

CUBA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA CASES: NEG POSITIONS

Rich Edwards
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Humberto Fontova, (Cuban-American Journalist), THE WASHINGTON TIMES, Apr. 7, 2011, B1.

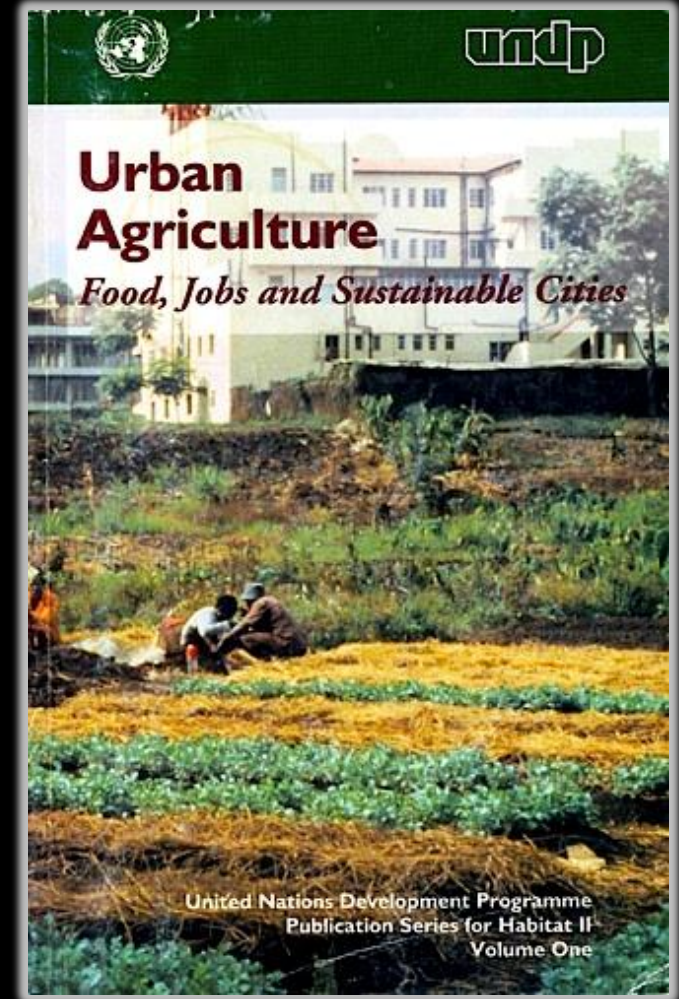
According to Freedom House, more than half a million Cubans have suffered in the Castros' various gulags, dungeons and torture chambers, an incarceration rate higher than Josef Stalin's. According to the scholars and researchers at the Cuba Archive, the Castro regime's total death toll -- from torture, prison beatings, firing squads, machine-gunning of escapees, drownings, etc.--approaches 100,000.



Lift the Cuban Economic Embargo

Christina Ergas, (Prof., Sociology, U. Oregon).
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: SUSTAINABLE URBAN
AGRICULTURE IN CUBA, Mar. 2013. Retrieved
May 15, 2013 from
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/food-sovereignty-sustainable-urban-agriculture-in-cuba/5332167>.

