

Rachel and I negate.

TW: Sexual Assault and Violence

Our sole contention is motivating Maquiladoras.

The **Economic Policy Institute** explains that maquiladoras, also known as export processing zones, are factories in Mexico where US raw materials are shipped, turned into manufactured goods in the Mexican factory, and then exported back to the US.

Critically, US involvement in NAFTA increases maquiladoras.

Gruben 01 writes that the prevalence of maquiladoras increased under NAFTA because the increase in FDI created jobs which flowed to export processing zones. Moreover, **Magallon 07** of the ILRF explains that the NAFTA-created “Free Trade Zones” exempted maquiladoras from a variety of regulations, incentivizing them to expand.

Thus, **Scott 03** of the EPI finds that NAFTA caused the number of maquiladoras to increase by more than one thousand, ultimately determining that maquiladora exports have increased to represent nearly two-thirds of Mexico’s exports to the US. Indeed, **Polaski 04** of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace quantifies that NAFTA caused maquiladoras to employ 500,000 more workers.

The impacts are fourfold.

The **first** is harming the Mexican economy.

Blecker 97 of American University determines that the increased trade created by maquiladoras have caused the value of the peso to decrease. Problematically, **Gupta 15** of Cornell University finds that devalued currency starts currency wars, damages investor confidence, harms the local economy, leads to an economic downward spiral, and harms relations with other countries.

The **second** impact is harming the United States.

NAFTA-created maquiladoras gave the US a source of cheap manufacturing which displaced American workers, leading **Scott** to find that the US manufacturing sector lost 2.4 million jobs as a result of NAFTA.

These economic impacts are even worse for lower-income individuals, as **Polaski 04** of the Carnegie Institute finds that NAFTA widened the gap between the wages of skilled and unskilled

workers in the US, thus increasing wage inequality. The **Economic Policy Institute** quantifies that NAFTA caused a 15 to 25% increase in wage inequality in the United States.

The third impact is defunding cities.

Magallon 07 reports that employment generated by maquiladoras increased migration to urban regions of Mexico, causing accelerated population growth in the cities. Problematically, **Magallon** continues that this rapid growth led to insufficient health, education, and infrastructure resources for the new residents. Critically, **Puentes 15** of the Brookings Institute finds that infrastructure is the key to trade, businesses, and creating economic opportunities, ultimately determining that well-funded infrastructure is the backbone of a healthy economy.

The fourth impact is increasing violence against womxn.

Magallon continues that urban growth from maquiladoras increased the risk of sexual assault and violence for womxn.

Jorgensen 04 adds that the growth of maquiladoras under Mexico's existing patriarchal structure led to an increase in violence against women, including sexual assault, mutilation, and murder. **Jorgensen** continues that this "war on women's bodies" begins in the maquiladoras, where women are oppressed with lower wages, exploited for their physical abilities, expected to submit to male authority, and often face harassment or physical or sexual assault. **Jorgensen** finds that women's bodies are commodified and undervalued in the maquiladoras, continuing that NAFTA exempts maquiladoras from laws requiring that they provide safe workplaces for their employees, opening female workers up to more exploitation and violence.

Problematically, the **International Labor Rights Forum** determines that sexual harassment inherently creates a degrading and hostile environment.

But even worse, **Magallon 07** finds that one in four harassment victims are fired, and four in ten quit as a result of their harassment. This motivates a cyclical culture of silence, in which both **Magallon** and **Jorgensen** corroborate that womxn are forced to remain employed by their exploiters without reporting abuse, or they risk being fired and losing their source of income.

Thus, we negate.

Robert **Puentes**, 1-20-20**15**, "Why Infrastructure Matters: Rotten Roads, Bum Economy," Brookings,

<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/why-infrastructure-matters-rotten-roads-bum-economy/> // RH

Concrete, steel and fiber-optic cable are the essential building blocks of the economy. **Infrastructure enables trade, powers businesses, connects workers to their jobs, creates opportunities for struggling communities and protects the nation from an increasingly unpredictable natural environment.** From private investment in telecommunication systems, broadband networks, freight railroads, energy projects and pipelines, to publicly spending on transportation, water, buildings and parks, **infrastructure is the backbone of a healthy economy.**

