



**BOSTON DEBATE LEAGUE**

Transforming School Culture Through Debate

## 2013-2014 Novice Packet

- Cuba Embargo Aff
- Cuba Embargo Neg

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

# Cuba Embargo Affirmative

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### **Summary**

This affirmative case argues that the United States should lift its economic embargo on Cuba.


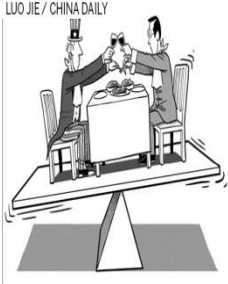


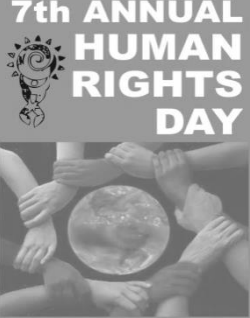
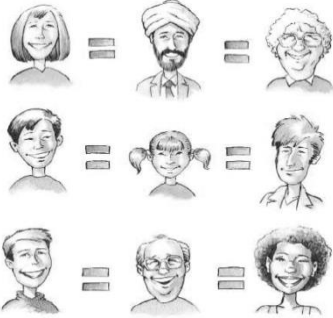
There are three main reasons why allowing trade, travel, and economic engagement with Cuba is a good idea:





First, the existing restrictions on trade limit the amount of medical goods that are available in Cuba – which has created a public health crisis.



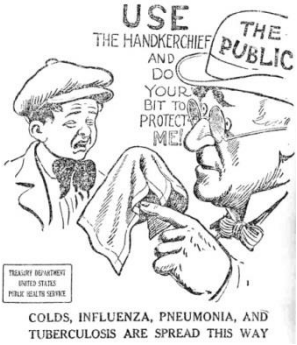


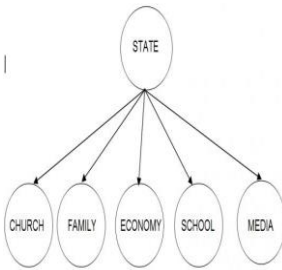
Second, the embargo has strengthened the regime by allowing the Cuban government to scapegoat the United States for suffering of its people – improving economic conditions in Cuba would allow its people to focus on asserting their rights.

Third, the embargo is extremely unpopular and gets in the way of the United States' ability to co-operate with Latin America – the ability to co-operate with Latin America is essential to work out solutions to several problems like nuclear proliferation and global climate change.

Picture Glossary

Picture 1	Picture 2	Term/Phrase	Definition	Example	Non Example
		Economic Engagement	A foreign policy strategy which seeks to increase ties between countries through economic interaction.	The US trying to find ways to increase trade with a country it wanted to get closer to politically.	If the U.S. decided to build a national monument in Venezuela to commemorate the life of former President Hugo Chavez.
 <p data-bbox="142 1024 506 1057">Cuban Embargo (current)</p>	 <p data-bbox="653 1024 947 1057">Embargo Act of 1807</p>	Embargo/ Sanctions	Trade restrictions put in place against target countries with the aim of discouraging certain behaviors like human rights violations or military build-up.	After Burma's military took over and oppressed their people the US will not sell them weapons.	The US charges Japanese car makers an extra 2.5% to import their cars (example of a duty)
		Human rights	Basic, fundamental rights to which every person is entitled because they are human beings.	It is a human right to be given a fair trial and to be judged as equally as anybody else under the law.	It is not a human right to hurt another person who poses no threat to you.

Picture 1	Picture 2	Term/Phrase	Definition	Example	Non Example
		<p>International Influence/ Soft Power</p>	<p>A persuasive approach to international relations, typically involving the use of economic or cultural influence. The ability of a nation to persuade other nations to adopt changes by modeling good behavior, rather than the use of force or power.</p>	<p>Germany is forming a very green energy plan for the country and at the same time it is trying to encourage the USA and other European nations to adopt the same type of green energy plan</p>	<p>America going into Vietnam to try and stop them from forming a socialist or communist government by using our military power is an example of something that isn't soft power</p>
		<p>International Relations</p>	<p>The relationships that dictate interactions between countries, their governments, and their people.</p>	<p>Our trade policy.</p>	<p>State taxes are a domestic issue and show nothing about international relations</p>

Picture 1	Picture 2	Term/Phrase	Definition	Example	Non Example
		Moral obligation	An obligation arising out of considerations of right and wrong or a sense of duty or priority imposed by moral standards.	If we have extra money then we should give back and donate money to other people in need.	Buying all of your friends Gucci sunglasses.
		Public Health	An organized effort of a society to improve the health and lifespan of its people.	Creating health clinics which provide free checkups in neighborhoods that cannot afford health care.	Building a trash dump in your neighborhood.
		Totalitarianism	A political system in which the state holds total authority over its society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private affairs.	In Cuba you can be put in prison for saying something the government does not like.	In the US you can say anything and do anything you like so long as it does not injure another person.

## 1AC 1/4

First, we will explain the current state of the United States' relationship with Cuba:

Despite small changes, United States maintains an embargo that restricts the flow of goods like medical supplies into Cuba.

**Guzmán, Emmy award winning journalist, 2013**

(Sandra, "Jay-Z and Beyoncé's trip to Cuba isn't the problem, the embargo is," *CNN*, May 8, Online: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/05/07/opinion/guzman-beyonce-jay-z-cuba/index.html>)

**The few but very influential pro-embargo lobby have put a stranglehold on a lucid discussion surrounding Cuba. Five decades of failed policy later, our nation is being held hostage unable to have a cogent discussion on anything Cuba-related. The U.S. embargo has not and will not work. Put in place in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, the policy is stuck in a time warp that has nothing to do with modern-day reality.** The most enduring embargo in modern day history is a remnant of a Cold War past when the Soviet Union was the enemy and the world was on the brink of nuclear war. **The thinking was that financial sanctions, which included a ban on travel by American citizens, would collapse the island economy and force people to revolt against Fidel Castro.** Over the years, **these sanctions have been eased or toughened depending on political winds.** In 1992, disgraced New Jersey Rep. Robert **Torricelli was behind one the cruelest acts which banned, among many things, food and medicine sales to Cuba** and prevented Cuban-American families from sending cash to their relatives. These were tough times and seeing many friends and families suffer because they couldn't visit their elderly mothers more than once every three years, or being prevented from sending them needed supplies, was very painful. Restrictions have eased under President Barack Obama but **there is still a major ban.** Enter Jay Z and Beyoncé. **It's 2013 and we need to debate Cuban policy earnestly.** Members of **Congress must stop the cowardice around the issue and stop humoring the delusions of passionate folks stuck in the 1960s** for political votes and favor. **The pro-embargo folks are ignoring the policy's epic failure and fail to recognize that U.S. policy has played into the hands of the Castro brothers, who have sinisterly used it to make the case to their people that if Cuba is starving and the island economy can't grow, it's because of this U.S. policy.**



## 1AC 2/4

Second, we will explain how the economic embargo on Cuba hurts public health:

The shortage of medical supplies and technologies imposed by the embargo significantly undermines the quality of Cuba's healthcare system.