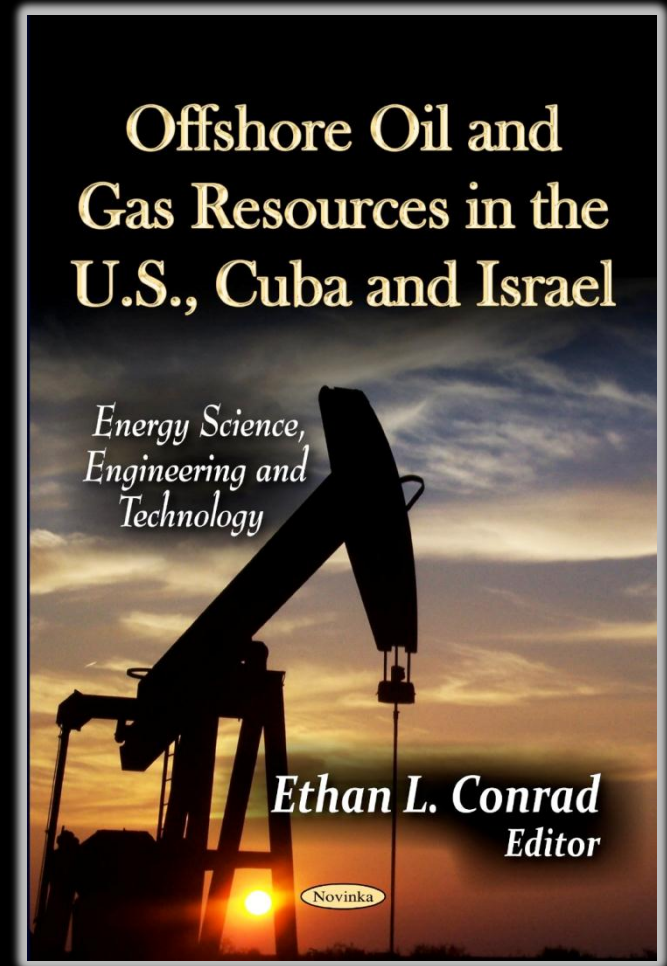
Koont indicates that the significance of urban agriculture in Cuba is that although Cuba is not completely food self-sufficient, it is the only example the world has of a country that produces most of its food locally, employing agroecological techniques for production. Furthermore, most of the food produced is for local consumption. As a result, Cuba has one of the shortest producer-to-consumer chains in the world. In this book, Koont documents the impressive transformations that have taken place within this nation.



Agricultural Trade With Cuba

Peter Orsi, (Staff), THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Nov. 13, 2012. Retrieved Dec. 26, 2012 from Nexis.

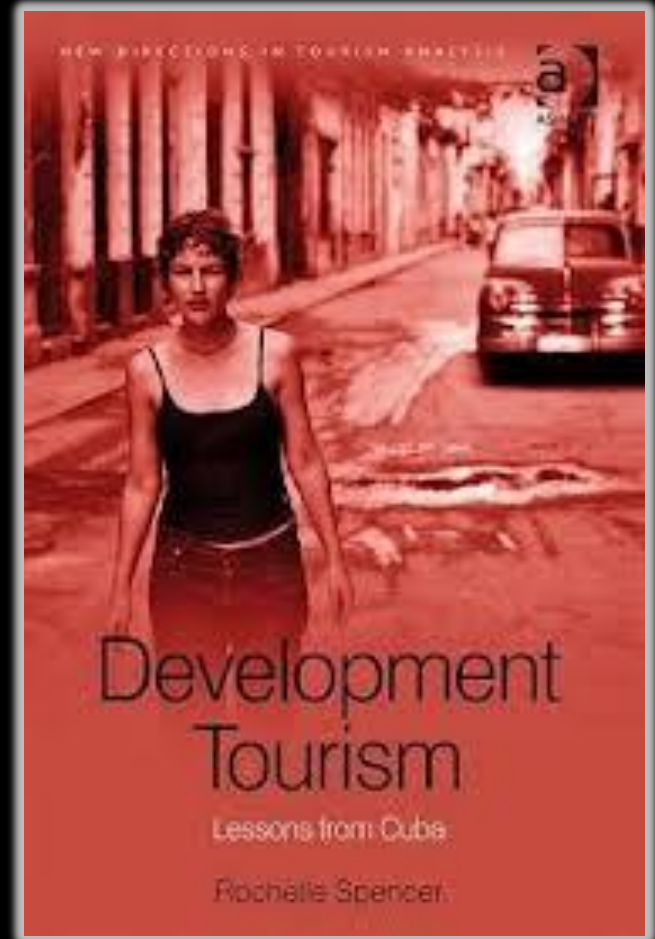
The only rig in existence that can drill in deep waters off Cuba is preparing to sail away from the island, officials said Tuesday, after the third exploratory well sunk this year proved nonviable in a blow to government hopes of an oil bonanza. While production was always years off even in the event of a big discovery, analysts said the Scarabeo-9's imminent departure means Havana's dreams of injecting petrodollars into a struggling economy will be on hold indefinitely. "Bottom line: This chapter is finished. Close the book, put it on the shelf," said Jorge Pinon, a Latin America oil expert at the University of Texas' Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy.



