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## EVOLUTION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: FROM NAFTA TO USMCA

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### Sumar Ya. S. Evolution of the North American Model of Economic Integration: From NAFTA to USMCA

*The article examines the evolution of the North American model of economic integration from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA). Over almost three decades NAFTA facilitated deep economic interdependence between the three countries but gradually revealed structural limitations, including outdated regulatory provisions, uneven distribution of benefits and insufficient enforceability of labour and environmental commitments. The renegotiation of the agreement was shaped by technological transformations, the rise of digital trade, geopolitical shifts and the demand for higher social and environmental standards. The aim of this article is to identify the key institutional differences between NAFTA and USMCA, assess the regulatory innovations introduced by the new agreement and evaluate their implications for the development of regional economic integration in North America. The study applies an institutional and comparative analysis of the texts of NAFTA and USMCA; content analysis of analytical reports by international organisations and research institutions; descriptive statistical analysis of trade and investment flows in the North American region; and a tabular comparative method to summarise changes in rules of origin, labour standards, digital trade regulation, environmental commitments and intellectual property protection. The research demonstrates that USMCA represents a modernised version of NAFTA, maintaining tariff-free trade while introducing new regulatory mechanisms. The agreement includes a separate chapter on digital trade, enforceable labour rights with a rapid response mechanism, stricter rules of origin and labour value content requirements in the automotive sector, an expanded chapter on intellectual property and a fully integrated environmental chapter. These innovations shift the model of integration from a liberalisation-oriented framework to a more regulated and socially oriented architecture. While macroeconomic effects on GDP are estimated to be modest, USMCA enhances institutional stability, strengthens labour and environmental protection and adjusts regional rules to the realities of the twenty-first century. The agreement also reflects strategic considerations, including supply-chain resilience and geopolitical alignment within the region.*

**Keywords:** USMCA, NAFTA, North American integration, digital trade, labour standards, rules of origin, intellectual property, regional trade agreements.

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### Сумар Я. С. Еволюція північноамериканської моделі економічної інтеграції: від НАФТА до USMCA

*У статті розглянуто еволюцію північноамериканської моделі економічної інтеграції від Угоди про вільну торгівлю в Північній Америці (НАФТА) до нової тресторонньої Угоди США – Мексика – Канада (USMCA). НАФТА забезпечила інтенсивне формування виробничих ланцюгів та зростання торгівлі між країнами регіону, однак з часом проявилися її структурні недоліки, зокрема застарілі регуляторні положення, нерівномірність розподілу вигод та обмеженість інструментів забезпечення трудових і екологічних стандартів. Необхідність модернізації угоди була зумовлена*

цифровою трансформацією, змінами у глобальних ланцюгах вартості, посиленням гео економічної конкуренції та зростанням рольових очікувань щодо соціальної відповідальності торгівлі. Метою статті є визначити ключові інституційні відмінності між НАФТА та USMCA, проаналізувати нові регуляторні положення USMCA та оцінити їхній вплив на подальший розвиток інтеграційних процесів у Північній Америці. Методологічну основу дослідження становлять інституційний і порівняльний аналіз текстів угод, контент-аналіз аналітичних матеріалів міжнародних організацій та наукових установ, описова статистична оцінка динаміки торгівлі й інвестицій у регіоні, а також табличний порівняльний метод для систематизації змін у правилах походження, трудових положеннях, цифровій торгівлі, екологічних зобов'язаннях та інтелектуальній власності. Результати дослідження свідчать, що USMCA становить модернізовану форму НАФТА, яка зберігає режим вільної торгівлі, але доповнює його комплексом нових регуляторних інструментів. До таких нововведень належать: окремий розділ про цифрову торгівлю, посилені трудові стандарти із механізмом швидкого реагування, підвищені й більш деталізовані вимоги до правил походження та вартості праці в автомобілебудуванні, розширений розділ з інтелектуальної власності та інтегрований екологічний блок. Ці положення зміщують акцент інтеграційної моделі від лібералізації до більш збалансованої регуляторної архітектури. Незважаючи на помірний прогнозований економічний ефект, USMCA зміцнює інституційну передбачуваність, підвищує соціальні та екологічні стандарти та адаптує регіональну інтеграцію до викликів XXI століття.

