



USP



MULTIDIMENSIONAL SECURITY AT THE BORDERS

MINISTÉRIO DA
JUSTIÇA E
SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA



Mackenzie





USP



Firearms: Trafficking and Control

Diego Sanjurjo

MINISTÉRIO DA
JUSTIÇA E
SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA



Mackenzie



Firearms: Trafficking and Control



The relationship between firearms proliferation and violence is not linear, since there are countries with many firearms that are peaceful and countries with many firearms that are violent. This applies both to Latin America and to other parts of the world. So why is violence so common in Latin America despite having relatively few firearms per capita? **The answer lies in a series of risk factors, such as inequality, poverty, marginality and the presence of criminal groups and criminal gangs.**

Firearms: Trafficking and Control



It is important to highlight that most Latin American countries have strict regulations and controls on the possession and use of firearms. The unregulated possession of firearms is not allowed in any country in the region. However, despite these restrictive laws, the actual use of firearms often differs from regulations. This is due to the lack of compliance with the laws by both the population and the authorities.

Firearms: Trafficking and Control



The illicit trade of firearms is a common problem in most Latin American countries. A study conducted in Brazil in 2010 revealed that 60% of all firearms in the country were illegal, that is, unregistered. This is representative of the situation in many countries in the region. Uruguay is one of the few countries in which legal weapons exceed illegal ones.

Firearms: Trafficking and Control

Firearms trafficking affects all Latin American countries significantly. Firearms are used in the majority of murders in the region and play a crucial role in organized crime. Most of these weapons are illegal and unregistered, which further complicates the situation.

Firearms: Trafficking and Control



A peculiarity of firearms trafficking is that it always begins in a legal market. Unlike drugs, which are often produced illegally from the beginning, most firearms are initially manufactured for legal markets by licensed manufacturers. However, these weapons can be diverted into the illegal market at any time, either directly from the factory or through multiple illegal transfers and transactions.

Firearms: Trafficking and Control



Firearms trafficking becomes even more complicated when it crosses borders and becomes a transnational problem. In this sense, there are several international, regional and global instruments that address the issue of firearms and their trafficking. International cooperation is essential to address this problem effectively.

Firearms: Trafficking and Control



An important limitation in the study of firearms trafficking is the lack of information. Most of the data comes from weapons seizures, but these seizures do not fully reflect the magnitude of illegal firearms trafficking. It is essential to improve data collection and analyze the context of each seizure to better understand the problem.

Firearms: Trafficking and Control



In summary, firearms trafficking is a serious problem in Latin America, but its understanding and addressing are difficult due to the lack of information and the complexity of the phenomenon. Improving data collection and strengthening international cooperation are key steps to effectively fight firearms trafficking in the region.



ESEM

ESCOLA DE SEGURANÇA
MULTIDIMENSIONAL-USP