

MARCH 6TH, 2023

**BILATERAL
X-RAY
MEXICO-UNITED STATES**



International Trade
Energy TMEC
Migration Economy
Supply chains

Mexican Government Security and Governance
DEMOCRACY

RELEVANT EVENTS

- MEXICAN PROTEST AGAINST ELECTORAL LAW REFORM

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The Coppel-Intuit
Center for Binational
Institutions

An Initiative by the USMF



Coverage Report

February 1st to February 28th, 2023

We compiled 28 publications related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. From all the publications, 29% were written by Mexican think tanks, while 71% were written by United States think tanks. Mexico Institute, IMCO, and AS/COA were the leading institutions with four publications each followed by the CSIS with three publications.

During this month, **migration** and **supply chains** were the most mentioned topics. **Migration** was addressed in the context of the changing patterns of people that have been arriving in the United States. While working men were the main population that crossed the southern border years ago, today families including women and children are fleeing from violence in their countries and seeking asylum in the United States.¹ Since this situation began, President Joe Biden's decision to maintain Title 42 keeps Mexico and the border at the center of the bilateral relationship. The articles and events are encouraging conversations to keep pushing the U.S. government to update the immigration legislation. There are currently 22 voting members in the U.S. Congress who were born in Mexico or at least have one Mexican parent², which shows the demographic landscape has been shifting for years and the legislation needs to adapt to these changes.

With the same number of publications, **supply chains** were a main topic during this period, especially regarding the possibilities nearshoring brings to the bilateral relationship. Most of the publications agree with the assertion that nearshoring is not yet a reality, and that for it to happen North America needs to become an integrated region, such as Asia or Europe. Semiconductors have been the first step to achieving integration; however, there is hesitation towards foreign direct investment in Mexico because of issues such as energy quality, infrastructure, connectivity, security, and legal certainty.³ A mindset change in Mexico is needed to encourage policy changes and achieve nearshoring. Think tanks argue the opportunity and the jobs it would create could benefit a large portion of the population, especially students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) field if partnerships between universities and the industrial sector are promoted.

The third most mentioned topic in the publications was **the Mexican government**. On the one hand, AS/COA published two trackers which show the population's approval towards President Lopez Obrador. With Presidential elections ahead in 2024, AMLO still has between 60% and 50% of approval among Mexicans. Additionally, MORENA still leads the polls for the coming Presidential election. On the other hand, CSIS reprinted a report written by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in which AMLO's policies are addressed in relation to the United States and Europe. The report argues Mexico has driven apart from its northern partners in areas such as energy and highlights the importance of the upcoming elections in both Mexico and the United States. It calls attention to the possible overhaul of the Mexican electoral system and argues the coming months are key not just for domestic politics but also for its international agenda.

Furthermore, publications in February included topics such as **the economy**, Mexico's foreign direct investment, and how their domestic political landscape does not help attract more businesses. Additionally, **Security and Governance** were discussed due to a meeting held by the Foreign Relations Committee in the U.S. Senate concerning illicit fentanyl trafficking and the obstacles which Mexican

