

POPE BENEDICT XVI, 1927-2022



Pope Benedict XVI during Mass at Yankee Stadium for 60,000 people in April 2008, during his first papal trip to the United States.

Quiet Scholar Defended Doctrine and Unexpectedly Retired

By IAN FISHER
and RACHEL DONADIO
Benedict XVI, the pope emeritus, a quiet scholar of diamond-hard intellect who spent much of his life enforcing church doctrine and defending tradition before shocking the Roman Catholic world by becoming the first pope in six centuries to resign, died on Saturday. He was 95.
Benedict's death was announced by the Vatican. No cause was given. This past week, the

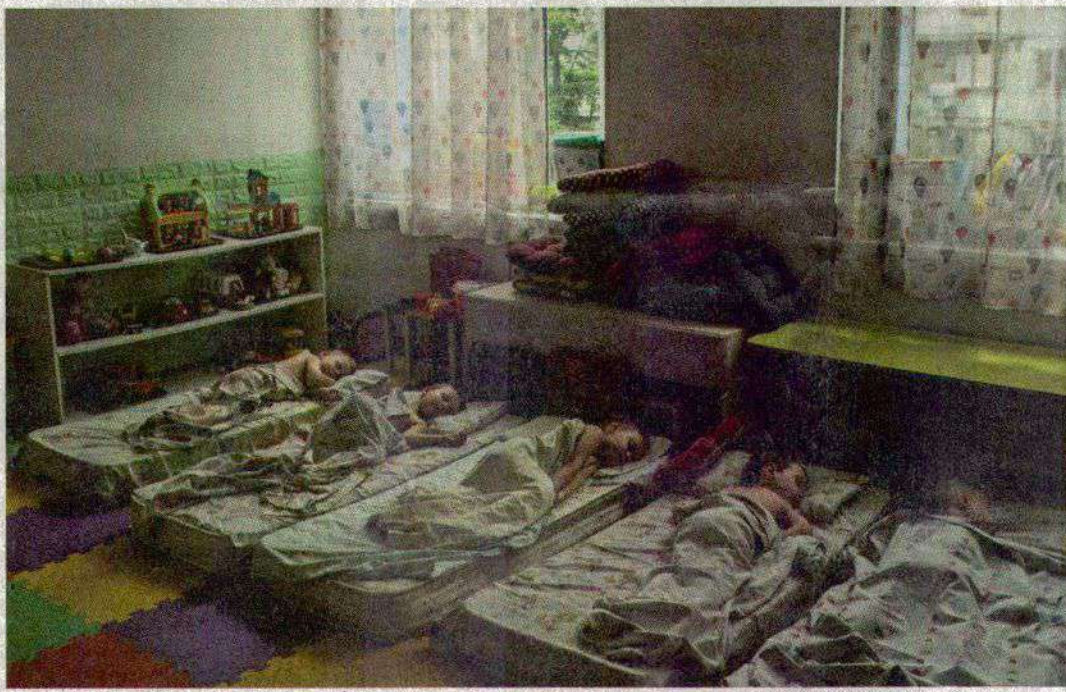
Vatican said that Benedict's health had taken a turn for the worse "due to advancing age." On Wednesday, Pope Francis asked those present at his weekly audience at the Vatican to pray for Benedict, who he said was "very ill." He later visited Benedict at the monastery on the Vatican City grounds where he had lived since announcing his resignation in February 2013.
In that announcement, citing a loss of stamina and his "advanced age" at 85, Benedict said he was stepping down freely and "for the good of the church." The decision, surprising the faithful and the world at large, capped a papacy of almost eight years in which his efforts to re-energize the Roman Catholic Church were often overshadowed by the unresolved sexual abuse scandal in the clergy.
After the selection of his successor that March — Pope Francis, the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires — and a temporary stay at Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer residence, Benedict moved to a monastery in Vatican City. It was the first time that two pontiffs had shared the same grounds.
The two men were reportedly on good terms personally, but it was at times an awkward arrangement, and Francis moved decisively to reshape the papacy, firing or demoting many of Benedict's traditionalist appointees and elevating the virtue of mercy over rules that Benedict had spent decades refining and enforcing.
Benedict, the uncharismatic intellectual who had largely preached to the church's most fer-

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Made in China?
U.S. Companies
Shift to Mexico.

