

GREAT DECISIONS

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The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested

Acronyms and abbreviations

AMLO—Andrés Manuel López Obrador

DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

DEA—Drug Enforcement Administration

DREAM Act—Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors

FTA—Free Trade Agreement

G7—Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

GDP—gross domestic product

ICE—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

IMF—International Monetary Fund

NAFTA—North American Free Trade Agreement

PAN—National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional)

PRI—Institutional Revolutionary Party

WTO—World Trade Organization

Glossary

Alliance for Prosperity: An assistance package that gave U.S. funding to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador between 2015 and 2018 to alleviate issues such as poverty and violence that were causing mass illegal emigration to the United States and Mexico.

Bracero Program: Cooperative immigration agreement between the United States and Mexico from

1942 to 1964 that granted temporary permits to Mexican seasonal workers.

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an immigration policy that allows people brought to the United States illegally as children to obtain deferment from deportation and work permits, but does not guarantee citizenship. President Trump opposes DACA and has sought to phase it out without another legislative replacement program.

Dream Act: Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act is a proposed congressional bill that would provide an easier pathway for children, whose undocumented parents brought them to the United States, to become legal United States residents; first proposed in 2001, it has never passed.

Drug cartel: Organizations that either produce drugs or smuggle drugs across borders; they have a lot of power and influence in their regions and contribute to corruption and violence.

Enrique “Kiki” Camarena: DEA agent who was tortured and killed by a Mexican drug cartel in 1985 for his undercover work; his death roused action in the war on drugs.

Enrique Peña Nieto: Mexican president from 2012–2018, he supported the end of the war on drugs to reduce violence in Mexico. He and President Trump worked on negotiating a new trade deal to replace NAFTA.

FARC guerrillas: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army, a guerrilla organization that benefited from the illegal drug trade from 1964–2017.

Felipe Calderón: Mexican president from 2006 to 2012, he supported the war on drugs and created ini-

tiatives against Mexican drug cartels using Mexico's army and support from the United States.

Jorge Castañeda: Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2000 to 2003 who attempted to negotiate an immigration agreement to regularize Mexican immigrants in the United States and create more pathways for Mexicans to emigrate to the United States.

Maquiladoras: Industries in Mexico that were supported by United States capital, producing goods in Mexico for reduced cost and exporting them back to the United States. They were created to address unemployment in Mexico after the Bracero Program ended and to benefit the U.S. economy.

Merida Initiative: A large assistance package from the United States to Mexico to support then-president Calderón's fight against drug cartels through security and equipment.

Northern Triangle: The area of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador that is the source of many migrants who cross through Mexico to the United States border.

Operation Wetback: An immigration enforcement program started in 1954 by President Dwight Eisenhower to address the growing amount of undocumented immigrants in the United States from Mexico. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants were deported to Mexico far from the U.S. border, separating them from their families and jobs.

Richard Nixon: United States president from 1969 to 1974 who began the war on drugs, created the DEA, and greatly influenced U.S. anti-drug policy.

Rio Pact: The Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, a 1947 regional mutual defense agreement between North and South American countries that supported the principle of protecting the entire Western hemisphere from attack.

Ronald Reagan: United States president from 1981 to 1989 who created policies that discouraged business from hiring illegal immigrants but allowed immigrant parents to remain with their children in the United States.

SB 1070: A 2010 Arizona Senate Bill "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act" that created strict anti-illegal immigration policies. It

sparked controversy due to its vagueness that could encourage racial profiling and other discriminatory practices.

Southern Border Plan: 2014 Mexican initiative to deport illegal immigrants in Mexico with U.S. support. It was criticized for the violence committed against these Central American immigrants.

Vicente Fox: Mexican president from 2000 to 2006, he withdrew Mexico from the Rio Pact and advocated for more autonomy in Mexican foreign policy, which strained U.S.-Mexico relations.

War on drugs: an effort that began in the 1970s to reduce drug flow into the United States and drug consumption by U.S. citizens. The United States funds security forces, usually in Mexico or Colombia, to combat drug cartels, typically violently. Hundreds of thousands of people have died in this "war."