



1970'LERDEN SONRA AMERİKA BİRLEŞİK DEVLETLERİ'NE ARTAN MEKSİKA GÖÇÜNÜN ALTINDA YATAN SEBEPLERİNİN BİR ANALİZİ

Oğuz Kaan Özalp
oguzkaanozalp@outlook.
com
ORCID: 0000-0002-
5446-3954

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF INCREASE IN MEXICAN IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE 1970S

ÖZ Yaygın inanışın aksine, Meksika Ekonomisi 1950'lerde denge ve istikrar içindeydi. Ancak, 1970'lerde Luis Echeverria yönetimi altında bir mali genişleme politikası ve yapısal reformlar duyurduktan sonra Meksika hükümeti bir borç yığını altına girdi. Bu durum Meksika Hükümeti'nde, yolsuzluk, eşitsizlik ve sınıf farklılıkları gibi sivil, siyasi ve ekonomik sorunlar ortaya çıkması Meksika toplumunda bir atmosfer değişikliğine neden oldu. Bu olayların ışığında, çoğunlukla kırsal ve yoksul bölgelerde yaşayan Meksikalılar, bu sorunların gerçekleriyle karşı karşıya kaldılar ve bu da ABD'ye göçü artırdı. Bu eğilim özellikle 1970'lerden sonra başladı. Meksika'da 1970'ler, Meksika göçünü hızlandırmasında bir kırılma noktasıydı ve nihayetinde bir domino etkisi yarattı. Bu nedenle, bu makale, çoğunlukla kırsal ve yoksul bölgelerdeki Meksikalı göçmenler ve Meksika toplumu ile ilgili temel sorunlara işaret ederken, Meksika göçündeki 1970'lerden 2010'lara kadar olan dönemi incelemektedir. Kuzey Atlantik Serbest Ticareti, Meksika siyasi partisinin başarısızlıkları, ekonomik krizler, eşitsizlik, yolsuzluk ve yoksulluk gibi temel sorunlar, 1980'lerde ve 1990'larda Meksika'nın Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'ne göçünün birincil itici gücünü oluşturdu. Bu bağlamda, bu makale, Meksika göçünü analiz etme yolunda somut bir zemin oluşturmak için, tarihsel olaylardan, siyasi söylemlerden ve tabandan gelen sorunlardan bahsederek Meksika göçündeki artışa katkıda bulunan itme-çekme faktörlerini uygulamaktadır. Sonuç olarak bu makale, Meksikalı göçmenlerin gerçeklerini anlamak için yakından incelenecek bir vaka olarak Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'ne Meksika göçünün önemini vurgulamayı amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Meksika Göçü, İtme-Çekme Etkenleri Teorisi, Eşitsizlik

ABSTRACT . Contrary to popular belief, the Mexican economy was in balance and stability in the 1950s. However, after announcing a fiscal expansion under the administration of Luis Echeverria in the 1970s, the Mexican government went under a pile of debt, which caused a change of atmosphere in Mexico by deepening civil, political, and economic problems, such as corruption, inequality, and class differences. Ultimately, the Mexicans who mostly lived in rural and poor areas faced the realities of these problems, which increased immigration to the United States. This trend started specifically after the 1970s. The 1970s of Mexico was a breaking point to accelerate the Mexican immigration, and consecutively, this has created a domino effect. Thus, this article examines the period after the 1970s to the 2010s, while indicating the underlying problems regarding the Mexican immigrants and Mexican society, mostly in rural and poor areas. The underlying problems such as North Atlantic Free Trade, failures of the Mexican political party, economic crises, inequality, corruption, and poverty constituted the primary drive of Mexican immigration to the United States in the 1980s and 1990s, and moreover, these problems did not cease after all. To create a concrete groundwork to analyze Mexican immigration, the article applies one of the migration theories called push-pull factors theory that contribute to the increase in Mexican immigration by mentioning the historical events, political discourses, and grassroots' problems. Consequently, the article aims to assert the importance of Mexican immigration to the United States as a case to be examined closely to understand Mexican immigrants' realities.