Deeksha **Gupta**, 11-13-20**15**, "The good, the bad and the ugly in currency devaluation," Johnson College of Business at Cornell University,

<https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Emerging-Markets-Institute/Research/FMI-at-Work/Institute-at-Work-Article/ArticleId/42068/The-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-in-currency-devaluation> // RH

The opportunity cost for **currency devaluation** by a country might end up being too high. It **could impact negatively in the following ways: Start of a currency war.** Recent devaluation of currency by China would force Asian competitors to respond with their own devaluations, reducing import prices in the developed world. As China was already facing price pressures for its exports from South Korea and Japan. This might lead to job losses in the west or reduced profit margins. Thus if the region's biggest economy launches an offensive, others would surely follow, wiping out any advantage it hoped to gain at the first place. Also the move puts pressure on other central banks around the world to push down their own currencies to help their own exporters and to prevent destabilizing capital flows. **Damaging investor's confidence.** What the recent currency devaluation by China seems to have done is to force investors to revisit their forecasts for both China's and global growth going forward. Also the investors get blurred signals such as for China it can be read as world's second-largest economy may be far weaker than the 7% a year growth that official figures suggests. **Falling in one's own trap.** China's central bank has devalued the yuan by nearly 2% against the US dollar for the second time in two days to boost exports. This depicts a shift in the policy used by banks to devalue the currency. However, it was the controls on the currency that have given Chinese businesses a high degree of predictability when they planned investments in industries heavily dependent on exports. This move would certainly endanger China's companies, which have amassed \$1 trillion in foreign debt, which would become more expensive to service if the yuan lost ground. **Downward Spiral.** China's apparently insatiable demand for natural resources has been a key factors supporting the price of oil in recent years. Weak Chinese demand could force down the cost of many commodities, from oil to iron ore. **Ripple effect.** In era of globalization there are numerous interdependencies between different countries. As China accounts for Australia's more than one quarter of the export. So weakness in the Chinese economy is bad news for Australia. Research by consultancy Oxford Economics, which modelled the impact of a 10% Chinese devaluation, accompanied by a sharp slowdown, suggested other hard-hit countries could include Brazil, Russia, Chile and Korea. **Weakening of relations with other countries.** In the short term, there would be renewed complaints in America about Chinese currency manipulation, raising the possibility of countermeasures. Also countries that became notably overvalued, such as the US and UK, could be weakened as cheap imports cut into their margins.

Jorgensen 2004 (Sierra, "Maquiladoras and the Exploitation of Women's Bodies", Bryn Mawr,

http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/sci_cult/courses/knownbody/f04/web2/sjorgensen.html) hhs-sh // RH

