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Honduran migration to the USA: from small scale to more compulsory (1930-2019)

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<p>Key words: Honduras; migration; Mexico; United States; migrants.</p>	<p>Honduran migration to the USA: from small scale to more compulsory (1930-2019) Abstract: This article analyzes the links between immigration and emigration to explain the case of migratory movements from Honduras to the United States of America (USA) from a historical perspective. The analysis of figures, testimonies and historical information compiled and systematized aims at reconstructing an account of the first migratory practices in order to later determine the breaking point and/or transformation from a meager migration to the much more compulsive one that is anarchically developing nowadays.</p>
<p>Palabras clave: Honduras; migración; México; Estados Unidos; migrantes.</p>	<p>La migración hondureña a EUA: de exigua a más compulsiva (1930-2019) Resumen: Este artículo desde una perspectiva histórica analiza el vínculo inmigración y emigración para explicar el caso de los movimientos migratorios de Honduras a Estados Unidos de América (EUA). Con el análisis de cifras, testimonios e información histórica recopilada y sistematizada, se reconstruye el entorno de las primeras prácticas migratorias para después ubicar el punto de quiebre y/o transformación de una migración de carácter exigua a una más compulsiva que hoy está desarrollándose en un contexto de anarquía migratoria.</p>
<p>Palavras-chave: Honduras; migração; México; Estados Unidos; migrantes.</p>	<p>Migração hondurenha para os EUA: de escassa para mais compulsiva (1930-2019) Resumo: Este artigo, de uma perspectiva histórica, analisa a relação imigração e emigração para explicar o caso dos movimentos migratórios de Honduras para os Estados Unidos da América (EUA). Com a análise de figuras, testemunhos e informações históricas coletadas e sistematizadas, o ambiente das primeiras práticas migratórias é reconstruído para localizar o ponto de ruptura e / ou transformação de uma migração escassa para uma mais compulsiva, atualmente em desenvolvimento em um contexto de anarquia migratória.</p>

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Introduction

The case of Honduras attracts a lot of attention because from receptor of immigrant it became a nation eminently expelling people. Today, in contrast to the past, if we go back to the first Honduran migrations to the USA (1930), it can well be considered as a more compulsive migration caused by various social, political, economic and environmental changes, until it became a long process that involves migrants and their families in countries of origin, transit and final destination. Castles (2003, p. 78-79) and Marmora (2002, p. 94-96) point out typologies of migrations that can be considered forced and contrast them with “the willingness” of people to emigrate, but that classification in the particular case of Honduran migration is very limited and it is even possible that it has already been redefined.

Honduran migration in the current neoliberal capitalist context is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has causes of various types making it more compulsive. We need to rethink or qualify that new wave of migration that is born in Honduras and since 1998 has been moving with greater intensity along the Mexico-United States immigration corridor, one of the most violent and anarchic in the world. The current Honduran migration explicitly presents several forced and interrelated components. In Honduras, women, men and children leave their country, home, friends, family, schools, and work or life projects, not voluntarily or for the simple pleasure of leaving; it is because they have no other choice and emigrate in very adverse conditions.

Retrospectively, it is possible to assert that the migration of many Hondurans is not voluntary, but forced by different circumstances: ungovernability, corruption, violence, crime, drug trafficking, impunity, unemployment, low wages, the effects of natural and environmental phenomena, and other factors. All these factors give rise to a more compulsive emigration and is what has made Honduras a nation that produces and expels migrants to subsidize the national economy and also that of other countries. It is one of the many dilemmas present in development and underdevelopment contexts: those who can still stay and those who have to start the march and emigrate. The Honduran case is an example of this new modality of modern irregular and undocumented migrations.

The article is presented in five sections, the first ones addressing the relationship between immigration and emigration which is fundamental explain the Honduran case and, therefore, establish the context in which the first meager migratory practices developed by analyzing facts, figures, testimonies and historical information collected and systematized. The second part exposes and documents the breaking point and rebound when those migrations became more compulsive. Honduras is currently one of the Latin-American countries that expels the most people to the USA. The constant departure of young people and people of productive age is a serious problem and a

tragic scenario in the transit route through Mexico where many migrants are the object of multiple attacks or crippled, die, or go missing. Finally, some reflections are given.

More immigration and less emigration: positive migration balance

From the XIX century, after the rupture of colonial ties with Spain (1502 - 1821), Honduras opened its doors to foreigners of different nationalities. From the first post-independence years, supported immigration began to be promoted to encourage economic growth and development in the country. Thus, several decrees were passed to attract immigrants from different parts of the world: the oldest known immigration legislation, “Ley de Colonización” or colonization law, dates from 1825 and was proposed by intellectuals of that time (OQUELÍ, 1980, p. 331-333).

However, it is not until the early and mid-twentieth century that some attempts to attract immigrants were propelled. It is, with the approval of a new Immigration Law in 1906 and legislative reforms that facilitated productive spaces for foreign capital, when immigrants began to arrive and investments began to generate investments in the country, mainly related to mining and banana production (LÓPEZ-RECINOS, 2007a, p. 212).

Since 1920, the Honduran economy depended largely on mining and banana exports to the world market. 80 % of the country’s domestic exports corresponded to the latter. However, the production, transportation, and commercialization of bananas, as well as most of the merchant wealth of the country was operated and controlled by foreigners, essentially American immigrants and also some British, Germans, Arabs and Jews (KEPNER Y SOOTHILL, 1957, p.107-108; ARANCIBIA, 1987, p. 158-160; BARAHONA, 1989, p. 99-110).

Americans, Arabs and Jews stood out among that group: “The three have had and have to date a great influence on the economic and political turns of the country, but it is in the case of the former, that there is also a direct relation with the past and present migratory dynamic of Hondurans to the United States of America.” (LÓPEZ-RECINOS, 2007a, p. 213-215). With the production and exports of bananas there was a commercial, labor, and social bond between the north of Honduras and the city of New Orleans, thus creating a mercantile bridge and a meager immigration bridge with strategic geographic points: where the fruit was produced and shipped and where the product and capital finally arrived.