**Ключові слова:** USMCA, НАФТА, північноамериканська інтеграція, цифрова торгівля, трудові стандарти, правила походження, інтелектуальна власність, регіональні торговельні угоди.

**Рис.:** 2. **Табл.:** 2. **Бібл.:** 18.

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The North American model of economic integration has undergone a profound transformation since the launch of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994. As the first large-scale agreement to integrate two highly developed economies (the United States and Canada) with an emerging market (Mexico), NAFTA became a landmark experiment in deep regionalism and cross-border production integration. Over its more than two decades of operation, NAFTA eliminated the vast majority of tariffs, contributed to the rapid expansion of intra-regional trade, and facilitated the emergence of integrated value chains across the automotive, electronics, agricultural, and services sectors. By 2016, trilateral trade flows exceeded USD 1.1 trillion, compared with USD 290 billion in 1993, illustrating the scale of economic interconnectedness in the region [9].

Despite these achievements, NAFTA increasingly became the subject of political criticism and academic debate. Concerns included uneven distribution of integration benefits, plant relocations and job losses in specific U.S. industries, limited improvement in Mexican wages, and insufficient regulatory provisions in the areas of labour and environmental protection. Moreover, NAFTA lacked rules for sectors that did not exist in the early 1990s – digital trade, cross-border data flows, cybersecurity, and modern forms of intellectual property protection. The rapid digitalisation of the global economy, the emergence of new geopolitical risks, and shifts in U.S. trade policy under the “America First” doctrine further intensified calls to update the agreement [18].

In this context, the United States initiated renegotiations in 2017, resulting in the signing of the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) in late

2018 and its entry into force on 1 July 2020. USMCA preserved the core principles of NAFTA while introducing substantial innovations: a comprehensive chapter on digital trade, enforceable labour standards, expanded environmental obligations, strengthened protection of intellectual property, and revised automotive rules of origin, among others [4]. Scholars argue that USMCA reflects broader trends in 21 century trade governance, combining elements of free trade with new regulatory conditionalities related to social, technological, and environmental standards [5].

Thus, the evolution from NAFTA to USMCA represents not merely a technical renegotiation but a structural shift in the philosophy of North American integration. Understanding this transition is crucial for assessing whether the new agreement succeeds in modernising regional economic cooperation and balancing the interests of the three member states under changing global conditions.

The academic discourse on North American economic integration has evolved substantially since the early 1990s, reflecting both the dynamic nature of regional value chains and the changing architecture of international trade governance. Foundational theoretical frameworks for analysing regional integration were established by B. Balassa, who identified stages of integration and emphasised trade creation and diversion effects, and by P. Robson and W. Repke, whose works formed the intellectual basis for evaluating NAFTA's long-term outcomes. These conceptual approaches remain central to contemporary assessments of NAFTA and USMCA, particularly in studies that measure welfare effects, structural shifts, and regulatory convergence.

One of the most comprehensive sources on the transformation from NAFTA to USMCA is the Congressional Research Service report by Villarreal and Ferguson, which provides a systematic comparison of the agreements' provisions and details the political context of renegotiations [18]. Their analysis highlights that the revisions in USMCA were driven not only by economic factors but also by domestic political pressures in the United States, including concerns about manufacturing competitiveness and labour market adjustment. Complementing this, research published by the Council on Foreign Relations examines NAFTA's historical performance and concludes that the agreement generated substantial trade growth but had modest aggregate effects on U.S. employment and wages [9].

Scholarly evaluations of USMCA's economic impact vary considerably. Ciuriak presents a general equilibrium modelling approach showing that the aggregate macroeconomic effects of USMCA for all three countries are likely to be small or slightly negative, primarily due to stricter rules of origin and higher administrative costs [7]. Similar conclusions emerge in the work of Blecker, who argues that while labor reforms in Mexico represent progress, the automotive sector provisions may reduce North America's international competitiveness by increasing production costs and potentially discouraging investment [6]. These findings are consistent with the analyses of the C. D. Howe Institute, Peterson Institute for International Economics, and Cato Institute, which emphasise the tension between regulatory modernisation and protectionist elements embedded in the agreement [7].