**Xinhua News, 2012**

("Cuban healthcare weakened by U.S. embargo," 11/28, Online:  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2012-11/28/c\\_132004531.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2012-11/28/c_132004531.htm))

**Cuban medical authorities said** on Tuesday **a 50-year trade embargo imposed by the United States has severely undermined the country's healthcare system.**¶ **Cuban hospitals suffer restrictions in acquiring imported medical consumables and medicine, advanced medical technology and latest scientific information,** officials said.¶ **The public Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, where thousands of people receive free medical care** every year from international specialists, **is financially strained by the embargo.**¶ **"We must find alternatives** that sometimes include purchasing from distant markets, buying from third parties, **which means higher prices for these products,"** said Director of the institute Dr. Lorenzo Llerena.¶ He added **some equipments were simply unattainable, "because they are manufactured in the United States."**¶ **The embargo has caused Cuba a loss of more than 200 million dollars in the medical sector alone** by 2011, representing a significant impact on the tiny Caribbean nation, according to official figures.¶ John Rhodes, a patient, told Xinhua that Cuba had made a great effort for the benefit of all its citizens.¶ "It provides us free medicine across the country, which is highly expensive around the world," he said, adding **"due to the U.S. embargo,** sometimes **we do not have** all **the raw materials and tools to solve** certain **problems** immediately."¶

## 1AC 3/4

These shortages contribute to massive loss of life in Cuba – we have a moral obligation to lift the embargo.

**Eisenberg, former Professor Emeritus of Social Medicine and Psychology at the Harvard Medical School, 1997**

(Leon, "The sleep of reason produces monsters – human costs of economic sanctions," *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 336:17, pgs. 1248-1250, ProQuest)

Thus, **three unusual outbreaks of medical conditions -- neuropathy, self-inflicted disease, and injuries caused by rioting -- stemmed from U.S. economic sanctions. The sanctions may be aimed at Fidel Castro, but the victims are the ordinary citizens of Cuba.** Castro looks as well fed as ever. **Economic sanctions afflict civilians, not soldiers and not the leaders** of autocratic societies. **Yet the United States continues to employ such sanctions** against dictators (or at least those dictators it suits present policy to condemn). **When the sanctions are applied, they are all-encompassing. The interdicted trade with Cuba includes visits by medical delegations and the mailing of medical journals** such as this one. Whom do medical journals empower, dictators or doctors? **Can freedom be defended by suppressing information any more than by interrupting food supplies or drugs?** **Iraq is an even more disastrous example of war against the public health.** Two months after the end of the six-week war, which began on January 16, 1991, a study team from the Harvard School of Public Health visited Iraq to examine the medical consequences of sanctions imposed after the armed conflict. The destruction of the country's power plants had brought its entire system of water purification and distribution to a halt, leading to epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever, and gastroenteritis, particularly among children. Mortality rates doubled or tripled among children admitted to hospitals in Baghdad and Basra. Cases of marasmus appeared for the first time in decades. The team observed "suffering of tragic proportions. . . . [with children] dying of preventable diseases and starvation."<sup>5</sup> Although the allied bombing had caused few civilian casualties, the destruction of the infrastructure resulted in devastating long-term effects on health.<sup>¶</sup> An international group supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) carried out a more comprehensive study five months later by interviewing members of households selected to represent the Iraqi population.<sup>6</sup> The age-adjusted relative mortality rate among children in the eight months after the war, as compared with the five years before the war, was 3.2. There were approximately 47,000 excess deaths among children under five years of age during the first eight months of 1991. **The deaths resulted from infectious diseases, the decreased quality and availability of food and water, and an enfeebled medical care system hampered by the lack of drugs and supplies.** **The Cuban and Iraqi instances make it abundantly clear that economic sanctions are, at their core, a war against public health. Our professional ethic demands the defense of public health.** Thus, as physicians, **we have a moral imperative to call for the end of sanctions. Having found the cause, we must act to remove it. Continuing to allow our reason to sleep will produce more monsters.**

Thus, we propose the following plan:

**The United States federal government should end its embargo on Cuba.**

## 1AC 4/4

Lastly, we will explain how lifting the embargo would improve living conditions in Cuba:

**Lifting the embargo is essential to restore a free flow of goods and improve the living conditions of Cubans.**

**Perez, professor of history & director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2010**

(Louis, "Want change in Cuba? End US embargo," *CNN*, September 21, Online: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/09/20/perez.cuba.embargo/index.html>)

But **if the administration really wanted to do something in the national interest, it would end the 50-year-old policy of political and economic isolation of Cuba.**¶ The Cuban embargo can no longer even pretend to be plausible.¶ On the contrary, **it has contributed to the very conditions that stifle democracy and human rights** there. For 50 years, **its brunt has fallen mainly on the Cuban people.**¶ **This is not by accident.** On the contrary, **the embargo was designed to impose suffering and hunger on Cubans in the hope that they would rise up and overturn their government.**¶ "The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support," the Department of State insisted as early as April 1960, "is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship."¶ The United States tightened the screws in the post-Soviet years with the Torricelli Act and the Helms-Burton Act -- measures designed, Sen. Robert Torricelli said, "to wreak havoc on that island."¶ **The post-Soviet years were indeed calamitous. Throughout the 1990s, Cubans faced growing scarcities, deteriorating services and increased rationing. Meeting the needs of ordinary life took extraordinary effort.**¶ And therein lies the problem that still bedevils U.S. policy today. Far from inspiring the Cuban people to revolution, the embargo keeps them down and distracted.¶ Dire need and urgent want are hardly optimum circumstances for a people to contemplate the benefits of democracy. A people preoccupied with survival have little interest or inclination to bestir themselves in behalf of anything else.¶ In Cuba, routine household errands and chores consume overwhelming amounts of time and energy, day after day: hours in lines at the local grocery store or waiting for public transportation.¶ Cubans in vast numbers choose to emigrate. Others burrow deeper into the black market, struggling to make do and carry on. Many commit suicide. (Cuba has one of the highest suicide rates in the world; in 2000, the latest year for which we have statistics, it was 16.4 per 100,000 people.)¶ A June 2008 survey in *The New York Times* reported that less than 10 percent of Cubans identified the lack of political freedom as the island's main problem. As one Cuban colleague recently suggested to me: "First necessities, later democracy."¶ **The United States should consider a change of policy, one that would offer Cubans relief from the all-consuming ordeal of daily life. Improved material circumstances would allow Cubans to turn their attention to other aspirations.**

