

APRIL 14, 2023

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



North America **DEMOCRACY AND  
INSTITUTIONS**

Migration and Labor Mobility  
**Economy and Commerce**  
Security and Rule of Law

**RELEVANT EVENTS**

- **MARCH 22: MEXICAN SENATE APPROVAL OF "PLAN B" FOR THE ELECTORAL REFORM**

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## Coverage Report

March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31, 2023

We compiled 28 publications related to the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States. From all the publications, 25% were written by Mexican think tanks, while 75% were written by United States think tanks. The Baker Institute was the leading institution with seven publications, followed by IMCO with five publications and AS/COA with three publications.

Throughout March, publications focused primarily on **Economy and Commerce**. Once again, the disputes around the USMCA have the spotlight due, mainly, to the Mexican government's decisions regarding the transgenic corn prohibition, the tariff on white corn and energy policies. There is a common concern related to the lack of commitment that the Mexican government is showing towards the USMCA<sup>1</sup>. Also, think tanks are emphasizing the importance of nearshoring and the urge for Mexico to act in this matter, especially in relation to the relocation of semiconductors' supply chains. Finally, the subject of China was addressed in relation to the possibilities that Chinese investment in Mexico opens for North America as a region.<sup>2</sup>

The second most addressed topic was **Migration and Labor Mobility**. The topic was addressed because of the new border policy proposed by the Biden administration on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This policy intends to replace Title 42 and will only accept migrants as asylum seekers if they entered the country legally or if they could not apply for asylum in a previous country.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, Mexico will play an even more important role within this U.S. migrant policy. Since Title 42 was implemented in 2020, Mexico has become one of the countries with the highest reception of asylum applications after the U.S. and Germany.<sup>4</sup> Alongside this policy, the publications discussed the issue of unaccompanied minors. In 2022, the encounters reached a historical record with more than 152,000 encounters in the border.<sup>5</sup>

**Democracy and Institutions** was the third most mentioned topic. Because of the Mexican Senate's decision on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to pass the electoral reform project, podcasts from the Mexico Institute and CSIS interviewed Lorenzo Córdova, Councilor President of Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE) to discuss the implications of the "Plan B" reform, which entails a transformation of the elections' organization, the undermining of INE's capabilities in the process and risks for the future of Mexico's democracy.

Additionally, think tanks made various publications regarding **Security and Rule of Law** due, particularly, to the kidnapping of four U.S. citizens in Northern Mexico on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The publications argue that the incident shows a lack of joint forces and common diagnosis in the approach to security and drug trafficking. They also question if criminalization is the right approach and the need to embrace a shared responsibility to approach the opioid crisis.

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<sup>1</sup> IMCO, [MÉXICO SABOTEJA SU VENTAJA EN MATERIA COMERCIAL](#), Nataly Hernández

