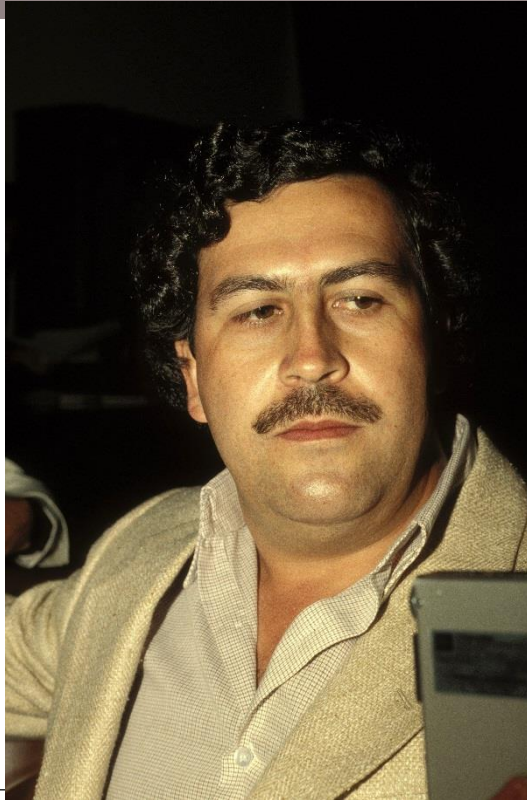


“Just Say No”: The War on Drugs



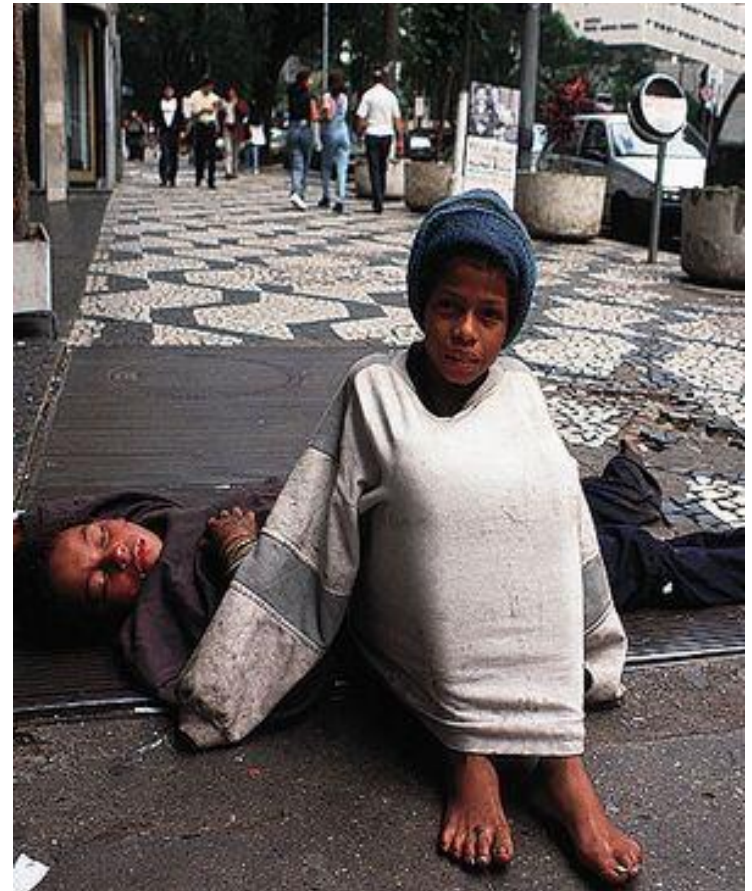
Poverty in Latin America

- 1950-1980 = on average, economic growth
- 1982-1993 = significant growth in poverty
 - Correlation between poverty and right-wing dictatorships
 - Correlation between poverty and civil war



Poverty in Latin America

- How is poverty concentrated?
 - Demographics
 - Geography
- The physical results of poverty:
 - Malnutrition
 - Infant mortality
 - Limited access to health care
 - Spread of disease
- Lack of education
- Overpopulation
- Massive inflation



The Informal Economy

- Informal economy = operates outside of regulatory restrictions or laws
- Adoption of free-market policies means . . .
 - Growth in informal economy, small businesses
 - Decline of large businesses and government employment
- Importance of women



Latin-American Narcotics

- Demand for drug consumption = drug production
- Drug cartels
- Growers/farmers



Pablo Escobar (1949-1993)

- Born relatively middle-class
- 1975 = dominant force in the Medellín cartel
- 1980s = controlled 80% of cocaine exported to the US
- Initially, Colombians loved him
- But, later, not so much . . .
 - Lots of violence
- June 1991 = Escobar surrendered to police
 - Allowed to build and live in his own luxury prison
- Escaped, on the lam until his death (December 1993)
 - Collapse of Medellín cartel

The United States & the “War on Drugs”

