

**THIS IS THE MEXICO / GUATEMALA BORDER:**



IT'S A PLACE WHERE...

- PEOPLE CROSS REGULARLY AND SEASONALLY TO WORK, BUY, & SELL
- MOST OF THE POPULATION ON BOTH SIDES ARE INDIGENOUS MAYAN GROUPS
- MOST OF THE NORTHWARD MIGRATION ROUTES PASS

IN THE CONTEXT OF INCREASED MIGRATION NORTH FROM CENTRAL AMERICA,



ACARAVAN IN SOUTHERN MEXICO, OCT. 2018. (GUILLERMO ARIAS)

THE US GOVERNMENT HAS ATTEMPTED TO DETER MIGRANTS WITH INHUMANE POLICIES AT ITS SOUTHERN BORDER:

"DESERT AS DETERRENCE" 1990's

ICE RAIDS 2003-PRESENT

POLICE ICE

FAMILY SEPARATION 2018

NO ACCESS TO HYGIENE LIGHTS ON ALL NIGHT

OVERCROWDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN DETENTION CENTERS

about either plan.

**CONSTITUTED WERE NO COMMUNITIES**

THE CONFUSION BETWEEN THESE TWO EVENTS AND THE LACK OF CLEAR INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE US MILITARY IS DOING IN GUATEMALA CAUSED A MAJOR ALARM.

AT THE SAME TIME, BUT SEPARATELY... U.S. SOLDIERS ARRIVED IN HUETENANGO AS PART OF THE U.S. MILITARY PROGRAM "BEYOND THE HORIZON".

A HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROJECT.

"We're just building schools, don't worry."

IN MAY 2019,

ACTING SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY & KEVIN McALEENAN & QUATEMALAN INTERIOR MINISTER SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR MORE COOPERATION ON SECURITY INCLUDING SENDING "A SIZEABLE FORCE" OF DHS AGENTS TO THE MEXICO/GUATEMALA BORDER.

AND THEY HAVE IMPLEMENTED STRATEGIES TO MILITARIZE THE MEXICO/GUATEMALA BORDER IN ORDER TO STOP THE FLOW OF MIGRATION BEFORE IT REACHES THE U.S.

(2,300 MILES FURTHER SOUTH)

THEN, IN JUNE, MEXICAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ OBRADOR ORDERED THE NEWLY-FORMED NATIONAL GUARD TO THE BORDER WITH GUATEMALA IN RESPONSE TO US THREATS OF TARIFFS.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OTHER PLANS & POLICIES THAT LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS MILITARIZATION:

ALAN BERSIN 2012

OBAMA'S "BORDER CEAR"

"The Guatemalan border with Chiapas is now our southern border."

THE MÉRIDA INITIATIVE 2007

US SECURITY AID \$\$\$ → MEXICO FOR ANTI-DRUG TRADE OPS & CREATING A "21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BORDER" BETWEEN US & MEX (A.K.A. BIOMETRICS, X-RAY, DRONES, NEW CHECKPOINTS, ETC.)

ALLIANCE FOR PROSPERITY 2014

US-BACKED AID PROGRAM FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, INTENDED TO STOP MIGRATION & RESTRUCTURED UNDER TRUMP TO FOCUS ON ENSURING SECURITY FOR INVESTMENT FROM US-BASED PRIVATE COMPANIES

On both sides of the Mexico/Guatemala border, there is a history of

**MILITARY REPRESSION & STATE TERROR**

against majority indigenous populations:

VIOLENT CRACK-DOWNS ON THE ZAPATISTA REBELLION OF THE 1970S IN CHIAPAS

SEVERAL OF THE GENERALLY BEST OF THE US ARMY SCHOOLS IN THE AMERICAS

GUATEMALAN INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT (1960-96) OVER 600 MASSACRES COMMITTED BY THE MILITARY

"We the people want to live in peace!"

PEAD THE FULL PETITION AT: [https://niguna.org/petition-of-zaculen/](https://niguna.org/petition-of-zaculen)

Los pueblos queremos vivir en paz!

IN JULY 2019,

1. IMMEDIATE RETIREMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY

2. ANNULMENT OF THE MANY US/AIME AGREEMENT

COMMUNITIES IN HUETENANGO PROTESTED THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS ON THEIR LAND. THEY CONNECTED THE MILITARIZATION TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION PROJECTS AND OTHER US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, AND DEMANDED

SHIRKING ITS HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE root causes of migration.

pushes its border further & further south,

all while REMAIN IN MEXICO!

SAFE THEO THEO COUNTRY the US

CLIMATE PROJECTS MEAN FREE TRADE DEALS

EXTRACTIVE PROJECTS

IN THAT CONTEXT...

US TROOPS IN COOPERATION WITH GUATEMALAN MILITARY,

US DHS AGENTS, MEXICAN NATIONAL GUARD

1. RE-TERRORIZES SURVIVORS OF GENOCIDE & SOME

2. VIOLATES GUATEMALA'S 1996 PEACE ACCORDS

3. FITS INTO THE US'S STRATEGY OF VIOLENT ENFORCING NEOLIBERAL ECONOMIC POLICY

**ASSEMBLY STEPS:**

1. MAKE CREASES →
2. MAKE CUTS
3. ASSEMBLE!  
(LIKE AN ACCORDION)

**ASSEMBLY KEY**

==== = FOLD AWAY FROM YOU

\_\_\_\_\_ = FOLD TOWARDS YOU

..... = CUT

\* FRONT COVER: PARTICIPANTS IN THE JULY 11 PROTEST IN HUEHUETENANGO. PHOTO: NISQUA

**MILITARIZATION & RESISTANCE AT THE MEXICO/GUATEMALA BORDER**



JULY 2019 O. PANDOLFI

- "Migration as Reparations" - Joseph Nevins, NACLA
- "US: 20 years of immigrant abuses" - Human rights watch
- "Petition of Zalden" - ABH, on Nisqua.org
- "US migrant crisis: Trump seeks to curb Central America asylum claims" - BBC
- "Talking and Teaching about the fall 2018 Migrant caravan" - re-imagining Migration
- "Mexico: Evolution of the Merida Initiative 2007-2020" - Congressional Research Service
- "Mexico's other border" - WOLA report
- "US agents' deployment to stem guatemalan migration raises alarm" - Sandra Cuffe, Migration Watch
- "The Alliance for Prosperity will intensify the Central American refugee crisis" - Dan Murphy, Nation
- "Serious concerns in the face of Huehuetenango militarization" - Nisqua

**FURTHER READING**

**SOURCES**