



BOSTON DEBATE LEAGUE

Transforming School Culture Through Debate

2013-2014 Junior Varsity Packet

Cuba

- Cuba Embargo Aff
- Cuba Embargo Neg
- Tourism Bad DA
- Tourism Bad DA Aff
- Oil Drilling DA
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Mexico

- Mexico Rural Dev Aff
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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

In the status quo, the United States still has its embargo on Cuba in place. This keeps Cuba from engaging the U.S. on an economic level. This embargo ultimately restricts Cuba's access to medical information and supplies, and places their free health care system in a difficult position financially. Besides the fact that their entire system can fall apart, Cuba also cannot adequately supply their population with the life-saving medical care.

Cuba is also still the same repressive government it was years ago, seeing that they are still abusing the civil and political rights of its citizens. It is the moral obligation of the United States to promote political change on the island.

Therefore, the affirmative plan is to remove the embargo from Cuba. By lifting the embargo, Cuban suffering can be put to an end and allow for Cubans to fight for freedom from their ruling regime.

Glossary

Backlash – a strong or violent reaction, as to some social or political change

Biodiversity – the number, or abundance of different species living within a particular region

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.

Exploitation – the use of someone or something in an unjust or cruel manner for economic, social, and political gain

Government Repression – sometimes used synonymously with the term political discrimination; often carried out through discriminatory policies, such as human rights violations, surveillance abuse, police brutality, imprisonment, involuntary settlement, stripping of citizen's rights, lustration and violent action to people who oppose the government and/or the general public

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 – An obligation arising out of considerations of right and wrong or 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.

Regime – a government in power; a mode or system of rule or government.

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.

1AC 1/6

Contention 1 is Inherency:

Despite small changes, United States maintains an embargo that bars most economic activity with 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 2/6

Contention 2 is Public Health:

The embargo restricts the flow of medical goods and creates financial strains that threaten to collapse the Cuban 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)

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 3/6

These strains 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."⁵ Although the allied bombing had caused few civilian casualties, the destruction of the infrastructure resulted in devastating long-term effects on health.¹ 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.⁶ 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.**

1AC 4/6

Contention 3 is Government Repression:

Despite claims of progress, Castro's government continues to violate the political and civil rights of Cuban citizens

Brewer, CEO of Criminal Justice International Associates, 2013

(Jerry, "Political Change in Cuba so that everything remains the same," May 6, Online: <http://www.mexidata.info/id3612.html>)

The most discussed world critique, **beyond the misery and decades of economic failures** of Castro rule and their professed world revolution, **is in the well documented record of human tragedy and the abysmal human rights record. Since the early days of Fidel Castro's rule essential freedoms of association, assembly, movement and expression have been withheld from the people of Cuba, and many citizens who dared to take a stand against the revolutionary oppression have been beaten, tortured, imprisoned and/or killed. ¶ This record has been passed on** in a sort of diabolical rite of passage **to Raul Castro, who has tiptoed in perceived progress.** Reportedly under his watch the Cuban government released "more than 125 prisoners in 2010-2011," but **since 2012 the number of political prisoners has** reportedly **increased.** ¶ In January 2013 the Havana-based Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN), estimated that Cuba "held at least 90 political prisoners, compared to an estimated 50 in April 2012, and more than 200 estimated at the beginning of 2010." ¶ What vociferously trumpets these charges and abuses is a report from March 2012 by Amnesty International, maintaining that **"the Cuban government wages a permanent campaign of harassment and short-term detentions of political opponents to stop them from demanding respect for civil and political rights."** **It appears clear from these numbers and the record that the release of political prisoners in 2011 has shown no changes in the Cuban regime's human rights policy. ¶ What is clear,** pursuant to those voices that escape censorship by this Communist-run island's secretive citadel of power, **is a continuance of constant surveillance, intimidation, harassment, and acts of repudiation against citizens who dare to speak out and demand change.**

1AC 5/6

These violations are reprehensible – 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.**

Thus, we propose the following plan:

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

1AC 6/6

Contention 4 is Solvency:

Lifting the embargo would alleviate Cuban suffering and allow Cubans to focus on the fight for liberty.

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.** Ending the embargo would also imply respect for the Cuban people, an acknowledgment that they have the vision and vitality to enact needed reforms, and that transition in Cuba, whatever form it may take, is wholly a Cuban affair. **A good-faith effort to engage Cuba, moreover, would counter the common perception there that the United States is a threat to its sovereignty. It would deny Cuban leaders the chance to use U.S. policy as pretext to limit public debate and stifle dissent -- all to the good of democracy and human rights.** **And it would serve the national interest.**

Advantage Add-on: US/Latin American Relations (1/2)

[] Relations with Latin America are at an all-time low – lifting the embargo on Cuba is a key starting point to spur cooperation on global problems.

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)

In order to effectively employ soft power in Latin America, the U.S. must repair its image by going on a diplomatic offensive and reminding, not just Latin America's leaders, but also the Latin American people, of the important relationship between the U.S. and Latin America. **Many of the problems facing Latin America today cannot be addressed in the absence of U.S. leadership and cooperation. Working with other nations to address these challenges is the best way to shore up legitimacy, earn respect, and repair America's image.** Although this proposal focuses heavily on Cuba, every country in Latin America is a potential friend. **Washington will have to not only strengthen its existing relationships in the region, but also win over new allies, who look to us for "ideas and solutions, not lectures."** n5 When analyzing ecosystems, environmental scientists seek out "keystone species." These are organisms that, despite their small size, function as lynchpins for, or barometers of, the entire system's stability. **Cuba, despite its size and isolation, is a keystone nation in Latin America, having disproportionately dominated Washington's policy toward the region for decades.** n6 **As a result of its continuing tensions with Havana, America's reputation [*192] in the region has suffered, as has its ability to deal with other countries.** n7 For fifty years, **Latin American governments that hoped to endear themselves to the U.S. had to pass the Cuba "litmus test."** **But now the tables have turned, and the Obama Administration, if it wants to repair America's image in the region, will have to pass a Cuba litmus test of its own.** n8 In short, **America must once again be admired if we are going to expect other countries to follow our example. To that end, warming relations with Cuba would have a reverberating effect throughout Latin America, and would go a long way toward creating goodwill.**

Advantage Add-on: US/Latin American Relations (2/2)

[] Strong relations with Latin America are necessary to minimize the impact of multiple global threats like nuclear proliferation and global warming.

Inter-American Dialogue Policy Report, 2012

(IAD is a think tank hosting 100 leaders and experts from the US and Latin America, "Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America," April, Online:
<http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/IAD2012PolicyReportFINAL.pdf>)

In addition to economic and financial matters, Brazil and other Latin American nations are assuming enhanced roles on an array of global political, environmental, and security issues. Several for which US and Latin American cooperation could become increasingly important include: □ As the world's lone nuclear-weapons-free region, Latin America has the opportunity to participate more actively in **non-proliferation efforts.** Although **US and Latin American interests** do not always **converge** on non-proliferation questions, they align **on** some **related goals.** For example, **the main proliferation challenges today are found in developing and unstable parts of the world, as well as in the leakage—or transfer, of nuclear materials—to terrorists. In that context, south-south connections are crucial.** Brazil could play a pivotal role. □ Many countries in the region give priority to **climate change challenges.** This may position them as a voice in international debates on this topic. **The importance of the Amazon basin to worldwide climate concerns gives** Brazil and five other **South American nations a special role to play.** Mexico already has assumed a prominent position on climate change and is active in global policy debates. Brazil organized the first-ever global environmental meeting in 1992 and, this year, will host Rio+20. Mexico hosted the second international meeting on climate change in Cancún in 2010. **The United States is handicapped by its inability to devise a climate change policy. Still, it should support coordination on the presumption of shared interests on a critical policy challenge.** Latin Americans are taking more active leadership on drug policy in the hemisphere and could become increasingly influential in global discussions of drug strategies. **Although the United States and Latin America are often at odds on drug policy, they have mutual interests and goals that should allow consultation and collaboration on a new, more effective approach to the problem.** Even as Latin America expands its global reach and presence, it is important that the United States and the region increase their attention to reshaping regional institutions to better align them with current realities and challenges and to make them more effective. **The hemisphere's institutional architecture is in great flux, and there is growing need for decisions about priorities and objectives.**

Answers to: Public Health is Doing Well Despite Embargo

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[] Cuba has an outstanding healthcare system – the only obstacle to effective care is a lack of equipment & supplies that are unavailable due to 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.**[¶] 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.**[¶] **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: Doctors Will Leave if we Lift Embargo

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[] **Doctors are already leaving – they are fed up with poor treatment.****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 doctors are increasingly strained. Physicians return from years abroad because they must, both contractually and to avoid repercussions for their relatives in Cuba. They **then must accept whatever assignments the government gives them, including sometimes years of service in a remote village, a Havana slum, or a sparsely populated tobacco growing area. Many doctors and nurses leave the health-care system altogether, taking jobs as taxi drivers or in hotels,** where they can earn CUCs. In February 2010, seven Cuban doctors sued the Cuban and Venezuelan governments, charging that the mandatory service they had performed in Venezuela in exchange for oil shipments to the Cuban government constituted "modern slavery" and "conditions of servilism for debt." Large numbers of defections among doctors, meanwhile, have caused the Cuban regime to cut back on physician placements to some countries, such as South Africa.

Answers to: Engagement Hurts Public Health Industry

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[] The embargo is comparatively worse than engagement – it punishes international actors that trade with Cuba and US technology is essential to health.

Amnesty International, international organization promoting human rights, 2009

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

Even so, **the U.S. embargo of food and the de facto embargo on medical supplies has wreaked havoc with the island's model primary health care system.**⁴⁶ **During the first three decades of the embargo, the export of medicines was allowed for "humanitarian" reasons only.** In 1992, with the passage of the CDA, the sales of medicines were exempt from the embargo. However, **access to medicines became virtually impossible** for Cuba. **Every export of medicine required that "the President of the USA certify, through on-site inspections approved by the President, that all components of a shipment of medical products to Cuba were used for the purpose intended."**⁴⁷ 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.⁴⁸ **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."**⁴⁹ **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.**⁵⁰ 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."⁵¹

Answers to: Food Shortages Improve Obesity Rates

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[] The embargo restricts free flow of agricultural goods from US – these are key to Cuba’s recovery from natural disasters and food shortages

Zimmerman, fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, 2010

(Chelsea, “Rethinking the Cuban Trade Embargo: An Opportune Time to Mend a Broken Policy,” *A Dialogue on Presidential Challenges and Leadership: Papers of the 2009-2010 Center Fellows*, Online: <http://www.thepresidency.org/storage/documents/Fellows2010/Zimmerman.pdf>)

Trade levels between Cuba and the U.S. could reach \$5 billion annually by removing the trade embargo, resulting in a boost to American agribusinesses while also helping to alleviate hunger among Cubans. A policy environment open to international trade and investment is a necessary ingredient to sustain higher rates of economic growth and to promote political freedom through exposure to new technology, communications, and democratic ideas (Griswold, 1; Sachs and Warner). **Allowing Cuba to more freely import U.S. food is a means of lowering domestic prices and increasing incomes of the poor, food availability and domestic production. U.S. companies will introduce new technologies and production methods, while raising wages and labor standards as a result of trading with Cuba. The additional creation of wealth will help to advance social, political, and economic conditions independent of the governing authorities in Cuba.** The most economically open countries today are more than three times as likely to enjoy full political and civil freedoms as those that are relatively closed (Griswold, 1). **Lifting certain trade restrictions would assist Cuba in its efforts to recover from the damage caused by its recent hurricanes. If the U.S. exempted construction equipment and agricultural machinery from the Cuban trade ban through regulatory action, the Cuban people could benefit from the loosening of restrictions without overhauling the entire embargo.**

Answers to: Wealth from engagement goes to regime

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[] **Lifting the embargo is a prerequisite for democratization – Castro blames social problems on the US and economic prosperity will go directly to Cuban citizens.**

Griswold, director of the Cato Institute’s Center for Trade Policy Studies, 2009

(Daniel, "The US Embargo of Cuba Is a Failure," *CATO*, June 15th, Online:
<http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/us-embargo-cuba-is-failure>)

Advocates of the embargo argue that trading with Cuba will only put dollars into the coffers of the Castro regime. And it’s true that the government in Havana, because it controls the economy, can skim off a large share of the remittances and tourist dollars spent in Cuba. But of course, **selling more US products to Cuba would quickly relieve the Castro regime of those same dollars.¶ If more US tourists were permitted to visit Cuba, and at the same time US exports to Cuba were further liberalised, the US economy could reclaim dollars from the Castro regime as fast as the regime could acquire them.** In effect, the exchange would be of agricultural products for tourism services, a kind of “bread for beaches”, “food for fun” trade relationship.¶ **Meanwhile, the increase in Americans visiting Cuba would dramatically increase contact between Cubans and Americans. The unique US-Cuban relationship that flourished before Castro could be renewed, which would increase US influence and potentially hasten the decline of the communist regime.**¶ Congress and President Barack **Obama should act now to lift the embargo to allow more travel and farm exports to Cuba. Expanding our freedom to travel to, trade with and invest in Cuba would make Americans better off and would help the Cuban people and speed the day when they can enjoy the freedom they deserve.**

Answers to: Economic engagement won't destabilize regime

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[] 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.**

Answers to: No US/Cuban Trade

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[] **The financial incentive for trade and the risk of worse sanctions as a punishment will motivate Cuba to trade with the US.**

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: Cuba Controls Imports

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[] Even if money goes to the Cuban government, it encourages change in behavior.

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)

As discussed above, **any major reform in Cuba should first begin in the economic sector, as opposed to the political sector. The Cuban government will likely accept foreign investment and introduce elements of private ownership into its economy long before it releases its stranglehold on politics and holds free elections.** Although the first stage of economic reform has already begun, this stage can end at a moment's notice. **Policy performance matters, and nothing breeds success like success. Therefore, the U.S. should design a policy that helps ensure that these initial reforms are successful. Success of reform will breed more reform and an increased demand for a different economic environment.** In this way, **an initial aperture's success will punch a hole in the Cuban government's ability to restrain economic [*235] activity while maintaining credibility. While Cuba introduces these financial reforms, the U.S. should resist calls to strengthen the economic sanctions,** and should instead respond to any economic opening on the island with more bilateral trade opportunities. By engaging Cuba economically, rather than isolating it politically, the U.S. could help link an entire generation of Cubans to the capitalist world.

Answers to: Regime is Resilient/Benefits from Trade

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[] Most of Cuba's problems stem from the embargo – trade will improve conditions even if the regime still exists.

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."**¶

Answers to: US/Latin American Relations Resilient

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[] US influence in the region is at an all-time low – restoring them is key to avoid multiple global threats

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)

Third, the Obama Administration ignores Latin America at its own peril. Latin America's importance to the United States is growing by the day, and cannot be overstated. While the issue of U.S.-Cuba relations is obviously of smaller import than many other issues currently affecting the world (i.e., the ailing economy, climate change, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction), addressing it would also involve correspondingly less effort than those issues, but could potentially lead to a disproportionately high return by making regional cooperation more likely. ⁿ²⁰ In order to confront any of the major world issues facing the United States, Washington must find a way to cooperate with its neighbors, who generally view U.S. policy toward Cuba as the most glaring symbol of its historic inability to constructively engage the region. These three reasons combine for a perfect storm: to the extent that a healthy U.S.-Cuban relationship would mean a healthier U.S.-Latin America relationship, the former should be pursued with an unprecedented vigor, one that has been absent for the last fifty years. Aside from the strategic importance of this issue, addressing these concerns might also prevent more serious problems in the future. Although the chances of a post-Castro Cuba becoming a failed state are slim, the threat is nevertheless real. If the state were to collapse, the island could plunge into civil war, face a humanitarian crisis, become a major drug trafficking center, experience a massive migration to Florida, or endure a combination of each. However, a new and comprehensive policy toward Cuba can help prevent these nightmare scenarios from materializing. There is no doubt that America's diminished image in Latin America means that it will face additional difficulty when trying to accomplish its regional goals. ⁿ²¹ To address the issues confronting the United States vis-a-vis Latin America (i.e., drugs, the environment, trade, labor and human rights), Washington must restore its heavily damaged image and regain its place as the region's trendsetter and leader. Resolving America's "Cuba problem" is a low-cost/high-reward strategy that would inject new energy and credibility into America's image.

Answers to: Other Factors Hurt US/Latin American Relations

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[] Cuba is the key to restoring relations – it is a symbolic issue.

The Washington Post, 2009

("US Urged to Relax Cuba Policy to Boost Regional Relations," *The Washington Post*, May 29, Online: http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2009-05-29/politics/36798831_1_cuba-scholar-oas-members-travel-restrictions)

Eliminating the Cold War-era ban would be largely symbolic, because Cuba has shown no sign of wanting to return to the OAS, the main forum for political cooperation in the hemisphere. But **the debate shows how central the topic has become in U.S. relations with an increasingly assertive Latin America**. The wrangling over Cuba threatens to dominate a meeting of hemispheric foreign ministers, including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, scheduled for Tuesday in Honduras.¶ **"Fifty years after the U.S. . . . made Cuba its litmus test for its commercial and diplomatic ties in Latin America, Latin America is turning the tables,"** said Julia E. Sweig, a Cuba scholar at the Council on Foreign Relations. Now, she said, **Latin countries are "making Cuba the litmus test for the quality of the Obama administration's approach to Latin America."** President **Obama has taken steps toward improving ties with Cuba**, lifting restrictions on visits and money transfers by Cuban Americans and offering to restart immigration talks suspended in 2004. **But he has said he will not scrap the longtime economic embargo** until Havana makes democratic reforms and cleans up its human rights record. Ending the embargo would also entail congressional action. **Obama is facing pressure to move faster, both from Latin American allies** and from key U.S. lawmakers. Bipartisan bills are pending in Congress that would eliminate all travel restrictions and ease the embargo.

