

Juan Carlos Calleros Alarcón, *The Link between National Security and Migration in Mexico*

Focusing on the link between national security, migration and the international movement of people, Juan Carlos Calleros Alarcón reviews the very concept of national security from its origins in the United States during the Cold War period to the National Security Law and the 2009-2012 National Security Program implemented by Mexico. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001, Mexico adopted a series of measures to bolster security at home, on its northern and southern borders and in the region in general. In response to fears that “the sea of migration may harbor terrorist fish or fish harmful” to the United States and Mexico, the author proposes drawing up a map of national security risks associated with migration and the international movement of people. However, he also believes national security risks should be weighed up calmly and realistically, without oversights or paranoia. In this context, we would do well to ask ourselves if extreme measures to control migration are the way to go about preventing terrorists from entering our countries or if it would be more effective to rely on international cooperation and hi-tech systems for their detection, coupled with reliable intelligence? In the author’s view, the way we handle migration is essential to antiterrorist efforts, but the two should not be confused. Understanding this difference, he concludes, will result in a hospitable migration policy that takes national, public and border security concerns into account, yet rejects extreme measures, such as erecting walls or “virtual fences”.

Pablo A. Lozano Lozano, *National Security Intelligence and Visa-issuing Agencies*

Strictly speaking, should embassies and consulates be expected to act as intelligence agencies? If we consider that the terrorists behind the September 11, 2001 attacks entered the United States on valid visas issued by the State Department, the answer can only be “yes”. Criminals usually attempt to enter a given country using false information or forged documents to obtain a visa and this initial infringement of the law can be the beginning of a chain of more serious offenses with more far-reaching consequences. If not correctly supervised, migration can contribute to an increase in cross-border organized crime in the recipient country, such as the trafficking of drugs, arms and people, and illegal immigration, sustains Pablo A. Lozano, who goes on to explain in detail how the implementation of a system for the gathering, analysis, processing and dissemination of information could turn embassies and consulates into our first line of defense, elevating them from mere visa-issuing entities to active participants in efforts to identify and eliminate national security risks, while assuring the economic, cultural and social benefits of legal migration.

Jorge Laguna Celis, *International Environmental Governance and the UN Environment Program*

In this essay, Jorge Laguna Celis introduces the reader to the concept of international environmental governance and discusses progress made over the last decade by international forums like the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Essentially a working term used in the sphere of international politics, international environmental governance refers to the

efficient management of existing environmental structures. The author points out the obstacles to a complete overhaul of our international environmental architecture, namely ambiguity as regards the role environmental conservation agencies and programs should be playing in the context of sustainable development, and differing opinions as to how pressing an issue this is or if, in fact, existing international structures should be altered at all. According to Laguna Celis, only radical, ambitious change on an institutional level can check and revert the rapid deterioration of the environment, while another challenge facing the international community in the area of international environmental governance is to define more precisely the role the UNEP should be playing within the context of the United Nations System on the one hand and sustainable development on the other.

Guillermo Gutiérrez Nieto, *Guantanamo: Oscillating Between the Desirable and the Feasible*

The Guantanamo camps and the military commissions that tried detainees allegedly connected with the September 2001 terrorist attacks were part of the antiterrorist strategy implemented by the United States and are a matter of the utmost importance to the new administration. Guillermo Gutiérrez Nieto looks at how this facility came into being, how it evolved into what it is today, the trial of alleged terrorists and the restrictions imposed on the Bush administration by Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice. The issue of the Guantanamo detention camps hit the headlines in early 2009 when President Barack Obama announced their closure before the year was out and in May of that same year, it became a thorny political matter when the president declared he was reconsidering his strategy. Consequently, the future of the prisoners held here, how

they will be tried and where those found guilty of breaking US and international law will serve out their sentences is presently unclear. Solutions are limited and involve the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, but there are other actors with an influence on domestic policy seeking to have their demands met. Whatever strategy is finally decided upon, it must necessarily take into account intelligence, defense and foreign policy aspects, and while President Obama has made great progress as far as respecting the law and human rights go, he now finds himself mired down in a political dispute that makes it hard to envisage what course his administration will take *vis-à-vis* Guantanamo.

Ana Buriano Castro and Araceli Medina Chávez, *Between Speculation and Diplomacy: Francisco de Paula Pastor, a Representative of Ecuador in Mexico (1832-1864)*

In this article, Ana Buriano Castro and Araceli Medina Chávez take Francisco de Paula Pastor, Ecuadorian consul and later *chargé d'affaires* in Mexico, as illustrative of how business concerns frequently became tied in with diplomatic functions in Latin America of the post-Independence period. These connections have been amply studied in the case of European diplomats, but the tendency here has been to extol Latin American solidarity of the deep-rooted liberal type coined in Cadiz, to the detriment of other parallel or coexisting relations that have proven even more resilient in some cases. By focusing on this aspect, historiographers have practically relegated Francisco de Paula Pastor to oblivion and thwarted research into the prototype he incarnates: historical figures that represented another country on their own soil, who were able to successfully combine the exigencies of diplomacy with their business interests

and who forged long-lasting relationships at both ends of their diplomatic circles that were strong enough to weather all manner of political vicissitudes. During this initial phase of their research, the authors have chosen to focus on sources in Mexico rather than sources in Ecuador: the Genaro Estrada Diplomatic Archives kept by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Historic Notaries Archive, the Reserve Section of the National Newspaper and Periodicals Library and church records.