## Answers to: Public Health is Strong in Cuba

[ ]

[ ] Despite the free healthcare and the number of doctors, Cuban healthcare is strained – this is due to the lack of supplies created by the embargo.

**Randall, MD in internal medicine from Indiana University, 2000**

(Judith, “Does the US Embargo Affect Cuban Healthcare?,” *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 92:12, Online: <http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/92/12/963.full>)

**“These hospitals were all well staffed with very qualified physicians, highly committed and knowledgeable in their fields,”** he said. He was pleased to find, too, that **Cuban health care, tertiary care included, is free and available for everyone. But** he also found that, **because of the embargo, “the management of patients can be difficult” due to a lack of such items as bone-marrow aspiration needles and high-dose formulations** of cytosine-arabioside and shortages **of antibiotics, equipment, current textbooks, and basic medical supplies.**<sup>¶</sup> Variations on the above themes are not hard to find. Under a program called MEDICC (<http://www.medicc.org>), **students working toward health sciences degrees in the United States and Canada spend 4 to 8 weeks in Cuba taking courses in their fields and doing clinical rotations mentored by local physicians.**<sup>¶</sup> **They often return from the experience to report that universal precautions are not observed in Cuba; for example, the precious few rubber gloves available are reserved for surgical procedures, and, just as cars in Cuba are likely to be vintage models, things like anesthesia and x-ray machines are, too.**

Answers to: No US/Cuban Trade

[ ]

[ ] Cuba will trade with the United States – there is a big financial incentive.

**Perez, JD from Yale Law School, 2010**

(David, “America’s Cuba Policy: The Way Forward: A Policy Recommendation for the US State Department,” *Harvard Latino Law Review*, Lexis Nexis)

These first few steps would then allow the United States to begin by engaging Cuba in a multi-lateral framework. The model can mirror the six-party talks held with North Korea, which provide a structure for direct American engagement with the North Korean government. n87 **The Cuban government will likely participate since the United States has so much to offer, including the reduction of sanctions, various security guarantees, the promise of normalized relations, and an eventual end to Cuba's isolation. Combined with these carrots, the United States will also have the stick of increased sanctions, and a reversion back to diplomatic isolation.**

## Answers to: Regime Controls Trade

[ ]

[ ] The embargo is the cause of Cuban suffering – it doesn't matter if the Cuban government maintains control over trade.

**Franks, South American correspondent for Reuters, 2012**

(Jeff, "Cuba says ending US embargo would help both countries," September 20, Online: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/20/us-cuba-usa-embargo-idUSBRE88J15G20120920>)

**Both the United States and Cuba would benefit if Washington would lift its longstanding trade embargo against the island, but U.S. President Barack Obama has toughened the sanctions since taking office in 2009**, a top Cuban official said on Thursday.¶ **The embargo**, fully in place since 1962, **has done \$108 billion in damage to the Cuba economy**, but also has violated the constitutional rights of Americans **and made a market of 11 million people off limits to U.S. companies**, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez told reporters.¶ **"The blockade is, without doubt, the principal cause of the economic problems of our country and the essential obstacle for (our) development,"** he said, using Cuba's term for the embargo.¶ **"The blockade provokes suffering, shortages, difficulties that reach each Cuban family, each Cuban child,"** Rodriguez said.¶ He spoke at a press conference that Cuba stages each year ahead of what has become an annual vote in the United Nations on a resolution condemning the embargo. The vote is expected to take place next month.¶ Last year, 186 countries voted for the resolution, while only the United States and Israel supported the embargo, Rodriguez said.¶ **Lifting the embargo would improve the image of the United States around the world,** he said, adding that **it would also end what he called a "massive, flagrant and systematic violation of human rights."**¶

## Embargo Makes Government More Popular

[ ]

[ ] The embargo has failed – it is an unpopular policy that makes Castro popular with his people.

Chapman, columnist for the Chicago Tribune, 2013

(Steve, "It's Time to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba," *Reason.com*, April 15, Online: <http://reason.com/archives/2013/04/15/its-time-to-end-the-us-embargo-of-cuba>)

**The U.S. embargo of Cuba has been in effect since 1962, with no end in sight. Fidel Castro's government has somehow managed to outlast the Soviet Union, Montgomery Ward, rotary-dial telephones and 10 American presidents.¶ The boycott adheres to the stubborn logic of governmental action. It was created to solve a problem: the existence of a communist government 90 miles off our shores. It failed to solve that problem. But its failure is taken as proof of its everlasting necessity.¶ If there is any lesson to be drawn from this dismal experience, though, it's that the economic quarantine has been either 1) grossly ineffectual or 2) positively helpful to the regime.¶ The first would not be surprising, if only because economic sanctions almost never work. Iraq under Saddam Hussein? Nope. Iran? Still waiting. North Korea? Don't make me laugh.¶ What makes this embargo even less promising is that we have so little help in trying to apply the squeeze. Nearly 200 countries allow trade with Cuba. Tourists from Canada and Europe flock there in search of beaches, nightlife and Havana cigars, bringing hard currency with them. So even if starving the country into submission could work, Cuba hasn't starved and won't anytime soon.¶ Nor is it implausible to suspect that the boycott has been the best thing that ever happened to the Castro brothers, providing them a scapegoat for the nation's many economic ills. The implacable hostility of the Yankee imperialists also serves to align Cuban nationalism with Cuban communism. Even Cubans who don't like Castro may not relish being told what to do by the superpower next door.**

## Lifting Embargo Promotes Political Reforms

[ ]

[ ] Economic prosperity will erode Castro's base – it's a prerequisite to peaceful transition.