Answers to: Other Factors Hurt US/Latin American Relations

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[] **Lifting the embargo on Cuba is the key to improve the United States' relationship with Latin America**

Goodman, editor for Bloomberg's coverage of Latin America, 2009

(Joshua, "Latin American to Push Obama on Cuba," Bloomberg, April 13, Online:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aLnOE1ib3E3Y>)

When Barack Obama arrives at the fifth Summit of the Americas this week, **Cuba will be at the heart of the U.S. relationship with the rest of the hemisphere, exactly as it has been for half a century.** While **Latin American leaders split on many issues, they agree that Obama should lift the 47-year-old U.S. trade embargo on Cuba.** From Venezuelan socialist Hugo Chavez to Mexico's pro-business Felipe Calderon, **leaders view a change in policy toward Cuba as a starting point for reviving U.S. relations with the region, which are at their lowest point in two decades.** Obama, born six months before President John F. Kennedy imposed the embargo, isn't prepared to support ending it. Instead, he'll seek to satisfy the leaders at the April 17-19 summit in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, with less ambitious steps disclosed by the administration today -- repealing restrictions on family visits and remittances imposed by former President George W. Bush. That would mesh with his stated goal of changing the perception of "U.S. arrogance" that he attributed to his predecessor in his sole policy speech on the region last May. **"All of Latin America and the Caribbean are awaiting a change in policy toward Cuba,"** Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Washington-based Organization of American States, said in an interview. **"They value what Obama has promised, but they want more."** The policy changes unveiled today also include an expanded list of items that can be shipped to the island, and a plan to allow U.S. telecommunications companies to apply for licenses in Cuba. Symbolically Important, **Cuba**, the only country in the hemisphere excluded from the 34-nation summit, **is symbolically important to the region's leaders, many of whom entered politics under military regimes and looked to Cuba and its longtime leader Fidel Castro, 82, for inspiration and support. Even though most countries shun the communist policies** of Castro and his brother, now-President Raul Castro, **the U.S. alone in the hemisphere rejects diplomatic and trade relations with the island.** **"Cuba represents a 50-year policy failure in Latin America and that's why it's so important** for Obama to address it now," says Wayne Smith, a senior fellow at the Center for International Policy in Washington, who headed the State Department's Cuba interest section in Havana from 1979-1982. **"Unless Obama wants to be booted off the stage, he better come with fresh ideas."**

Answers to: Other Factors Hurt US/Latin American Relations

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[] Latin America is receptive to American influence – the plan is a step in the right direction.

Grandin, Professor of History at New York University, 2010

(Greg, “Empire’s Senescence: US Policy in Latin America,” *New Labor Forum*, 19:1, Winter, pp. 14-23)

It is easy to imagine an improved U.S. diplomacy toward Latin America, designed not to advance a set of altruistic ideals but merely to defend its interests—broadly defined to mean stable politics and economies that are open to U.S. capital and commodities—and to achieve what those in the liberal wing of the foreign policy establishment have long advocated: a maximization of U.S. “soft power.” Harvard’s Joseph S. Nye defines soft power as **“the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion,”** through an enhanced understanding and utilization of multilateral institutions, **mutually beneficial policies, cultural exchanges, and commercial relations.** There are no immediate threats to the U.S. in Latin America. **A majority of the region’s political elite—even most of its current governing leftists—share many of the same values the United States claims to embody,** even more so following the election of the first African-American president, who is wildly popular in Latin America. As a result, **there is no other place in the world that offers U.S. president Barack Obama the opportunity to put into place the kind of intelligent foreign policy that he and his closest advisors,** such as United Nations (U.N.) ambassador Susan Rice, **believe is necessary to stop the hemorrhaging of U.S. prestige—one that would both improve Washington’s ability to deploy its many competitive advantages, while removing key points of friction.**

Cuba Embargo Negative

Cuba Embargo Negative – Table of Contents

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Glossary

Backlash a strong or violent reaction, as to some social or political change

Biodiversity – the number, or abundance of different species living within a particular region

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.

Exploitation – the use of someone or something in an unjust or cruel manner for economic, social, and political gain

Government Repression – sometimes used synonymously with the term political discrimination; often carried out through discriminatory policies, such as human rights violations, surveillance abuse, police brutality, imprisonment, involuntary settlement, stripping of citizen's rights, lustration and violent action to people who oppose the government and/or the general public

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 – An obligation arising out of considerations of right and wrong or 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.

Regime a government in power; a mode or system of rule or government.

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.

Cuban Public Health System Strong Now – Focus on Prevention

[] 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.**

Cuban Public Health System Strong Now – Free Care

[] 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)

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.**

Answers to: Public Health Wrecked by Embargo

[]

[] 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.

Lifting Embargo Hurts Healthcare System

[] Lifting the embargo leads to medical tourism which overstretches 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.

Lifting Embargo Hurts Healthcare – Healthcare Workers Leave

[] Easing the embargo would cause Cuban healthcare professionals to leave the country – this would collapse the public 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)

According to Steven Ullmann of the University of Miami's Cuba Transition Project, **if Washington lifts its embargo, Cuba can expect a mass exodus of health-care workers and then the creation of a domestic health system with two tiers, one private and one public. The system's lower, public tier would be at risk of complete collapse.** Ullmann therefore suggests "fostering this [public] system through partnerships and enhanced compensation of personnel." He also argues that officials in both governments should "limit out-migration of scientific brainpower from the country." Properly handled, the transition could leave Cuba with a mixed health-care economy -- part public, part locally owned and private, and part outsourced and private -- that could compensate Cuban physicians, nurses, and other health-care workers enough to keep them in the country and working at least part time in the public sector. The only U.S. policy currently in place, however, encourages Cuban physicians to immigrate to the United States. In 2006, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security created a special parole program under which health-care workers who defect from Cuba are granted legal residence in the United States while they prepare for U.S. medical licensing examinations. An estimated 2,000 physicians have taken advantage of the program. Although few have managed to gain accreditation as U.S. doctors, largely due to their poor English-language skills and the stark differences between Cuban and U.S. medical training, many now work as nurses in Florida hospitals. **The Castro government, meanwhile, is in a seemingly untenable position.** The two greatest achievements of the Cuban Revolution -- **100 percent literacy and quality universal health care -- depend on huge streams of government spending. If Washington does eventually start to normalize relations, plugging just a few holes in the embargo wall would require vast additional spending by the Cuban government. The government would have to pay higher salaries** to teachers, doctors, nurses, and technicians; strengthen the country's deteriorating infrastructure; and improve working conditions for common workers. **To bolster its health-care infrastructure and create incentives for Cuban doctors to stay in the system, Cuba will have to find external support** from donors, such as the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development. **But few sources will support Havana with funding** as long as the regime restricts the travel of its citizens.

Lifting Embargo Hurts Public Health – Causes Obesity

[] Lifting the embargo will harm public health – increased food availability and shift to car culture will result in an obesity epidemic.

Cassimally, med student and blog manager at Nature.com, 2013

(Khalil, "The Only Positive Effect Of The Cuban Embargo? Weight Loss," April 19, Online: http://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/labcoat-life/the_only_positive_effect_of)

Despite all the atrocity and machiavellianism that trail economic embargoes, science has somehow found a way to profit from the Cuban "special period." Thanks to the impressive Cuban healthcare system which diligently collected health data even during the "special period," Manuel Franco, at **the University of Alcalá** in Spain and **colleagues from US and Cuban institutions, were able to analyse some of the health indicators of the time.** What they found underlines the atrocity of the embargo on the Cuban people but does come with a surprising silver lining which they report in a paper published last week by the British Medical Journal (BMJ).[¶] **The shortage of food caused by the embargo led to a population-wide weight loss of about 5.5 kg. The food shortage was a direct result of Cuba's inability to import anything. Physical activity was another important contributing factor to the weight loss.** The Cuban government somehow got its hands on more than one million bicycles for the population. **During the "special period," Cubans were forced to walk or cycle, sometimes for kilometres, as public transport was saddled due to the virtual nonexistence of petrol.**[¶] Interestingly, **the weight loss matched with declines in cases of diabetes and heart diseases. Essentially, the embargo spurred a mini health revolution.** As the authors state in the paper: "so far, **no country or regional population has successfully reduced the distribution of body mass index or reduced the prevalence of obesity through public health campaigns or targeted treatment programmes.**" **Where campaigns and targeted programmes failed, the embargo succeeded.**[¶] But it gets more interesting. **After 1995, the Cuban economy started to pick up again and has risen steadily since—especially post-2000. Coupled to this steady economic rise was a resurgence of obesity, and with it diabetes and heart diseases. The resurgence was predominantly due to an increased energy intake from food and drinks consumed since physical activity only marginally decreased.** Energy intake reached pre-crisis levels by 2002 and obesity rates had tripled that of 1995 by 2011.[¶] What the embargo tells us is that **even meager loss of weight throughout a population, if sustained, can lead to a decline in non-transmissible diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases. How to achieve such sustained decline without having an embargo imposed however is another question.** The usual strategies put forward include sensitisation through education and policy changes to promote physical activity, taxes on unhealthy food, etcetera.

Lifting Embargo Hurts Public Health – Causes Obesity

[] The embargo has led to an overall reduction in obesity – people aren't starving, they're thriving.

Willett, Chair of the Department of Nutrition at Harvard, 2013

(Walter, "Weight Changes and Health in Cuba: Learning from Hardship," *BMJ* Editorial, April 9th, Online: <http://www.bmj.com/content/346/bmj.f1777>)

Changes in food supplies and reductions in physical activity are fueling increases in overweight and obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease worldwide.1 We have had few opportunities to see a reversal of this process, which is continuing inexorably almost everywhere. **One such opportunity was provided by the well developed public health surveillance systems in Cuba, which were maintained during a period of serious economic hardship** in the early 1990s. In a linked study (doi:10.1136/bmj.f1515), Franco and colleagues used these systems to look at the effects of reduced energy intake and increased physical activity on body weight and the occurrence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and death.2**In Cuba, decreased food availability** and increased physical activity, supported by the distribution of more than a million bicycles during 1991 to 1995, **led to an average 5.5 kg reduction in weight over five years, shifting the whole population distribution of weight downwards. Predictably, a profound and almost immediate reduction in the incidence of diabetes occurred, and a striking decline in cardiovascular mortality began,** with a lag of about five years. These findings are consistent with those of the many epidemiologic and clinical studies that have examined the incidence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.3 4 5 6**The economic crisis was followed by a slow recovery, increased food intake, reduction in activity, and an increase in the prevalence of obesity to three times higher than before the crisis. With weight regain, the trend in incidence of diabetes rapidly reversed, and a decade after the period of weight loss, the decline in cardiovascular disease had greatly slowed. Most troublesome, the continued rapid increase in obesity and diabetes predicts that the decline in cardiovascular disease, and thus total mortality, will be reversed** because the full impact of diabetes on incidence of cardiovascular disease is not seen until several decades after diagnosis.5 The apparent lack of effect of weight loss on death from cancer seen in the current study is not surprising. Only some cancers are associated with obesity and disease latency can be decades.7 More detailed analyses by specific types of cancer would be useful.

Lifting Embargo Increases Government Repression

[] 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 20th, 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.**

Lifting Embargo Increases Government Repression – History Proves

[] Past regimes have grown stronger through trade – the same is 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.

Lifting Embargo Increases Government Repression – Funds Regime

[] Economic engagement won't yield regime change because the wealth from trade won't trickle down to citizens.

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 engagement thesis also claims that economic development tends to promote democracy, an old hypothesis dating from the 1950s work of Seymour Martin Lipset.(n19) But the empirical evidence of the past fifty years suggests that this hypothesis is also false. Countries under dictatorial regimes are not more likely to experience a transition to democracy as they reach higher levels of economic development.(n20) Nevertheless, the idea that development generates democracy continues to be presented as if it were true and is one of the key arguments used by USA Engage to justify its opposition to the U.S. embargo. Samuel Huntington has also argued that economic development produces democracy by creating new sources of wealth and power outside state control. However, if one considers the intervening mechanism between development and democracy in Huntington's reasoning, one finds that, whatever its validity elsewhere, it does not hold up in the Cuban case. If increased wealth simply accrues to the state, as in Cuba, then (as Huntington himself acknowledges) the additional revenue merely increases the power of the state and makes no contribution to democratization.

Lifting Embargo Increases Government Repression – Funds Regime

[] Engagement wouldn't promote change – Castro will use US goods to maintain his control over Cubans.

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>)

Under the real world of Castroism, however, the answer must be a terse one: none. The embargo has not harmed the Cuban economy. Cooperation between the United States and Cuba would have been impossible from the very beginning of the Revolution for legal, political, ideological, strategic, and economic reasons, not to mention others of a philosophical or moral character. In other words, **it was in the past, and continues to be at present, contrary to the United States' national interest and to its fundamental foreign policy orientation and objectives to lift the embargo under Castro's conditions: that is, without a firm commitment to the political democratization and market reforms that his regime** has stubbornly opposed for the last 40 years. However, **if, purely for the sake of an intellectual exercise, we were to assume that the embargo had never existed, its nonexistence would have had no effect whatsoever on the Cuban economy. Castro simply would have squandered U.S. instead of Soviet resources. Given Castro's objectives and policies, the ultimate result for the Cuban economy could not have been any different, regardless of who had financed his Revolution.**

No Impact – US/Latin American Relations Resilient

[] US relations to Latin America are resilient and high now – we still have significant economic influence in the region.

Duddy, former US ambassador to Venezuela and Mora, former Assistant Secretary of Defense, 2013

(Patrick and Frank, “Latin America: Is US Influence Waning?,” *Miami Herald*, May 1st, Online: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/05/01/3375160/latin-america-is-us-influence.html>)

While it is true that other countries are important to the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, it is also still true that **the United States is by far the largest and most important economic partner of the region and trade is growing even with those countries with which we do not have free trade agreements.** An area of immense importance to regional economies that we often overlook is the exponential growth in travel, tourism and migration. It is commonplace to note the enormous presence of foreign students in the United States but in 2011, according to the Institute of International Education, after Europe, Latin America was the second most popular destination for U.S. university students. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. tourists travel every year to Latin America and the Caribbean helping to support thousands of jobs. **From 2006-2011 U.S. non-government organizations, such as churches, think tanks and universities increased the number of partnerships with their regional cohorts by a factor of four. Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean from the United States totaled \$64 billion in 2012. Particularly for the smaller economies of Central America and the Caribbean these flows can sometimes constitute more than 10 percent of gross domestic product.** Finally, **one should not underestimate the resiliency of U.S. soft power in the region. The power of national reputation, popular culture, values and institutions continues to contribute to U.S. influence in ways that are difficult to measure and impossible to quantify.** Example: Despite 14 years of strident anti-American rhetoric during the Chávez government, tens of thousand of Venezuelans apply for U.S. nonimmigrant visas every year, including many thousands of Chávez loyalists. Does this mean we can feel comfortable relegating U.S. relations with the hemisphere to the second or third tier of our international concerns? Certainly not. We have real and proliferating interests in the region. As the president and his team head to Mexico and Costa Rica, it is important to recognize the importance of our ties to the region. We have many individual national partners in the Americas. **We don't need a new template for relations with the hemisphere as a whole or another grand U.S.-Latin America strategy.** A greater commitment to work more intensely with the individual countries on the issues most relevant to them would be appropriate. **The United States still has the economic and cultural heft in the region to play a fundamental role and to advance its own interests.**

No Impact – China Fills in for US

[] Even if US influence declines, China will fill in – China and Latin American co-operation solves.

Xiaoxia, Professor of Economics at Tsinghua University, 2013

(Wang, "IN AMERICA'S BACKYARD: CHINA'S RISING INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA," May 6th, *WorldCrunch*, Online: <http://worldcrunch.com/china-2.0/in-america-039-s-backyard-china-039-s-rising-influence-in-latin-america/foreign-policy-trade-economy-investments-energy/c9s11647/>)

In the opinion of many European and American scholars, **China's current practice isn't much different from that of Western colonizers of the last century.** These scholars believe that China doesn't care about local human rights or the state of democracy when dealing with countries. **All China is interested in is establishing long-term, stable economic relations.** This realistic path is exactly opposite to that of America's newfound idealism. Thus China has become a close collaborator of certain Latin American countries, such as Venezuela, that are in sharp conflict with the United States. **The global financial crisis of 2008 was a chance for China to become an increasingly important player in Latin American.** As Europe and the United States were caught in a financial quagmire, China, with nearly \$3 trillion of foreign exchange reserves as backing, embarked on "funds-for-assets" transactions with Latin American countries. **So what does China want exactly in entering Latin American?** Is it to obtain a stable supply of energy and resources, and thus inadvertently acquire political influence? Or the other way round? Presumably most U.S. foreign policy-makers are well aware of the answer. **China's involvement in the Latin American continent doesn't constitute a threat to the United States, but brings benefits.** It is precisely because **China has reached "loans-for-oil" swap agreements with Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador and other countries** that it brings much-needed funds to these oil-producing countries in South America. Not only have **these funds been used in the field of oil production, but they have also safeguarded the energy supply of the United States, as well as stabilized these countries' livelihood -- and to a certain extent reduced the impact of illegal immigration and the drug trade on the U.S.** For South America, China and the United States, **this is not a zero-sum game, but a multiple choice of mutual benefits and synergies.** **Even if China has become the Latin American economy's new upstart, it is still not in a position to challenge the strong and diverse influence that the United States has accumulated over two centuries in the region.**

Lifting the Embargo Won't Solve – Other Unpopular Factors

[] Cuba is only one of many obstacles to US/Latin American cooperation – the plan can't solve

Lobe, chief of Washington Bureau of the Inter Press Service, 2012

(Jim, "U.S., Latin America Growing More Distant, Warns Think Tank," Inter Press Service, April, Online: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/04/us-latin-america-growing-more-distant-warns-think-tank/>)

Relations between the United States and Latin America have “grown more distant” in importance part due to the latter’s persistent disagreement with U.S. policies on immigration, drugs, and Cuba, according to a new report released here Wednesday on the eve of this year’s Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia. **“The United States must regain credibility in the region by dealing seriously with an unfinished agenda of problems, including immigration, drugs, and Cuba – that stands in the way of a real partnership,”** according to Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue (IAD).[¶] The 20-page report, entitled “Remaking the Relationship”, described current inter-American relations as “generally cordial but lack(ing) in vigor and purpose”. It suggested that **Washington**, in particular, **has failed to fully come to terms with Latin America’s strong economic and political progress** over the past two decades.[¶] It also concluded that **the two sides “need to do more to exploit the enormous untapped opportunities of their relationship in economics, trade, and energy”**, as well as to work more closely together on global and regional problems.[¶] “They need to breathe new life and vigor into hemispheric relations,” it stressed.[¶] **“If the United States and Latin America do not make the effort now, the chance may slip away,”** the report warned. **“The most likely scenario then would be marked by a continued drift in their relationship,** further deterioration of hemispheric-wide institutions, **a reduced ability and willingness to deal with a range of common problems, and a spate of missed opportunities for more robust growth and greater social equity.”**

Lifting the Embargo Won't Solve – Regime Resilient

[] **Economic engagement historically hasn't created regime change – Cuba has traded with other countries for decades without effect.**

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 nature of the Cuban regime is such that it is unjustified to think that engagement can induce the Castro government to implement political liberalization.(n11) **Havana is controlled by hardliners,** led by Fidel Castro himself, **who oppose any change in the status quo. There are no regime "softliners"** (those who believe that some degree of political liberalization is necessary for the dictatorship to endure) **with sufficient power and autonomy to conduct negotiations concerning political liberalization with members of the moderate opposition.** Were softliners in fact to emerge and display a willingness to negotiate with democratic moderates, **they would be quickly eliminated or demoted** by hardliners.(n12) It is important to add that the standard conception of softliners in the literature on transitions to democracy involves those advocating political liberalization, not economic reform, because some scholars attempting to conjure up moderates in the Cuban ruling elite count advocates of market reforms (even if very limited ones) as softliners. But a cogent example demonstrating that economic reformers in Cuba are not political softliners is Carlos Lage, Cuba's minister of economy, who stated on September 2, 1999, that there is already a democracy in Cuba while at the same time advocating the influx of foreign investment.(n13) The fact that the U.S. embargo has been in place since 1962 and the Cuban dictatorship has endured is taken by **critics of the embargo** as an indication that the economic sanctions have failed. Those who make this argument **disregard the fact that,** for a long time, **Cuba has had diplomatic and commercial relations with most other countries.** Not only have Latin American and European countries engaged the Cuban government in diplomatic and trade relations, but some leaders from these countries have tried many times to persuade the Cuban government to take steps toward political liberalization without the least success.(n14) In short, **the Cuban government has failed to respond to positive inducements.** For example, **Havana has not accepted the offer of the European Union to establish an economic cooperation agreement that would facilitate trade, investments, and aid in exchange for Cuba's respecting human rights and moving toward political liberalization.**(n15) Both Fidel Castro and his brother Raul, the second in command in **the ruling elite, have consistently rejected any negotiations to improve relations with the United States that would include preconditions involving Cuba's domestic policies.**(n16)

Lifting the Embargo Won't Solve – Government Backlash

[] Trade won't promote democracy – Cuba's regime will crack down on dissent.

