



General Assembly: Mexico-United States Border Crisis

Chairs: Anghelo Chavira-Barrera '24 & Irene Zheng '24

Rapporteurs: Malik Traore '25 & Adrian Shou '27

Pages: Lena Harsanyi '25 & Akshat Gupta '27

Dear Delegates,

My name is Anghelo Chavira-Barrera; I'm a senior at Concord Academy, and one of your chairs for the Mexico-United States Border Crisis committee. I've been involved in Model UN since freshman year and am currently serving my second year as a Co-Head of our Model UN team. I am originally from Mexico City, so this topic excites me as it is a crucial part of the Mexican/American experience. I am excited to hear your resolutions in April.

My name is Irene Zheng; I'm a senior at Concord Academy, and the other chair of this committee. I'm also the Secretary-General of CAMUN XX, and this is my fourth year participating in Model UN. This topic inspires me as it's currently an election year; thus, I'm eager to listen to all perspectives on this topic. I hope to make this committee fun, engaging, and inclusive. I can't wait to get to meet you all in April!

As you prepare for the discussion, we challenge you to think about the root causes of Latin American immigration to the United States. Also, we hope you can explore how non-Latin American countries are affected by immigration policies that arise from this crisis. We hope the debate will explore how to resolve the main cause for people leaving their home countries in Latin America, while also considering solutions that provide human rights for the people already displaced and for refugees with a dubious immigration status. For countries outside of the American continent, we want you to explore how you can cooperate with other nations to promote equitable immigration/economic policy in the countries affected by immigration policy and elsewhere. We want to use the Mexico-US border crisis to explore immigration/monetary policy reform not only in this region but also in other countries in the world that have experienced similar crises.

Writing a position paper is not required, but if you'd like to be considered for awards, please email your position paper to the chair by **March 29th**. The paper need not be long, but it should include a description of the role your country plays in global immigration.

Please let us know if you have questions—feel free to email us. See you in March!

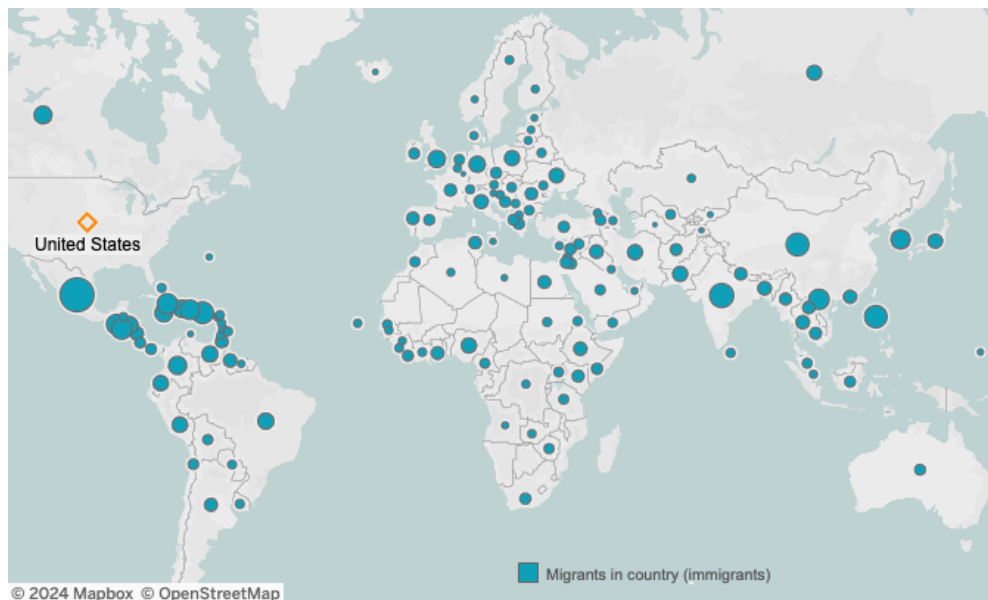
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Background

Global Immigration Crisis

Migration is a global phenomenon, with an estimated 272 million international migrants making up 3.5% of the world's population. The reasons for migration vary, ranging from seeking work opportunities to escaping conflict, violence, and climate change. Countries like India have the highest number of international migrants, while the United States is the primary destination. However, migration patterns can fluctuate sharply due to events such as severe instability, economic crisis, or conflict.

