe this book is must reading for anyone wanting to truly understand the situation in Mexico.

A good read.

Great read, couldn't put it down ! Gives you a whole new understanding on how our governments collusion with these cartels perpetuate the problem for obscene profits, special interests and a way to earmark huge tax dollars to fight this 'war on drugs' . All while the media helps misinform, or bury the facts while all concerned get filthy rich and the rest get murdered and dumped !

Too gruesome in the beginning, but then full of information on the distrutive drug war that succeeds in increasing the consumption of drugs. A good book.

The United States uses the drugs and our two governments fuel the dysfunction. I don't agree about legalization, but we are all part of the problem. Treating the cause of drug use might be more effective.

Human beings have been using drugs and alcohol since the beginning of time it seems. It's human nature. We use in order to feel good, have a good time, to relieve stress, to reduce inhibitions, and many more reasons. People have been consuming cannabis and coca for at least two thousand years and opium for more than eight thousand years. Yet our country has decided to fight a war on drugs for the last forty years. Well, guess who's winning? The drugs are. In 2009, more people got high in the U.S. than any year prior, and that coincided with the bloodiest year on record for Mexico's war on drugs. According to John Gibler in "To Die in Mexico", the drug war in Mexico is really two wars. One is President Felipe Calderon's war on drugs, and the other is the feuding between cartels over territory. Mexico's most wanted cartel leader - "El Chapo" Guzman - is frequently listed among Forbes billionaires. The source of his income is listed as "shipping." The U.N. estimates the global drug industry generates between \$300 billion to \$500 billion annually. And in 2008, during the economic crisis, drug money - cold, hard cash - saved the major global banks from collapse. Criminalizing drugs has done nothing but create chaos, death and destruction. In the U.S., decades of narcotics prohibition has produced the highest number of drug users in history and the largest prison population in the world. In Mexico, the cartels are more powerful than the government. They murder and kidnap with impunity. Things are so bad in Reynosa, just across the border from Texas, that the city government opened up a Twitter account to inform residents of the locations of gun battles. In "To Die in Mexico", Gibler takes us to the front lines of the drug war to discover why 38,000 Mexicans have been murdered since 2006, why only 5 in 100 of those murders are investigated, and why drug money is Mexico's single largest source of income. And it leaves me asking why we continue this quixotic "war on drugs?" David Allan Reeves Author of "Running Away From Me"

Great

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