Amnesty International, international organization promoting human rights, 2012

("Routine Repression," Online:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR25/007/2012/en/16f0c0fe-c76b-428e-9050-bc9eb2ea95f7/amr250072012en.pdf>)

Cuba does not tolerate any criticism of the state outside the official mechanisms established under government control. **Laws on "public disorder", "contempt", "disrespect", "dangerousness" and "agression", are used to prosecute government opponents. No political or human rights organizations are allowed to obtain legal status.** Trade unions and bar **associations independent from** those affiliated to **the Cuban Communist Party are not permitted to operate legally and their members are subject to repressive measures.** **Any challenge to official policy invariably results in retaliatory action involving the violation of human rights.** **To justify their arsenal of repressive laws and practices, Cuban officials continue to claim that political opponents** act under the sponsorship or the influence of the United States government, and that their activities **are a threat against national security**, Cuba's integrity and the revolution.

Lifting the Embargo Won't Solve – Cuba Controls Imports

[] Lifting the embargo won't create change – the Cuban government will still maintain control over profits from trade, which deters investors.

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.

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.

Tourism Bad Disadvantage

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Summary

Right now the United States embargo on Cuba prevents US citizens from engaging in tourist activities in Cuba. Even though some Americans are given permission to go to Cuba, it is allowed sparingly, such as for educational purposes. The disadvantage argues that if the affirmative plan is implemented, there will be a significant increase in the number of US tourists that visit Cuba. This increase in tourism will ultimately lead to the rapid development of the tourist industry, which will inevitably destroy the environment of Cuba, which is home to many unique species and ecosystems.

Glossary

Consumerism – a social and economic order that encourages the purchase of goods and services in ever-greater amounts

Embargo – the partial or complete prohibition of commerce and trade with a particular country

Tourism Bad Disadvantage 1NC (1/2)

A. Uniqueness – the embargo prevents US citizens from travelling to Cuba.

Rep. Ron Paul, former Congressional representative, 2013

(Ron, "Why can't we all travel to Cuba?," *AntiWar.com*, April 16, Online:

<http://original.antiwar.com/paul/2013/04/15/why-cant-we-all-travel-to-cuba/>)

The **Obama** administration **has lifted some of the** most onerous **restrictions on travel to Cuba** imposed under the previous Bush administration, **but for the average American, travel to the island is still difficult if not impossible.**¶ However, **even those who are permitted to go to Cuba are not allowed to simply engage in tourist activities** — to spend their money as they wish or relax on a beach.¶ **The US government demands that the few Americans it allows to travel to Cuba only engage in what it deems "purposeful travel," to "support civil society** in Cuba; enhance the free flow of information to, from, and among the Cuban people; and help promote their independence from Cuban authorities." **They must prove that they maintain a full-time schedule of educational activities**, according to Treasury guidelines for "people-to-people" travel.¶ **Leave it to the federal government to make the prospect of visiting that sunny Caribbean island sound so miserable.**¶ The reason **the US so severely restricts** and scripts **the activities of the few Americans allowed to travel to Cuba** is that it believes travel must promote the goal of taking "important steps in reaching the widely shared goal of a Cuba that respects the basic rights of all its citizens."

B. Link – lifting the embargo would more than double the number of tourists in Cuba.

Dean, Lecturer in Environmental Studies at Brown University, 2007

(Cornelia, "Conserving Cuba, After the Embargo," *New York Times*, December 25, Online:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&)

But, he said in an interview, **"an invasion of U.S. consumerism, a U.S.-dominated future, could roll over it like a bulldozer" when the embargo ends.** By some estimates, tourism in Cuba is increasing 10 percent annually. At a minimum, Orlando Rey Santos, the Cuban lawyer who led the law-writing effort, said in an interview at the conference, **"we can guess that tourism is going to increase in a very fast way" when the embargo ends. "It is estimated we could double tourism in one year,"** said Mr. Rey, who heads environmental efforts at the Cuban ministry of science, technology and environment.

Tourism Bad Disadvantage 1NC (2/2)

C. Impact - Lifting the embargo would turn Cuba into a target for tourists and business exploitation – this would destroy its environment.

Lovgren, winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, 2006

(Stefan, "Castro the Conservationist? By Default or Design, Cuba Largely Pristine," *National Geographic*, August 4, Online: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060804-castro-legacy.html>)

So what will happen if Castro's regime falls and a new, democratic government takes root? **Conservationists** and others **say** they are worried that **the pressure to develop the island will increase and Cuba's rich biodiversity will suffer.** Barborak said he is concerned that **"environmental carpetbaggers and scalawags will come out of the woodwork in Cuba if there is turbulent regime change. "One could foresee a flood of extractive industries jockeying for access to mineral and oil leases,"** he said. **"A huge wave of extraction of unique and endemic plants and animals could occur to feed the international wildlife market. And a speculative tourism and real estate boom could turn much of the coastline into a tacky wasteland in short order."** **"If foreign investments take a much firmer hold, more hotels will be built and more people will descend on the reefs,"** added Gebelein, the Florida International University professor. **"If the Cuban government does not have a swift policy framework to deal with the huge influx of tourists,** investors, and foreign government interests, **a new exploitative paradigm will be the beginning of the end for some of the last pristine territories in the Caribbean."**

Tourism Hurts the Environment

[]

[] Cuba's environment is very healthy – it's been protected from pollution by the embargo.

Lovgren, winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, 2006

(Stefan, "Castro the Conservationist? By Default or Design, Cuba Largely Pristine," *National Geographic*, August 4, Online: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060804-castro-legacy.html>)

Isolated in part because of the U.S. trade embargo against the island, Cuba has been excluded from much of the economic globalization that has taken its toll on the environment in many other parts of the world. "The healthy status of much of the wetlands and forests of Cuba is due not to political influence as much as the lack of foreign exchange with which to make the investments to convert lands and introduce petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers," Pearl said. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many Cuban factories and agricultural fields have sat dormant. The island has had to become self-sufficient, turning to low-energy organic farming. It has had to scrap most of its fishing fleet because it can't afford to maintain the ships. Population pressure has also been a nonissue, with many Cubans fleeing the country for economic and political reasons.

Tourism Promotes Inequality in Cuba

[] Cuba's tourism industry caters to racial divisions and promotes ethnic tensions.

Sanchez and Adams, professors of political science and anthropology at Loyal University, 2008

(Peter and Kathleen, "Janus Faced Character of Tourism in Cuba," *Annals of Tourism Research*, Volume 35 Number 1, Online – Free)

In the course of three trips to Cuba, spanning nine years, the authors found that **almost all workers at the front desks** of Havana and Varadero hotels oriented towards international tourists **were predominantly "white"** (classification of race is different in Cuba and the United States; many considering themselves as white would be perceived as "black" by people in the United States). In a study of racism on the island, De la Fuente quotes a black Cuban singer as saying, **"Tourism firms look like South African companies** in the times of Peter Botha. **You go there, and they are all white.** And I wonder: Where am I, in Holland?" De la Fuente (1998:7). In keeping with the findings of the authors of this paper, Cabezas also observes that **"Afro-Cubans are excluded from front line service positions with direct customer contact"** Cabezas (2006:513). Certainly, there are Afro-Cubans in the tourism industry and sometimes they occupy key positions, but **overall, while they represent a significant segment of the local population, Afro-Cubans are underrepresented in the high-level and best-paying positions in the industry. Racial preferences in tourism-related hiring appear, then, to have exacerbated inequality and racism.** This inequality, within a socialist system, threatens to erode domestic support for the Castro government. While they may fear the alternative and still view Castro positively, many citizens interviewed were often quite critical of the government's policies, and also lamented their current paradoxical experiences and hardships. Thus, **tourism has also increased ethnic divisions on the island. Rather than helping build and integrate the nation and strengthening the state, it has done the opposite in Cuba: yielding more social division and tension.**

Tourism Promotes Inequality in Cuba

[] Tourism in Cuba promotes economic inequality, ethnic tensions, and corruption.

Sanchez and Adams, professors of political science and anthropology at Loyal University, 2008

(Peter and Kathleen, "Janus Faced Character of Tourism in Cuba," *Annals of Tourism Research*, Volume 35 Number 1, Online – Free)

Tourism in Cuba has, to some extent, helped to "save" the economy by providing much needed hard currency. The Castro government in the early 90s experienced a serious crisis that had grave political repercussions. It introduced major economic changes in order to survive but, despite such efforts, in fall 1994 alone, roughly 30,000 fled the island and clashes with the police occurred near the Maleco´n. The government, nevertheless, survived that crisis. The economy has grown and, while life is still challenging, some degree of normalcy has emerged, as hard currency continues to enter the economy via tourism. **On the other hand, the industry has created serious contradictions** that have not been ameliorated and threaten to undermine the government's most important national goals, mainly the preservation of socialism. **Continuing inequality, racism, prostitution, and corruption threaten the survival of the Castro government. The government has attempted to deal with the contradictions by using tourism as a vehicle for support. But its attempts to lasso the industry** to highlight the values of the revolution and to foster international support **may be nothing more than window-dressing when compared with the deleterious effects of tourism on** the government, **national goals**, and socialist ideology. More broadly, the Cuban case illustrates some of the potential contradictions that can arise in the uneasy marriage between tourism and nation-building for developing countries and socialist societies in transition. **While it can certainly contribute to a country's coffers and enhance pride in citizenship, tourism can also fuel or regenerate ethnic divisions, prostitution, economic inequalities, and corruption, all of which may undermine the authority of the state. Under such a scenario,** the Janus-faced character of tourism may well prevent many states from achieving their nation-building goals. Further, **nation-states that pursue social justice as one of their chief goals may want to more carefully weigh the decision to embrace tourism as a vehicle for fueling development, fostering international sympathy, and fomenting a loyal citizenry.**

Tourism Hurts Public Health

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[] Lifting the embargo would allow medical tourism – this would overstretch Cuba’s healthcare resources.

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

But **a lot may change if the United States alters its policies toward Cuba. In 2009, a group of 30 physicians from Florida** toured Cira García and **concluded that once the U.S. embargo is lifted, the facility will be overwhelmed by its foreign patients. It takes little imagination to envision chains of private clinics,** located near five-star hotels and beach resorts, catering to the elective needs of North Americans and Europeans. Such a trend might bode well for Canadians seeking to avoid queues in Ottawa for hip replacements or for U.S. health insurance companies looking to cut costs on cataract surgery and pacemakers. But **providing health care to wealthy foreigners would drain physicians, technicians, and nurses from Cuba's public system.**¶ And **any such brain drain within Cuba might be dwarfed by a brain drain out into the rest of the world, as Cuban doctors and nurses leave the country to seek incomes that cannot be matched at home.** Countries facing gross deficits in skilled medical talent are already scrambling to lure doctors, nurses, lab technicians, dentists, pharmacists, and health administrators from other nations. In 2006, the WHO estimated that the global deficit of medical professionals was roughly 4.3 million, and the figure can only have grown since then. **As the world's population ages and average life expectancies rise from the United States to China, millions more patients will need complex, labor-intensive medical attention. And in countries with falling life expectancies and high rates of HIV/AIDS, donor resources** aimed at combating the disease **often have the unintended consequence of further straining meager supplies of human medical resources by drawing talent away from less well-funded areas of medicine, such as basic children's health care.**

Tourism Increases Government Repression

[]

[] Tourism provides the Castro regime with more money to dominate Cuban citizens.

Suchlicki, Director of the 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/>)

Lifting the ban for U.S. tourists to travel to Cuba **would be a major concession totally out of proportion to recent changes in the island. If the U.S. were to lift the travel ban without major reforms** in Cuba, there would be significant implications: **Money from American tourists would flow into businesses owned by the Castro government thus strengthening state enterprises.** The tourist industry is controlled by the military and General Raul Castro, Fidel's brother. American tourists will have limited contact with Cubans. Most **Cuban resorts are built in isolated areas, are off limits to the average Cuban, and are controlled by Cuba's efficient security apparatus.** Most Americans don't speak Spanish, have but limited contact with ordinary Cubans, and are not interested in visiting the island to subvert its regime. Law 88 enacted in 1999 prohibits Cubans from receiving publications from tourists. Penalties include jail terms. **While providing the Castro government with much needed dollars, the economic impact of tourism on the Cuban population would be limited. Dollars will trickle down to the Cuban poor in only small quantities, while state and foreign enterprises will benefit most.** Tourist dollars would be spent on products, i.e., rum, tobacco, etc., produced by state enterprises, and tourists would stay in hotels owned partially or wholly by the Cuban government. The principal airline shuffling tourists around the island, Gaviota, is owned and operated by the Cuban military. The assumption that the Cuban leadership would allow U.S. tourists or businesses to subvert the revolution and influence internal developments is at best naïve. As we have seen in other circumstances, U.S. travelers to Cuba could be subject to harassment and imprisonment. **Over the past decades hundred of thousands of Canadian, European and Latin American tourists have visited the island. Cuba is not more democratic today. If anything, Cuba is more totalitarian, with the state and its control apparatus having been strengthened as a result of the influx of tourist dollars.**

Answers to: Cuba's Environment is Already Exploited

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[] Cuba is home to one of the most protected environments in the world.

Lovgren, winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, 2006

(Stefan, "Castro the Conservationist? By Default or Design, Cuba Largely Pristine," *National Geographic*, August 4, Online: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060804-castro-legacy.html>)

Though Cuba is economically destitute, it has the richest biodiversity in the Caribbean.

Resorts blanket many of its neighbors, but **Cuba remains largely undeveloped, with large tracts of untouched rain forest and unspoiled reefs. The country has signed numerous international conservation treaties and set aside vast areas of land for government protection.** But others say Cuba's economic underdevelopment has played just as large a role. **Since the collapse of the Soviet Union**—its main financial benefactor—**Cuba has had to rely mostly on its own limited resources. It has embraced organic farming and low-energy agriculture because it can't afford to do anything else.** And once Castro is gone, the experts say, **a boom in tourism and foreign investment could destroy Cuba's pristine landscapes.**

Answers to: Cuba Already Attracts Tourists

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[] The current number of tourists would increase substantially if the embargo was lifted.

Global Travel Industry News, 2009

("Is Cuba Ready for US Tourists?," *Global Travel Industry News*, Sep 18, Online:
<http://www.eturbonews.com/11774/cuba-ready-us-tourists>)

If the U.S. government dropped its travel restrictions entirely, rather than just for Cuban Americans -- and Cuba proved as big a draw for American tourists as Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, or Cancun, Mexico -- **the island could expect more than one million additional visitors a year.** ¶ **Mere curiosity** -- seeing '58 Oldsmobiles and giant Che portraits on buildings -- **could lure many, said** Damian Fernandez, **a longtime Cuban policy expert** and provost of Purchase College State University of New York. ¶ **"Post-embargo, the biggest, fastest impact would be in tourism,"** he said.

Answers to: Americans Already Travel to Cuba

Embargo restricts tourism

Luxner, news editor of the Washington Diplomat, 2012

(Larry, "Cuba Welcomes Pope, As U.S. Slams Door on Easing Embargo)

The Washington Diplomat, Feb 29, Online:

http://www.washdiplomat.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8222:cuba-welcomes-pope-as-us-slams-door-on-easing-embargo&catid=1484:march-2012&Itemid=497)

Fifty years ago, on Feb. 7, 1962, President John F. **Kennedy expanded the partial embargo that had been imposed more than a year earlier by his predecessor**, Dwight D. Eisenhower, **into a total economic embargo against Cuba that endures to this day.** ¶ **That embargo**, aimed at depriving the Castro regime of badly needed dollars, **makes it impossible for average American tourists to frolic on the beaches** of Varadero, only 90 miles due south of Key West, Fla. — **even though U.S. law permits them to visit every other nation on Earth, including Syria, North Korea and Iran.**

Answers to: Lifting the Embargo Allows for Environmental Cooperation

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[] Lifting the embargo would subject Cuba to a wave of environmental exploitation by American businesses.