In a changing economic and political climate **gender stereotypes in Juárez, Mexico refuse to change.** With an increasing number of women forced into the workplace **in maquiladoras**(1), men's position and women's assumed position in society is being challenged. This changing economic environment in an unchanging cultural environment is part of the reason that young **women are disappearing being raped and mutilated before** ultimately **being killed and "abandoned like meat by-products in the desert"** (Pérez, March 2004). These women's bodies are entering unknowingly and unwilling into a war about cultural norms and a changing economic atmosphere. **The** exploitation of and **war on women's bodies** in Juárez was set in motion long before they began being murdered in large numbers; it **was instigated in the maquiladoras** were they were working. Juárez is a popular site for US Fortune500 companies to place factories that have very low cost and optional taxes. The more than 500 maquiladoras operating in Juárez have drawn an influx of Mexicans who hope to get rich quickly. While the workers in maquiladoras are better off financially than they would be anywhere else, the maquiladora environment and cities are far from ideal. Maquiladoras employ mostly young women.(2) **In a machismo culture women are preferred** to men as workers **in the maquiladoras because they can be paid substantially lower wages,** while they also have better manual dexterity. Years of **sexist attitudes have created an environment where this pay gap [is]** not only possible but **entirely acceptable.** The average wage is from four to seven dollars for a nine-hour work day and there are no benefits offered to workers. Not only do these US run factories play into the Mexican stereotype of women's inferiority, they also use stereotypes about women's abilities and characteristics. Women are believed to have greater manual dexterity than men and they are therefore preferred by companies who want to maximize their production. Women who are hired for their supposed superiority to men when it comes to manual dexterity, a trade essential to a maquiladora worker, are ironically paid much less despite their valued trait. **It is clear** that the degree to which the **women are devalued** is **far greater than** the degree to which **their ability and production is valued.** **Women's bodies are being exploited in factories** where they are **being paid ridiculously low wages based on a cultural belief that men superior to women, that women belong in the household and that men belong in the workplace. They are then paid significantly less partly to reinforce this ideal**—to keep men as the leaders of the household—and partly in order to reinforce the stereotypes about the submissive and inferior nature of women.¶ Women, particularly mestizas(3), are also favored because of "cultural upbringing that encourages total serviceability" (Castillo, 2004). Women in Mexico are raised to believe in compliancy and submissiveness. Women of mixed blood have a double pressure to be submissive because they generally inhabit the lower classes, where the upper classes are generally comprised of fairer skinned Mexicans of European decent. **These women not only have to submit to the authority of men, but the upper classes as well.** By hiring submissive women maquiladoras are more easily able to exploit the women—who are to them simply bodies filling their factories. They are not only able to pay lower wages, but they are able to offer little or no benefits. Even companies who claim to offer benefits often don't follow through with it. **Women are also made to** and accept **working in dire conditions with** often **no breaks and very short lunch periods. When the women do try to improve their working conditions they are immediately dismissed.** For example, in one factory a few women tried to have a cafeteria set up in the maquiladora and they were immediately fired.¶ **Maquiladoras** are able to fire their workers so easily because they **consider** the **women simply bodies in the factories.** The **women workers are not valued individually** for their work for many reasons. One of the reasons is the vast number of women in the area that are able and willing to work. When the factories in Juárez began opening there was a huge migration from all over Mexico and the migration continues in a smaller degree still today. There are many more women available where all of the women in the factories came from and many of them even come to the factories in hope of work everyday. Also, because the labor in factories is unskilled and easy to learn any pair of hands, eyes, or essentially any body is sufficient to do the work. The person is not important as long as the work is done and the product created. **This displays the perceived interchangeability of women and their bodies. All women are the same and valued** only—and **very little** at that—**for the product that they produce.** Therefore women are dismissed or sent home at whim for reasons—real or unreal—such as inadequate performance, tardiness, or delinquency.¶ Once women are employed by **a factory** that factory **does very little to protect that woman's body,** in fact **they often** put a lot of strain on it and cause **harm to it.** Women are put under terrible conditions in the factories in which they work. They have to do "relentless, concentrated work" that is very "hard on the eye" which may cause their eyesight to become bad and unacceptable for the job (Vulliamy, 2003). This **in turn** could **cause their body to be no longer usable by the factory. At which point that woman's body will be replaced by another woman's body.** Not only do the working conditions wear down women's bodies, but in **many** cases **women bodies are violated by others;** they are often **raped and beaten while at work. This is perfectly acceptable** and rarely prosecuted **because it is** frequently **considered the woman's fault** that she was subjected to these actions. In fact, **her mere presence in the factory violates cultural beliefs about a woman's place.** The **men who rape and beat these women may believe** that **they have** a right, even **a duty to exert their force on these women to put them back in their places.**¶ **The conditions in which women are traveling to and from work also put their bodies in danger. Companies do not provide transportation to and from the maquiladoras. Women frequently walk alone to and from busses and even to and from work. It is usually in this transit that women disappear.** Employers also have a practice of sending home women for being the slightest bit late. Claudia Gonzalez was sent home for being only three minutes late for work and she attempted to walk home. She went missing and her body was found a month later. **Factories also make shift changes that take women off of shifts with friends and family members and place them on shifts that require them to travel alone. Women are also motivated to take later shifts because they pay a few cents more but the difference is significant enough. These women with late shifts leave after dark with no security** present making them susceptible to kidnapping, even **making abduction easy.** Factories, though, are not motivated to take action and feel no responsibility to provide security for their workers because the murders do not occur on factory property. In fact **the "North America Free Trade Agreement exempts the sweatshops from any laws requiring them to provide better security—because such laws might interfere with 'the ability to make profit,' which is more important to these companies than the women they employ** (Dellit, 2003).¶ The bodies of the women of Juárez are first exploited and injured in the factories. And, their mere existence in the factories goes against societal norms that require them to be at home. This violation of the cultural norm may be part of the reason why their bodies are later abducted, raped, mutilated and later left in the desert. This phenomenon of murder is a clear message to the women of Juárez that they are overstepping their bounds and that the murders will continue—either until views change or the women step back into their prescribed roles.

