

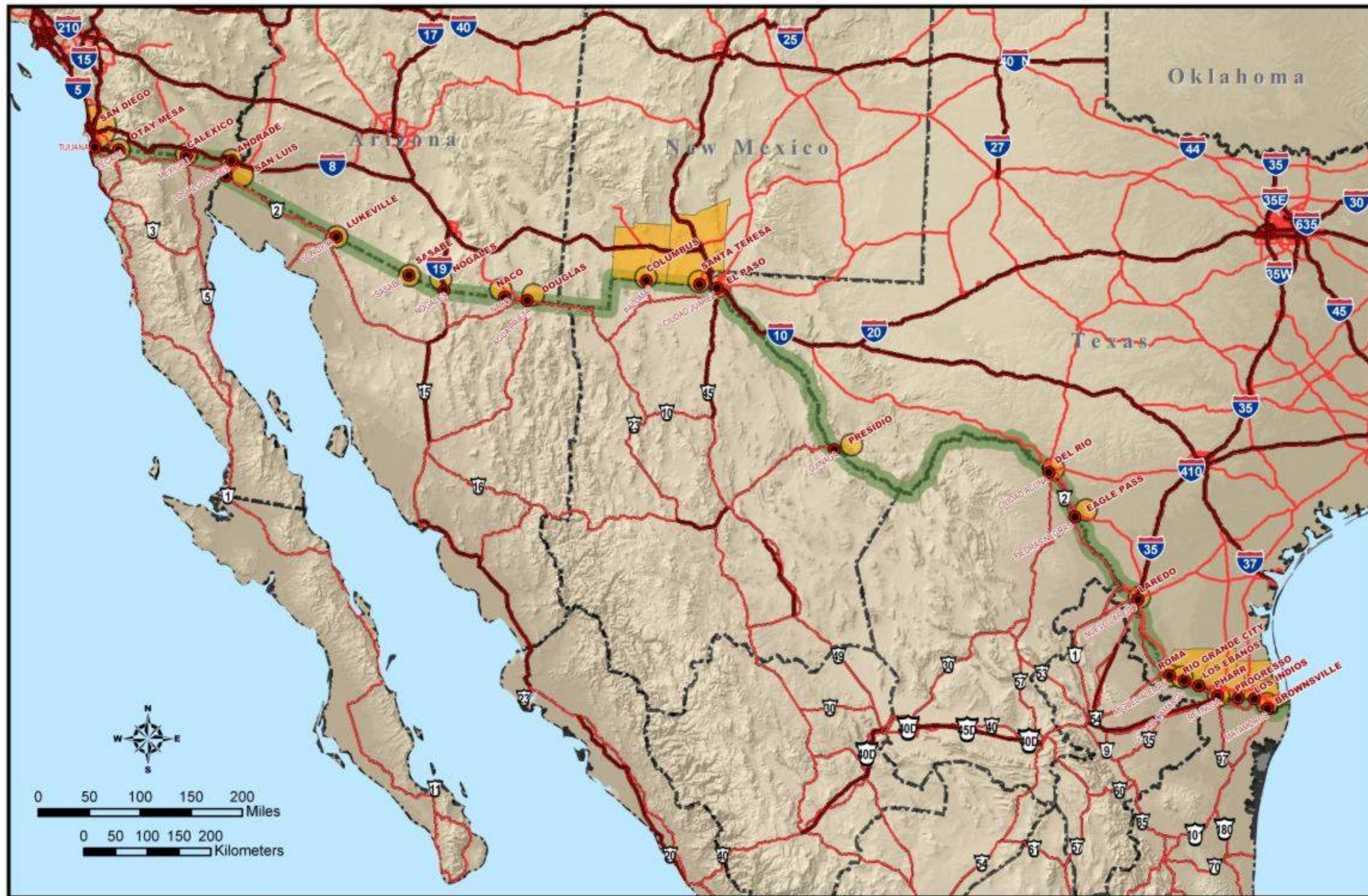


Root Causes of Migration

Loyola Marymount University

CSJ Center for Justice and Reconciliation

January 31, 2023



United States - Mexico Border

Legend


- Port-of-Entry Commercial Zone
- U.S. - Mexico Border Crossings
- U.S. - Mexico Border Line
- Expressway
- Highway
- Road



