The Implementation of the San Ándes Accords

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Biographical statement: My name is Karlee Jewell. I am an International Studies student at Humboldt State University with a concentration in Cultural Studies. I studied abroad my junior year at La Universidad del País Vasco in San Sebastián, Spain. Throughout my time at HSU and abroad I have been studying the Spanish language and I hope to join the Peace Corps after I graduate.

Abstract: This research paper begins with an exploration of the history and formation of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), the EZLN emerged as a protection group for the oppressed indigenous people in Chiapas, Mexico and surrounding regions. The mission of the Zapatista National Liberation Army was to create a national uprising against the authoritarian government of Mexico and its neo-capitalist systems. They rose in rebellion against the Mexican federal government when they became a signatory and member of NAFTA. After the rebellion the EZLN and the Mexican Federal government began in peace talks which resulted in a document called the San Ándres Accords which created collective rights for indigenous people. After its creation it was largely ignored by the Mexican government. The majority of the paper focuses on why the government should implement the San Ándres Accords without change. This research aims to understand the social, cultural, economic, and political implications for indigenous people living in Mexico.