

Why Trump Nailed It in Mexico

by Jesse Sandoval



Mexico is *the* most important geopolitical relationship for the United States. Not Canada. Not Britain. Not the European Union. Not China.

With over \$600 billion in trade, Mexico is America's largest trading partner [edging Canada out slightly in 2016]. There are over 40 million Americans of Mexican decent in America and an estimated 11 million Mexicans living illegally. Nearly half of the Western United States belonged to Mexico for forty years, and to Spain for longer than America has been an independent state. The cultural connections between America and Mexico run so deep the two nations share an inseparable destiny.

Yet when you compare the relationship between Canada and America to that of Mexico and America, you walk away feeling disappointed. Unlike the seemingly stable relationship to the north, the relationship to the south is mired with drugs, arms and people trafficking. The drug trade results in \$64 billion in gross proceeds to Mexican drug cartels per year. Of the 15

million illegal weapons in the Mexico, an estimated 85% come from America. And lastly, an estimated half a million Mexicans cross illegally into America every year.

This is hardly the stuff of a successful partnership. One would think that a solution is impossible – certainly no administration since Nixon has successfully reduced the number of illegal border crossings, drug imports, or flow of weapons. Yet Donald J. Trump ventured into the eye of this hurricane to try and stake out an ambitious solution to this problem. And nailed it he did – addressing the heart of the problem is a five-point plan.

Donald J. Trump's Mexico policy presented alongside President Enrique Pena Nieto can be summarized in the following way:

1. Ending illegal immigration;
2. Securing the US-Mexico border;
3. Dismantling the trafficking of drugs, weapons and people;
4. Improving *NAFTA*