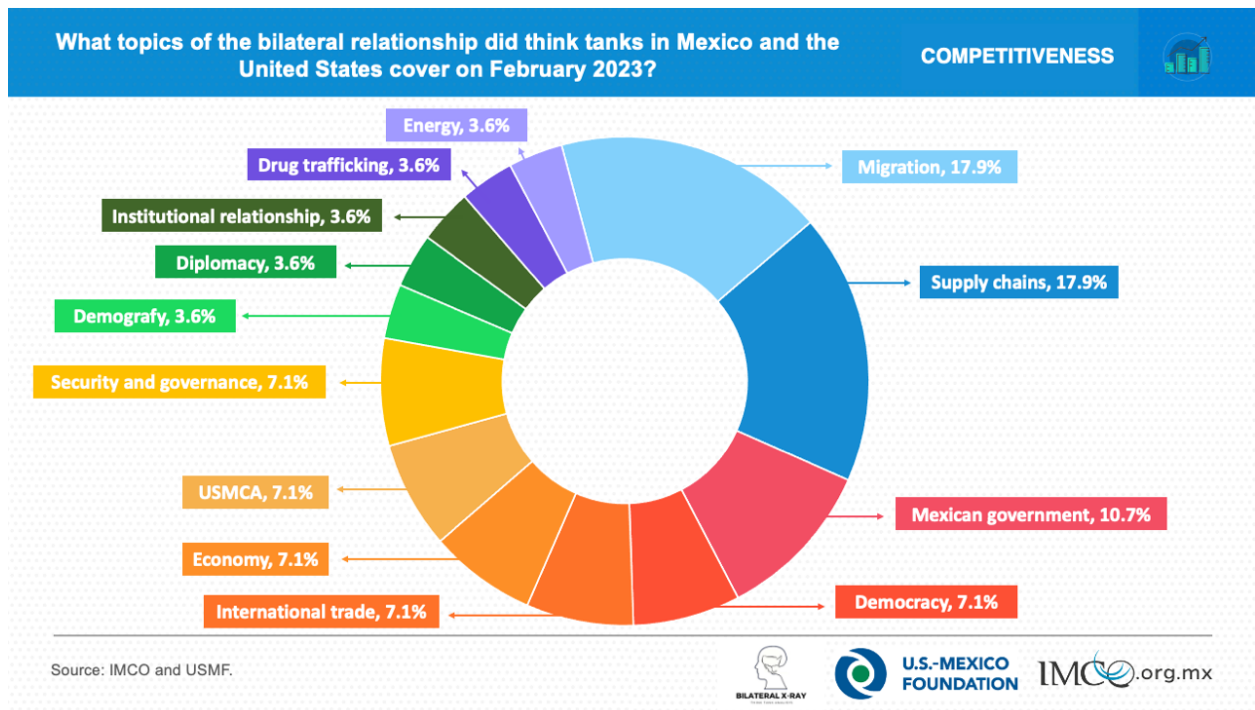
¹ Council on Foreign Relations, [REPORTING ON BIDEN'S POLICIES](#), Panelists: Julia Gelat, Gustavo Solis, Irina A. Faskianos

² Pew Research Center, [IMMIGRANTS AND CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS MAKE UP AT LEAST 15% OF THE 118TH CONGRESS](#), Janakee Chavda

