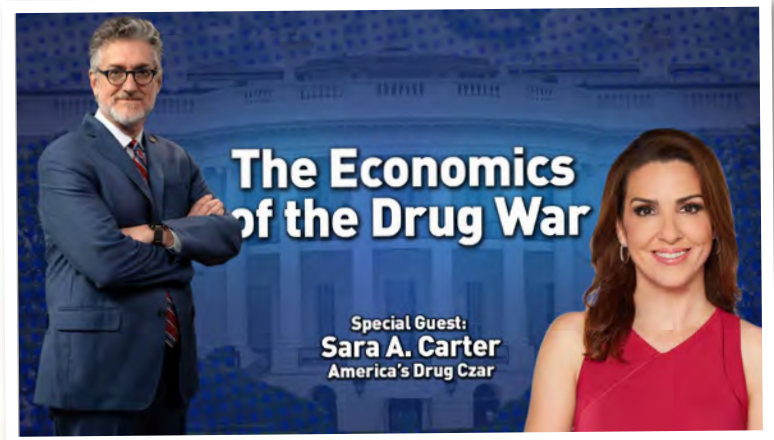


The Economics of the Drug War with Director Sara A. Carter

The modern drug crisis is no longer confined to crime statistics or public health metrics—it is a fully integrated economic and national security threat. What appears on the surface as addiction and overdose is, in reality, a complex system involving global supply chains, multinational criminal enterprises, adversarial state actors, and domestic societal breakdown. At its core, the drug war is an economic war. The illicit drug trade operates as one of the world's largest



underground economies, generating hundreds of billions—if not trillions—of dollars annually. These funds are laundered through legitimate banks and businesses, woven into national economies, and used to corrupt officials, outgun law enforcement, and sustain powerful criminal networks known as cartels.



This Economic Battle Plan™ outlines a dual strategy: disrupting the supply-side financial engine that powers cartels while addressing the demand-side human toll through prevention, treatment, and recovery. By understanding how these forces operate—and how they intersect with policy, markets, and communities—America can dismantle the cartels' power and protect its people, economy, and future.

In this briefing we will discuss the following:

- » The Drug Trade: A Global Economic System and Business Enterprise
- » National Security Crisis: Fentanyl, Global Supply Chains, and Border Policy
- » The Drug Crisis as a Whole-of-Society Demand and Recovery Challenge

YOUR MISSION: Understand how the drug trade operates as a sophisticated economic system—and how targeted financial pressure, secure borders, and comprehensive recovery strategies must align to decisively reduce overdose deaths and dismantle cartel influence.

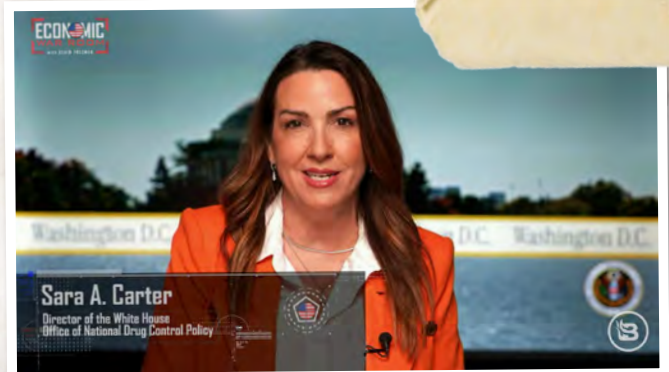
WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

- » The drug trade is a trillion-dollar economic force that distorts markets, diverts public resources, fuels corruption, and undermines national security.
- » It directly impacts your life because cartel-driven drugs reach American communities, putting families, schools, and neighborhoods at risk regardless of geography or income.
- » Understanding this system reveals why traditional “arrest-focused” approaches have failed—and why economic disruption is the key to lasting victory.
- » The threat is embedded in everyday life: the same global supply chains that deliver consumer goods can also deliver lethal fentanyl, making unverified pills or street drugs a direct personal risk.
- » Recognizing the full scope of this crisis enables you to make better decisions, protect those around you, and support solutions that strengthen economic stability, community safety, and national resilience.

