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Effects of U.S. Migration Policies on Migration Policies in Latin America

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Effects of U.S. Migration Policies on Migration Policies in Latin America

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Introduction:

The way a country chooses to deal with migration depends on a variety of factors, such as the country's capacity to support more people or different political events happening in the country at a given time. Refugees seeking asylum often have a difficult time being accepted into another country, and there are usually rules set in place by the accepting country to make it even more difficult.

This research will primarily be conducted using secondary information from sources such as the Council on Foreign Relations, the UN Refugee Agency, and others from the library databases. Some primary sources from news outlets such as the New York Times will also be used. This research seeks to answer the question "How do U.S. Migration Policies Affect Migration Policies in Latin America?" As a powerful country, the migration policies the United States puts in place have an effect on the policies installed in close Latin American countries.

The United States has also pressured other countries, such as Mexico, into changing their

In recent years there has been a huge influx of refugees from an area called the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras), to places such as the United States and Mexico. Mexico does not have the resources to handle the number of refugees it has been accepting, but the United States is threatening Mexico with tariffs if it does not stop migrants from reaching the border. While Mexico cannot handle this many refugees, it also would not be able to handle the proposed tariffs if they were applied. The current COVID-19 pandemic has also created new challenges to the situation, and some countries are scrambling to compromise while keeping migrants as safe as possible.

Review of Literature:

All countries handle the flow of migrants a little differently, but there are some similarities between certain countries. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, some of these factors are changing and making it more difficult for migrants to leave or enter a country. Regardless of the pandemic, the creation of safe third agreements in recent years changes the final destination of refugees attempting to pass through them. The recent turmoil in the Northern Triangle has caused many countries to reassess their immigration policies in order to handle the influx of migrants they have consequently been receiving. Though these are the specific issues dealt with in this research, there are other underlying causes that countries face, leading them to create policies to limit migration or impact the migration flow in their country. The case studies examined in this research are Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, but other countries have had similar reactions to immigration in their region and will be used as a comparison.

Push factors are factors that motivate a person to leave their home, whereas pull factors are those that encourage a person to come to a particular new place. Immigration in general is largely motivated by one or a combination of three factors in both the home country and the intended destination. Those three factors are economic conditions, political factors, and the pull of social contacts, like family (Doerschler, 2006, p. 1101). In a case study of Germany, Peter Doerschler argues that these factors impacting the flow of migration can have a lasting impact on policies within the country receiving migrants. Doerschler says that the scale of the impact depends on the reason they migrated. If they were migrating for economic reasons and returned to their home country after meeting their goal, their impact would likely be less

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than if they migrated for political reasons, because they are more likely to have long-term goals related to their move (2006, p. 1102). Since many of the migrants in the Latin American countries examined move due to political reasons, this means that their impact on policies is going to be much more significant.

The effects migration can have on the development and security of a country can be significant, which is why many countries choose to respond differently to migration (Zanker, p. 2, 2019). Some countries are more open and accepting of migrants, while others take the opposite approach. Countries that are more open to accepting migrants are more likely to argue that migration is a human right. Some scholars argue that migration and freedom of movement is a human right, and that restrictions can only rightfully be justified in extreme circumstances where immigration to a country would cause that country severe social costs that cannot otherwise be prevented (Oberman, 2016, p. 33). Immigrants are also some of the first groups targeted as scapegoats when a problem within a country arises, which in turn has an effect on policies regarding immigrants (Grant, 2005, p.3).

On the other hand, the governments of most countries claim that it is their right to control their own borders, and that it is their decision regarding who can and cannot enter and reside in the country (Miller, 2016, p. 11). The European Union (EU) is an example of countries desiring tighter border control, and it has a history of disdain for immigrants. Whereas immigration within EU countries is acceptable, the EU continually increases border security and tightens immigration laws to prevent any extra migration (Zanker, 2019, p. 3).

Research Design:

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This research focuses on the Latin American countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, with frequent reference to the United States, as its policies affect the region being examined. Much of this research deals with recent and present-day information from 2018-2021, but the timeframe goes as far back as 2014 where a comparison can be drawn. The independent variable in this study is U.S. migration policies, which have largely come about as a result of the turbulence in the Northern Triangle, leading to an increase in migration. The dependent variable is whatever the country being examined chooses to do as a result of these policies, and the policies that are consequently put into place.