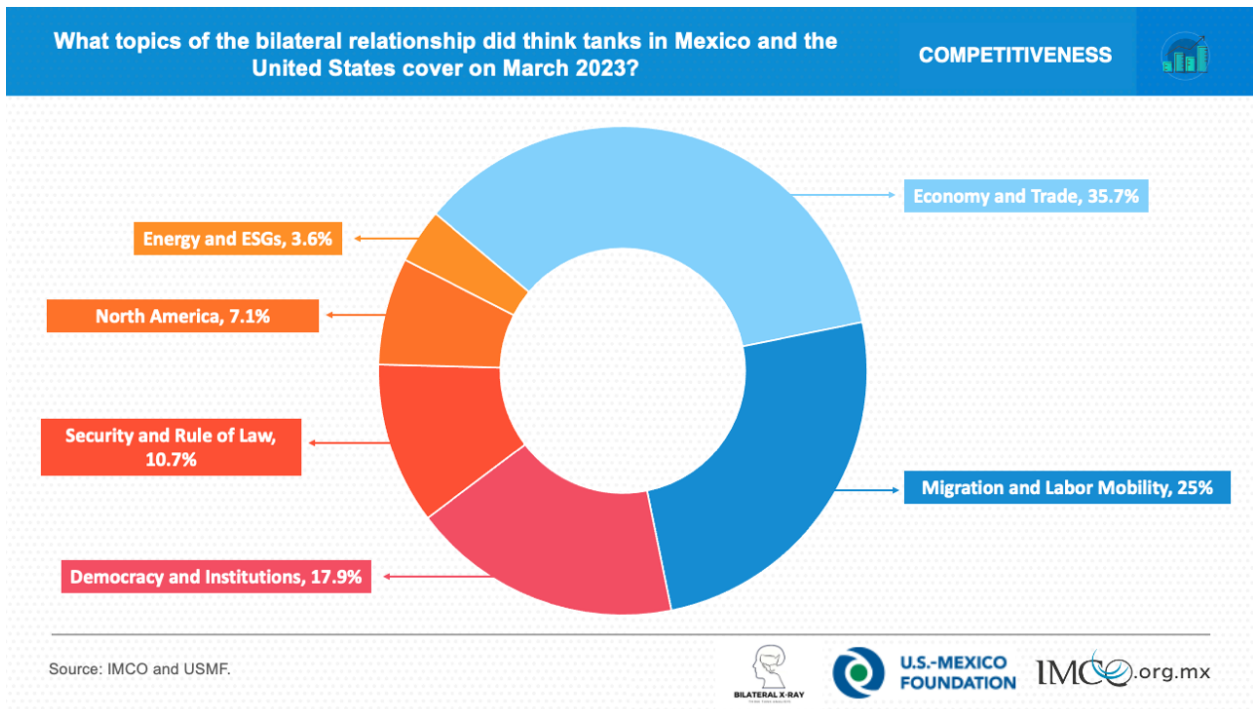
<sup>2</sup> Baker Institute, [WILL NEW CHINESE INVESTMENT IN MEXICO BENEFIT NORTH AMERICA](#), David A. Gantz

<sup>3</sup> Baker Institute, [BIDEN'S NEW BORDER POLICIES WILL PUT FURTHER STRAIN ON MEXICO'S STRUGGLING ASYLUM SYSTEM](#), Ana Martín Gil & Kelsey Norman

<sup>4</sup> Baker Institute, [BIDEN'S NEW BORDER POLICIES WILL PUT FURTHER STRAIN ON MEXICO'S STRUGGLING ASYLUM SYSTEM](#), Ana Martín Gil & Kelsey Norman

<sup>5</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, [U.S. DETENTION OF CHILD MIGRANTS](#), Amelia Cheatham & Diana Roy

## Topics Covered



The mentioned categories are broad, therefore, below are the specific topics that each category included:

**Economy and Commerce:** supply chains and nearshoring, as well as USMCA and the arising controversies due to the Mexican Government recent decisions.