In the report submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the National Congress of Honduras corresponding to the periods 1920-1921 and 1926-1927, there’s detail of the income obtained by Honduran consulates abroad. This supports and evidences core aspects related to immigration and emigration in the country. Likewise, it provides data regarding trade relations, the

trade bridge or specific enclaves that emerged as well as the zones or poles of migratory attraction between countries. Some of that information can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of production in some of the main Consulates of Honduras abroad during 1920-1921 and 1926-1927 (gold and silver pesos)

<i>Honduras consulates</i>	<i>Income (1920-1921) (gold pesos)</i>	<i>Honduras consulates</i>	<i>Income (1926-1927) (silver pesos)</i>
New Orleans	\$ 136,180,65	New Orleans	323,743,38
Nueva York	79,608,34	Nueva York	198,019,06
Liverpool	14,754,30	Liverpool	46,164,50
San Francisco	7, 621,68	Hamburg	34,025,18
Paris	2,898,35	San Francisco	18,724,00
Hamburg	2,374,01	Houston Texas	18,230,50
Belize	1,748,96	Belize	5,759,24
Bordeaux	1,610,82	Kingston	4,871,82
México, D. F	1,150,10	Bordeaux	4,771,30
Manchester	1,028,36	Panamá	4,723,52
London	989,80	Rotterdam	4,612,32
Cádiz	939,88	Tampico	3,600,00
Barcelona	737,33	Habana	3,259,38
Mobile	621,02	Mobile	3,114,40

Source: Self elaboration with data from: (HONDURAS, 1928, p. 44.)

With regard to the administrative content of the reports summarized and presented in Table 1, the following stands out: Honduras' strong commercial relation with the United States more than with other countries. In addition, it coincides with the migratory movement of Americans, English and Germans who settled in the country and arrived on steamboats from the north, by the Atlantic Sea, or the south, by the Pacific Sea. There is historical evidence that the Americans arrived at the ports of Cortés and La Ceiba, the English to Bay Islands and, the Germans to the Isla del Tigre - port of Amapala - located specifically on the Gulf of Fonseca. Later, some moved to other important cities such as Choluteca, Tegucigalpa, and San Pedro Sula (HONDURAS, 1928, p. 44).

In the administration of President Vicente Mejía Colindres (1929-1933) the policy of attracting foreign professionals and investors continued. And it is that government that founded an Immigration and Colonization Office, which, through the publication of a monthly magazine, stated the official position regarding immigration policy, laws and regulations in the matter as well as the benefits granted to immigrants and the natural potential and resources that could be exploited in various regions of Honduras.

The magazine points out that immigration in particular sought to encourage the arrival of settlers from some countries in particular. In addition, it makes clear the intention and objectives that were pursued with the Immigration and Colonization Office and its publishing:

This publication comes to fill a need; it will be the organ of the Office, whose work it will announce: it will record in its pages numbers and important documents, data related to our industries, our fauna and our flora; it will also make known landscapes of our richest and most beautiful regions as well as of our secular forests; in short, it will serve to make Honduras known with higher reliefs abroad. (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 1-4).

There were also examples to follow of some countries that had achieved excellent results with immigration such as: the United States of America, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and other nations “that have operated, by that means [of immigration] great advances.” The case of Argentina was also particularly highlighted, a country with a large territorial extension and a small population, but that the intellectual and politician Juan Bautista Alberdi, under the slogan “Gobernar es poblar” [To govern is to populate], decided to promote the immigration of Europeans to populate it (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 1-4).

The magazine notes that immigration sought to encourage the arrival of settlers from some countries: “Migratory currents, of races selected to populate our lonely regions, improve national industries and create new ones for the benefit of our prosperity.” (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 1-4). In other issues of the magazine, it was specified that the purposes of the Office of Immigration and Colonization “are not other than those of improving race, industrial procedures, and to put it at once, our civilization.” (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 1-4). Similarly, there are some notices and announcements addressed to immigrants offering help and support, as can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Ads from the magazine of the Office of Immigration and Colonization 1930

A LOS INMIGRANTES

Los inmigrantes que lleguen al país, de conformidad con las leyes y reglamentos respectivos, ya sea en solicitud de colocación, ya contratados por el Gobierno o por particulares, sociedades o compañías, se presentarán a la Oficina de Inmigración y Colonización, con el objeto de practicar el registro correspondiente. Después de llenado este requisito, la Oficina podrá ayudar a los inmigrantes, que lo necesiten, en su colocación, sobre todo si son expertos en agricultura o en cualquiera otra industria. Esto sin perjuicio de lo que dispone el artículo 34 de la Ley de Inmigración.

Tegucigalpa, Septiembre 3 de 1930.

Calle 12. —Teléfono 120.

AVISO

Los comerciantes, turistas y viajeros que tengan interés en obtener informaciones respecto a facilidades para el desarrollo de la agricultura y demás industrias del país, pueden dirigirse a la

Oficina de Inmigración y Colonización,

establecida en el edificio de la Gobernación Política.

TEGUCIGALPA

30 de Septiembre de 1930.

Source: (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 5).
Digital photograph. Author: Vladimir López Recinos.

Figures of migratory reports of 1930 prove part of all the above regarding the arrival of more immigrants and the attention and interest that they were increasingly having in Honduras.

According to information from the Immigration and Colonization Office, from April to September 1930, a period of six months, 3,818 immigrants of different nationalities entered the country and 2,094 left, remaining 1,724 in the territory; this amount represented, at some point, an increase in the population in Honduras, which at that time, according to some demographic calculations and population reports, still did not reach one million inhabitants. Back then, the total population amounted to 947,523 or 902,000 inhabitants, which meant a small number of people in a large territorial area of more than 100,000 km², where there could be between six and eight million (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 21-23). This detailed information can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2: Migration movement in the country from April to September 1930, according to reports from the Immigration and Colonization Office

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Exits</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Exits</i>
German	65	34	Dutch	2	0
Argentine	11	0	Hungarian	7	3
Austrian	1	1	English	193	92
Bolivian	1	0	Italian	35	23
Belizean	14	3	Jamaican	7	11
Canadian	7	8	Mexican	104	44
Czechoslovakian	17	2	Nicaraguan	292	166
Chilean	2	8	Panamanian	4	1
Chinese	7	5	Palestinian	32	7
Colombian	15	5	Polish	16	4
Costa Rican	7	6	Portuguese	47	12
Cuban	45	13	Puerto Rican	4	2
Danish	5	3	Romanian	13	6
Spanish	212	78	Peruvian	3	0
American	1,679	697	Russian	0	1
French	19	16	Salvadoran	676	509
Guatemalan	267	58	Swiss	1	1
Greek	1	1	Venezuelan	0	2
Finnish	1	0	Yugoslav	6	2
Total				3,818	2,094
<i>Difference in favor of immigration</i>				1,724	

Source: Self elaboration with data from: (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 21-23).

