

For my topic of the War on Drugs, this journal article's purpose, *From Nixon's War on Drugs to Obama's Drug Policies Today: Residential Progress in Addressing Racial Justices and Disparities* by Cigdem V. Sirin, is to look more specifically at how minorities are being impacted by the war. Looking more closely at how different races and cultures are impacted differently from the strategies that the government is implementing in order to reach their goal to stop illicit drug use. This article helps me in narrowing down my research because it looks more in-depth about how exactly this war on drugs becomes more than just a war on drugs.

I am not sure if I can say what Sirin has done is anything completely new but he instead builds upon what is a more and more common understanding of what the war on drugs is. Mainly Sirin has looked at racial profiling and how it has impacted law-making and incarceration. He states at one point in his article that 81% of Americans disapprove of racial profiling before the tragic 9/11 attack. So Sirin instead of straying away from popular opinion is building upon what seems to be a popular opinion. Although this article was written more recently, published back in 2011, the topic was relevant back in 1999, was relevant in 2011, and is even more relevant today.

In this article, Sirin looks more closely at are different laws that are passed and put into place and enforced. Mainly drawing off older laws which many have been removed but this allows for him to look at other studies drawn from this time. As evidence, he also draws from statistics to show us, the reader, how much of an impact that these laws made. Sirin looks towards incarceration as a good standard for measuring the difference these laws had on the communities. Specifically, some of the pieces of legislation he looks more closely at are Arizona's S.B. 1070 immigration law, New York's "Rockefeller" drug laws, and Michigan's "650-life" law.