Conflict in countries including Syria, Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan have led to the displacement of millions of people. Climate change and weather-related hazards have also driven many people away from their homes, particularly in Mozambique, the Philippines, China, India, and the United States.



Country of origin of immigrants in the United States in the 21st century

US-Mexico Border Crisis

The US-Mexico border crisis is an ongoing migrant crisis concerning the migration of undocumented immigrants from Latin America through Mexico and into the United States. The crisis has seen a surge in migration since late 2020, reaching a record number of 1.73 million migrant encounters in 2021, 2.76 million in 2022, and more than 2.8 million in fiscal year 2023.

The migrants, mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, are reported to be escaping economic hardship, gang violence, and environmental disasters in their home countries. The number of migrant encounters peaked in December 2022, when Border Patrol reported over 220,000 apprehensions.

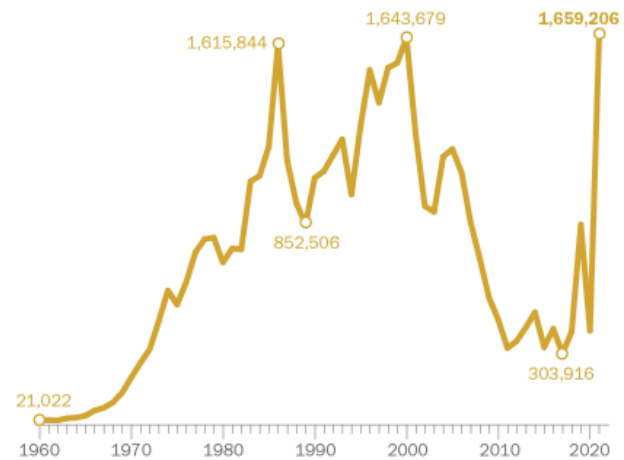
Causes of the Crisis

The causes of the US-Mexico border crisis are multifaceted. Economic hardship, gang violence, and environmental disasters in Latin American countries have driven many to seek asylum in the US. The economic instability in these countries is often exacerbated by corruption and lack of opportunities, pushing individuals to seek better lives elsewhere.

The violence in these countries, particularly in the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador), is another significant factor. Gang violence and crime rates are high, making these countries some of the most dangerous places in the world. This violence forces many individuals and families to flee their homes in search of safety.

Migrant encounters at U.S.-Mexico border reached their highest level on record in 2021

Migrant encounters at U.S.-Mexico border, by fiscal year

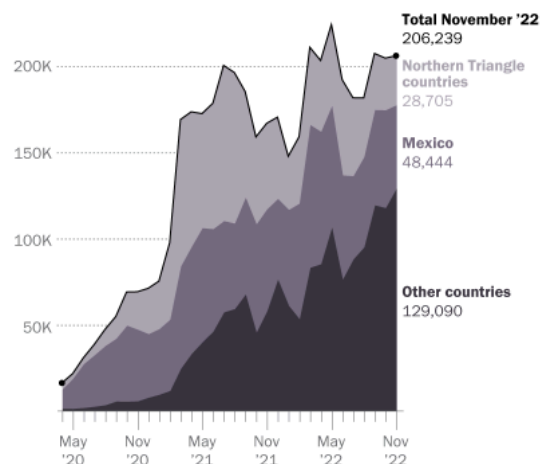


Note: Beginning in fiscal 2020, annual totals combine expulsions and apprehensions into a new category known as encounters. Annual totals before fiscal 2020 include apprehensions only.
Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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Most border encounters now involve people from countries other than Mexico, Northern Triangle

Monthly migrant encounters by U.S. Border Patrol at U.S.-Mexico border involving citizens of ...



