

MAY 8, 2023

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



North America
MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY
Economy and Commerce
Security and Rule of
Law

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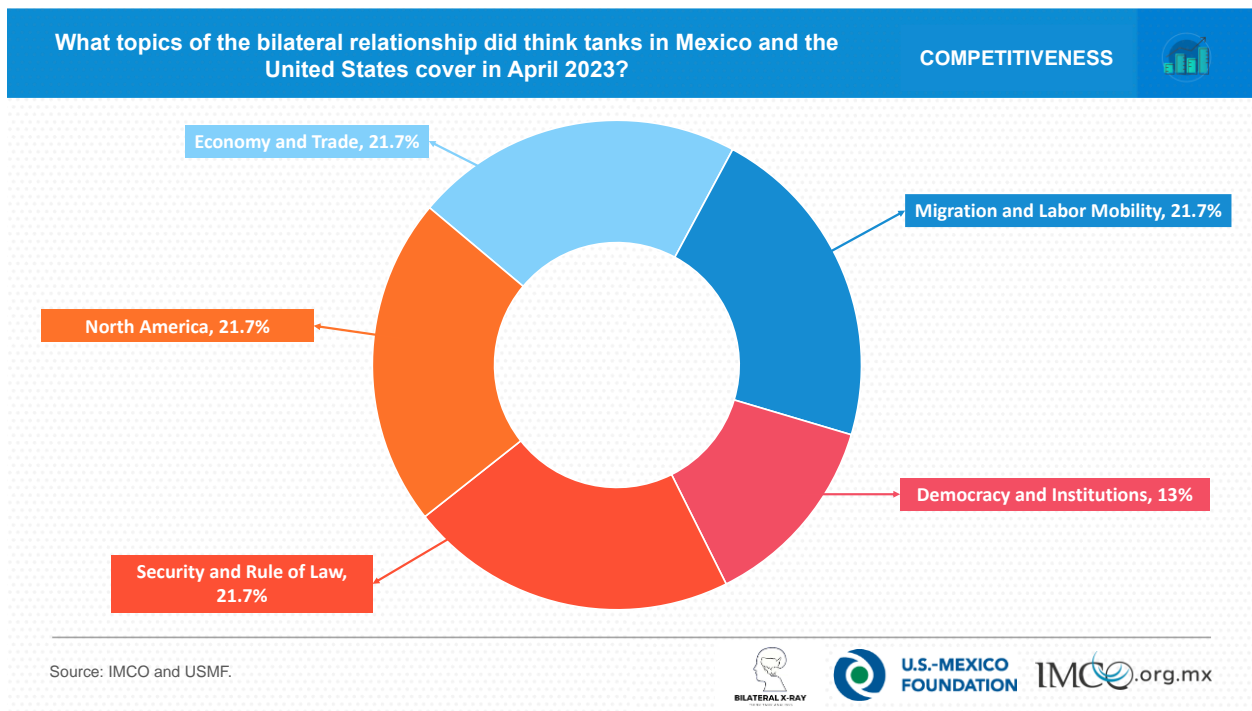
Coverage Report

April 1st to April 30th, 2023

We compiled 23 publications related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. From all the publications, 30% were written by Mexican think tanks, while 70% were written by United States think tanks. Baker Institute, Mexico Institute, COMEXI, Council on Foreign Relations, and The Dialogue were the leading institutions with three publications each. During this month, the most mentioned topics were **Economy and Commerce, Migration and Labor Mobility, Security and Rule of Law** and **North America** with five publications in each category.

The next figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

Topics Covered



Economy and Commerce

During April, publications focused on nearshoring, China's trade in Latin America, the possibilities of the USMCA, and remittances. Once again, Think Tanks emphasize the opportunity that nearshoring represents for Mexico in the current geopolitical context of the Russian invasion to Ukraine and the political tensions between the U.S. and China. Alongside, the increasing presence of China in Latin America was discussed and the closer relationship that Mexico is developing with China. However, the publications underlined the obligations that Mexico has to the U.S. under the USMCA. If the relationship wants to be maintained, Mexico needs to show commitment through its laws, regulations, and public policies, especially in the sectors of agriculture, sanitary measures, and the environment.

Key publications and podcasts regarding Economy and Commerce this month:

- Wilson Center, [CHINA'S GROWING PRESENCE IN THE AMERICAS](#), Guests: Lila Abed, Cynthia J. Arnson, Benjamin Gedan, Christopher Sands, Bruna Santos; Moderator: John Milewski
- IMCO, [AGRICULTURA, MEDIO AMBIENTE Y MEDIDAS SANITARIAS ALGUNOS PENDIENTES PARA CUMPLIR CON EL T-MEC](#), IMCO Staff

ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- From January to September 2022, China represented 40% of the investment in company relocation projects, the highest in the period (Wilson Center).

