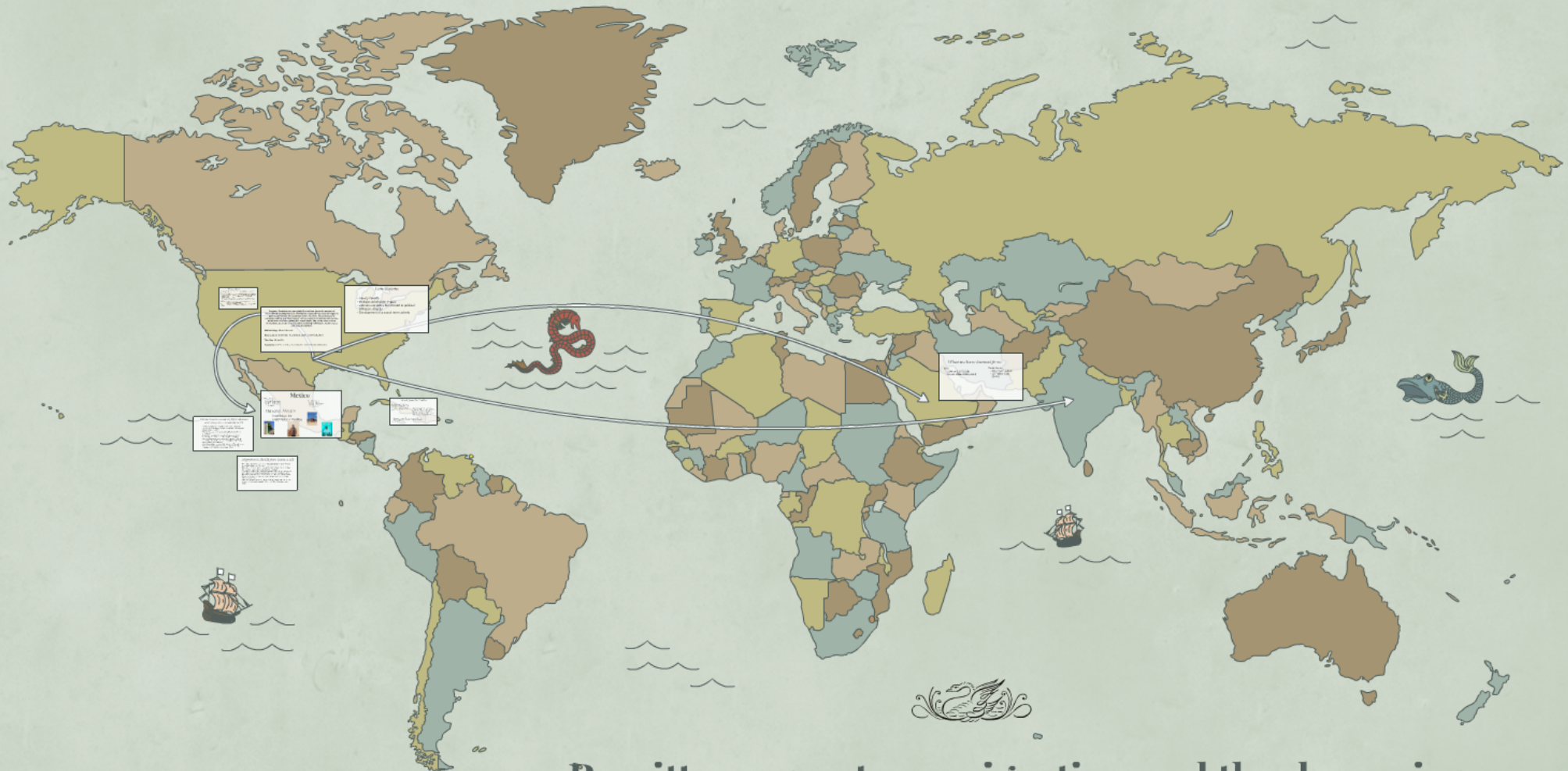


Where are you from?
 Country
 Number of people who
 have migrated to Oaxaca

Remittances, return migration and the dynamics of change in the past 5 years in Oaxaca

Authors: Dr. Sabith Khan & Dr. Daisha M. Merritt



North America
 - Interviews with migrants and their families
 - Focus on the role of remittances in the local economy
 - Analysis of migration patterns and return migration

Central America
 - Interviews with migrants and their families
 - Focus on the role of remittances in the local economy
 - Analysis of migration patterns and return migration

Europe
 - Interviews with migrants and their families
 - Focus on the role of remittances in the local economy
 - Analysis of migration patterns and return migration

Asia
 - Interviews with migrants and their families
 - Focus on the role of remittances in the local economy
 - Analysis of migration patterns and return migration

Other World Connections
 - Interviews with migrants and their families
 - Focus on the role of remittances in the local economy
 - Analysis of migration patterns and return migration



Where we go from here...

