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For political, geographical, demographical, and historical reasons, the future of Mexico and the United States are inevitably intertwined. While drug trafficking and the violence that accompanies the illicit activity occupy most of the media and public attention, little is known about the national security efforts of the Mexican government. Most reports about Mexican national intelligence are generally within the context of corruption or official violence. Unfortunately these reports rarely focus on objective reality.

As a student of Mexican national security, I have followed recent developments, continuously and in detail. While researching the topic, I came across 'La Charola-Una historia de los servicios de inteligencia en Mexico' (*The badge, a history of Mexico's intelligence services*) a fortuitous find indeed.

The book written by Sergio Aguayo Quezada, PhD. Is one of the most cogent, objective, well researched books on the topic of national security in Mexico. Dr. Aguayo has not only compiled an excellent repository of information, but his logic, attention to detail and subject matter expertise is an invaluable addition to anyone interested in Mexico's past and future; as well as the impact it will have in the future of the national security in the U.S.

Dr. Aguayo's international contacts in Europe and the rest of the world, as well as his post graduate education in Washington, D.C. (John Hopkins) and current academic leadership in Mexico (Professor of International Studies at Mexico College (Colegio de Mexico, in Mexico City) make him an astute, perceptive, and insightful observer of Mexico/ U.S. bilateral relations.

In addition to being a well researched book, the accompanying bibliography, extensive notes, and excellent index makes this publication a priceless resource.