Ep. 10-395 (OSINT) Open-Sourced Intelligence Report. This briefing includes a conversation between Kevin D. Freeman, CFA, D.Sc. (h.c.) and Sara A. Carter. Sara is a friend of the Economic War Room® and an American Patriot.

Sara A. Carter is an award-winning investigative journalist and current Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), where she serves as the nation’s top drug policy official. Appointed in 2025 and confirmed in 2026, she leads federal strategy to combat drug trafficking, reduce overdose deaths, and coordinate national efforts across agencies.

Prior to her role in the White House, Carter built her career as a frontline national security reporter, covering topics including border security, terrorism, cartel operations, and the opioid crisis. She has contributed to outlets such as Fox News, Blaze, Circa News, the Washington Examiner, and The Washington Times, and is a two-time recipient of the National Headliner Award for investigative journalism. Her reporting has included on-the-ground coverage in conflict zones such as Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as extensive investigation into drug trafficking networks and U.S. border vulnerabilities—experience that now informs her policy leadership. She hosted a documentary for Blaze featuring Kevin Freeman and Unrestricted Warfare.



1. The Drug Trade: A Global Economic System and Business Enterprise

The illicit drug trade is not random crime—it is a highly organized global economic system operating at a scale that rivals legitimate industries. Generating hundreds of billions, if not trillions, of dollars over time, cartels treat borders, governments, and markets as opportunities for profit.



This is not just narcotics trafficking. It is a diversified business model that includes human trafficking, contraband, oil theft, counterfeit goods, and sophisticated financial operations.

What makes this system particularly dangerous is not just its size, but its integration into the legitimate economy. Drug profits are laundered through banks and businesses, embedding illicit capital into everyday commerce.

In regions like Mexico, this has contributed to the rise of “narco-economies,” where criminal financing begins to distort governance, influence decision-making, and reshape the economic fabric of entire nations.

This creates a self-reinforcing cycle: the more capital cartels generate, the more power they gain—enabling them to bribe officials, outgun law enforcement, and expand operations globally.

They behave not as fragmented criminal groups, but as multinational enterprises, constantly adapting their strategies and pivoting revenue streams to stay ahead of enforcement.

“If we don’t get their financing, if we don’t take their money... That’s where it hurts. That’s where they continue to exist.” –Director Sara A. Carter

This is where traditional approaches fall short.

For decades, efforts have focused on arresting individuals and disrupting operations. But without targeting the underlying financial engine, these actions become a “whack-a-mole” exercise, where one group is removed and another quickly takes its place.

The real leverage point is economic. Cartels survive because they are funded. Their ability to operate, expand, and influence depends entirely on access to capital.

When that capital is disrupted—through asset seizures, financial sanctions, and supply chain pressure—the entire system begins to weaken.

“The enemy acts like a business... this is really street fighting against a business empire.” –Kevin D. Freeman, CFA, D.Sc. (h.c.)

Reframing the drug war through this lens transforms it from a reactive law enforcement challenge into a strategic battle over economic control and capital flows. It shifts the objective from chasing criminals to dismantling the infrastructure that sustains them.

This understanding sets the foundation for the next phase of the fight—because once the financial engine is exposed, the focus naturally shifts to how that system is supplied.

⚠ Attention: Cartels persist not because they evade arrest—but because their financial engine remains intact; cut off the money, and the entire enterprise collapses.

1. National Security Crisis: Fentanyl, Global Supply Chains, and Border Policy

Fentanyl represents a fundamental shift in the drug landscape—from plant-based narcotics to industrial-scale synthetic production.



Unlike traditional drugs, fentanyl is manufactured using precursor chemicals, which are raw industrial compounds produced primarily in foreign manufacturing hubs, often in adversarial nations such as China and India.

These chemicals are then shipped through global supply chains to cartel-controlled operations, where they are synthesized into finished products at scale.

Cartels convert these inputs into counterfeit pills that are virtually indistinguishable from legitimate pharmaceuticals such as Adderall, Oxycodone, or Percocet.

