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# A Southern (Comprehensive) Perspective on Migration and Development

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1. The context of contemporary capitalism
2. The new migration
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# Landmarks of contemporary capitalism

- Over-supply of labor
- Labor precariousness
- Increase S-N labor migration
- Growing asymmetries among countries  
+ increasing social inequalities
- Decreasing innovation capacity

# The capital restructuring strategy

- *Internationalization of production*
- *Trans-nationalization, precarization* and differentiation of *labor markets*

# Reinsertion of the Periphery

- The mechanism: *Structural adjustment programs*
- New International Division of labor: *Labor exportation*:
  - Indirect or disembodied (Global Commodity Chains) — 55 million workers
  - Migration — 72 million workers
- *New modalities of unequal exchange*

# New migration: forced population movement

1. *Expulsion processes* triggered by the dismantling of the production apparatus in the South.
2. Restrictions to the mobility (criminalization) of migrant workforce, which depreciate it and subject it to conditions of *high vulnerability, social exclusion, precariousness and extreme exploitation*.

# Contributions of Migrants to destination countries

## Mexico-US (SIMDE estimates)

1. Mexicans satisfy *labor demand* (1 of every 6 jobs created in the US has been taken by a Mexican in the NAFTA era).
2. Between 1994 and 2008 Mexicans contributed *7.5%* to US GDP growth.

# Contributions of Migrants to destination countries

3. In the same period Mexicans contributed **7.4%** to the growth of US consumption.
4. Mexican migrants contributed \$ 53 billion USD to the US Treasury in 2008 through ***direct and indirect taxes*** (more than double the amount of remittances sent to Mexican).



# Cost for the migrant-sending economy

1. Between 1994 and 2008 Mexico *transferred* \$83 billion USD to the US economy in the form of financial support for education of its migrants prior to their departure for the US.
2. In labor reproduction and educational expenditures Mexico *transferred* \$340 billion USD to the US (at constant prices of 2000.) This amount nearly doubles total accumulated remittances received in Mexico in the same period.

# Concluding remarks

1. The new migratory dynamic in the context of capital restructuring adopts the form of a forced population movement
2. The exportation of labor becomes a key element of the new International Division of Labor by supplying cheap, flexible, and disorganized workforce
3. Migrants significantly contribute to economic growth in the receiving economy

## Concluding remarks

4. Migrants contribute to the fiscal and social security systems in the receiving country while living in conditions of social exclusion and with a precarious legal status
5. Migration implies an important S-N transference—in the form of the educational and social reproductions costs of the workforce—which is not compensated by the flow of remittances