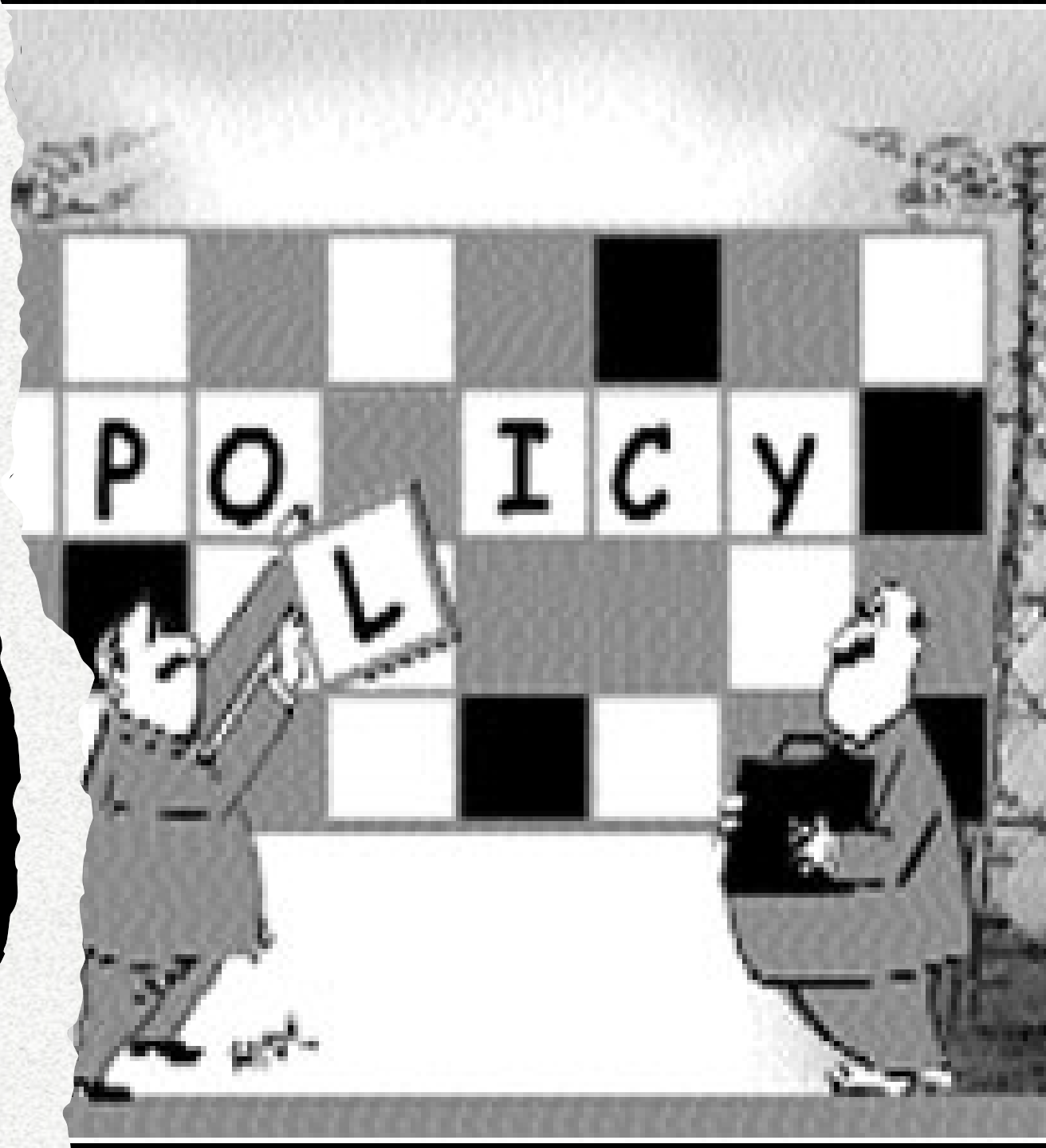


The role of power in drug policy

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Drug prohibition





Power of the police

- Power of police over people (arrests)
- Police as tools in the drug economy
- Police have become pawns of drug cartels utilizing punitive responses to take out the opposition



Power exerted by foreign states

- Compromises the sovereignty of states by the enforcement of drug war strategies
- United States (influence over the Africa Union)



Compromised power

- Compromised power gives police power
- Compromises the police's ability to correctly gather intelligence
- Leaves the police vulnerable to being exploited by drug cartels (corruption; low salaries)

Policy shifts (Decriminalisation)

- Reforms at the international and continental level is stating to shift power to affected communities (policy dialogues)
- Putting people first
- Sensitising police





Conclusion

- Criminalisation has compromised the power of police and state sovereignty
- Police are an extension of political ideologies (however, changes are not translating down to the police)
- Decriminalisation can see shifts in the distribution of power allowing for more bottom-up approaches to policy

Putting people first