Keywords: Mexican Immigration, Push-Pull Factor Theory, Inequality



INTRODUCTION

The United States has always been a host of immigration from all over the world. The United States is sometimes referred to as the land of migration due to its past and present characteristics. There are many different originated people living in the US. It is because of the historical events that occurred over centuries. However, when we look at the origins of the immigrants, the ethnic diversity of Latin Americans changes one from the other groups. According to the US Census Bureau (2020), the most populated origin belongs to the Hispanic, with 18 percent of the population. Moreover, Mexicans are the most populated group within that 18 percent of the population. According to Zong and Batalova (2018), Mexicans are the largest foreign-born group in the country, accounting for 25 percent of the 44.5 million of the immigrants.

Historically, Mexican immigration to the United States has a long past, considering that the Mexicans are the both oldest and newest inhabitants of the nation (Library of Congress, 2014). It dates back to the 18th century of the US when the nation building process of the US required labor force and cultivation of its lands. Thus, this situation created many more opportunities for many people who sought to have better life standards. During that time period Mexicans and many other countries benefitted from these opportunities and sought to migrate to the US. Especially after the annexation of Texas in 1845, many Mexicans decided to live in the US. However, for a certain period, from 1860s to 1920s, the migration flow from Mexico was barely a trickle (Young, 2015).

Beginning around the 1890s, new industries in the US Southwest, with mining and agriculture, attracted Mexican migrant laborers (Young, 2015). Due to the Mexican Revolution in 1910-1920, accelerated the Mexican immigration to the US. The number of legal Mexican migrants during that time, was around 50.000 to 100.000 migrants per year (Young, 2015).

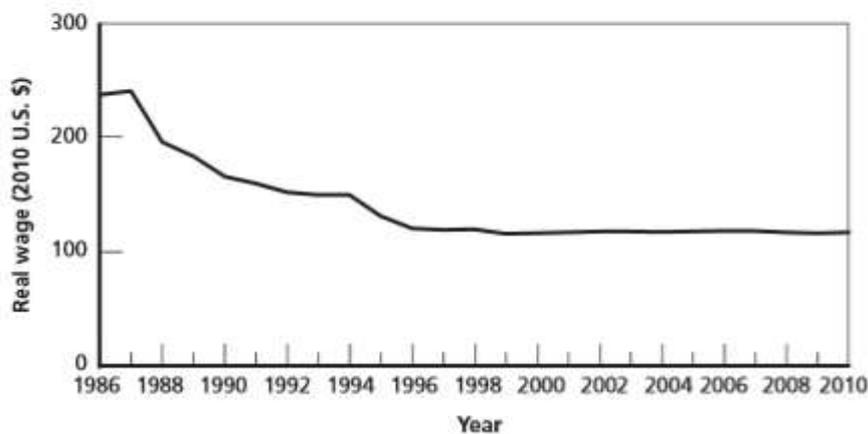
The position and opportunities of the US have always attracted many migration movements all over the world Mexican immigration to the US was a constant movement through history. Mexican immigration especially after the 1960s was in rapid increase, thus, this article aims to analyze the reasons for Mexican immigration to the US regarding the facts and events that occurred in Mexico and the United States. To understand and lay out the reasons, this research will ground on the theory of push-pull factors, which was asserted by Ernest Ravenstein in 1889 and Everett Lee in 1966. Although the theory was firstly developed to examine the underlying causes regarding economic drives (Ravenstein, 1889), the theory was later developed to analyze certain socio-cultural and socio-economic causes regarding migration (Lee, 1966). Ravenstein's and Lee's theory of pull and push factors is still valid to analyze and evaluate the laws of migration because of its focuses on the reasons and patterns of migration. To understand the causes of the Mexican immigration, first this article will analyze push factors: the performance of Mexican economy, the situation in rural and agricultural areas, and the corruption of Mexican politics while mentioning the impacts of North American Free Trade Agreement and poverty that strikes rural/agrarian towns. After analyzing the push factors, this article will focus and decode the pull factors: the economy of the US compared to Mexico, the American Dream- the notion of the US by the Mexican people-, and opportunities in the US while mentioning some of the policies of the US government and networks that regard Mexican immigrants.