Dean, Lecturer in Environmental Studies at Brown University, 2007

(Cornelia, "Conserving Cuba, After the Embargo," *New York Times*, December 25, Online: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&)

Through accidents of geography and history, **Cuba is a priceless ecological resource.** That is why **many scientists are so worried about what will become of it after** Fidel Castro and his associates leave power and, as is widely anticipated, **the American government** relaxes or **ends its trade embargo. Cuba,** by far the region's largest island, **sits at the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Its mountains, forests, swamps, coasts and marine areas are rich in plants and animals, some seen nowhere else.** And since the imposition of the embargo in 1962, and especially with the collapse in 1991 of the Soviet Union, its major economic patron, Cuba's economy has stagnated. **Cuba** has not been free of development, including Soviet-style top-down agricultural and mining operations and, in recent years, an expansion of tourism. But it also **has an abundance of landscapes that elsewhere in the region have been ripped up, paved over, poisoned or otherwise destroyed in the decades since the Cuban revolution, when development has been most intense. Once the embargo ends, the island could face a flood of investors from the United States and elsewhere, eager to exploit those landscapes.**

Answers to: Human Rights Come Before the Environment

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[] In the context of Cuba, the environmental costs are too high to ignore – even when compared to human rights.

Kozloff, writer for the Huffington Post and PhD in Latin American History from Oxford, 2010 (Nikolas, “Left Must Fine Tune its Position on Cuba Embargo in Light of Oil Spill,” *Monga Bay*, May 26, Online: http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0526-kozloff_cuba.html)

Hopefully, the BP disaster will put a break on the oil lobby and its supporters on Capitol Hill. Yet, other important players have been broadly supportive of offshore oil. For its part, **Havana has said it would welcome U.S. investment.** Recently, a U.S.-Cuba Energy Summit attracted Exxon officials and others to a meeting in Mexico City. Participants viewed PowerPoint presentations from Cuban government ministries including state-owned oil company Cupet which sought to involve U.S. companies in the exploitation of oil and gas fields. **"U.S. oil companies would love to do business there as soon as this thing opens up,"** remarked Ron Harper, an energy analyst in Houston. **"They're looking at it quietly. They'd be short-sighted not to."** **The debate over Cuban offshore oil puts the political left in a quandary.** For years, **it's been an article of faith amongst progressives that the U.S. ought to scrap the embargo. To be sure, economic sanctions have resulted in** horrible economic **distress for ordinary Cubans. Yet, does the left want to lift sanctions and open the door to yet more destructive offshore petroleum, thereby adding to environmental woes already unleashed by the BP spill? In light of our dire ecological straits,** I believe **the left must rethink its position on this vital issue and articulate a more broad-based vision for the Gulf which would realistically address both economic and environmental concerns.**

Tourism Bad Disadvantage Answers

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Glossary

Consumerism – a social and economic order that encourages the purchase of goods and services in ever-greater amounts

Embargo – the partial or complete prohibition of commerce and trade with a particular country

Non-Unique - Cuban Tourism Rates Already High

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[] Cuba's tourism rates are already growing rapidly.

Piccone, senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, 2012(Ted, "Cuba is Changing, Slowly but Surely," *Brookings*, Jan 19, Online: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2012/01/19-cuba-piccone>)

One area where Cuba seems to be moving in a positive direction is tourism. **From 1990 to 2010, the estimated number of tourists has risen from 360,000 to 2.66 million.** In addition, **thanks to President Obama's decision to allow Cuban-American families to visit** the island and send remittances as much as they want, **Cubans have received over 400,000 visits** and roughly \$2 billion **from relatives in the United States.** These are proving to be important sources of currency and commerce that are helping families cope with reduced subsidies and breathe life in the burgeoning private sector. A walk through crowded Old Havana, where construction crews are busy restoring one of the Americas' great colonial treasures, offers compelling evidence that **Cuba can be a strong magnet for Europeans, Canadians, Chinese and—some day—hundreds of thousands of American visitors.** And Pope Benedict's visit in late March will shine an international spotlight on a Cuba slowly opening its doors to the world, yes, but more importantly, to an increasingly vocal and confident Catholic Church intent on securing a more prominent and relevant place in Cuban society.

No Impact - Cuba Already Exploits its Environment – Tourism and Other Industries

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[] Cuba already exploits its environment as a tourist attraction – the centralized government has squandered its natural resources.

Conell, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009

(Christina, “The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be Environmental Partners,” June 12, Online: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/>)

For Cubans and foreigners alike, the beaches of Cuba constitute the principle tourist attraction in the country, but even these have not escaped wasteful government exploitation. The famous beaches east of Havana have been the victims of sand removal for use by the Cuban government in the construction industry. In addition to coastal destruction, like many of its Caribbean neighbors, Cuba faces deforestation, over-cultivation of land and compaction of soils due to the use of heavy farm machinery and strip mining. These practices have resulted in high salinity in soils and heavy land erosion. Furthermore, poor water quality in freshwater streams has affected the wildlife habitat, which is in turn influenced by runoff from agricultural practices, erosion due to deforestation, and sedimentation of freshwater streams. Cuba must act in a responsible manner to stop environmental degradation and preserve its tourist industry as an early step to salvage its inert economy. The environmental degradation that began during the colonial era has transcended time as a result of **Castro’s political and economic paradigm**. Only in the last 40 years, with the development of the Commission for the Protection of the Environment and the Conservation of Natural Resources (COMARNA), has Cuba begun to address growing environmental concerns. COMARNA **consolidated all of the agencies with environmental responsibilities, as a step towards giving them the power to influence all environmental issues.** Although COMARNA was all-inclusive, **it lacked independent authority, so its activities achieved few tangible results.** **The sad fact was that the centralized agency only succeeded in aiding the state in squandering resources.**

No Impact - Cuba Already Exploits its Environment

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[] Castro already uses his authority to over-ride environmental considerations.

Conell, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009(Christina, "The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be Environmental Partners," June 12, Online: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/>)

In many parts of the country communism has inadequately acted as a seal to preserve elements of Cuba's past as the centralized government prohibited private development by not giving special permission. **A number of tourist resorts already dot the island, but Cuba has been largely exempt from mass tourist exploitation due to frozen relations with the U.S. Although the island remains underdeveloped, Fidel Castro has used his unchecked power to back policies, which have been heedless to environmental considerations, thus damaging some of the island's pristine ecosystem that once defined the island.** Roughly the size of Pennsylvania, Cuba is the largest Caribbean island, and **if preservation and conservation measures are planned and carried out in a cognizant manner, it could become a paradigm for sustainable development at the global level. The Obama administration's recent easing of travel restrictions** on Cuban Americans visiting relatives on the island **could be of immense importance** not only to Cuban families, but also **to the preservation of Cuba's unique and increasingly threatened coastal and marine environments. Such a concession on Washington's part would mark a small, but still significant stride in U.S.-Cuba relations,** yet the travel restrictions still remain inherently discriminatory. The preposterous regulations that allow only a certain category of Americans into Cuba signify only a meager shift in U.S. policy towards Cuba.

Impact Turn - Engagement Promotes Environmental Protections

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[] Economic engagement with Cuba is essential to protect their environment, and would set a model for sustainable development in other countries.

Conell, Research Associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009

(Christina, "The U.S. and Cuba: Destined to be Environmental Partners," June 12, Online: <http://www.coha.org/the-us-and-cuba-an-environmental-duo/>)

The 50-year-old U.S. embargo against the island has resoundingly failed to achieve its purpose. Obama's modifications fall short of what it will take to reestablish a constructive U.S.-Cuba relationship. **Cuba's tropical forests, soils, and maritime areas have suffered degradation as a result of harmful policies stemming from a Soviet-style economic system. Cuba's economy could be reinvigorated through expanded tourism, development initiatives and** an expansion of commodity **exports**, including sugarcane for ethanol. **U.S. policy toward Cuba should encourage environmental factors**, thereby strengthening U.S. credibility throughout the hemisphere. **An environmental partnership** between the U.S. and Cuba **is not only possible, but could result in development models that could serve as an example for environmental strategies throughout the Americas. The U.S. has the economic resources necessary to aid Cuba in developing effective policy, while the island provides the space where sustainable systems can be implemented initially instead of being applied after the fact. Cuba's extreme lack of development provides an unspoiled arena for the execution of exemplary sustainable environmental protection practices.**

Impact Turn - Tourism Good for Cuba's Economy

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[] Tourism is essential to Cuba's economy.

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/>)

In the middle of a growing shortage of supplies, tourism became Cuba's salvation thanks to its rapid development. When talking about the benefits of tourism, **we are obliged to acknowledge its dynamic contributions in hard currency, its role as a major source for employment and as the driving force behind the activities of another group of industries.** Considered as the oil of 21st century, tourism has become the salvation for many countries' economies, including **Cuba** which **has incorporated it in its strategy for the national recovery since last decade with successful results.** This audacious step has been rewarded by a steady increase of profits in the 90s. Today, **tourism has become the mainstay of Cuban economy.**

Impact Turn - Tourism Good for 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.

Oil Drilling Disadvantage

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Summary

Currently, the Cuban embargo restricts all forms of economic engagement between the United States and Cuba. In particular, the embargo restricts U.S. oil companies from access to Cuban land to drill for oil. In the status quo, these companies have a strong desire to drill near Cuba.

The negative team argues that by uplifting the Cuban embargo, these companies have access to drill near Cuba. By allowing offshore drilling, the environment and biodiversity of Cuba is at risk from pollution and potentially large oil spills, like the British Petroleum Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

These potential spills put the biodiversity of Cuba in existential danger. If biodiversity is lost, several negative consequences could arise.

Glossary

Offshore Drilling: the process of companies drilling through the seabed for oil

Biodiversity: variation of species within a given area/biome

Oil Drilling Disadvantage 1NC (1/4)

A. Uniqueness: U.S Oil Companies Have Desire to Drill In Cuba, but currently, the embargo prohibits their access to the area

Claver-Carone, director of the US-Cuba Democracy PAC, 2008

(Mauricio, "How the Cuban embargo protects the environment," *The New York Times*, July 25, Online: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/25/opinion/25iht-edcarone.1.14793496.html>)

For almost a decade now, **the Castro regime has been lauding offshore lease agreements**. It has tried Norway's StatoilHydro, India's state-run Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, Malaysia's Petronas and Canada's Sherritt International. **Yet, there is no current drilling activity off Cuba's coasts. The Cuban government has announced plans to drill, then followed with postponements** in 2006, 2007 and this year. Clearly, **foreign oil companies anticipate political changes in Cuba and are trying to position themselves accordingly**. It is equally clear **they are encountering** legal and **logistical obstacles preventing oil and gas exploration and development. Among the impediments are well-founded reservations as to how any new discovery can be turned into product. Cuba has very limited refining capacity, and the U.S. embargo prevents sending Cuban crude oil to American refineries. Neither is it financially or logistically viable for partners of the current Cuban regime to undertake deep-water exploration without access to U.S. technology, which the embargo prohibits transferring to Cuba**. The prohibitions exist for good reason. Fidel Castro expropriated U.S. oil company assets after taking control of Cuba and has never provided compensation. Equally important, **foreign companies trying to do business with Cuba still face a lot of expenses and political risks. If, or when, the Cuban regime decides again to expropriate the assets of these companies, there is no legal recourse** in Cuba.

Oil Drilling Disadvantage 1NC (2/4)

B. Link: Uplifting the embargo allows U.S oil companies to drill in the area.

Benjamin-Alvarado, Professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2010 (Jonathan, Cuba's Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation, *Brookings Institute* publication)

It also stands to reason that the lion's share of the financial burden of upgrading Cuba's energy infrastructure will fall to the United States, directly and indirectly. **Changes in U.S. policy to allow investment and assistance in Cuba's energy sector are a precondition for international entities to make significant investments**, yet this change implies a large American footprint. **Trade and investment in the energy sector in Cuba have been severely constrained by the conditions of the embargo placed on the Cuban regime. These constraints also affect foreign firms seeking to do business in Cuba because of the threat of penalties if any of these firms use technology containing** more than 10 percent of proscribed **U.S. technologies** needed for oil and gas exploration and production. **American private investment and U.S. government assistance will constitute a large portion of the needed investment capital to undertake this colossal effort**. The longer that work is delayed, the higher the cost to all the investors, which will then potentially cut into the returns from such undertakings.

Oil Drilling Disadvantage 1NC (3/4)

C. Internal Link: offshore drilling is inherently dangerous – it creates pollution and risks massive oil spills.

Gravitz, director of policy and legislation at the Marine Conservation Institute, **2009**

(Michael, Statement at the Department of Interior Hearing On Offshore Ocean Energy Development in Atlantic City, New Jersey, April 6, Online:

<http://www.environmentamerica.org/reports/ame/departments-interior-hearing-offshore-ocean-energy-development-atlantic-city-new-jersey>)

Based on the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) and a crude measure of marine productivity that your own department uses, the New England, Mid Atlantic and South Atlantic planning areas are all very environmentally sensitive and highly productive. The South Atlantic planning area and Mid Atlantic have the first and third most environmentally sensitive coastlines, respectively, of all 22 MMS planning areas. New England comes in at #11. The South Atlantic and Mid Atlantic are ranked first and second respectively in terms of primary productivity among all the planning areas with North Atlantic being #12. ¶ There are 14 submarine canyons between Massachusetts and Virginia that slice through the continental shelf (See attached list). Submarine canyons, some with a mouth as wide as eight to ten miles and 30-40 miles long, are important because they shelter unusual species, provide hard bottoms and sidewalls for creatures to attach to or burrow in, provide nursery areas for many commercially important fish and bring nutrients from the deep ocean up to more shallow waters. Sea life in these canyons is unusually diverse which is why drilling in or near submarine canyons with their risk from spills and chronic pollution from production would be a very bad idea. ¶ There are a number of important underwater plateaus and reefs off the eastern seaboard which serve as fish baskets, places of unusual marine productivity where very high populations of fish reproduce and grow. Often these are called 'banks' or 'reefs' with names like Georges Bank, Stellwagen Bank, Gray's Reef or Occulina Bank. Some of these areas of the ocean are shallow enough to allow sunlight to penetrate to the seafloor and nutrients from the deeper ocean feed a richer abundance of life. These banks and reefs sometimes offer the only hard substrate for creatures to attach in a wide area. . Drilling in biological hot spots like these and jeopardizing productive commercial and recreational fisheries would make no sense. ¶

Oil Drilling Disadvantage 1NC (4/4)

D. Impact: The costs of oil spills on the environment irreparable and impossible to quantify – they must be avoided at all costs.

Malik, Masters in Philosophy at Oxford University, 2010

(Stephanie, "Ethical Questions Surrounding the BP Oil Spill," *Practical Ethics*, June 29, Online: <http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/2010/06/ethical-questions-surrounding-the-bp-oil-spill/>)

Conspicuously absent from Obama's address was genuine acknowledgment of the sheer magnitude of the damage the spill will have for years to come on the wildlife in the Gulf and the ecosystem generally. **Some of the immediate effects of a spill are obvious – there is no shortage of gut-wrenching images of wildlife doused in oil** and seabirds suffocating while frantically and frivolously preening themselves. **But some types of ecological damage are hard to measure and can take years to document. The miles long underwater plumes of oil will likely poison and suffocate life across the food chain, with damage that** according to scientists **could endure for a decade or more**. Many of the **creatures that die will sink to the bottom, making mortality estimates difficult. Damage to the reproduction rate of sea turtles may take years to play out.** Unique to the Deepwater Horizon spill is not only how deep it is, but also **the huge quantity of chemical dispersants sprayed on the surface** and at the **leak on the seafloor**. The problem with dispersants is two-fold in that oil is not only directly toxic to many of the creatures in the Gulf like pelicans, sea turtles, fish, and dolphins, but also microbes in the water that eat the oil suck oxygen out of the water at a massive rate, with levels of oxygen depletion that could be lethal to many other creatures in the water. Moreover, the **dispersants** that are used to fight the oil are also consumed by the microbes—**speeding up the rate of oxygen depletion in the Gulf even further.** What is especially worrying is that **on top of this dangerously low levels of oxygen are already a concern as,** according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **huge numbers of fish, dolphins, and even sharks, are already crowding into exceptionally shallow waters near the shores** of Alabama and Florida in order **to escape the oil.** There's also little scientific understanding of how the dispersants might affect the deep-water ecosystem. **Legal protection of wildlife in the Gulf is thin.** There are no laws that exist simply to protect animal interests. U.S. law protects animals as property. That means **laws designed to protect animals exist only to protect the interests of their owners or the public.** "Most of the wild animals affected by the BP spill do not have any legal protections at all, and **there is no penalty that can be imposed for suffocating them with oil, destroying their habitats and otherwise harming them,**" said Justin Goodman, a representative of PETA.

Answers to: Cuba is Already Drilling

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[] Current drilling operations are extremely small in scale – companies are interested, but the embargo imposes too many hurdles.

New York Times, 2012

“Cuba’s prospects for an oil-fueled economic jolt falter with departure of rig,” *New York Times*, November 9, Online: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/10/world/americas/rigs-departure-to-hamper-cubas-oil-prospects.html?_r=0)

The best-case scenario for production, according to some oil experts, **would be for Cuba to eventually become a medium-size producer like Ecuador. But as the three dry holes showed, far more exploration effort would be needed, and that presents a challenge for a country with limited resources and the hurdle of American sanctions.** There are many offshore areas that are competing with Cuba for the attention of oil companies, particularly off the coasts of South America and East and West Africa. In Cuba’s case, **the American embargo makes it far more difficult for companies seeking to explore Cuban waters. The Scarabeo 9, the rig set to depart, is the only one available that is capable of drilling in deep waters and complies with the embargo. To get it built, Repsol, the Spanish oil giant, was forced to contract an Italian operator to build a rig in China to drill exploration wells.**

Answers to: Engagement Promotes Safe Drilling Practices

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[] Offshore drilling technology is inherently faulty – political solutions will inevitably fail and can at best minimize the damage.

Pravica, Professor of Physics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2012

(Michael, "Letters: Science, not profit, must lead deep water drilling," *USA Today*, April 24, Online: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/opinion/letters/story/2012-04-24/Ted-Danson-oil-Deepwater-Horizon/54513946/1>)

There are a few critical points not mentioned in the USA TODAY editorial on the BP oil spill that should have been addressed ("Editorial: 2 years after BP spill, lower risks"). First of all, **deep water drilling represents a "brave new world" of oil exploration** and novel technology **as humans probe depths of water, oil and rock that sustain thousands of atmospheres of pressure. At these levels, the technology used to drill and extract oil can easily fail as we approach the yield strengths of many of the confining materials subjected to extreme conditions. There is also a high chance of significant fracture of the cean/sea floor in drilling and hole erosion from gushing, hot and high pressure oil** (along with particulates and other mineral-rich fluids) **that could make repair nearly impossible and could permanently poison our waters. The greatest lesson from the BP oil spill is that politicians and businessmen cannot solve problems created by our advanced technology.** Only scientists and engineers can. **We must listen to them and adopt a more rational approach to drilling that places safety above profit.**

Answers to: Embargo Prevents Response to Oil Spills

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[] An oil spill off the Cuban coast would be impossible to manage, even for experienced American spill response teams and advanced technology.