**A** growing segment of the literature focuses on the institutional and geopolitical dimensions of USMCA. Arnaud examines the market access-policy space trade-off and contends that the new agreement, compared to NAFTA, expands U.S. leverage over trade partners by introducing mechanisms such as the sunset clause and provisions targeting trade relations with "non-market economies" [5]. Studies by OECD and UNCTAD also underscore that such clauses reflect the broader global trend of securitisation of trade policy, where economic agreements incorporate strategic considerations beyond market liberalisation, a dynamic that is closely linked to the debate on so-called "poison pills" in recent U.S. trade agreements [10].

The integration of labour and environmental standards into the core text of USMCA has generated significant scholarly interest. Claussen's analysis of the Rapid Response Labour Mechanism (RRLM) emphasises that enforceable labour commitments and facility-specific procedures represent an unprecedented enforcement tool within regional trade agreements [8]. Meanwhile, academic assessments published in

*NorteAmérica* and the *Journal of International Economic Law* highlight that the effectiveness of these mechanisms ultimately depends on Mexico's domestic institutional capacity and political will to implement reforms [6].

Ukrainian scholars have also contributed to the study of North American integration. Bulatova and Chentukov analyse the formation of NAFTA and attempts to expand integration towards a hemispheric free trade area, emphasising asymmetric economic gains and political constraints [1]. Varlamova et al. examine structural features of NAFTA countries, underscoring the uneven distribution of benefits and the need for systemic reforms that later shaped the logic of USMCA [2]. Khomenko explores the modernisation of NAFTA as an example of how new-generation agreements incorporate digital trade, ecological frameworks, and labour protections in response to global trends [3]. Finally, Palinchak et al. offer a quantitative perspective on USMCA's competitiveness, arguing that the agreement aims to enhance regulatory coherence and sustainability within the bloc, though external shocks – such as global supply chain disruptions and trade wars – complicate its implementation [13].

Complementing academic sources, reports by international organisations (WTO, OECD, World Bank) show that regional value chains in North America remain among the most integrated worldwide, with the automotive and electronics industries displaying the highest cross-border production intensity [18]. OECD Trade Policy Papers demonstrate that new-generation FTAs increasingly incorporate rules similar to those found in USMCA, positioning it as a reference model for future agreements in the digital era [9]. Taken together, the literature indicates that USMCA represents both continuity and change: it preserves NAFTA's liberalisation framework but also introduces significant regulatory and geopolitical adjustments. Scholars generally agree on the limited macroeconomic impact of the agreement yet underline its broader institutional importance as a template for 21st-century regionalism [5].

**D**espite the extensive body of research devoted to NAFTA and the more recent assessments of USMCA, important analytical gaps remain in understanding the structural transformation of the North American integration model. Existing studies largely focus on either the economic effects of NAFTA in retrospective analyses [1] or the sector-specific implications of USMCA, particularly in the areas of automotive rules of origin, labour provisions, and intellectual property protection [6]. However, the broader question of how the transition from NAFTA to USMCA reshapes the balance between market liberalisation, regulatory conditionalities, and geopolitical

considerations has not yet received sufficient comprehensive evaluation.

Moreover, although the literature acknowledges that USMCA incorporates modern regulatory disciplines such as digital trade, environmental obligations, and enhanced labour enforcement [3], there is limited empirical assessment of whether these innovations address the structural weaknesses of NAFTA or instead introduce new asymmetries within the regional bloc. For instance, stricter automotive rules may shift the competitive landscape in favour of higher-income members, while enhanced labour standards may affect production and investment decisions in Mexico in ways that are not yet fully understood [14]. Similarly, the geopolitical clauses – including the sunset mechanism and the “non-market economy” provision – appear to extend U.S. leverage over its partners but remain underexplored in academic debate [5].

The methodological fragmentation in previous studies, where macroeconomic modelling, institutional analysis, and sectoral evaluations are often conducted in isolation, further complicates efforts to assess the overall effectiveness of the updated agreement. As a result, the scholarly community lacks an integrated evaluation of whether USMCA constitutes a meaningful modernisation of NAFTA or primarily reflects a strategic rebalancing driven by U.S. policy priorities [7].

Therefore, the central problem addressed in this study is to determine to what extent USMCA resolves the structural limitations of NAFTA, introduces new elements of regulatory and geopolitical governance, and affects the future trajectory of North American economic integration. Addressing this problem is essential for understanding the sustainability, competitiveness, and institutional evolution of the regional integration model in the context of global economic transformation [18].