Oil in the North Cuba Basin

Rochelle Spencer, (Prof., International Studies, Macquarie U.), DEVELOPMENT TOURISM: LESSONS FROM CUBA, 2010, 43-44.

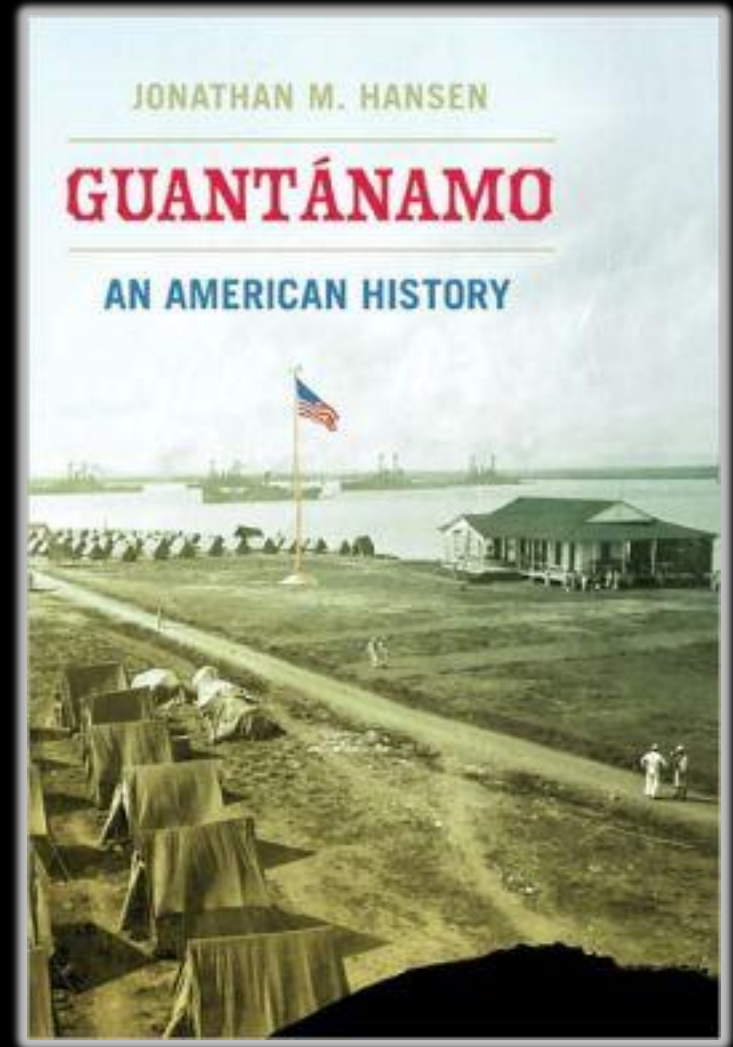
It has long been argued that because foreign private sector interests often drive tourism, it has limited potential to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in developing countries. Indeed it can disadvantage the poor in many ways. Tourism is renowned for its high incidence of revenue leakage, and generally, the revenue that is retained in a destination country goes towards high or middle income groups, not the poor. Moreover, tourism has proved to be a highly volatile industry prone to the effects of events such as political unrest, exchange rate fluctuations, and natural disasters, making it a highly insecure livelihood for poor families. Tourism to date has explicitly affected the poor in Third World countries, through displacement, the increase of local costs, decreased access to resources, and social and cultural disruption.



Tourist Travel to Cuba

Jonathan Hansen, (Prof., History, Harvard U.),
GUANTANAMO: AN AMERICAN HISTORY,
2011, 357-358.