More detailed information from the 1930 immigration report of the Office of Immigration and Colonization reveals that the majority who entered were 1,679 Americans, and 1,235 Central Americans broken down as follows: 676 Salvadorans, 292 Nicaraguans, and 267 Guatemalans. In the months of April, May, and June there was a strong entry of Central European immigrants, which subsequently declined. In July and August there was an increase in the entry of Germans. The 32 Palestinians who arrived, had already lived in the country and had commercial establishments, only

seven came to visit their relatives temporarily. The Mexicans entered with some circuses and theater companies that remained for a while in the country. While the Guatemalans, were mostly laborers on the other hand, Salvadorans were artisans. The largest movement of entry was noted mainly in the ports of Amapala, in the south of the country, where Salvadorans and Nicaraguans entered. Immigrants from Cuba and Europe landed in Puerto Cortes, and most of the North Americans in the port of La Ceiba. In the ports of Trujillo and Roatán there was little movement and the port of Tela was in fourth place of migratory movements to the Honduran territory (HONDURAS, 1930, p. 21-23). The arrival of immigrants was constant from 1926 to 1961, as illustrated in Table 3:

Table 3: Foreigners in Honduras according to nationality (1926-1961)

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>1926</i>	<i>1930</i>	<i>1925</i>	<i>1940</i>	<i>1945</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1961</i>
Costa Rican	182	178	207	203	162	275	123
Guatemalan	8,358	7,885	5,694	8,823	7,613	6,081	240
Nicaraguan	3,162	5,907	4,304	3,298	2,183	2,760	340
Panamanian	-	77	95	75	64	105	27
Salvadoran	13,452	18,522	19,268	21,309	23,029	20,285	1,357
Canadian	-	-	-	-	-	11	4
American	2,160	1,313	1,508	1,045	1,014	849	503
Mexican	343	424	535	382	300	302	152
Antillean	177	1,111	288	161	118	227	106
South American	22	118	147	218	91	170	197
European	5,542	5,024	4,705	3,643	3,186	1,217	411
Asian	1,287	972	1,296	1,229	1,194	382	179
Other nationalities	27	648	454	1,026	75	39	8

Source: Self elaboration with information from: (HONDURAS, 1957; HONDURAS, 1961).

Certainly, by that time, foreigners of North American origin predominated and responded to the presence and expansion of the companies responsible for exploiting mines and bananas. The economic stronghold was on the north coast for two obvious reasons: a) it was a fertile area for cultivation, and b) it had a maritime exit to the Atlantic. These two can be considered as the main ones for their interests and, even more because, at that time, the main means of communication from Honduras to the U.S. and vice versa, was through steamboats.

Also, it can be seen that most of the foreigners were Central Americans, especially Salvadorans. Undoubtedly, proximity is the logical explanation. That immigration was and is common, since pre and post-independence times due to ideological and trade reasons between some of the cities of the Central American isthmus (LÓPEZ-RECINOS, 2007a, p. 218).

Of equal importance, it should be noted that at that time there were more people who arrived in the Honduran territory than those who left. That is to say, the country, rather than an expulsion pole, was a center of attraction. That is of importance to compare it with numbers and demographic numbers and can be seen in more detail in Table 4

Table 4: Migratory movement of foreigners and nationals in Honduras (1950-1962*)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Immigration</i>	<i>Emigration</i>
1950	28,216	27,728
1951	28,838	29,261
1952	29,264	31,242
1953	35,175	34,780
1954	32,251	31,204
1955	34,800	33,280
1956	39,257	38,994
1957	29,679	29,545
1958	53,199	50,972
1959	69,013	68,206
1960	57,033	57,851
1961	58,896	60,811
1962 *	33,056	34,383
*First semester.		

Source: Self elaboration with information from: (HONDURAS, 1957; HONDURAS, 1961).

For example, an average of immigration and emigration, as can be seen in more detail in Table 4, clearly reflects more arrivals than departures, although it is striking that emigration rather than decreasing was also presenting a slight variable and sustained increase by 1960.

A meager migration of Hondurans to the USA

The meager exit of the Honduran population has its explanation in the flow of people following the commercial and migratory bridge established between northern Honduras and some cities in the United States. That situation was creating an interest among Honduran workers to explore America. This was how some began to make the first trips on their own or were enrolled as workers in the cargo ships of products exported to the cities where the companies had their main offices or branches. Then that migratory flow that began at a small scale after 1930 began to increase more and more due to the search for jobs, salaries, and life opportunities due to a decrease in productivity resulting from employer-labor conflicts (the banana strike of 1954) and the floods caused by Hurricane Alma in 1966.

It is not a mere coincidence that there is a relationship between the headquarters of the North American companies -the areas where the goods arrived- which were usually ports or some nearby towns went, and the colonies of Hondurans or places where until a few years ago most of them lived. They are the same cities and states. New Orleans, Louisiana, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Massachusetts are listed as the urban centers where the presence of Hondurans was considerable and in some, still very significant. Figure 2 (map) clearly illustrates the headquarters of the main United States companies, their branches and operation center in Honduran

territory and location in the United States where the shipments of fruit and other products from the northern area of Honduras disembarked.

Figure 2: US companies with their respective location and trade route between the United States and Honduras



Source: Self elaboration.

In testimonies collected through interviews with former employees of the Tela Railroad Company, it is confirmed that this was the commercial route for banana exports to the United States. The fruit came from the north of Honduras and landed in the city of New Orleans, where the Honduran workers who worked in the Great White Fleet subsequently moved to. The Great White Fleet was how the steamboats of United Fruit Company were known as and they carried cargo and passengers between the United States and Honduras.¹

¹ Interview conducted in January 2006 at the port of Tela in Honduras with Felipe Elvir Varela, former employee of the banana companies from the port of Tela. He worked for almost 40 years, from 1960 to 1998, in the transportation department for the Tela Railroad Company, a subsidiary of the United Fruit Company. He knew from his own experience the administration and management tasks of banana plantations in Honduras. His paternal grandfather worked directly for Samuel Zemurray, founder of the Cuyamel Fruit Company, who controlled the cultivation and exploitation of bananas in the country.

Until 2005 New Orleans was one of the cities where the main colonies of Hondurans settled, but as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, many moved to other states and North American cities or returned to Honduras. Also the presence of Hondurans is significant and recognized in other States and cities such as Texas, New York and North Carolina to name a few, and this can be verified with all the information from the United States Population Census.

On the other hand, in addition to the working, social, and commercial relationship described above, other more personal links were emerging. There is historical and testimonial evidence of some emotional ties that led to the formation of families and in other cases it was only a temporary accompaniment or fleeting romantic episodes that did not culminate in the formation of integrated homes. Specifically, it is the case of the “*mister*”² who had children with Honduran women. Then, when some companies closed or their work in Honduras ended, some American citizens decided to stay in the country and others chose to return and continue their life in the United States.