PUSH FACTORS

Economic reasons are mostly the main reasons why people start migrating in the first place. This evaluation can be applied to any immigration flow in the world; thus, we can use this evaluation to Mexican immigration. Contrary to popular belief, the Mexican economy's performance was in balance and stability in the 1950s. However, in 1970, the newly inaugurated president Luis Echeverria announced fiscal expansion, which increased public debt. During 1975 and 1976, the budget soared to 10 percent of GDP (RaboResearch, 2013). Even though, the Mexican government tried to bring structural reforms, it failed to balance the economy; consequently, in 1982, Mexico was not able to service its external debt obligations, known as the 1982 Mexican Debt Crisis (Brinke, 2013). As Brinke (2013) stated, the Mexican government attempt to bring many structural reforms such as the Baker Plan or Brady Plan, which were supported by the IMF. However, the economy was not fully restored, which became the turning point for Mexico.

Almost all Latin American economies are export-oriented, and this is a historical process. The geographical positions and geopolitics of Latin American countries were always seen as dependent to core countries such as the United States, Spain, and Portugal and etc. This notion was made because of the colonial experience of these countries. To be able to survive within this context, Latin American countries obeyed the rules of core countries for history. Economically, Latin American countries followed the steps of core countries and they shaped their economies according to these arrangements. This situation is also applicable to the Mexican economy. Economy and polity are two dependent elements when it comes to the structure of a state. Thus, a crisis in Mexico caused both political and economic deterioration, which was not able to be controlled over the years. 1982 Crisis amplified the problems in the economy and politics. Ultimately, the Mexican economy's dependence on the US economy consolidated with the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994. Also, during that year, Mexico faced another economic downfall, which was known as the Mexican Peso Crisis of 1994- exchange rate collapse- (Masson, 1996). The sudden devaluation of the peso against the US dollar in December 1994 damaged the Mexican economy irreversibly (Masson, 1996), especially after joining NAFTA.

Real Minimum Wage in Mexico, 1986–2010



Source: Chiquiar, Francia, 2009, Bank of Mexico



As it is seen on the table, real wage of Mexicans drastically dropped after the economic failure of the government. As it is obvious, thereafter the 1982 Crisis in Mexico, triggered a massive downfall in Mexican economy, and the attempts to balance and bring macroeconomic and financial stability to the Mexican economy through reforms and fiscal expansion did not thrive until 2000s. Thus, ultimately these economic failures accelerated Mexican immigration. According to the statistics of the Migration Policy Institute, after the 1980s, the rapid increase in Mexican immigration is evident. In the 1980s, the population of Mexicans was 2.199.200 million, but in the 1990s, the numbers doubled, reaching to 4.298.000 million (Zong and Batalova, 2018). Many Mexicans tried to seek shelter in the US after the crisis in Mexico.

