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Chapter 1 : Economic Restructuring and Rural Subsistence in Mexico: Corn and the Crisis of the s

Economic restructuring and rural subsistence in Mexico corn and the crisis of the s by Cynthia Hewitt De Alcantara. Published October by University of California, San Diego, Center f.

Migration rates from Mexico to the US within the last 20 years must be examined within the context of the political-economic relationship between Mexico and the US from the late s to the present. Although there has been a high demand for low wage migrant labor within the US, especially in the dairy industry, migration cannot solely be explained by the demand for labor in the destination country. Migratory trends are equally propelled by the political, social, and economic situation in the emitter country. In the early s Mexico was faced with an economic crisis due to a proliferation of state spending. In addition to the reduction of tariffs, state-owned businesses were privatized. However, the growth in manufacturing disproportionately benefited the northern states. Furthermore, tariff reductions led to a higher demand for skilled labor. As a result, wages only increased significantly for skilled rather than unskilled labor. With the focus on export production in the manufacturing sector, which led to disproportionate growth and wage gains in Mexico, other sectors, such as agriculture, experienced much less growth. Prior to the implementation of NAFTA, in , Mexican president, Carlos Salinas implemented agrarian reform, which had a detrimental impact on small-scale subsistence farmers. Under the terms of NAFTA, subsidies for small-scale subsistence ejido farming were reduced and were given to large-scale grain producing corporations. Consequently, it has become increasingly difficult for small-scale farmers to compete with the cheap mass-produced agricultural products from the US, especially corn. These detrimental effects of the economic restructuring under NAFTA, including uneven growth, high wage differentials, and depeasantization, have left many families especially in rural areas in search of additional sources of income in order to maintain their livelihoods. As a result, migration has become an increasingly viable option for many communities and families in Mexico. The drastic augmentation of migration rates from Mexico to the US following the implementation of NAFTA exemplifies the strong relation between economic restructuring and migration patterns. The graph represents the increase in Mexican immigration in the US between and Furthermore, a large portion of the migrants who came to the US after the implementation of NAFTA have originated from agricultural states. The state of Vera-cruz, also located in southeastern Mexico, has experienced a huge increase in out-migration. However, after the implementation of GATT and especially after the privatization of ejido land in , as well as after the first round of formal tariff eliminations in , migration rates skyrocketed in various communities through-out Veracruz. By roughly 25 percent of the males from the agrarian town of Santa Rita in Veracruz had migrated to the US. The economic and agricultural restructuring in Mexico as a result of the terms of NAFTA has facilitated the free trade of goods and has created conditions within Mexico that have necessitated migration; however, negotiations regarding free trade have yet to consider and incorporate the free movement of people into free trade agreements. Despite the drastic increase of Mexican immigrants in the US within the last 20 years, border patrol in the US has only become more vigilant. Although the US has facilitated the economic and agri-cultural restructuring in Mexico, which has served to benefit the US economy, US officials have failed to address and facilitate the resulting migration patterns.

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Chapter 2 : Cynthia Hewitt-De-Alcantara (Author of Economic Restructuring and Rural Subsistence in Mexico)

In this discussion of economic restructuring and rural subsistence in Mexico, three areas of UNRISD research converge: a current concern with the relation between economic crisis, macro-economic adjustment and social change in Latin America and.