**Migration and Labor Mobility:** border crossings, migrant caravans, unaccompanied minors, and immigrant policy.

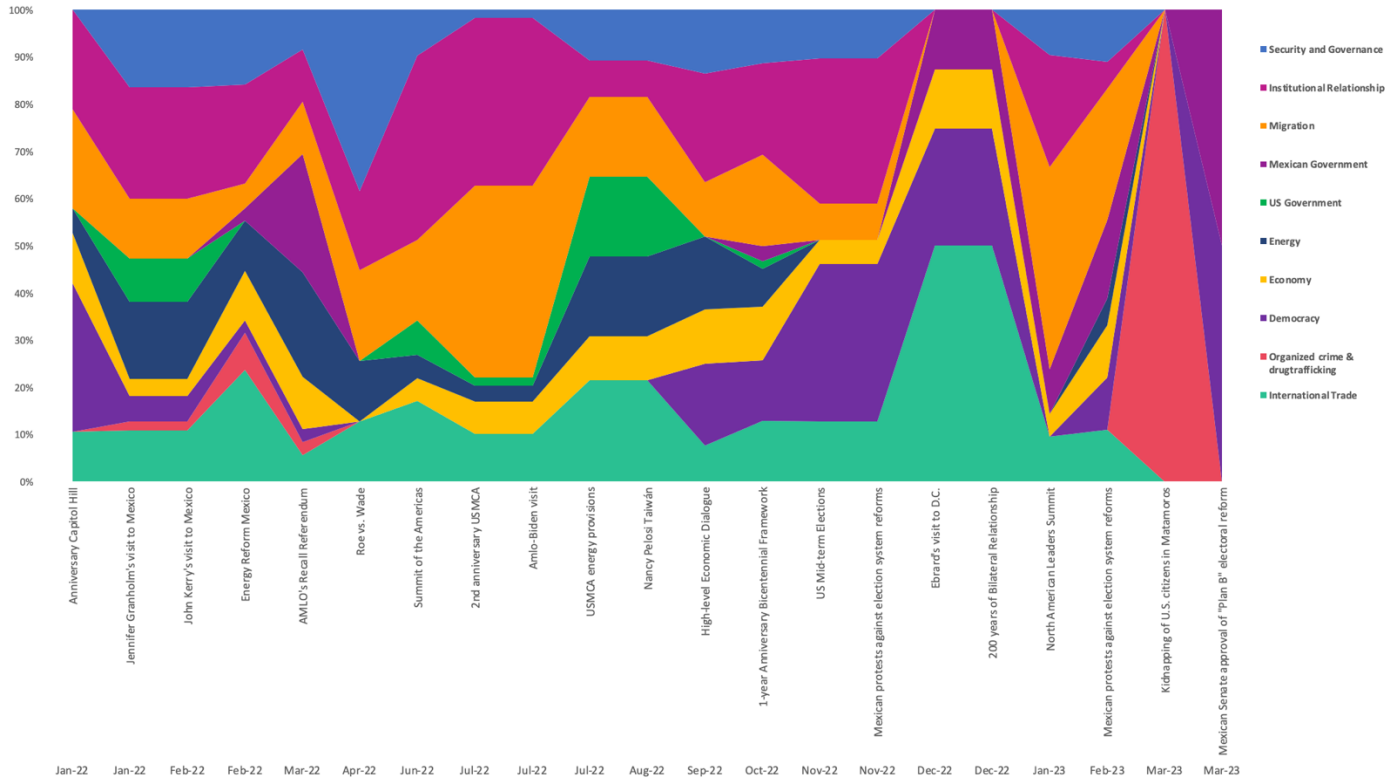
**Democracy and Institutions:** Mexican Government due to the electoral reform progress.

**Security and Rule of Law:** opioid crisis, fentanyl, and drug trafficking due to the incidents in Mexico.

**North America:** institutional relationship between Mexico and the U.S., energy and USMCA.

**Energy and ESGs:** USMCA's controversies and Mexico's energy policies.

## 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 topics of **Organized crime and Drug Trafficking** and **Democracy** were the ones that fluctuated the most in comparison to the previous months. This because of the short-term events: the Mexican Senate's approval of the electoral reform project and the kidnapping of the four U.S. citizens in the northern city of Mexico, Matamoros. Also, the **Mexican Government** category was mentioned by more publications this month because of the possible risks that the electoral reform may have on the Mexican democracy; and hence, on the bilateral relationship.