From El Paso to the Gulf, the Rio Grande is the border

Migrant Encampment

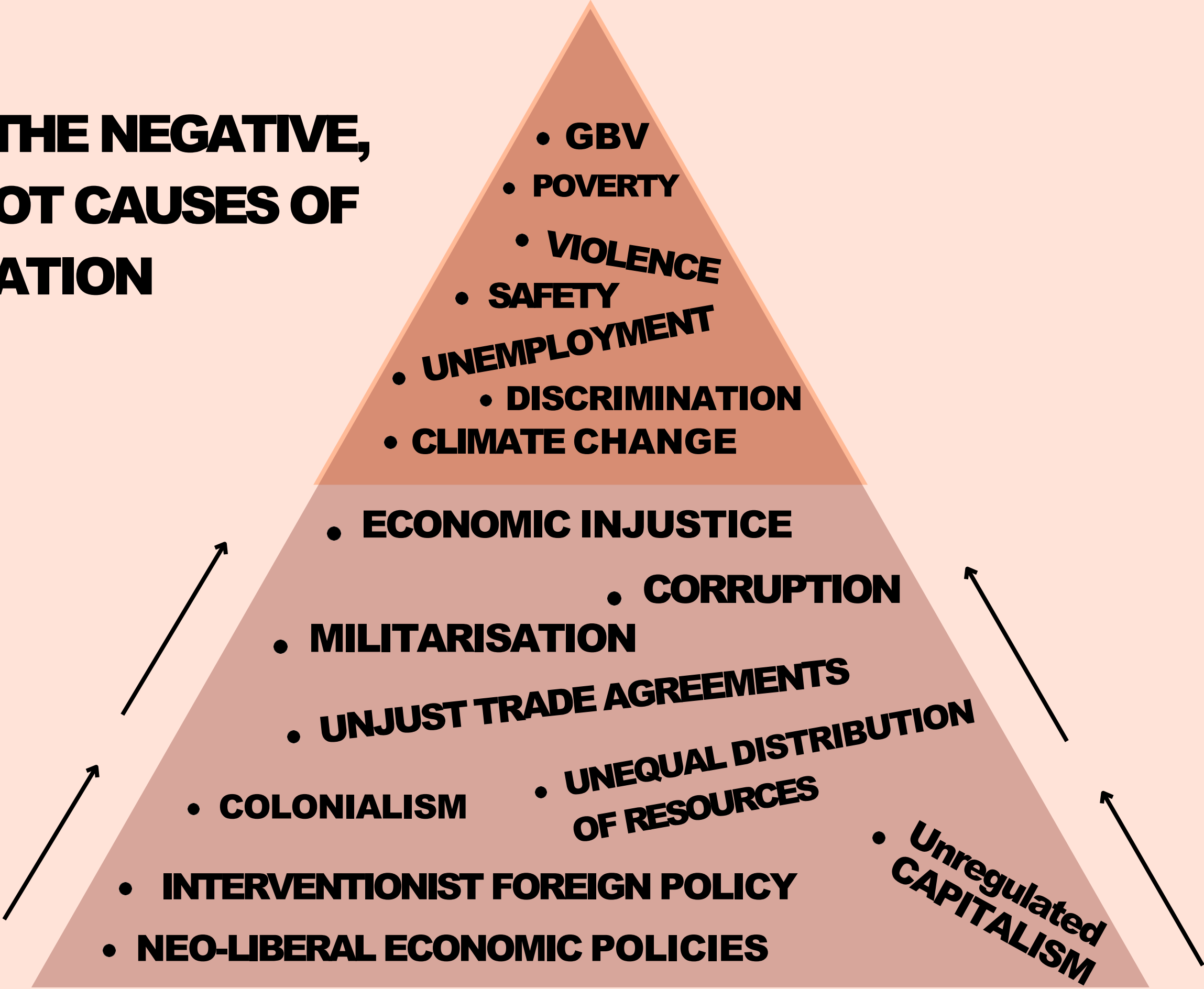


 The Guardian

Title 42: judge orders Biden to lift Trump-era immigration rule

Asylum restrictions imposed at beginning of Covid pandemic are 'arbitrary and capricious', US district judge says.