Bert and Clayton, Captain in the US Coast Guard and Fellow for Energy Security at the Council on Foreign Relations, 2012

(Captain Melissa and Blake, "Addressing the Risk of a Cuban Oil Spill," *Council on Foreign Relations*, Policy Innovation Memorandum No. 15, March, Online: <http://www.cfr.org/cuba/addressing-risk-cuban-oil-spill/p27515>)

Deepwater drilling off the Cuban coast also poses a threat to the United States. The exploratory well is seventy miles off the Florida coast and lies at a depth of 5,800 feet. The failed Macondo well that triggered the calamitous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in April 2010 had broadly similar features, situated forty-eight miles from shore and approximately five thousand feet below sea level. A spill off Florida's coast could ravage the state's \$57 billion per year tourism industry. **Washington cannot count on the technical know-how of Cuba's unseasoned oil industry to address a spill** on its own. Oil industry experts doubt that it has a strong understanding of how to prevent an offshore oil spill or stem a deep-water well blowout. **Moreover, the site where the first wells will be drilled is a tough one for even seasoned response teams to operate in. Unlike the calm Gulf of Mexico, the surface currents in the area where Repsol will be drilling move at a brisk three to four knots, which would bring oil from Cuba's offshore wells to the Florida coast within six to ten days. Skimming or burning the oil may not be feasible in such fast-moving water. The most, and possibly only, effective method to respond to a spill would be surface and subsurface dispersants. If dispersants are not applied close to the source within four days after a spill, uncontained oil cannot be dispersed, burnt, or skimmed, which would render standard response technologies like containment booms ineffective.**

Answers to: Oceans are Resilient

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[] Their evidence doesn't assume the unique ecological features in Cuba – it's especially susceptible to oil pollution.

Gravitz, director of policy and legislation at the Marine Conservation Institute, **2009**
(Michael, Statement at the Department of Interior Hearing On Offshore Ocean Energy Development in Atlantic City, New Jersey, April 6, Online:
<http://www.environmentamerica.org/reports/ame/departments-interior-hearing-offshore-ocean-energy-development-atlantic-city-new-jersey>)

Depending on depth, penetration of light, type of bottom (i.e., muddy, sandy, pebbles, boulders) and other factors, **the ocean's floor is teeming with diverse communities of plants, invertebrates, shellfish, crustaceans and fish.** Numerous kinds of fish live on the bottom. Other fish swim above the bottom in the water column at different levels. Thousands of types of phytoplankton, zooplankton and larvae at the base of most food chains 'float' around. Marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds spend most of their time at or near the surface of the ocean. ¶ **All of these creatures are sensitive to the impacts of oil and pollution from oil and gas drilling; some are more sensitive than others. But none are immune to the short or long term effects of oil.** ¶ With this as background, **it is important to recognize the special places in the ocean that are unique, especially sensitive to pollution** or those that are especially productive. **These include: submarine canyons** cutting across the continental shelf; deep water **coral gardens**; plateaus where the floor of the ocean rises and becomes unusually productive because deeper nutrient rich waters come closer to the warmer temperatures and light of the surface; **migratory pathways for marine mammals and sea turtles; and areas where fish aggregate** to spawn or where larval stages of animals are concentrated. Finally, **the margins of the ocean: beaches, bays and marshes are often unusually sensitive to oil pollution.** ¶

Answers to: Human Rights Come Before the Environment

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[] In the context of Cuba, the environmental costs are too high to ignore – even when compared to human rights.

Kozloff, writer for the Huffington Post and PhD in Latin American History from Oxford, **2010** (Nikolas, “Left Must Fine Tune its Position on Cuba Embargo in Light of Oil Spill,” *Monga Bay*, May 26, Online: http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0526-kozloff_cuba.html)

Hopefully, the BP disaster will put a break on the oil lobby and its supporters on Capitol Hill. Yet, other important players have been broadly supportive of offshore oil. For its part, **Havana has said it would welcome U.S. investment.** Recently, a U.S.-Cuba Energy Summit attracted Exxon officials and others to a meeting in Mexico City. Participants viewed PowerPoint presentations from Cuban government ministries including state-owned oil company Cupet which sought to involve U.S. companies in the exploitation of oil and gas fields. **“U.S. oil companies would love to do business there as soon as this thing opens up,”** remarked Ron Harper, an energy analyst in Houston. **“They’re looking at it quietly. They’d be short-sighted not to.”** **The debate over Cuban offshore oil puts the political left in a quandary.** For years, **it’s been an article of faith amongst progressives that the U.S. ought to scrap the embargo. To be sure, economic sanctions have resulted in** horrible economic **distress for ordinary Cubans. Yet, does the left want to lift sanctions and open the door to yet more destructive offshore petroleum, thereby adding to environmental woes already unleashed by the BP spill? In light of our dire ecological straits,** I believe **the left must rethink its position on this vital issue and articulate a more broad-based vision for the Gulf which would realistically address both economic and environmental concerns.**

External Impact: Ocean Biodiversity Loss Risks Extinction

[] Ocean biodiversity loss will result in a domino effect that threatens human survival.

McCarthy, award winning environmental journalist & editor, 2011

(Michael, "Oceans on the brink of catastrophe," *The Independent*, June 21, Online:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/oceans-on-brink-of-catastrophe-2300272.html>)

The world's oceans are faced with an unprecedented loss of species comparable to the great mass extinctions of prehistory, a major report suggests today. **The seas are degenerating far faster than anyone has predicted**, the report says, **because of the cumulative impact of a number of severe individual stresses, ranging from** climate warming and sea-water acidification, to widespread **chemical pollution and gross overfishing.** **The coming together of these factors is now threatening the marine environment with a catastrophe "unprecedented in human history"**, according to the report, from a panel of leading marine scientists brought together in Oxford earlier this year by the International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).[¶] The stark suggestion made by the panel is that **the potential extinction of species, from large fish at one end of the scale to tiny corals at the other, is directly comparable to the five great mass extinctions in the geological record, during each of which much of the world's life died out.** They range from the Ordovician-Silurian "event" of 450 million years ago, to the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction of 65 million years ago, which is believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs. The worst of them, the event at the end of the Permian period, 251 million years ago, is thought to have eliminated 70 per cent of species on land and 96 per cent of all species in the sea.[¶] The panel of 27 scientists, who considered the latest research from all areas of marine science, concluded that **a "combination of stressors is creating the conditions associated with every previous major extinction of species in Earth's history"**. They also concluded:[¶] * **The speed and rate of degeneration of the oceans is far faster than anyone has predicted;**[¶] * **Many of the negative impacts identified are greater than the worst predictions;**[¶] * **The first steps to globally significant extinction may have already begun.**

Add-on: Middle East Oil Dependence Good (1/3)

[] Lifting the embargo would offer a way to shift away from dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

Fesler, research associate at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, 2009

(Lily, "Cuban Oil: Havana's Potential Geopolitical Bombshell," *Council on Hemispheric Affairs*, June 11, Online: <http://www.coha.org/cuban-oil-havana%E2%80%99s-potential-geo-political-bombshell/>)

Desperate to end U.S. dependence on oil from the Middle East, United States' officials are certainly aware of Cuba's oil-producing potential. In its 2004 assessment, the U.S. Geological Survey found that Cuba has 5 billion barrels of crude oil off its northern shores; Havana claims it has 20 billion. Five billion barrels would put Cuba on par with Colombia or Ecuador, while 20 billion barrels would make Cuba's oil capacity comparable to that of the United States' and place it among the top 15 oil reserves nations in the world. Either way, **Cuba's oil is attracting the attention of oil companies from around the globe.** At the moment, Spain's Repsol, Brazil's Petrobras, and Norway's StatoilHydro are overseeing exploratory drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. India, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Venezuela also have signed deals with Cuba. **Havana has publicly stated that it welcomes American investment, but U.S. companies are incapable of proceeding without an official go-ahead from Washington.** As Juan Fleites, vice president of Havana's state oil company Cubapetroleo, said, "We are open to U.S. oil companies interested in exploration, production and services." U.S. oil tycoons have shown definite interest, but Kurt Glaubitz, a spokesman for Chevron, explained, **Until trade barriers are removed, Chevron is unable to do business in Cuba.** **Companies like us would have to see a change in U.S. policy** before we evaluate whether there's interest." The aforementioned foreign companies already have contracted for 21 of the 59 offshore Cuban drilling blocks, and another 23 blocks are currently under negotiation by other foreign nations, including Russia and China. **It is not too late for the U.S. to develop a stake in Cuba's nascent oil output. It takes between three and five years to develop oil reserves, and as of yet, there has been no major oil discovery off the island.** Repsol struck oil in 2004, but not enough to sell commercially. Several other foreign firms are currently using seismic testing, which assesses the oil content of potential deposits, after which they will probably begin exploring in 2010 or 2011. The exploration manager for Cubapetroleo, Rafael Tenreyro Pérez, has called the incoming results from seismic testing in Cuba's reserves "very encouraging." **After lifting the embargo, U.S. oil companies could most likely work out an arrangement whereby the U.S. would exchange its reserves with nearby holdings of foreign companies, allowing the U.S. access to Cuba's oil even after all of the contracts have been signed.** This could appreciably save transportation costs, because U.S. companies wouldn't have to go halfway around the world in search of oil refineries, with Cuba only 90 miles away.

Add-on: Middle East Oil Dependence Good (2/3)

[] Independence from Middle Eastern oil supplies undermines America's influence, which is built on economic exchange and trade with Gulf states.

Hulbert, senior fellow at the Clingendael International Energy Programme, **2012**

(Matthew, "America Will Deeply Regret Its Fixation On Energy Independence," *Forbes*, August 19, Online: www.forbes.com/sites/matthewhulbert/2012/08/19/why-america-will-deeply-regret-us-energy-independence/4/)

We all know the U.S. is no longer dependent on Middle East supplies; it hasn't been for a long time given it sources less than 15% of its oil from the sand. But we also know that the decision to underwrite MENA supplies is **nothing to do with U.S. consumption – and everything to do with retaining a dominant global geopolitical role. Ensure that hydrocarbons globally flow to the East and West, and much else follows as the geo-economic and geo-political lynchpin of the world. Lose it, and you'll be geopolitically downgraded quicker** than credit analysts can get stuck into Greek debt. **That's before we consider where Gulf States decide to recycle their petrodollars in future.** No security, no \$? It's certainly a question for the U.S. to ponder – not only in terms of who they are going to sell their Treasuries to, but what currency oil is priced in. Hence **the bottom line for the U.S.; Middle East energy isn't about oil for America, it's ultimately about power. If the U.S. wasn't part of the Gulf energy game, it would hold zero sway with Saudi,** no powers of persuasion **over Iranian nukes, no say in the Arab Awakening,** or **how Gulf Monarchies handle critical succession problems in future. Let alone shaping vested interests to promote and extend U.S. influence across the globe.**

Add-on: Middle East Oil Dependence Good (3/3)

[] US global leadership is vital to protecting the globe from wars

Khalilzad, US ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, and UN under President Bush, 2011

(Zalmay, "The Economy and National Security; If we don't get our economic house in order, we risk a new era of multi-polarity," *National Review*, February 8, Online:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/259024/economy-and-national-security-zalmay-khalilzad>)

We face this domestic challenge while other major powers are experiencing rapid economic growth. Even though **countries such as China, India, and Brazil have** profound political, social, demographic, and economic problems, their **economies** are **growing faster than ours**, and this could alter the global distribution of power. **These trends could in the long term produce a multi-polar world. If U.S. policymakers fail to act and other powers continue to grow**, it is not a question of whether but when a new international order will emerge. The closing of the gap between the **United States** and its **rivals could intensify** geopolitical **competition among major powers, increase incentives for local powers to play major powers against one another, and undercut our will to preclude or respond to international crises because of the higher risk of escalation.**¶ The stakes are high. In modern history, **the longest period of peace** among the great powers **has been the era of U.S. leadership**. By contrast, **multi-polar systems have been unstable, with their competitive dynamics resulting in frequent crises and major wars among the great powers**. Failures of multi-polar international systems produced both world wars.¶ American retrenchment could have devastating consequences. **Without an American security blanket, regional powers could rearm in an attempt to balance against emerging threats. Under this scenario, there would be a heightened possibility of arms races, miscalculation, or other crises spiraling into all-out conflict.** Alternatively, in seeking to accommodate the stronger powers, weaker powers may shift their geopolitical posture away from the United States. Either way, **hostile states would be emboldened to make aggressive moves in their regions.**

Answers to: Cuban Oil Won't Reduce Dependence on Middle East

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[] **Cuba could import a massive amount of oil per day.**

Zimmerman, fellow at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, **2010** (Chelsea, "Rethinking the Cuban Trade Embargo: An Opportune Time to Mend a Broken Policy," *A Dialogue on Presidential Challenges and Leadership: Papers of the 2009-2010 Center Fellows*, Online: <http://www.thepresidency.org/storage/documents/Fellows2010/Zimmerman.pdf>)

Lifting the trading ban with Cuba could directly benefit the U.S. by providing an additional supplier of oil, gas and ethanol only ninety miles from its coast. Cuba petroleo, the state oil company, claims that Cuba has 20 billion barrels of recoverable oil in its offshore waters (Reuters, October 16, 2008). **If efforts to develop more offshore wells proceed as planned, Cuba could produce as much as 525,000 barrels per day of oil, most of which could be exported to the United States if the trade embargo was lifted** (Reuters, June 12, 2008).

Answers to: Dependence on Middle East Oil Undermines US Leadership

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[] Dependence on oil gives the US the ability to blackmail producers – it's a key factor in diplomacy.

Wall Street Journal, 2008

("An Ode to Oil," *Wall Street Journal*, November, Online:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122791647562165587.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

Instead, the **dependency of foreign oil producers on their customers plays straight into America's strategic hands. Washington is conceivably in a position to hold producers to ransom by threatening to accelerate a drive to develop or implement alternative fuels**, realizing the warning once uttered by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi oil minister who pointed out that "the Stone Age did not end for lack of stone." Back in 1973, as they protested at Washington's stance on the Arab-Israeli dispute, Middle East producers were in a position to impose an oil embargo on the Western world. But a generation later, technological advances, and the strength of public and scientific concern about global warming, have turned the tables.

The United States has powerful political leverage over producers because it holds the key to future oil supply as well as market demand. The age of "easy oil" is over, and as fears grow that oil is becoming harder to get, so too will the dependency of producers on increasingly sophisticated Western technology and expertise.

Answers to: Oil Dependence Causes Violence

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[] Fears of high oil prices deter conflict between countries.

Wall Street Journal, 2008("An Ode to Oil," *Wall Street Journal*, November, Online:http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122791647562165587.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

Oil can also act as a peacemaker and source of stability because many conflicts, in almost every part of the world, can threaten a disruption of supply and instantly send crude prices spiraling. Despite the recent price falls, **the market is still vulnerable to sudden supply shocks,** and a sharp increase would massively affect the wider global economy. **This would have potentially disastrous social and political results,** just as in the summer many countries, including France, Nepal and Indonesia, were rocked by violent protests at dramatic price increases in gasoline.¶ **Haunted by the specter of higher oil prices at a time of such economic fragility, many governments have a very strong incentive to use diplomacy, not force, to resolve their own disputes,** and to help heal other people's. **This is true not just of oil consumers but producers, which would also be keen not to watch global demand stifled by such price spikes.**

Add-on: Civil War

[] Oil-export driven economies are more likely to descend into violent, long-term civil wars.

Karl, Professor of Political Science at Stanford, **2007**

(Terry, "Oil-Led Development : Social, Political, and Economic Consequences," *Center on Democracy, Development, and The Rule of Law Working Papers*, January, Online: http://iis-db.stanford.edu/pubs/21537/No_80_Terry_Karl_-_Effects_of_Oil_Development.pdf)

Secessionist wars are statistically more frequent in oil-exporters than in non-oil exporters. Where secessionist movements are present, the likelihood of conflict is especially high because the promise of oil wealth appears to make viable a secession that might not seem possible in poorly-endowed areas. Not surprisingly, **where oil is regionally concentrated and where benefits accrue to the nation while most adverse effects are local, secessionist wars are more likely.** Examples abound. In the Sudan, war was triggered by President Numeiry's decision to place newly discovered oil fields in the country's Christian South under the control of the Muslim north. In Indonesia, the Aceh Freedom Movement has denounced the government for stealing Aceh's oil and natural gas resources as a main reason for its separatist struggle, and it has used the analogy of Brunei to convince its followers that Aceh could be equally as rich. In Nigeria, Biafra's move to secede only occurred after the government had made fiscal decisions treating oil as a centralized, rather than a regional, asset. In this way, **fight over oil revenues may become the reason for ratcheting up levels of pre-existing conflict in a society. Oil dependence is associated with particularly intense conflict. Because petroleum is so technologically sophisticated and requires so much capital, it is not easily extracted and transported; it is not "lootable" like drugs or gems. This means that it is difficult for rebels or generally unskilled groups to exploit, but governments can use this wealth to attempt preemptive repression. This is the case in Sudan, for example, where the government tried to forcibly clear entire populations away from the oilfields and the pipelines. Oil rents paid for the destruction of crops and razing of houses as well as for widespread terror against the local population. Oil's non-lootability also means that separatist conflicts (like that of the Sudan) may be especially bloody and intractable where petroleum deposits coincide with the presence of minority groups.** Where more straightforward fights over the distribution of oil rents between groups can be resolved by a new pattern of distribution, this is often not the case in separatist wars. But **where oil is involved, such struggles are generally only resolved by the seizure of control of oil fields by rebels and a subsequent declaration of autonomy, or by the government's total defeat of the minority located near the oil fields.** Finally, **oil dependence, like that of other mineral resources, is associated with civil wars of long duration. Wars are expensive to pursue, and both governments and rebels can use oil rents to finance their armies.** Because petroleum is transported generally through pipelines, it can be easily disrupted, and pipelines are an invitation to extortion. In Colombia, for example, **oil revenues support the government's battle against rebel movements, but because petroleum must be transported to the coast through two pipelines that are both over 400 miles long, there are almost unlimited opportunities for rebels to extract "protection rests" and other forms of resources from oil companies.** In 2000 alone, the pipelines were bombed 98 times and kidnappings for ransom were frequent; according to one estimate, rebel groups have managed to earn an estimated windfall of \$140 million annually.