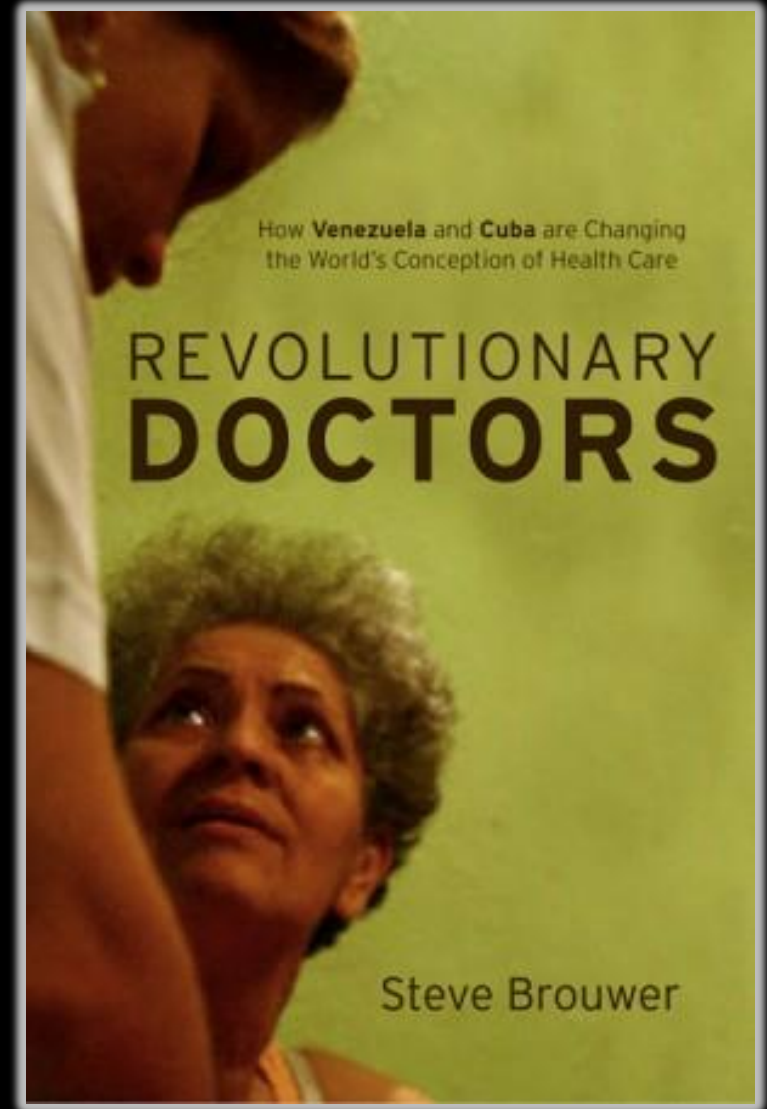
Cubans have long looked on the region as a refuge from the repression, thuggery, corruption, and racial persecution besetting the rest of Cuba. Oriente province has long served as Cuba's frontier, Guantánamo as the nation's safety valve. For the past fifty years, Cubans fleeing the persecution of Castro's government have regarded the U.S. base as a vestige of imperialism, to be sure, but also as a haven. Cuban dissidents have climbed fences, tiptoed through minefields, and swum thirty miles against current, wind, and long odds to make it to the naval base.



Return Guantanamo Bay

Will Weissert, (Staff, Associated Press),
WASHINGTON TIMES, DEC. 15, 2009.
Retrieved May 8, 2013 from
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/dec/15/medical-aid-to-cuba-hits-snags/?page=all>.

How much American medical technology Cuba really needs is also open for debate. The communist government says no patient dies for lack of medicine or equipment in its universal health care system. Also, Cuba's Health Ministry sends buyers to the U.S. "to buy everything we need" and carry them back without permits, said Dr. Anasagasti, the Cuban oncologist.



Enable Sale of Medical Supplies

Fernando Ravsberg, (Staff), HAVANA TIMES, Jan. 24, 2013. Retrieved May 17, 2013 from <http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=86459>.

If there exists legislation that allows Cubans to obtain residency in the US, that's great. Hopefully it will be expanded to the rest of Latin Americans. Likewise, it doesn't seem ethical or humanitarian for Cuban-American officials to now demand the elimination of that law in order to sabotage the right of their countrymen to emigrate.

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5 Reasons to Grant Amnesty to Illegal Immigrants

It's time to get serious and implement the only immigration reform that will work.