By PETER S. GOODMAN
MEXICO CITY — As American companies recalibrate the risks of relying on Chinese factories to make their goods, some are shifting business to a country far closer to home: Mexico.
The unfolding trend known as "near-shoring" has drawn the attention of no less than Walmart, the global retail empire with headquarters in Arkansas.
Early last year, when Walmart needed \$1 million of company uniforms — more than 50,000 in one order — it bought them not from its usual suppliers in China but from Preslow, a family-run apparel business in Mexico.
It was February 2022, and the contours of global trade seemed up for alteration. The worst pandemic in a century had upended shipping. The cost of transporting products across the Pacific had skyrocketed, and ports were choked with floating traffic jams — a stark indication of the dangers of depending on a single far-away country for critical goods.
Among multinational companies, decades of faith in the merits of making things in China had come under scrutiny, especially as animosity intensified between Washington and Beijing.
At his office in Mexico City, Isaac Presburger, director of sales at Preslow, took Walmart's order as a sign of his country's evolving role in the economy, and the op-

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LAURA BOUSHNAK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Year in Pictures

The war produced images of anguish. Above, nap time at a shelter in Ukraine. A special section.

Deadly Year in Ukraine Ends With a Big Assault

By ANDREW E. KRAMER
and ANTON TROIANOVSKI
KYIV, Ukraine — Russia rained missiles and exploding drones on Ukraine's capital and other cities on Saturday in a deadly New Year's Eve assault, punctuating President Vladimir V. Putin's stated resolve to prosecute a war he called a "sacred duty to our ancestors and descendants."
The aerial bombardments

killed at least one person and partly destroyed a hotel in the capital, Kyiv, inflicted damage elsewhere and forced Ukraine's war-ravaged electric utilities to pre-emptively shut off power.
"There are explosions in Kyiv!" Kyiv's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, wrote on the Telegram messaging app. "Stay in shelters!"
Describing the New Year's Eve assault as "inhuman" and Russia as a "terrorist state," President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine directed his rage at Mr. Putin and his subordinates, declaring in a videotaped reaction that "those who give orders for such strikes, and those who carry them out, will not receive a pardon. To put it mildly."
Even for residents injured by brazen Russian bombings, the wail of air-raid sirens and the explosive thuds on New Year's Eve were especially galling. If Mr.

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Steep Decline
In Teen Births
Over 30 Years

Drop in Child Poverty
Suggests a Link

By JASON DePARLE
JENNINGS, Mo. — Brittnee Marsaw was born to a 15-year-old mother in St. Louis and raised by a grandmother who had given birth even younger. Half grown by the time her mother could support her, Ms. Marsaw joined her three states away but never found the bond she sought and calls the teen births of preceding generations "the family curse."
Ana Alvarez was born in Guatemala to a teenage mother so poor and besieged that she gave her young daughter to a stranger, only to snatch her back. Soon her mother left to seek work in the United States, and after years of futilely awaiting her return Ms. Alvarez made the same risky trip, becoming an undocumented teenager in Washington, D.C., to reunite with the mother she scarcely knew.
While their experiences diverge, Ms. Marsaw and Ms. Alvarez share a telling trait. Stung by the struggles of their teenage mothers, both made unusually self-conscious vows not to become teen mothers themselves. And both say that delaying motherhood gave them — and now their children — a greater chance of success.
Their decisions highlight profound changes in two related forces that shape how opportunity is conveyed or impeded from one generation to the next. Teen births have fallen by more than three-quarters in the last three decades, a change of such improbable magnitude that experts struggle to fully explain it. Child poverty also plunged, raising a complex question: Does cutting teen births reduce child poverty, or does cutting child poverty reduce teen births?
While both may be true, it is not clear which dominates. One theory holds that reducing teen births lowers child poverty by allowing women to finish school, start careers and form mature relationships, raising their income before they raise children. Another says progress runs the other