³ IMCO, [LA INVERSIÓN QUE NO ES](#), Valeria Moy

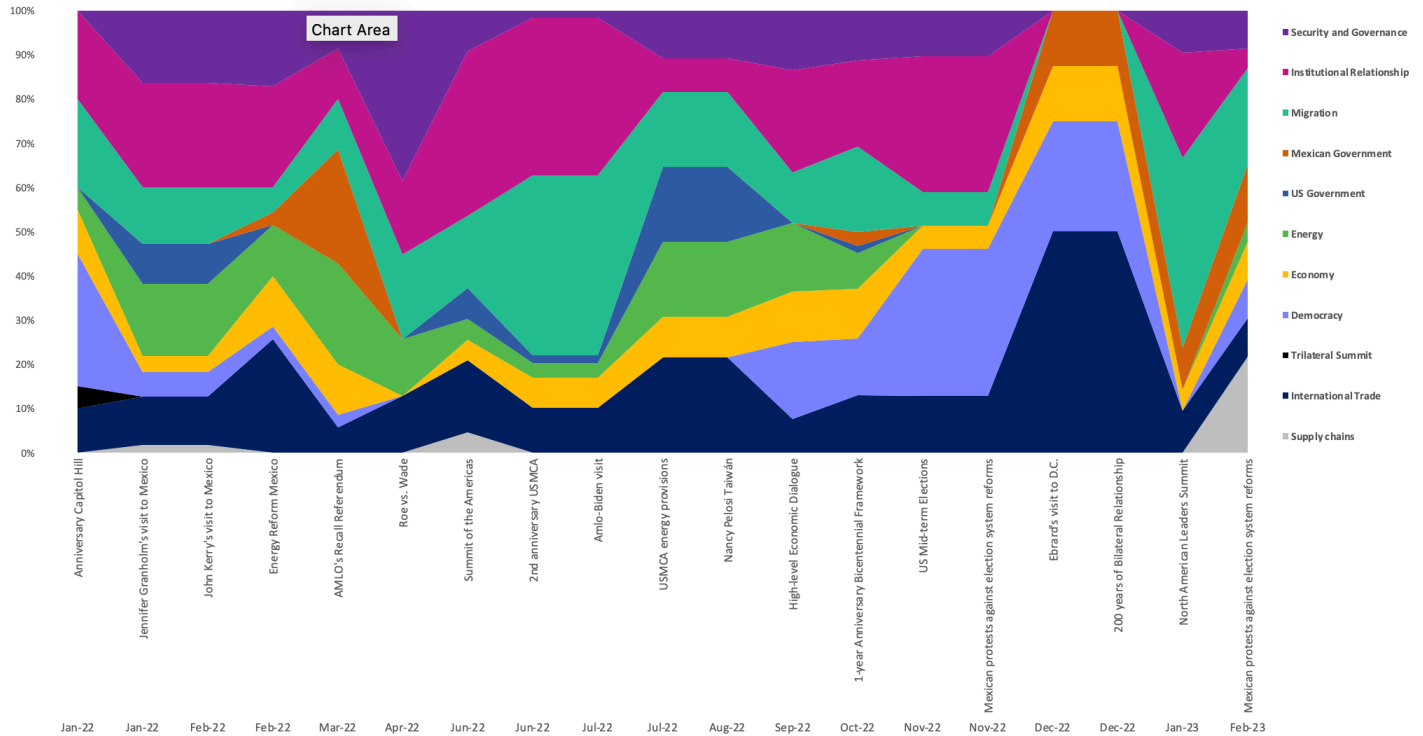
Cartels, border security, and migration entail for this issue. Finally, **international trade** was also discussed because of the Mexican Government's decision to reduce inflation, which does not have a real impact on the economic landscape. Examples of these decisions were the six-month suspension of import tariffs on staple foods when the USMCA already grants duty-free access to most of them⁴. Hence, publications question this and other economic decisions of the Mexican administration.

Topics Covered



⁴ IMCO, [MEXICO'S FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION: PERFORMATIVE MEASURES CAN CAUSE REAL HARM](#), Ana Gutierrez

Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship and percentage of publications for selected topics



Source: Elaborated by USMF-IMCO with data from the web pages of each think tank.

The chart above shows the most popular topics covered in each report over time. In this period, the topic of **migration** continued to be mentioned due to Biden's administration's political decisions toward asylum seekers and what these changing patterns entail for the United States. Also, **supply chains** were a popular topic, especially after NALS and the possibilities regarding nearshoring. Furthermore, issues involving the **Mexican Government** were addressed because of the protests on the electoral law reforms that the administration passed. We expect this topic to keep appearing in reports in the next months due to the 2024 Presidential elections in both Mexico and the United States.

Publications

Mexican Think Tanks

- COMEXI, [NEARSHORING: A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR MEXICO](#), Panelists: Shannon O'Niel, Sergio Gómez Lora, Jesus Flores
- IMCO, [MEXICO'S FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION: PERFORMATIVE MEASURES CAN CAUSE REAL HARM](#), Ana Gutiérrez
- IMCO, [RESTRICCIONES A LA IMPORTACIÓN DE MAÍZ TRANSGÉNICO](#), IMCO Staff
- IMCO, [EL POTENCIAL DE LAS MUJERES STEM ANTE EL 'NEARSHORING'](#), Ana Gutiérrez
- IMCO, [LA INVERSIÓN QUE NO ES](#), Valeria Moy
- México Evalúa, [E-MOVILIDAD PARA MÉXICO: TRACEMOS LA RUTA](#), Ana Lilia Moreno
- México Evalúa, [GARCÍA LUNA, UN CRÍO MÁS DE LA IMPUNIDAD](#), Edna Jaime
- México, ¿cómo vamos?, [CÓMO SACAR EL MAYOR PROVECHO DEL T-MEC](#), México, ¿cómo vamos?