Polaski 04 NAFTA's Promise And Reality: LESSONS FROM MEXICO FOR THE HEMISPHERE. Sandra Polaski. 2004 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Sandra Polaski is a senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment's Trade, Equity, and Development Project. Her work focuses on international labor policy in the context of trade, development, and multilateral relations. She served from 1997 to 2001 as the Special Representative for International Labor Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. <https://carnegieendowment.org/files/nafta1.pdf> // RH

Since the net impact of NAFTA on U.S. employment is small, the impact on overall wages is also minor. But a widening gap between the wages of skilled and unskilled workers is partly attributable to trade, and NAFTA as a factor in U.S. trade is thus likely to account for a portion of the observed growth in wage inequality.

Magallon 07 A Project of the **International Labor Rights Forum** (ILRF) English version published May 2007 English translation by ILRF By:

Colectiva Feminista Binacional, Servicio Desarrollo y Paz, A.C. (SEDEPAC), & Comité de Obreras y Obreros en Lucha. ROSARIO ORTIZ MAGALLÓN Project Coordinator. Rosario Ignacia Ortiz Magallón (born 1 February 1951) is a Mexican politician from the Party of the Democratic Revolution. From 2006 to 2009 she served as Deputy of the LX Legislature of the Mexican Congress representing Federal District. <https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2021&context=globaldocs> // RH

As a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Tijuana became one of the world capitals of television production. Baja California is one of the regions that produces the most television sets, although in fact a good number of these factories were already in place before 1994 when the "Free Trade Zone" regimen, which preceded NAFTA, was in place. In practice, a "Free Trade Zone" is an area in which companies can evade labor and environmental laws and taxes, and disrespect women's human rights. Approximately 11 million television sets are produced in Tijuana every year, mostly by five Japanese companies (Hitachi, Sanyo, Sony, Panasonic, and JVC) and the Korean company Samsung. The Japanese company Sharp produces televisions in Rosarito; in the nine years since it arrived in the region, it has produced about 10 million television sets. About 22,000 workers, most of them women, work at these six companies. In Baja California, the government uses the media to broadcast to the population that the Free Trade Zones have created more jobs. However, in reality, workers continue to be fired, especially from the maquilas. This situation worsens in November and December every year. The bosses insult, humiliate, and harass the workers, even threatening them in order to force them to sign voluntary resignations. Sometimes they say "maybe I will hire you again next year, but as a new employee". They put workers out on the street as if they were common criminals, without the compensation that they are due by law, and not caring that their families depend on their salaries. They rarely tell workers the reason for the dismissal, and many of these reasons are actually illegal since they are not included in the Federal Labor Law or the Mexican Constitution. Sometimes management fires workers so the company can avoid an increase in salary or the provision of benefits for seniority, or to avoid paying for vacations, maternity leave, work-related accidents or illnesses. When workers demand that their rights be respected, management repress them even further. As a result, workers are in a state of permanent job instability, and society is experiencing problems with public safety, all of which contribute to an increase in poverty and violence against women.

Scott 03 The high price of 'free' trade NAFTA's failure has cost the United States jobs across the nation By: Robert E. Scott November 17, 2003

Rob Scott joined the **Economic Policy Institute** in 1996. His areas of research include international economics, trade and manufacturing policies and their impacts on working people in the United States and other countries, the economic impacts of foreign investment, and the macroeconomic effects of trade and capital flows. He has published widely in academic journals and the popular press, including *The Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *The International Review of Applied Economics*, and *The Stanford Law and Policy Review*, as well as *The Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, *USA Today*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Washington Times*, and other newspapers. He has also provided economic commentary for a range of electronic media, including NPR, CNN, Bloomberg, and the BBC. *Education* Ph.D., Economics, University of California at Berkeley B.S., Engineering, Washington University (St. Louis) https://www.epi.org/publication/briefingpapers_bp147/ // RH