Furthermore, NAFTA, as an economic factor, created an atmosphere that accelerated immigration. After the agreement was signed in 1994, there were many uncertainties about the outcomes of the agreement. Because, during that time, Mexico was having a hard time to bring stability and order to its economy by drafting structural reforms. Also, because of the failures of the government, a long-running single party of Mexico –PRI- was coming to an end. Thus, the outcomes or consequences of NAFTA were significant for the future of the Mexican government. Cameron and Wise (2004) studied the impacts of NAFTA on Mexico by creating three propositions, which were the possible outcomes of NAFTA. The first was that NAFTA would serve as a catalyst for democratization in Mexico (Cameron and Wise, 2004:305). As in the past, the US wanted democratic reforms that would be implemented in Mexican politics. The US policy was to use economic change as a causal agent of the political agent (Smith, 1992:6) by bringing privatization and liberalization under NAFTA. These changes would mean more control over the economy, and the more ruling elites should surrender their powers, which means the recession of authoritarian regime. The second proposition was that NAFTA would further bolster the single-party authoritarian regime by preserving ruling elites (Cameron and Wise, 2004:306). The third proposition was that NAFTA would have little effect on Mexico's democratization. Ultimately, on the one hand, it became more apparent that NAFTA changed the Mexican way of life radically, as in the second proposition. Because NAFTA reinforced longstanding trends that worked to undermine the single-party rule, it also weakened the political regime by triggering a sequence of inter-related political and economic crisis (Cameron and Wise, 2004:306). Considering the impacts of NAFTA, on the other hand, NAFTA also deepened the economic and political inconsistency of Mexican government by implementing its own set of rules, consequently, it created an atmosphere of inequality and inconsistency. Thus, it is obvious that from the 1990s to 2000s, especially with the implementation of NAFTA, the numbers of Mexican immigrants increased from 4.298.000 million to 9.177.500 million, (US Census Bureau, 2010).

To have a better grasp of the impacts of NAFTA, one should research and study small towns mostly located in the south of Mexico. The implementation of NAFTA in 1994 changed the balance in rural and agrarian towns, as Kristen Fedie stated (2013:38). The geopolitics and geographic position of Mexico, considering the south of Mexico, are dependent economically on agriculture and cultivation. Thus, as Kristen Fedie stated (2013:38), NAFTA introduced two distinct people and cultures, on the one side there are people who are dependent on agriculture and cultivation, on the other side the people who knows the dynamics of capitalism. NAFTA have brought these two distinct agencies into more significant contact, and globalization and capitalization of NAFTA increased political, cultural, and economic interaction between these two distinct agencies. These interactions caused severe damages to the small, rural, and agrarian



towns. Roy Germano, a director, filmed a documentary called *'The Other Side of the Immigration'* by aiming to bring light to the darker corners of poor Mexican rural towns such as Pajacuaran and Huandacareo. In the documentary, Germano interview many townspeople, immigrants, and government officials. It is evident that NAFTA's outcomes are apparent in such towns, and many people claim that they are forced to migrate to the US. For example, Jose Manriquez Diaz, the mayor of Pajacuaran, says that Pajacuaran used to be the second-biggest producer of pork in the state, and prior to NAFTA, almost 20 percent of the families in this town raised pigs. However, with NAFTA, new international markets opened, and many local pig farmers could no longer compete with these market prices. Eventually, they migrated to the US to survive (Germano, 2010). Also, Diaz (Germano, 2010) says that the production of many other agricultural goods such as corn and strawberries decreased due to NAFTA. Oswaldo Rodriguez Gutierrez –the Ministry of Rural Development in 2010- says that the quality of these products is not the issue; the problem is that with NAFTA, Mexican farmers could not compete with Canadian and the US markets, because of the currency differences. In Mexico, fertilizers and seeds have gotten expensive in order to compensate investments; however, in Mexico, farmers have lacked capital, land, and technology compared to the US and Canada. Thus, eventually, farmers sell their lands to save money to migrate to the US.

Because of NAFTA and failures of the Mexican government on the economy, poverty rates peaked. Also, with the global 2007 Recession, the unemployment rates increased in Mexico. Aguila, Shatz, and Kups (2012:7) divide poverty into two categories; capability poverty, which means inability to satisfy someone's minimum requirements of food, health, and education and food poverty, which means the incapacity to purchase the food basket. With NAFTA, recession, and poor performance of the Mexican government, food poverty has risen from 21 percent to 37 percent, and capability poverty has increased from 30 percent to 46 percent since 1994. Although these rates differ according to region, it is still applicable to understand the increase in Mexican immigration. From 1994 to 2010, the Mexican immigrants raised from 4 million to 11.711.100 million (Zong and Batalova, 2018). Ultimately, the poor performances of the Mexican economy, the impacts of NAFTA, and global crises increased poverty and unemployment rates while bringing many other deficiencies such as illiteration, malnutrition, and high-income inequality (UNDP, 2010), consequently all of these causes increased Mexican immigration to the United States.