Some illustrative cases of this sentimental link between American and Honduran citizens are the families that were formed in the port city of Tela in the early and mid-twentieth century. Citizens of those generations later moved to New Orleans, where they spent a large part of their lives working in different areas or going to college. Then many of them started a family, and from time to time, usually in summer, they went to Honduras to spend a good time with friends and family.³

However, in general, although this type of commercial, labor, romantic and sentimental relationships did not generate excessive displacement, they can well be identified as the origin or the beginning of the first emigrations of Hondurans to the United States. It is known that much of the Garifuna⁴ population of the country was hired for the plantation, production, loading and cutting of bananas in different ports such as Cortés, Tela, and La Ceiba, where transnational companies operated. After the activities were suspended, many families were left without an income and that led dozens of garifuna men to leave their homes and enlist in the US merchant marine. This situation contributed to establishing a bridge of communication between Honduras and New Orleans, but at the same time, a model of a meager and limited migration in search of opportunities.

In those years, migration was affected by sporadic cases, often motivated by matters of the heart, adventure, the interest of knowing other lands, the ambition to earn a better salary, the search for better employment opportunities and business relationships, contrasting to some extent with the causes that today are causing contemporary emigration of Hondurans: increasing needs and

² English word that was used by workers of banana and mining companies to refer to the foremen or representatives and managers of US foreign companies in Honduras.

³ In testimonies of the relations that occurred between the *misters* and the nationals. An example is the family of Henry Carpenter Guifford, he came to live in Tela, Atlántida, where he married Honduran Salomé Murillo. The marriage had 7 children and some of them are United States residents to this day. Interview with Mr. Ricardo Guifford Murillo, in January 2006 at the port of Tela in Honduras.

⁴ Ethnic descendant of Africans from the north coast of Honduras.

problems that can be located at an economic, social and political level, largely linked to poor governance and the absence of productive and development projects.

The current causes and consequences of Honduran migration to the United States have been categorized, documented, and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively in other works and writings by López-Recinos (2007a; 2007b; 2010 and 2013) that detail the diversity of factors and causes of character social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental, which originate a more compulsive emigration.

Migration and refuge in times of commerce, wars and dictatorships

In the specific case of Honduras, some data cited above refer to the number of Central Americans based in the country. At first, the flows were minimal, but then later that intraregional migratory pattern changed and became more constant essentially due to the economic growth, productivity, the level of prosperity and development that the different countries were presenting. The geographical proximity, the close social and cultural ties, the search for economic integration and the political crises are some of the reasons why historically there has been a constant migration between the countries of the Central American region.

However, some demographic and territorial problems related to economic and political interests also arise at the beginning and in the twentieth century. By that date (1926-1961) both in Honduras and in the rest of the countries in the region, there was a persistent immigration dynamic that grew over the years. Also, the mobility of Central Americans came about due to the high population growth rate and the need for subsistence land through agricultural crops, as happened with the arrival of hundreds of Salvadoran farmers in Honduran territory in the 1960s. This situation was used and manipulated by groups of political and economic power to lead the population of both countries to an armed confrontation badly known as “la guerra del fútbol” or the soccer war (KAPUSCINSKI, 1980, p. 187-215).

In 1969, one of the detonators for the war that lasted one hundred hours between both nations was a soccer match. However, the passion for that sport was only the spark that ignited the conflict over the economic disputes that existed at that time between the political and business elites of both countries and that led to a confrontation with the Salvadoran and Honduran people. But, the cause of the conflict was the taking of Honduras-owned lands by peasants from El Salvador that had an accelerated population growth and little territory; 3 million 600 thousand inhabitants in a territorial extension of 21,041 km². That contrasted with 2 million 600 thousand inhabitants in a territorial extension of 112,492 km² of Honduras. That is, it was a demographic problem of overpopulation, migration, occupation, and distribution of land to the poor. It is considered a war of

a migratory and demographic nature (CARÍAS, 1969; CARÍAS Y SLUTSKY, 1971; JIMÉNEZ, 1974; KAPUSCINSKI, 1980; ANDERSON, 1984).

Then, in the years 1970-1980 there were also small immigrations of Chilean and Argentine citizens who due to personal security or forced exile had no choice but to emigrate during the dictatorships of Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990) and Jorge Rafael Videla (1976-1983). Their presence in Honduran territory was for short periods while in the process of moving to third countries: Cuba, Mexico and Canada. That was where the majority managed to integrate as teachers and researchers, or advisors and consultants in private and governmental institutions of those nations that gave them their solidarity and support (GALEANO, 1984; OÑATE Y WRIGHT, 2002; MEYER Y SALGADO, 2003).

Although in the Central American case it cannot be ignored that there was an old tradition of displacement throughout the region and that there was an almost permanent movement of people, they could not be considered as large-scale migratory waves or Diasporas. However, this scenario and migratory pattern, limited in flows and even distances, began to change between 1970-1990 as a result of internal armed conflicts and the political, social and economic instability that prevailed in some nations of the isthmus, specifically in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, which were at constant war (SELSER, 1983; AGUAYO, 1985; RAMÍREZ, 1987; GUERRA-BORGES, 1987; SORH, 1989).

The massive mobilization began with the repressive regime of Anastasio Somoza de Bayle (1970-1979) in Nicaragua causing hundreds of families to flee to Honduran territory; many were Miskito Indians or mestizo peasants. Later with the overthrow of the Somocistas and the coming to power of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, on July 19, 1979, some decided to return. Meanwhile, the opponents of the new government, known at that time as La Contra had to leave and many chose to take refuge in Honduras and Miami. While that was happening, a second mass movement was also germinating, the Salvadoran one, and since 1980 they also began to leave their country for reasons similar to those of Nicaraguans. Subsequently, in 1983, there were hundreds of Guatemalans who also traveled in smaller numbers to Honduras; because of distance and closeness most headed to Mexico, specifically to the border state of Chiapas.

At that time, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officially registered that two of the largest concentrations of refugees were in Honduras and Mexico. By the mid-1980s, it was already estimated that there were more than 100,000 people in the south, east and west of the Honduran territory. In 1986, Honduras already received approximately 43,000 Nicaraguan refugees; 46,000 Salvadorans and a smaller number of Guatemalans, while in Mexico there were 46,000 Guatemalan refugees and thousands of Salvadorans and Nicaraguans who were not formally registered (UNHCR, 2004).