Research for the background of this paper comes from databases available through Bridgewater College, written by scholars who study migration. Data for the case studies were obtained from a variety of reputable news sources such as the New York Times, the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

The challenge of finding this data is that there is not very much research on immigration policies available to the public on many of these Latin American countries. In addition to this, much of the data on Latin American countries is in Spanish, which created limitations due to the language barrier.

Case Study: Mexico

Many immigrants from Latin American countries attempt to travel to the United States but are stopped based on immigration rules of other countries, and deals made between countries.

These deals are made because of pressure by the United States, due to their desire to lessen the number of migrants entering or attempting to enter the country. Since Mexico is geographically the buffer between the United States and the rest of Latin America, it is the country most affected by this pressure. There was a severe decrease of the number of immigrants and refugees allowed into the United States during the Trump administration, and much of Mexico's policies regarding immigration are a direct result of their relationship with the United States. Mexico's immigration-detering efforts have changed some over the years, both in actions and in reasoning.

Most people arriving at the U.S.- Mexico border originate from Central America, not Mexico. There has been a drop in the number of migrants going from Mexico to the United States, while Mexico is often blamed because migrants pass through that country. Between 1995 and 2000, 2,900,000 left Mexico for the U.S., compared to the 870,000 that migrated between 2009 and 2014 (Castillo, 2016). Data from the U.S. Border Patrol shows a steady decline in the number of apprehensions of Mexican migrants [at the border](#). In 2009 there were 495,582 apprehensions of Mexicans, which dropped incrementally every year, down to 226,771 in 2014 (U.S. Border Patrol, 2019). These numbers have since continued to drop, and in 2019 the total number of apprehensions of Mexicans at the U.S.- Mexico border was only 166,458. The largest increase of migrants has been from Central American countries, namely Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Though much of Mexico's immigration policy of late has resulted from international pressure, it has its own motivations as well. Programa Frontera Sur, or the Southern Border Plan, was announced in 2014, and its main goal was to restore order to Mexico's migration system (Boggs, 2015). Former Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto introduced the Southern Border

Plan. He promised to cut back illegal immigration into Mexico in order to protect his people from “predatory criminal gangs” (Lakhani, 2015) and lower the number of human rights abuses. This plan was created after U.S. President Barack Obama declared the increase in immigration from Central America a humanitarian crisis in July of the same year the plan was launched (Lakhani, 2015).

The “crisis” was declared because the United States was seeing a huge increase in the number of unaccompanied children reaching the U.S.- Mexico border (Greenblatt, 2014). Parents from dangerous Central American countries like Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador were sending their children unaccompanied to the border. These parents were usually under the false impression that their children would easily be allowed entry into the United States to be united with relatives already in the country (Greenblatt, 2014). though that was not the case.

Peña Nieto was unhappy with the way the United States viewed Mexican migration to the U.S., and that was also a factor in the installation of the Southern Border Plan.

The northern border of Mexico is what is most often mentioned regarding Mexico-U.S. migration, even though the southern border is main route used for Central Americans fleeing their respective countries (Castillo, 2016).

This program enforced stricter immigration rules and aimed to shut down transit lines along Mexico’s southern border in order to lessen the number of migrants entering the country (Castillo, 2016). Mexico’s stricter immigration rules included “increasing its removal efforts, disrupting traditional and well-developed migrant routes, and installing new checkpoints to apprehend and deport unauthorized immigrants” (Flores, 2020). In 2014 as a result of this program, Mexico deported 107,814 Central American migrants, which was a 35 percent increase from the number of migrants deported in 2013 (Boggs, 2015). Mexico’s border with Guatemala

is porous, so even though it has check points, Central American migrants were easily getting through and making their way towards the United States (Flores, 2020).

The U.S. also contributed to the dissuasion of Central Americans during the implementation of the Southern Border Plan. The U.S. Border Agency commissioned an ad agency to create a song called “La Bestia,” which sings about the dangers of the freight train coming from the south, which many migrants use as transport to the border (Barkham, 2014). This song was broadcasted in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, and was used as a type of passive advertising. Overall, Mexico’s Southern Border Plan and actions taken with it have contributed to a lower number of migrants arriving to the border, especially families and children. Mexico’s deportations of children have gone up by 117 percent from 2013 to 2014, but U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of unaccompanied children have gone down dramatically, from 10,631 in June of 2014, to 2,432 in September of the same year (Boggs, 2015).