Migration and Labor Mobility

Within this topic, Think Tanks discussed the U.S. immigration parole and the new CBP One app that has been implemented. Also, long-term proposals were made regarding the TN visas and the possibilities that it would offer to both Mexico and the U.S. in terms of its demographics and economy if the USMCA's Chapter 16 was modified. Finally, *The Dialogue* released two reports regarding migration and remittances between Latin America and the U.S., which shed light on the increase of migration and the money transfers. Among other proposals, they suggest a differentiated analysis by country which should include factors such as political stability, willingness to cooperate, financial inclusion and digital integration to the financial ecosystem.

Key publications and events regarding Migration and Labor Mobility this month:

- The Dialogue, [FAMILY REMITTANCES IN 2022; IN NUMBERS](#), The Dialogue
- Baker Institute, [HOW AN OVERLOOKED VISA CATEGORY CAN HELP SOLVE THE US LABOR PROBLEM](#), Tony Payan

MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY RECENT DATA

- Compared to 2021, remittances to Mexico had an 8% growth in 2022 (The Dialogue).
- In 2022, remittances represented 4.6% of Mexico's GDP (The Dialogue).
- 80% of flows to Latin America and the Caribbean are originating from the United States, up from 75% in 2019 (The Dialogue).

Security and Rule of Law

The topic was addressed due to the concern of public safety in Mexico and to the synthetic opioid crisis. Publications discussed the implications for the U.S.-Mexico border and the urge to implement a cross-border collaboration. They argue the Bicentennial Framework provides a starting point, at least in paper, but active cooperation to develop mechanisms is needed.

Key publications and events regarding Security and Rule of Law this month:

- Baker Institute, [REASSESSING THE IMPACT OF MEXICO'S NATIONAL GUARD ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND US RELATIONS](#), Richard J. Kilroy, Jr.
- Mexico Institute, [GET TOUGHER ON FENTANYL AND TRYING TO BOLSTER US-MEXICO ANTI-CRIME COLLABORATION](#), Earl Anthony Wayne

SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA

- With the movement of the 110,000 members of the Guardia Nacional under SEDENA, Mexico's reported defense budget for 2023 is \$5.6 billion U.S. dollars, its largest in history (Pew Research Center).

North America

Most of the publications referred to strategic, historical, and long-term matters. The publication of the book *North America 2.0, Forging a Continental Future* by COMEXI and the publication of the report *(Co)construyendo una Agenda Estratégica para las Américas* by COLMEX reveal the need of cooperation not only among North American countries, but also of the Americas as a continent. Another event took place because of the 200-year trajectory of the bilateral relationship. The discussions express the need of regional cooperation, of bilateral institutions and reveal the missed opportunities because North America appears as a fragmented region.

Key publications and events regarding North America this month:

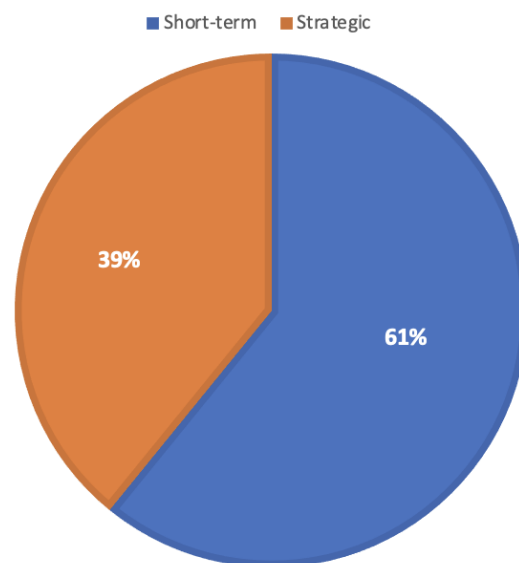
- COLMEX, [RELACIONES MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS: TRAYECTORIAS A LO LARGO DE DOS SIGLOS](#), Panelists: Marcela Terrazas, Paolo Riguzzi, Soledad Loaeza; Moderator: Erika Pani
- COMEXI, [BOOK PRESENTATION: NORTH AMERICA 2.0, FORGING A CONTINENTAL FUTURE](#), Panelists: Sauna Hemingway, Alan D. Bersin, Tom Long; Moderators: Sergio Alcocer, Damián Martínez Tagüeña

Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- The topic of **Migration** continued to be mentioned due to the immigration parole under Title 42 and to incidents such as the death of 40 immigrants in Ciudad Juárez, México.
- The publications in the **Security and Rule of Law** topic referred only to short-term events due to the increasing insecurity in the Mexico-U.S. border, the drug cartels, and the number of deaths caused by the opioid crisis.
- **Nearshoring** keeps being addressed due to the possibilities that the global political landscape represent to the U.S. and Mexico.
- **Democracy and Institutions** publications are still focusing on the Mexican electoral reform.

