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

Rich Edwards Professor of Communication Studies Baylor University

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. 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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED KLEVENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

MARCH 11, 2010



Prizzied for the use of the Committee on Agriculture agriculture Assumges:

Agricultural Trade With Cuba

Harm: Oil spill in the North Cuba Basin Inherency: Embargo bans U.S. oil company involvement

Solvency:

Sally Shelton-Colby, (Diplomat in Residence, School of International Service, American U.), THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, May 21, 2012, 21. The U.S. clearly has an interest in a BP-like accident not happening, Florida and all the Gulf States, but the rest of the country, more broadly. However, given the embargo, the sanctions, the U.S. could not respond quickly if, in fact, there were to be a manmade disaster. So, we're recommending that the U.S. government take steps to suspend those sanctions which prohibit the U.S. from coming to the prompt assistance of Cuba and, frankly, of ourselves.

The Heritago Foundation			
	GROUI	N-217 40408	
Offshore Drilling Increase Access, Reduce the Risk, and Stop Hurting American Companies Horn A. von Spalorsky and Nicolas D. Loris			
Abstract Given the shallon are still facing the	Oil companies are not only eager	TALKING POINT	
U.S. economy, the government useds to more units and led private industry do what private industry does best create jobs and increase our oil supply to help	they are enthusiastic about creat- ing jobs and bringing more of to the world just the American market, which, in turn, will help lower gas	Of companies are not only a to drill off America's coads- are enthusiantic about oreal to be and fortuning more of to.	
Amer the prior of the pump. And yet the Ohome Administration remains committed to strengthing describeds accounted molecular descriptions.	prices. Indeed, for evidence of oil compa- nior' appetite for economic growth, one need look no further than the Demotrated of the Interior's recent	world (and the American) in lat, which, in turn, will help i gas prices. • The Obama Administration	
obtain offshore beare from actually drilling and producing oil—a fact evidenced by a new beautit find in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims	\$1.7 billion fease sale in the central Guif of Mexico. But while this sale was a posi- tive development for American	doing everything in its power prevent companies that obt- offshore leases from actuall drilling and producing oil—a evidenced by a new lewsoit.	
by an independent U.S. oil and gas company. Congress should act now to open access and reduce the overcus regulatory risk that characterious U.S.	energy production, the Ohama Administration is doing everything in its power to present companies that elitain offshow leases from actu-	filed in the U.S. Court of Fed Claims by an independent U and gas company. • Congress should act now to	
offshore drilling policy. Such reform would provide companies the certainty they need to expand jub creation and increase America's energy napple.	ally drilling and producing oil—a fact evidenced by a new lawself recently filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Chains to an independent U.S. oil	accountered on the one regulatory risk that characts U.S. offshore drilling policy • Such referre would provide:	
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This paper, in its artisting, contact hand at this chaper's hartings, may highly Analous Day Tax Center for Lager and Ladroid Studies.	By March 2000, ATF OR & Gas Corporation had obtained off leases and necessary permits to drill in the		
The Hardings Number of St. No. 1992 (St. No. 1992)	Gulf of Mexico. In fact, after install- ing state-of-the art drilling and pro- cessing equipment, ATP was persed		
hading within him is to be continued an reconstrip reflecting the wave of the martings have become as as decorated within these processes of an info	to double its oil production. This mussive increase in produc-		

Oil in the North Cuba Basin

Harm: Right to travel

Inherency: Travel ban for ordinary U.S. citizens Solvency:

Jarrett Barrios, (Founder of the Humanitarian Organization, ACCESSO & CEO, American Red Cross, Eastern Massachusetts), CONNECTICUT PUBLIC INTEREST LAW JOURNAL, Fall 2011, 27. There are ample reasons why the President should open up travel to Cuba: it supports the individual right to travel of U.S. citizens; it rejects the ethically questionable and controversial strategy of resource denial to advance foreign policy objectives; efforts to isolate Cuba have retarded efforts to grow civil society on the island; a majority of Cuban Americans now support such repeal; and it is not fair policy to promote in the present political context.

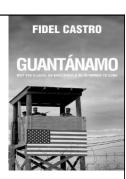


Tourist Travel to Cuba

Harm: Imperialism at its worse Inherency: Congress blocking base closing

Solvency:

David Perez, (J.D., Yale Law School), HARVARD LATINO LAW REVIEW, Spr. 2010, 213. Closing Guantanamo Bay would have reverberating effects, not just in Cuba and Latin America, but also throughout the world. Guantanamo Bay has come to "represent the image of an intolerant, abusive, unjust America." Its "very existence undermines America's ability to carry forth a message of principled optimism and hope."



Return Guantanamo Bay

Harm: Needless deaths among Cuban people

Inherency: Strange OFAC ruling Solvency:

Solvency:
Amnesty International, THE US
EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA: ITS IMPACT
ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS,
2009, 15. Although the easing of
exports of agricultural products has a
positive impact in addressing food
shortages and contributes towards the
realization of the right to food for
Cubans, the export of medicines and
medical equipment continues to be
severely limited and has a detrimental
impact on the progressive realization of
the right to the highest attainable
standard of health.

