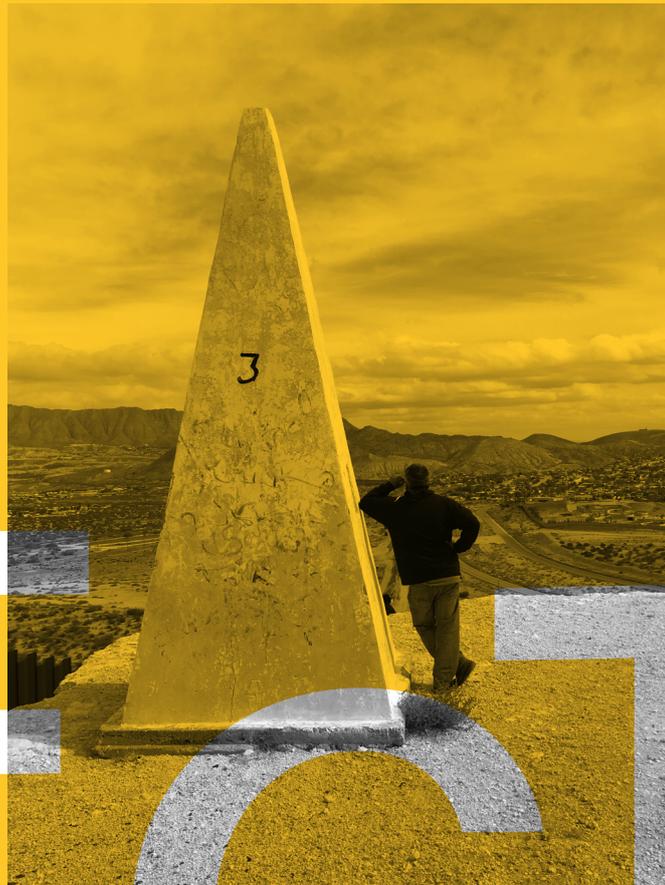


MICHAEL
DEAR
*US–Mexico Border:
Third Nation
or Occupied
Territory?*

conversation with

PRO
Benedikt
Korf



After 2006, 650 miles of fortifications were constructed along the land portion of the US-Mexico border. The walls and fences had little or no demonstrable impact on US national security, drug trafficking, or undocumented immigration. Instead they caused immense environmental damage, disrupted life and trade along the borderline, and imposed a military-style occupation and detention 'gulag' upon border communities. The 'twin cities' that straddle the border represent a 'third nation' with more than 10 million residents and where over a billion dollars of binational trade crosses daily. The occupied third nation is now threatened by further fortifications that will seal the entire 2,000-mile border at a cost of \$25 billion. An architecture and urbanism of occupation is instrumental in achieving this goal, which is roundly opposed by the majority of third nation dwellers.