

# OUR VOICE

The long U.S. electoral campaign culminated with Donald Trump being voted into the presidency last November. This has made for a radical turn in bilateral relations with Mexico, but has also shaken up the international community due to the president-elect's visceral attitudes and declarations, which are very far from the "politically correct" kinds of statements that used to characterize the most powerful figure in the world.

The victory of Trump, dismissed by millions both in the United States and abroad, over Hillary Clinton, clearly the U.S. political establishment candidate (who did, however, win the majority of the popular vote), brings with it a political, social, and cultural phenomenon that marks the complexity of the current situation of this great power.

In this issue, we have included two contributions dealing with this scenario. One displays its authors' capacity for summarizing and reflecting on the vicissitudes of the Republican and Democratic Parties and their stakeholders. The second compares the Chinese-American and Mexican-American Diasporas in terms of their organization and political participation at this significant juncture.

We can say that the conditions of the economy and their direct effects on the pocketbooks of the citizenry continue to be decisive for determining U.S. elections. In addition to the objective data, perceptions that could develop in public opinion with regard to greater economic vulnerability will also have an impact on voters' mood.

Thus, the new occupant of the White House lashed out against free trade agreements, among other things, saying that they have essentially been unfair to U.S. workers. The TransPacific Partnership and NAFTA are in the forefront of analysts' minds; this is a reason to read the article by Enrique Pino Hidalgo, which can help us understand the risks that the TPP poses for Mexico.

This issue's Economy section affords me the opportunity to emphasize my conviction that institutions are living organisms that require change so their objectives can respond appropriately to new demands; this is why the CISAN is confirming this vocation. Dr. Claudia Maya is a talented young member of our community, whose research into financial issues allows her to offer up for our readers' consideration a serious argument around the role of the U.S. Federal Reserve to determine the horizons of its monetary policies, forecasting a grave financial crisis.

We must now focus our attention on Mexico to take up a topic that is undoubtedly strategic for our uncertain future: education. We should remember that the current administration's 2013 reform was launched under the banner of significantly improving the quality of our educational system. To lay out for

our readers the difficulties of implementing this reform in the unavoidable area of teacher evaluation, which also runs counter to their labor rights, we have invited two expert colleagues from the National Institute for Educational Evaluation (INEE) to contribute. We also want to thank Adriana Dander for taking the time to enrich this issue explaining the characteristics and structure of high school education in Mexico. How are they similar or different from those of our readers' countries?

We are proud to include almost 10 voices to talk about the importance Mexico gives to its proximity and mature friendship with Canada. Its ambassador to our country, M. Pierre Alarie, does us the honor of confirming the reciprocity of this feeling during the interview we publish here. Sprinkled amidst his comments are the big regional issues for North America: NAFTA, security, and energy, as well as also his emphasis on educational exchange as a priority.

This Special Section is also centered on a wide-ranging reflection about the repercussions of different aspects of the last Canadian federal elections. The value added of these articles testifies to the high-level analyses by Mexican Canadianologists, who as outside observers contribute not only to disseminating Canadian studies among our new generations, but also to consolidating and multiplying the links of multidisciplinary work with Canadian counterparts. I would not want to forget to mention that the victory of the Liberal politician Justin Trudeau has sparked certain optimism among Mexican intellectuals, but we will have to wait a little more to assess his actions.

*Voices of Mexico* continues to be committed to disseminating articles about the arts and culture, thereby signaling their significant contribution to our inherent sensibility as human beings. On this occasion, in addition to talking about Tin Tan and Diego Rivera as great icons of Mexican cinema and painting, we present the extraordinary body of work by Paloma Torres, full of symbolism. Meanwhile, Teresa Jiménez calls on us to visit the interesting El Carmen museum in Mexico City's traditional San Ángel neighborhood, where a collection of mummies even opens its doors to us.

And, since we place our expectations of a better future on the harmony of nature, our readers will be able to familiarize themselves with Mexico's efforts to rescue and preserve our wetlands, which contribute to the list of Mexican species that concentrate between 10 and 12 percent of all the world's biodiversity. A wonderful commitment, don't you think?

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