

Reading Questions for *Drugs, Thugs, and Diplomats*

Introduction:

What is policy? What does anthropology bring to the study of policy?

How is policy a state effect? What is the role of sentiment and affect in policymaking?

What are the methodological challenges in studying policy? What is embedded ethnography? What are the benefits and drawbacks of this approach?

Chapter One:

Define militarization. How has this process shaped drug policy over the past decades? What connections can be drawn between domestic and international drug policy?

What kind of institutional transformation was enabled by militarization, among civilian and military agencies including the U.S. Southern Command?

Explain the emergence of the term narcoguerrilla. What cultural work does this label do, and what kind of policy outcomes does this label allow?

Explain how U.S. electoral interests created different Democratic and Republican policy preferences. How did these parties use the war on drugs to advance their interests? What were the policy results?

Chapter Two:

This chapter asks, How is human rights policy made, and what does it do? Trace the evolving political repertoires employed by human rights activists and advocates. How was the Leahy Law produced? What are the debates over policymaking among human rights activists?

What are the arguments against human rights policymaking? How are human rights and security in opposition? How did U.S. agencies use human rights to justify intervention?

How was Plan Colombia shaped by human rights lobbying? How did the Leahy Law transform US policy?

Chapter Three:

How are Colombian paramilitary forces state proxies? How were they produced by previous policies?

In what ways were paramilitaries a policy solution for both the U.S. and Colombia? Focus on what 'problems' were solved by using paramilitaries.

How did the media and in particular US discussions of paramilitary forces interpret their origin and actions?

How were Colombian state denials a form of state terror? How did local residents encounter the state in Putumayo?

Chapter Four:

How did small holding *cocaleros* seek to establish citizen rights for the region in the face of multiple state-like actors? How did Putumayans try to make the local state?

In what ways did the militarization of Putumayo effect peoples daily lives, and what strategies did they use to cope with extreme violence?

What kind of diverse strategies did Putumayo residents use to petition for justice and rights? How did paramilitaries, the military, and the FARC exercise governance in the region and what were the results?

What does it mean for Putumayo to be classified an “outlaw” region?

Chapter Five:

Trace the distinct origin stories and their effects. Define policy problematization. How are origin stories useful for understanding policymaking?

What is strategic ambiguity? What policy work did this strategic ambiguity accomplish?

What role did Colombian play in making Plan Colombia? In what ways did Andrés Pastrana attempt to use U.S. aid in his proposed peace project with the FARC? How did his proposed Marshall Plan for Colombia create space for the U.S. to create alternative plans and dominate the policy making process?

What kind of language and lobbying techniques did Colombian officials in the U.S. use to convince policymakers to increase aid?

Chapter Six:

Define solidarity and examine the multiple ways in which solidarity shapes policymaking.

How did experience with US policy in Central American in the 1980s shape activists’ as well as legislators’ roles and concerns in the policy making process?

How does travel shape policymaking? Consider the role of masculinity, religion, and affect.

What is the role of resonance in policymaking, and why did the Colombian conflict not resonate with U.S. policy makers and public?

Chapter Seven:

What were the obstacles to Putumayans' participation in policymaking?

What national and transnational networks played a role in Putumayan policymaking?

How did they try to draw on science to support their policy claims, and what was the result?

Define testimonio, and explore the possibilities and limits of testimonio as policy knowledge.

What work did Putumayan policymaking efforts accomplish?

Conclusion:

In what ways is Plan Colombia described as successful? In what ways do Manuel's, Carlos', and Diana's stories challenge the dominant Plan Colombia narrative?