According to other sources consulted, the figures were even higher and that around 326,500 Central Americans had moved in search of refuge to several of the same countries in Central America and Mexico, but when adding 500,000 refugees who were in the United States, the calculations amounted to almost a million people (AGUAYO, 1985, p. 17). On the other hand, others point out that at that time due to violent struggles and internal armed conflicts, displacement was large-scale, and is estimated in millions.

Most of the two million people who fled [...] became internally displaced or undocumented foreigners in other countries in Central or North America, such as Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, Belize and Panama, as well as the United States. and Canada [...] only 150,000 were recognized as refugees in Central America and Mexico. Of the hundreds of thousands of people who fled to the United States, only a small number were recognized as refugees. The majority did not have the opportunity to apply for refugee status or did not request it for fear of being expelled if it was denied. (ZOLBERG; SUHRKE; AGUAYO, 1989, p. 212).

Honduras, unlike its neighboring countries, experienced economic destabilization, political and social upheaval in the 1980s the least, a situation that placed it most as a receiver of migrants and refugees, not as a great expeller of people. At that time some Central Americans had to emigrate in search of a safe haven for their ideology, especially leaders and supporters of leftist groups and movements in Central America that had a participation or were in favor of a revolutionary change throughout the region. Subsequently, at the end of the 1980s the peace process began in Central America. In 1989, the Sandinistas, who had come to power by means of military power in Nicaragua lost at the polls when faced with the opposition candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. In El Salvador and Guatemala, formal peace agreements were reached in 1992 and 1996, respectively. The pacification process began in 1987 with the signing of the Esquipulas II agreements signed by presidents Vinicio Cerezo (Guatemala), José Napoleón Duarte (El Salvador), José Azcona (Honduras), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua) and Oscar Arias (Costa Rica), who finally received the Nobel Peace Prize for this initiative.

In this new context, hundreds of refugees and undocumented migrants began to return to their countries of origin, but a large number also decided to settle and stay in different nations or areas of refuge. Certainly, many of the population that left and abandoned their home countries sought primarily protection, shelter, security, and peace, but they always hoped to return one day when the situation changed, because they had left their relatives behind.

Figure 3 (map) provides an explicit graphic representation of the above. The movement of Central Americans during the years of wars, social, political and economic crises is appreciated. Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala were countries of emigrants, meanwhile Costa Rica, Belize, Honduras and Mexico refuge areas.

Figure 3: Migrations of Central Ameri in the 1980s

Source: Self elaboration with data from: (UNHCR, 2004; Aguayo, 1985, p.17).

In summary, during the period 1970-1989 emigrants came from marginalized sectors such as peasants, students, trade unionists, workers, and others who demanded a more just society, but high class people also left their countries, usually landowners, businessmen, high military and officials of the current government elites, who feared the loss of their economic capital before the arrival of rebel commanders with a socialist and communist tendency. Repression and inequity during dictatorships and oppressive governments generated social unrest, insurgency, armed clashes, deaths, and disappearances, but also much displacement of people fleeing in search of asylum and peace. It was during those turbulent years of internal civil wars, political instability, and economies in crisis that there was a coming and going of the population both within the scope of the same countries of the region and also to other countries a little more distant.

The breaking point of Honduran migration to the US: Neoliberalism and Mitch

Until the end of the eighties, a large part of the Honduran government and the national economy depended and were even functional because of the millionaire help they received from the

US government for the military branch. They were hundreds of millions of dollars annually that were destined to cover various areas and the expense of the Honduran military as well as food, housing and services of foreign troops (the Nicaraguan and US Marines) that were installed at the Palmerola military base and that occupied other strategic points of the Honduran territory (SELSER, 1983; ISACSON Y OLSON, 1999; LÓPEZ-RECINOS, 2013).

At that time, the intention was to present Honduras as a model of democracy and at some point it was called “an oasis of peace” in comparison to the other countries that were convulsed by the political crisis, and that also faced economic and social difficulties due to the internal armed movements (SELSER, 1983, p. 249). In those years, it appeared Honduras had more economic stability, no devaluation, a strong currency against the dollar with a two-to-one exchange rate, and the circulation and disposition of dollars in the national market was very sufficient and without limitations. At the same time, there were more resources and greater dynamism in the different activities of commerce and services. This to some extent contained to some extent and slowed disproportionate growth in the emigration of Hondurans to the United States, especially if it contrasted with the departure of other Central Americans.

In that sense, in order to have a broader migration vision of the region at that time, a comparison of the numbers of emigration to the USA between all the countries of Central America can be made, and interesting data can be observed that simultaneously confirm migration arguments and historical trends that have been cited. For example, in 1960 Panama, with 13,076 people, and Nicaragua, with 9,474, were the countries that had more population in the United States, a situation that would change drastically in the period of 1970-1980 and 1980-1990, which is when there are very significant changes in the migratory pattern of the region. El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala soar in the figures at double and more than triple. According to the Population Census of the United States and according to the figures and estimates corresponding to a period of 30 years, we can see that all the countries of Central America, without exception, were increasing considerably their number of immigrants in the United States, yet in some cases it was more accelerated and took less time than others.

In the particular case of Honduras, it is notorious that the pattern of migration had been constant, but showing changes in its tendency, being sometimes lower and sometimes higher, increasing a little more in absolute terms in the 1980-1990 period. Table 5 shows the figures of Honduran immigrants and other Central American citizens in the United States in more detail.

Table 5: Central American immigrants in the United States by country of origin, 1960-1990

<i>Country of Origin / Year</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1990</i>
Costa Rica	5,425	16,691	29,639	43,530
El Salvador	6,310	15,717	94,447	465,433
Guatemala	5,381	17,356	63,073	225,739
Honduras	6,503	19,118	39,154	108,923
Nicaragua	9,474	16,125	44,166	168,659
Panama	13,076	20,046	60,740	85,737

Source: Self elaboration with data from: (United States Population Census, 1960 a 1990).

As can be seen in accordance with the previous figures, it cannot be denied that from 1960 until 1980 the departure of Hondurans par excellence was to the United States, and it could well be considered as a low or medium level emigration, especially in comparison with the migratory flows of the rest of Central Americans.

Emigration in the case of Hondurans was mainly due to the more settled social, labor, and family relations recurring due to the commercial presence of transnational fruit and mining companies in the north and center of the country. It also had its origin in subsequent displacements motivated by the search for better opportunities and salaries, as many families found it difficult to survive from agriculture and informal commerce. During the era of instability and war in the region, the majority of the movement of Hondurans to the United States largely originated in the motivation and the need to obtain funds to return to the country and try to devote themselves to work independently in commerce by setting up a business. In addition, obtaining a tourist visa in those years was not as restrictive, especially for nationals of Honduras, as it is today.