The relationship between drought and famine Some of the complex relationships between the causes of food shortage are best appreciated in the locations with prolonged drought. They demonstrate that food shortage is not inevitable in regions that experience even major production shortfalls. There is much to be learned from cases where drought and other natural disasters did not end in famine, and particularly from developing countries that have succeeded in avoiding famine during lengthy drought. Regional stockpiles were woefully inadequate to cope with the shortage. The drought placed million people at risk of starvation. Yet there were no famine-related deaths reported, except in Mozambique where there was an ongoing civil war Callihan et al. Even though regional stockpiles controlled by the SADC were insufficient to deal with the magnitude of the problem, the reserves were released onto the market early in the emergency, before food aid from other areas had arrived Field Other interventions taken by governments in the region were far from novel but were implemented much earlier than similar strategies typically have been. Food imports and food aid, initiation or expansion of public works, and loans to agriculturists all addressed issues of supply and demand - rather than simply relief - early in the crisis Field The government of Zimbabwe also pledged to purchase large quantities of grain before any donor aid had been committed; this proved to be a lifesaving factor Callihan et al. Donors can be slow. Drought is nothing new in Southern Africa. There was some hope that later rains would salvage some reasonable crop yields, and there was little external donor perception of an emergency, despite a fairly well developed famine early warning system. Advances in early warning technology are of little use unless the warning signals are heeded Buchanan-Smith et al. Before any external needs-assessment teams had arrived in the region, most of the SADC National Early Warning Units had already calculated initial food needs Callihan et al. Nevertheless, it was months before any donor aid reached Southern Africa in Relief food would have been even slower to arrive had it not been distributed through the SADC, which collected food in distribution centres even though it had not yet been determined where it ultimately was going Callihan et al. Good rail, road, and communications infrastructure within the SADC facilitated delivery of food from the distribution centres. Advance procuring of grain through market channels not only helped to provide food before aid arrived but also helped to avoid the precipitous price drops often associated with sudden arrival of vast quantities of food into drought-stricken regions. Grain prices thus remained relatively stable, protecting incomes of local farmers. Food also reached needy populations before they found it necessary to leave their homes. This greatly facilitated later rehabilitation efforts, since social and production systems were not disrupted. The advance commitment on the part of Southern African governments to import grain also helped prevent prices from being driven up by speculation, as has happened in other situations where crop failure has been accompanied by insufficient confidence in the ability of the government to import food Ravallion In addition, most food-distribution programmes were implemented through market channels, and rural works projects prevented collapse of rural markets during the crisis Teklu Botswana did very well with a cash-for-work relief programme that was targeted to the poor by holding wages slightly below market rates Callihan et al. Botswana has already done what the SADC is encouraging all of its member nations to do: Other countries in the region made use of both food-for-work and cash-for-work programmes Almost all of the targeted food-distribution programmes were implemented through non-governmental organizations NGOs that had been operating in the affected communities prior to the drought. Resources came not only from the NGOs but also from proceeds from food sold through market channels. Maize subsidies were lifted in Zimbabwe and Zambia during the relief effort, to increase producer incentives at a time when large supplies of foreign maize would otherwise have driven prices down Callihan et al. Malawi was the only country that

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relied on completely free distribution of food as part of its relief effort. Although we have stressed the factors that prevented food aid from having detrimental effects on the region, the drought would almost certainly have led to famine in the absence of aid. The United States had record amounts of yellow corn on hand at the time that Southern Africa needed it most: Some of the aid went through the World Food Programme and some of it was distributed through bilateral arrangements. Importing was also easier during the drought, because the World Bank relaxed target dates for structural reform actions and made credit available. Aid was then received without causing either temporary or longer-run shifts in local consumption patterns. These were approved for use in all of the SADC countries except Malawi - but even Malawi had a record agricultural harvest in , in part due to improved maize seed that was distributed by an NGO Callihan et al. Programmes had also expanded within the SADC to preserve cattle during times of drought, in order to help protect future livelihoods. These types of interventions were possible only because people in the region were not pushed into famine conditions under which they would have chosen short-run survival strategies over long-run subsistence strategies Field Mozambique fared less well than other Southern African countries, in part because donors were reluctant to send food aid that could be stolen by the Mozambican armed forces and not reach displaced people Ayisi Nevertheless, the experience during the worst drought in over a century clearly shows that drought does not have to lead to famine. The physical and biological causes of production shortfalls are in no way the sole determinants of food shortage. They must always be viewed against an institutional background dedicated to preventing and alleviating shortage. Ecological and political aspects of food shortage in the s In evaluating the causes of food shortage, politics has been implicated more than the weather. This is because politicians shape the environment of response to ecological conditions. They also shape the trade-and-aid policies that determine whether households, regions, and countries produce enough food to provision themselves or have affordable terms for import and purchase. National politicians and policies also determine the extent to which regions and localities can retain or develop food self-reliance. Throughout much of the developing world, small farmers have capacities to improve production but lack certain access to land, moisture, seeds, and markets to make optimal use of that potential. They also lack access to basic services, such as health and education, that could improve their lives and prevent food shortage. Since the s, the international UN community has sponsored a number of century-end summit meetings to take stock of current resources and to plan for the future: Almost all addressed two principal dimensions of food shortage and its prevention - the need for better mapping of hunger vulnerability, and the need for more stable political environments for food security. Although especially UNCED, the ICN, and the WFS addressed a plethora of additional technical, economic, social, and cultural issues surrounding food security now and into the twenty-first century, these two dimensions are probably the most significant for addressing local to global food-shortage problems. Implementation of the first is likely to be assisted by the momentum of political will generated by the various summits; implementation of the second is unlikely to be affected by international proclamations. In philosophical or humanitarian terms, few disagree that adequate food is a human right. But most continue to disagree over how to achieve universal food security in a world context divided by socio-economic inequalities, ethnic differences, and narrower country-level political interests. Biotechnological initiative that may break the "yield barrier," and adaptive research and extension to narrow the "yield gap" in basic foods, may help production keep up with population growth and prevent food shortage. But achieving food security for households and individuals remains a greater challenge. There have been declines in carry-over stocks since , but they are still above the level that the FAO considers necessary to maintain food security. Furthermore, all of the decline in stocks has occurred in developed countries as a part of pricing policy Uvin Higher fat consumption, accompanying improvements in household incomes, and access to food may mask the deteriorating nutritional status of poorer households, as both extremes are averaged in country-level consumption figures. Marketing boards can have positive effects on producer prices when they act as producer cartels, but more often they act as monopsonies depressing prices Krishna and Thursby Governments, especially in Africa, have widely used marketing boards to generate development funds. They were 35 per

