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NAFTA: Its economic, social and political effects on U.S., Canada and Mexico

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ABSTRACT

After 20 years of its implementation, though the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has helped to boost intraregional trade between Canada, Mexico, and the United States, but somewhere has fallen short of generating the desired amount of jobs and the deeper regional economic integration. Although with NAFTA, trade relations among these countries have broadened substantially with U.S. manufacturers creating supply chains across North America, that have not only made the companies more competitive globally but have also contributed in their respective GDP's. NAFTA has helped in stimulating the economic growth; where data show that Canada has expanded at fastest average rate and Mexico at the slowest, but economists still debate NAFTA's direct impact, given the many other economic forces at play and the possibility that trade liberalization might have happened even without the agreement. Thus, in this paper we will try to examine the social, economic and political impact of NAFTA on these three countries.