

Nation Building in El Salvador between 1821 and 1921

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This article aims to develop an understanding of historical process of official nation building projects “from above” in El Salvador, considering the time from the nation’s independence to the appearance of Alberto Masferrer, who greatly influenced the pattern of nation building “from below”.

From 1821 to 1871, Salvadorans did not have a defined national consciousness due to the influence of oligarchical politicians whose national concept was ambivalent between El Salvador and Central America.

From 1871 to 1921, the elite “liberal politicians” created basic national symbols such as a national flag, emblems, and an anthem. Today these symbols are important to many Salvadorans; however due to lack of familiarity and of the awareness of reality, these symbols were not accepted at first by the rural peasants and urban laborers who made up the Salvadoran majority.

Liberal intellectuals, including well-known modernistas such as Francisco Gavidia, did not interact with the poor. They loved European culture dearly and investigated it with their scholarships; however they did not notice political and social problems until mid-1920s, when the professors and students at the University of El Salvador awoke to the possibility and necessity of social reforms and joined urban workers’ movements.

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Rethinking on the Actual Mexico under NAFTA (1) : Judging from Trump's Discourses

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The U.S. economy has faced the crisis of the Fordist stage of capitalism since 1970s. By endorsing NAFTA, U.S. officials ensured access to an abundant supply of labor in the south of the border.

It is now 23 years since NAFTA went into effect. So this article explores the present of Mexican economy and society, in particular rural Mexico, under NAFTA. According to the report from CEPR, Mexico has not fared well during the 23 years and the poverty has increased under NAFTA in spite of President Trump's suggestions.

The report recognizes that NAFTA was just one variable among others that could account for Mexico's poor economic performance over the past 23 years.

The first section of this article will focus on the historical background of the neo-liberal globalization and the rise of NAFTA. The second section confirms the performance of the Mexican economy under the drastic transformation of public policies induced by structural adjustment programs and trade liberalization based on NAFTA

The next section analyzes the relation between the neoliberal rural transformation and surge in number of Mexicans emigrating to the United States.

Finally, this article will describe the emergence of multiple forms of the crisis in human security, which are constituted by economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, community security, and political security. In this context, it's essential to think of the relation between food self-sufficiency and labor sovereignty.

(To be continued in the next number)

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