Current immigration policy in Mexico is largely a result of former president Trump’s strong desire to lower the number of immigrants, both legal and illegal, entering the United States. Andrés Manuel López Obrador became president in 2018, after Peña Nieto’s term expired. With the Southern Border Plan being the last major immigration policy and focusing heavily on apprehensions and deportations, López Obrador promised a more humane approach to immigration (Leutert, 2020, p. 20). He wanted Mexico, the United States, and the countries of Central America to work together to solve this issue outlined in the National Development Program. During his presidential campaign, [López Obrador](#) said that he did not want to do the United States’ dirty work, and that the two countries needed to reach an agreement. His discussion on migration focused mainly on stopping emigration from Central American countries

by creating better economic opportunities and a safer living environment within their own respective countries (Leutert, 2020, p. 21-22).

However, the groups of migrants traveling in caravans as well as record-breaking numbers of children and families arriving to the U.S.-Mexico border irked the U.S., and the U.S. began aggressively pressuring Mexico to do something about it (Meyer & Isacson, 2019). The U.S. threatened tariffs on goods imported from Mexico if it did not take action to hinder migrants from reaching the United States border (Congressional Research Service, 2019, p. 2). On June 7, 2019, the two countries reached an agreement to avoid tariffs on goods, detailing the steps Mexico would take on the matter.

In this U.S.-Mexico Joint Declaration, Mexico agreed to deploy their National Guard to increase security, again focusing on the southern border (U.S. Department of State, 2019, p. 3). Mexico is also restricting access to humanitarian visas, particularly for those traveling in caravans (Congressional Research Service, 2019, p. 2). Additionally under the umbrella of enforcement, Mexico is taking action to dismantle human trafficking and smuggling organizations, and their networks of finance and transportation (U.S. Department of State, 2019, p. 3).

The Migrant Protection Protocols policy, also referred to as “Remain in Mexico” outlined in this declaration forces Mexico to accept all individuals while they await their trials for asylum claims in the U.S. (Meyer & Isacson, 2019). Under this policy, Mexico is to offer jobs, education, and healthcare to migrants when needed. Both the United States and Mexico, as part of the joint declaration, are to work to build a more secure Central America, which is identified as the underlying cause of migration (U.S. Department of State, 2019, p. 3). At the time of the

declaration, Mexico's immigration policy's main goal was to appease the Trump administration, "regardless of the costs to domestic priorities, needs, or limitations" (Meyer & Isacson, 2019).

Though put on the backburner after negotiations with the United States took place, development assistance for Central America was a central aspect of López Obrador's plan to reduce migration. The Comprehensive Development Plan was launched on his first day in office, and it is comprised of four main pillars; economic development, increased public spending on education, health, and labor, environmental sustainability and risk management, and migration management (Leutert, 2020, p. 29). Mexico has also successfully expanded two of its developmental programs into Central America as part of the Comprehensive Development Plan. This plan received support from the UN, and the U.S. State Department announced its intentions to send \$5.8 billion in aid to Central America; however, the United States has yet to deliver. (Leutert, 2020, p. 31). López Obrador is insistent that his development policies will help Central America become more stable and in turn lessen the high levels of emigration from those countries, but the Development Plan has not yet been able to take off.

Within months of taking office, López Obrador's administration launched the New Immigration Policy. There are seven objectives of the policy, all of which were created to mitigate the migration crisis and to help Mexico become better equipped to handle the flow of migrants (Leutert, 2020, p. 23). One thing this policy did was restructure the National Institute of Migration (INM), which is the main agency responsible for implementing migration laws and regulations. Restructuring of the INM mainly involved higher levels and reallocation of security (Strategic Comments, 2020, p. 2). The New Immigration Policy also focused on providing more humanitarian visas to migrants and improving the quality of detention centers. These policies were only up and running for a few weeks before the government had to suspend

the issuing of humanitarian visas temporarily, because the system became overwhelmed and was no longer able to process the high numbers of requests it was receiving. Though resumed in March of 2020 at a slower pace, the program was permanently suspended only a month later (Strategic Comments, 2020, p. 2).

