

INTELLIGENCE SQUARED US AUDIENCE OVERWHELMINGLY DECIDES THAT AMERICA IS FUELING THE DRUG WAR IN MEXICO

*Team of Andrés Martínez, Jeffrey Miron and Fareed Zakaria
Win Debate by Huge Margin by Influencing Undecided Audience Members*

NEW YORK – December 3, 2009 - Intelligence Squared US (IQ2US), the Oxford-style debate series, an initiative of The Rosenkranz Foundation, hosted its final debate of the fall season on Tuesday in New York City. The subject was the US's role in Mexico's drug war. The team in favor of the proposition, *America is to Blame for Mexico's Drug War*, scored an undisputed victory with 72% of the audience at the debate's conclusion siding with them.

As the debate began, 43% voted for the motion, 22% were against it and an additional 35% were undecided. The debate shifted many in the crowd out of the undecided category and the proposition was ultimately upheld with 72% voting for it, 22% voting against it and 6% remaining undecided.

The evening's winning team argued for the motion and included **Andrés Martínez**, Director of the New America Foundation's Bernard L. Schwartz Fellows Program and former Editorial Page Editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, **Jeffrey Miron**, Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Economics at Harvard University and **Fareed Zakaria**, Editor and Columnist, *Newsweek International*.

Arguing against the motion was **Jorge Castañeda**, Former Mexican Foreign Minister, **Chris W. Cox**, Executive Director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action and **Asa Hutchinson**, Former Congressman and former head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Among the debate's highlights:

“Only 5 percent of Mexicans have ever tried illegal drugs, compared to 42 percent of Americans...This is all about supply and demand. It's all about supplying the American market.” – **Andrés Martínez**

“The United States is not to blame for Mexico's drug war; Mexico is not to blame for Mexico's drug War, President Felipe Calderón is to blame for Mexico's drug war, a war of choice that he should not have declared, that cannot be won, and is doing enormous damage to Mexico.” – **Jorge Castañeda**

“...It's just a matter of science and the evidence that the US pressure to enforce prohibition in Mexico and the US prohibition in the US are the reasons for the drug violence.” – **Jeffrey Miron**

“We need to stop talking around the issues, we've got enough laws. Everything the drug cartels are doing is already illegal, a hundred different ways on both sides of the border. We don't need more laws, we've got all the tools we need.” – **Chris W. Cox**

“Let us not one more time shirk our responsibility, and accept that the United States, as the leading consumer of drugs, and the leading supplier of weapons, has got to be partly or substantially to blame for this...Mexico...the latest battle“ –**Fareed Zakaria**

“It was a sovereign decision by the leader of Mexico that said we’re going to go to war against the drug cartels. That decision should not be blamed on the United States of America, it was a Mexican decision.”
– **Asa Hutchinson**

John Donovan, correspondent for ABC News *Nightline*, is moderator of Intelligence Squared US debates. Dana Wolfe is the executive producer.

To view transcripts and videos, download audio or video clips or learn more about Intelligence Squared US please visit: <http://www.intelligencesquaredus.org>.

Launched in September 2006, the goal of Intelligence Squared US, an initiative of the Rosenkranz Foundation, is to raise the level of public discourse and promote a realization that, on contentious issues, those who challenge the conventional wisdom have intellectually respectable and often persuasive viewpoints. We encourage citizens to “Think Twice” about their opinions and participate in the conversation, and we provide a forum for balanced discussion that transcends emotion and ideology. Through an annual series of 10 live Oxford-style debates, IQ2US brings together experts and audience around public policy and cultural issues. In fact, the live audience participates in each debate by voting on the propositions at the top and bottom of the debate evening.

Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, NYU, is the location for all IQ2US Debates. The series has a media partner, Newsweek; the Bloomberg Television network will air each fall debate; and IQ2US is heard on more than 200 NPR stations nationwide.

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