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cent of normal if Angola and Tanzania were excluded Green Undoubtedly, famine mortality would have been even higher in Mozambique if there were not a tentative peace during the drought which allowed relief shipments to reach the most affected Callihan et al. Administrative Committee on Coordination, Subcommittee on Nutrition. Political Economy of Large Natural Disasters: With Special Reference to Developing Countries. Barkin, David, Rosemary L. Batt, and Billie R. Food Crops versus Feed Crops. An End to Hunger? Toward a Political Economy of Development: A Rational Choice Perspective. University of California Press, pp. Eleanor Leacock, Helen I. Safa, and contributors, eds. Development and the Division of Labor by Gender. The Worldwatch Environmental Alert Series, ed. Let Them Eat Information. The Village Woman in Ghana. Centre for Development Research. Eriksen, and Allison Butler Herrick. Chattopadhyay, Boudhayan, and Pierre Spitz. Boudhayan Chattopadhyay and Pierre Spitz, eds. Food Systems and Society in Eastern India: Coping with Seasonality and Drought. Economic Restructuring and Rural Subsistence in Mexico: Maize and the Crisis of the s. Integrating Supply, Distribution, and Consumption. Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. The State of Food and Agriculture. Food and Agriculture Organization. Towards an Alternative Policy. Adjustment with a Human Face: The World Food Problem: Tackling the Cause of Undernutrition in the Third World. Price, Sidney Chernick, Nadine R. Horenstein, and Katrine Saito. The World Food Problem The Demise of a Rural Economy:

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Chapter 3 : Mexican Sugarcane Growers: Economic Restructuring and Political Options

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Other Readings Introduction Given the richness of the literature on Latin American development, there is always a risk of omitting what some would call definitive works in any supplementary bibliography of reasonable length. The Benson Latin American Collection at UT is the largest university library collection on Latin America anywhere in the world, so I would encourage you to become familiar with its vast resources early in the term. The only other collection of Latin Americana that is larger is that in the Library of Congress, but there it is scattered in an arrangement that is far from user friendly. If you are able to travel to Washington, you will find, besides the Library of Congress, the library of the Inter-American Development Bank and, if you can gain access to it, the joint Bank-Fund World Bank-IMF library, which is a gold mine of information. Unfortunately it is exceedingly difficult to get permission to use this latter, even on a highly restricted basis. With some trepidation, then, I am identifying books and articles that may be helpful to you for follow-up reading on the topics we cover this semester. Hundreds, indeed thousands, more, both general and specialized economic studies, are available to you in the Benson Latin American Collection. The Latin American Research Review, the Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs, and various journals in the field of development studies, international business, and so on should be part of your regular scanning this semester. The Journal of Economic Literature helps to locate many, but not all, of the economics books and periodical articles appearing on development topics, and you are also advised to become familiar with the Handbook of Latin American Studies, the Hispanic American Periodicals Index, the Latin American Data Base, and assorted other on-line services that will lead you to current economic information. The UT-Lanic on-line service will be a great convenience to you, partly because it provides access to the International Trade-Information Service organized by the CIBER at UT and partly because it simplifies finding the trail to dozens of other current data bases. Supplementary reference works include the annual World Development Report, the Human Development Report, World Employment, the World Labour Report, and the World Investment Report, most of which generally feature a special analysis the topic of which changes from year to year. The same can be said for the annual Economic and Social Progress in Latin America, so you may find it useful early on to scan the contents of these serial publications for the past several years so as to know where to turn for an analytical framework or some other information in the event they should be needed. Covers political and social as well as economic history. Mitchell, *International Historical Statistics: Landlord and Peasant in the Making of Latin America*, , offers a useful historical background, as does the next title Robert G. Keith, *Haciendas and Plantations in Latin American History*, Winston Firtsch, *External Constraints on Economic Policy in Brazil*, , exemplifies a large body of literature detailing the evolution of economic policy in individual countries Stephen Haber, ed. See also ECLA, *Peripheral Capitalism* for what was, in effect, the final summing up of the ECLA view of the world before restructing got fully underway and the thinking of the policy community changed accordingly. Paul Sigmund, *Multinationals in Latin America*: Ghosh, *Developing Latin America*: Mallon and Juan V. Sourrouille, *Economic Policymaking in a Conflict Society*: Lewis, *The Crisis of Argentine Capitalism*, Guido di Tella and Rudiger Dornbusch, eds. *Developmentalism in Brazil and Argentina* Angus Maddison et al. *Brazil and Mexico* Thomas J. Tyler, *The Brazilian Industrial Economy*, Lawrence Graham and Robert Wilson, eds. Becker and Claudio A. Although assembly operations date back to earlier decades, several countries tried, some of them more or less successfully, to push the motor car industry as a centerpiece of development- see also Jack Baranson, *Automotive Industries in Developing Countries*, , for the policies that launched this major industrial complex in Latin America, and R. Jenkins, *Dependent Industrialization in Latin America: Growth and Development* , John H. Welch, *Capital Markets in*

