

OUR VOICE

A year after Donald Trump's surprising electoral win sparked many fears, it is time to reflect on the effects his presidency has had in many areas, both domestic and international. They have almost all been negative, not only for certain sectors of U.S. Americans, but also for the inhabitants of other regions and all of humanity.

Our analysis has to be nuanced, however: while many of his most polemical and concerning campaign promises have remained mere electoral propaganda, others have been blocked at least temporarily. This has been brought about by the opposition of political democratic institutions of his own country, such as Congress or the courts, by the international system's multilateral bodies, and even by other leaders and heads of state, who have begun to exercise leadership on global issues that the United States has retreated from. This is the case of the Paris Accords on climate change; the United States is today the only nation that has announced its withdrawal from those accords, when even the last two dissident countries, Syria and Nicaragua, recently signed them. Special mention should be made of the resistance to his policies on his own soil, mainly from organized civil society and local city and state governments, led by governors and mayors.

Despite his resounding failures, such as his unsuccessful attempt to overturn Obama Care, to find enough funding to build a wall along the border with Mexico, or his frustrated attempt to ban the entry of citizens from six Muslim countries, the president's obstinate attempt to impose his very personal vision of prosperity for the United States persists. This vision is fed by the most nationalistic, conservative ideologies of the U.S. intelligentsia and the most protectionist positions of its economic actors. Important among the latter are a broad sector of working people, his electoral base, which has indeed been hurt by globalization, although also by the most recent technological revolutions that have transformed the world of work.

Trump's obstinacy in imposing his vision to thwart the legitimate interests of the "others" is reflected today on several fronts. Two of them that could most affect our country are the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and his proposals to stop undocumented immigration, first and foremost from Mexico. He has taken such aggressive actions as to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which will affect almost 800 000 of our young compatriots. In this issue of *Voices of Mexico*, CISAN researchers and other specialists explain these trends. José Luis Valdés-Ugalde reflects on Trump's psychological profile to try to understand his polemical behavior; David Maciel looks at the state of California's iron resistance to many of Trump's measures, led by Governor Jerry Brown; and Ruth Dávila examines the topic of "white nationalism," undoubtedly one of the trends in contemporary thought with the most influence on the current U.S. government's actions.

In our "Economy" section, three contributions dissect the ongoing NAFTA negotiations to demystify several of the arguments brandished by U.S. negotiators. Elisa Dávalos describes the important level of integration the regional economy has achieved through value chains, which make cancelling the treaty unviable without significantly affecting both companies and workers of the region's main productive sectors, such as the auto industry. María Cris-

tina Rosas demonstrates why the argument about the U.S. trade deficit with Mexico is false and deceptive since Mexico is only responsible for ten percent of the United States' total trade deficit, and the argument does not seriously consider either rules of origin or the products exchanged. Enrique Pino even goes so far as to suggest that it might well be beneficial to Mexico to abandon the agreement, since it would force the country to change its trade and development policies to foster a much-needed diversification.

Migration is another area of great concern for Mexico. Trump's vision is, generally speaking, negative, but particularly with regard to immigration from Mexico, which he blames for many of the problems in U.S. society: unemployment, growing crime, drug trafficking, etc. He considers it even more threatening for white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, the supposed Latino threat to their traditions, their language, their beliefs, and their hegemony. Two young researchers write on this topic: Camelia Tigau concentrates on highly-skilled migration and the kind of immigrants who, though they undoubtedly have made important contributions to the economy, are still stigmatized. Paola Suárez, for her part, introduces us to the reasons behind the recent offensive against young Mexicans known as "Dreamers," pointing to the grave consequences of cancelling DACA.

Resistance is also expressed through literature. The interview by Claire Joysmith of Chicana writer Gina Valdés shows how she uses poetry to demonstrate the wealth the merger of cultures contributes to the United States. Lastly, anthropologist Susana Vargas leads a group of colleagues whose contributions make up our "Special Section," dedicated to young indigenous migration from Mexico to the United States, specifically from states like Oaxaca and Chiapas, and their conditions in California.

Our cultural sections are dedicated to celebrating Mexico City. They take us on a visit to its architecture and monuments, which echo the city's different historical periods, and a reflection on its spaces, be they private, public, or "common," which make it inhabitable and give the city its identity. Its parks, neighborhood markets, streets, and traffic islands are scenes every day of how residents appropriate the space for fiestas, for children to play, or for holding their very frequent political protests and religious processions. One of the most visible manifestations of the city's gentrification is the concentration of certain vocations in specific areas, such as the occupation by the artistic community of the emblematic Edificios Condesa (Condesa Neighborhood Buildings), written about by Alejandro Mercado.

This issue of our magazine was planned before the terrible earthquake that shook the city on September 19 this year, exactly during the commemoration of the 1985 earthquake. This is both a sad and a fortunate coincidence because it has allowed us to celebrate an extraordinary city in all its splendor at this time of pain and reflection. Because of this, the editorial team has decided to dedicate a future special issue to thinking about the earthquake in its many dimensions: urban, social, economic, ethical, and human, among others.

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