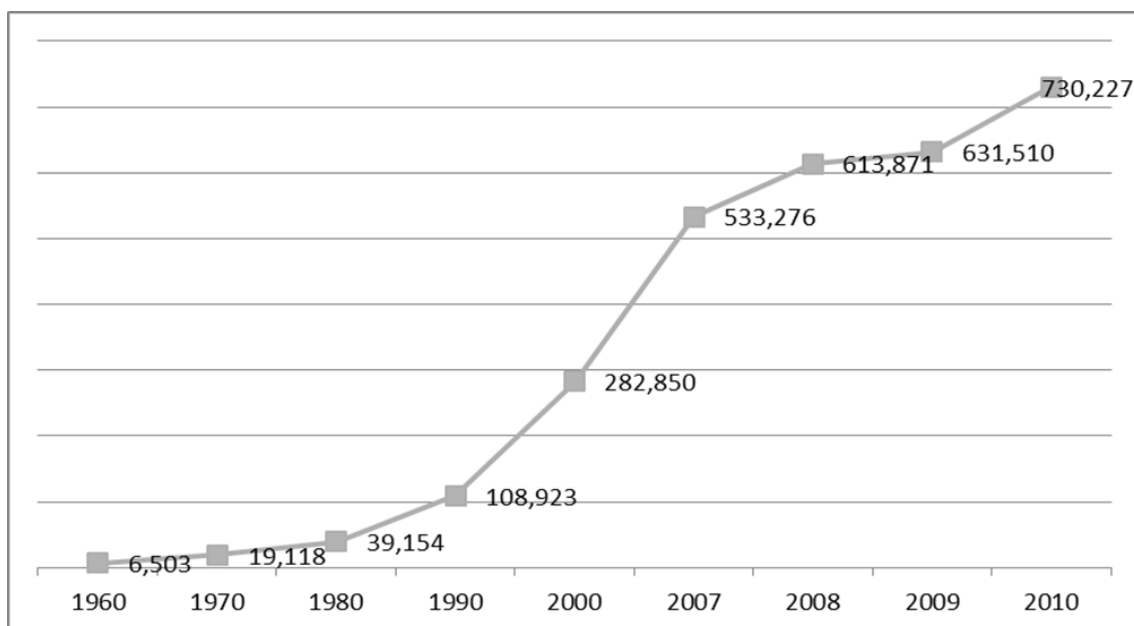
The same commercial dynamic that was present at that time in the country, as noted, which was originated in large part by the presence of foreign military, generated greater consumption of goods and services. That motivated many Hondurans to work temporarily in the United States and, then with, the capital obtained they brought merchandise (clothes, footwear and other products) that they sold to the general public through stores and boutiques or in informal commerce. Also, they began to enter with a variety of used vehicles that were sold at a more affordable price than new cars from automotive agencies installed in the country. These were the caravans of migrants from years ago.

In that sense, the migration of Hondurans to the United States had been a continuous phenomenon on a smaller scale - especially if we compare it with the case of Mexico and other Central American and Caribbean countries - but it is from 1990 when it begins to become more and more intensive. The results of our own statistical analysis and other reliable sources (reports of the number of people in transit, detained, and deported, population censuses, etc.), along with the comparison of figures and some elements of judgment supported by historical quantities and events, suggest that such an assertion is not wrong. It is true that the emigration behavior and trends had

been growing since 1960, however, it is in the period 1990-2010, when it reaches its maximum proportion in absolute terms and it may be continuing to rise today.

A quick and consistent picture of Honduran migration to the United States can perfectly be constructed from 1960 when it was estimated that there were 6,503 Hondurans dwelling in the United States. Not a very significant figure, barely 0.3 % of Honduras's total population according to data from the Central American Population Center (1961) in that year was 1,884,765 inhabitants. Later, for 1970 they were 19,118; 39,154 were reported in 1980 and, in 1990, it was estimated that there were about 108,923 Hondurans in the United States. The United States Population Census (2010) reports that in that country now reside a total of 730,227 Hondurans, and by subtracting the 108,923 Hondurans who were reported in the 1990 Census, it shows us that in that period of 20 years there was an increase of 621,304, an increment of 571 percent. Everything indicates that in the period of 1990-2000 or 1990-2010 there has been an increase in emigration. The growth can be seen comparatively and for periods in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Honduran Immigrants in the United States 1960-2010



Source: Self elaboration with data from: (United States Population Census, 1960 a 2010).

From 1990 to this day, the emigration of Hondurans has become more compulsive and permanent at a high level, increasing from mid to late 1990s. That coincides with the advent and application of a series of neoliberal economic policies (HERNÁNDEZ, 1992). Also, after category 5 hurricane Mitch stroke in November 1998 and devastated much of the country. Mitch is a milestone in the history of extreme natural events, as it caused one of the worst catastrophes in the history of Honduras. After being stationed for two days off the Caribbean coast, the cyclone

touched land and, like a tropical storm, crossed the entire territory leaving numerous human and economic losses in its wake.

According to calculations, there were around seven thousand dead, eleven thousand people missing and two million victims. ECLAC valued direct and indirect damages at just under four billion dollars, equivalent to 70 percent of that year's GDP. The sectors that lost more capital were agriculture, transport, communications (particularly roads), and housing. Likewise, the water and drainage infrastructure, health, and education suffered serious damage. To a lesser extent, livestock and trade were affected. Its overall impact on social and economic development was of such magnitude that it was estimated that the country would take 20 years to recover (HONDURAS, 1999, p. 4-5).

In 1998 Honduras had a favorable economic evolution. Estimates at the end of September of that year showed a GDP growth of 5.1 percent, led by the dynamism of the manufacturing industry, construction, commerce, and financial services. This favorable evolution was slowed by the damage caused by Mitch. The GDP reduced its rate to 2.7 percent by contracting agricultural production, declining growth rates of trade, manufacturing as well as the profits of the financial system. The greatest effects were shown one year later, in 1999, when economic activity contracted -6.8 percent as growth declined in almost all sectors, directly causing the increase in unemployment and the movement of workers from the formal sector to the informal. The low level of per capita income was further reduced and there were problems of purchasing power to provide basic food and meet the health and education needs (HONDURAS, 1999, p. 4-5).