*The aim of the article* is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the transformation of the North American model of economic integration from NAFTA to USMCA and to determine the extent to which the new agreement addresses the structural, regulatory, and geopolitical limitations of its predecessor.

*Research methodology.* To address this aim, the research employs an integrated methodological approach combining qualitative institutional analysis, comparative legal examination, and descriptive statistical evaluation.

*First*, an institutional-comparative method is used to analyse the legal texts of NAFTA and USMCA and review the modifications introduced across core chapters, including market access, rules of origin,

labour, environment, intellectual property, dispute settlement, and digital trade [4]. This method allows identifying how the structural architecture of the agreement has evolved from a primarily liberalisation-oriented framework to a more regulatory and conditionality-driven model.

*Second*, the study applies elements of content analysis to examine policy documents and analytical reports issued by the Congressional Research Service, OECD, World Bank, Peterson Institute for International Economics, and other authoritative organisations, with particular attention to the interpretation of new rules on labour, environment, automotive trade, and digital commerce [18]. This provides a broader understanding of the political and economic context underpinning the negotiation and implementation of USMCA.

*Third*, a descriptive statistical method is employed to analyse empirical indicators of North American trade and investment flows, including the dynamics of trilateral trade turnover, changes in the structure of intra-regional value chains, and the distribution of trade benefits among member states before and after the transition to USMCA. The study also incorporates sector-specific datasets – particularly those related to the automotive industry, labour market enforcement cases, and digital trade performance – derived from North American trade databases and official government statistics [16].

*Fourth*, a comparative table-based analysis is used to summarise and contrast key institutional differences between NAFTA and USMCA, providing a clear visual representation of innovations, enhanced obligations, and potential constraints embedded in the new agreement [2]. This approach allows evaluating whether the updated provisions contribute to improving regulatory coherence and economic cooperation or introduce additional administrative burdens and asymmetries.

The integrated application of these methods ensures a comprehensive assessment of USMCA not only as a successor to NAFTA but also as a representative model of “new-generation” regional trade agreements that combine liberalisation, regulation, and geopolitical objectives. Such an approach enables a balanced evaluation of both the expected benefits and the potential limitations of the agreement for the future trajectory of North American economic integration [13].

The transformation of the North American model of economic integration from NAFTA to USMCA introduced a range of institutional, legal, and economic innovations designed to reflect evolving global standards and domestic political realities. Through an integrated methodological approach – combining institutional-comparative analysis, content

examination of international policy reports, and descriptive statistical evaluation – the following findings can be presented.

USMCA builds on NAFTA's legacy of trade liberalisation while introducing stronger regulatory and enforcement mechanisms. The most significant structural shift involves the integration of labour and environmental provisions into the core text of the agreement, replacing NAFTA's side accords with enforceable commitments. New chapters, including those on digital trade, anticorruption, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), reflect 21 century commercial priorities [16]. *Tab. 1* presents a structured comparison between key NAFTA and USMCA provisions.

NAFTA fostered dense cross-border linkages among the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and this trend has only deepened under USMCA. Trade volumes reached record highs in 2024 (*Fig. 1*), confirming the sustained importance of the North American region in global commerce [18]. According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, total U.S. trade with Canada reached 909.1 billion dollars, while trade with Mexico reached 935.1 billion dollars [16]. U.S. goods exports were 349.9 billion dollars to Canada and 334.0 billion dollars to Mexico, and the combined trilateral trade surpassed 1.8 trillion dollars annually, reflecting nearly a doubling since NAFTA's inception [17].

The introduction of new rules of origin, especially for the automotive sector, had direct implications for production structures. USMCA increased minimum regional content requirements and introduced a mandatory labour value threshold. The

U.S. International Trade Commission estimated that these changes would increase employment in U.S. auto parts by around 30 thousand jobs (*Tab. 2*), though with marginal effects on consumer prices and final vehicle exports [15].