The next chart shows that 61% of this month's publications were related to short-term events, while 39% of them discussed strategic issues such as North America as a region and the Americas as a continent, the USMCA, and the 200-year anniversary of the bilateral relationship. Publications such as The Dialogue are notable for their unique approach in analyzing migration. They provide a forward-looking perspective that examines the specific factors contributing to migration on a country-by-country basis. This enables development of tailored strategies to address each situation effectively.

Publication's Relation to Short-Term Events



Source: IMCO and USMF.

Upcoming Events

THINK TANK	EVENT	DATE AND TIME
Mexico Institute	BUILDING A COMPETITIVE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER CONFERENCE	June 21, 9:00 am (ET) Livestream & In Person 6th Floor Flom Auditorium, Woodrow Wilson Center
Mexico Institute	THE INNER-WORKINGS OF THE MEXICAN SUPREME COURT: OPENING THE BLACK BOX	May 23, 11:00 am (ET) Livestream

Publications

Mexican Think Tanks

- COLMEX, [\(CO\)CONSTRUYENDO UNA AGENDA ESTRATÉGICA PARA LAS AMÉRICAS](#), COLMEX
- COLMEX, [RELACIONES MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS: TRAYECTORIAS A LO LARGO DE DOS SIGLOS](#), Panelists: Marcela Terrazas, Paolo Riguzzi, Soledad Loaeza; Moderator: Erika Pani
- COMEXI, [REMESAS Y SUS TENDENCIAS: ¿QUIÉN GANA Y QUIÉN PIERDE?](#), Panelists: Carlos Serrano, Manuel Orozco, Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes; Moderators: Rafael Fernández de Castro, Claudia Esteves
- COMEXI, [BOOK PRESENTATION: NORTH AMERICA 2.0, FORGING A CONTINENTAL FUTURE](#), Panelists: Sauna Hemingway, Alan D. Bersin, Tom Long; Moderators: Sergio Alcocer, Damián Martínez Tagüeña
- COMEXI, [DOSCIENTOS AÑOS DE RELACIONES DIPLOMÁTICAS MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS](#), Panelists: UNAM, Universidad de Arizona, Mexican Consulate in Arizona
- IMCO, [AGRICULTURA, MEDIO AMBIENTE Y MEDIDAS SANITARIAS ALGUNOS PENDIENTES PARA CUMPLIR CON EL T-MEC](#), Ana Gutiérrez
- México, ¿cómo vamos?, [NEARSHORING: UNA OPORTUNIDAD MAS](#), Juan Ignacio Gil Antón

United States Think Tanks

- Baker Institute, [ACCUSATIONS OF US SPYING IN MEXICO REVEAL AMLO'S HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARD US INTERESTS](#), Gary J. Hale
- Baker Institute, [REASSESSING THE IMPACT OF MEXICO'S NATIONAL GUARD ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND US RELATIONS](#), Richard J. Kilroy, Jr.
- Baker Institute, [HOW AN OVERLOOKED VISA CATEGORY CAN HELP SOLVE THE US LABOR PROBLEM](#), Tony Payan
- Bush Center, [DEADLY FIRE AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER EXPOSES FAILURES OF OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM](#), Laura Collins
- Center for the American Progress, [TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY, THE U.S. MUST HOLD BOTH FRIENDS AND FOES ACCOUNTABLE](#), Kate Donald
- Center for the American Progress, [THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S USE OF IMMIGRATION PAROLE AUTHORITY IS A SMART AND LAWFUL APPROACH TO TODAY'S MIGRATION CHALLENGES](#), Tom Jawetz
- Council on Foreign Relations, [MEXICO'S CARNAGE HAS NO MILITARY SOLUTION](#), Shannon K. O'Neil
- Council on Foreign Relations, [BACK TO THE FUTURE IN U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS](#) (Blog), Elliott Abrams
- Council on Foreign Relations, [BACK TO THE FUTURE IN U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS](#) (Article), Elliott Abrams
- Heritage Foundation, [DESIGNATING MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS](#), Paul Larkin
- Mexico Institute, [ELECTORAL REFORM IN MEXICO: A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY](#), Panelists: María Marván, Kate Bruhn, Javier Martín Reyes; Moderators: Andrew Rudman, Rafael Fernández de Castro
- Mexico Institute, [CHINA'S GROWING ROLE IN THE AMERICAS](#), Guests: Lila Abed, Cynthia J. Arnson, Benjamin Gedan, Christopher Sands, Bruna Santos; Moderator: John Milewski
- Mexico Institute, [GET TOUGHER ON FENTANYL AND TRYING TO BOLSTER US-MEXICO ANTI-CRIME COLLABORATION](#), Earl Anthony Wayne
- The Dialogue, [CIUDADES LATINOAMERICANAS: SOLUCIONES LOCALES PARA DESAFÍOS GLOBALES](#), Rebecca Bill Chavez, Sergio Díaz Granados
- The Dialogue, [INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBIAN: IN NUMBERS](#), The Dialogue Staff
- The Dialogue, [FAMILY REMITTANCES IN 2022: IN NUMBERS](#), The Dialogue Staff



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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