DIAGNOSING THE NEGATIVE, SYSTEMIC ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION



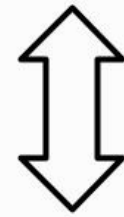
Root Causes of Migration - Policy Drivers

Environmental Destruction

Communities are being ravaged by the neoliberal economic development model promoting the exploitation of the natural resources. Even when communities try to fight environmental destruction through litigation, the courts very rarely side with communities. Environmentalists are often imprisoned or targeted for assassination for their work.

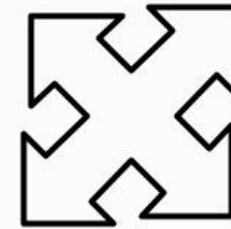
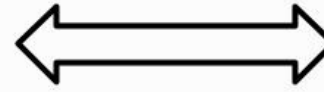
Extractivism

Extractivism is development that exports resources from a region on a large scale. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops explains, "the extractive development model values the maximization of profits and does not value life." Communities are drained of resources and pushed further into poverty, further fueling the desire to migrate.



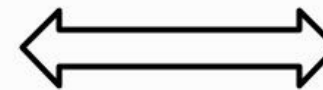
Violence

Decades of US military intervention and support of authoritarian regimes tied to economic elites has led to corruption and violence throughout Central and South America. Instability creates environments in which violence goes unchecked by local powers and people feel compelled to find a safer place to live.



Globalization, Free Trade Policies

Corporate investment often posited as a way to improve communities, can leave them worse off. Corporations move to the region without addressing the issues that local communities deem most urgent. Low wages, and weak labor and environmental protections allow companies to further exploit the region for profit, driving people to migrate.



GUATEMALA 1954 **3**
CIA DIRECTS BOMBING, INVASION AND COUP AFTER NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT NATIONALIZES UNVITED FRUIT COMPANY LANDS
KILLINGS 200,000+

CUBA 1961
CIA LEADS BAY OF PIGS INVASION TO PEOPLE REVOLUTION, BUT ARE DEFEATED BY CUBAN PEOPLE

HAITI 2004 **4**
US TROOPS REMOVE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED LEFT-WING PRESIDENT ARISTIDE. TROOPS OCCUPY COUNTRY

2

PUERTO RICO 1950 **2**
HOLDING ISLAND AS A COLONY SINCE 1898 US HELPS CRUSH REBELLION DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE.

EL SALVADOR 1981-92 **2**
US FUNDS AND DIRECTS DEATH SQUADS TO CRUSH POPULAR PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT. KILLING 75,000+ AND DESTROYING MOVEMENT

1

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1965 **4**
BOMBING AND US TROOP INVASION DURING ELECTIONS TO PREVENT ELECTION OF LEFT-WING LEADER.

HONDURAS 2009 **8**
US-BACKED COUP REMOVES DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

1

GRENADA 1983-84
US BOMBING AND INVASION AFTER POPULAR REVOLUTION

NICARAGUA 1981-90 **8**
CIA FUNDS AND DIRECTS CONTRA DEATH SQUADS AGAINST POPULAR PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT, MURDERING 50,000+ AND DESTROYING MOVEMENT

1

VENEZUELA 2002
US BACKED COUP KILLS CIVILLIANS, KIDNAPS PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ BEFORE THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE FORCE HIS RETURN