Updated modelling released by the USITC in 2023–2025, together with analytical assessments by Reinsch, confirms that the strengthened rules of origin for passenger vehicles and auto parts simultaneously increase employment and income for U.S. auto parts producers while slightly reducing output, investment, and profitability for assemblers of finished vehicles and causing a modest rise in average car prices on the domestic market [14]. This indicates that the USMCA partly corrects structural imbalances in favour of higher value added suppliers but creates additional compliance costs for automakers, thereby limiting the potential improvement in the region's overall competitiveness.

Digital trade was another major innovation. USMCA prohibits data localisation, guarantees cross-border data flows, and includes strong protections for source code and encryption, reflecting the growing role of digital services in GDP and trade [16]. Between 2020 and 2023, digital exports between the three countries rose significantly, especially in financial and cloud-based services [7].

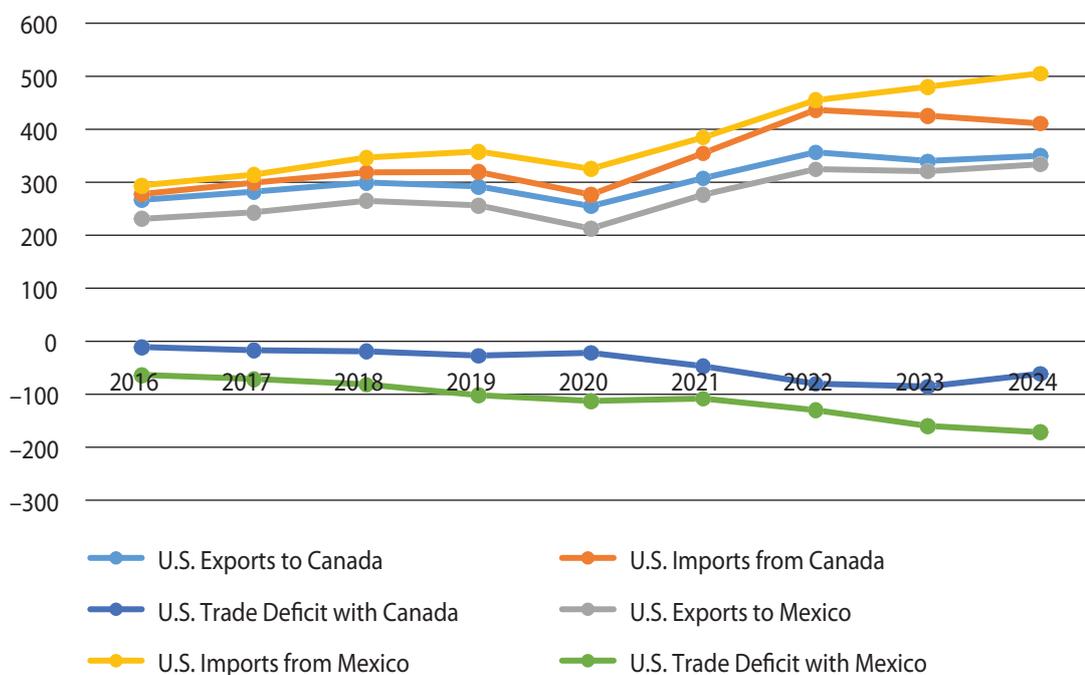
Labour enforcement under USMCA was significantly enhanced through the Rapid Response Labor Mechanism. Between 2021 and 2024, over twenty formal complaints were initiated against manufacturing facilities in Mexico for violating collective bargaining rights, and remedial action was often enforced within

Table 1

Comparison of Core Legal and Institutional Provisions in NAFTA and USMCA

Chapter / Provision	NAFTA (1994)	USMCA (2020)
Tariff Elimination	Gradual removal; full liberalisation by 2008	Maintained zero tariffs for most goods
Rules of Origin	62.5% regional content for vehicles	Raised to 75% + 40–45% labour value content for vehicles
Labour	Side agreement, limited enforceability	Core chapter with dispute settlement
Environment	Side agreement, weak commitments	Core chapter with binding obligations
Digital Trade	Not addressed	Comprehensive digital trade chapter
Investor–State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)	Full access for all three countries	Eliminated for Canada; restricted for Mexico
Intellectual Property	TRIPS-standard, weak enforcement	Enhanced enforcement, longer copyright terms
Sunset Clause	Not applicable	Mandatory review every 6 years, expiration after 16 years
Geopolitical Clause (Art. 32.10)	Absent	Restricts free trade agreements with “non-market” economies

Source: compiled by the author based on [4; 5; 14; 18].