**Perez, JD from Yale Law School, 2010**

(David, "America's Cuba Policy: The Way Forward: A Policy Recommendation for the US State Department," *Harvard Latino Law Review*, Lexis Nexis)

However, Washington's **policy for the last fifty years has focused almost exclusively on the political situation** (i.e., free and fair elections). **This myopic approach has ignored the possibility of doing an end-run around Castro's political recalcitrance by simply giving the Cuban people (and government) an offer they can't refuse: economic success. As long as the political arena remains the battlefield** upon which Washington and Havana wage their ideological war, **there will always be stalemate. Transitions from other Cold War-era governments demonstrate that economic liberalization helped facilitate political liberalization**. In Poland, the labor unions flourished before political parties were finally established after the fall of the Soviet Union; n54 **in Russia, mass privatization paved the way for moderate political freedoms**; n55 in Vietnam, the government started to embrace market-based reforms in the mid to late-1980s; n56 and finally, in China, an unmistakably capitalist society has emerged, although elections have still not been held. n57 Cuba will be no different. In early 2009, the Cuban government approved the largest land distribution since the revolution when it handed out 45,500 land grants to the private sector. n58 **Another reason economic reforms are likely to precede political reforms is that the population seems hungrier to see an economic respite after decades of austerity**. This may also be a result of their belief that the Cuban regime will try to maintain its monopolistic grip on politics for as long as [\*208] possible, even if it loosens its grip on the economy. When Raul Castro began his version of a "listening tour" around the island he also initiated a series of debates. During one of these town hall meetings Ricardo Alarcon, the leader of the National Assembly as of April 2009, was barraged with questions that focused on the economy - specifically Cuba's dual-currency system. n59 Although such intimate private-public participation has been rare on the totalitarian island, once the window of opportunity was opened, a burst of activity flowed through. **Reloading the diplomatic cannon by encouraging economic reform, rather than focusing on political reform, would represent a more dynamic approach to U.S.-Cuban relations**.



## Trade Promotes Democracy

[ ]

[ ] Trade with Cuba would promote American ideals – encouraging a shift away from the Castro regime.

**Griswold, director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the Cato Institute, 2005**

(Daniel, “Four Decades of Failure: The US Embargo against Cuba,” *Cato Institute*, October 12, Online: <http://www.cato.org/publications/speeches/four-decades-failure-us-embargo-against-cuba>)

**Instead of the embargo, Congress and the administration should take concrete steps to expand America’s economic and political influence in Cuba. First, the travel ban should be lifted.** According to U.S. law, citizens can travel more or less freely to such “axis of evil” countries as Iran and North Korea. But if Americans want to visit Cuba legally, they need to be a former president or some other well-connected VIP or a Cuban American.¶ Yes, **more American dollars would end up in the coffers of the Cuban government, but dollars would also go to private Cuban citizens.** Philip Peters, a former State Department official in the Reagan administration and expert on Cuba, argues that **American tourists would boost the earnings of Cubans who rent rooms, drive taxis, sell art, and operate restaurants in their homes. Those dollars would then find their way to the hundreds of freely priced farmer’s markets, to carpenters, repairmen, tutors, food vendors, and other entrepreneurs.**¶ **Second, restrictions on remittances should be lifted. Like tourism, expanded remittances would fuel the private sector, encourage Cuba’s modest economic reforms, and promote independence from the government.**¶ **Third, American farmers and medical suppliers should be allowed to sell their products to Cuba with financing arranged by private commercial lenders, not just for cash as current law permits.** Most international trade is financed by temporary credit, and private banks, not taxpayers, would bear the risk. I oppose subsidizing exports to Cuba through agencies such as the Export-Import Bank, but I also oppose banning the use of private commercial credit.¶ **Finally, the Helms-Burton law should be allowed to expire. The law, like every other aspect of the embargo, has failed to achieve its stated objectives and has, in fact, undermined American influence in Cuba and alienated our allies.**¶ **Lifting or modifying the embargo would not be a victory for Fidel Castro or his oppressive regime. It would be an overdue acknowledgement that the four-and-a-half decade embargo has failed, and that commercial engagement is the best way to encourage more open societies abroad.** The U.S. government can and should continue to criticize the Cuban government’s abuse of human rights in the U.N. and elsewhere, while allowing expanding trade and tourism to undermine Castro’s authority from below.¶ We should apply the president’s sound reasoning on trade in general to our policy toward Cuba. **The most powerful force for change in Cuba will not be more sanctions, but more daily interaction with free people bearing dollars and new ideas.**¶ **How many decades does the U.S. government need to bang its head against a wall before it changes a failed policy?**

**Embargo Puts Worse Strains on Cubans than Tourism Would**

[ ]

[ ] **The embargo is worse than engagement – it prevents the flow of critical medicine and technology, depriving Cubans of the supplies they need to care for themselves.**

**Amnesty International, international organization promoting human rights, 2009**

("The US Embargo Against Cuba," Online: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/pdfs/amr250072009eng.pdf>)

**The tightening of the US embargo** during the 1990s exacerbated the economic crisis in Cuba as the country had lost the economic support from the Soviet Union.<sup>48</sup> This **affected the capacity of the Cuban health system to deliver to the population the same standards of health care as before the economic crisis.** The Resident Coordinator for the Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System reported in the UN Secretary-General's 2008 report on the impact of the US embargo: **"Goods, services or technologies produced by the United States or covered by United States patents or containing any element produced or patented by the United States are not available to Cuba. This includes medicines, medical equipment and other products under the category of humanitarian assistance, even when such products are purchased through multilateral cooperation."**<sup>49</sup> The CDA contains provisions for its enforcement outside the USA, **resulting in severe limitations to Cuba's access to an international supply of medicines and medical equipment.** Furthermore, the expansion of US pharmaceutical companies in the last three decades has limited the number of companies able to export their products to Cuba without facing penalties from the US government. The Helms-Burton Act penalizes non-US companies and nationals for trading with Cuba. Although commercial opportunities are available to Cuba throughout the rest of the Americas, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere, **the Helms-Burton Act has an inhibiting effect on non-US medical companies, therefore limiting Cuba's access to medicines, medical equipment and technologies.** In the health care sector in particular, **Cubans are denied the latest generation of equipment and medicine, available in some cases only from US companies or at prohibitively high prices through third countries.**<sup>50</sup> For instance, the World Health Organization reported "lack of diagnostic materials and equipment, replacement parts, surgical supplies and drugs hinders the operations of emergency services and care for patients in serious condition. **The resources for treating patients who need this type of care, adults and children alike, are limited.** In the case of patients with psychiatric disorders, **state-of-the-art drugs are unavailable.**"<sup>51</sup>

## Tourism Helps Cuba's Economy

[ ]

[ ] Lifting the embargo to allow for tourism is essential to prevent a Cuban economic collapse.

