



Gabriela González Leal, *Legacy*

Our Voice

It was the Roaring Twenties, and in Europe and the United States, people were listening to jazz and dancing the Charleston and the fox trot. The extravagance, the euphoria, the laughter, and the overflowing champagne glasses filled the cabaret nights in an escape toward the future, attempting to erase the memory of the chilling death toll left by World War I and the Spanish Flu. But very soon, they ran into the Great Depression of 1929.

Given the unprecedented nature of some experiences, like the COVID-19 pandemic we're going through now, it's inevitable to try to establish parallels with situations we're familiar with, whether we experienced them ourselves or they're part of our history. However, when we have to deal with what comes and have to try not to go through a greater crisis, it's not very important to read the past if we don't do it with the gaze of people who are aware of what we've lost, but that we've also won something. That gaze must be that of someone who has decided to not continue with the injustice and inequality among countries and among people, someone who has unmasked the pandemic, someone who has benefitted from technology and uses it to fight people's unequal access to it; the gaze of someone who, instead of continuing to increase polarization, builds bridges of conciliation.

In previous issues of *Voices of Mexico*, we've talked about "Changes" and "Connections," about how transformations had come together; while not all of them are attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic, it did speed up the emergence of new realities. This has motivated us, as a continuation of the previous issues, to think in this issue about expectations and possible scenarios. We cover topics like the border, migration, security, bilateral relations with the United States, the environment, First Peoples, social justice, virtuality, education, health, mental health, art, and other cultural expressions.

It seems like today, more than ever, we're attracted by the need for an illusion, a Utopia that can restore our confidence in ourselves as individual and collective inhabitants of the planet, to which, by the way, we owe a great deal.

It is no easy task to project into the future the social life we've been forced to leave behind for almost two years. We're not simply talking about numbers and statistics, but about people who have lost their lives or who have lost a loved one, or someone who has been left disabled, or jobless, or who hasn't had access to health services, of women who were chained to their aggressors under the same roof. But also, it's because in the short term, the horizon doesn't look particularly encouraging.

We would like nothing better than for the crisis to end with better times, but we're the ones who have to make decisions and take actions that can decide how to build the times to come after this intense, painful experience. To do that, we'll have to work very hard, and as a community, face challenges as immense and unpostponable as global warming, the ravages to our health, and growing social, economic, and educational inequality.

Teresa Jiménez
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Problemas del DESARROLLO

Revista Latinoamericana
de Economía

ISSN:0301-7036

Volumen 52, número 206, julio-septiembre 2021

Innovación y desigualdad salarial en las empresas manufactureras argentinas

María Celeste Gómez

La política de concesiones a los grupos mineros de México

Isidro Téllez Ramírez y Aleida Azamar Alonso

El impacto de la inversión pública sobre la privada en las entidades federativas de México

Francisco Salvador Gutiérrez Cruz y Juan Carlos Moreno Brid

Exploring the U-shape geographical bias in manufactured exports of MERCOSUR countries

Fernando Delbianco, Andrés Fioriti and Germán González

Transición energética, innovación y usos directos de energía geotérmica en México:
un análisis de modelado temático

Diana Rivera Delgado, Fernando J. Díaz López y Graciela Carrillo González

The effects of telecommunications infrastructure on Latin America's economic growth

Fadi Fawaz, Ani Popiashvili and Anis Mnif

Convergencia dinámica de los intercambios comerciales entre China y México, 1993-2019

Xuedong Liu y Gerardo Covarrubias

Cadenas Cortas de Comercialización y seguridad alimentaria: el caso de
El Mercado el 100

Laura Martínez Salvador, Loarry Gabriel Hernández y David Alvarado Ramírez

Publicación trimestral del Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas, UNAM

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