This deception has transformed the drug environment into a lethal risk landscape—where individuals are no longer choosing to take a dangerous substance knowingly but are instead being unknowingly poisoned.

“If somebody is handing you a pill and you have not had that is not your prescription... you are playing Russian roulette with your life, because the pills that are out there look exactly like the ones that are being prescribed by doctors, but they are fake pills. They are laced with fentanyl.”

—Director Sara A. Carter



The human cost is staggering. Tens of thousands of Americans die each year from overdose, with fentanyl responsible for the majority. While deaths have declined from over 100,000 annually to approximately 70,000 under current policies, the scale remains devastating.

Compounding the threat is the emergence of new synthetic additives such as medetomidine, a powerful animal tranquilizer often referred to as “rhino tranquilizer,” further increasing lethality and complicating detection.

This crisis cannot be understood purely as a public health issue. It is a supply chain and national security failure. When adversarial actors or loosely regulated manufacturers supply precursor chemicals into these networks, they are effectively participating in a system that destabilizes American communities.

The drug trade, in this context, becomes a form of proxy warfare, using addiction and death as its mechanism of impact.

“Precursor chemicals from abroad are the fuel behind America’s fentanyl crisis... We know they move through the global supply chain... and we are working to halt the trade of precursors at its source.” –Director Sara A. Carter

At the final stage of this system sits the border. **Border policy is not theoretical—it is operational control over the last mile of a deadly supply chain.**

When enforcement is weak, the flow of drugs, human trafficking, and criminal actors accelerates. When existing laws are enforced, those flows can be reduced dramatically and immediately.

The evidence is clear: policy choices directly determine whether these substances reach American streets. A secure border acts as a choke point. An unsecured border acts as an open pipeline.

This creates a highly efficient and dangerous system—global production, cartel distribution, and border access working together to deliver lethal products into communities across the country.

Understanding this supply chain is critical, because it leads directly to the next phase of the fight. Even if supply is disrupted, the damage already done within American communities must still be addressed.



Attention: Fentanyl is not merely a drug problem—it is a border-enabled, supply chain-driven assault on American lives that can only be countered through secure borders, accountable supply chains, and sustained enforcement.

2. The Drug Crisis as a Whole-of-Society Demand and Recovery Challenge

Even if supply were fully disrupted, the United States would still face a deeply entrenched demand-side crisis.

Millions of Americans are already struggling with addiction and substance-use disorder—conditions that create lasting consequences for families, communities, and economic productivity. This reality makes one thing clear: supply-side victories alone are not enough.

A substance-use disorder is a medical condition defined by the inability to control drug or alcohol use despite harmful consequences. Addressing it requires more than enforcement. It demands a dual-track strategy—pairing supply reduction with demand mitigation through treatment, prevention, and recovery.

The response must be comprehensive. It includes expanding access to treatment so that recovery is easier to reach than drugs on the street, strengthening prevention efforts—especially among young people—and addressing the root causes that often drive addiction in the first place.

These root causes frequently intersect with broader societal challenges such as mental illness and homelessness, where addiction is both a cause and a consequence.

“We can’t ignore any Americans suffering from addiction... we want to provide a whole-of-government approach.” –Director Sara A. Carter

This is why a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is essential. Coordinated efforts across agencies—such as Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development—are designed to treat underlying mental health conditions before simply placing individuals into housing. The goal is not temporary relief, but long-term restoration of stability and dignity.

At the same time, recovery strategies are evolving. A growing emphasis is being placed on faith-based and community-driven approaches, recognizing that lasting recovery often requires more than clinical care. It requires purpose, accountability, and a support system.

With more than 83 percent of Americans expressing belief in a higher power, integrating faith into recovery has shown to accelerate healing and improve outcomes.

“For the first time in the history of this office, [the strategy] has put faith at the center of recovery... recovery is so much better, so much easier, so much faster when you have that faith.” –Director Sara A. Carter

The urgency of this effort is visible in communities across the country. In places like Philadelphia’s Kensington—once referred to as “Zombieland”—the consequences of addiction are on full display: individuals suffering in public, communities destabilized, and even children exposed to the realities of drug use in their daily lives. These are not isolated incidents—they are symptoms of a broader crisis that has been ignored for too long.