In fact, most U.S. exports to Mexico are parts and components that are shipped to Mexico and assembled into final products that are then returned to the United States. The number of products that Mexico assembles and exports—such as refrigerators, TVs, automobiles, and computers—has mushroomed under the NAFTA agreement. Many of these products are produced in the Maquiladora export processing zones in Mexico, where parts enter duty free and are re-exported to the United States in assembled products, with duties paid only on the value added in Mexico. The share of total U.S. exports to Mexico that is represented by Maquiladora imports has risen from 39% of U.S. exports in 1993 to 61% in 2002. 2 The number of such plants increased from 2,114 in 1993 to 3,251 in 2002. (INEGI 2003a, 2003b).

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NAFTA's impact in the United States, however, has been often obscured by the "boom-and-bust" cycle that drove domestic consumption, investment, and speculation in the mid- and late 1990s. Between 1994 (when NAFTA was implemented) and 2000, total employment rose rapidly in the United States, causing overall unemployment to fall to record low levels. But unemployment began to rise early in 2001, and 2.4 million jobs were lost in the domestic economy between March 2001 and October 2003 (BLS 2003). These job losses have been primarily concentrated in the manufacturing sector, which has experienced a total decline of 2.4 million jobs since March 2001. As job growth has dried up in the economy, the underlying problems caused by U.S. trade deficits have become much more apparent, especially in manufacturing. The United States has experienced steadily growing global trade deficits for nearly three decades, and these deficits accelerated rapidly after NAFTA took effect on January 1, 1994. For the purposes of this report it is necessary to distinguish between exports produced domestically and foreign exports, which are goods produced in other countries but exported to the United States, and then re-exported from the United States. Foreign exports made up 11.6% of total U.S. exports to Mexico and Canada in 2002. However, because only domestically produced exports generate jobs in the United States, our trade calculations are based only on domestic exports. Our measure of the net impact of trade, which is used here to calculate the employment content of trade, is the difference between domestic exports and total imports.³ We refer to this as "net exports," to distinguish it from the more commonly reported gross trade balance. However, both concepts are measures of net trade flows. Although U.S. domestic exports to its NAFTA partners have increased dramatically—with real growth of 95.2% to Mexico and 41% to Canada—growth in imports of 195.3% from Mexico and 61.1% from Canada overwhelmingly surpass export growth, as shown in Table 1. The resulting \$30 billion U.S. net export deficit with these countries in 1993 increased by 281% to \$85 billion in 2002 (all figures in inflation-adjusted 2002 dollars). As a result, NAFTA has led to job losses in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as shown in Figure 1. Through September 2003, the U.S. goods trade deficit with Mexico and Canada has increased 12% over the same period last year (U.S. Census Bureau 2003a). Job losses for the remainder of 2003 are likely to grow at a similar rate.

Scott Methodology

This study uses the model developed in Rothstein and Scott (1997a and 1997b). This approach solves four problems that are prevalent in previous research on the employment impacts of trade. Some studies look only at the effects of exports and ignore imports. Some studies include foreign exports (transshipments)—goods produced outside North America and shipped through the United States to Mexico or Canada—as U.S. exports. The trade data used in many studies are usually not adjusted for inflation. Finally, a single employment multiplier is often applied to all industries, despite differences in labor productivity and utilization. ⁸ The model used here is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' 192-sector employment requirements table, which was derived from the 1992 U.S. input-output table and adjusted to 2000 price and productivity levels (BLS 2003a), in real, chain-weighted 1996 dollars. This model is used to estimate the direct and indirect effects of changes in goods trade flows in each of these 192 industries. This study updates the 1987 input employment requirements table used in earlier reports in this series (Rothstein and Scott 1997a, 1997b; Scott 1996). We use three-digit, SIC-based industry trade data (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1996, 2003b), deflated with industry-specific,

chain-weighted price indices (BLS 2001), which were updated using industry-specific producer price indexes (BLS 2003b). These data are concorded from HS to SIC (1987) classifications using conversion tables on the Census CDs. The SIC data are then concorded into the BLS sectors using sector-plans from the BLS (2003a). State-level employment effects are calculated by allocating imports and exports to the states on the basis of their share of three-digit, industry-level employment for 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2001).

