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**BAKER INSTITUTE**  
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News, Research and Events

April 21, 2021



## What's in store for Mexico's troubled economy?

Like many countries, Mexico's economy has suffered a major decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the nation struggles, critics are faulting President Andrés Manuel López Obrador for dismissing the need for a broad economic stimulus that could help offset the financial fallout. Many people are wondering — will Mexico's economy be able to recover the ground it has lost?

In a new [issue brief](#), [Tony Payan](#), the director of the [Center for the United States and Mexico](#), and research scholar [Jose Ivan Rodriguez-Sanchez](#) write that Mexico's recovery hinges on four key factors, including the revival of the manufacturing and tourism sectors as well as the continuation of oil exports and remittances (the money sent home by migrants working abroad). Oil exports and the performance of Pemex, Mexico's state-owned oil company, could have the greatest negative repercussions for the economy. Until the López Obrador administration refinances Pemex or develops a strategic business plan to avoid more losses, market uncertainty and a sluggish recovery are the most likely outcomes for Mexico's economy, write the authors.

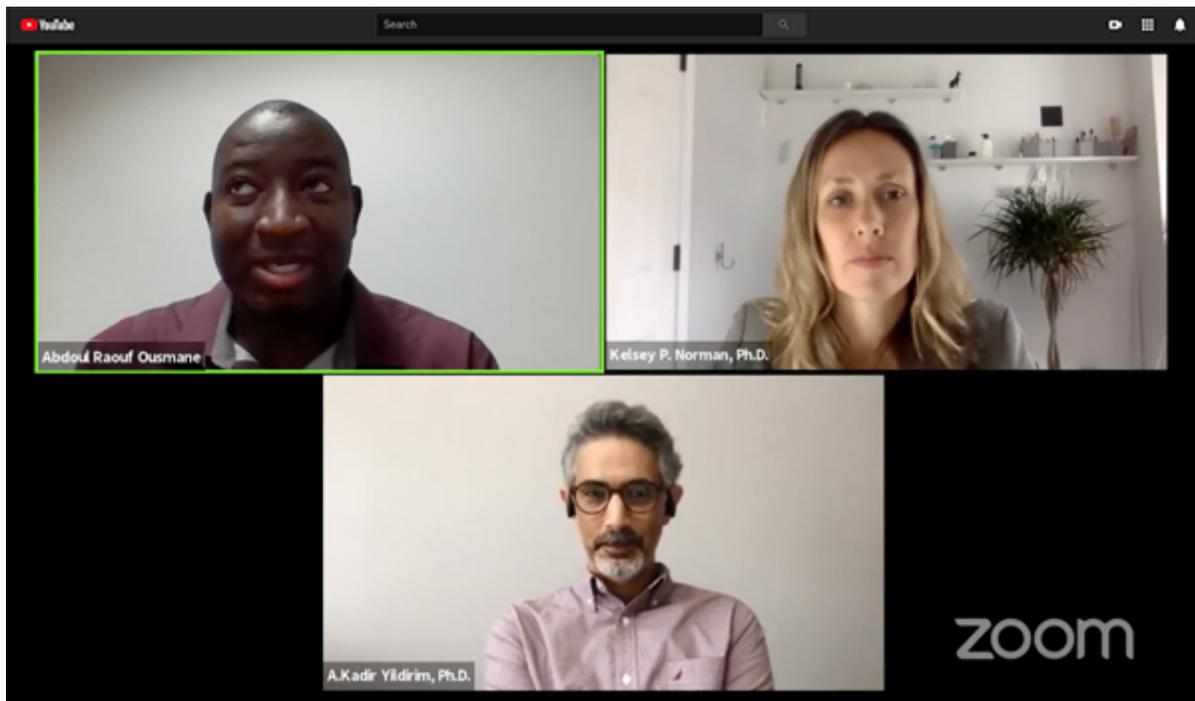
Read their full analysis [here](#).

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***We have critical issues to resolve in our country. American foreign policy is only as strong as we are domestically strong.***

Baker Institute Director Ambassador [Edward Djerejian](#) to [Texas Inc.](#)

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## Refugees, Migration and Governance in the Middle East and North Africa

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, igniting a political crisis as countries struggled to cope with the large numbers of people seeking asylum and assistance. Although 2015 was dominated by headlines and photos of asylum seekers arriving in Europe, in reality, more than 85% of the world's refugees live in Global South countries — places like Morocco, Egypt and Turkey.

In her new book, “Reluctant Reception: Refugees, Migration and Governance in the Middle East and North Africa,” fellow [Kelsey P. Norman](#) explores what happens to refugees and migrants who do not make it to Europe and instead stay in countries without formal policies or laws in place to assist them. Norman, the director of our [Women’s Rights, Human Rights and Refugees Program](#), also explored these themes in a recent webinar with [Abdoul Raouf Ousmane](#) of the Immigrant Health Access Project at the University of North Carolina and a former refugee who spent 17 years in Egypt while seeking resettlement. Their conversation challenged stereotypical views of refugees and highlighted the importance of expanding resettlement programs in the United States.

You can view the [webinar](#) and learn more about Norman’s [book](#) on the Baker Institute [website](#).

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## Upcoming Events

**Roundtable Dialogue: Biden's Iran Policy.** At this member-exclusive event, Middle East fellow [Mohammad Ayatollahi Tabaar](#) discusses how United States-Iran relations might change under the Biden administration. **April 23 | Noon CDT**

**Webinar — Carbon Neutral Oil in Energy Transitions.** Will oil companies' investments in emissions reductions be repaid in higher profits, or a longer-lasting role for oil in a decarbonizing economy? At this webinar, panelists discuss the trends in oil company competition on carbon. **April 27 | 9 a.m. CDT**

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