Report: U.S. sanctions put Cubans' health at risk

Enable Sale of Medical Supplies

Harm: Cuban Adjustment Act is a Racist

Inherency: Wet Foot/Dry Foot is U.S. policy

Solvency: Repeal the CAA

Solvency: Repeal the CAA
Joyce Hughes, (Prof., Law, Northwestern
U. School of Law), ST. THOMAS LAW
REVIEW, Spr. 2011, 215-216. Some
academics have charged that the CAA
promotes racial inequality and a racist
immigration policy. "They assert that the
only significant difference between
Haitian and Cuban refugees is that
Cubans tend to be white, while Haitians
tend to be black," and that the policy of
welcoming Cubans while rejecting
Haitians, who are fleeing equally
miserable - if not worse - conditions, is
unjustifiable.

Cuba Denounces U.S. Cuban Adjustment Act at the UN

Repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act

Harm: Human rights abuses and absence of democracy in Cuba

Inherency: Embargo limits Cuba's Internet access Solvency:

David Perez, (J.D., Yale Law School), HARVARD LATINO LAW REVIEW, Spr. 2010, 233. By entirely eliminating the communications plank of the economic sanctions, the U.S. will have removed a serious barrier to constructive academic and cultural exchanges. Many of these exchanges involve ordinary Cubans who would otherwise be left rudderless without communications equipment to link with their American counterparts. By encouraging nonpolitical contact between Cuban academics, cultural elites, and even athletes, the U.S. could circumvent the totalitarian strictures set up by the Cuban regime to

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Bridging Cuba's Divide: How U.S.	Policy Can Help
Theodore J. Piccome, Christopher	Sahatini and Carlos Saladrigas
terroduction Enoughous binney, the fine flow of information as bons a powerful agent of liberation and our- monte development. For authorization against, the filterina has bons to find the right halmost between how force, smally by manipulating information hought propaganda and commole on the media, where these mentilsy housing its.	It is accommodable to hope for the development of other BCDs, such as the internet and social results, without accounts interestive to make them work. Thus, the challenge for U.S. polisponaken contains not only in effectiving supposed andowns to in 50 years cild embargo, but in broadly lifting all secritains that bloods the development of an outcomes model appell of sunstaining the requisite investments in BCT in Cella, and the corresponding a measure demonstrate for the service.
Cabe is not exempt from these challenges. The Ca- re regime dearly needs to request information and summandation rechnologies (NCT) to sper funda-	Apinamed appends will simply not do the job. Laying this knowledge and infraence-are founda- tion is essential for the long-term economic pro- ports of the Cultura people. Centing there require
need refere of its economy, her depty from the solition impact of widespend access to ICT. How it pursues that balance can be greatly facilitated, or sacorbated, by U.S. policy sowards Cabu.	three repre 1) more explicit and flexible U.S. reg- ulations generating the export and irrestructure in ICT influenzation in Culter, 2) more flexible U.S. regulations to allow for the development of an ICT
He know there is a strong correlation between ac- sen to ICT and numerois growth and develop- nest. Generally, the large invariants required to ICT infratructure will only take place when here is a resenter model to support the invariance	ensumer market in Cubic and Si the development of distance-learning programs on the technologic especiance and applications of ICT to occurric and humanization activity.
and provide inventors with marker-based turns of re- turn. In the case of Caba, this became clear with	Buckground
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Sale of Telecommunication Gear

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

CUBA STUDY GR&UP					
Supporting Small Business in Cuba: Recommendations for Private and Public Sector Leaders					
Apoyo a la Pequeña Empresa en Cuba: Recomendociones para Líderes del Sector Privado y Público APRIL 2011					
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Americas/ COUNCE OF THE AMERICAS COUNCE OF THE AMERICAS COUNCE OF THE AMERICAN AN ACCOUNT INCREMENTATION.					

Microfinance Assistance to Cuban Entrepreneurs

Harm: Defection of baseball players dangerous Inherency: Rooney Rule treats Cuban players unfairly

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.



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.

MIRRID PART INC. INSTRUCTY AND TERRORS IN MIXTON TERRORS IN MIXTON TERRORS IN MIXTON TO STATE AND THE STATE AND TH

De-militarize the Merida Initiative

Harm: Tens of thousands of drug cartel deaths in

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.

SMALL F	ARMERS. BIG C	HANGE.	
A green and mo	re just food system starts	with small farmers.	
		E N	
Plura Mounta	ers Greening the Planet: ins Reforestation Project Dimate Challenge	Peru's Vice President Inaugurates a Coffee Processing Plant in Canchaque >	
we can on	Small Farmer Fair Tr ly move forward wit 2011 by Phylis Robinson	ade Producers Speak Out: " h authentic fair trade"	
On December 7th, Francisco VarChelhoff Boessma, co-flyunder of the first fair trade certifying body, Max Havellear, and the renewed small farmer co-operation in Mixico, UCER (Jains of Endgenous Communities of the Region of Estimus) submitted the following externel important proclamation from the Mixical with the Communication of the Communication of the Mixical communication of the Communication of the Communication of the Mixical submitted the Regions of the Communication of the C			
Coordinator of	f Small Fair Trade Producers	as a comment on our earlier blog post, stance, I've taken the liberty to have it	
translated fro	m Spanish and am posting i	t here. The proclamation expresses the	
		farmer organizations throughout the	
		to read the views expressed here.	

