**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: SOUTH AMERICA**

**1994:** Nafta is Enacted

In Mexico:
- Pollution costs $36B USD/year.
- Deforestation of 630k hectares/year.
- 30% of Mexico's workforce is exploited due to lack of tariffs.
- 1.3M farm jobs are lost.

**1997:** El Niño y La Niña begin to occur regularly

- Opposing climate patterns that break normal conditions given the time of year.
- Episodes typically last 9-12 months but can be up to years at a time.
- Occurs every 2-7 years.
- They affect weather, ecosystems, trade, and hurricane seasons.

**2002-2012:** Estimated economic loss of $180B USD due to mass weather events

- In Brazil
- One example of the drastic loss in economic development due to severe climate events.

**2010:** Bio-bio earthquake hits Chile

- 6th strongest earthquake recorded in history.
- 2M individuals affected by this climate event.
- More than 800,000 individuals displaced.
- Damage estimated at $30B USD.

**2015-2016:** El Niño is one of the biggest climate events of the past century

- Broke warming records in the central Pacific.
- More than 3x average number of cyclones per season.
- Puerto Rico experiences severe drought.

**2016:** 7 out of 10 deaths in Latin America occur due to climate related issues.

- In areas where certain geoclimatic features are present, the population's vulnerability to natural disasters increases.
- Drought, earthquake, flood, mudslide and volcanic activity.
- Quito, Ecuador has all 5 of these vulnerabilities.

**2019:** Latin America is the region where most climate defenders are assassinated

- 148 out of 219 assassinations occurred in the region.
- Majority surround activists speaking out against the exploitation in the mining & agricultural industries.
**IMPACTOS AMBIENTALES: MINNESOTA**

**1910-1953:** Race-based property ownership restrictions are legal & in effect
- Legal clauses attached to property deeds were used to make sure certain properties could only be owned by white people.
- This loophole resulted in essentially, legal segregation throughout Minnesota.
- Even though the legislature outlawed this practice is 1953, effects are still felt today as African American homeownership in Minnesota is among the lowest in the country.

**1956-1968:** I-94 is constructed
- I-94 cut St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood in half.
- Rondo had a long history of being a haven for POC & immigrants. By the time I-94 construction began it was home to a thriving African American community.
- I-94 displaced many POC & fractured one of the biggest POC communities in the state.

**1989-2023:** HERC Incinerator
- Northside of Minneapolis.
- Contributes to cancer, heart attacks, miscarriages, decreased lung function, and difficulty breathing.
- In 2002, HERC emitted 51.89% of dioxins in the entire state.
- HERC has a conditional use permit.

**2008:** I-94 creates a “Diesel Death Zone”
- Over 100,000 people lived in the communities bordering I-94.
- Air pollution in those areas is found to be nearly 3x worse than what is deemed unhealthy by MN Pollution Control Agency.
- This form of air pollution is associated with asthma, cancer, heart disease, birth defects, etc.

**2010-2019:** Northern Metals Recycling pollution & lawsuit
- NMR begins operating a shredder in North Minneapolis.
- NMR is fined $15k USD by MPCA for air-quality permit violations
- MPCA raises NMR’s pollution limits
- After NMR's continued over-pollution, MPCA files a lawsuit
- NMR settles & pays $600k USD to the city of Minneapolis for community health projects & moves its shredder to a non-metro location.
- NMR admits to altering pollution emission readings & closes the shredding facility.

**2023:** BIPOC & low-income Minnesotans face adverse health risk
- Latine Minnesotans are testing positive for COVID-19 more than 9x the white population.
- Black Minnesotans under the age of 65 were 6x more likely to die from asthma compared to white counterparts.
- The infant mortality rate for Indigenous people is 3x higher than white Minnesotan.