PANAMA 1989 **9**
US TROOPS, BOMBING FORCES REGIME CHANGE, KILLING 2,000+

1

CHILE 1973 **2**
CIA-BACKED COUP OUSTS POPULAR, DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED SOCIALIST PRESIDENT

1

1

NUMBER OF US MILITARY INTERVENTIONS SINCE 1890

👤 US TROOPS CURRENTLY ON THE GROUND

🏠 US MILITARY BASE (INCLUDING TROOPS)

56

US MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

Lessons from NAFTA for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)



Two Decades of High Costs for Mexico's Agriculture, Economy, Families, and Environment

While the North American Free Trade Agreement has had severe impacts on all three countries, Mexico's experience under this 1994 trade pact offers particularly disturbing lessons for the developing countries involved in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.



Almost 2 million Mexican agricultural jobs were lost in NAFTA's first decade. In corn production alone, more than 1 million jobs were lost.(4)

Impacts on Agriculture and migration



NAFTA promised that the agricultural sector in Mexico would grow so much that illegal migration of rural peoples into the United States would decline. However, since 1994 employment of the total economically active population has fallen from 19% to 13% and over 6 million rural people have had little choice but to migrate without documents into the US.(1)



When proposed, NAFTA promised to make Mexico an export-oriented producer of agricultural products. In reality, Mexico has become a 'food importing power,' relying on imports for 42% of its food supply in 2003, compared to 13% in 1993 (the year before NAFTA was implemented).(2)



NAFTA has done nothing to alleviate gender disparities in agriculture. Women landowners, regardless of the size of the plot of land, work longer hours on average per week than men (55 versus 35 hours), while earning less (2.9 pesos p/hr versus 7.8).(3)

A person stands on a beach at sunset, looking out at the ocean under a starry night sky. The sky is a mix of deep blue and purple, with many stars visible. The person is silhouetted against the bright horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