Add-on: Florida Economy

[] The spill would be devastating for the environment as well as Florida's economy.

Sutton, correspondent on Cuban affairs for Reuters, **2012**

(Jane, "Florida Lawmaker Wansrs of Damages if Cuba Oil Drilling Spills," *Insurance Journal*, Jan 30th, Online: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2012/01/30/233323.htm>)

Since the United States couldn't stop Repsol from drilling for oil off Cuba's coast, it should make the Spanish oil giant pay dearly for damages from **any spill** that **threatens neighboring Florida**, a congressional Republican said on Monday. "**We need to figure out what we can do to inflict maximum pain, maximum punishment**, to bleed Repsol of whatever resources they may have **if there's a potential for a spill that would affect the U.S. coast.**" Rep. David Rivera, a Florida Republican, told a congressional subcommittee that oversees the U.S. Coast Guard. **The House of Representatives subcommittee met** at a Florida hotel with a panoramic view of the waves breaking over an Atlantic beach dotted with sunbathers, **to conduct a hearing on the potential impact on Florida's 800-mile (1,290-km) coastline from the first major oil exploration in Cuban waters. Repsol is working** on the project in partnership **with Norway's Statoil and ONGC Videsh**, a unit of **India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp. The oil rig leased for the project**, the Scarabeo 9, arrived off Cuban waters earlier this month and is expected to begin drilling any day now. The rig **is 60 miles (97 km) from the Cuban coast and 80 miles (129 km) from Florida, in a spot where the Gulfstream and other powerful ocean currents could rush any spilled oil to Florida beaches within five to 10 days.** "The significance of **these strong currents** is that they **can move oil very quickly**, potentially up to 70 to 80 nautical miles (130 to 148 km) in a 24-hour period," said oceanographer Debbie Payton, who heads the emergency response division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. **A spill would have catastrophic effects on Florida tourism, which accounts for a third of the state's economy, and on its fisheries**, panelists said. **Such an accident would devastate the state much as BP's Deepwater Horizon spill** in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 devastated other coastal areas. **Those powerful currents would make it harder to contain and burn or scoop up any oil on the water's surface**, but they would make oil dispersants more effective by mixing them up with the water, panelists said. **Booms and the anchors needed to hold them in place would likely do more harm to Florida's fragile coral reefs than the oil itself**, they said.

Oil Drilling Disadvantage Answers

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Glossary

Offshore Drilling: the process of companies drilling through the seabed for oil

Biodiversity: variation of species within a given area/biome

Non-Unique: Cuba is Already Drilling for Oil

[]

[] **Cuba is already drilling for oil – companies from Russia and Norway are circumventing the embargo.**

Orsi, Associated Press correspondent in Cuba, 2012

(Peter, "Oil Rig Arrives off Cuba for New Exploration," Dec 15, Online: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/oil-rig-arrives-cuba-new-exploration>)

A Norwegian-owned platform arrived in waters off Cuba's north-central coast for exploratory drilling by the Russian oil company Zarubezhneft, authorities said Saturday, renewing the island's search for petroleum after three failed wells this year. Drilling is to begin "in the coming days" and take six months, according to a notice published by the Communist Party newspaper Granma. The depth of the project was given as 21,300 feet (6,500 meters). State-run oil company Cubapetroleo said in the announcement that the Songa Mercur rig, owned by Songa Offshore of Norway, was inspected to make sure it contains less than 10 percent U.S.-made parts. That allows the companies involved in the drilling to avoid sanctions under the 50-year-old U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Link Turn: Embargo Prevents Response to Oil Spills

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[] **The embargo stands in the way of effective disaster management – it prevents spill technologies and experts from being mobilized.**

Bert and Clayton, Captain in the US Coast Guard and Fellow for Energy Security at the Council on Foreign Relations, **2012**

(Captain Melissa and Blake, “Addressing the Risk of a Cuban Oil Spill,” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Policy Innovation Memorandum No. 15, March, Online: <http://www.cfr.org/cuba/addressing-risk-cuban-oil-spill/p27515>)

An oil well blowout in Cuban waters would almost certainly require a U.S. response. Without changes in current U.S. law, however, that response would undoubtedly come far more slowly than is desirable. The Coast Guard would be barred from deploying highly experienced manpower, specially designed booms, skimming equipment and vessels, and dispersants. U.S. offshore gas and oil companies would also be barred from using well-capping stacks, remotely operated submersibles, and other vital technologies. Although a handful of U.S. spill responders hold licenses to work with Repsol, their licenses do not extend to well capping or relief drilling. The result of a slow response to a Cuban oil spill would be greater, perhaps catastrophic, economic and environmental damage to Florida and the Southeast. Efforts to rewrite current law and policy toward Cuba, and encouraging cooperation with its government, could antagonize groups opposed to improved relations with the Castro regime. They might protest any decision allowing U.S. federal agencies to assist Cuba or letting U.S. companies operate in Cuban territory. However, taking sensible steps to prepare for a potential accident at an oil well in Cuban waters would not break new ground or materially alter broader U.S. policy toward Cuba. For years, Washington has worked with Havana on issues of mutual concern. The United States routinely coordinates with Cuba on search and rescue operations in the Straits of Florida as well as to combat illicit drug trafficking and migrant smuggling. During the hurricane season, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides Cuba with information on Caribbean storms. The recommendations proposed here are narrowly tailored to the specific challenges that a Cuban oil spill poses to the United States. They would not help the Cuban economy or military. What they would do is protect U.S. territory and property from a potential danger emanating from Cuba. Cuba will drill for oil in its territorial waters with or without the blessing of the United States. Defending against a potential oil spill requires a modicum of advance coordination and preparation with the Cuban government, which need not go beyond spill-related matters. Without taking these precautions, the United States risks a second Deepwater Horizon, this time from Cuba.

Link Turn: Engagement Promotes Safe Drilling Practices

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[] Cuba is already making plans to drill oil – US engagement is key to ensure environmental safety.

Pinon, research fellow at the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University, **2010** (Jorge, and Robert Muse, “Coping with the Next Oil Spill: Why US-Cuba Environmental Co-operation is Critical,” *Brookings Institute*, May 18, Online: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2010/5/18%20oil%20spill%20cuba%20pinon/0518_oil_spill_cuba_pinon)

While **the quest for deepwater drilling of oil and gas** may slow as a result of the latest calamity, it **is unlikely to stop. it came as little surprise**, for example, **that Repsol** recently **announced plans to move forward with exploratory oil drilling in Cuban territorial waters later this year.**¹ **As Cuba continues to develop its deepwater oil and natural gas reserves, the consequence to the United states of a similar mishap occurring in Cuban waters moves from the theoretical to the actual. The sobering fact that a Cuban spill could foul hundreds of miles of American coastline and do profound harm to important marine habitats demands cooperative and proactive planning by Washington and havana to minimize or avoid such a calamity.** Also important is the planning necessary to prevent and, if necessary, respond to incidents arising from this country’s oil industry that, through the action of currents and wind, threaten Cuban waters and shorelines. **While Washington is working to prevent future disasters in U.s. waters** like the Deepwater Horizon, **its current policies foreclose the ability to respond effectively to future oil disasters—whether that disaster is caused by companies at work in Cuban waters, or is the result of companies operating in U.s. waters.**

No Link: Businesses Don't Want to Drill Around Cuba

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[] The bureaucratic nature of the Cuban government deters prospective drilling operations.

White, JD from the University of Colorado School of Law, 2010

(Jonathan, "Drilling in Ecologically and Environmentally Troubled Waters: Law and Policy Concerns Surrounding Development of Oil Resources in the Florida Straits," *Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law & Policy*, Summer, LexisNexis)

Additionally, Cuba's ability to cultivate a flourishing oil industry depends on Havana's willingness to reduce bureaucratic obstacles to investment on the island. Writing in the Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems, Daniel Erikson of the Washington, D.C., policy organization The Inter-American Dialogue describes the sizeable institutional and bureaucratic hurdles facing foreign investment in Cuba: Cuba remains a rigid communist state with a centrally controlled economic structure, a workforce with uncertain habits, low per capita income, and high levels of external debt. Canadian and European investors in Cuba cite numerous difficulties related to red tape, arbitrary treatment by Cuban regulators, interference in hiring decisions, and questionable labor practices. Accordingly, while Cuba's potential oil reserves have drawn willing investors, the extent to which drilling in Cuban waters thrives depends upon overcoming these infrastructural, administrative, and bureaucratic obstacles. China's recent replacement of Havana's relic "camel" buses may provide the best analogy of what is required to update and expand the infrastructure necessary for drilling. The example suggests that Cuba lacks the means or initiative necessary to expand and modernize existing infrastructure on its own, but welcomes foreign capital to accomplish those objectives. Whether that capital arrives is, at this stage, speculative.

No Impact: Oceans are Resilient to Disasters

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[] **Oceans are resilient and can recover from damage imposed by humans.**

Kennedy, professor of environmental science at Maryland, **2002**
(Victor, "Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Global Climate Change," Online;
<http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/marine.cfm>)

There is evidence that marine organisms and ecosystems are resilient to environmental change. Steele (1991) hypothesized that the biological components of marine systems are tightly coupled to physical factors, allowing them to respond quickly to rapid environmental change and thus rendering them ecologically adaptable. Some species also have wide genetic variability throughout their range, which may allow for adaptation to climate change.

Cuban Oil Won't Reduce Dependence on Middle East

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[] Cuba doesn't have enough oil to alter US dependence on Middle East oil supplies – there's only a risk lifting the embargo will result in technological exchanges that improve safety.

Benjamin-Alvarado, Professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, **2010** (Jonathan, Cuba's Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation, *Brookings Institute* publication)

At present Cuba possesses an estimated 4.6 million barrels of oil and 9.3 TFC (total final consumption) of natural gas in North Cuba Basin.⁴ This is approximately half of the estimated 10.4 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil in the Alaska Natural Wildlife Reserve. If viewed in strictly instrumental terms—namely, increasing the pool of potential imports to the U.S. market by accessing Cuban oil and ethanol holdings—Cuba's oil represents little in the way of absolute material gain to the U.S. energy supply. But the possibility of energy cooperation between the United States and Cuba offers significant relative gains connected to the potential for developing production-sharing agreements, promoting the transfer of state-of-the art technology and foreign direct investment, and increasing opportunities for the development of joint-venture partnerships, and scientific-technical exchanges.

Dependence on Middle East Oil Undermines US Leadership

[]

[] Oil dependence undermines strategic US leadership.

Electrification Coalition, a nonpartisan group of energy industry leaders invested in policy change, **2009**

("ELECTRIFICATION ROADMAP: REVOLUTIONIZING TRANSPORTATION AND ACHIEVING ENERGY SECURITY," *Electrification Coalition* Report, November, p. 30.)

The importance of oil in the U.S. economy has given it a place of prominence in foreign and military policy. In particular, **two key issues related to oil affect national security. First, the vulnerability of global oil supply lines** and infrastructure **has driven the United States to accept the burden of securing the world's oil supply. Second, the importance of large individual oil producers constrains U.S. foreign policy options when dealing with problems** in these nations. **A crippling disruption to global oil supplies ranks among the most immediate threats to the United States today.** A prolonged **interruption due to war in the Middle East or the closure of a key oil transit route would lead to severe economic dislocation.** U.S. leaders have recognized this for decades, and have made it a matter of stated policy that the United States will protect the free flow of oil with military force. Still, policy alone has consistently fallen short of complete deterrence, and the risk of oil supply interruptions has persisted for nearly 40 years. **To mitigate this risk, U.S. armed forces expend enormous resources protecting chronically vulnerable infrastructure in hostile corners of the globe and patrolling oil transit routes. This engagement** benefits all nations, but **comes primarily at the expense of the American military** and ultimately the American taxpayer. A 2009 study by the RAND Corporation placed the ongoing cost of this burden at between \$67.5 billion and \$83 billion annually, plus an additional \$8 billion in military operations. 33 In proportional terms, these costs suggest that between 12 and 15 percent of the current defense budget is devoted to guaranteeing the free flow of oil. Foreign policy constraints related to oil dependence are less quantifiable, but no less damaging. Whether dealing with uranium enrichment in Iran, a hostile regime in Venezuela, or an increasingly assertive Russia, **American diplomacy is distorted by our need to minimize disruptions to the flow of oil.** Perhaps more frustrating, **the importance of oil to the broader global economy has made it nearly impossible for the United States to build international consensus on a wide range of foreign policy and humanitarian issues.**

Mexico Rural Development Affirmative

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Summary

This affirmative argues that the United States should send more aid to small rural farmers in Mexico in the form of money, equipment and supplies, and technical training. This is because rural farmers in Mexico have fallen behind under the North American Free Trade Agreement, which has dumped lots of cheap American agriculture, like corn, in the Mexican market.

There are several advantages to this policy:

First and foremost is drug violence. As farmers start to go out of business, they look elsewhere to make money – and the two most profitable options are to start producing drugs like marijuana and cocaine or to start working for drug cartels as drug traffickers or contract killers. The plan would help make legitimate farming profitable again, undermining the presence of drugs that has created a wave of violence in Mexico.

Second is poverty. As farmers go out of business, they can no longer afford food or living expenses. The plan would help them make enough money to get by - an ethically worthwhile goal.

Third is deforestation. Many of the poor rural farmers in Mexico have a hard time farming because they live on rocky or low-nutrient soil. To find arable land, they often slash-and-burn forests to make new plots for the farming operations, which puts a strain on the earth's ecological integrity. With additional technical training and the right equipment and supplies this could be prevented through better farming practices.

Glossary

DTO: Drug Trafficking Organization or drug cartel; a large and sophisticated gang that produces and distributes drugs.

Enrique Peña Nieto: The current President of Mexico.

Felipe Calderon: The former President of Mexico who completed his term in November 2012.

Mérida Initiative: The program through which the US is currently providing a substantial amount of aid and security assistance to the Mexican government.

NAFTA: The North American Free Trade Agreement was a deal between the US, Mexico and Canada negotiated in the mid-1990's that made it easier for companies to ship goods across the borders but also had a variety of negative effects on average people.

War On Drugs: A policy by the United States Federal Government that gives foreign military aid to foreign countries in aims to identify and fight drug cartel/organizations to destroy the illegal drug trade.

Mexico Rural Development 1AC (1/6)

Contention 1 is Inherency:

The United States has gutted development aid to Mexico and instead sends billions to Mexico's military to fight the War on Drugs.

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 2011

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, <http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf>)

But **the U.S. government's foreign policy response** to the causes of immigration **matches its domestic policy: an overwhelming focus on security and law enforcement.**¹⁴ Within the U.S. government's Latin America assistance portfolio, Mexico has traditionally been a low-priority country because of its status as a middle-income nation. **Until 2008, Mexico and Central America received 16.2 percent of foreign assistance funds directed toward Latin America. This typically amounted to \$60-70 million per year for Mexico, with more than half of that directed to assist Mexico's fight against international drug trafficking.** Mexico received about \$27 million per year in foreign assistance for all nonsecurity programs prior to 2008.¹⁵ In an effort to combat Mexico's narcotic trafficking organizations, **U.S. assistance was dramatically increased in 2008 through the Mérida Initiative, a multi-year \$1.8 billion program focused on law enforcement assistance** to Mexican (and, to a lesser extent, Central American) security agencies. Through this program, U.S. assistance to Mexico increased from \$65 million in fiscal year 2007 to almost \$406 million in fiscal year 2008.¹⁶ In 2009, total State Department assistance to Mexico was \$786.8 million. Of this total assistance package, **\$753.8 million—96 percent of U.S. funds to Mexico—was directed toward military and drug enforcement assistance.** Although it's dwarfed by the \$10 billion annual border enforcement budget, the Mérida Initiative dominates U.S. foreign assistance to Mexico.¹⁷ **In 2009, U.S. development assistance that could be directed toward job-creation projects** that reduce migration pressures **totaled \$11.2 million, or .01 percent of total U.S. assistance** (see Table 1 on next page). The Mérida Initiative increased total U.S. assistance to Mexico but decreased the importance of economic development in the overall Mexican foreign assistance agenda.¹⁸ **There are U.S. government agencies other than the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the State Department that focus on poverty reduction and rural development in Latin America, but within the entirety of U.S. foreign assistance to Mexico, poverty reduction and economic development remain a low priority.**¹⁹ USAID's lack of emphasis on supporting rural Mexico—where poverty and migration are concentrated—is part of a global foreign assistance trend beginning in the 1980s that de-emphasized agricultural development.²⁰ In spite of the growing interest, discussion among U.S. policymakers and practitioners on migration and development has largely been theoretical.

Mexico Rural Development 1AC (2/6)

Contention 2 is Drug Violence:

The War on Drugs has strengthened drug trafficking organizations in Mexico – violent measures have increased rural poverty, forcing poor farmers to produce illegal crops or join ranks with cartels to survive.

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012 (Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau_-Human_Security_and_War_on_Drugs.pdf)

In its effort to eradicate drug trafficking, **the War on Drugs threatens the economic security of thousands of individuals in Colombia and Mexico who depend on the illegal but profitable drug industry for their livelihoods.** As Peterson (2002, 437) explains, attempts to implement crop substitution programs through alternative development initiatives in Colombia have been met with numerous geographical, ecological, and climate-related obstacles. Many **villages are too far removed from market access points,** a situation made worse by the mountainous topography, making it difficult to sell alternative crops, **and there are few profitable types of legal crops that can grow in the rocky soil** of the Andes. Conversely, coca plants can grow very easily—they become productive within two years—and the expertly established drug trafficking channels allow products to move very quickly (ibid., 428, 437). Plan Colombia failed to take these factors into account in its crop eradication campaigns and **many drug-producing regions in Mexico continue to lack sufficient funding for alternative development initiatives.** As such, **the cultivation of illicit crops** and the salaries of sicarios (cartel hit men) **continue to be very attractive in the face of unemployment and poverty** (Kelly, Maghan, and Serio 2005; Hill 2010). However, as Wells (2006, 57) indicates, “this does not necessarily imply that the US should support these industries . . . [rather,] they should be aware of the extent to which people’s economic security is linked to drug cultivation and . . . the importance of offering them [viable] alternative economic opportunities.” In this light, **it is clear that drug policies should focus more on economic security by addressing problems of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. By maintaining a narrow perspective on the drug industry as a threat to state security, rather than a problem related to underdevelopment or socioeconomic conditions, the War on Drugs continues to neglect the roots of the drug industry.** Writing about the Mexican context, Vanda Felbab-Brown (2010, 7) supports this reconceptualization of security: **“Addressing the socioeconomic needs of the marginalized areas of both the northern urban belt as well as southern rural areas is critical for reducing the recruitment pool for the DTOs, severing the bonds between marginalized communities and criminal elements, and resurrecting the hope of many Mexican citizens that the Mexican State and legal behavior can best advance their future.”** Felbab-Brown also underscores one of the most important factors in Mexico’s strategy: the bulk of the anti-drug activities are taking place in northern Mexico’s troubled states, but little action is being addressed in the southern states or poorer communities of the country. A similar situation occurred in Colombia, where security conditions improved in major cities, but rural communities— particularly in the Puntomayo region—have seen little progress.

