

The Politics of Dependency: US Reliance on Mexican Oil and Farm Labor

Martha Menchaca

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THE POLITICS OF DEPENDENCY

US RELIANCE ON
MEXICAN OIL AND FARM LABOR



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Martha Menchaca : The Politics of Dependency: US Reliance on Mexican Oil and Farm Labor before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Dependency: US Reliance on Mexican Oil and Farm Labor:

The United States and Mexico trade many commodities, the most important of which are indispensable sources of

energy—crude oil and agricultural labor. Mexican oil and workers provide cheap and reliable energy for the United States, while US petro dollars and agricultural jobs supply much-needed income for the Mexican economy. Mexico's economic dependence on the United States is well-known, but *The Politics of Dependency* makes a compelling case that the United States is also economically dependent on Mexico. Expanding dependency theory beyond the traditional premise that weak countries are dominated by powerful ones, Martha Menchaca investigates how the United States and Mexico have developed an asymmetrical codependency that disproportionately benefits the United States. In particular, she analyzes how US foreign policy was designed to enable the US government to help shape the development of Mexico's oil industry, as well as how migration from Mexico to the United States has been regulated by the US Congress to ensure that American farmers have sufficient labor. This unprecedented dual study of energy sectors that are usually examined in isolation reveals the extent to which the United States has become economically dependent on Mexico, even as it remains the dominant partner in the relationship. It also exposes the long-term effects of the agricultural policies of NAFTA, which led to the unemployment of millions of agricultural workers in Mexico, a large percentage of whom relocated to the United States.

"This very interesting book advances our understanding of the way developing nations and wealthy nations depend on each other. Menchaca carefully surveys dependency studies that explain how wealthy nations exercise power over developing nations." (Choice 2017-01-01) "Contributes strongly to our understanding of the long-term relationship of economic asymmetry between the United States and Mexico and its detrimental impacts on generations of Mexicans." (Carlos Veacut;lez-Ibaacut;ntilde;ez, Regentsrsquo; Professor and Director, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University, and author of *An Impossible Living in a Transborder World: Culture, Confianza, and Economy of Mexican-Origin Populations*) "A significant contribution on a topic of great importance. That Martha Menchaca weaves together transnational energy resources and transborder labor transfer is remarkable. Her evenhanded analysis of asymmetrical relations contributes to economic and political discourses related to both countries and both sets of leaders." (Juan Goacut;mez-Quinones, Professor of History, UCLA; author of *Mexican American Labor, 1790ndash;1990*; and coauthor of *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas: Mexican Workers and Job Politics during World War II*) "Contributes strongly to our understanding of the long-term relationship of economic asymmetry between the United States and Mexico and its detrimental impacts on generations of Mexicans." (Carlos Veacut;lez-Ibaacut;ntilde;ez, Regentsrsquo; Professor and Director, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University, and author of *An Impossible Living in a Transborder World: Culture, Confianza, and Economy of Mexican-Origin Populations*) "A significant contribution on a topic of great importance. That Martha Menchaca weaves together transnational energy resources and transborder labor transfer is remarkable. Her evenhanded analysis of asymmetrical relations contributes to economic and political discourses related to both countries and both sets of leaders." (Juan Goacut;mez-Quinones, Professor of History, UCLA; author of *Mexican American Labor, 1790ndash;1990*; and coauthor of *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas: Mexican Workers and Job Politics during World War II*) About the Author Martha Menchaca is a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. Her previous books include *Naturalizing Mexican Immigrants: A Texas History*, which received the 2013 Book Award from the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies and was honored as an Outstanding Academic Book by Choice magazine.