- Interviews
- Lobbying
- Interviews from the policy end
- Stories and capturing of life events: Oral history

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Presentation

- This presentation is based partly on a book project that I have been working on, with Dr. Daisha Merritt
- The focus of this book is on remittances and migration and we have included four countries in our analysis – India, Saudi Arabia; Mexico and the US. These are the two pairs of largest senders and receiving countries in the world, as per estimates from the World Bank
- Our data sources are the World bank, statistics from some local governments and also qualitative interviews from specific regions that we were able to gather data
- We have also carried out an analysis of the public policies towards remittances, that are in place, to regulate and control the flow of money
- The dynamics of migration-remittances-policies guiding them have been in a flux over the past two decades and we hope to track and explain part of those changes.

Purpose: Remittances, sent globally are three times the amount of international development aid. Remittance research has recently begun to gain momentum in the academic realm, however, the processes of meaning making, the theorizing of various aspects involving remittances, policy are not often treated with much depth. Our study aims to treat remittances as an act of social norm involving individuals, nation states and diaspora groups.

Methodology: Mixed Methods

Data sources: Interviews, World Bank, State Level Publications

Timeline: 18 months

Populations: Mexico, India, Saudi Arabia, United States of America

What we have learned from:

India

- 2.8% of GDP (2019)
- 82,203 Million USD (2019)

Saudi Arabia

- 0% of GDP (2019)
- 357 Million USD (2019)

Mexico

Inflow Remittances

- 3.1% GDP (2019)
- 38,655 Million USD (2019)
- 35,562 Million USD (2019)
- 32,271 Million USD (2019)
 - World Bank

Outflow Remittances

- 0.1% GDP (2017)
- 1,000 Million USD (2018)
- 806 Million USD (2017)
 - World Bank

Oaxaca, Mexico

Interviews: 12

Field visits: 4 Pueblos



Words from the Pueblos

"I think the US government should regularize contract workers, so there is no illegal migration. Crossing the borders is dangerous and several people die each day, it is such a tragedy. I would love to see more short term contracts and visas for workers, that is really my wish. We need that money (through work) and the gringos need us. "

- Bracero 2

"Areas in the valley of Oaxaca are impacted by technology & commercial agriculture. Areas such as San Pablo Huixtepec, Quiane are all agriculture and at the same time depend on remittances. Surprisingly, there hasn't been much change in culture and tradition. If anything, culture and traditions have been reinforced by remittances in these regions. The fiestas and support that the churches and local communities receive have boosted the traditions in the region. Remittances are at the heart of this narrative."

- Dr.Rafael Reyes, Instituto de Tecnologia, Oaxaca

"The short durations I spent in the US helped my family a lot. I went to the U.S a total of three times as a Bracero and saved up enough to buy a small piece of land. The remittances helped pay for my kids education too and now three of my kids are professionals, working as nurses and educators."

