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International and Transnational Mexican Migration: A Marxian Approach

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Oral Presentation O8.2

INTERNAL AND TRANSNATIONAL MEXICAN MIGRATION: A MARXIAN APPROACH

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The internal and transnational migration of workers from the global south is an increasingly salient phenomenon that many scholars seek to explain. Karl Marx's indispensable work, Capital: a Critique of Political Economy provides a conceptual framework that can be applied to explain the phenomenon of migration and its consequences. In this exploratory work, I use Marxian concepts found in Capital to argue that migration of subsistence farmers within Mexico and from Mexico to the United States is a result of the primitive accumulation of capital as well as the need for a reserve army of labor for production. Examining Mexican migration through the Marxian lens exposes the inhumane social relations within capitalism.