*We know from quantum physics
that everything is connected.*

Judy Cannato

Si



Crossing Borders - Breaking Hearts
Complexity - Causes - Compassion

Migrant Agricultural Workers



Maquiladora
workers



Maquilas, the economic motor of the city of Juarez



Ford executives in Juarez



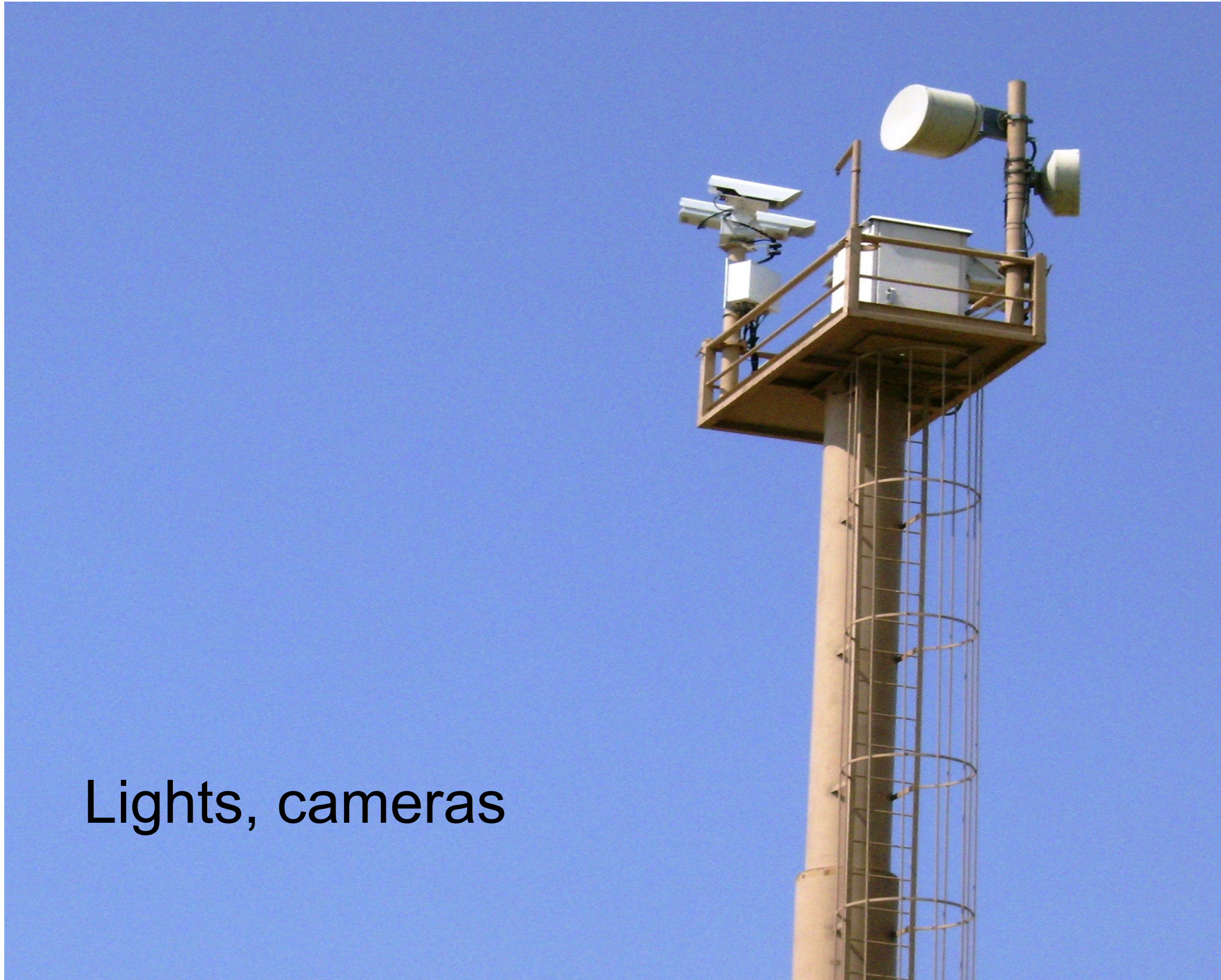


Fence between Anapra, MX and Sunland Park, NM



Strengthening the border fence





Lights, cameras

Immigration Policy Changes

- Fall, 1993 - “Hold the Line”, “Gatekeeper”
- Jan 1, 1994 - NAFTA - (North American Free Trade Agreement)
- 9/11/01 - infraction - illegal - criminal
 - DHS (Department of Homeland Security)
detention as deterrent
- Spring, 2014 - Mothers and children in detention

In the 90s, detention of immigrants grew...





Psychological effects
for both mothers and children



Our response to those fleeing violence?

“We are all connected!”



Honduras

- Colonization, Corporate interests resources
- 2009 coup, opens doors to criminality
- 2013 Election - Castro vs. Juan O. Hernandez, US tacit approval of flawed election.
- 2014-2017 poverty escalates to 70%
- Militarization of police force, growth of organized crime, 127 human rights defenders killed
- Growth of the resistance
- 2017 election fraud, OAS calls for re-count or re-election, US supports JOH (who is now in jail)
- 2022 new progressive govt. after 12 years of repression, narco-dictatorship, death squads



We are in this together. All of us. We must do what it takes to cultivate the life economy.

Now.

It is time to admit we are not fighting a war against terrorists, corporations, or any other “them.”

*We are all part of a process that has failed us.
We've bought into it. We've supported it.
We've benefited from it.*

Now we must act to change it.

John Perkins



◆ Be a messenger of hope

Welcome people on the move, be in solidarity, change the fear/blame narrative (e.g., letters to editor)! Make lifestyle changes (e.g., fair trade coffee)

◆ Build inclusive communities

Welcome refugees and asylum seekers into your communities, volunteer, expand hospitality venues, promote a 'culture of encounter'

Advocate for our government

◆ to take responsibility!

Call on policy makers: to condemn harmful and dehumanizing narratives of fear and exclusion about migration; to reform the immigration system; to back a “people-centred” approach to migration



**TAKE
ACTION**