Drugs in Latin America in 20th and 21st century:

- Focus on cocaine trafficking.
- Coca leaves are native to the region.
- Coca leaves consumed to combat the effect of altitude.
- Cocaine important as a medical product and part of coca-cola in 19th century. Attitude changed in 20th century.
- Demise 1920-1945.
- Paste – impure form of cocaine.
- Development of an illicit trade post 1940.
- The trade is influenced by cold war politics- spreads to Columbia.
- Boom 1970s.
- Characteristics lack of cartelization when the trade develops. Occurs in 1970.
- Trade is initially freelance.
- Production of cocaine base is very simple which is why it was easily transferred to Bolivia.
- In terms of productive the peasants were able to make it and had a long traditional presence in society.
- Early years- che’s diary mentions base production.
- From Chile the trade route goes up into San Francisco
- Havana associated with cocaine, tourism and night clubs.
- Brazil becomes a destination for cocaine. Now is the second largest market after the US for cocaine.
- Trade consolidated between 1959 and 65.
- Bolivian restriction pushes production into the jungle away from the state.
- Rise of Colombians 65-75
- Some coca leaves destined for traditional consumption, but expansion based on the development of cocaine trade.
- In 1960s a lot more concerned with marijuana but in 1970s cocaine became the drug of choice.
- Colombia:
  - From 1970s becomes the most important exporter
  - Most production still occurred in Bolivia
  - Perfect country in which to develop the cocaine industry because it was weak since the civil war.
  - Turf war within the US where the Cubans are pushed out by the Colombians.
  - Guerrilla movement became linked with the drug war.
- Consumption- abuse was associated with black and latinos in the US in the 1960s but this image began to change to make it a more mainstream drug thanks to rock singers and disco. Cocaine not targeted until it was already established because of the focus on marijuana use.
- Crack cocaine in 1980 principally consumed by urban blacks.
- Most policy focuses on the eradication and intersection of drugs before they reach the US.
- It is at this point it becomes associated with violence.
- Mexico:
  - Current focus of drugs policy.
  - Refined cocaine- coca leaves and paste still comes from Bolivia and Peru. Mexico refines it.