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Dreams of Development

This history of Cold War-era migration policy compares two emblematic guestworker programs that recruited several million Mexican and Spanish migrants to labor in the United States and Germany. Proponents of the bilateral accords defended them as diplomatic achievements that secured contractual labor rights, improved foreign relations, and sent migrants home with savings and skills to achieve the diverse development goals of the sending states. The study traces the programs' historical and ideological roots, juxtaposes the guestworkers' experiences, and uses the cases of Mexican *braceros* and Spanish *gastarbeiter* to explore the contested nexus between migration and development.

Thursday, 04 May 2023 · 10:15- 11:45 · VG 4.106



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