

The US Border-Security Industrial Complex: Yesterday & Today

Week-Long Remote Assignment



Created by:

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Compare and contrast the efforts to secure the US-Mexico border in the early 2000s-10s and today (e.g. Bush & Obama administrations vs. Trump administration). **What has changed, what has stayed the same? How have the barriers accomplished actors' goals, and how have they been ineffective?**

Aspects to Consider:

- Legislative actions & policies
- Political rhetoric (e.g. speeches, campaigns) & media coverage
- The actors involved in creating, securing, enforcing, and profiting from the barriers
- The actors who suffer negative consequences
- Actions that subvert the partitions' intended purpose (actors scaling the wall, building tunnels, playing volleyball over the fence, street art, etc.)
- The different types of partitions (fences, barbed wire, virtual walls) their effectiveness

Students may work individually or in small groups. Findings should be presented as a movie or shareable slides. Each presentation is uploaded and shared with the class, for discussion and Q&A with the authors.

Assigned Materials:

Dear, Michael. 2013 "Fortress USA," in *Why Walls Won't Work: Repairing the US-Mexico Divide*. Oxford University Press (digital version available in ebrary)

The Fence. 2009 (HBO documentary). Directed by Rory Kennedy.