Mexico Rural Development 1AC (3/6)

If no action is taken, the presence of drug trafficking organizations in Mexico will result in more violence and spread across the region.

Shirk, Prof of Political Science at the University of San Diego and Director of the Trans- Border Institute, 2011

(David A., The Drug War in Mexico: Confronting a Shared Threat, Council Special Report No. 60, March 2011)

Third, **Mexican stability serves as an important anchor for the region.** With networks stretching into Central America, the Caribbean, and the Andean countries, **Mexican DTOs undermine the security and reliability of other U.S. partners in the hemisphere, corrupting high-level officials, military operatives, and law enforcement personnel; undermining due process and human rights; reducing public support for counter-drug efforts; and even provoking hostility toward the United States.** Given the fragility of some Central American and Caribbean states, **expansion of DTO operations and violence into the region would have a gravely destabilizing effect.** Fourth, **the unchecked power and violence of these Mexican DTOs present a substantial humanitarian concern and have contributed to forced migration and numerous U.S. asylum requests.** If the situation were to worsen, a humanitarian emergency might lead to an unmanageable flow of people into the United States. It would also adversely affect the many U.S. citizens living in Mexico.

Mexico Rural Development 1AC (4/6)

Contention 3 is Poverty:

Mexican farms have been stretched to the breaking point by free trade and the War on Drugs – forcing millions of people into poverty and starvation.

Watt, Lecturer in Hispanic Studies at the University of Sheffield, 2010

(Peter, “NAFTA 15 Years on: The Strange Fruits of Neoliberalism”, State of Nature, <http://www.stateofnature.org/?p=6369#sthash.7JzbMAGf.dpuf>, Winter)

Thus, **if corn, bean or coffee farmers can no longer scrape together a living as a result of a policy into which they never had any input, that’s not free-trade’s problem.** There being no alternative – at least in the orthodox thought of what Herman dubs ‘Marketspeak’ – GATT, the WTO and NAFTA were introduced to the world as solutions to poverty, rather than its exacerbators. ‘Future historians’, Mark Weisbrot observes, will certainly marvel at how trade, originally a means to obtain what could not be produced locally, became an end in itself. In our age it has become a measure of economic and social progress more important even than the well-being of the people who produce or consume the traded goods. [8] As free-market ideology contrasted with peoples’ lived experience, only a constant barrage of information and commentary on the wonders of the new socio-economic model would ensure that those with stakes in maintaining it would be immune to challenge. For journalist and author Carlos Monsiváis, the role of the Mexican media is to ‘persuade and dissuade Public Opinion, to neutralise “unorthodox inclinations”, to parody expressions of free thought and to convince of the inexistence of alternatives’. [9] **Trade agreements such as NAFTA were pushed through** by underlining a sense of inevitability, ‘the inexistence of **alternatives**’ and **although the public had no say, free-trade was soon to become a reality whether Mexicans wished it or not. If businesses and farmers failed or ran into debts** as a result, **this was explained as their failure to modernise, to adapt to the new realities of the global market.** Countering this sense of inevitability is a major challenge, because it is this sense that allows for the unthinkable to become acceptable, or at least tolerable. On this, journalist John Gibler comments that, Ideology serves to normalise horrid social relations. With the magic of a well-placed word or two, duly impregnated with ideology, **the most absurd and unacceptable of situations are made to seem natural. Ideology tells us that when the Mexican police routinely kill and torture, well, it is part of the rule of law; if twenty million Mexicans live in hunger, their children dying of diarrhoea, well, that is the sad reality of poverty; as nearly half a million Mexicans cross the border into the United States every year seeking their own labour exploitation just to keep their families alive, they are looking for a better life,** hence they migrate; **if Mexico’s twelve million indigenous people live on the margin of the state, constantly subject to massacres, everyday racism, and the ravage of hunger, well, the indigenous were always like that,** even before the Spanish came, that’s the indigenous past. [10]

Mexico Rural Development 1AC (5/6)

Poverty kills millions of people a year – it is a moral travesty that must be rejected.

Gilligan, Director of the Center for the Study of Violence, 1996

(James, Violence: Our Deadly Epidemic and its Causes.. P. 191-196)

The lethal effects of structural violence operate continuously, rather than sporadically, whereas murders, suicides, executions, wars, and other forms of behavioral violence occur one at a time. *Structural violence operates more or less independently of individual acts; independent of individuals and groups (politicians, political parties, voters) whose decisions may nevertheless have lethal consequences for others. ***Structural violence is normally invisible, because it may appear to have had other (natural or violent) causes.** The finding that **structural violence causes far more deaths than behavioral violence** does is not limited to this country. Kohler and Alcock attempted to arrive at the number of excess deaths caused by socioeconomic inequities on a worldwide basis. Sweden was their model of the nation that had come closest to eliminating structural violence. It had the least inequity in income and living standards, and the lowest discrepancies in death rates and life expectancy; and the highest overall life expectancy in the world. When they compared the life expectancies of those living in the other socioeconomic systems against Sweden, they found that **18 million deaths a year could be attributed to the “structural violence”** to which the citizens of all the other nations were being subjected. During the past decade, the discrepancies between the rich and poor nations have increased dramatically and alarmingly. The 14 to 18 million deaths a year caused by structural violence **compare with about 100,000 deaths per year from armed conflict.** Comparing this frequency of deaths from structural violence to the frequency of those caused by major military and political violence, such as World War II (an estimated 49 million military and civilian deaths, including those by genocide—or about eight million per year, 1939-1945), the Indonesian massacre of 1965-66 (perhaps 575,000 deaths), the Vietnam war (possibly two million, 1954-1973), and even a hypothetical nuclear exchange between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. (232 million), it was clear that even **war cannot begin to compare with structural violence, which continues year after year.** In other words, every fifteen years, on the average, as many people die because of relative poverty as would be killed by the Nazi genocide of the Jews over a six-year period. **This is, in effect, the equivalent of an ongoing, unending, in fact accelerating, thermonuclear [war], or genocide, perpetrated on the weak and poor every year of every decade, throughout the world. Structural violence is also the main cause of behavioral violence on a socially and epidemiologically significant scale (from homicide and suicide to war and genocide). The question as to which of the two forms of violence—structural or behavioral—is more important, dangerous, or lethal is moot, for they are inextricably related to each other, as cause to effect.**

Mexico Rural Development 1AC (6/6)

Thus we offer the following plan: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic development assistance to small farmers in Mexico.

Contention 4 is Solvency:

United States aid to Mexican small farmers can address the rural poverty that fuels drug violence - the plan represents a radical shift in the status quo framework of engagement toward Mexico.

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 2011

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, <http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf>)

Mexico's countryside is one of the most promising environments to invest in rural development to reduce migration pressures. Mexico has the 14th largest economy in the world, but it is also extraordinarily unequal.²² Depending on the measure, **between one third and half of Mexicans are considered poor and up to 18 percent live in extreme poverty, unable to meet their basic food needs.**²³ Reducing migration pressures will require development and job creation throughout Mexico, but poverty and international migration are particularly concentrated in the countryside. Although about a quarter of all Mexicans live in rural areas, 60 percent of Mexico's extreme poor are rural and 44 percent of all of Mexico's international migration originates in rural communities (see Figure 2).²⁴ This means that more than half of rural Mexicans live in poverty and 25 percent live in extreme poverty.²⁵ As one expert states, "**Rural poverty** is one ... of the principal "pushfactors" in Mexican migration to the United States" and thus **should be the primary focus of development efforts** aimed at reducing migration pressures.²⁶ After decades of declining support among international assistance agencies,²⁷ **agriculture and rural development is now re-emerging as a vital development focus.** The World Bank's 2008 **World Development Report states, "Agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction."**²⁸ **Research has also found that agriculture is one of the best returns on investment in terms of poverty-reduction spending.**²⁹ For example, each 1 percent increase in crop productivity in Asia reduces the number of poor people by half a percent. **This correlation also holds for middle-income countries such as Mexico.**³⁰ **Among the options for agricultural development, support for smallholder farmers is the most promising path for poverty reduction.** The World Bank states, "**Improving the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of smallholder farming is the main pathway out of poverty in using agriculture for development.**"³¹ **And smallholder farmers in Mexico are especially in need of assistance. After decades of declining support from the Mexican government and increased competition from subsidized U.S. producers under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), small-Mexican farmers have found it increasingly difficult to make a living.**

Deforestation Add-On Adv

[] Rural underdevelopment combined with drug demand is a primary cause for deforestation

Woodgate, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Sociology at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, 2011

(Graham, Climate Change, Forests and Rural Development in Highland Mexico, May 23, <http://www.intercambioclimatico.com/en/2011/05/23/climate-change-forests-and-rural-development-in-highland-mexico/#sthash.6hKUBJcD.dpuf>)

The struggle for survival in the countryside leads people to engage in illegal logging, with individual trees fetching US\$ 100 and more. The clandestine nature of this activity means, that in order to avoid detection, people come into the forest for short periods, cutting just a few of the larger trees, often with no more than hand tools. Along with a warming climate, illegal logging might also contribute to the increasing numbers of insect pests, such as pine bark beetles, which are attracted by chemicals released when trees are injured. In particular, Mexico is seeing a significant loss of forest cover due to infestation by *Dendroctonus* spp. – the ‘tree killers’. These beetles bore in through the bark to excavate egg galleries. An early sign of infestation are the resin tubes that form on the bark at the entrance to the beetle’s tunnels. When the eggs hatch the larvae begin to devour the living tissue, destroying the trees’ ability to transport water and nutrients, ultimately resulting in premature death. In addition to illegal logging and beetle infestation, the Nevado’s forests are also being degraded by the activities of livestock farmers. At the end of each dry season farmers burn off the dead vegetation beneath the forest canopy in order to encourage earlier and more nutritious grass growth for their sheep and cattle. Although many species of pine growing at high altitude require periodic fires to release seed from cones for the regeneration of the forest, this burning destroys any young seedlings that may have been established during the previous spring and summer. **In concert, illegal logging, beetle infestation and forest fires all add up to a very alarming rate of forest degradation and have almost certainly caused the forests of the Nevado Toluca to shift from being net carbon sinks to net emitters, providing further positive feedback into the climate change equation.** It must also be recognised that illegal **logging and forest fires are ultimately a result of poor people’s struggles to make ends meet.** Thus, **if policies** such as the UNFCCC’s REDD+ strategy **are to achieve the desired results, close attention must be focused on mechanisms that can provide realistic and reliable alternative incomes for otherwise marginalised rural people.**

Deforestation Add-On Adv

[] Deforestation is a serious threat to humanity

Watson, Founder and President of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, 2006

(Captain Paul Watson,. 9/17/06, "The Politics of Extinction." <http://www.eco-action.org/dt/beerswil.html>)

The destruction of forests and the proliferation of human activity **will remove more than 20 percent of all terrestrial plant species over the next fifty years.** Because plants form the foundation for entire biotic communities, **their demise will carry with it the extinction of an exponentially greater number of animal species** -- perhaps ten times as many faunal species for each type of plant eliminated. Sixty-five million years ago, a natural cataclysmic event resulted in extinction of the dinosaurs. Even with a plant foundation intact, it took more than 100,000 years for faunal biological diversity to re-establish itself. More importantly, the resurrection of biological diversity assumes an intact zone of tropical forests to provide for new speciation after extinction. Today, the tropical rain forests are disappearing more rapidly than any other bio-region, ensuring that after the age of humans, the Earth will remain a biological, if not a literal desert for eons to come. The present course of civilization points to ecocide -- the death of nature. **Like a run-a-way train, civilization is speeding along tracks of our own manufacture towards the stone wall of extinction.**

US Drug Consumption Add-On

[] Drug use in the US costs the economy billions of dollars and hurts people's health – it is essential to stop drugs at the source to prevent a spiral into addiction.

US Department of Justice, 2011

("Economic Impact of Illicit Drug Use on American Society," Online:
<http://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs44/44731/44731p.pdf>)

Taken together, these costs total \$193,096,930, with the majority share attributable to lost productivity. The findings are consistent with prior work that has been done in this area using a generally comparable methodology (Harwood et al., 1984, 1998; ONDCP, 2001, 2004). **It is important to note that there is no double-counting among the cost components identified above. In cases where a component involves incapacitation (as with drug-induced incarceration, specialty treatment, and hospitalization), society essentially pays twice: once to deal with the problem behavior of an individual and again because after the behavior has been dealt with, the individual becomes nonproductive.** (b) Incarceration and homicide components of Productivity included in Crime. As noted above, some elements of productivity costs may be viewed as crime costs. In column (b) lost productivity attributable to illicit-drug-induced incarceration and illicitdrug-induced homicide are treated as crime costs. This causes crime costs to increase from \$61,376,694 to \$113,277,616 and productivity costs to decrease from \$120,304,004 to \$68,403,082. The total remains unchanged. Comparison of Drug Coststo Other Societal Costs **The estimates presented above place illicit drug use on par with other serious chronic health problems in the United States. A recent study conducted by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (2008) estimated that diabetes costs the United States more than \$174 billion each year.** As was the case here, that study included both direct costs (medical care and services) and indirect costs (short-term and permanent disability as well as premature death). Finkelstein et al. (2009) report that medical costs associated with obesity totaled more than \$147 billion in 2008. This is driven largely by the fact that obese Americans spend approximately 40 percent more on medical services (an average of \$1,429 per year) than those whose weight is in the healthy range. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that between 1995 and 1999, smoking caused an estimated 440,000 premature deaths each year and was responsible for at least \$157 billion annually in health-related economic costs (CDC, 2002). The approach taken by the CDC authors was similar to the approach taken here and was based upon estimates of annual smokingattributable mortality, years of potential life lost, smoking-attributable medical expenditures for adults and infants, and lost productivity for adults. Heart disease exacts perhaps the highest toll. During 2010 alone, it cost the United States an estimated \$316 billion. This includes the costs of health care services, medications, and lost productivity (CDC, 2010). **Illicit drug use is not like other health problems in that its consequences may include criminal sanctions. Since it is well known that illicit drug use sometimes progresses from experimentation to recreational use and eventually to abuse or dependence,** it is relatively easy to draw inferences from the findings presented above. **It is important that illicit drugs be made as difficult and costly to obtain as possible.** This points to the value of law enforcement efforts. **It is best if illicit drug use not be initiated at all.**

US Economy Add-On (1/2)

[] Further drug related violence in Mexico would significantly harm the US economy

Shirk, Prof of Political Science at the University of San Diego and Director of the Trans-Border Institute, 2011

(David A., The Drug War in Mexico: Confronting a Shared Threat, Council Special Report No. 60, March 2011)

The United States has much to gain by helping strengthen its southern neighbor and even more to lose if it does not. The cumulative effects of an embattled Mexican state harm the United States and a further reduction of Mexican state capacity is both unacceptable and a clear motivation for U.S. preventive action. First, the weaker the Mexican state, the greater difficulty the United States will have in controlling the nearly two-thousand-mile border. Spillover violence, in which DTOs bring their fight to U.S. soil, is a remote worst-case scenario.³ Even so, lawlessness south of the border directly affects the United States. A weak Mexican government increases the flow of both illegal immigrants and contraband (such as drugs, money, and weapons) into the United States. As the dominant wholesale distributors of illegal drugs to U.S. consumers, Mexican traffickers are also the single greatest domestic organized crime threat within the United States, operating in every state and hundreds of cities, selling uncontrolled substances that directly endanger the health and safety of millions of ordinary citizens. Second, **economically, Mexico is an important market for the United States**. As a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it is one of only seventeen states with which the United States has a free trade pact, outside the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). **The United States has placed nearly \$100 billion of foreign direct investment in Mexico. Mexico is also the United States' third-largest trade partner, the third-largest source of U.S. imports, and the second-largest exporter of U.S. goods and services—**with potential for further market growth as the country develops. **Trade with Mexico benefits the U.S. economy, and the market collapse that would likely accompany a deteriorated security situation could hamper U.S. economic recovery.**

US Economy Add-On (2/2)

[] US economic decline undermines our ability to maintain global peace – it would force US military withdrawal.

Duncan, Chief Economist at Blackhorse Asset Management and analyst for Bloomberg, 2012
(Richard, The New Depression, pg. 129)

The political battle over America's future would be bitter, and quite possibly bloody. It cannot be guaranteed that the U.S. Constitution would survive. Foreign affairs would also confront the United States with enormous challenges. **During the Great Depression, the United States did not have a global empire. Now it does. The United States maintains hundreds of military bases** across dozens of countries around the world. Added to this is a fleet of 11 aircraft carriers and 18 nuclear-armed submarines. The country spends more than \$650 billion a year on its military. **If the U.S. economy collapses into a New Great Depression, the United States could not afford to maintain its worldwide military presence or to continue in its role as global peacekeeper.** Or, at least, it could not finance its military in the same way it does at present. Therefore, either the United States would have to find an alternative funding method for its global military presence or else **it would have to radically scale it back.** Historically, empires were financed with plunder and territorial expropriation. The estates of the vanquished ruling classes were given to the conquering generals, while the rest of the population was forced to pay imperial taxes. The U.S. model of empire has been unique. It has financed its global military presence by issuing government debt, thereby taxing future generations of Americans to pay for this generation's global supremacy. That would no longer be possible if the economy collapsed. Cost-benefit analysis would quickly reveal that much of America's global presence was simply no longer affordable. **Many—or even most—of the outposts** that did not pay for themselves **would have to be abandoned.**

Impact Extension: Latin American Instability

[] Latin American instability would spawn a host of global dangers.

