

DECEMBER 20TH, 2023

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



SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW  
**DEMOCRACY AND  
INSTITUTIONS**

**Economy and  
Commerce** North America

MIGRATION AND LABOR  
MOBILITY

RELEVANT EVENTS

- **THE 28TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP28)**

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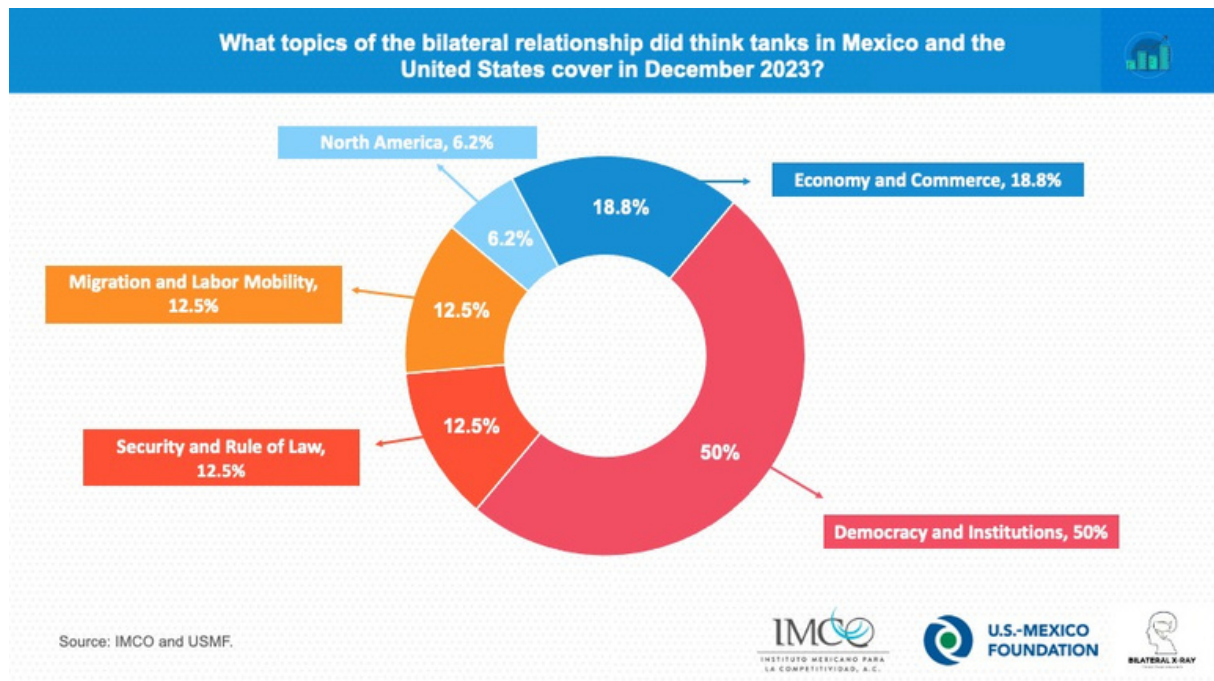
## Coverage Report

### December 1st to December 20th

During December, 16 publications and content pieces related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States were published. Mexico contributed 6% of the publications, while the remaining 94% originated in the United States. The Mexico Institute and AS/COA were the institutions with the highest number of publications in December, each presenting four articles, followed by the Heritage Foundation and PIIE with two publications each. Once again, **Democracy and Institutions** were the most recurrent themes, with 8 out of the 16 publications falling under this category, followed by **Economy and Commerce**, with three publications.

The following figure shows the top five most mentioned topics.

## Topics Covered



## Democracy and Institutions

In December, 50% of the publications focused on **Democracy and Institutions**. The presidential elections in Mexico emerged as the primary point of interest for think tanks. Both AS/COA and the Mexico Institute produced infographics on electoral preference polls leading up to the June 2, 2024, election. Noteworthy among the articles is AS/COA's tracking of President López Obrador's popularity (approval), reaching up to 66%. Additionally, the Mexico Institute highlights the top three challenges facing the new President of Mexico: security, poverty and inequality, and the need for fiscal reform.

### Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [Mexico Institute, 3 Keys Issues Ahead of Mexico's 2024 Election Cycle](#) by Miguel Ángel Toro
- [AS/COA, LatAm in Focus: Ten Years in, What's the Future of Mexico's Morena Party?](#) by Carin Zissis

### DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS RECENT DATA

- On **July 2, 2024**, approximately **96 million registered voters will have the opportunity to cast their votes in the Mexican Federal Elections** to choose a new president, 200 federal deputies, and 128 senators. It is anticipated that the voter turnout will be close to 51%, representing 49 million electors (Statista Research Department).

## Economy and Commerce

In the realm of **Economics and Commerce**, the articles and content published by think tanks covered a variety of compelling topics. The Mexico Institute delves into the challenges and opportunities that the next Administration will face in strengthening the presence of the semiconductor industry in Mexico. Meanwhile, PIIE analyzes the progress of the implementation of the USMCA, along with the growing concerns expressed by the United States Trade Representative regarding China's predominant role in global supply chains.

### Key publications regarding Democracy and Institutions this month:

- [Mexico Institute, Post-AMLO? The North American Semiconductor Opportunity](#) by Gerardo Penchyna
- [PIIE, Has the USMCA improved working conditions in Mexico?](#) by Kathleen Claussen

### ECONOMY AND COMMERCE RECENT DATA

- From Jan. to Nov. 2023, the **Mexican Secretary of Economy has identified 363 investment announcements, indicating an expected investment of 106,418 million dollars**. It is anticipated that this amount will enter the country within the next two or three years (Mexican Secretary of Economy).
- The **U.S. Department of Commerce has announced the launch of a new survey in January 2024**. This survey will serve as a foundation for the ongoing analysis of the capacities and challenges in the **semiconductor supply chain** in the U.S. and the national defense industrial base (US Commerce Dept.).

## Security and Rule of Law

The December publications delved into the theme of **Security and the Rule of Law**, emphasizing the challenge that organized crime cartels pose to the government of the United States. Over the past year, think tanks in both countries have warned and analyzed the effects of the drug epidemic on U.S. security and the rising violence in Mexico. In this context, the Heritage Foundation underscored the need to develop strategies to combat drug cartels and prevent the entry of illicit narcotics such as fentanyl into the United States. Finally, there is a highlighted necessity for the United States to reaffirm its leadership position in Latin America to counter potential threats arising from the presence of influences from non-aligned nations in the region.

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

- [American Enterprise Institute, America's Best Strategy for Cold War II Is 200 Years Old Hal Brands](#)
- [Heritage Foundation, Battling the Cartels Requires a Refocus Brent Sadler by James Di Pane](#)

### SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW RECENT DATA:

- In 2022, the **Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S)** seized more than **7 billion dollars' worth of illicit drugs**. However, in 2017, the global trade in narcotics was estimated to exceed 652 billion dollars (Heritage Foundation).

## Other topics

In December, publications from public policy research centers focused on **Migration and Labor Mobility**, as well as **North America**. Concerning migration and labor mobility, articles centered on the conditions of migrants in the United States. The Baker Institute analyzed the impact of undocumented migrants on the U.S. healthcare system. As this population ages, associated healthcare demands increase, posing financial challenges for the U.S. government and highlighting the need to formulate a strategy to alleviate these costs. Regarding North America, the discourse revolved around the borders between the countries of Central America and U.S. recommendations to address the challenges faced by the southern border of Mexico.