**Fig. 1. U.S. Trade with Canada and Mexico by Year, 2016–2024 (USD Billion)**

Source: compiled by the author based on [16].

**Table 2**

**Estimated Sectoral Effects of USMCA on Automotive Industry (USITC, 2023)**

Metric	Estimated Change (2020–2023)
U.S. auto parts production	+5.2%
U.S. final vehicle production	-0.4%
Consumer vehicle prices (avg)	+1.6%
Auto parts employment (net new jobs)	+29.700

Source: compiled by the author based on [15].

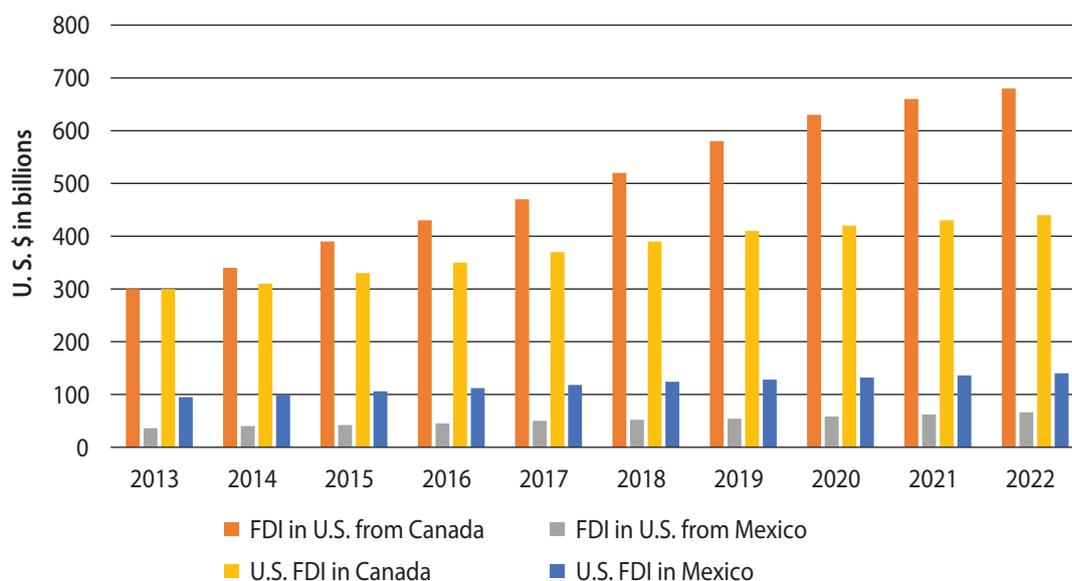
short time frames, marking a sharp contrast with the NAFTA period [8]. Over the first four years of operation, more than two dozen procedures were initiated under the mechanism, mostly by the United States against facilities in Mexico, and in most cases the disputes concluded with remediation plans, revisions of collective bargaining agreements, payment of wage arrears, and new union elections [8]. The number of cases covered by the mechanism in just a few years already exceeds the entire stock of labour disputes under NAFTA, which provides empirical evidence of a shift from largely declarative to genuinely enforceable labour standards.

From a foreign direct investment (FDI) perspective (Fig. 2), integration deepened further. As of 2022, U.S. FDI stock in Mexico reached 130.9 billion dollars, while investment in Canada reached 438.1 billion dollars, and Mexican and Canadian FDI stock in the U.S. totalled 623.1 billion dollars [13]. The rise of nearshoring strategies following the COVID-19 pandemic and

geopolitical tensions with China further accelerated North American investment realignment [9].

At the same time, USMCA includes geopolitical clauses that limit the autonomy of member states to negotiate new trade agreements with non-market economies – most notably China. Article 32.10 requires any party that plans to start FTA talks with such economies to notify the others three months in advance and share negotiation texts, or risk ejection from the USMCA [5]. This clause is unprecedented and positions USMCA as both an economic and strategic alliance.

