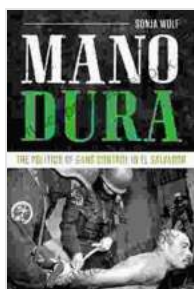


The Politics of Gang Control in El Salvador: A Long and Winding Road

El Salvador is a small country in Central America with a population of just over 6 million people. However, it is home to one of the most notorious gangs in the world: the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13. MS-13 is a violent and transnational criminal organization that has been responsible for a wave of violence in El Salvador and neighboring countries.

The government of El Salvador has tried a variety of different strategies to control MS-13, including a heavy-handed crackdown on gang members and a more conciliatory approach that involves working with communities to address the root causes of gang violence. However, none of these strategies have been fully successful, and MS-13 continues to be a major problem in the country.



Mano Dura: The Politics of Gang Control in El Salvador

by Mary A. Nason

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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File size : 1616 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 321 pages

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The politics of gang control in El Salvador are complex and multifaceted. There is no easy solution to the problem of MS-13, and any solution will likely require a combination of different approaches. However, it is clear that the government of El Salvador needs to find a way to address the root causes of gang violence in order to effectively control MS-13.

The History of MS-13

MS-13 was founded in Los Angeles in the 1980s by Salvadoran immigrants who had fled the civil war in their home country. The gang quickly became involved in criminal activity, and by the early 1990s, it had become one of the most powerful gangs in Los Angeles.

In the mid-1990s, the United States government began to deport Salvadoran immigrants who were members of MS-13. This led to a surge in MS-13 activity in El Salvador, as deported gang members returned to their home country and established new chapters of the gang.

MS-13 quickly became one of the most powerful gangs in El Salvador, and it soon began to terrorize the population. The gang is responsible for a wide range of criminal activities, including murder, extortion, and drug trafficking.

The Government's Response to MS-13

The government of El Salvador has tried a variety of different strategies to control MS-13. In the early 2000s, the government launched a heavy-handed crackdown on gang members, which led to a sharp increase in the number of gang-related killings.

However, the crackdown did not succeed in reducing MS-13's power or influence. In fact, it may have actually made the situation worse, as it led to

a cycle of violence and retaliation.

In recent years, the government of El Salvador has shifted to a more conciliatory approach to gang control. This approach involves working with communities to address the root causes of gang violence, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunity.

This approach has shown some promise, but it is still too early to say whether it will be successful in the long run.

The Future of Gang Control in El Salvador

The future of gang control in El Salvador is uncertain. The government is facing a number of challenges, including the continued presence of MS-13, the high levels of violence in the country, and the lack of resources to address the root causes of gang violence.

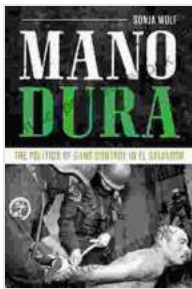
However, there is also reason for hope. The government of El Salvador is committed to addressing the problem of gang violence, and it is working with a number of partners, including the United States government, to develop and implement effective strategies.

The road to gang control in El Salvador will be long and winding, but it is a road that must be traveled. The government of El Salvador is committed to finding a solution to the problem of gang violence, and it is working with a number of partners to develop and implement effective strategies.

The politics of gang control in El Salvador are complex and multifaceted. There is no easy solution to the problem of MS-13, and any solution will likely require a combination of different approaches. However, it is clear

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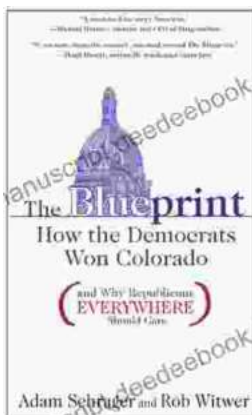


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