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Abstract

In recent years, the state of Chiapas has become, for the first time in its history, an entity that has expelled skilled labor towards the northern frontier and United States. In this framework, the article analyzes some characteristics that show Chiapas's economy starting from the decade of 1980, its growing dependence of federal transferes and the difficulty to convert that remittance of money into a socio-economic welfare for its inhabitants. With the agricultural crisis came the rupture of a fragile balance in which the primary sector withheld the local skilled labor in activities that would assure enough income to satisfy the basic needs of families, most of all in the production of corn and coffee. This crisis, added to the destruction caused by the hurricane Mitch in 1986, was the detonator of the migration exodus that was visible at the end of the 1990's.

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