Another immigration policy Mexico installed is a safe third agreement with the United States. Safe third agreements require a person to seek refuge in the first country they pass through that is considered “safe”. The United States first signed a safe third agreement with Canada in 2002, but has since signed with Central American countries, and made a deal with Mexico (Gonzalez Settlage, 2012, p. 148). The main issue with safe third agreements in this region is that some of the countries people are being forced to stay in are countries others are currently fleeing.

Mexico and the United States made an agreement in 2019 in an attempt to lower the number of refugees seeking asylum in the United States (Cheatham, 2019). Though Mexico initially refused this deal, it gave in due to pressure from the United States and threats of tariffs (Congressional Research Service, 2019, p. 1). While the deal made between these two countries is not officially a safe third agreement, it agreed to sign a safe third if their increased security efforts did not make a difference within 90 days. Because of this promise from Mexico to do more to stop migrants from getting to the U.S. border, Mexico is receiving a record number of asylum requests that it is not necessarily equipped to handle. While this deal would help to lower the number of migrants arriving at the border, it would in no way solve the migration crisis in Central America (NPR, 2019).

Safe third agreements were created to share the responsibility of helping asylum seekers and keeping them safe, but that is not how it is being used in the context of the United States and

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Central America. The countries the United States has recently signed these deals with are not actually safe enough to provide adequate refuge to those seeking it, but since the deals need not go through any other means of ratification aside from two presidents agreeing on it, the United States has the capability to push other countries to sign (Ibe, 2020). Mexico agreed to take in more asylum seekers as well as boost enforcement of their shared border with Guatemala (Felter & Cheatham, 2019). The agreement officially blocks asylum seekers from reaching the U.S. asylum system by requiring them to go through Mexico's system instead. Mexico lacks the infrastructure and institutions to properly handle this increase in immigrants it is now left to deal with (Ibe, 2020). However, Mexico would have also been in significant trouble if the United States had imposed the tariffs it threatened. The "Remain in Mexico" policy is the policy most resembling a safe third agreement.

Mexico is now dealing with a new issue as a result of the change in U.S. presidents. President Trump was very clearly anti-immigration, however, there is a new wave of immigrants trying to enter the United States in increasing numbers believing that President Biden will welcome them, which has not been the case. Instead, the U.S. is expelling the migrants to Mexico, where they are forced to wait with tens of thousands of others hoping to make the trip. Human smugglers have been falsely promising migrants that the border was opened after Biden took office, leaving these people broke and homeless when they arrive at the border (Abi-Habib, 2021). This is just another factor adding strain to Mexico's current immigration policies and systems in place.

Another current issue that has affected immigration policy in almost every country in the world is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Most countries in the Americas closed their borders, which led to an immediate reduction in the number of entering or passing through Mexico.

Mexico and the U.S. agreed to ban all non-essential travel in efforts to slow the spread of COVID, and the U.S. stopped holding migrants in their facilities, instead immediately returning them to the country from which they entered (DHS, 2020). When the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agency deemed asylum-seeking as non-essential travel, Mexico agree to accept those migrants (Strategic Comments, 2020, p. 2). This policy, combined with the struggles of avoiding [the](#) transmission of disease in the INM centers, has put even more strain on Mexico's migration programs.

Throughout most of 2020, Mexico continued to accept asylum requests from those attempting to flee their homeland. Border restrictions in Central America have led to a 90% drop in asylum claims, but it is still receiving hundreds of requests per day (UNHCR, 2020). Mexican authorities have temporarily suspended processing times for asylum claims due to the pandemic, but they are continuing to register and process claims remotely (UNHCR, 2020). Mexico has remained more open in terms of migration than many other countries during the pandemic, but it is still struggling with spikes in COVID cases.

Beginning in early January 2021, Mexico began taking a few steps back because of the extremely high numbers of COVID cases it was experiencing. Over 40 shelters previously providing refuge to undocumented migrants were forced to either close or severely limit their capacity (Reuters, 2021). There is now an even larger population of people camping out on sidewalks, trying to stay safe and survive because they no longer have even the limited safety of a refugee shelter.

