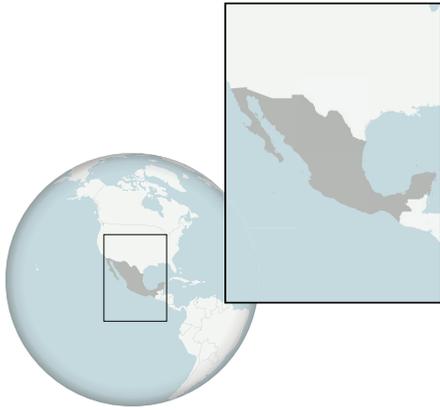


Mexico

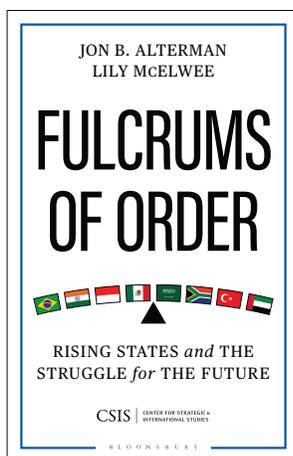
A Pivotal State on the Global Stage



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AUTHORS

Ryan C. Berg
Rubi Bledsoe
Michael Furguson



OVERVIEW

Mexico's strategic weight lies in its ability to straddle North America and Latin America, continually balancing sovereignty with reliance on the United States.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Mexico's strategic culture reflects a deep memory of external meddling.
- The country has two consistent themes of foreign policy: nonintervention and preserving independence through resource nationalism.

U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP

- Proximity to the United States delivers economic opportunity while constraining policy freedom.
- NAFTA/USMCA has intensified integration with the United States but sustained friction over security, migration, and sovereignty.
- Social cleavages shape attitudes: Elites tend toward alignment with the United States, while marginalized groups resist dependency.

DOMESTIC CONTEXT

- Regional and racialized inequality produces divergent political pressures between industrial northern states and poorer southern regions.
- The state's populist governance reflects demands for redistribution and national control over key sectors.

ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

- Export-driven manufacturing tied to U.S. supply chains anchors Mexico's economy, and ties Mexico closely to the United States.
- Expanding Chinese investment provides limited diversification.
- Nearshoring potential is real but is constrained by infrastructure and limited regulatory capacity.

GLOBAL AMBITIONS

- Mexico prioritizes sovereignty over activism, seeking recognition rather than leadership.
- Its diplomacy favors nonintervention and selective engagement through forums such as the G20, APEC, and CELAC.