### Key publications regarding Migration and Labor Mobility and North America this month:

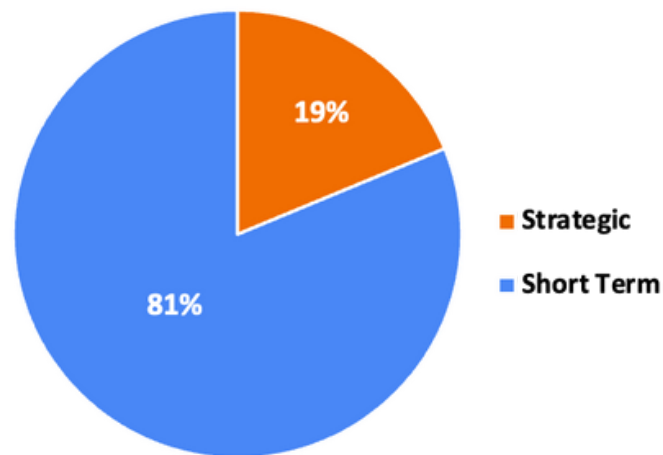
- [Baker Institute, Aging and Immigration Nexus: Health Ramifications for Older Adults with Undocumented Legal Status Luz Maria Garcini, Vyas Sarabu, Elizabeth Buchwald, Lauren Rahman by Jin Yan](#)
- [Heritage Foundation, Biden Wants Open Borders All the Way South to Guatemala by Victoria Coates, Lora Ries](#)

### MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY AND NORTH AMERICA RECENT DATA

- There are over 10.5 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. and 5.9 million U.S.-born children living in mixed-status families (Baker Institute).

## Relevant short-term events for the bilateral relationship

- In the **Democracy and Institutions** category, all articles generated in December were classified as short-term elements. In December, the content focused on Mexico's presidential process, particularly revisiting electoral preferences indicated in surveys conducted by various media outlets.
- On the other hand, the strategic publications in December centered around the themes of **Migration, Labor Mobility, and North America**. It is noteworthy that the agenda of migration-related topics has intensified in recent months. There is a warning that this issue may become one of the key pillars in electoral stances leading up to the elections in both countries next year.



Publications on the bilateral relationship have remained at the same volume compared to previous months. The majority of topics are related to Democracy and Institutions, with a particular focus on Mexico's elections.

## PUBLICATIONS

### MEXICAN THINK TANKS

- [CIDE Encuentros con la Historia: Bracero](#). Catherine Vézina

### UNITED STATES THINK TANKS

- [PIIE Has the USMCA improved working conditions in Mexico?](#) Kathleen Claussen
- [PIIE USTR abandons the digital rule book—to China's potential benefit](#) Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Megan Hogan
- [CSIS Success Breeds Success](#) Mariana Campero
- [Mexico Institute Post-AMLO? The North American Semiconductor Opportunity](#) Gerardo PENCHYNA CÁRDENAS
- [Mexico Institute November 2023: Buendía & Márquez Polls](#) Jorge Buendía, Javier Márquez
- [Mexico Institute December 2023: El Financiero Polls](#) Alejandro Moreno
- [Mexico Institute 3 Key Issues Ahead of Mexico's 2024 Election Cycle](#) Miguel Ángel Toro
- [Baker Institute Aging and Immigration Nexus: Health Ramifications for Older Adults with Undocumented Legal Status](#) Luz Maria Garcini, Vyas Sarabu, Elizabeth Buchwald, Lauren Rahman, Jin Yan
- [Heritage Foundation Biden Wants Open Borders All the Way South to Guatemala](#) Victoria Coates, Lora Ries
- [Heritage Foundation Battling the Cartels Requires a Refocus](#) Brent Sadler, James Di Pane
- [American Enterprise Institute America's Best Strategy for Cold War II Is 200 Years Old](#) Hal Brands
- [AS/COA Mexico Elects: Ongoing Coverage of the 2024 Vote](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA Poll Tracker: Contenders for Mexico's 2024 Presidential Vote](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA LatAm in Focus: Ten Years in, What's the Future of Mexico's Morena Party?](#) Carin Zissis
- [AS/COA Approval Tracker: Mexico's President AMLO](#) Carin Zissis

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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