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EDUCATION DEPT.
LOGS BIG SURGE
IN BIAS CLAIMS

A RECORD HIGH IN 2022

Reflection of a Pandemic
and a Divisive Civil
Rights Climate

By ERICA L. GREEN
WASHINGTON — The Education Department's Office for Civil Rights logged a record number of discrimination complaints in the past year, the latest indicator of how the social and political strife roiling the country is reverberating in the nation's schools.
Nearly 19,000 complaints were filed to the office in the last fiscal year — between Oct. 1, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2022 — more than double the previous year and breaking the record of 16,000 filed in fiscal year 2016, according to figures provided by the department. The surge reversed the decline in complaints filed to the office under the Trump administration, which rolled back civil rights protections.
Officials say the complaints — most alleging discrimination based on disability, race or sex — reflect grievances that amassed during the worst public health crisis in a century and the most divisive civil rights climate in decades. The complaints were logged as schools struggled to recover from pandemic-related closures, and add to the declining test scores and growing mental health challenges that display the fragility in large parts of the country's education system.
Catherine Lhamon, the assistant secretary for civil rights, said the jump in the number of complaints, which have not yet been made public but will be reflected in the office's annual report in the coming months, is both encouraging and sobering.
"It reflects the confidence in the Office for Civil Rights as a place to seek redress," Ms. Lhamon said. "At the same time, the scope and volume of harm that we're asking our babies to navigate is astronomical."

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'Today Girl' to TV Icon, Walters
Traversed News and Celebrity

By TIFFANY HSU
Long before she became the first woman to co-anchor a network newscast and the foremost prime-time interviewer of heads of state and Hollywood stars, Barbara Walters understood the power of television.
When she was a teenager in New York City, she saw that TV provided an escape for her cognitively disabled sister, who spent hours watching "I Love Lucy" and "Texaco Star Theater." And it wasn't lost on her how her father's nightclub business fell off in part because of television's ability to keep people in their living rooms at night, rather than out on the town.
Ms. Walters, who died on Friday at age 93, had spent more than five decades in front of the camera and become a titan of the medium: lauded for the subjects she scored, criticized for her coziness with them, even memed for how she presented herself.
But when she started out, the industry was against her. Men



LOU ROCCO/ABC

Barbara Walters in 2014 on "The View," the ABC talk show she helped create in 1997.

did the hiring. Men decided what went on the air. Men delivered the news.
She wrote in her 2008 memoir, "Audition," that it was her legs, not her skills, that persuaded the head of a small Manhattan advertising agency to give her a job soon after she graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1951. She quit when her boss "became overly amorous," as she described it. She went on to find

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INTERNATIONAL 6-16

Statue Figures in Race Debate

A restoration darkened a statue at the birthplace of the French writer Victor Hugo. Complaints ensued — and then vandalism.

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ARTS & LEISURE

Out of the Supporting Ranks

Giancarlo Esposito has stolen scenes for decades as a popular character actor. Now he makes a splash in a lead role, in Netflix's "Kaleidoscope."

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METROPOLITAN

A Mayor's First Year in Office

Eric Adams has focused his attention on fighting crime in New York City, but his critics say he has other urgent challenges to tackle.

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SUNDAY BUSINESS

We're All Memory Hoarders

We can store our photos, videos and important documents in the near-limitless digital clouds of Google, Apple or Meta. Is it too much?

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SUNDAY OPINION

Sarah Andersen

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Made in China? Some U.S. Companies Shift Production to Mexico.

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opportunities that flow from sharing the same side of the Pacific with the United States.

"Walmart had a big problem with their supply," Mr. Presburger recounted. "They said, 'OK, Mexico, save me.'"

Basic geography is a driver for U.S. companies moving business to Mexico. Shipping a container full of goods to the United States from China generally requires a month — a time frame that doubled and tripled during the worst disruptions of the pandemic. Yet factories in Mexico and retailers in the United States can be bridged within two weeks.

"Everybody who sources from China understands that there's no way to get around that Pacific Ocean — there's no technology for that," said Raine Mahdi, founder of Zipfox, a San Diego-based company that links factories in Mexico with American companies seeking alternatives to Asia. "There's always this push from customers: 'Can you get it here faster?'"

During the first 10 months of last year, Mexico exported \$382 billion of goods to the United States, an increase of more than 20 percent over the same period in 2021, according to U.S. census data. Since 2019, American imports of Mexican goods have swelled by more than one-fourth.

