

“Expanding Economic Integration: China and Mexico in North American Context”*

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ABSTRACT

In North America, Mexico has utilized the regional economic integration strategy to cope with international competition in a global economy, as a way of generating social benefits and economic development. To some extent, this is also the case of China in East Asia and far beyond that area to the United States. The Mexican case with investment and trade promotion (NAFTA) and China's with a good neighbour policy of economic cooperation and trade expansion with the United States. Within this framework, this research seeks to analyze the Mexico-China trade and investment flows as a process of economic integration. First, it reviews the historical background of these two countries and the economic role that they are playing in the regions where they are located. Secondly, it produces economic indicators to establish comparative patterns that will facilitate the assessment of Mexico and China economic performance in their areas. Finally, it argues that, other things being equal, Mexico and China have not developed economic agreements as a precondition to deepen regional integration, however, agreements of that kind might guarantee the framework for the neighboring countries to behave, and interact between them, based on formal compromise; at least, this is true for Mexico.