With the change in presidency, there is now an air of uncertainty while migrants wait to see how many of the United States' immigration policies will change under [President Biden](#). Some of these policy changes will directly affect Mexico and their policies, as Biden allegedly

wants to continue rolling back many of Trump's policies, such as the "Remain in Mexico" policy (Aguilar, 2021). Migrants are now being told to stay where they are (in Mexico), because the U.S. is going to begin allowing migrants into the country, following a negative COVID test result (Reuters, 2021).

Case Study: Guatemala, El Salvador, & Honduras

Guatemala is one of the Northern Triangle countries that many citizens are currently fleeing. However, deals resembling safe third agreements have been made between Guatemala and the United States to once again deter migrants from reaching the U.S.- Mexico border. This specific agreement first signed by Guatemala on July 26, 2019 under U.S. pressure from former [President Trump](#) is called the Asylum Cooperation Agreement (ACA) (Beltran, 2019). The United States' [goal](#) was to have the two other Northern Triangle countries, Honduras and El Salvador, to sign this agreement in addition to Guatemala.

During 2019, 71% of asylum seekers apprehended at the U.S.- Mexico border came from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador (DHS, 2020). As is seen in the case study of Mexico, the U.S. does what it can to limit the number of migrants reaching its border (Carasik, 2019). With such a significant percentage of migrants arriving from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, the U.S. felt the responsibility of handling these migrants could be shared between the three countries. The ACA works by forcing migrants to seek asylum in one of these three Central American countries first, stopping them from reaching the U.S. border and "outsourcing" the United States' legal responsibility to asylum seekers (Beltran, 2019).

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If a Central American migrant arrives at the United States border, the migrant will be sent back to one of the three ACA countries and be required to seek asylum there. In this case, however, the U.S. is still responsible for the migrant until they reach the country they are being sent to (DHS, 2020). Upon arrival in the country, migrants have the option to seek asylum in that country or return home to their country of origin. Only a small percentage of these migrants choose to seek asylum, and the majority choose to return home without ever having a hearing (Sherman, 2020). Honduras and El Salvador signed the ACA in September, just five days apart. On December 29, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security announced that all three Northern Triangle countries signed the Asylum Cooperation Agreement (2020).

The Asylum Cooperation Agreement has caused uproar in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, both within the respective country and among human rights organizations worldwide. The main reason is because these countries do not meet the legal requirements to qualify as a safe third country, and people who have a well-founded fear of persecution are required to remain in unsafe places (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Additionally, about 59% of the country [of Guatemala](#) lives in poverty, and it has the highest rate of chronic malnutrition in children in Latin America. Violence in the [Central American](#) region has decreased, but there are still significant levels of violence against women and other minority communities (Beltran, 2019).

Aside from not being “safe” options for a safe third country, none of these countries are equipped to deal with the surges of immigrants any [of them](#) may see. The countries are not refugee seeking countries, and they are not ready to provide refugees with housing, food, or even safety (Sherman, 2020). The countries lack a robust asylum system in addition to experience processing claims, because it is so rare for refugees to request asylum in a Northern Triangle country (Carasik, 2019). For example, the UNHCR says that Guatemala has the capacity to

process about 200 asylum claims a year, but 94 arrived in the first month of this agreement (Beltran, 2019).

Guatemalan analysts believe that President Jimmy Morales signed this agreement to gain the future support of Trump and the U.S., as he faced allegations of financial crimes (Sheridan, 2019). Morales claims that signing the agreement would “help Guatemala by ‘putting us in a privileged position’ with the country’s top trading partner and most important ally” (Sheridan, 2019). Ultimately, the agreement was signed after the United States threatened Guatemala, eventually along with Honduras and El Salvador, with tariffs, a travel ban, or taxes on the billions of dollars of remittances sent to their respective countries by migrants in the United States (Sheridan, 2019).

Discussion:

The purpose of this research paper was to see how U.S. migration policies affected migration policies in specific Latin American countries, because migration policies in the United States influence the policies in close Latin American countries. The countries examined were Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. There was far more information available on Mexico’s immigration policies than on policies in the Northern Triangle, most likely because Mexico is a much larger country and because their immigration policies can directly affect the number of migrants attempting to enter the United States.