In 2021, American investors put more money into Mexico — buying companies and financing projects — than into China, according to an analysis by the McKinsey Global Institute.

China will almost certainly remain a central component of manufacturing for years, say trade experts. But the shift toward Mexico represents a marginal reorientation of the world's manufacturing capacity amid recognition of hazards — from geopolitical realignments to the intensifying challenges of climate change.

"It's not about deglobalization," said Michael Burns, managing partner at Murray Hill Group, an investment firm focused on the supply chain. "It's the next stage of globalization that is focused on regional networks."

That Mexico looms as a potential means of cushioning Americans from the pitfalls of globalization amounts to a development rich in historical irony.

Three decades ago, Ross Perot, the business magnate then running for president, warned of "a giant sucking sound going south" in depicting Mexico as a threat to American livelihoods.

"The reality is that Mexico is the solution to some of our challenges," said Shannon K. O'Neil, a Latin America specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. "Trade that is closer by from Canada or Mexico is much more likely to create and protect U.S. jobs."

Given that the United States, Mexico and Canada operate within an expansive trade zone, their supply chains are often intertwined. Each contributes parts and raw materials used in finished goods by the others. Cars assembled in Mexico, for example, draw heavily on parts produced at factories in the United States.

Overall, some 40 percent of the value of Mexico's exports to America consist of components made at American plants, according to a seminal research paper. Yet only 4 percent of imports from China are American-made.

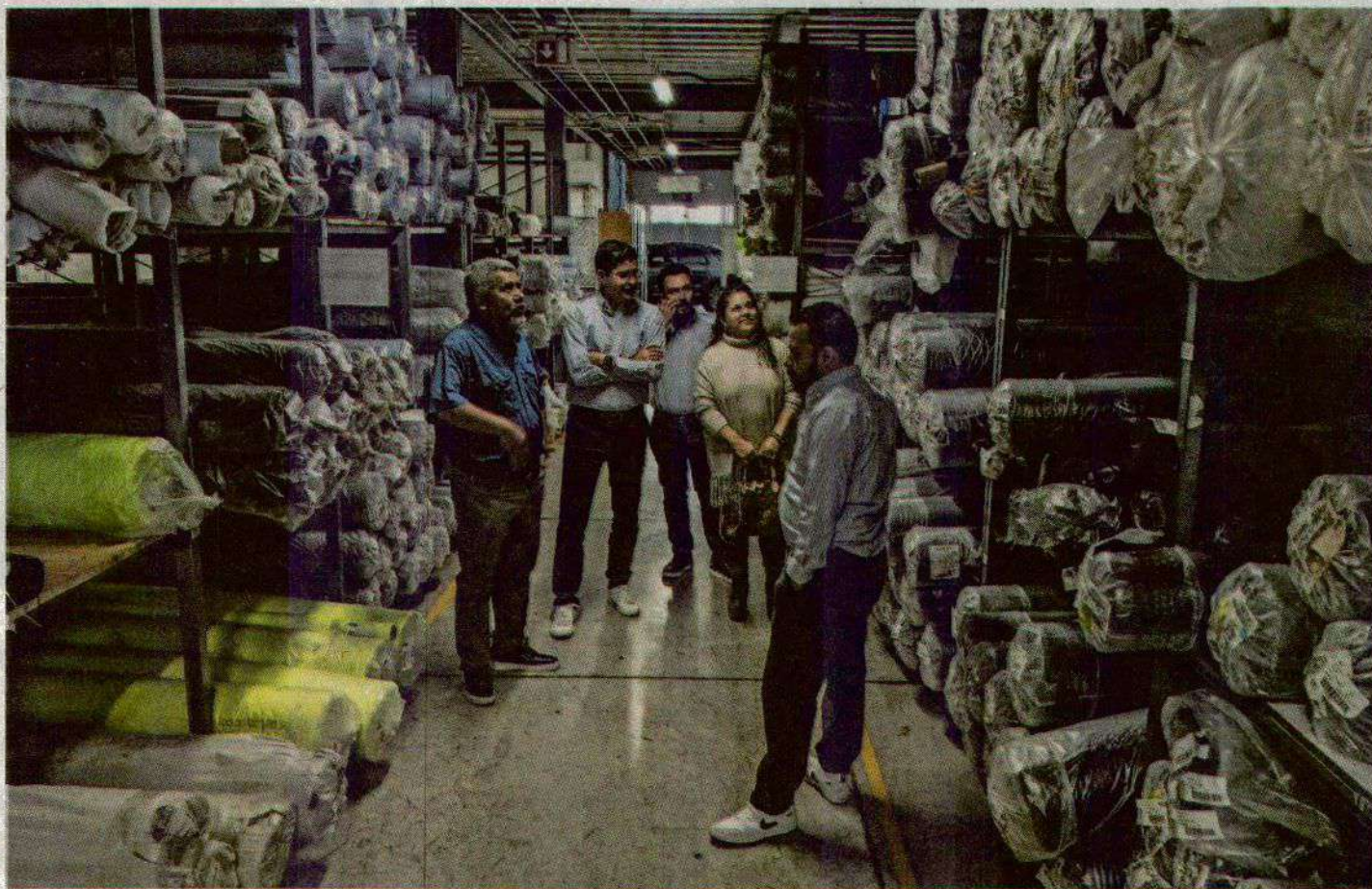
A Walmart representative described the company's interest in Mexico as part of an effort to make its supply chain less vulnerable to troubles in any one region.

