

ANTH/SOCI 398-B, (De)Globalization & the Nation
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Reading Questions for Session 8

Jorge G. Castañeda, “NAFTA’s Mixed Record: The View From Mexico”

1. Jorge Castañeda is Mexican academic, politician, and former Foreign Minister for Mexico. Where did he stand on NAFTA – was he a supporter or critic?
2. Analyzed in economic terms, has NAFTA been a “success” for Mexico? Note the nuanced approach of the author.
3. Specifically, how has NAFTA impacted *trade* where Mexico is concerned?
4. What were NAFTA’s *political* effects in Mexico?
5. How has NAFTA impacted *economic growth* in Mexico?
6. How have *non-NAFTA* Latin American countries fared in terms of per capita GDP, when compared with Mexico?
7. Note Castañeda’s explanation for what produced the economic results Mexico witnessed.
8. How did NAFTA impact Mexican migration to the US?
9. What has been the story of *foreign private investment* under NAFTA?
10. Can one ever *prove* “what might have been” had NAFTA not been implemented?

Craig Benjamin, “The Zapatista Uprising and Popular Struggles against Neo-liberal Restructuring”

1. Note that the article was published just a year after the uprising began.
2. How did international investors and banks react to the Zapatista uprising?
3. Where was support for the Zapatistas (the EZLN) rooted?
4. The article specifically names *neo-liberalism*, and contrasts it with the Zapatista program. Note examples of this contrast.
5. How has economic development and increased investment benefited the people of Chiapas?
6. What is the significance of the date when the uprising was launched?
7. What impact did neoliberal restructuring have on Mexico generally, even before NAFTA was put in place?
8. What did neoliberal land reform involve, and how did it affect Chiapas?
9. How did NAFTA impact Mexico’s corn industry?
10. Note that from p. 117 onward, the article is of less direct relevance to our course, but may interest you nonetheless. *However*, please note that the conditions of extreme inequality *preceded* NAFTA—thus we would need to think about how NAFTA’s unfolding in rural Mexico was conditioned by that history.

Richard L. Harris, “Resistance and Alternatives to Globalization in Latin America and the Caribbean”

1. In the author’s perspective, has globalization profoundly altered Latin American and Caribbean history?

2. Make a note of “neoliberalism,” “structural adjustment,” and “the Washington Consensus”.
3. Why was NAFTA not expanded to cover the whole of the Western Hemisphere, i.e., with the FTAA? (Note: the FTAA was never passed.)
4. How has neoliberal globalization changed the role of the state in Latin American and Caribbean nations?
5. How have neoliberal reforms affected democratization in Latin America?
6. Try to get a sense of the timeline and geography of popular opposition to neoliberalism.
7. Note the social and economic outcomes of neoliberal reforms, that is, the kinds of measures that were imposed and the results they generated.
8. Why have Indigenous communities been at the forefront of resistance to neoliberalism in Latin America?
9. Is the resistance against globalization in any and every form, or is it against neoliberal globalization?
10. Make a note of the World Social Forum (WSF). Think of how this contrasts with the World Economic Forum that meets in Davos, Switzerland.