

Abstract

The relationship between Chicanos and Mexicans, not including those who have migrated to the United States, is highly complex. Whether these two groups can and should work together towards a common goal in the United States has been highly debated. The first person to suggest that Chicanos and Mexicans establish a closer relationship was Jorge Bustamante in the late 1970s followed up by Rodolfo O. de la Garza in the 1980s. The present thesis sought to cover the issues which remain very much alive but were left unresolved. Through literature research and interviews with U.S. and Mexican scholars & government officials, it was revealed that Mexican nationals and Chicanos are still very much linked, but it is only through Mexican migrants that this link remains very much alive. The next step to understand their connection was to administer a questionnaire to Chicanos and Mexicans regarding the Chicano- Mexican relationship.

In order to gain a full grasp of relations between Chicanos and Mexicans, a series of tools were used, such as symbolic interactionism from social psychology, ethnic identity theory and Latino critical race theory. The main hypothesis was supported: Because of differing agendas, Chicanos and Mexicans will not be able to work together towards a common agenda solely based on their cultural commonalities. It was concluded that in order to understand the U.S. - Mexico relationship, one must not only look at the politics and economics that drive it, but also its social side. Mexican migration needs to be examined not only for the effects it implies for the United States in general, but for the meaning it has for the Chicano community, which they encounter upon arriving in the United States, and for the Mexicans who remain behind.