**Havana Journal, 2006**

("The State of Cuban Tourism with Statistics," *Havana Journal*, April 15, Online:  
<http://havanajournal.com/travel/entry/the-state-of-cuban-tourism-with-statistics/>)

**Due to the economic war of US against the island along the past 45 years, Cuba's losses are estimated at over \$82,000m. US interventionist and extraterritorial policy has greatly affected socially and economically the island, a banned territory for any US citizen.** "It's true that so far Washington has ignored the United Nations' call for the lifting of the blockade against Cuba, but we will not despair," said Cuban Foreign Minister, Felipe Perez Roque who has talked on the progress Cuba would experience if the US stopped its aggressive policy. "For example, **if Cuba received five million US tourists per year, that would represent extra income of more than \$7,000m.**" **pointed out Perez Roque. Without the scourge of the US blockade, tourism in Cuba could take nearly \$576m during the first year.** In addition, the island could take another extra \$70m per year from a half million tourists traveling by cruisers. Each seven days some 80 cruisers navigate around the Cuban archipelago. **Tourism is vital for the revival of the island's economy, that's why US successive administrations since 1959 have implemented a number of measures and laws aimed to reduce Cuba's national income. That's why the US government has banned its citizens to visit the island** even when this new regulation violates the US constitutional law on free movement.

# **Cuba Embargo Negative**

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## Glossary

**Economic engagement** – is a foreign policy strategy which seeks to increase ties between countries through economic interaction.

**Embargo/Sanctions** – are trade restrictions put in place against target countries with the aim of discouraging certain behaviors like human rights violations or military build-up.

**Human rights** – basic, fundamental rights to which every person is entitled because they are human beings.

**International influence/Soft Power** – the ability of a nation persuade other nations to adopt changes by modeling good behavior, rather than the use of force or coercion.

**International relations** – the relationships that dictate interactions between countries, their governments, and their people.

**Moral obligation** – a sense of duty or priority imposed by moral standards.

**Public health** – is the result of an organized effort of a society to improve the health and life-span of its people.

**Raul Castro** – is a politician and leader of the Communist Party of Cuba.

**Totalitarianism** – is a political system in which the state holds total authority over its society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private affairs.

## No Harms – Public Health Strong Now

[ ]

[ ] Even with the costs imposed by the embargo, Cuba's health system is exceptional now.

**Barry, Member of the Social Sciences Research Council for the Cuban Working Group of the American Council of Learned Societies, 2010**

(Paul Drain & Michele "Fifty Years of U.S. Embargo: Cuba's Health Outcomes and Lessons" *Science Magazine*, April, Online: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/328/5978/572.full>)

However, impacts of sanctions on Cuba's financial systems, medical supplies, and aggregate health measures appear to be attenuated by their successes in other aspects of health care. **Despite the embargo, Cuba has produced better health outcomes than most Latin American countries, and they are comparable to those of most developed countries. Cuba has the highest average life expectancy (78.6 years) and density of physicians per capita (59 physicians per 10,000 people), and the lowest infant (5.0/1000 live births) and child (7.0/1000 live births) mortality rates among 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries (11, 26).**¶ In 2006, the Cuban government spent about \$355 per capita on health, 7.1% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (11, 26). The annual cost of health care for an American was \$6714, 15.3% of total U.S. GDP. Cuba also spent less on health than most European countries. But low **health care costs alone may not fully explain Cuba's successes (27), which may relate more to their emphasis on disease prevention and primary health care, which have been cultivated during the U.S. trade embargo.**¶ **Cuba has one of the most proactive primary health care systems in the world. By educating their population about disease prevention and health promotion, the Cubans rely less on medical supplies to maintain a healthy population.** The converse is the United States, which relies heavily on medical supplies and technologies to maintain a healthy population, but at a very high cost.

**No Harms – Preventative Care in Cuba**

[ ] The Cuban health care industry guarantees basic health coverage – it provides exceptional preventative medicine for all citizens.

**Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations, 2010**  
(Laurie, “Castrocare in Crisis,” *Foreign Affairs*, 89:4, July/August, EBSCOhost)

**The two keys to Cuba's medical and public health achievements are training provided by the state and a community-based approach that requires physicians to live in the neighborhoods they serve and be on call 24 hours a day.** In the wake of the 1959 Cuban Revolution, more than one-third of Cuba's doctors fled, mostly to the United States, leaving the country with just 6,300 physicians and a doctor-patient ratio of 9.2 per 10,000, according to the Cuban Ministry of Public Health. In response, Fidel Castro declared public health and doctor training to be paramount tasks for the new socialist state. **By the early 1980s, Cuba led the socialist world** -- including its patron, the Soviet Union -- **in all health indicators.** Between 1959 and 1989, **Cuba's doctor-patient ratio more than tripled,** soaring to 33 per 10,000, and health-care expenditures rose by 162 percent. **Cuba today has the highest doctor-patient ratio in the entire world,** with 59 physicians per 10,000 people -- **more than twice the ratio of the United States.** **Cuba is the world's only poor country that can rightly say that basic health is no longer an existential problem for its people. Its achievement** in this respect **is unparalleled.** Cuba now boasts more than 73,000 practicing doctors (half of whom work in primary care), 107,761 nurses, and a total health-care work force of 566,365, according to government figures. About 12 percent of Cuba's adult population is employed by the state in the health-care sector. **Because of economic exigencies that have limited Cuba's access to advanced technology for diagnosing and curing ailments, the Cuban health system has focused -- successfully -- on prevention.** Between 1959 and 2000, **Cuba reduced its infant mortality by 90 percent, and the number of mothers who died from pregnancy-related complications dropped from 125 per 100,000 live births to 55 per 100,000.**



**No Harms – Free Healthcare in Cuba**

[ ] Cuban health care is exceptional – everyone has access to a doctor and coverage is free.