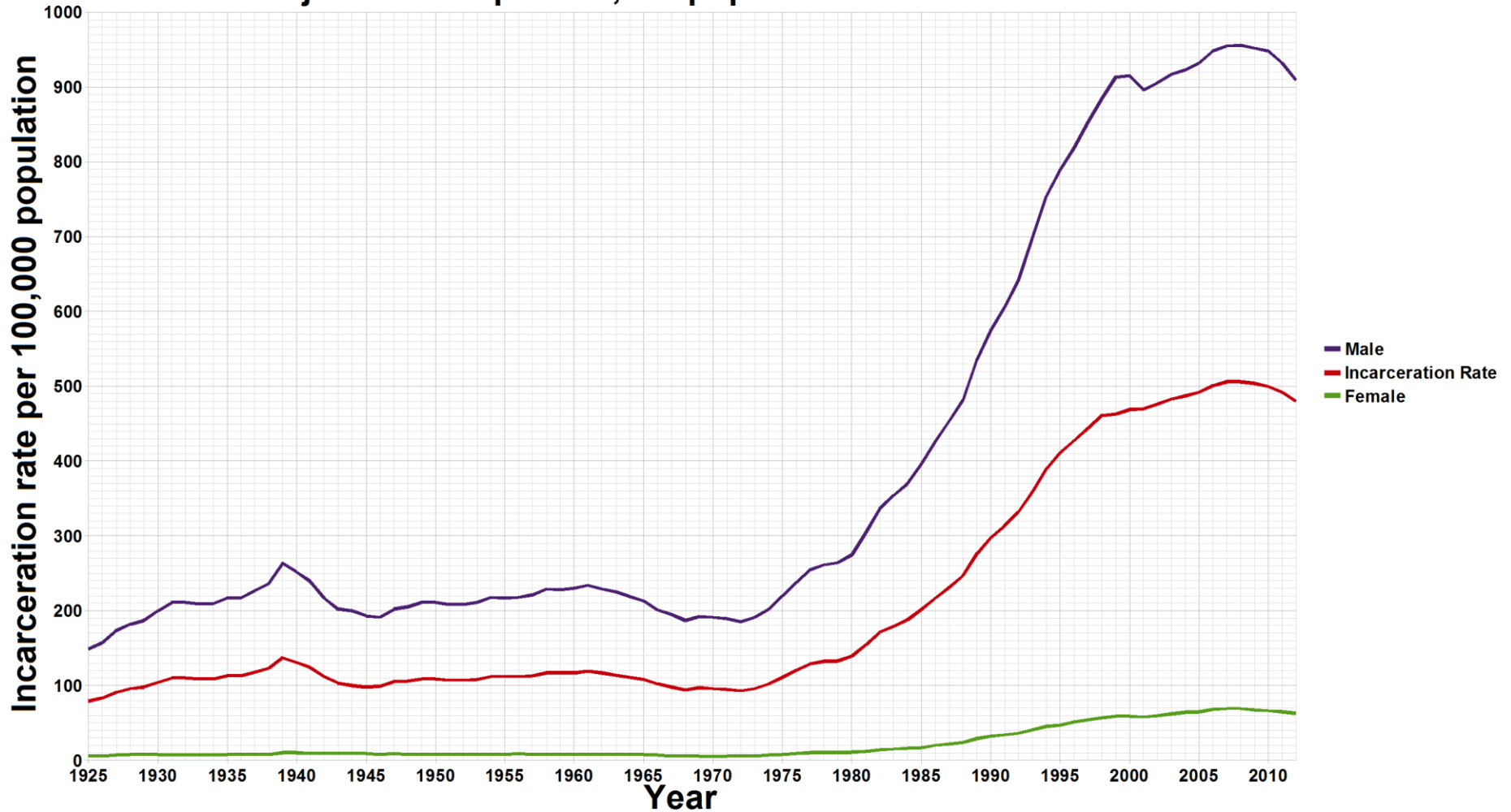
- June 1971 = Nixon’s “War on Drugs”
- 1982 = Nancy Reagan’s “Just Say No” campaign
- December 1989 = Operation Just Cause in Panama
 - Arrest and extradition of Manuel Noriega (1934-2017)
 - Direct US military intervention
- George W. Bush’s “Plan Colombia”
 - Wanted to decrease coca production by 50%
 - Failure



The United States & the “War on Drugs”

- Results of the “War on Drugs”:
 - Massive increase in US incarceration rates

Incarceration rate of inmates incarcerated under state and federal jurisdiction per 100,000 population 1925-2014



The United States & the “War on Drugs”

- Results of the “War on Drugs”:
 - Massive increase in US incarceration rates
 - Creation of a permanent class of unemployed, disenfranchised citizens
 - Environmental impact on Colombian Amazon
 - Use of glyphosate pesticide
 - Violence
 - 2007 = Mexico’s Mérida Initiative