Ed Krayewski | February 7, 2013

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Immigration reform returned to center stage in Washington last week with a proposal from a bipartisan group of senators that was promptly **endorsed in principle** by President Barack Obama. One of the lynchpins of the proposal is providing a "path to citizenship" for those who are currently in the country illegally, a concept that opponents were quick to label "amnesty." Obama of course denies any talk of amnesty, saying instead that he wants illegal immigrants to pay penalties, pay taxes, learn English, and then go "to the back of the line."



Repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act

George Radanovich, (U.S. Rep., California),
EXAMINING THE STATUS OF U.S. TRADE WITH
CUBA AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC
GROWTH, House Hrg., Apr. 27, 2009, 5.
Telecommunications is also viewed as a
possible avenue to export more products, but
doing business in Cuba requires a joint venture
with the Castro government. Whether the net
effect would be positive is debatable. Certainly
other countries that do not maintain a trade
embargo with Cuba have been free to expand
their markets in Cuba; however, democracy
advocates have yet to see the benefits of
those ventures. This may be due in part to the
very limited financial resources of the average
Cuban citizen and the affordability of
telecommunication services. Why anyone
thinks that this will change if a company
providing the service as a U.S. company rather
than their current provider escapes me.

EXAMINING THE STATUS OF U.S. TRADE WITH
CUBA AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE,
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
COMMERCE

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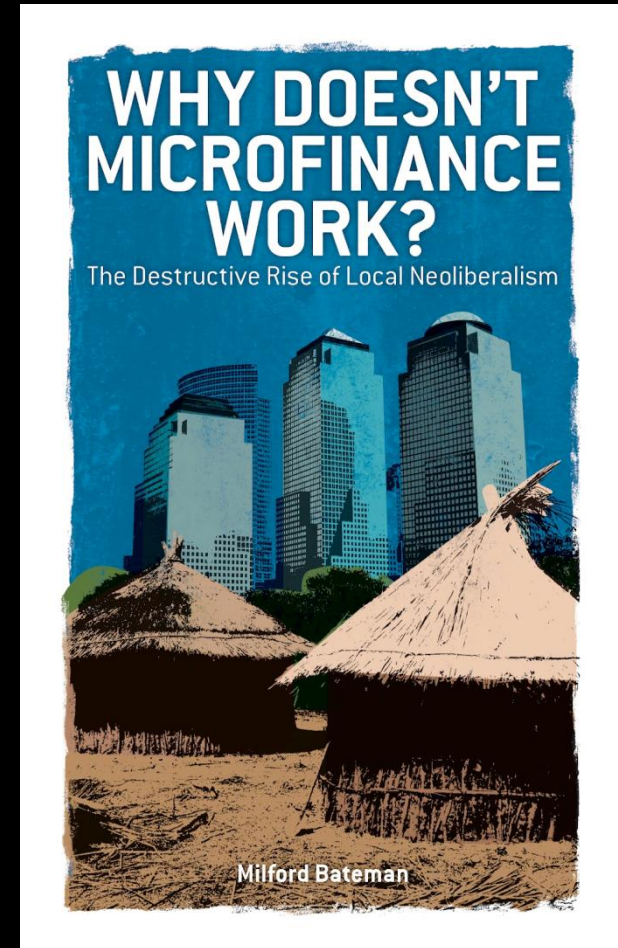
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Sale of Telecommunication Gear

Milford Bateman, (Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute), **WHY DOESN'T MICROFINANCE WORK?: THE DESTRUCTIVE RISE OF LOCAL NEOLIBERALISM**, 2010, 202.

In truth, micro-finance represents an anti-development policy — a development policy that largely works against the establishment of sustainable economic and social development trajectories, and so also against sustainable poverty reduction. For the majority of people in developing and transition countries, their country's diversion into microfinance has actually undermined previous and ongoing efforts to reduce poverty, unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment. In many ways microfinance represents a wrong turning similar to the former Soviet Union's plan-driven channeling of its own scarce resources into inefficient giant factories, huge collectivized state farms and a bloated military-industrial complex. Microfinance is the mirror image of Soviet-style central planning, and just as misguided and ultimately ineffective.



Microfinance Assistance to Cuba

Baseball World, CHASING DREAMS: CUBAN BASEBALL DEFECTORS, Jan. 15, 2010. Retrieved May 15, 2013 from <http://baseballdeworld.com/2010/01/15/chasing-dreams-cuban-baseball-defectors-part-1/>.

