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The initial impact of one major aspect of NAFTA's market expanding mechanisms—the NAFTA preferential rules of origin—suggests some cause for concern. These highly complex rules, and the uniform customs regulations which implement them, are emerging as significant non-tariff barriers, obstacles to establishing free trade in the region and, ultimately, the Western Hemisphere. Professor Gantz considers the objectives and mechanisms of the NAFTA rules of origin, identifies some of the difficulties experienced to date, and discusses possible future modifications or refinement of the rules.

NAFTA AND THE HARMONIZATION OF DOMESTIC  
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The long-term significance of NAFTA extends beyond the economic sphere. By enhancing economic ties, NAFTA brings three disparate societies into closer contact, which leads to a dramatic rise in the number and range of formal and informal transactions between citizens of the NAFTA countries. Professor Zamora's thesis is that the proliferation of contacts between Canada, Mexico, and the United States encourages a

movement towards accommodations or mediation of legal differences across a broad spectrum of activities.

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The BECC/NADBank Agreement is at once an innovative approach to solving border environmental problems and an institution with historical antecedents. The author describes how the BECC has been fashioned as a new model empowering border communities to develop locally designed solutions to long existing border pollution problems. The paper reflects on the achievements of the first year of the BECC's and NADBank's operation and the enduring challenges in the area of cross-border communication and cooperation, offering concrete observations and suggestions to promote continued success.

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Commercial transactions in Canada and the United States depend on credit being made available at

reasonable rates to producers, sellers and buyers. This is largely accomplished through the modern system of secured credit. As Mexico develops commercially, especially in the context of the NAFTA, its antiquated system of credit has grown more problematic and expensive for business. The author examines the basic problems with Mexico's commercial credit system and proposes a solution.

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*Cambios comerciales en Canadá y los Estados Unidos dependen en el crédito de renditos razonables para producir compras y ventas entre ellos. Esto se ha cumplido bajo el sistema moderno del crédito asegurado. Según México se desarrolla en el comercio, especialmente en el contexto de NAFTA, su antiguo sistema de crédito ha resultado mas problemas y aún más caro para hacer negocio. El autor examina estos problemas básicos a serca del sistema comercial de crédito con México, y propone una solución.*

*NAFTA: REFLECTIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES DURING THE FIRST YEAR*

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NAFTA is, perhaps, the first international trade agreement in which environmental protection issues are included, and as such this will have a tremendous impact on the environmental quality in Mexico. This article traces the evolution of modern environmental legislation in Mexico, the current status of types and sources of contaminants, the indicators of the degree of compliance, and the outstanding problems, opportunities and challenges that face Mexico and the U.S.-Mexican border in particular.

NAFTA AND THE ENVIRONMENT—MAKING THE  
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The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation is designed to address some of the concerns expressed by environmental groups regarding protection of the environment under NAFTA. However, there is cause for concern because the Agreement contains complex procedures that can be sidetrack its implementation. Mr. Baron explores key issues of interpretation under the Agreement that can and should be resolved in favor of the Agreement's pro-environmental purposes.

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LABOR SUPPLY POLICY AND U.S.-MEXICAN  
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From 1985 through 1993, export trade activity between the United States and Mexico increased rapidly. This increase impacted both sectors and regions differently and also interacted differently with labor supplies at both national and regional levels. Professor Silvers analyzes the several impacts empirically and in the context of several alternative theories which have been offered to

explain the causal relationships underlying these changes. He also examines how recent labor supply policy encourages and accommodates trade, with implications for the post-NAFTA environment.

#### TORT AND THE U.S.-MEXICO CIRCLE OF POISON

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Harmful pesticides that cannot be legally used in the United States may be lawfully sold to Mexico and other countries and applied to crops that are sold back into this country. Legislative initiatives to close this loophole of U.S. law and to break the "Circle of Poison" have historically failed. Mr. Correa studies the extent of the risk to American consumers presented by the export of these pesticides to Mexico and explores the avenue of tort as an incentive to bring change to this area.

#### THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE JUVENILE DEATH PENALTY AND THE UNITED NATION'S CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

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Juvenile capital punishment has been an emotional and perplexing issue both domestically and internationally. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has highlighted the tension between the desire of the international community to abolish juvenile capital punishment and the United States desire to remain sovereign. The United States must retain the power to sentence its penal offenders according to the dictates of its democratic society without bowing to the external demands of the international community.

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