Prevention is equally critical. Today’s drug environment is fundamentally different from that of previous generations. The presence of fentanyl and other synthetic substances means that experimentation is no longer low-risk—it is often fatal.

This demands a cultural shift, one that reframes drug-free living as the norm and equips individuals with the knowledge to make informed decisions.

Ultimately, this is about more than stopping drugs—it is about restoring people, families, and communities. It requires personal responsibility, community engagement, and a willingness to confront the crisis directly rather than ignore it.

This completes the full picture. The financial engine must be disrupted. The supply chain must be secured. But without addressing demand, the cycle will continue.



Attention: Supply victories mean little without demand reduction—healing individuals, strengthening families, and rebuilding communities is the essential second half of victory.



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ACTION STEPS:

1. **Stay actively informed by regularly reviewing the official [ONDCP updates page](#) to track real-time policy actions, enforcement initiatives, and recovery efforts—ensuring you are measuring outcomes, not just headlines**
2. Treat every unprescribed pill as potentially lethal fentanyl—never accept or consume medication from non-pharmacy sources, and ensure family members understand the risks
3. Reframe the drug crisis as an interconnected system of economics, policy, supply chains, and human behavior—not just a social issue
4. Support policies that enforce secure borders and disrupt cartel distribution networks at key choke points
5. Advocate for targeting the financial infrastructure of cartels—prioritizing efforts that cut off funding, not just arrests
6. Educate those around you on the realities of synthetic drugs, especially the dangers of counterfeit pills and modern supply chains
7. Engage locally in prevention, recovery, and mental health initiatives—supporting efforts that address both addiction and its root causes

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1. **Visit [TransactionalGold.com](#) to learn more about the gold and silver alternative and what is happening in your state.**
2. **Get the book [Pirate Money](#) to learn about the transactional gold and silver movement sweeping America. Legislation has now passed in Florida, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Utah! This is the answer to inflation and the looming threat of CBDC.**
3. **Get a copy of [According to Plan](#) to better understand these domestic attacks on our Liberty as well as the overall Marxist plan to consume America.**
4. Seek opportunities to inspire other Americans to stand up for what is right.

5. Send them this Economic Battle Plan™ and ask them what they are doing to stand for America and Liberty!
 - » Elect Politicians that understand the need to preserve American Liberty.
 - » Encourage and ask your elected officials to educate themselves.
 - » Ask them how they are working to strengthen our education system and reverse the push for Marxist indoctrination. These are big issues, if your representatives are not aware and working toward solutions directly or indirectly based on their committees, hold them accountable!

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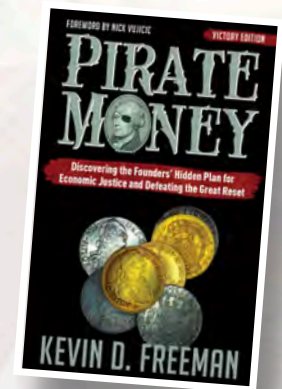
6. **Check your investments to see if they are helping fund the agendas of Globalist Elites. If you have a financial advisor insist that they give you an update and encourage them to become part of the NSIC.**

Seek out investment opportunities in patriotic innovations. Financial Advisors can learn more at www.NSIC.org. Weaponize your money, your investing, spending, and giving!



⚠ **ATTENTION: Clients already with a Financial Advisor** - Make sure your financial advisor has your values and interests at heart. Make certain they really understand what ESG investments mean for our future. Suggest that they become part of the NSIC institute and nominate them to participate in our online certification at economicwarroom.com/advisor.

7. Be certain to buy Kevin's new book, *Pirate Money: Discovering the Founders' Hidden Plan for Economic Justice and Defeating the Great Reset*. Learn more at www.PirateMoneyBook.com.





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SHAREABLE QUOTES:

“If somebody is handing you a pill and you have not had that is not your prescription... you are playing Russian roulette with your life, because the pills that are out there look exactly like the ones that are being prescribed by doctors, but they are fake pills. They are laced with fentanyl.”

