



# A VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL WALL: MEXICO-U.S. FRONTIER

LAS 1420

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## INTRODUCTION

I am researching the border wall currently between Mexico and the United States and how it is present virtually and physically. It is present in the physical structure and in the way people think and through their actions or behaviors between those from outside the U.S. and within the U.S. It is also present virtually not only with new technology at the border but also with people's interaction online.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

How does the design and rebuilding of the border wall at the Mexican-American border cause division between countries?

## BACKGROUND

There has been a change in the border wall of Mexico and the U.S. since 2016 and it has become so prominent because it has intruded into our everyday lives. Due to technology advancing, public debate about the border wall has deeply expanded within social media, as well as new ideas for a virtual border wall to make it "cheaper" to secure it.

## METHODS OF INQUIRY

Articles



Peer Reviewed Journals



News Videos



## RESULTS

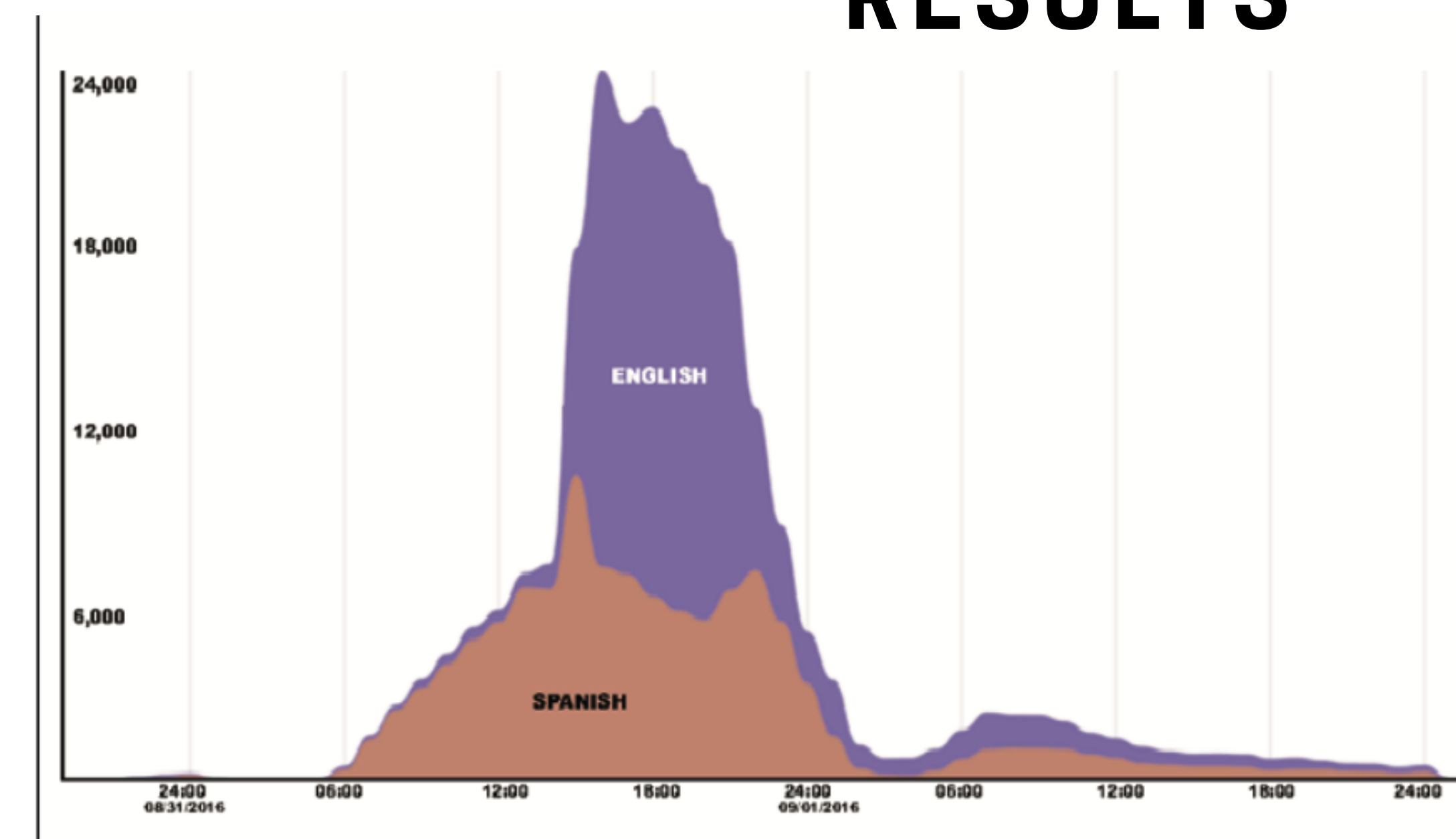


Figure 1. Volume of tweets in Spanish and English, August 31st, 2016.

The social media impact of the topic in Spanish and English when it was presented during the Trump campaign 2016 about Mexico paying for the wall.