## Publications

### Mexican Think Tanks

- COMEXI, [PRESENTACIÓN DE LIBRO: DOSCIENTOS AÑOS DE RELACIONES DIPLOMÁTICAS MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS: ENTRE EL ACERCAMIENTO DESEADO Y EL DISTANCIAMIENTO INEVITABLE](#), Speakers: Emb. Olga Pellicer, Emb. Roberta Lajous, Emb. Jorge Álvarez Fuentes, Dra. Susana Chacón
- COMEXI, [CRISIS FRONTERIZA: EN BUSCA DE SOLUCIONES](#), Speakers: Theresa Cardinal Brown, Ariel Ruiz, Allert Brown-Gort, Dr. Segio Alcocer, Dr. Rafael Fernández de Castro
- IMCO, [MÉXICO NECESITA ENERGÍA COMPETITIVA PARA CAPITALIZAR EL NEARSHORING](#), IMCO Staff
- IMCO, [COMIENZAN CONSULTAS POR RESTRICCIÓN A LA IMPORTACIÓN DE MAÍZ AMARILLO](#), IMCO Staff
- IMCO, [MÉXICO SABOTEJA SU VENTAJA EN MATERIA COMERCIAL](#), Nataly Hernández
- IMCO, [EL PRINCIPAL OBSTÁCULO AL NEARSHORING](#), Valeria Moy
- IMCO, [RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLY IS KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION](#), Valeria Moy

### United States Think Tanks

- 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
- AS/COA, [LatAm in Focus: COULD A CLASH OVER CORN UPEND U.S.-MEXICO TRADE TIES?](#), Carin Zissis
- CSIS, [PLAN B AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO](#), Conversation with Dr. Lorenzo Córdova Vianello
- CSIS, [MEXICO MATTERS: FENTANYL: A TRIANGLE OF SADNESS \(U.S., MEXICO, AND CHINA\)](#), Podcast: Mariana Campero, Vanda Felbab-Brown, Guillermo Valdes
- PIIIE, [TRUMP'S TRADE WAR TIMELINE: AN UP-TO-DATE GUIDE](#), Chad P. Brown, Melina Kolb
- American Enterprise Institute, [THE INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FORUM: LABOR UNIONS AND PROGRESSIVES FORCE THE US TO RETREAT ON DIGITAL TRADE](#), Claude Barfield
- Baker Institute, [WILL NEW CHINESE INVESTMENT IN MEXICO BENEFIT NORTH AMERICA?](#), David A. Gantz
- Baker Institute, [MEXICO TOOK A US ASSET - WITH BARELY A WHIMPER FROM THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION](#), Gary J. Hale
- Baker Institute, [BIDEN'S NEW BORDER POLICIES WILL PUT FURTHER STRAIN ON MEXICO'S STRUGGLING ASYLUM SYSTEM](#), Ana Martín Gil, Kelsey Norman
- Baker Institute, [BAKER BRIEFING: MEXICO'S RULE OF LAW](#), Joe Barnes, Tony Payan
- Baker Institute, [CHARTING PATHS: FOWARD ON IMMIGRATION REFORM](#), Baker Institute
- Baker Institute, [EXPERT FOCUS ON US IMMIGRATION: CHALLENGES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS](#), Katia Adimora
- Baker Institute, [MIGRANT CARAVAN: A DEEP DIVE INTO MASS MIGRATION THROUGH MEXICO AND THE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION POLICY](#), Gary J. Hale, Jie Ma
- Council on Foreign Relations, [MEXICO'S DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING, WITH SHANNON K. O'NIEL](#), Host: James M. Lindsay
- Council on Foreign Relations, [U.S. DETENTION OF CHILD MIGRANTS](#), Amelia Cheatham, Diana Roy
- Heritage Foundation, [THE COSTS OF BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS: THE FIRST TWO YEARS](#), Erin Dwinell, Hannah Davis
- Mexico Institute, [USMCA: ARE THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS FUNCTIONING AS INTENDED?](#)
- Mexico Institute, [IMPACT OF ELECTORAL REFORMS ON MEXICO'S DEMOCRACY](#)
- New America, [NORTH AMERICA'S SEMICONDUCTOR MOMENT](#), Speakers: Rina Pal-Goetzen, David Talbot, Gerardo Lameda, Moderator: Kevin McGinnis
- The Dialogue, [HOW IS THE OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTING U.S.-MEXICO TIES?](#), Arturo Sarukhan, Vanda Felbab-Brown, Brewer, Earl Anthony Wayne, Gary J. Hale, Arantza Alonso



The Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO) and the U.S.-Mexico Foundation supported by the Corn Refiners Association 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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