The Shadow Governors of Mexico
- A Comparative Analysis of Mexican Market Actors -

Edited by: Maximilian Lennart Nagel
Matriculation number: 10100033
Department: Public Management & Governance
Semester: Spring Semester 2015
Submission date: 09.06.2015

1st Supervisor: Professor PhD Guy B. Peters
Chair of Comparative Governance

2nd Supervisor: PhD Katja Michalak
Chair of Comparative Governance
Abstract

Certain Mexican regions struggle with low levels of social services and law enforcement. Legal as well as illegal market actors have started to assume these tasks as the government is incapable of providing them. Guy Peters identified this phenomenon and named it the shadow of the market. Yet, the consequences for the affected government are not specified.

The presented paper explores this gap. Two case studies serve to analyze the shadow of the market for the Mexican government. The first case analyzes a German car parts maker operating in Mexico. The second case examines two Mexican drug cartels.

Using the concept of sociological institutionalism, the motivations of the market actors are analyzed. The author finds two different shadow scenarios; one with the outcome of a functional and coexisting shadow, the other one resulting in a shadow that undermines and challenges the government.

Keywords: sociological institutionalism, Mexico, governing in the shadows, shadow of the market, legitimacy, limited statehood