Given this situation and the difficulty of the country, the government of the United States of America, USA, approved for thousands of undocumented Honduran immigrants –who arrived in the United States before December 1998– a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) as a humanitarian measure in the face of the disaster caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. This measure had been extended and worked as a kind of temporary safeguard for migrants who do not have legal stay documents but were allowed to work. However, that amendment was abolished in May 2018 by the government of Donald Trump, thus ending the temporary protection of 40,000 Hondurans who will now have to return to their country or regularize their situation in another way. The decision has not yet been effective because it was challenged and was suspended until further notice, according to a statement issued in August 2019 by the Immigration and Citizenship Service of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2019).

Migration rebound in a context of violence, ungovernability and drug trafficking

Currently more and more Hondurans migrate to the United States, but there are also greater controls, obstacles, risks and dangers to enter illegally and without documents. The United States and Mexico are trying to control illegal migration, and both governments invest large sums of money in border security. However, they cannot completely stop the compulsive migratory flow. Also, drug cartels now have a struggle for control of different areas of Mexican territory, especially the southern and northern border, which are strategic points for the transfer of drugs, weapons, human trafficking, and other crimes. The situation of insecurity and violence has become a pervasive occurrence in the affected communities. Yet, many of the disputes and events do not make it to the news reports and remain unknown.

The northeast region, mainly the state of Tamaulipas, is a strategic space not only for migrants but also for people and drug traffickers. That region has three border points (Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros and Reynosa) that connect with the neighboring northern nation. 90% of cocaine consumed in the United States enters through Mexico, according to an evaluation of drug threats of the United States Department of Justice (2008). Also the trafficking of people is now an activity not separated from drug trafficking, since organized crime groups control any illicit acts. In recent years there has been more traffic of people, abuse against migrants, and negative effects for migrants, their families, communities, and their economy. This is a migration with a lot of anarchy that is difficult to control and has negative consequences for countries of origin, transit, and final destination.

As the difficulties to migrate autonomously increase, migrants turn to clandestine networks. And they become an easy prey for transnational criminal organizations engaged in trafficking and human trafficking. When there are more difficulties to migrate independently, migrants resort to or become an easy prey for transnational criminal organizations engaged in human trafficking. These criminal groups have been strengthened and have expanded their illegal activity with drug and arms trafficking, according to reports from the U.S. Department of State (2019).

It is necessary to clarify that at present the precise statistical sources on undocumented migration are almost non-existent. However, information regarding the detention, deportation and reception of Honduran migrants from both Mexico and the United States can be accessed. These data only allow us to verify the decrease or increase of migratory flows and establish some important trends, as well as making future projections of the migratory behavior that has been maintained and developed during the last years. It should also be noted that the reports of some government agencies have certain biases and are sometimes communicated as preliminary figures

that later often present certain changes. As indicated by some authors such as López-Recinos (2007b) and Casillas (2012), it is convenient to provide other variables for data construction.

However, some of that information reveals, to some extent, how undocumented Honduran migration in transit through Mexico to the United States has been growing in recent years, and part of that reality can be measured with the numbers of the undocumented people detained and deported by immigration authorities. The official reports of the National Migration Institute of Mexico (1990-2019) reveal that the transit of undocumented Hondurans to the United States presents a considerable increase from 1990 to 2019 [January- September]. A report encompassing almost 29 years –not counting undocumented Hondurans who manage to enter the United States and those who are deported weekly by air from that country– preliminarily establishes that more than one million Hondurans –1,167,049– left the country to try to reach the US, but in their journey through Mexico they were arrested and expelled as can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6: Hondurans detained and deported in Mexico, 1990-2019

<i>Government period in Honduras</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Total of secured and deported Hondurans</i>
Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero	1990	14,954
	1991	18,419
	1992	25,546
	1993	26,734
Carlos Roberto Reina Idiáquez	1994	32,414
	1995	27,236
	1996	31,567
	1997	25,524
Carlos Roberto Flores Facussé	1998	38,169
	1999	47,007
	2000	44,122
	2001	39,389
Ricardo Rodolfo Maduro Joest	2002	41,085
	2003	61,184
	2004	71,968
	2005	77,610
José Manuel Zelaya Rosales and Roberto Micheletti Baín	2006	59,963
	2007	37,868
	2008	29,980
	2009*	23,569
Porfirio Lobo Sosa	2010	23,580
	2011	18,748
	2012	29,166
	2013	33,079
Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado	2014	41,661
	2015	57,823
	2016	53,857
	2017	29,959
Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado**	2018	51,562
	2019***	53,306
Total		1,167,049

*Coup d'état **Illegal Re-election of Government *** January-September

Source: Self elaboration with Statistical reports of: (NATIONAL MIGRATION INSTITUTE MEXICO 1990-2019).

A correlation of these figures -corresponding to that period of twenty eight years and nine months (1990-September 2019)- to certain economic, political and social events of the country, during different periods of democratic and authoritarian governments, leads to infer that the exodus of Hondurans to the United States begins to increase in the government of Rafael Leonardo Callejas (1990-1993). A government which was largely characterized by programs of structural adjustment to the economy, an environment of insecurity, and misuse of state resources. Then it continued to rise during the administration of Carlos Roberto Reina (1994-1997), who maintained the same neoliberal economic model. There was also an energy crisis that affected both the population and the small and medium industry and a concern and disagreement among the political opposition group due to the strengthening of civil society and the weakening of the military.

A rebound in emigration is notable from the government of Carlos Roberto Flores Facussé (1998-2001), when the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch occurred. Likewise, there was a government negligence to face the reconstruction of the country and the subsequent consequences generated by the catastrophe, which in the end resulted in a rise in poverty and unemployment rates. However, as the figures show, it is in the governments of Ricardo Rodolfo Maduro Joest (2002-2005), José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, Roberto Micheletti Bain (2006-2009), Porfirio Lobo Sosa (2010-2013), and the authoritarian government of Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado (2014 to date), with the excessive increase in poverty, unemployment, crime, drug trafficking, corruption, economic recession, and the political crises of 2009 and 2018, which generated a rupture of the constitutional order with a coup d'état and an illegal re-election respectively, when the number of undocumented Honduran citizens detained and deported from Mexican territory by immigration authorities increased the most.

Also, it is pertinent to point out that former President Callejas Romero is currently imprisoned in the United States with a pending conviction for acts of corruption. Politicians close to former President Zelaya Rosales are also in prison and have been charged with the crime of money laundering. Close relatives of ex-president Lobo Sosa and the current president Hernández Alvarado, like themselves, and also former president Zelaya Rosales, have been brought before the United State justice system for having links or benefitting from drug trafficking. Fabio Lobo, son of the former governor, was extradited and sentenced to 24 years in prison for the crime of drug trafficking. And, Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, brother of the current president, was convicted in a New York Court for the crime of large-scale drug trafficking.

