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THE EFFECTS OF MAQUILADORAS IN THE HOUSEHOLDS OF LOWER SOCIOECONOMIC LEVELS IN CIUDAD JUÁREZ

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In the 1960s, workers from the bracero program started to return to Mexico and became stagnated in the U.S.-Mexico border. To solve the unemployment problem that the migration of braceros caused the maquiladora was instituted across the Mexican side of the border. The maquiladora is a translational factory that produces goods for foreign companies while using local workforce. The introduction of these factories led to Mexico becoming one of the biggest markets for cheap labor force and after the implementation of the NAFTA trade deal it did not take long for Maquiladoras to grow exponentially. Today maquiladoras represent one of the pillars of the Mexican economy. However, the economic benefits did not stay at the local level but instead went back to the owners of the maquiladoras and instead negatively impacted the workers of the maquiladoras. In this project, I analyze the factors that currently impact the lower socioeconomic households and tie its roots to maquiladoras. Throughout the different sources analyzed in this research the maquiladoras fostered harmful conditions with its xenophobic, exploitative, and sexist ideals that led to a cycle of violence and extreme poverty that claimed the lives of many a worker in the factories, with a predominance of them being women. Furthermore, the city became unsafe to the point that it was known as the most dangerous city of the world in 2008. At its height Ciudad Juarez saw eight murders a day alone and it can be traced to maquiladoras. However, there is still hope for the city as detailed in this work that through diversifying the economy and improving working conditions of the maquiladora workers the violence and life that the city has gone through will finally stop.