

yet terrifying nonetheless. This is the syndrome of Sendero Luminoso. . . . The social disintegration of which Sendero, the violence in Rio, military unrest in Venezuela, and the drug trade in Colombia represent nothing more than symptoms, is the new greater evil that might make reformism a going concern again in Latin America. Without the fear inspired by the prospect of losing everything, the wealthy and middle class will prefer to lose nothing.”

In mid-1996, this “radical” was caught meeting secretly with the then-exiled former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, one of the most corrupt politicians in Mexico’s history, and a buddy of George Bush, Sr. who negotiated Mexico’s acceptance of the killer North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Reportedly, the subject was a strategy for bringing Salinas back into Mexican political life. Shortly thereafter, the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) itself unveiled Castañeda’s adaptation of his “terrifying” strategy to Mexico itself. The July/August 1996 edition of the CFR’s *Foreign Affairs*, the banking establishment’s flagship journal, published an article by Castañeda, “Mexico’s Circle of Misery.” It elaborated how United States policy must abandon the view that Mexico’s stability is a matter of its own national security, and, instead, adopt the policy that chaos in Mexico is not only tolerable, but necessary, to bring about “reforms.”

Mexico’s “authoritarian political system” was to be replaced with a “new order” and “reworked social contract.” But not enough Mexicans wished to overthrow their political system and government, a situation likely to continue while connections to the U.S. economy continued to hold out some hope of change. Thus, Castañeda posed the urgency of breaking U.S.-Mexican ties: “The segments of Mexican society linked to the United States include key constituencies and power centers, and their indifference to the course of events in Mexico weakens the chances of meaningful reform,” he wrote. “A nationwide social explosion, such as the Revolution of 1910, is virtually impossible while such a large, regionally well-distributed, broadly based segment of the population is thriving.”

This “social agitator for change” proposed that reform “requires Mexico’s elites and the United States to be tolerant of the upheaval that it will inevitably bring. . . . Washington will have no attractive options should a future Mexican crisis arise. Rejecting another Mexican plea for help would certainly generate unpleasant circumstances. But while not devoid of dangers and repercussions, waiting out the next debacle from the sidelines seems a wiser course. . . Mexico needs new leadership . . . and it will not flower as long as the old cliques remain in place,” he concluded.

And Then, There’s Drugs. . .

On Feb. 5, 2003, the executive vice president of the Multi-medios Editorial Group, Federico Arreola, reported in *Milenio* that “the Soros Foundation isn’t operating yet in Mexico, but soon it will be, and it will be headed by former Foreign

Relations Secretary Jorge G. Castañeda.” Arreola added that Castañeda will use the funds of the “famous speculator” George Soros for his “run for the Presidency which, of course, will take off as soon as next Summer’s intermediate elections are over.” In May, Castañeda was named to the executive board of Human Rights Watch (HRW)—of which Soros is the leading financier—to honor his role in moving Mexico away from its “mistaken concept of sovereignty.”

Soros, as is well-known, is no mere speculator, but the leading financier of the drive to legalize the narcotics trade worldwide. Castañeda has been with him all the way. On Sept. 6, 1999, *Newsweek International* published a guest commentary by Castañeda: “The time is uniquely propitious for a wide-ranging debate between North and Latin Americans on this absurd war [on drugs] that no one really wants to wage. . . . Such a debate should start with a coldblooded evaluation of what has worked and what has failed.” He proposed that “market and price mechanisms” decide the price of narcotics, and wrote that “legalization of certain substances may be the only way to bring prices down, and doing so may be the only remedy to some of the worst aspects of the drug plague.”

Two months later, Castañeda signed an open letter drafted by Soros’ drug legalization center, the Lindesmith Center, and the Soros-funded Washington Office on Latin America, again denouncing the use of law enforcement to stop the drug trade. Following the 2000 electoral victory of President Fox, Castañeda, then a member of Fox’s transition team, came back to the theme in a document titled “Foreign Policy Points for the Vicente Fox Government: 2000-2006.” Among the “six challenges” he identified, was “the long-term decriminalization of certain currently illegal substances,” and “the use of market mechanisms to lessen the damage from the illegal nature of the drug trade.”

On Nov. 28, 2000, in his first interview with the newspaper *La Jornada* as Foreign Secretary, Castañeda was asked: “Regarding the question of drugs, do you propose to negotiate a new focus . . . including discussion of drug legalization?” Castañeda replied, “That last point has been aired in U.S. forums, including by very conservative figures such as Milton Friedman, George Soros; these elements must be looked at domestically from a flexible, modern, and updated standpoint.”

Legalization involves legalizing the drug-traffickers, too. In January 2001, Castañeda sent his step-brother Andrés Rozenthal as Fox’s special envoy to Colombia, where he met with the head of the FARC narco-terrorists, Manuel Marulanda, to discuss how Mexico could help the Pastrana government cut a “peace” deal with the FARC cartel.

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