According to the Cuban baseball website, CubanBall.com, nearly 200 players have defected since 1980. Although just a small number of would-be big leaguers have struck paydirt, the majority of defectors have enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their baseball skills. Prior to Jose Contreras four-year, \$32 million contract with the New York Yankees after defecting from the Americas Cup in Mexico in 2002, former Villa Clara pitcher Rolando Arrojo was the standard bearer with a \$7 million deal from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. However, the price tag for top Cuban prospects have skyrocketed in recent years.



Cuban Baseball Players

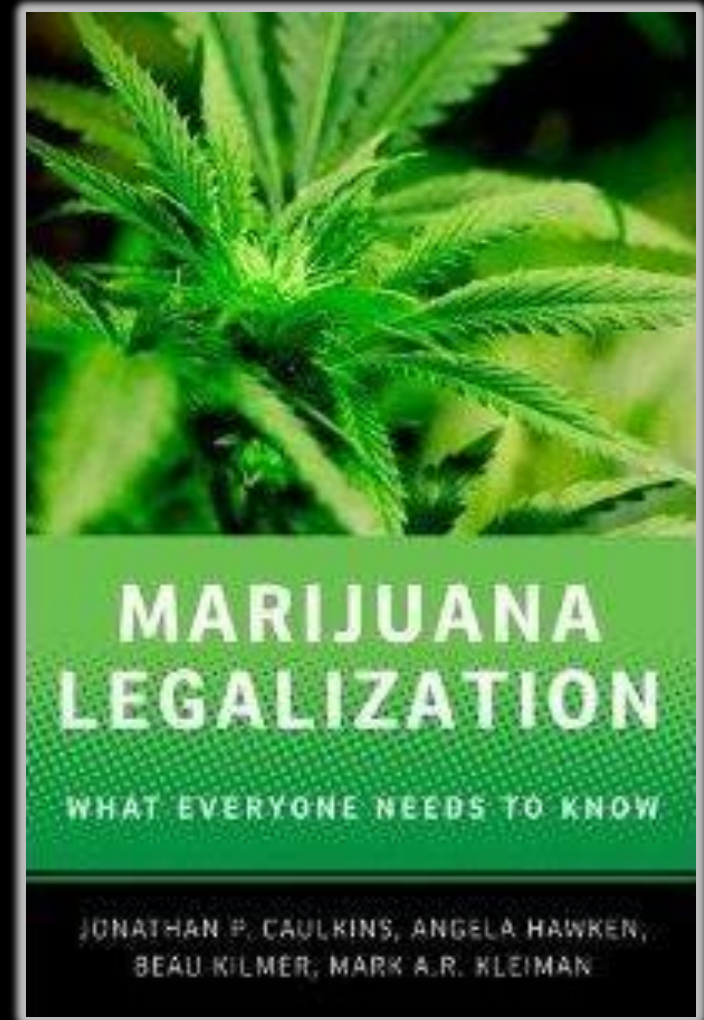
Andres Oppenheimer, (Staff, Miami Herald), MIAMI HERALD, Mar. 29, 2010.
Retrieved Apr. 18, 2013 from
<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/03/29/91066/commentary-mexicos-drug-related.html>.

A new study by Brookings Institute Latin American expert Kevin Casas-Zamora, a former vice president of Costa Rica, helps put Mexico's violence in perspective. According to Casas-Zamora's figures, based on United Nations 2008 data, Mexico's murder rate is nearly five times less than that of sunny Jamaica and about half that of Brazil, a country that was recently awarded the much-coveted 2014 soccer World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. Consider his data of Latin America's most violent countries: Honduras has a murder rate of 61 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Jamaica with 60, Venezuela and El Salvador with 52 each, Guatemala with 47, Trinidad and Tobago with 40, Colombia with 39, Brazil with 22, Dominican Republic with 21, Panama with 19, Ecuador with 18, Nicaragua with 13, Paraguay with 12, Mexico and Costa Rica with about 11.5 each, Bolivia with 10.5 and Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, and Chile with less than 10. Comparatively, while the United States homicide rate is lower than Mexico's, Washington, D.C., has a murder rate of 31 people per 100,000 inhabitants and New Orleans has 74.