In 2014, Mexico created the Southern Border plan to lower the number of asylum seekers reaching the Mexico- U.S. border. Mexico’s goal was to restore the immigration system, as well as to appease the United States. Mexico promised to increase their removal of illegal migrants,

disrupt migrant routes, and shut down transit lines from Mexico's southern border to the U.S. It also agreed to increase security at its southern border, and create new checkpoints for apprehension and deportation.

When Mexico's new president López Obrador took office, he installed the National Development Plan. López Obrador's idea was that Mexico, the United States, and Central American countries would work together to solve the immigration issue. He thought that making Central American countries safer and stronger would stop emigration, therefore decreasing the number of migrants attempting to leave. He also created the Comprehensive Development Plan, which created developmental aid programs in Central America.

The United States was still not satisfied and threatened tariffs on the import of Mexican goods if it did not do something effective to lower the number of refugees arriving at the Mexico- U.S. border. Together they signed the Mexico-U.S. Joint Declaration in which Mexico agreed to take definitive action in the apprehension of migrants. Mexico agreed to deploy their national guard to increase security at its southern border and to dismantle human trafficking and smuggling organizations, as well as their financial and transportation networks.

Mexico agreed to do their part in the United States' "Remain in Mexico" policy, by setting up shelters for migrants to wait in Mexico until they are able to attend their asylum hearings in the U.S. Mexico must offer jobs, education, and healthcare to these migrants as they wait. If all of these actions did not work, Mexico agreed to sign a safe third agreement with the United States, although the deal they have closely resembles a safe third agreement as it is. Mexico also launched their New Immigration Policy in 2019, which was designed to mitigate immigration and handle refugees.

Mexico continued to accept refugees throughout 2020, even as most countries tightened their borders and restricted migration. Mexico agreed to take in the refugees the United States was turning away, after the U.S. deemed asylum-seeking as non-essential travel and denied migrants entry. In January 2021, Mexico had to roll back some of their aid to migrants due to a spike in COVID cases, especially in the shelters. Many shelters either closed or dramatically decreased their capacity levels, leaving many migrants more homeless than before.

Many immigrants in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are people attempting to pass through the region, or are people who were forced to seek asylum there. This concept is good for the United States because it significantly lowers the number of migrants it must process, but bad for these three countries. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are dangerous countries themselves, so making refugees seek asylum there does not make sense, as the situation may not be much better than that of which the migrants were attempting to flee.

Additionally, the refugee systems in place in each of these Northern Triangle countries are weak and are not equipped to handle the new volume of migrants they are now required to process. Because it is a dangerous area, the region has not typically had to deal with many asylum claims in the past and will quickly become overwhelmed. This makes the situation for migrants even worse than it already is. Of the Central American Migrants that arrive at the U.S.- Mexico border and are sent back to Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador because of the Asylum Cooperation Agreement, many simply choose to return home without ever requesting or receiving an asylum hearing.

Currently in 2021, when most people in the United States hear about immigration, it is in terms of migrants arriving at the U.S.- Mexico border, and about how they should be stopped. While the number of migrants coming from the Northern Triangle has slowed down a bit, the

problems in those countries are still going on which is why this information is so important. This is an important topic because it involves other people's lives and well-being. While it may not affect all Americans directly, it is still an important issue around the world, and the general public should have more knowledge about it. It is often a chain reaction, and while those in the U.S. have seen a lower number of migrants, countries such as Mexico and Guatemala have seen a significant rise directly due to that fact. Additionally, there are frequently human rights abuses that occur in the process of allowing or denying entry into a specific country. Examples include the "Remain in Mexico" policy, where Mexico agreed to care for migrants it is not equipped to care for. As a result, migrants are staying in shoddy shelters with insufficient meals and poor standards of living.

Conclusion:

As is displayed in this paper, countries choose different routes in terms of how they handle migration. The United States has a heavy influence on the migration policies of other countries, especially when the other countries are close in proximity. The U.S. does as much as it can to reduce the number of migrants arriving at its border or entering the country, and as a result, their migration policies effect the migration policies of Latin American countries where people are migrating from. This research provides information on how the policies of Latin American countries are affected by pressure and policies from the United States, and specifically how they react. The ebb and flow of the migration is not regular, which can require diligence in the upkeep of policies that have been installed. Whether or not a country handles migration well is a different matter, but this research describes a few ways in which countries react to the challenges of pressure to accept migrants and refugees.

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