For now, Mexico lacks the capacity to assume China's place as the dominant supplier of a vast range of goods.

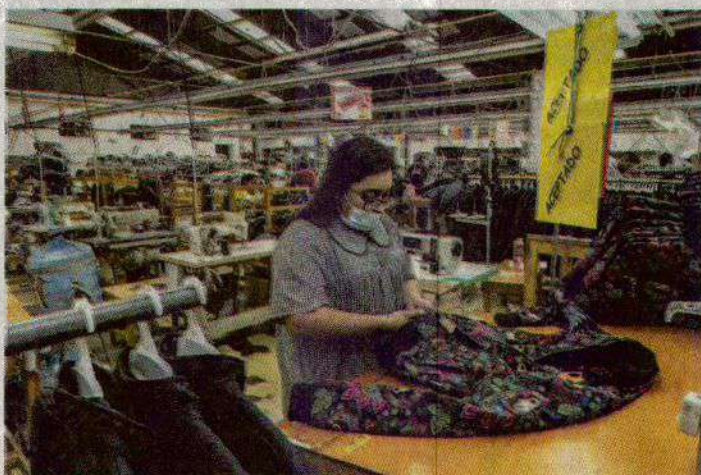
At Preslow's factory some 50 miles north of Mexico City, 200 seamstresses leaned over clattering sewing machines on a recent morning, stitching garments amid the strains of Mexican folk music. Local designers sat in front of computer screens, conjuring new creations.

Yet the storage shelves were piled with bolts of synthetic fabric, nearly all of it made in China.

"All the basic materials are still imported from China, because you



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYAN DENTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



Clockwise from top: Ramon Becerra, center, the commercial director of Uniformes Lazzar in Guadalajara, Mexico; waiting near the bus stop at the entrance to the Tizayuca Industrial Park; and performing quality checks on jackets at Preslow in Tizayuca, Mexico.

don't have the suppliers here," Mr. Presburger said. "The fabrics I use are impossible to get in Mexico."

Closer to Home

In a bedroom community north of Dallas, Jose and Veronica Justiniano were also dependent on vital goods from Asia and eager to find a vendor in the same hemisphere.

The couple ran a small business, Veronica's Embroidery, out of their home. They supplied restaurants, construction companies and maid services with uniforms for their employees.

Born and raised in El Salvador, they had left behind a horrific civil war to forge comfortable lives in the United States.

Mr. Justiniano, 50, landed first in Los Angeles, where he worked as a janitor at the Beverly Hills jail, and then as a billboard installer. After moving to Dallas, he got a job at an auto parts plant, and eventually rose to supervisor, gaining expertise in machinery.

Ms. Justiniano, 54, worked as a home aide to an aging couple. In 2018, the couple bought their first embroidery machine, installing it in an upstairs bedroom. The next year, they secured their most important customer — Gloria's Latin Cuisine, a chain of 22 fine-dining restaurants in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin.

The Justinianos bought uniforms from a company that imported them from Asia. Then they used their machines to embroider the logos.