All of the above makes us validate that the breaking point and the explosion of Honduran emigration to the United States arises precisely with the advent of the neoliberal model characterized by programs of structural adjustment to the economy and the dismantling of subsidies and social assistance among other benefits for the population, thus resulting in the extreme poverty

gap. Also, the previous extreme economic, political, social, and climatic factors, indicated during different periods of government, suggest that Honduran emigration to the United States has a multifaceted nature. Likewise, among the various statistical sources consulted and analyzed, it stands out as a common element that it is an emigration growing steadily, but more compulsively and frequently in the last two decades. And it is very likely that it will continue like this for the next few years. This is the trend, as a result of what happened in October and November 2018 with the so-called caravans or marches of thousands of migrants that originated in the hot city of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and left for the United States. This compulsive exodus is a sign of a migratory anarchy and a serious humanitarian crisis very difficult to govern.

However, these caravans are not something new, because the irregular trafficking of people in a disorganized manner has taken place with greater intensity since the late 1990s, but it is now that the media, governments, international organizations, researchers, and scholars of migration are beginning to pay attention and present them as an unprecedented event. It is necessary to clarify that in the past (1980-1990) marching together was registered as a practice of Honduran migrants who were going to work temporarily with or without permission to the United States and then transported used vehicles and other products such as clothing, shoes, and toys purchased in American cities.

That the phenomenon was overlooked due to lack of vision or omission is another matter, but that tide of thousands of people has been arriving and converging on the southern border of Mexico and the northern border of the United States in a clandestine and silent way for a long time. What stands out as a new variable is the combination of different purposes and interests on the part of different sectors (political, civilians, NGOs, church, religious, undocumented traffickers and organized crime groups) to mobilize and route migrants in an organized way and incite them in opening both borders by force. Another new variable is the double immigration policy of the Mexican government. First, it proposed protection for migrants and, later, it changed the security and militarization actions of the southern and northern border. The Mexican migration arrested and deported migrants on airplanes, something unprecedented in their case, but which has been a common policy and practice for US immigration.

The risks and dangers that undocumented migrants face in their aspiration to reach the United States are unlimited and they increase due to the insecurity pervasive in Mexican territory, and the unwillingness to protect and guarantee their human rights. As the flow of migration has increased, the scenarios have also changed and, today, the routes and ways to migrate to the United States are becoming more complex, becoming a problem due to the increase in levels of insecurity and crime, especially on the route of the Gulf and northeast of Mexico. Vulnerability and the constant human rights violations suffered by Honduran migrants on their way to the United States

are some other elements that stand out in the transit through the large Mexican territory, which has become one of the most dangerous. Violent events are happening such as the San Fernando massacre (2010) in Tamaulipas, where 32 of the 72 victims came from Honduras. Similarly, in Cadereyta, Nuevo León, in May 2012, 49 bodies of beheaded people without limbs were abandoned, despite the difficulty of identification, five years later, it was learned that at least 10 of these people were Hondurans migrants (LÓPEZ-RECINOS Y ARZALUZ, 2018, p. 114).

In addition, another serious problem is that Honduran migrants disappeared in transit through Mexico to the United States. In 2003 the problem that there was a record of 258 missing migrants was exposed (LÓPEZ-RECINOS, 2003, p. 9), but the matter has been ignored and barely investigated for many years. This is an example of indifference in addressing problems that later become excessive violence.

We have then a scenario in which a series of factors that put Honduran migrants at high risk are combined. All these and other facts reflect the high degree of vulnerability of the migrant population that is trapped in a circle of violence due to lack of elementary protection and security from their places of origin, during transit through Mexico, and towards the final destination in the United States.

Final thoughts

This article analyzes the links between immigration and emigration to explain the case of migratory movements from Honduras to the United States of America (USA) from a historical perspective and also locates the breaking point and / or transformation of a migration of a meager nature to a more compulsive one that happens today in an environment of insecurity and anarchy.

In that sense, the two phases, immigration and emigration, are not alien to each other, on the contrary, they turn out to be complementary to explain the Honduran migratory phenomenon.

Honduran migration to the United States has undergone some changes over time, but it is by analyzing past and present international migrations in Honduras that an explanation can be found for this emigration of Hondurans, also, to understand the current political, social, and economic status of the country, to examine the relationship between a series of structural problems that have been building up for a long time and that today converge in the daily departure of the population.

These oscillations between immigration and emigration are associated with different productive and development cycles. While it is true that the emigration of the young and productive Honduran population has been more constant since the end of the last century and has been spreading until the present, it was not always the case. Decades ago, it was the other way around, Americans, Salvadorans and other Central American neighbors rather migrated to Honduran

territory, attracted by the development opportunities they could find there, especially in relation to the exploitation of natural resources such as minerals and agriculture.

Honduras is a migration laboratory, because it brings together a multitude of social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental factors that cause compulsive emigration. It is almost impossible to find in Latin America another context like the Honduran, so complex and with different causes directly and indirectly related to the emigration of its population to the United States. Thus it can be concluded that poverty, low wages, and inflation, unemployment and lack of social welfare, recession and economic insecurity, wars and violence, corruption, crime and bad governments, are some problems that produce an alteration in society and the daily life of the inhabitants, but especially to the most vulnerable who are forced to leave their place of origin.

On the other hand, the consequences of migrating illegally to the United States have also been changing as the different scenarios are transforming. As spaces become more violent and insecure, the level of vulnerability of migrants, especially women and children, increases, as well as men, who die daily on the journey to the United States. Some reports and studies reveal that the most critical factor is the transit routes chosen to evade immigration controls. This is where many are victims of robbery, extortion, beatings, involuntary prostitution, and even homicides by civilians and authorities. It is also necessary to mention that several Honduran migrants are being crippled, which has a greater impact on the country's underdevelopment. Likewise, a large part is registered as missing and their whereabouts are still unknown. Others have been victims of the maelstrom of violence that is currently lived in some regions of Mexico. The facts show the extreme vulnerability of migrants on their way. That compulsive exodus is a sign of a migratory anarchy difficult to govern.

The migration of Hondurans to the United States has to be addressed comprehensively and urgently, otherwise, it is possible that it will continue to become a great loss with negative effects for Honduras, as the country is losing its young and productive workforce. It is essential to continue researching and doing more social scientific studies on the reality of the phenomenon of migration and the particular case of Honduras.

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