Analytical assessments indicate that Article 32.10 effectively functions as a “poison pill” in relations with non-market economies, above all China, because it ties the conclusion of new free trade agreements to the consent of the other USMCA parties and creates a conditional exit mechanism if such negotiations proceed [10]. This strengthens the negotiating position of the United States but at the same time narrows the external trade policy space of Canada and Mexico and



**Fig. 2. Foreign Direct Investment Positions Among NAFTA/USMCA Partners: 1993–2022 (USD Billion)**

Source: [9].

may be perceived by investors as an additional source of long-term regulatory uncertainty [10].

The agreement also includes a mandatory six-year review process and a 16-year sunset clause, which will be applied for the first time during the planned 2026 review [18]. Growing expert attention focuses on this trilateral review, which will constitute the first practical test of the sunset mechanism and may significantly shape business expectations about the medium- and long-term stability of the regime [11]. Some assessments stress that clear signals about extension or deepening of the agreement could “clear a cloud of uncertainty” around investment decisions in the region, whereas a highly politicised review would amplify the risk of postponement of large, capital-intensive projects [12]. These provisions aim to increase accountability and adaptability but may also introduce long-term investment uncertainty for firms operating in North America [7].

Taken together, the findings demonstrate that USMCA constitutes a hybrid model of integration – one that balances liberalisation with regulatory discipline and strategic conditionality. The agreement’s macroeconomic effects on GDP may be modest (mostly in the  $\pm 1\%$  range), but its institutional and sectoral effects – particularly in automotive, digital trade, and labour enforcement – are substantial and strategically consequential for the future of the North American integration model [6].

## CONCLUSIONS

The transformation of the North American model of economic integration from NAFTA to USMCA illustrates a broader global trend: regional agreements

are increasingly shifting from traditional tariff liberalisation toward multidimensional governance frameworks that incorporate digital regulation, labour standards, environmental commitments and geopolitical considerations. NAFTA played a decisive role in creating dense trade and production linkages among the United States, Canada and Mexico. Over nearly three decades, it enabled the formation of integrated supply chains, stimulated cross-border investment and positioned North America as one of the world’s most interconnected regional markets.

However, NAFTA’s institutional design reflected the priorities of the early 1990s and became increasingly outdated in the face of digitalisation, growing environmental concerns, rising inequality and shifting global power dynamics. Its structural weaknesses – particularly the limited enforceability of labour and environmental obligations, the asymmetry of distributive outcomes and the inadequacy of rules for new sectors of the economy – created persistent tensions. These tensions, amplified by domestic political pressures in the United States, paved the way for renegotiation.

USMCA represents a hybrid model of modern regional integration. It preserves the fundamental principles of free trade and investment protection but introduces substantial regulatory innovations. These include binding labour enforcement mechanisms, advanced digital trade rules, upgraded intellectual property protection, strengthened environmental obligations and redesigned origin requirements in key manufacturing sectors. Such provisions broaden the agreement’s functional scope beyond market access toward social, environmental and strategic objectives.

The evidence assessed in this article indicates that USMCA's macroeconomic effects on GDP are modest, with most quantitative studies estimating changes within a narrow band of  $\pm 1\%$ . Nevertheless, the agreement's institutional effects are significant. By embedding enforceable labour provisions, enhancing policy cooperation and supporting supply chain modernisation, USMCA recalibrates the distribution of benefits within the region rather than expanding aggregate gains. It also reduces political uncertainty, thereby supporting long-term investment commitments, particularly in Mexico.

**I**mportantly, USMCA responds to contemporary global challenges. Digital trade disciplines reflect the centrality of data flows in modern commerce. Labour and environmental chapters align with rising international expectations for socially responsible trade. The inclusion of geopolitical safeguards, such as Article 32.10, underscores a strategic dimension that positions North America as a more cohesive economic bloc in a fragmented global environment.

At the same time, the agreement presents risks. Complex automotive origin rules may increase production costs and reduce competitiveness. Strong intellectual property protections could delay access to affordable medicines. The sunset clause introduces periodic uncertainty, making the 2026 review a crucial test for the stability of the integration framework. Furthermore, persistent asymmetries in economic development – especially wage disparities between Mexico and its northern partners – continue to shape the region's integration dynamics.

*Directions for further research* include:

**1. Empirical evaluation of USMCA's enforcement mechanisms.** Future research should analyse the real-world impact of the Rapid Response Labour Mechanism and environmental dispute settlement tools. Case studies on factory-level interventions in Mexico may provide valuable insights.