Their distributor maintained huge stocks of inventory at warehouses in Texas, typically delivering within a day. But as the pandemic intensified in 2020, days turned into months. The Justinianos were late in their own deliveries, a mortifying threat to their business.

Mr. Justiniano hurriedly sought another supplier.

"The only way was Mexico," he said.

They eventually entrusted much of their business to Lazzar Uniforms, a family-run company in Guadalajara, a booming city

about 350 miles northwest of Mexico's capital. Lazzar's commercial director, Ramon Becerra, 39, was eager to gain a crack at the enormous market to the north.

"We know the U.S. is the future for us," Mr. Becerra said.

The Justinianos' American distributor operated in bulk, selling only what it had in stock and providing no custom work. Lazzar, on the other hand, beckoned as a design shop and apparel factory in one.

Mr. Becerra's team conferred on the particulars of what the Justinianos desired: a light fabric that vented away moisture, providing relief from the heat of the kitchen. The two companies were able to communicate easily by phone and video without having to navigate a time difference.

They started small, with a few dozen chef's jackets. By September 2021, Veronica's Embroidery was purchasing 1,000 linen shirts in a single order, at prices close to what its previous distributor charged for imports from Asia.

On a recent morning, Mr. Becerra hosted Mr. Justiniano at his factory in Guadalajara. The two men discussed a potential new partnership in which Lazzar would set up a warehouse in Texas, with Mr. Justiniano handling American distribution.

"This year has been a wake up call for the U.S.," Mr. Justiniano said. "We have to reconsider where we get our stuff made."

A Troubled Legacy

The biggest impediment to Mexico's reaching its potential as an alternative to China may be Mexico itself.

Its president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, has neglected the nation's infrastructure, including its ports.

Even Mr. Presburger, an enthusiastic promoter of his country's industrial virtues, concedes that Mexico will struggle to amass the scope of China's manufacturing capacity.

He recalled his first trip to China to look for fabric more than a decade ago. The scope of pro-

duction left him astonished, with monumental spinning mills alongside specialized dyeing operations.

"The sheer size of the factories there is crazy," he said. "I don't think there's a way back from that. It's not going to be easy."

Inside his factory, he displayed a popular item, a black bomber jacket adorned with an elaborate and colorful pattern. The zipper was made in Mexico, and so was a

skull-shaped ornament that pulled it. But the rest of the components — the fabric, the thread, the liner — were all made across the Pacific.

Still, a shift is palpable.

Near Preslow's plant, an enormous factory makes as many as six million buttons per day, employing some 1,500 people. The company, Botones Loren, has seen its sales grow by nearly two-

thirds over the past year. Its customers — international brands like Armani and Men's Warehouse — are shifting orders from China, said the company's chief executive, Sony Chalouah.

"They think that the U.S. will continue to be fighting with China," he said. "They want to not depend on China."

The Geopolitical Realignment

Some within the apparel industry anticipate that Mexico's appeal will fade as normalcy returns to the global supply chain.

Shipping prices have sharply declined over the past year. China has begun loosening Covid restrictions. Chinese apparel makers are aggressively courting business by offering steep discounts, according to Bernardo Samper, a longtime New York sourcing agent.

"At the end of the day, everything is driven by pricing," he said.

Yet within Mexico, businesses are counting on continuing acrimony between the United States and China.

The Trump administration imposed steep tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese imports. President Biden has continued that policy, while adding measures that seek to deny China access to technology.

Washington has accused the Chinese government of genocide in its brutal repression of the minority Uyghur community in the western Xinjiang region — a major source of cotton. Any company buying clothing made in China risks accusations of exploiting Uyghur forced labor.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its deepening ties with China have amplified the sense that the world is dividing into distinct camps of allies and enemies.

Companies need reliable supply chains.

Lectra, a French company that makes machines that cut fabric into pieces for the apparel industry, has seen its sales in Mexico and Central America grow by nearly a third over the past year.

"What is driving this near-shoring is basically the situation between the U.S. and China," said the company's commercial director for the region, Carlos Sarmiento.

"It's not that China is going to disappear from the American market," he added. "It's that there is more openness to look at Mexico and Central America as an alternative rather than depend entirely on China."

NAVIGATE THE NEW YEAR

