

Wabgou, M. and Vargas, A. (edi) (2019). Migrations and security. A challenge for the 21st century. Bogotá: National University of Colombia.

Understand the link between migration and security from the cases where the securitization of migration policies is evident: the United States and Mexico, the European Union and Africa and, finally, Colombia with Ecuador and Venezuela.

It addresses the borders, migration and national security of the United States to Latin America; migration and security in the Euromed zone; and migration and security in the Andes.

These facts the fall of the Berlin Wall the end of the Cold War and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have substantially modified the traditional conception of national security, which was linked to internal security. In this scenario, where terrorism and drug trafficking predominate as the main threats to global security, factors such as the trans nationalization of crime, the flexibility of national borders and the growing migratory movements have become relevant issues for the construction of agendas. The national and regional security systems and have led national authorities to relate their internal security devices to those of the exterior.

The three case studies presented show the growing relationship that exists between migration, security and the challenges on these issues that the XXI century holds. The governments of the receiving countries tend to securitize the migration issue, particularly with regard to irregular migration. The juxtaposition between criminal phenomena and migratory flows in border areas has generated that the security measures that are applied to face illegal phenomena are also used to manage migration issues.

In the case of the United States, immigration policy has been linked to anti-drug policy. Thus, since the end of the 1980s, the intensification of police strategies to prevent the entry of illegal drugs into the country through the border with Mexico, strongly affected the controls exercised over the cross-border movement of people. It is from September 11, 2001 that the United States assumed a position of pervasive vulnerability in its national security, securitizing its national and international political agenda.

In Europe, the securitizing trend of migrations is replicated, but with less intensity. There, the channeling elements seem to have been the economic crisis that began in 2008, which led to the review and application of various measures to achieve greater control over migrants and, above all, with the escalation of terrorist attacks in countries like Spain, France, Belgium and England.

The dynamics of migratory flows from Colombians to Ecuador and Venezuela are related to the regionalization of the internal armed conflict and the war on drugs that the Colombian State has faced, which has generated massive migration to neighboring countries. In this context, the containment of drug trafficking and Colombian illegal armed groups is still a priority issue on the national security agenda of the three countries.