

Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela Basics

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Resolved: The United States
federal government should
substantially increase its
economic engagement toward
Cuba, Mexico or Venezuela.

Substantially: How much is that?
Increase: Quantity or Quality?
Its: Only the U.S. Government?
Economic engagement: Change
behavior?
Toward: Why not "with"?

The U.S. has very little economic engagement with Cuba:

- ◆ property.
- ◆ President John F. Kennedy ordered an economic embargo
- ◆ 1963: Cuban Assets Control Regulations (CACR) – Codified the embargo; gave power to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
- ◆ 1992: Cuban Democracy Act (CDA) – Limits on U.S. subsidiaries and vessels landing in U.S. ports
- ◆ 1996: Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (LIBERTAD), also known as the Helms-Burton Act
- ◆ 2009: Lifting of many embargo restrictions
- ◆ 2009: Cuban arrest of Alan Gross



How did the U.S. acquire Guantanamo Bay?

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆ 45 square miles;



The U.S. already has extensive economic engagement with Mexico:

- ◆ Mexican imports to the U.S.; Mexico is the 2nd Largest U.S. Trading Partner
- ◆ The Merida Initiative
- ◆ Millions of undocumented immigrants
- ◆ 90% of Cartel weapons from the U.S.
- ◆ 90% of cocaine in the U.S. and 50% of marijuana from Mexico



The U.S. actively trades with Venezuela:

- ◆ Citgo, a major oil company doing business in the U.S. is wholly owned by Venezuela.
- ◆ 90% of Venezuela's export revenue comes from the U.S.
- ◆ The U.S. has a few wrist-slapping economic sanctions on Venezuela: Citgo is prohibited from bidding for U.S. government contracts because Venezuela actively trades with Iran.
- ◆ The government of Nicolas Maduro continues to accuse the U.S. of various illegal acts in Venezuela and around the world.



CUBA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA CASES

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Harm: Immoral policy (harms the Cuban people);
Perpetuates human rights abuses

Inherency: Helms-Burton Act

Solvency:

Doug Bandow, (Sr. Fellow, Cato Institute), TIME TO
END THE CUBAN EMBARGO, Dec. 11, 2012.
Retrieved Jan. 30, 2012 from
[http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/
time-end-cuba-embargo](http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/time-end-cuba-embargo). Lifting sanctions would be
a victory not for Fidel Castro, but for the power of
free people to spread liberty. As Griswold argued,
"commercial engagement is the best way to
encourage more open societies abroad."



Lift the Cuban Economic Embargo

Harm: Hunger among the Cuban people
Inherency: Strange OFAC ruling on
agricultural sales to Cuba

Solvency: Allow banking transactions for food
Roger Johnson, (President, National Farmers
Union), HEARING TO REVIEW U.S.
AGRICULTURAL SALES TO CUBA, House
Hearing, Mar. 11, 2010, 12. If direct banking
transfers were permitted between the U.S.
and Cuba for the purchase of American-made
products by Cuba, notable positive impacts
on both countries' economies would be
possible, creating a win-win situation. Current
U.S. policy is designed to use food as a
weapon, and it has failed.

HEARING TO REVIEW U.S. AGRICULTURAL
SALES TO CUBA

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION
MARCH 11, 2010
Serial No. 111-44



Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture
agriculture.house.gov

Agricultural Trade With Cuba

Harm: Human rights abuses and absence of democracy in Cuba

Inherency: Embargo prevents assistance to entrepreneurs

Solvency: Jorge Mas Santos, (Dir. Cuban American National Foundation), A NEW COURSE FOR U.S.-CUBA POLICY: ADVANCING PEOPLE-DRIVEN CHANGE, 2012, 8. Permitting Cuban-Americans and others, under license, to send cash, building materials, agricultural implements and provide services to independent, private entrepreneurs not affiliated with the regime for the establishment of micro-enterprises, such as artisans and family-owned small businesses, and the building and repair of private family residences affected by last season's hurricanes would have an indelible and immediate impact on the growth of Cuba's independent economic sector and civil society as a whole.