–Sara A. Carter, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

“The enemy acts like a business... this is really street fighting against a business empire.”

–Kevin D. Freeman, CFA, D.Sc. (h.c.) & Host Pirate Money Radio

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The Drug Crisis as a Whole-of-Society Demand and Recovery Challenge

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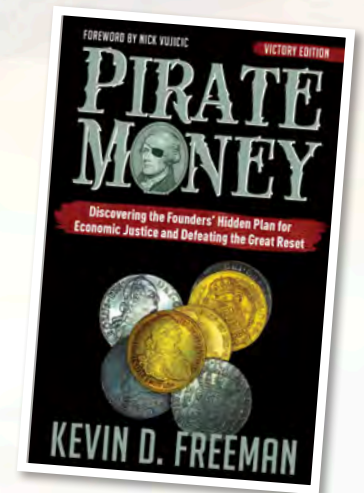
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<https://www.economicwarroom.com/episodes> and <https://www.economicwarroom.com/battleplans>.

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Trump Drug Czar Outlines Plans on Fentanyl, Fighting Addiction
<https://news.bgov.com/bloomberg-government-news/trump-drug-czar-outlines-plans-on-fentanyl-fighting-addiction>

Sara Carter Confirmed As Drug Czar
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2026/01/sara-carter-confirmed-as-drug-czar/>



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The Drug Trade as a Global Economic System and Business Enterprise

Designating Cartels And Other Organizations As Foreign Terrorist Organizations And Specially Designated Global Terrorists

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/designating-cartels-and-other-organizations-as-foreign-terrorist-organizations-and-specially-designated-global-terrorists/>

Treasury Issues Historic Orders under Powerful New Authorities to Counter Fentanyl

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0179>

Terrorist Drug Trafficking Organizations: Understanding and Countering the Threat

<https://bankingjournal.aba.com/2025/09/terrorist-drug-trafficking-organizations-understanding-and-countering-the-threat/>

How the Trump Administration's War on Cartels Will Reshape the Financial Sector

<https://www.financialservicesperspectives.com/2025/03/how-the-trump-administrations-war-on-cartels-will-reshape-the-financial-sector/>

U.S. Treasury Sanctions Signal Heightened Scrutiny Over Mexican Financial Sector

<https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/u-s-treasury-sanctions-signal-heightened-scrutiny-over-mexican-financial-sector/>

Money laundering plays a key role in every part of the illegal drugs industry. Here's how it works.

<https://policinginsight.com/feature/analysis/money-laundering-plays-a-key-role-in-every-part-of-the-illegal-drugs-industry-heres-how-it-works/>

Treasury Sanctions Criminal Operators and Money Laundering Networks Supporting the Sinaloa Cartel

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0064>

Cartels fear US retaliation as Trump-era pressure reshapes strategy they fear United States

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/cartels-fear-us-retaliation-trump-era-pressure-reshapes-strategy-they-fear-united-states>

A Smarter Way to Fight Mexico's Cartels

<https://quincyinst.org/research/a-smarter-way-to-fight-mexicos-cartels/>

Democrats once called out links between drug trafficking and terrorism but then came Trump

<https://justthenews.com/government/security/democrats-once-called-out-links-between-drug-trafficking-and-terrorism-trumps>

Fentanyl, Global Supply Chains, and Border Policy as a National Security Crisis

Imposing Duties to Address the Synthetic Opioid Supply Chain in the People's Republic of China
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/imposing-duties-to-address-the-synthetic-opioid-supply-chain-in-the-peoples-republic-of-china/>

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Proceeds with Tariffs on Imports from Canada and Mexico
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Action Steps

Stay actively informed by regularly reviewing the official [ONDCP updates page](#) to track real-time policy actions, enforcement initiatives, and recovery efforts—ensuring you are measuring outcomes, not just headlines

Subscribe to BLAZETV (Use the code ECON) <https://blazetv.com/econ>

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CLEARED FOR RELEASE 05/07/2026
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