

THE TRUTH ABOUT MEXICANS AND AMERICANS

Mexico is the most important country in the world for Americans. No other people have as much positive impact on the daily lives of Americans across the board, from demography and society, to trade and national security.

Unfortunately, there are those who would use Mexico and Mexicans as a political piñata. They are trying to drive a wedge between us no matter what the cost to North American prosperity and security.

The world is full of people who would do us harm. Attacking Mexicans is like picking a fight with your best friend in a schoolyard full of bullies.

HERE ARE THE FACTS

1 **Mexico and the United States are deeply integrated, for the benefit of both countries.**

Approximately 35 million Mexicans and Mexican-Americans live in the US (equivalent to the population of Canada) and between 1-3 million Americans are in Mexico at any given time. We have the most legally crossed border in the world along 2,000 miles and 50 ports of entry, where we do over \$500 billion dollars worth of trade each year. These numbers are order of magnitude higher than those of other important international relationships, like that of France and Germany.

2 **Mexicans in the US are not “illegal immigrants”.** Nearly 80% of people of Mexican descent in the US are either American citizens (by far the majority), or legal residents. This means that 10% of America’s citizen population is of Mexican origin.

3 **Undocumented immigration from Mexico is falling.** Pew Research numbers show that there are now fewer Mexican immigrants, overall, and that even more are returning to Mexico than are coming to the US. The “problem” of immigration from Mexico is more a politically expedient straw man than an actual problem and the phenomenon is shrinking, not growing.

4 **Thanks to Mexico’s cooperation, our shared border is safe.** The only confirmed attempt of a terrorist crossing by land onto US soil was from Canada, not Mexico. By having the strictest visa requirements in the world for people from countries hostile to the America, Mexico defends the US homeland every day. Mexico’s constant cooperation is vital to American national security.

5 **A “border wall” didn’t work for the Communists, or for Imperial China, and it won’t work here.** Estimates for fencing off the border range from \$15 to \$25 billion dollars. Most of our frontier runs down the middle of the Rio Grande, a river on which South Texas depends. This cannot be walled off without

seriously affecting Texas and New Mexico. Worse, as President Reagan knew, walls between nations are ugly symbols of oppression, which means they are not only generally ineffective; they’re also un-American.

6 **Not all trade dollars are created equal.** For every dollar the US imports from Mexico, fully 40 cents is US content, by far the highest in the world (Canada’s figure is 25 cents, China’s is only 4 pennies). American supply chains depend on Mexico, just as Mexican supply chains depend on the US. We make stuff together because that’s the only way to stay globally competitive.

7 **There is no such thing as a “Mexican” car (or an “American”, or “Canadian”, car).** Our most important industry is fully integrated, such that by the time a finished automobile is sold, its components have crossed the border an average of 6 times. Fantasies about tariffs on Mexican cars are based on a profound ignorance of the way the American economy works.

8 **6 million American jobs (that’s about 20 million Americans) directly depend on trade with Mexico.** These jobs are everywhere, from the cornfields of Iowa, through the railroads of Kansas, to the studios of Hollywood and the banks on Wall Street.

9 **The US and Mexico share core values.** Both countries are democracies based on individual rights. We have a common Judeo-Christian history that nonetheless promotes freedom of religion and equality under the law. We are truly privileged to share so much.

10 **American prosperity depends on a peaceful, stable, and cooperative Mexico.** Today, what is good for Mexico is automatically good for the United States because an unstable or anti-American Mexico is a nightmare scenario for all of us. At the same time, the best thing for 120 million Mexicans in the world’s 13th largest economy is for America to prosper.

The truth is we’re a team.

The truth is that Mexicans and Americans are not neighbors; we’re roommates. Humiliating Mexico and 10% of all American citizens doesn’t make America great; it makes us all vulnerable.

The good news is that, together, we make up the most competitive region in the world. The bad news is that we are so close that it is easy to exploit prejudice and ignorance against our shared interest.

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