

Living in our Globalized World: Notes 21
Who is American?: Chavez Epilogue
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- Chavez: Shadowed Lives: Epilogue, pp. 189-200
- Uses an anthropological catchphrase: **Production and reproduction**
 - somewhat different meanings from common usage
 - these terms provide a way to divide up aspects of society in a way that is helpful for understanding some issues
 - just as dividing up social roles into laborer, consumer, and capitalist can help illuminate some things about society
 - **Production**: subsistence and other economic activity
 - the whole sphere of activities and social relations involved in people (mostly working adults) producing goods and services
 - **Reproduction**: family life, kids, education, and the kin and social networks necessary for those things
 - the whole sphere of how the people and social arrangements necessary for production are
 - maintained
 - continually re-created through people's actions
 - and repopulated with new producers to replace those that get old, retire, and die
 - not only biological reproduction, as you might think
 - also reproduction of social structures, knowledge, etc.
 - education and training
 - acculturation
 - ideology, cultural hegemony, social construction of knowledge...
 - keeping the society running so it can support production
- Chavez uses this useful way of dividing up society to make a point:
 - US government policies about immigrants are contradictory
 - but not just randomly
 - true, some contradictions are due to laws being passed at different times, pushed by different campaigners, etc.
 - but there is an overall logic to many of the contradictions
 - those that seem welcoming or generous tend to favor production
 - minimal sanctions on employers for hiring undocumented immigrants
 - policies that allow workers to enter (various types of working visas)
 - maybe a little less so now than when the book was written
 - while those that seem punitive tend to be aimed at reproduction
 - barriers to getting social services, health care, etc.
 - limits on family reunification
 - limited routes to normalize immigration status
 - harsh deportation rules
- he suggests that we can see the contradictions this way:

- the goal is for the US to gain the production (productive activity) of young, hardworking, inexpensive workers
- while Mexico has to bear the costs of “reproducing” these workers
 - with social services, health care, education, etc. prior to their immigration to the US being Mexico’s responsibility
 - to pay for
 - or to bear the blame for not paying for
- Again... that’s it!