**Campion, M.D. & Morrissey, Ph.D., 2013**

(Edward & Stephen, “A Different Model — Medical Care in Cuba” *New England Journal of Medicine*, Online: [http://www.sld.cu/galerias/pdf/sitios/santiagodecuba/nejmp1215226\\_1.pdf](http://www.sld.cu/galerias/pdf/sitios/santiagodecuba/nejmp1215226_1.pdf))

Internet access is virtually nonexistent. And **the Cuban health care system** also seems unreal. There are too many doctors. Everybody has a family physician. Everything **is free**, totally free — and not after prior approval or some copay. The whole system seems turned upside down. **It is tightly organized, and the first priority is prevention. Although Cuba has limited economic resources, its health care system has solved some problems that ours has not yet managed to address. Family physicians, along with their nurses and other health workers, are responsible for delivering primary care and preventive services to their panel of patients** — about 1000 patients per physician in urban areas. **All care delivery is organized at the local level, and the patients and their caregivers generally live in the same community.** The medical records in cardboard folders are simple and handwritten, not unlike those we used in the United States 50 years ago. But **the system is surprisingly information-rich and focused on population health.**

**Lifting the Embargo Won't Solve – No US/Cuban Trade**

[ ] Cuba and the US won't trade – there's no market in US for Cuban goods and Cuba won't abandon relationships with China and Venezuela.

**Suchlicki, Director of Institute for Cuban Studies at the University of Miami, 2013**

(Jaime, "What If...the U.S. Ended the Cuba Travel Ban and the Embargo?," Feb 26, Online:

<http://interamericansecuritywatch.com/what-if-the-u-s-ended-the-cuba-travel-ban-and-the-embargo/>)

**All trade with Cuba is done with state owned businesses. Since Cuba has very little credit and is a major debtor nation, the U.S. and its businesses would have to provide credits to Cuban enterprises. There is a long history of Cuba defaulting on loans. Cuba is not likely to buy a substantial amount of products in the U.S.** In the past few years, Cuba purchased several hundred million dollars of food in the U.S. That amount is now down to \$170 million per year. **Cuba can buy in any other country and it is not likely to abandon its relationship with China, Russia, Venezuela, and Iran to become a major trading partner of the U.S. Cuba has very little to sell in the U.S. Nickel, one of Cuba's major exports, is controlled by the Canadians and exported primarily to Canada. Cuba has decimated its sugar industry and there is no appetite in the U.S. for more sugar.** Cigars and rum are important Cuban exports. Yet, cigar production is mostly committed to the European market.

**Lifting the Embargo Won't Solve – Cuba Controls Imports**

[ ] Lifting the embargo won't get goods to the Cuban people – the regime controls trade in and out of Cuba.

**Suchlicki, Director of Institute for Cuban Studies at the University of Miami, 2013**

(Jaime, "What If...the U.S. Ended the Cuba Travel Ban and the Embargo?," Feb 26, Online:

<http://interamericansecuritywatch.com/what-if-the-u-s-ended-the-cuba-travel-ban-and-the-embargo/>)

In Cuba, **foreign investors cannot partner with private Cuban citizens. They can only invest in the island through** minority joint ventures with **the government and** its state enterprises. The dominant enterprise in the Cuban economy is the Grupo GAESA, controlled by **the Cuban military**. Most investments are done through or with GAESA. Therefore, **American companies willing to invest in Cuba will have to partner mostly with the Cuban military. Cuba ranks 176 out of 177 countries in the world in terms of economic freedom. Outshined only by North Korea. It ranks as one of the most unattractive investments next to Iran, Zimbabwe, Libya, Mali, etc. Foreign investors cannot hire, fire, or pay workers directly. They must go through the Cuban government employment agency which selects the workers. Investors pay the government in dollars or euros and the government pays the workers a meager 10% in Cuban pesos. Corruption is pervasive, undermining equity and respect for the rule of law. Cuba does not have an independent/transparent legal system.** All judges are appointed by the State and all lawyers are licensed by the State. In the last few years, European investors have had over \$1 billion arbitrarily frozen by the government and several investments have been confiscated. **Cuba's Law 77 allows the State to expropriate foreign-invested assets for reason of "public utility" or "social interest."** In the last year, the CEOs of three companies with extensive dealings with the Cuban government were arrested without charges.

## Government Repression Turn (1/2)

[ ] The Cuban Government violates the political and civil rights of its citizens – the United States has an obligation to promote political change

Navarro, former ambassador the UN Human Rights Commission, 2002

(Ana, "Defending Repressed Cubans," April, Online: <http://www.sigloxxi.org/Archivo/repressed.htm>)

During 2001, repression has increased in Cuba. **For the last 43 years, the basic human rights of the Cuban people have been violated. Cubans do not have political rights because Castro and the Communist Party, the only legal party, have absolute power. Those who peacefully have tried to promote changes have ended up in prisons.** **For the Cuban people, there is no justice.** The fundamental democratic precept of **judicial independence is not valid. Judges are chosen by the Communist Party based on their** political integration and **commitment to the regime.** Closed-door and summary trials are frequently held. **The common citizen has no protection against the regime's violence. People under arrest are held** incommunicado **indefinitely.** The police and the armed forces, too, are politicized; they beat, arrest and even murder those who protest against the lack of rights. **In Cuba, the "Rapid Response Brigades," armed with sticks and iron bars and dressed as civilians, attack human-rights advocates** to give the impression to the international media that "the common people" spontaneously clash with opposition groups. **The political prisoners suffer the most. They are confined in cells with highly dangerous common prisoners who attack them, with the guards' tacit approval. Political prisoners also are denied medical attention as a form of punishment.** **Cubans are afraid to tell their suffering. Few dare speak out; the price is high.** Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet, a dissident, has been beaten and arrested many times. He is still in prison. **Freedom of the press is suppressed totally. All mass media belong to the government,** and there is no possibility of expressing a dissenting opinion in the media. **Cuban authorities brag about their education and health systems. But they fail to mention that students must participate in pro-government activities to be able to attend universities or technical schools. Or that students who don't sympathize with the government are expelled. Or that workers who disagree with regime policies are fired from their jobs.** The repression in Cuba is such that **distributing the Declaration of Human Rights is classified a "counterrevolutionary activity," which is enough to earn a Cuban a beating from the police** or paramilitary brigades. **The human-rights violations perpetrated by the Cuban government are inexcusable. We, the countries that believe in freedom and live in democracy, should not abandon the people of Cuba.**