Note: The Northern Triangle countries are El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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Climate change has also played a role in the crisis. Environmental disasters, such as hurricanes and droughts, have devastated communities in these countries, leading to food insecurity and displacement. These environmental factors, coupled with economic instability and violence, create a push factor for migration.

Response to the Crisis

The response to the crisis has been a contentious issue. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration used Title 42 to expel migrants from the US with the stated aim of reducing public health risks. The Biden administration has continued to deport migrants under the same order. This policy has been controversial, with critics arguing that it violates the rights of asylum seekers.

In addition to policy responses, humanitarian efforts have addressed the crisis. Various non-governmental organizations have provided aid to migrants, offering food, shelter, and legal assistance. However, these efforts are often insufficient to meet the needs of many migrants.

Future Implications

The US-Mexico border crisis has significant implications for the future. The increasing number of unaccompanied children at the border presents a particular challenge. Policies related to the care and custody of these children have been controversial and will continue to be a critical issue moving forward. The crisis also has implications for US foreign policy, particularly concerning Latin America. Addressing the root causes of the crisis will require cooperation and policy coordination with countries in the region. The crisis has seen a shift in the demographics of migrants, with an increasing proportion of current migrants arriving at the Mexico–US border being children, most of whom are unaccompanied. This has ignited debates on how to react and handle the situation.

Countries like Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Haiti, and Cuba have seen a dramatic increase in the number of their citizens trying to cross the US-Mexico border. This has put a strain on these countries' resources and has led to diplomatic tensions.

The US-Mexico border crisis is a complex issue with far-reaching implications. It is a humanitarian, economic, and political challenge that requires a comprehensive and empathetic approach. As we progress in our discussions, it is crucial to remember the human aspect of these crises and strive for solutions that uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals involved.

Questions to Consider

1. How has US interventionism affected immigration to the United States?
2. What policies can this committee propose to address the reality of child-and-family migration?
3. What—if any—protection should be granted to refugees crossing the Mexico-US border?
4. What should the legal status of refugee children be? Should they be provided with provisional or permanent visas?

Resources for Further Research

1. [Global Migration Data Portal](#)
2. [US-Mexico Border Crisis](#)
3. [Immigration & Migration - Research and data from Pew Research Center](#)
4. [Scholarly Articles on Immigration: History, Legislation & Activism - Gale](#)
5. [Immigration: Articles, Research, & Case Studies on Immigration– HBS](#)
6. [What’s happening at the U.S.-Mexico border in 7 charts - Pew Research Center](#)
7. [The US-Mexico border challenge - Brookings](#)
8. [At US-Mexico border, monthly migrant encounters - Pew Research Center](#)



CONFERENCE POLICIES

Gratefully adapted from the NAIMUN LX delegate guide

1. Position Papers

Position Papers are required for all delegations who wish to receive an award. Position papers should be emailed to the chair by March 29, 11:59 p.m. ET. Please email the chair with any additional questions regarding position papers.

2. Plagiarism and Pre-writing

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited at CAMUN. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, verbatim or near-verbatim copying from digital or physical sources. This rule applies to any document submitted by delegates throughout the conference, including position papers, draft resolutions, directives, and other documents. Additionally, CAMUN prohibits the use of artificially intelligent generators like ChatGPT in the creation of written documents. All work will be thoroughly checked for plagiarism.

3. Technology

CAMUN prohibits the use of technology in committee sessions, including but not limited to computer and cell phones, except during unmoderated caucuses as directed by the Chair.

4. Accommodations

For questions and requests related to disability and special accommodations, please email the CAMUN secretariat at ModelUN@ConcordAcademy.org. CAMUN will do its best to fulfill all appropriate requests.