

Economic-Social Analysis of Global Illicit Drug Trade

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Abstract:

Political instability, less respect to the role of law, low life standards and suitable conditions for poppy/coca cultivation, have all affected on growing illicit drug international trafficking. Colombia is the center for global cocaine industry. Colombians had to use ship in the Carribean but now they pass Mexico where the costs are half of using ship. Mexican traffickers permit that the domestic poppy plants turned into heroin, Colombian cocaine transited to USA and methamphetamine manufactured and distributed. Golden triangle in southeast Asia is one of the major regions for opium poppy cultivation. This region has seen many guerrilla warfare for selling illicit drugs especially in Myanmar. Manufactured heroin is usually dealt in Thailand. Golden Crescent region in southwest Asia has a suitable climate for opium poppy cultivation which provides necessary money for purchasing needed weapons by rival groups in northwestern border provinces of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Nigeria is one of the main centers for transporting heroin from Golden Crescent and cocaine from Brazil. Dominicans run cocaine trade in New York and New England and Afro-American criminal organizations conduct heroin trading in big cities such as New York, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington. Street trading of illicit drugs is mainly done by cultural or commanding gangs.

Illicit drug traffickers apply many methods to laundering their profits including money exchange, smurfs, electronic transferring, and faced firms (the firms that are only registered).

Keywords: illicit drug trading; criminal organized groups; cocaine trade; street drug trade; money laundering.

¹ - The present article is a part of "Introduction to Drugs", Written by Howard Abadinsky and translated by salahedin Ghaderi.