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the Development Process: Haber, Industry and Underdevelopment: Acuna, and Eduardo A. Conaghan and James M. Democracy and Neoliberalism in the Central Andes, , a political interpretation that sheds considerable light on policy making in a watershed era Bela Balassa et al. Middlebrook, and Juan Molinar Horcasitas, eds. Corn and the Crisis of the s Nora Lustig, Mexico: Brazil and Mexico, Efrain Gonzales de Olarte, ed. Willumsen and Eduardo Giannetti da Fonseca, eds. Smith, Carlos Acuna, and Eduardo Gamarra, eds. Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives for the s, Household and Community Responses, Laura Randall, ed. Lessons from Mexico, William C. Grindle, State and Countryside, Haney and Wava G. Jones, Colonization and Environment: Ricardo Paredes and Luis A. Betts and Daniel J. Slottje, Crisis on the Rio Grande: Kim and David F. Nielson, and Marc A. Trade and the Environment in the Americas, Charles H. Schumann and William L. Lipsey, Daniel Schwanen, and Ronald J. Opportunities and Challenges K. Martin, The Uncertain Connection: Free Trade and Mexico-U. Mexico in the World Economy - takes a view wholly at odds with the most of the other writing on NAFTA, but raises issues worth pondering that others have tended to bypass. Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Hojman, "The Andean Pact: Smith, Cooperation or Rivalry? Reynolds, Leonard Waverman, and Gerardo Bueno, eds. Bosworth, and Robert Z. Policies and Bargaining Strategies Sidney Weintraub, ed. Martin, Trade and Migration: Delal Baer and Sidney Weintraub, eds. Belous and Jonathan Lemco, eds. Delal Baer, Joseph T. Jockel, and Sidney Weintraub, eds. A good complement to the next work listed. You may also want to follow what the Inter-American Development Bank is doing to assist the indigenous population through its recently established Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples and the studies made by the new section of the Bank devoted to this area of concern George Psacharopoulos and Harry A. Deals also with policy and presents an agenda for future research. Sheldon Annis and Peter Hakim, eds. Hirschman, Getting Ahead Collectively: Tokman and Emilio Klein, eds. Development and the Indians of Brazil Victor E. What have we Learned? Latin America after years, Rob Vos, ed. Jorge Perez Lopez, Cuba at the Crossroads: Luciak, The Sandinista Legacy:

Chapter 4 : Economic restructuring and rural subsistence in Mexico: corn and the crisis of the s - CORE

"Economic Restructuring and Rural Subsistence in Mexico: Corn and the Crisis of the s," University of California at San Diego, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies qt3vnp, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UC San Diego.

Chapter 5 : Economic restructuring and rural subsistence in Mexico (October edition) | Open Library

This book, and the seminar on which it is based, were conceived as elements of a dialogue on the future of the Mexican countryside. Rural Mexico, like the rest of Mexican society, is changing rapidly in response to a variety of circumstances, many of which are very imperfectly understood. This book.

Chapter 6 : Free Trade of Goods and People? The Macro Context of Mexico-US Migration

Includes translations of papers first presented at a seminar held at the Centro Tepoztlājn, Mexico City, in Jan. Skip to main content Search the history of over billion web pages on the Internet.

Chapter 7 : The relationship between drought and famine

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