

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WESTERN HEMISPHERE STRATEGY,
2014
APRIL 12, 2019**

Summary

- The United States Coast Guard Western Hemisphere Strategy describes how the Coast Guard plans to adapt over the next decade as the tactics of transnational criminals evolve.
- This strategy understands the impact of globalization and technological innovation have on the 21st century by acknowledging the influence that both have on transnational crime.

Analysis

- This strategy acknowledges that the distinction between transnational criminal organizations and terrorist groups is blurred; therefore, it is crucial for the Coast Guard to understand the organizational and operational impacts this convergence has on transnational crime groups (Picarelli 2012).
- The strategy correctly states that the ineffective governance in Central and South American countries have led to inequality and corruption.
 - By understanding how variations in armed groups impact how a state is governed, the Coast Guard can properly assess situations and relationships between the state and an armed group (Arias 2018).
- This strategy recognizes impact that globalization increased the amount and type of good that are smuggled into United States at the border.
 - The Coast Guard should be improving interdiction capabilities as transnational crime groups enter new markets, such as human trafficking (Wainwright 2016).
- The strategy also appropriately outlines the importance of understanding the environment and social structure of each state in the western hemisphere.
 - The environment that a group exists in can impact how they operate and achieve their goals, therefore by understanding the unique factors of each state the Coast Guard can more accurately implement their strategy (Gill 2017).
- This strategy discusses the importance of safeguarding commerce but fails to mention the effects that technological advances have on commerce.
 - As the internet and global connectedness continue to expand, some drug traffickers have begun to move operations online to e-commerce (Wainwright 2016).

Background

- This strategy lists adaptive adversaries, climate change, globalization, and technological advancements as the greatest threats to maritime safety.

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- The goal of the strategy is to address and prepare for the evolving threats to the maritime safety facing the United States in the coming decade.
- This strategy was written in 2014, under the Obama Administration with the guidance of other government agencies.