Demilitarize the Merida Initiative

Jonathan Caulkins, (Prof., Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon U.), MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW, 2012, 176.

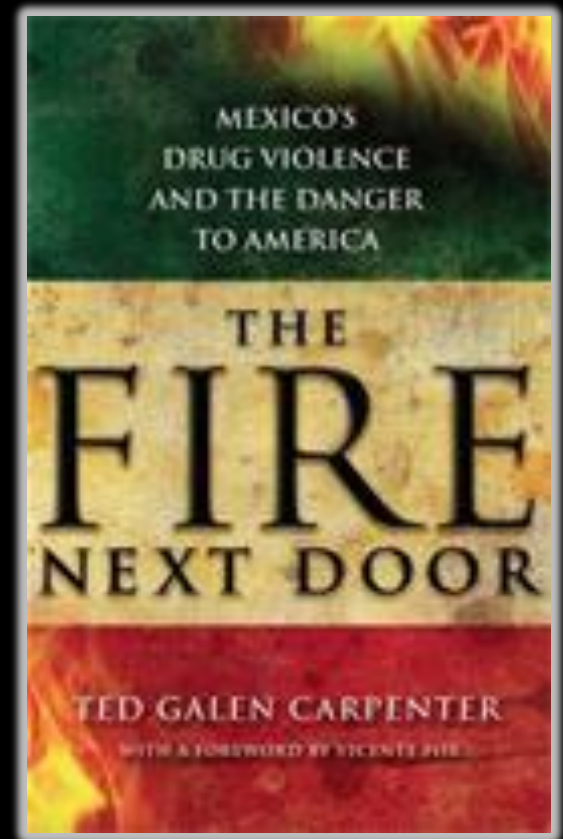
It is not clear how a 20 percent reduction in drug export revenue—to pick one plausible figure—would affect DTO violence. In the first place, a 20 percent reduction in drug export revenue does not imply a 20 percent reduction in total revenue. Despite the "D" in the acronym, DTOs are diversified criminal enterprises that parlay their capacity for violence into a variety of revenue streams including kidnapping, extortion, carjacking, and other activities.



Legalize Marijuana

Ted Galen Carpenter, (Sr. Fellow, Cato Institute),
THE FIRE NEXT DOOR: MEXICO'S DRUG
VIOLENCE AND THE DANGER TO AMERICA,
2012, 223-224.

Even if gun laws in the United States were tightened, Mexican drug gangs would have little trouble obtaining all the guns—and far more powerful armaments—they desire from black-market sources in Mexico and elsewhere. Indeed, as the commerce in grenades indicates, there is ample evidence that they do so already. After all, drug traffickers are individuals who make their fortunes operating in a black market, and they have vast financial resources to purchase whatever they need to conduct their business.



Flow of Assault Weapons

Lawrence Solomon, (Founder, Green Beanery), NATIONAL POST, May 13, 2011, A1. That fair-trade cup of coffee we savor may not only fail to ease the lot of poor farmers, it may actually help to impoverish them, according to a study out recently from Germany's University of Hohenheim. The study, which followed hundreds of Nicaraguan coffee farmers over a decade, concluded that farmers producing for the fair-trade market "are more often found below the absolute poverty line than conventional producers. "Over a period of 10 years, our analysis shows that organic and organic-fair trade farmers have become poorer relative to conventional producers."



Promote Fair Trade in Mexico

John Rathbone, (Staff), FINANCIAL TIMES, July 21, 2012, 5.

Dirty money will always find a weak spot to enter the global financial system -- be that opaque countries such as Russia or others that use the US dollar, such as Ecuador. Even in supposedly sophisticated countries the record is poor.

Already Illegal:

- Bank Secrecy Act of 1970

- Money Laundering Control Act of 1986

- Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989

- Annunzio-Wylie Anti-Money Laundering Act of 1992

- Money Laundering Suppression Act of 1994

- Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act of 1998

- Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act of 2000

- Bulk Cash Smuggling Act of 2001



Stop Money Laundering

Jennifer Gordon, (Prof., Law, Fordham U. School of Law), NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW, Summer 2010, 1137-1138.