Besides economic causes, insecurity and fear resulting from the corruption in Mexico are other push factors for the Mexican immigrants. Especially since the 1980s, Mexican politics failed to promote democracy and security for Mexican citizens (Sanchez, 2019). As a result, politics became more corrupt than ever. To analyze the levels of corruption in Mexico, Keith Rosen in 1987 and Jose Rodriguez-Sanchez in 2019 laid out the levels of corruption in Mexico (Rosen, 1987; Sanchez, 2019). It is evident that the continuation of corruption in Mexico is still a valid problem whether the ruling parties are different or not, and the dates of these two articles prove this point. According to Rosen (1987), corruption is not something that one can find concrete evidence. To understand corruption, one should examine the deliberate actions of the government. For example, in the 1980s, Lopez Portillo, the government of Sonora, owned four marijuana and opium ranches, and Portillo was caught while depositing in foreign banks. These actions showed that Mexican politics used government sources to increase their prosperity. Also, during that time, because of the corruption of government officials, many drug cartels and lords were inspired and emerged, supposedly to protect their own people. This resulted in many illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking, and while



increasing criminality and violence rates in Mexico. As in the above, Rosen (1987) showed that many people felt unsafe because of the corruption and crime rate in the country, thus this situation increased the immigration flow to the United States.

On the other hand, many years passed, and even today, the rate of corruption in Mexico is high. Jose Rodriguez-Sanchez studied the corruption and democracy rates in Mexico in 2019. Sanchez (2019:3) believes that Mexican's single-party government and concentration of power in a presidential figure prevented the country from developing strong institutions that support the rule of law. Many Mexicans suffered from poor conditions while the government loyalists benefitted from the government treatments. As in the documentary by Roy Germano (2010), it is very evident that there are some governmental programs, which support local businesses by investing money. However, it is also apparent that most of the people who apply for these programs cannot acquire any support or assistance because officials only approve the ones they know. Ultimately, the belief in the Mexican government is fading away. Even though Manuel Lopez Obrador, the president of Mexico, pledged to plow the corruption (2018), the statistics show the opposite. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index (2019), statistics put Mexico in the category of 'highly corrupt', 29/100. Also, America's Society and the Council of the Americas, and their Capacity to Combat Corruption (CCC), ranked Mexico as one of the worst countries in Latin America with the least capacity to combat corruption (2018). Moreover, in Mexico, National Surveys show that people see corruption as the second most important national concern (ENCIG, 2017). There are many other surveys, researches, and studies such as LAPOP and Index of Democratic Development (IDD), which state that the Mexican government as one of the most corrupt governments in the world. Consequently, corruption is known by the people of Mexico, which causes fear and insecurity. While studying the case of migration, fear and insecurity are significant to comprehend people's psychology. No one would want to leave their homes and their family for nothing. Yet, in Mexico, there is no one to protect people's rights to live in peace and security.

PULL FACTORS

As for the pull factors, economic reasons can again be applicable to analyze the Mexican immigration. After NAFTA and economic recession in Mexico, many Mexican people, especially farmers and the ones who live in rural/agrarian areas in Mexico, could not afford to live and survive in Mexico. Poverty and malnutrition rates peaked, which caused many people to migrate to the US. However, the situation in Mexico is not enough to understand the increase in Mexican immigration to the US. As in the push factors, the differences between American dollar and Mexican peso, job opportunities in the US, and hourly/weekly wage differences have become main elements of economic causes of pull factors of Mexican immigrants.