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When trying to identify the causes behind trends such as the disappearance of manufacturing jobs, the rise in income inequality, and the decline in wages in the United States, NAFTA and growing trade deficits only provide part of the picture. Other major contributors include deregulation and privatization, declining rates of unionization, sustained high levels of unemployment, and technological change. While each of these factors has played some role, a large body of **economic research has concluded that trade is responsible for at least 15% to 25% of the growth in wage inequality in the United States (U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission 2000, 110-18)**. In addition, trade also has indirect effects on wage inequality by contributing to many of these other causes. For example, the decline of the manufacturing sector attributable to increased globalization has resulted in a reduction in unionization rates, since unions represent a larger share of the workforce in this sector than in other sectors of the economy.

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The US economic recession of 2000 severely impacted Ciudad Juárez. From **October 2000 to December 2002, 96,111 jobs were lost, which represents 80% of the formal jobs lost in the entire state of Chihuahua** during that time. Local estimates demonstrate that **poverty more than doubled in the last two years due to unemployment in the maquilas**. Poverty is a reality of life for most of the residents in this border city. **In 2001, there were 85,000 people living in poverty, and at the end of 2003 the number had increased to 200,000.**

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During the last thirty years, the development of Ciudad Juarez has been centered on the maquila export industry, resulting in rapid and problematic social change. **The employment generated by the maquila industry increased migration to Ciudad Juárez, and the accelerated population growth led to setbacks in the provision of urban and health services and educational infrastructure.** The sudden growth of the city simultaneously caused profound socio cultural shifts, leading to the transformation of Ciudad Juarez into a multicultural city. Ciudad Juárez has experienced migratory phenomena for many years due to the ups and downs of the North American economy, but migration to and from the city increased dramatically in the last thirty years. With the introduction of the maquila industry, Ciudad Juárez became the stuff of dreams and promises, and Mexicans from all over the country made their ways to Ciudad Juárez with the hopes of improving their quality of life. The majority of this new wave of immigrants were young. **Today, Ciudad Juárez has a population of approximately 1.4 million people, of whom between 32-50% were born in other cities.** Most come from rural areas or small towns. The city also has a considerable non-resident population, who frequently move to the city intending to cross the border to the US, but end up staying to live in Ciudad Juárez. **The migratory processes** described above have **had major impacts on family life and on women living in Ciudad Juárez. Social vulnerability and risk increased for large sectors of the population, especially women (and particularly women who recently migrated). Women represent one of the most vulnerable groups in Ciudad Juárez, and they are the most frequent targets of violence. Many young women have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez in recent years, in a trend that has scandalized both Mexico and the US.**

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According to data from the labor authorities, **three of every four working women are harassed, one in every four of these victims is fired, and four in every ten victims quit as a result.** While men may also be the targets of harassment, the vast majority of victims are women.

Blecker 97 NAFTA AND THE PESO COLLAPSE Not Just a Coincidence by Robert A. Blecker . March 1, 1997 1660 L Street, NW I Suite 1200 I Washington, D.C. 20036 I 202/775-8810.

Robert A. Blecker is an American economist who is currently a Professor in the Department of Economics at American University in Washington, DC.[1] He is also Affiliate Faculty of the American University School of International Service and Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, and a Research Associate at the Economic Policy Institute and Political Economy Research Institute.[2][3][4] His research has made contributions to the fields of post-Keynesian and neo-Kaleckian macroeconomics, open economy macroeconomics, international trade theory and policy, global imbalances and the U.S. trade deficit, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the economy of Mexico, export-led growth, and the theory of balance-of-payments constrained growth (also known as Thirlwall's Law).[5] https://secure.epi.org/files/page/-old/briefingpapers/1997_bp_nafta.pdf // RH

