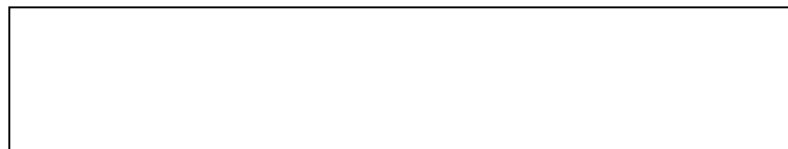
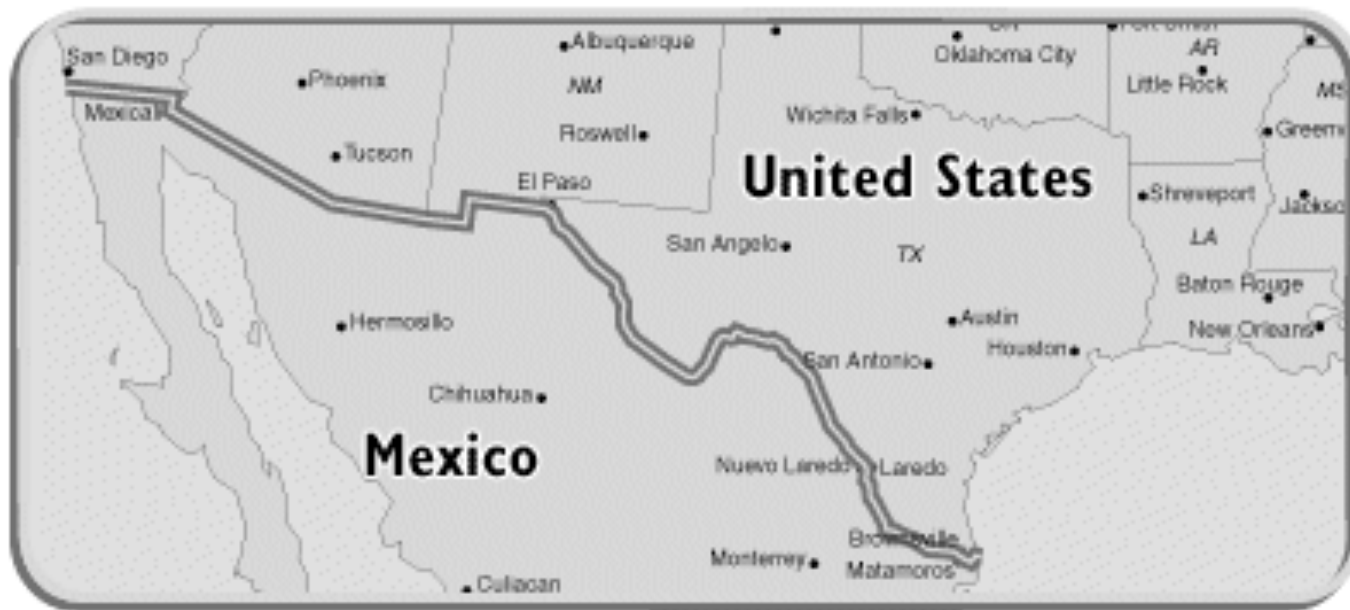


U.S. / Mexico Relations



Very important issue

- A stable, democratic, and economically prosperous Mexico is fundamental to U.S. interests. U.S. relations with Mexico have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans--whether the issue is trade and economic reform, homeland security, drug control, migration, or the promotion of democracy. The U.S. and Mexico are partners in NAFTA, and enjoy a rapidly developing trade relationship. In March 2005, the U.S., Mexico, and Canada formed the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), which contemplates trilateral and bilateral initiatives to develop new avenues of cooperation that will enhance North America's security, competitiveness, and economic resilience.

The Scope

- The scope of U.S.-Mexican relations goes far beyond diplomatic and official contacts; it entails extensive commercial, cultural, and educational ties, as demonstrated by the annual figure of nearly a million legal border crossings a day. In addition, more than a half-million American citizens live in Mexico. More than 2,600 U.S. companies have operations there, and the U.S. accounts for 55% of all foreign direct investment in Mexico. Along the 2,000-mile shared border, state and local governments interact closely.

Contact at the highest levels

- Presidents' meetings have included the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Bangkok in October 2003;
- President Bush's visits to Monterrey in January 2004 (Summit of the Americas) and March 2002;
- his April 2001 visit to Guanajuato;
- President Fox's state visit to the U.S. in September 2001,
- and his meeting with the President at Crawford, Texas in March 2004.
- The two Presidents also met in Crawford in March 2005 where, along with then Canadian Prime Minister Martin, they launched the Security and Prosperity Partnership.
- They held a follow-on SPP meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Harper in Cancun in March 2006.

The Bi-national Commission

- Composed of numerous U.S. cabinet members and their Mexican counterparts.
- The commission holds annual plenary meetings, and many subgroups meet during the course of the year to discuss border security and counter terrorism, trade and investment opportunities, financial cooperation, consular issues and migration, legal affairs and anti-narcotics cooperation, education, energy, border affairs, environment and natural resources, labor, agriculture, health, housing and urban development, transportation, and science and technology.

Terrorism and Drugs

- A strong partnership with Mexico is critical to combating terrorism and controlling the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.
- In recent years, cooperation on counter-narcotics and Mexico's own initiatives in fighting drug trafficking have been unprecedented.
- The U.S. will continue working with Mexico as it seeks to strengthen its cooperation and anti-drug efforts.
- The U.S. and Mexico continue to cooperate on narcotics interdiction, demand reduction, and eradication.

Environmental Issues

- The United States and Mexico have a history of cooperation on environmental and natural resource issues, particularly in the border area, where there are serious environmental problems caused by rapid population growth, urbanization, and industrialization. Cooperative activities between the U.S. and Mexico take place under a number of agreements such as:

Examples of environmental cooperation...

- International Boundary and Water commission
- Border health agreements
- La Paz Agreement and Border 2012 specifically aimed at improving the border environment and natural resources
- North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation
- Border Environment Cooperation Commission