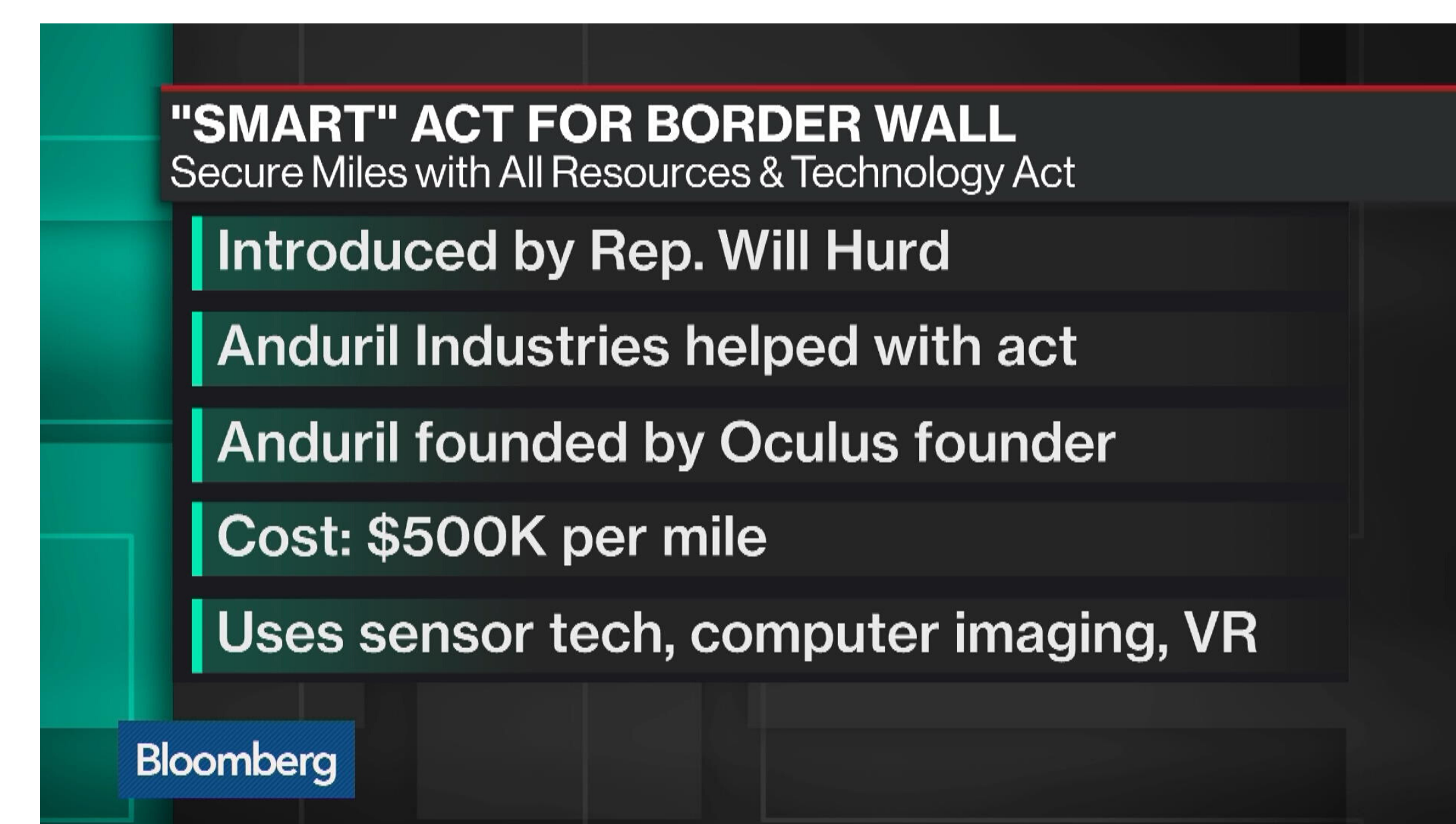


Figure 2. The discursive dispute over the border wall.

These are some examples of the tweets of each country concerning the payment of the border wall and it also shows how controversial the topic was.



This shows the alternative of the physical border wall and how it is a topic being discussed and being considered by the U.S. government. It is a laser sensoring detection system that works day and night in any weather conditions. Approximately a cost of \$15 Billion for the whole US-Mexico Border.



Proposed bill for a "smart" wall, which would cost \$500K per mile rather than the current administration budget of \$24.5 Million per mile. It is a \$24 Million difference between the proposed budget of a physical wall.

## CONCLUSION

The border wall between Mexico and the United States is far more than the physical barrier, it has also deepened divisions between people living in the United States and other countries. As social media has grown so has "The Wall" due to people commenting on social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook. Not only does the wall exist physically, socially, but also virtually due to new technology that can propose new high-tech alternatives that was formally only talked about in Science Fiction.

## FUTURE WORK

After reading the journals and viewing videos concerning this topic, I have come to realize that the issue of the debate over a virtual wall or physical border wall is still very relevant to our time and beyond. The current administration still looks for ways to make this wall happen to prevent people from crossing. While many new plans and designs will be proposed to "fix" the border wall situation, we will continue to see the struggles of people trying to escape the violence and poverty of their home country and their attempt to find a better life in the US.

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