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**STOP
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**Case 06 of the
GLOBAL NET – STOP THE ARMS TRADE (GN-STAT)**

Murderous Walls – Profiteers of Isolation
**Part 03: The Border Between the United Mexican States
and the United States of America**

Attachment
The Border and Its Geographical Path

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Geographical Data.

The final course of the U.S.-Mexican border was determined only on December 21st, 1970 with the border agreement between the two countries¹.

Today, at a length of approx. 3185 km (1951 miles) it spans across the continent from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. It begins in the west between Tijuana (Baja California, Mexico) and Imperial Beach, San Diego County (California, USA). It ends in the east at the mouth of the Rio Bravo (also called the Rio Grande in the Gulf of Mexico, near the Mexican community of Matamoros (Tamaulipas, Mexico) and Cameron County, (Texas, USA). It is characterized by large deserts, impassable mountainous regions and a raging river.



Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ed/US-Mexico_barrier_map.png

To get an idea of the geographic and social realities of this area, we recommend first visiting the series of images compiled by CNN (see footnote)².

The formation and shaping of the border between Mexico and the United States is the expression of the expansionist policy of the governments of the United States since independence from England, which found was first articulated in 1823 in the Monroe Doctrine: "America for the Americans". Initially meant as protection against European colonial encroachment on the American continent, today this formula has been interpreted as a protective doctrine for the prosperity and supposed security of the people of the USA, precisely "AMERICA", as it has come to be known in common parlance. It serves as a justification to impose strategies of control for the whole continent for economic and political interests³. The history of this border shows how

¹ [Tratado para resolver las diferencias fronterizas y pendientes y para mantener a los ríos Bravo y Colorado como la frontera internacional entre los Estados Unidos mexicanos y los Estados Unidos de América](http://www.cila.gob.mx/tyc/1970.pdf), <http://www.cila.gob.mx/tyc/1970.pdf>, Zugriff: 12.2018

² Moore, John, Getty Images; Almond, Kyle CNN. [This is what the US-Mexico borders looks like](https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/12/politics/border-wall-cnnphotos/). In <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/12/politics/border-wall-cnnphotos/>, Zugriff: 12.2018

³ See for the development and the effects of secret strategy papers of the US military (Santa Fe papers) in: Duchrow, Ulrich, Eisenbürger, Gert, Hipler, Jochen (Editors) [Totaler Krieg gegen die Armen](#), München 1989), p.189. ff. „Die Papiere von Santa Fe“.

the present course of the border between the two states has been determined for centuries by:

- Land grabbing by colonial power Spain in the 16th c. and the 13 English colonies in the 19th c.
- Use of arms in 1836 in Texas
- Warlike maneuvers in 1848 (1st invasion of a foreign country by the USA)
- Massive territorial annexations in 1853 by the USA (half of the Mexican territory)
- Isolationist programs of U.S. governments from 1900 to the present
- Agreement of 1970 to define the course of the border