Currently, one American Dollar equal to 22,18 Mexican peso (Bloomberg, 2020). The currency difference became essential for Mexican immigrants. Most Mexican immigrants leave their families in Mexico and send the American dollar to their homes to their families. In Mexico, especially many rural/agrarian townspeople earn almost 13 American dollars a day, which cannot compensate the agricultural investments. However, even though an immigrant works at low wage work in the US, he/she still earns much more money than Mexico, an estimated 80 or 90 American Dollars a day (Germano, 2010). This



results in the acceleration of immigration. As Alejo Froylan Guzman says, 'if you work in the US, you get ahead compared to here' (Germano, 2010).

Immigration policy-making became one of the most important agendas of the US foreign policy because of the mass influx of immigration. The US politics put immigration quotas for many countries throughout US history, world wars, Vietnam, and the Cold War. However, US politics did not set immigration quotas for Mexican immigration until today. Thus, many Mexican people benefitted from this situation, yet caused illegal immigration from Mexico. Still, to compensate for the cheap labor workforce, US politics proposed many worker programs for Mexican immigration. For example, in 2004, George W. Bush proposed a new temporary worker programme which is still valid, which would help further the cause of safe and orderly migration (Arnold, 2012). Also, this programme would help undocumented workers, and illegal immigrants come out and establish legal identities. Such programs increased the amount of mass influx of migration from Mexico to the US because Mexican people wanted safety and order in their lives.

To understand why these programs such as George Bush's program in 2004 increased the numbers of Mexican immigration, Michael Piore's '*segmented labor market theory*' can be applied. According to Piore's theory (1979), migration stems from the intrinsic characteristics built into a modern industrial society. Piore (1979) states that migration is not caused by push factors in sending regions (low wages or high unemployment), but by pull factors in receiving areas (a chronic and unavoidable need for migrant workers). The built-in demand for inexpensive and flexible workers stems from three basic features of advanced industrial economies. Piore divides the theory into three parts, stating the theory as a process.

The first is *structural inflation*. Wages not only reflect conditions of supply and demand; they also confer status and prestige, social qualities that inhere in jobs (Piore, 1979:40). As in the case of Mexican migration, programs such as George Bush's worker program provide job opportunities for Mexican immigrants, and these jobs consist of cheap and flexible labor. These kinds of jobs ensure the satisfaction of class hierarchies, while migrants work under low-paid and flexible jobs, Americans consist of higher job classes.

The second is *social constraints on motivation*, which asserts the demand for cheap, flexible labor within occupational hierarchies (Piore, 1979:57). As in the case of Mexican migration, programs such as George Bush's worker program provide job opportunities for Mexican immigrants, and these jobs consist of cheap and flexible labor. These kinds of jobs ensure the satisfaction of class hierarchies, while migrants work under low-paid and flexible jobs, Americans consist of higher job classes.

The last is *economic dualism*. The demand for migrant labor also stems from economic dualism. Capital is a fixed factor of production that can be idled by lower demand but not laid off; owners of capital must bear the costs of its unemployment, and Labor is a variable factor of production that can be released when demand falls so that workers bear the costs of their own unemployment (Piore, 1979:62). As for the Mexican case, programs such as temporary workers, short-time contracts respond to the demands of capital. Mexican immigrants often came to the United States temporarily in order to earn some money and eventually return to their country. This theory explains why American employers choose Mexican immigrants regarding the demand for flexible and cheap labor, thus it contributes to the increase in Mexican immigration.



On the other hand, the American Dream's historical notion became a valid applicant for Mexican immigration. The myth means that if you work hard enough, nothing is stopping you, and many Mexican immigrants, when they return to their towns in Mexico, reflect their experiences in America as such fantasies. Alejo Froylan Guzman, a return migrant and former local official in Huandacareo, says that 'the ones who come back from the US, tell beautiful stories, such stories that it is like they are living in a dream' (Germano, 2010). Also, because of the power of American capital, many immigrants could easily afford 'nice cars, clothes, and accessories' from the US (Cristobal and Germano, 2010). These experiences and fancy items became materials that drive Mexicans from Mexico to the US, and in this capitalist world, advertisements once again became the personal drive for the people.