## Government Repression Turn (2/2)

(\_\_\_) Maintaining the embargo key to causing political change. Lifting the embargo will increase the power of the government

## International Policy Digest, 2013

“Time to Strengthen the Cuban Embargo,” May 9, *International Policy Digest*, Online: [http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2013/05/09/time-to-strengthen-the-cuban-embargo/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+internationalpolicydigest+\(International+Policy+Digest\)](http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2013/05/09/time-to-strengthen-the-cuban-embargo/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+internationalpolicydigest+(International+Policy+Digest))

However unfortunate it may be, Cuba, in its current state, **is a nation consisting only of a wealthy and powerful few and an impoverished and oppressed proletariat**, who possess little to no means to escape or even improve their fate. **Lifting the trade embargo will not increase the general prosperity of the Cuban people, but it will increase the prosperity of the government.**

Ergo, the poverty and dire situation of the Cuban people cannot be blamed on the United States or the embargo.¶No doubt, it has been a fruitless 50 years since the embargo was enacted. Little has changed as far as democracy and human rights are concerned. To maintain control, Cuba has “managed to offset much of the effects over the years in large part because the Soviets subsidized the island for three decades, because the regime welcomed Canadian, Mexican and European capital after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and because Venezuela is its new patron,” according to Llosa. However, **Venezuela is now undergoing a political transition of its own with the recent death of Hugo Chávez**, its president for the past 14 years, and the controversial election of Nicolás Maduro.¶Despite being Chávez’s handpicked successor, Maduro only won by a narrow margin and will likely be forced to cut spending on social programs and foreign assistance in an effort to stabilize Venezuela’s dire economic problems. Therefore, **now is the ideal time to take action. Without Venezuela’s support, the Cuban government will assuredly face an economic crisis.**

Strengthening the embargo to limit U.S. dollars flowing into Cuba would place further pressure on the Cuban government and has the potential to trigger an economic collapse. **A change in the Cuban political climate is within reach.**¶According to U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, “Tourism to Cuba is a natural resource, akin to providing refined petroleum products to Iran. It’s reported that 2.5 million tourists visit Cuba – 1.5 million from North America... 1 million Canadians... More than 170,000 from England... More than 400,000 from Spain, Italy, Germany, and France combined – All bringing in \$1.9 billion in revenue to the Castro regime.” This behavior undermines the embargo, which is why the U.S. should urge other nations to adopt similar policies toward Cuba. **A strong and unyielding embargo**, supported by the U.S. and its allies, **is necessary to incite political change.**

Furthermore, Sen. Menendez argues, “Those who lament our dependence on foreign oil because it enriches regimes in terrorist states like Iran, should not have a double standard when it comes to enriching a brutal dictatorship like Cuba right here in our own backyard.” **If the policy of the U.S. is to challenge these behaviors, then it must also stand up to Cuba. It would be a disservice to squander the progress of the past 50 years when opportunity is looming.**

## Answers To: Lifting the Embargo Helps Human Rights

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( ) All economic benefits of engagement would flow to the government – giving it more power to repress its people.

**Radosh, adjunct fellow at the Hudson Institute, 2013**

(Ron, “Ron Radosh: The Time to Help Cuba’s Brave Dissidents Is Now- Why the Embargo Must Not be Lifted,” March 20<sup>th</sup>, Online: <http://interamericansecuritywatch.com/ron-radosh-the-time-to-help-cubas-brave-dissidents-is-now-why-the-embargo-must-not-be-lifted/>)

What these liberals and leftists leave out is that this demand — **lifting the embargo** — **is also the number one desire of the Cuban Communists. In making it the key demand,** these well-meaning (at least some of them) **liberals echo precisely the propaganda of the Cuban government, thereby doing the Castro brothers’ work for them here in the United States.** And, as we know, **many of those who call for this actually believe that the Cuban government is on the side of the people, and favor the Cuban Revolution which they see as a positive role model for the region.** They have always believed, since the 1960s of their youth, that socialism in Cuba has pointed the way forward to development and liberty based on the kind of socialist society they wish could exist in the United States.¶ Another brave group of Cuban opponents of the regime has actually taped a television interview filmed illegally in Havana. “Young Cuban democracy leader Antonio Rodiles,” an American support group called Capitol Hill Cubans has reported, “has just released the latest episode of his civil society project Estado de Sats (filmed within Cuba), where he discusses the importance U.S. sanctions policy with two of Cuba’s most renowned opposition activists and former political prisoners, Guillermo Fariñas and Jose Daniel Ferrer.”¶ The argument they present is aimed directly at those on **the left in the United States,** some of **whom think they are helping democracy in Cuba by calling for an end to the embargo.** In strong and clear language, the two **dissidents say the following:¶ If at this time, the [economic] need of the Cuban government is satisfied through financial credits and the lifting of the embargo, repression would increase, it would allow for a continuation of the Castro’s society, totalitarianism would strengthen its hold** and philosophically, it would just be immoral ... **If you did an opinion poll among Cuban opposition activists, the majority would be in favor of not lifting the embargo.**

## Answers To: Lifting the Embargo Helps Human Rights

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[     ] The entire premise of the affirmative is flawed – economic engagement will only strengthen Cuba’s regime. The hardships imposed by an embargo are prerequisites to generate change.