Promote Fair Trade in Mexico

Harm: Tens of thousands of drug cartel deaths Inherency: Lax U.S. money laundering laws Solvency: Clare Seelke, (Specialist in Latin American Affairs, Congressional Research Service), THE MERIDA INITIATIVE, 2010, 16 Interrupting the flow of money from drug sales in the United States to Mexico, estimated to range from \$15 billion to \$25 billion annually, may be one of the most effective ways to disrupt the activities of the Mexican DTOs. A portion of this money is used to buy weapons in the United States to arm the DTOs and their drug enforcers. Other drug proceeds are used to corrupt law enforcement and public officials enabling the DTOs to continue to operate with impunity.



Stop Laundering of Mexican **Drug Cartel Money**

Harm: Poverty

Inherency: Unfair guestworker program Solvency: Bill Hing, (Prof., Law, U. of San Francisco School of Law), ETHICAL BORDERS: NAFTA, GLOBALIZATION, AND MEXICAN MIGRATION, 2010, 157. Instead of short-term "guest-worker" visas similar to those proposed for several years by President Bush, labor shortages should be filled with workers with full rights, a path to permanent residence. and, if they choose, citizenship. Congress has arbitrarily set the number of employmentbased admissions for permanent visas at 140,000 annually. This number falls far short of satisfying the actual need for visas based on the U.S. demand for labor and family

WPPOLITICS

Dispute over guest-worker progra immigration talks at risk of delay

A worsening dispute over a new guest-worker program has emerged as the most serious obstacle to a bipartisan deal on immigration, threatening to delay the unveiling of a Senate bill early next month.

The impasse has prompted a bitter <u>round of name-calling</u> between labor and business groups, which accuse each other of imperiling comprehensive immigration reform.

The Obama administration has remained on the sidelines as the standoff has worsened, calculating that the president would risk alienating Republican senators crucial to the process. Ohama said this week that the issue

Provide a Fair Guestworker **Program for Immigrants**

Harm: Poverty in Mexico

Inherency: Collective remittances are not tax deductible now

Solvency: Martin Chavez, (J.D. Candidate), NEW YORK UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY, 2011, 584. Governments and economists are enthusiastic about personal remittances because they have been shown to alleviate poverty in developing countries. In one widely cited study, researchers found that a "10% increase in per capita official international remittances will lead, on average, to a 3.5% decline in the share of people living in poverty." A similar World Bank study found that remittances have decreased "extreme poverty" by more than 35% in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador, and have cut "moderate poverty" by an average of 19%.

REMITTANCES AND THE CHARITABLE DEDUCTION: A NEW APPROACH TO ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO

Martin Chavez*

Charitable Deduction

Tax Policy and the Burgeoning Population of
Immigrant Workers.

Promote the Sending of **Collective Remittances**

Harm: Right of access to water Inherency: IBWC is dysfunctional now Solvency: Reform the IBWC

Robert McCarthy, (Former General Counsel, International Boundary and Water Commission),
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER WATER LAW REVIEW, Spr. 2011, 253, Pollution in the Tijuana River is so excessive that many beaches have been closed to swimming, and there have been alarming reports of a rising incidence of infant brain anencephaly near Tijuana and San Diego. The IBWC's perceived mismanagement of the sewage problem was summarized this way twenty years ago: Through the years, mounting criticisms of IBWC suggest that it is nonresponsive and perhaps even counterproductive in solving problems.

Copyright (c) 2011 University of Denver Sturm College of Law University of Denver Water Law Review ARTICLE: EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, ADAPTIVE TREATY INTERPRETATION, AND THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDABY AND WATER COMMISSION, U.S. —

Reform the International **Border Water Commission**

Harm: Energy crisis/global warming Inherency: Lack of smart grid holds back wind power

Solvency: Duncan Wood, (Dir., Mexico Institute at Woodrow Wilson
International Center for Scholars), NEW IDEAS FOR A NEW ERA: POLICY OPTIONS FOR THE NEXT STAGE IN U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS, Jan. 2013, 43. The potential for wind power in the states of Baja California and Tamaulipas is huge, although it is currently held back by crossborder transmission challenges.



Cross-Border Smart Electrical Grid

Harm: Democracy undermined Inherency: U.S. funds opposition groups Solvency: Daniel Hellinger, (Prof., Political Science, Webster U.), GLOBAL SECURITY WATCH: VENEZUELA, 2012, 168. To make progress beyond this gesture, the United States needs to recalibrate policy not just toward Venezuela but also toward the entire Latin American region. Decoupling support for democracy and human rights from insistence on a neoliberal model would be the foundation for such a recalibration. Furthermore; the United States must accept significant hemispheric changes that have been major goals of Venezuela's petro-diplomacy but have broader support throughout the region.



Stop Funding Opposition Groups in Venezuela