United States Think Tanks

- AS/COA, [YPA: GASTRODIPLOMACY DINNER: LOS FÉLIX](#), Event: Young Professionals of the Americas
- AS/COA, [2023 LATIN AMERICAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE](#), Event: Latin American Business Association
- AS/COA, [TRACKER: PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL IN LATIN AMERICA'S TOP FIVE ECONOMIES](#), Chase Harrison, Carin Zissis
- AS/COA, [APPROVAL TRACKER: MEXICO'S PRESIDENT AMLO](#), Carin Zissis
- Baker Institute, [WHAT AMLO'S ENDORSEMENT OF 'IMPORT SUBSTITUTION' REVEALS ABOUT FUTURE NORTH AMERICAN TRADE](#), David A. Gantz
- Baker Institute, [IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN: A TOWN HALL DISCUSSION](#), Baker Institute
- Brookings Institution, [USMCA FORWARD 2023](#), Editors: Joshua P. Meltzer, Brahim S. Coulibaly
- Brookings Institution, [RECOGNIZING BLACK AND LATINO MAJORITY CITIES IS THE FIRST STEP TO FINDING A REAL WORLD WAKANDA](#), André M. Perry, Manann Donoghoe
- Bush Center, [WELCOMING CITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS ARE REAPING THE BENEFITS](#), J.H. Cullum Clark, Rachel Peric
- Council on Foreign Relations, [REPORTING ON BIDEN'S BORDER POLICIES](#), Council on Foreign Relations
- CSIS, [ENERGIZING A SEMICONDUCTOR BOOM IN THE AMERICAS](#), Ryan C. Berg, Jackie Sturm
- CSIS, [A MEXICO MOMENT: IF YOU CAN KEEP IT!](#), Podcast: Mariana Campero, Alejandra Palacios, Luis Gutierrez
- CSIS, [MEXICO'S DOMESTIC DECAY: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE](#), Lauri Tähtinen
- Hudson Institute, [TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE FENTANYL NARCO-TERRORISTS](#), John P. Walters
- Mexico Institute, [BORDER SECURITY](#), Podcast: Wilson Center
- Mexico Institute, [BRIEFING ON THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE COUNTERING ILLICIT FENTANYL TRAFFICKING HEARING](#), Katie Cooper
- Mexico Institute, [MEXICO'S DEMOCRACY: WE ARE STILL STANDING](#), Carlos Heredia
- Mexico Institute, [SMART TAKE | PROTESTS IN MEXICO AND THREATS TO ITS DEMOCRACY](#), Video: Lila Abed
- Pew Research Center, [IMMIGRANTS AND CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS MAKE UP AT LEAST 15% OF THE 118TH CONGRESS](#), Janakee Chavda
- PIIIE, [TRUMP'S TRADE WAR TIMELINE: AN UP-TO-DATE GUIDE](#), Chad P. Brown, Melina Kolb



The Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation's initiative, The Center for Bilateral Institutions, monitor publications of the leading think tanks and research centers in Mexico and the United States, analyze the topics discussed, and the actors pushing the narrative.

For the making of this report, thirty-seven think tanks are monitored every month, twenty-four think tanks are from the US, while thirteen are from Mexico. The think tanks included in this report are: Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad (IMCO), México Evalúa, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE), El Colegio de México (COLMEX), Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI), Fundar, Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias (CEEY), Fundación Idea, Aspen Institute México, The Coppel-Intuit Center for Binational Institutions (CBI), Brookings, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Hudson Institute, Peterson, Milken Institute, Bush Center, USC Schwarzenegger Institute, Bay Area Council Economic Institute, Meridian, New America, México ¿cómo vamos?, The Dialogue, American Enterprise Institute, Atlantic Council (AALAC), Baker Institute, Center for American Progress, Council on Foreign Relations, Heritage Foundation, Mexico Institute, Pew Research Center, USMEX UCSD, Americas Society/Council of the Americas (AS/COA), Centro de Competitividad de México (CCMX), Ethos Laboratorio de Pol. Públicas, Harvard Growth Lab, International Republican Institute (IRI), y Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano.

The history of the Mexico-United States relationship is also written by the Think Tanks since they help to build the long-term government agenda. Their active participation is crucial, particularly for in-depth analysis of political, economic, and social issues.



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