For trade, firms in wealthier nations want unfettered access to developing markets, and their governments recognize that they must negotiate with the governments of the less-developed countries to receive the freedom from tariffs that they seek. In the case of labor migration, however, developed country governments can legislate whatever sort of immigration program they desire without engaging any developing countries at all.



Guestworker Program

Nicholas Rowe, (Henriksen Fellow, Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies), MEXICO'S OPORTUNIDADES: CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS AS A SOLUTION TO GLOBAL POVERTY?, 2011, 3-4. In 1997, Mexico launched a revolutionary, incentive-based poverty alleviation program known as Progresa (later renamed and henceforth referred to as Oportunidades) in response to these dilemmas. The idea is simple: small amounts of money are dispensed bimonthly to poor families based on the strict conditions that children regularly attend school and family members obtain preventive medical care through regular clinic visits and attendance of educational talks. In this way, Oportunidades aimed to provide short-term income poverty relief from the impacts of the crisis and afterwards by increasing immediate consumption possibilities, while promoting the formation of human capital as a means to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty as part of a long-term development strategy.

P. 10. Oportunidades, and in a more general sense conditional cash transfers, represents a departure from traditional forms of social policy. The program moves beyond conventional approaches such as food and in-kind subsidies to embrace a multidimensional approach, one which redefines poverty beyond consideration of income to encompass welfare indicators such as health, education, and nutrition. Families are free to spend cash transfers as they wish and continue to receive them so long as they adhere to the prescribed conditions. Oportunidades is one of the first examples of conditional cash transfers (CCTs).

Sending of Remittances

Jason Margolis, (Journalist), COLORADO RIVER AGREEMENT TO HELP RESTORE WETLANDS IN MEXICO, Nov. 26, 2012. Retrieved Apr. 25, 2013 from <http://www.theworld.org/2012/11/colorado-river-agreement-to-help-restore-vanished-wetlands-in-mexico/>.

Under a new agreement reached last week, the United States will get more water during times of drought. And in times of plenty, Mexico will be able to store excess water north of the border. And the Colorado River Delta also stands to benefit. That's welcome news to people like Francisco Zamora, who directs the Sonoran Institute's Colorado River Delta program. He said when his group planted trees last year on 50 acres in the Delta and provided a tiny amount of water for irrigation, the trees quickly bloomed. "It's really amazing how fast they grow and how quickly they produce habitat. We've seen many species of birds using the habitat, and other wildlife, mammals and the bobcat, and there are a few beavers we've seen along the river." Again, that's from a tiny amount of water. Under the agreement reached this week, more than a thousand times as much water will be added to the Delta, over a five-year period.

Reform the International Border Water Commission

Selene Aparicio, (Journalist), WIND POWER IN MEXICO IS NOW A REALITY, Aug. 18, 2012. Retrieved Apr. 26, 2013 from <http://www.renewableenergymexico.com/?p=531>.

According to Mauricio Trujillo, Project Manager in Latin America of the Global Wind Energy Council, at today Mexico's wind power sector is at the point where the Asian wind power sector was five years ago. This implies that Mexico is at the start of a very steep growth curve and can expect great advancements in the coming years. In order to take advantage of this growth potential, Mexico should expand and upgrade its current transmission infrastructure. Nevertheless, according to Rodríguez Olivé, for the wind power sector to grow in Mexico, there is no need for incentives such as subsidies or feed-in-tariffs. Mexico currently has a favorable public policy environment and this is all the sector needs to grow in the coming years.



Cross-Border Smart Electrical Grid

DEMOCRACY DIGEST, May 2, 2013. Retrieved May 7, 2013 from <http://www.demdigest.net/blog/2013/05/opposition-to-contest-venezuela-poll-in-court/>.

Political analysts and electoral experts, among them Jennifer McCoy of the Carter Center, say the crisis could be defused with an extensive review of the automated voting system to address concerns raised by the opposition. “The concerns are not about the machines and whether they counted accurately,” said McCoy, who is the Americas director at the center and has observed six elections here. “The questions are much more about who voted. Was there double voting? Was there impersonation of voters? And was there coerced voting?”



Stop Funding Venezuelan Opposition Groups