**2. Longitudinal modelling of trade and investment flows.** With additional post-2020 data, scholars can refine econometric and general equilibrium models to isolate USMCA's effects from external shocks such as the pandemic, geopolitical disruptions or supply chain realignments.

**3. Comparative analysis with other modern agreements.** USMCA offers a distinctive model of “socially embedded” liberalisation. Comparing its structure with CPTPP, EU trade agreements or emerging regional compacts can clarify whether it signals a new paradigm in integration.

**4. Sector-specific studies.** Detailed examinations of automotive, electronics, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and digital services can trace how new regu-

latory requirements transform industrial strategies and competitiveness.

**5. Implications for global geoeconomic architecture.** Given intensifying U.S.–China rivalry and the restructuring of global value chains, future research should explore how USMCA strengthens North America's strategic autonomy and resilience.

In sum, USMCA represents an evolutionary rather than revolutionary stage in North American integration. While its economic impact is moderate, its broader institutional and strategic implications are profound. By embedding modern regulatory priorities in a regional framework, the agreement offers a blueprint for how integration can adapt to 21 century challenges while balancing efficiency, fairness and geopolitical stability. ■

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## ЗМІЦНЕННЯ ПРОДОВОЛЬЧОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ ТА ІННОВАЦІЙНІ СТРАТЕГІЇ В КОНТЕКСТІ ГЛОБАЛЬНИХ ВИКЛИКІВ І КРИЗ

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### **Андрощук І. О. Зміцнення продовольчої безпеки та інноваційні стратегії в контексті глобальних викликів і криз**

У статті досліджено вплив сучасних глобальних викликів – повномасштабної війни в Україні, кліматичних аномалій, подорожчання енергоносіїв та добрив, а також збоїв у логістичних мережах – на стан продовольчої безпеки, з урахуванням даних FAO, WFP, ПРООН і галузевих аналітичних центрів за 2022–2025 рр. Метою дослідження є теоретико методичне обґрунтування інноваційних стратегій зміцнення продовольчої безпеки в умовах глобальних загроз із виокремленням їхнього впливу на фізичну й економічну доступність продовольства, стійкість агропродовольчих систем і зменшення їхньої чутливості до зовнішніх викликів. Методика базується на системному, структурно логічному та порівняльному аналізі й передбачає побудову концептуальної моделі «виклики – інноваційні стратегії – результати», кількісну оцінку параметрів глобальних викликів (війна та блокада портів, кліматичні зміни, енергетичні та логістичні шоки), ідентифікацію та класифікацію ключових інноваційних інструментів (диверсифікація виробництва, цифровізація землеробства із застосуванням ШІ, формування стратегічних резервів, підтримка локальних виробників, екологічні практики), а також аналіз результатів їх упровадження через показники доступності продовольства та стійкості агросистем. У роботі проаналізовано наслідки воєнної блокади українських портів, кліматичних екстремальних явищ і здорожчання ресурсів для глобальних ринків зерна, узагальнено дані щодо диверсифікації посівних структур, поширення технологій точного землеробства, політики стратегічних резервів і програм підтримки місцевих виробників у різних країнах світу. Обґрунтовано, що комплексне застосування зазначених інноваційних стратегій забезпечує скорочення ризикованості функціонування продовольчих систем на 20–30%, зменшення продовольчої інфляції, підвищення врожайності та посилення адаптивної спроможності агросектора, що дає змогу розглядати їх як ключовий інструмент зміцнення продовольчої безпеки, особливо для України як одного з провідних аграрних експортерів.

**Ключові слова:** безпека, агропродовольство, продовольча безпека, інноваційні стратегії, стратегічні продовольчі резерви, конкурентоспроможність, економічна доступність.

**Рис.:** 1. **Табл.:** 3. **Бібл.:** 15.

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### **Androshchuk I. O. Strengthening Food Security and Innovative Strategies in the Context of Global Challenges and Crises**

The article examines the impact of current global challenges (full-scale war in Ukraine, climate anomalies, rising energy and fertilizer prices, and disruptions in logistics networks) on food security, taking into account data from the FAO, WFP, UNDP, and industry think tanks for 2022–2025. The aim of the study is to pro-