

Abstract:

NAFTA and Mexico: Causes and Consequences

During the 20th century the Mexican state played an extremely large part in the economy, creating what might be termed a system of “state capitalism.” The government’s policies changed radically when NAFTA was ratified, an agreement that required limiting the state’s role and integrating the national economy into a North American trading bloc. What accounted for this dramatic shift? And what were its consequences? These are the two questions addressed in this presentation. Responding to the first query entails an examination of the national and international issues and events that contributed to Mexico’s decision to pursue NAFTA. Answering the second question requires an analysis of different sectors of society (capitalists, workers, peasants, women, etc.).