CUBA STUDY GROUP

Supporting Small Business in Cuba: Recommendations for Private and Public Sector Leaders

Apoyo a la Pequeña Empresa en Cuba: Recomendaciones para Líderes del Sector Privado y Público

APRIL 2011



Microfinance Assistance to Cuban Entrepreneurs

Harm: Defection of baseball players dangerous

Inherency: Rooney Rule treats Cuban players unfairly

Solvency:

Rachel Solomon, (J.D. Candidate, Hofstra U. School of Law), JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND LAW, 2011, 178-179. The current MLB rules, which encourages Cuban baseball players to defect, is flawed and there are many plausible plans to remedy them. In September of 1995, a year before the enactment of the Helms-Burton Act, U.S. Representative Jose E. Serrano, introduced House Bill 2311, "A Bill to Waive Certain Prohibitions With Respect to Nationals of Cuba Coming to the United States to Play Organized Baseball." This bill, now called the "Baseball Diplomacy Act," creates an exception to the embargo, allowing Cubans to enter America on a visa to play baseball.

Coast Guard crew reflects on time with Yasiel Puig during attempt to defect to U.S.

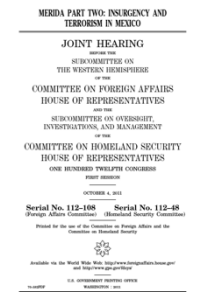


Replace the Kuhn Directive

Harm: Militarization of the drug war kills tens of thousands in Mexico

Inherency: Congress pushes Nieto to continue militarization of the drug war

Solvency: David Shirk, (Prof., Political Science & Dir., Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego), THE DRUG WAR IN MEXICO, 2011, 24-25. In its provision of aid, the United States should put greater emphasis on soft economic and educational assistance in addition to hard security assistance. The U.S. Congress should fully fund the Obama administration's request for \$66 million in economic and development assistance for FY2012 —more than doubling the amount provided in FY2010.



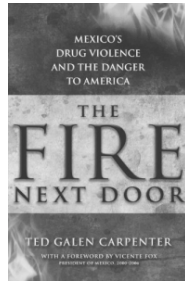
De-militarize the Merida Initiative

Harm: Tens of thousands of drug cartel deaths in Mexico

Inherency: U.S. commitment to failed drug war

Solvency:

Ted Galen Carpenter, (Sr. Fellow, Cato Institute), THE FIRE NEXT DOOR: MEXICO'S DRUG VIOLENCE AND THE DANGER TO AMERICA, 2012, 264. The most effective way to deal with the murderous traffickers is to greatly reduce the "Croesus-like" fortunes available to the cartels. And the only realistic way to do that is to bite the bullet and end the policy of drug prohibition—preferably in whole—but at least in part, starting with the legalization of marijuana.



Legalize Marijuana

Harm: Tens of thousands of drug cartel deaths

Inherency: Lax U.S. laws allow assault weapons

Solvency: Eric Olson, (Sr. Associate, Mexico Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars), A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: COUNTERNARCOTICS AND CITIZEN SECURITY IN THE AMERICAS, Senate Hearing, Mar. 31, 2011, 59. The U.S. Government has a historic opportunity to assist the Government of Mexico to reduce the violence and weaken transnational criminal organizations operating from Mexico. Helping curb access to large quantities of sophisticated firearms and ammunition and thus their ability to carry out atrocities against civilians and overpower Mexican authorities is one critical way the U.S. Government can address this serious threat to Mexico and increasingly to the United States.



Stop Flow of Assault Weapons to Mexico

Harm: Poverty among Mexican farmers

Inherency: Free trade undermines fair trade

Solvency:

Shima Baradaran, (Prof., Law, Brigham Young U.), COLUMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW, Fall 2011, 40. Fair trade is not a charity or an aid organization, but is a product certification scheme that considers all of the costs of production—direct and indirect—rather than just market conditions to determine how much to compensate workers and producers. In this way, fair trade is able to address the root causes of poverty by connecting actors all along the trading chain, rather than focusing on stricter compliance from isolated actors.



Promote Fair Trade in Mexico