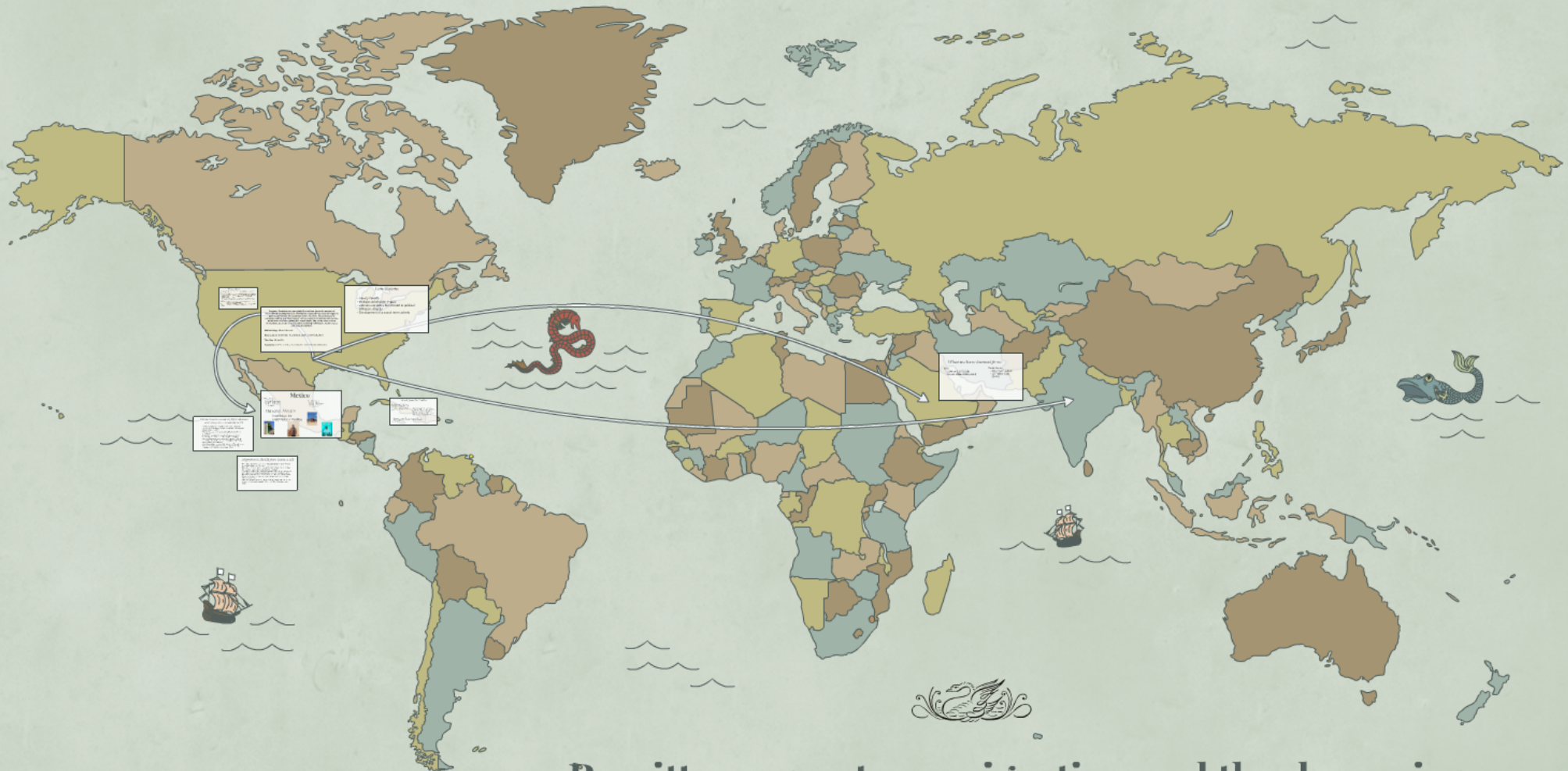
- Bracero 1

Cultural and community life in Oaxaca and diaspora community in CA

- There is a notion of 'community citizenship', a sense of membership built through collective action but is unique (Fox, Rivera-Salgado, 2004)
- This term is used by the actors themselves to label their experience
- In rural Mexico, anyone of good standing can exercise specific rights – is called a 'citizen' of that community
- This demonstrates in some ways how migrants build civil society in a trans-national context, through networks that give them cohesion and continuity
- Remittances play a role in sustaining cultural life 'back home' through support of fiestas and also projects that sustain households and, in some cases,, businesses

Migration to the US from Oaxaca, MX

- Technology, changes in agricultural landscape and policy changes have continued to impact life in Oaxaca
- There is a push to migrate to other parts of MX or the US because there are no jobs and agriculture is not lucrative in Oaxaca
- Culturally, the indigenous people have retained their culture – going back to the Spanish conquest onto present day – social media driven world
- Remittances help reinforce cultural traditions in the rural parts of Mexico
- Culture and religion are the same in rural Mexico, as there isn't a big difference in the two
- Religion is the basic of much public life and remittances help solidify this process, so to this extent secularization has failed at the grass roots levels



USA
 - Interviews with community members
 - Interviews with policy makers
 - Interviews with community members
 - Interviews with policy makers

Mexico
 - Interviews with community members
 - Interviews with policy makers
 - Interviews with community members
 - Interviews with policy makers

UK
 - Interviews with community members
 - Interviews with policy makers
 - Interviews with community members
 - Interviews with policy makers

Where we go from here...

