

# Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela Basics

Dr. Rich Edwards

Professor of Communication Studies

Baylor University

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:

- ◆ In 1959, Fidel Castro nationalized all private 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?

- ◆ Naval Coaling Station starting in 1903
- ◆ U.S. and Cuba agreed to a permanent lease arrangement in 1934
- ◆ Annual lease amount: 2,000 in gold coins – currently about \$4,000 per year; 45 square miles;



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

- ◆ NAFTA impacts: 80% of Mexican imports to the U.S.; Mexico is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

