**Working in a globalized world**

In 1994 the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed for free trading area between US, Canada and Mexico. With it trade and investment have only grown.

However in recent years trade unions, farmers and organizations have put NAFTA under attack in order to protect the environment. Many Americans have lost their jobs because companies move to Mexico to exploit lower wages and weaker protection of worker’s rights. They say that in poorer countries like Mexico it is harder to protect the environment and follow safety standards. Mexicans, on the other hand, accuse the USA of interference and bullying. They say Americans are trying to block cheap imports. They are also worried of imports of corn from highly efficient US farms, which could wipe out local production. There have been problems between USA and Canada too about timber. With these complications an extension of the union into South America seems unlikely.