**Lopez, former professor of political science at the University of Illinois, 2000**

(Juan, “Sanctions on Cuba Are Good, But Not Enough,” *Orbis*, Volume 44, Issue 3, June, p. 345-362, EBSCOhost)

**The debate over the effectiveness of the U.S. embargo on Cuba has paid little attention to the scholarly literature on economic sanctions and transitions to democracy.** One consequence is that **critics of the embargo base their arguments on hypotheses that are empirically wrong or that misconstrue scholarly findings.** Supporters of the embargo, in turn, do a poor job of exposing the flaws in the anti-embargo arguments. But in fact, the hypotheses used by engagement advocates to criticize the U.S. embargo are untenable. **There is strong historical evidence that economic development does not lead to democracy. Foreign investors in Cuba are more likely to become supporters of the dictatorship rather than agents of political change. Foreign capitalists at the time of the transition to democracy will face legal and political problems that will likely entail considerable financial losses and impair their ability to continue to do business in Cuba.** And the desire of some American firms to establish businesses in Cuba now, seeking to get a hold on the market in preparation for the post-transition period, is shortsighted and apparently based on misunderstandings of the economic and political factors involved. Given the nature of the Cuban dictatorship, neither engagement nor the embargo by itself will move the Castro government toward political liberalization. But **unilateral economic sanctions can be effective by reaffirming a commitment to international norms of democracy and justice and by weakening the Castro government and promoting a change of regime. The U.S. sanctions impose serious economic costs on the Castro dictatorship,** and the deterioration of the Cuban economy in the 1990s can be clearly linked both to the marked development of independent groups that challenge the government and to the increase in overt opposition on the part of the general population. Moreover, there is reason to believe that **Cuba's economic problems have generated serious discontent within the Communist Party's own cadres, including military officers.**

## Answers To: Embargo Empirically Fails

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[ ] Just because the embargo failed in the past, doesn't prove it won't work now – Cuba's current economic crisis makes in uniquely weak to a democratic transition.

**Lopez, former professor of political science at the University of Illinois, 2000**

(Juan, "Sanctions on Cuba Are Good, But Not Enough," *Orbis*, Volume 44, Issue 3, June, p. 345-362, EBSCOhost)

A corresponding observation exists in the literature on transitions to democracy, which indicates that **dictatorships tend to fall when faced with crises, including economic ones.**(n33) **In a cross-national statistical study involving 139 countries** from 1950 to 1990, **the authors found that dictatorships are more likely to survive when their economies grow and more likely to be destabilized when they face economic distress.**(n34) Another study found that in a data set **of twenty-seven dictatorships, twenty-one experienced economic decline prior to transitions to democracy. All communist dictatorships in the set** (Poland, Nicaragua, Romania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia) **experienced economic deterioration or stagnant, low rates of growth in the years before the demise of the dictatorships.**(n35) A widespread observation among scholars of Eastern European politics is that a key factor underlying the pressures leading to the fall of communism in Eastern Europe was economic deterioration. **A declining standard of living decreased people's tolerance for the regimes. As their situations grew worse, the populations became more aware of the failure of their own regimes to provide an acceptable level of prosperity.**(n36) **The connection between deterioration of economic performance and transitions to democracy has also been observed in Latin America, where decreases in standards of living preceded the wave of democratization during the 1980S.**(n37) Poor economic performance contributes to the demise of dictatorships by provoking latent or active opposition to the regime among **citizens and groups within civil society** who **blame the government for their poverty. It also reduces the benefits enjoyed by active supporters of the regime and its coalition allies.**(n38) Even in cases where economic crises are not the main source of factional conflicts within the ruling elite, **deterioration of economic performance tends to widen cleavages among the rulers.**(n39)



## Answers To: Trade Promotes Democracy

[ ] History proves that regimes benefit from trade – the same will be true of Cuba.

**Jorge, Professor of Political Economy at Florida International University, 2000**

(Dr. Antonio, "The U.S. Embargo and the Failure of the Cuban Economy," *Institute for Cuban & Cuban-American Studies Occasional Papers*, Online:  
<http://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/iccaspapers/28>)

It follows, from all of the above, that **a lifting of the embargo at this time would only serve the purpose of facilitating to Castro desperately needed resources, mainly in the form of credit lines extended by international organizations** such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, and also by private banking and other financial institutions. **This financial influx would serve to strengthen his 40-year stranglehold on the Cuban people.** Furthermore, **to those who believe that greater contacts between the United States and Cuba would further the cause of democratization, it should be pointed out that such hopes definitely have not been validated by the experience of Marxist societies** from the inception of the New Economic Policy in the Soviet Union, which followed the stage of War Communism, up to the last efforts at reforming socialism **in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s. In these countries, trade, foreign investment, and loans led** hermetic **lives of their own**, oblivious to and unaffected by the rest of society. **There is no historical precedent for drawing hope from the Cuban experience.** As a matter of fact, **it could be realistically argued that the opposite has happened. As the Cuban regime succeeds in solidifying itself, as a result of the legitimacy conferred upon it by other nations and by an augmented flow of resources, its repressive proclivities have increased** in parallel fashion. **Trade and investment with totalitarian states have not weakened or eroded those states;** rather, the contrary has always been the case. **Castro's regime is certainly no exception to the rule** and, in fact, categorically confirms it. Only pressure has led Castro temporarily to implement some timid reforms that he subsequently has either partly rescinded or revoked altogether. Cuba has established for all to see a system of apartheid — which is openly and vigorously enforced — between foreigners and Cuban nationals.

## Tourism Turn

[ ] Lifting the embargo leads to medical tourism which would overstretch their healthcare system.

Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations, 2010  
(Laurie, "Castrocare in Crisis," *Foreign Affairs*, 89:4, July/August, EBSCOhost)

**Cuba's economic situation has been dire since 1989, when the country lost its Soviet benefactors and its economy experienced a 35 percent contraction. Today, Cuba's major industries--tourism, nickel mining, tobacco and rum production, and health care--are fragile. Cubans blame the long-standing U.S. trade embargo for some of these strains and are wildly optimistic about the transformations that will come once the embargo is lifted. Overlooked in these dreamy discussions of lifestyle improvements, however, is that Cuba's health-care industry will likely be radically affected by any serious easing in trade and travel restrictions between the United States and Cuba. If policymakers on both sides of the Florida Straits do not take great care, the tiny Caribbean nation could swiftly be robbed of its greatest triumph. First, its public health network could be devastated by an exodus of thousands of well-trained Cuban physicians and nurses. Second, for-profit U.S. companies could transform the remaining health-care system into a prime destination for medical tourism from abroad. The very strategies that the Cuban government has employed to develop its system into a major success story have rendered it ripe for the plucking by the U.S. medical industry and by foreigners eager for affordable, elective surgeries in a sunny climate. In short, although the U.S. embargo strains Cuba's health-care system and its overall economy, it may be the better of two bad options.**