The overvalued peso in the early 1990s caused three related problems for Mexico. First, **it made Mexican exports less competitive in the U.S. market compared with U.S. domestic products or imports from other newly industrializing countries.** Second, the **high peso combined with liberalized trade led to an unprecedented surge in Mexican imports of consumer goods in 1993-94. Weak exports and surging imports together resulted in an enormous trade deficit that reached \$29 billion - 8% of Mexico's gross domestic product (GDP) - by 1994. Third, the rising peso made Mexican labor costs rise in dollar terms in 1991-94 (see Table I),**' thus making Mexico a less attractive investment location for multinational corporations seeking sites for **low wage, labor-intensive assembly operations. The devaluation of the peso - which lowered Mexico's labor costs by about 40% in dollar terms from 1994 to 1995 - was thus necessary for the success of Mexico's economic strategy for attracting direct foreign investment.**

The importance of **devaluing the peso can be seen by comparing the impact of devaluation to the small tariff reductions in NAFTA.** The U.S. International Trade Commission (1991, 2-2) **calculated that the average tariffs in effect at the start of the NAFTA negotiations were about 3.4% for U.S. imports and 10% for Mexican imports. In contrast, the peso appreciated by over 75% in real terms from 1987 to 1994 and then fell by about 50% from 1994 to 1995.** Thus, none of the tariff reductions in NAFTA could have made much of a difference if the peso stayed as high as it was in 1993-94. **In order for NAFTA to promote Mexican exports as intended, a significant devaluation of the peso was unavoidable.**

Polaski 04 NAFTA's Promise And Reality: LESSONS FROM MEXICO FOR THE HEMISPHERE. Sandra Polaski. 2004 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Sandra Polaski is a senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment's Trade, Equity, and Development Project. Her work focuses on international labor policy in the context of trade, development, and multilateral relations. She served from ~ as the Special Representative for International Labor Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.
<https://carnegieendowment.org/files/nafta1.pdf> // RH

Maquiladora assembly plants added about 800,000 jobs between NAFTA's enactment in January 1994 and the sector's peak employment in 2001. They then shed about 250,000 jobs through May 2003. **Currently, maquiladoras employ about 500,000 more workers than they did before NAFTA.**

Magallon 07 A Project of the **International Labor Rights Forum** (ILRF) English version published May 2007 English translation by ILRF By: Colectiva Feminista Binacional, Servicio Desarrollo y Paz, A.C. (SEDEPAC), & Comité de Obreras y Obreros en Lucha. ROSARIO ORTIZ MAGALLÓN Project Coordinator. Rosario Ignacia Ortiz Magallón (born 1 February 1951) is a Mexican politician from the Party of the Democratic Revolution. From 2006 to 2009 she served as Deputy of the LX Legislature of the Mexican Congress representing Federal District. <https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2021&context=globaldocs> // RH
The term **sexual harassment refers to any unwanted verbal, non-verbal, or physical sexual behavior with the intent or effect of hurting a person's dignity, particularly when it creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment.**

Gruben, William. "Did NAFTA Really Cause Mexico's High Maquiladora Growth? ." *Center for Latin American Economics* , July **2001**,

www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/ciae/papers/2001/lawp0103.pdf // RM

Although maquiladoras have been in operation in Mexico since the 1960s, **their output and employment growth began to accelerate rapidly with the advent of NAFTA. Over the first five years after the onset of NAFTA, maquiladora employment grew 86 percent, compared with 47 percent growth over the five years previous.** Seeing this sudden acceleration (Chart I), opponents, supporters and academic researchers of the North American Free Trade Agreement have argued that NAFTA was the cause. Balla (1998, 55), for example claims that "without doubt, NAFTA has resulted in a dramatic increase in activity in the maquiladora industry." San Martin (2000, 32A) maintains that "**NAFTA continues to drive the growth of the maquiladora industry.**" Carrada-Bravo (1998, 8) argues that "**the acceleration of foreign direct investment under NAFTA also contributed to the creation of more than a half-million new employment opportunities in the U.S.-Mexico border region.... These new jobs, tied to the expansion of the maquiladora industry,** (pay more) than those not related to international trade." A postNAFTA report produced jointly by the Economic Policy Institute and the United States Business and Industrial Council Educational Foundation (1997) claims that "as new and expanded plants are completed in the maquiladora zone..., the bilateral trade deficit should soar ever higher." Even prior to NAFTA, Perot and Choate (1993) were positing that "**the flow of U.S. companies voluntarily moving factories to Mexico under the Maquiladora Program threatens to become a flood under NAFTA.**"