

Cause and Effect Chain, Drug Demand, Cartel Expansion

Union of Saints

**Drug Demand → Cartel Expansion → Systemic Violence → Territorial Control →
Emergence of Political Influence → Formation of Political Regimes**

Explanation:

- **Drug Demand** – Consumer demand creates a profitable black market.
- **Cartel Expansion** – Organized groups scale operations to meet that demand.
- **Systemic Violence** – Competition and enforcement mechanisms lead to violence.
- **Territorial Control** – Cartels establish dominance over regions to secure operations.
- **Emergence of Political Influence** – Control over territory translates into influence over local governance (corruption, coercion, parallel systems).
- **Formation of Political Regimes** – In extreme cases, cartels evolve into de facto governing authorities or heavily shape formal regimes.