

Written Summary

The North American Free Trade Agreement involved Bill Clinton, Carlos Salinas, and Jean Chrétien. The agreement was between Canada, America, and Mexico and how they would allow free trade amongst the three of them. It took effect on January 1, 1994 with the signing of the agreement by all three parties. This has historical significance due to the fact that this is still relevant to today and how the economy works for many countries. There is still many arguments with the usefulness of this act as it continues to grow and spread to include other countries. However, there was even debates before the enactment. With argument that the economy of all participating countries improving while on the other hand Americans losing jobs and how more jobs in Mexico with cause more pollution due to the fact Mexico has weak laws dealing with the environment. The agreement focused on agriculture, textiles, and automobiles while removing tariffs benefiting all parties and especially ones related to these items. Ideally this would help by job creation and better selection in the market for consumers but American jobs were lost because of Mexico's low wages and Mexican farmers lost their job because they were selling below costs from no tariffs. The Mexican environment was also affected by overfishing and exploiting natural resources. In American there is now the constant threat of moving a higher paying job to a country with lower wages like Haiti and Guatemala. In a utopian society there would be free trade however in the real world free trade is not free leaving the poor to pay the expense.