The economic and political problems in Mexico cause the loss of trust and belief in many communities. Culturally, Mexican people are dependent on their communities; however, the sense of losing community became apparent because of these experiences. The networks of these Mexicans who live in the US, tell beautiful stories about the sense of community in the US. As Taifal and Turner (2003) stated in their social identity theory, one person seeks to classify herself/himself into a category to feel safe and sound. Mexican people do not feel safe within the borders of Mexico, thus, seeking a community within the borders of the US through networks and relatives become as seeking security and shelter. Also, the US advertises its democracy, as it advocates of the world's democracy. Mexicans who see these advertisements, speeches, and democratic discourses felt this drive to escape and finding peace within the borders of the US. Inez Fernandez, a Hispanic sixteen-year-old high school student in Santa Maria, says that Mexicans want to be able to make a better life for themselves compared to what they had in Mexico, 'here it is easier to access legality' and rights; eventually, it is easier to reach the American Dream (Jimenez, 2010:186). Also, as Jimenez states (2010:184), Mexicans seek the sense of belonging to a place, and in the US, they do that either finding a Hispanic community or assimilating into the American popular culture.

Furthermore, with the increase in globalization and technology, the accessibility to knowledge has improved a lot. Many migration routes, networks, and communication devices have allowed migration to increase globally. Mexican immigration has benefitted from globalization and technology as well. As it is indicated above, many Mexicans migrate to the United States temporarily. Nevertheless, these experiences created routes that have allowed other Mexicans to benefit. For example, in the 1980s, many Mexicans who tried to migrate to the United States had to cross over deserts and dangerous zones to reach the big cities. During that time, many Mexican immigrants died or lost during their journeys. However, with the increase in communication, technology, and communities, many networks have been formed to expand migrant experiences. These networks created new routes for migrants, which eliminated the fear of death and loss among migrants, consequently increasing immigrants' numbers.

Ultimately, as for the pull factors, there are many causes that accelerated Mexican immigration to the US. The economic inequality between the US and Mexico, opportunities that are provided by the US such as political programs, demand for cheap and flexible labor and so on, and accessibility to higher standards by using American currency created an atmosphere of migration. Especially, due to globalization and technology, the knowledge has become a reachable option, thus eventually creating networks for Mexican migration. Networks illuminated and made it easier to migrate, because, thanks to these networks,



immigrants had a place to live without worrying. Eventually, all of these pull factors has contributed to the acceleration in Mexican immigration.

CONCLUSION

Today, migration is a crucial case to understand the reality of many third world countries. Because of the mass influx of migration throughout the world, many emigrated countries change their political agendas according to the increase in migration. As in the case of Mexican Immigration, the more numbers of immigrant increase, the more political restrictions pose upon the borders. Today, because of Washington policies, a non-human policy is being implemented in Mexico, building a wall between the borders without understanding the circumstances and reasons why these people are forced to migrate in the first place. Thus, this paper laid out the facts of Mexican immigrants and explored the reasons and motives behind the migration. On the one side, as for the push factors such as NAFTA, economic crises, corruption, high income inequality, poverty, unemployment, and agnosty, and on the other side, as for the pull factors such as opportunities provided by the US, economic freedom, better life standards, and urge to live safely, contributed to the increase in Mexican immigration also thanks to the globalization, technology, and networks. As it is apparent, migration is a highly diverse topic because of the diversity of people. It is almost impossible to find an exact outcome or a cause to state the underlying reasons behind the immigration. Nevertheless, still, in the case of Mexican immigration, there are many underlying causes, as it is stated above. It is also apparent that if the Mexican government had handled the situation in the 1980s, the mass immigration influx would not have been higher now. Thus, understanding the Mexican migration also allows us to analyse the political dynamics of the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s of Mexico, and the US in terms of economic, cultural and political reciprocal relations of these countries.

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