- Interviews
- Lobbying
- Interviews from the policy end
- Stories and capturing of life events: Oral history

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Conclusions

- Steady Growth
- Multiple stakeholder impact
- Connects to policy but not tied to political affiliation, directly
- Development of a social norm activity

Where we go from here...

- Impacts
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**Self-help in International Development?
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Remittances and the International Development Community
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Routledge Press, 2020

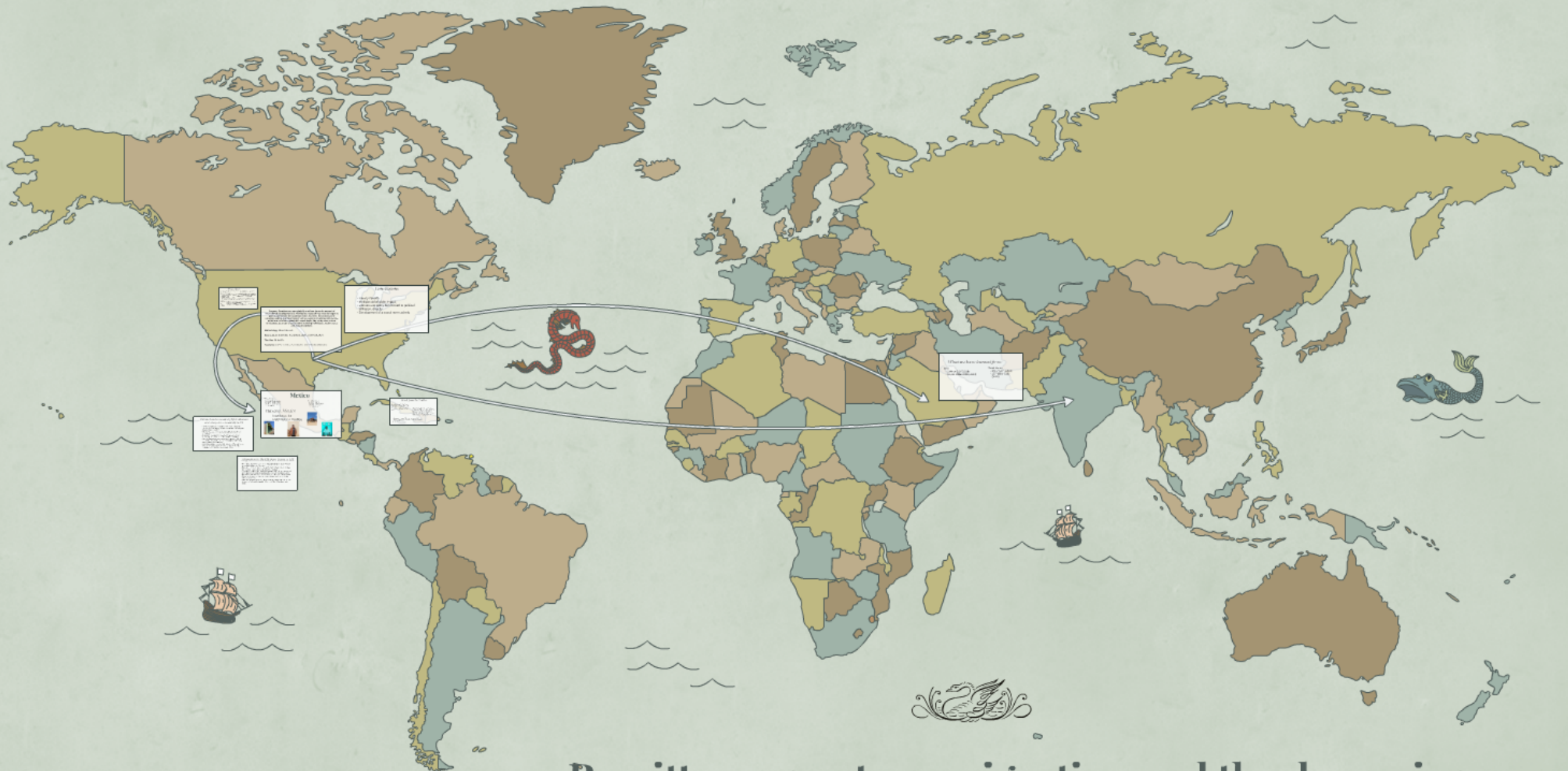
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Policy end of life events: Oral history

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