Manwaring, Adjunct Professor of International Politics at Dickinson College, 2005

(Max G., venezuela's hugo chávez, bolivarian socialism, and asymmetric warfare, October 2005, <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/pub628.pdf>)

President Chávez also understands that **the process leading to state failure is the most dangerous long-term security challenge facing the global community today.** The argument in general is that **failing and failed state status is the breeding ground for instability, criminality, insurgency, regional conflict, and terrorism. These conditions breed massive humanitarian disasters and major refugee** flows. They can host "evil" networks of all kinds, whether they involve criminal business enterprise, narco-trafficking, or some form of ideological crusade such as Bolivarianismo. More specifically, **these conditions spawn** all kinds of things people in general do not like such as murder, kidnapping, corruption, intimidation, and destruction of infrastructure. These means of coercion and persuasion can spawn further human rights violations, torture, **poverty, starvation, disease**, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, trafficking in women and body parts, trafficking **and proliferation of conventional weapons systems and WMD, genocide**, ethnic cleansing, warlordism, **and criminal anarchy**. At the same time, these actions are usually unconfined and spill over into regional syndromes of poverty, destabilization, and conflict. 62 Peru's Sendero Luminoso calls violent and destructive activities that facilitate the processes of state failure "armed propaganda." Drug cartels operating throughout the Andean Ridge of South America and elsewhere call these activities "business incentives." Chávez considers these actions to be steps that must be taken to bring about the political conditions necessary to establish Latin American socialism for the 21st century. 63 Thus, in addition to helping to provide wider latitude to further their tactical and operational objectives, state and nonstate actors' strategic efforts are aimed at progressively lessening a targeted regime's credibility and capability in terms of its ability and willingness to govern and develop its national territory and society. Chávez's intent is to focus his primary attack politically and psychologically on selected Latin American governments' ability and right to govern. In that context, he understands that popular perceptions of corruption, disenfranchisement, poverty, and lack of upward mobility limit the right and the ability of a given regime to conduct the business of the state. Until a given populace generally perceives that its government is dealing with these and other basic issues of political, economic, and social injustice fairly and effectively, instability and the threat of subverting or destroying such a government are real. But failing and failed states simply do not go away. Virtually anyone can take advantage of such an unstable situation. **The tendency is that the best motivated and best armed organization on the scene will control that instability.** As a consequence, failing and failed states become dysfunctional states, rogue states, criminal states, narco-states, or new people's democracies. In connection with the creation of new people's democracies, one can rest assured that Chávez and his Bolivarian populist allies will be available to provide money, arms, and leadership at any given opportunity. And, of course, **the longer dysfunctional, rogue, criminal, and narco-states** and people's democracies persist, **the more they and their associated problems endanger global security, peace, and prosperity.**

Answers to: Drug Production Shifting Elsewhere

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[] Mexico is the lynchpin – drug use and trafficking have almost doubled.

Villagran, correspondent for Christian Science Monitor, 2013

(Laura, Jan 25, 2013, “As Mexico's traffickers ship drugs north, they leave addicts in their wake”
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2013/0125/As-Mexico-s-traffickers-ship-drugs-north-they-leave-addicts-in-their-wake>)

Exponential growth in the trafficking of drugs through Mexico – destined for the large consumer market to the north – is leaving a growing number of addicts in its wake. Heroin, crack cocaine, and methamphetamines were once unheard of in Mexico, but today rehabilitation centers are filled with addicts. **Being the top supplier of illegal drugs to the US has made Mexico a consumer nation, too, as cartels have sought to expand the local market over the past decade. Illegal drug use in Mexico – still well below levels in the United States – rose 87 percent** between 2002 and 2011, according to the latest national survey of addictions. In the survey, 1.5 percent of respondents reported having consumed illegal substances in the previous year, compared with 0.8 percent in 2002. **And drug rehabilitation professionals caution that higher levels of use may exist, given that the data is self-reported.** They also note that an alarming increase in drug use among women and adolescents between 2002 and 2008 has persisted, although the survey suggests overall illegal drug use has plateaued since 2008. **“The reality is that ... in the organizations and institutions that work directly with this population, we see that [addiction] is on the rise, and that the adolescents who come here are younger and younger,”** says Blanca Ferreyra, who coordinates addiction treatments at the Love Life Foundation, a Mexico City nonprofit. “By 14 years old, they’ve got a two- or three-year-old addiction.”

Answers to: Demand for Drugs Makes Trafficking Inevitable

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[] They have it backwards – drug production is extremely prevalent because of widespread rural poverty.

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012
(Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau_-Human_Security_and_War_on_Drugs.pdf)

Both Colombia and Mexico bear **high levels of poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality**. These socio-economic conditions, along with weak political and judicial institutions, **foster an environment in which drug cultivation and trafficking are not only possible, but** for many have become attractive or **necessary options to meet basic needs**. It is estimated that over 80,000 Colombian families rely on illicit crop cultivation for their livelihoods (UNODC 2011a). The economic incentive is clear: **“[A]s long as the price for coca leaves is ten times as high as that for cocoa, coffee, and rice for Andean farmers, they will continue to cultivate it”** (Diego Garcia Savan in Wells 2006, 60). In this sense, drug trafficking effectively provides economic security, simply defined in the UNDP report as “assured basic income” (UNDP 1994, 25). **Those without economic security often accept any work they can find, including informal work, badly paid, or unproductive work**. Informal employment could be as high as 50 per cent in Colombia and 30 per cent in Mexico (World Bank 2012), **which undoubtedly leads to increased economic insecurity and related problems such as criminal activity and migration**.

Answers to: Mexican Economy Growing

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[] Economic growth in Mexico has left small farmers behind – development aid is key to close the gap.

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 11

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, <http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf>)

The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the culmination of the economic liberalization that began in the 1980s. NAFTA was touted as a Mexican job-creation program that would slow immigration. But **NAFTA's policies reinforced support for large, export-oriented producers at the cost of small farmers, and rural employment continued to diminish. Between 1991 and 2007 Mexico lost 20 percent (2.1 million) of its agricultural jobs.** The loss of rural jobs and the inability to generate income impacted family farms in particular: non-salaried agricultural family employment declined 58 percent between 1991 and 2007. Many of these displaced farmers ended up in the United States, sometimes working in U.S. agriculture as field laborers. After NAFTA, the operation of the Mexican small family farm became the vocation of older Mexicans, while youth migrated to the cities or the United States. Almost a quarter of rural Mexicans ages 15-24 in 1990 had left by 2000. Throughout 30 years of increasing emigration, the Mexican government also has done little to slow the exodus. Its leading program for small agricultural producers—PROCAMPO—does not target areas of high migration. Although the Mexican government is primarily responsible for addressing the country's rural poverty, **the United States can provide critical support for programs that address migration pressures at their source.** Because of its potential for long-term impact, such a strategy requires commensurate, sustained policy attention and resources. Furthermore, **by supporting economic development projects with rural Mexican organizations, Mexican government agencies—particularly at the local and regional levels—can be drawn into development projects that reduce migration pressures. A comprehensive, smallholder-based approach to development would by its very nature generate rural employment. Without support for Mexico's small and medium farmers, the country's rural economy will continue to be increasingly dependent on migration and remittances.** While the link between supporting smallholder farmers and poverty reduction is proven, the next logical step with respect to its impact on migration pressures is less recognized.

Answers to: Drug Production Profitable

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[] Poverty is still prevalent – even if some farmers succeed by producing drugs, others deserve a chance to succeed with US aid.

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 2011

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, <http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf>)

The 1980s saw falling wages, a decline in living standards, job displacement, and lowered prospects for economic mobility. The impact on small farmers was particularly harmful. In addition to a reduction in state support, small and medium-sized producers faced the cumulative impact of long-term drought, multiple economic crises, increased competition from U.S. producers, falling agricultural commodity prices and increases in the price of agricultural inputs, and reduced access to credit. Mexico's rural population decreased from 58 percent in 1950 to 25 percent in 2005. While many of the rural poor migrated to Mexico's overcrowded cities, others opted for the United States.³³ The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the culmination of the economic liberalization that began in the 1980s. **NAFTA was touted as a Mexican job-creation program that would slow immigration. But NAFTA's policies reinforced support for large, export-oriented producers at the cost of small farmers, and rural employment continued to diminish.** Between 1991 and 2007 Mexico lost 20 percent (2.1 million) of its agricultural jobs. **The loss of rural jobs and the inability to generate income impacted family farms in particular: non-salaried agricultural family employment declined 58 percent between 1991 and 2007. Many of these displaced farmers ended up in the United States, sometimes working in U.S. agriculture as field laborers.**³⁴ After NAFTA, the operation of the Mexican small family farm became the vocation of older Mexicans, while youth migrated to the cities or the United States. Almost a quarter of rural Mexicans ages 15-24 in 1990 had left by 2000. **Throughout 30 years of increasing emigration, the Mexican government also has done little to slow the exodus. Its leading program for small agricultural producers—PROCAMPO—does not target areas of high migration.**³⁵ **Although the Mexican government is primarily responsible for addressing the country's rural poverty, the United States can provide critical support for programs that address migration pressures at their source. Because of its potential for long-term impact, such a strategy requires commensurate, sustained policy attention and resources. Furthermore, by supporting economic development projects with rural Mexican organizations, Mexican government agencies—particularly at the local and regional levels—can be drawn into development projects that reduce migration pressures. A comprehensive, smallholder-based approach to development would by its very nature generate rural employment. Without support for Mexico's small and medium farmers, the country's rural economy will continue to be increasingly dependent on migration and remittances. While the link between supporting smallholder farmers and poverty reduction is proven, the next logical step with respect to its impact on migration pressures is less recognized.**³⁶

Answers to: Corporate Competition Hurts Farmers

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[] With assistance Mexican farmers can compete even against low US food prices

Wise, Director of Policy Research at Tufts University's Global Development and Environment Institute, 2012(Timothy A., Growing Out of the Food Crisis: Mexican Smallholders Key to Food Sovereignty, October 10, 2012, <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/GC50Oct12Wise.pdf>)

Since prices spiked in 2007-8, **policy-makers have rediscovered small-scale farmers**. Where the Washington Consensus treated them as unproductive, an anachronism in the modernizing global economy, suddenly they were once again “stewards of the land.” Raising their productivity, **closing the “yield gap”** – the difference between current and attainable yields using readily available technologies – became one of the pillars of the global response to the new food crisis. In theory, anyway. In our new study, we documented that this **is an attainable goal. We showed that small-scale Mexican corn farmers can close a yield gap estimated at 43% or more, and they can do so relying on existing technologies by investing in good old-fashioned farmer-led extension services**. This would eliminate Mexico’s 10 million ton annual deficit, which it now fills with \$4 billion worth of imports from the United States. And it would improve resource use while increasing resilience to climate change. **Rising agricultural prices**, combined with growing import dependence, **have driven Mexico’s food import bill over \$20 billion per year** and increased its agricultural trade deficit. The current drought in the United States is making this situation worse, with maize prices setting new record highs. Three million producers grow most of the country’s white maize, which is used primarily for tortillas, and more than 59 native maize landraces that are basic ingredients of nearly 600 food preparations. Yield gaps are estimated at 43% on rain-fed land, compared to just 10% on the country’s larger irrigated farms. **Most of the country’s small to medium-scale maize farmers are operating at less than 50% of potential**

Solvency – Rural Assistance Solves Drug Production and Poverty

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[] **Rural development assistance is key to solve the incentive for drug production and shift towards a focus on poverty alleviation**

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012
(Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau_-Human_Security_and_War_on_Drugs.pdf)

To effectively combat drug crime within their borders, Colombia and Mexico also need to broaden and diversify their national strategies. Given the success in reducing crime in Colombian cities, a continuation of multifaceted action, including the establishment of a national research, analysis, and strategic bodies, such as the Government of Colombia's Dirección de Justicia, Seguridad y Gobierno, to better understand DTOs and the drug trade, could contribute to safer cities in Mexico and be replicated in different settings in Latin America. **To avoid the balloon effect, whereby drug production and violence are merely displaced to other territories, military efforts must be matched with national socio-economic policies along the lines of improvements in education, economic productivity, small-scale agriculture, and employment opportunities**, all well-known concerns in Mexican society. **By addressing issues of economic and food security and improving standards of living and capacity building in rural communities, there will be fewer incentives to be or get involved in criminal activities, and personal and community security will improve**. For instance, **investments in crop substitution, smallscale farming, and the elimination of aerial spraying campaigns could help prevent the future growth of the drug trade**. Moreover, the Colombian and Mexican governments need to continue their efforts to combat corruption and better address problems of impunity and human rights violations by adopting a human security approach to drug policies. The establishment of effective judicial reforms¹¹ to bring crimes to justice create a stronger sense of confidence, trust, and security across those countries.

Solvency Extension – Aid Reduces Drug Violence

[] Rural development will help alleviate several causes of rural poverty – drastically undercutting the basis for drug trafficking and violence.

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012
(Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau_-Human_Security_and_War_on_Drugs.pdf)

Furthermore, **accessing markets to sell crops is complicated by distance and inadequate infrastructure, such as a lack of communications technology and poor road conditions. Rather than investing in crop eradication, the government should increase investment in infrastructure development that facilitates access to markets and health care, as well as increase investment in social safety nets, alternative development programs, and local agriculture that together enhance economic, environmental, health, and food security.** By threatening environmental, health, and food security, the War on Drugs threatens livelihoods and exacerbates problems of poor market access, poverty, and internal displacement. Therefore, crop eradication as promoted by the War on Drugs cannot be divorced from economic security. By stopping crop eradication policies, particularly with toxic herbicides such as glyphosate, governments can support these essential forms of security and ensure a healthier environment for various communities. **By prioritizing these forms of human security over the unsustainable destruction of illicit crops, governments can focus on developing real, long-term alternatives based on licit crop cultivation and better market access. By improving livelihoods, countries would have fewer families relying on or turning to the drug trade for subsistence, thus abating the intensity of the drug conflicts.** To this day, the state security approach has failed to generate such results.

Solvency Extension – Aid Helps Farmers

[] US aid can help small farmers by supporting irrigation projects and providing essential technologies.

Broughton, Green party candidate and Director of Canada's Wilderness Committee, 2013

(Robert, "How the US can help Mexico," *DailyKOS*, June 10, Online:

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/06/10/1215167/-How-the-US-can-help-Mexico>)

The effect of this on Mexico's economy has been devastating. (It's been even more devastating for Guatemala, a much poorer country that is also dependent on corn imports.) This isn't in the best interest of either the US or Mexico. **When rural Mexicans can't feed themselves, they move to cities, and often on to the US. Draining Mexico's rural areas of people makes these areas more vulnerable to the narco-terrorists.** Cultivation of corn began in Mexico, and corn has a cultural value as well as a food value. There are 60 varieties of corn grown in Mexico, and the genetically-altered versions from Monsanto are a solution looking for a problem. So, why can't Mexico grow enough corn to feed its population, and **what can the US do to help? One problem is infrastructure. Rural farmers have problems getting their products to markets.** However, Mexico has been doing a better job than the US has of improving infrastructure over the past few years, so the US can be of no help on this one. **The Mexican government** initiated a program called MasAgro in 2011. It is an agricultural extension service, and **intends to assist small farmers in Mexico to test and use better maize and wheat varieties, and to promote conservation agriculture cropping practices and other technologies that raise their yields and incomes while reducing costs, risks, and environmental impacts.** The Mexican government also initiated another extension service, the Strategic Project for High-Yield Maize (PROEMAR), in 2008. It features basic soil analysis and precision fertilizer application. It has demonstrated dramatic results when implemented in conjunction with a strong, accountable farmer organization. Mexico can also increase crop yields **by improving and increasing irrigation. Mexico was actually promised public investment in irrigation in the run-up to the NAFTA agreement. This promise wasn't kept. There is less irrigated corn-growing land now than there was prior to NAFTA.** So, **the Obama administration could start by revisiting the irrigation issue, and provide resources that the US Department of Agriculture already has.** As for MasAgro and PROEMAR, the Department of Agriculture and land-grant universities in every state know a few things about agricultural extension. In addition, the Peace Corps has a long history of recruiting agricultural extension volunteers. So, **the US has the resources to do some good here,** and improve its image in Latin America. All that's needed is a commitment; put those land-grant university graduates to work.

Answers to: Mexican Farmers Can't Compete

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[] Mexico can close the trade gap with technical assistance

Wise et al., Director of Policy Research at Tufts University's Global Development and Environment Institute, 2012(Antonio Turrent Fernández, Timothy A. Wise, and Elise Garvey, Achieving Mexico's Maize Potential, GDAE Working Paper 12-03, October 2012, http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/policy_research/MexMaize.html)

To what extent could Mexico close this yield gap, using proven technologies widely employed in the country, to regain its lost self-sufficiency in maize? Based on a close examination of productivity gains and potential in Mexico's diverse maize-producing sectors – irrigated and rain-fed, industrial scale and small scale, using hybrid seeds and native varieties – authors Antonio Turrent, Timothy A. Wise, and Elise Garvey find **that Mexico has the potential to regain self-sufficiency in maize relatively quickly based on existing technologies** and without relying on controversial transgenic maize varieties. Specifically: Evidence suggests that within 10-15 years Mexico could increase annual production on current lands from 23 to 33 million tons, meeting the current deficit of 10 million tons. Irrigation and infrastructure projects in the southern part of the country could add another 24 million mt/year. This would be more than enough to meet Mexico's growing demand for maize, estimated to reach 39 million mt/year by 2025. Such investments in new water resources, combined with public investments in more efficient water-use in irrigation systems in the semi-arid northern parts of Mexico, are urgently needed as climate change threatens to make water more scarce, undermining agricultural production. Mexico's current push to expand the use of transgenic maize is unnecessary and ill-considered. Its yield potential is limited, particularly for smaller scale producers, and its risks are high for a country with Mexico's rich diversity of native maize varieties. Mexico's highly touted MasAgro Program, with its focus on smallholders and resource conservation, has laudable goals, but the program has too small a budget and focuses on strategies – improved seeds and “no till” practices – that are poorly suited to small-scale farms and marginal lands. A pilot program in farmer-led extension services has proven the most promising, raising yields 55-70% in a project carried out in several states by a farmer organization. The project promoted precision application of inputs on both high-quality and marginal lands, improving conservation without relying on new hybrids nor transgenic seeds. **Such programs build on Mexico's rich maize diversity, an asset that will become increasingly valuable as climate change challenges existing growing conditions. Such findings are consistent with the prevailing international consensus around the “sustainable intensification” of small-scale production. Public investment should go where the yield gaps are the greatest, among small-to-medium-scale farmers.**

Answers to: Mexican Farmers Can't Compete

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[] **Farmers can't compete because of technology and development practices which the plan can fix**

Melendez, Journalist at The Monterey County Herald, 2008

(CLAUDIA, Mexican farmers struggle to survive, 12/10/08,
http://www.montereyherald.com/ci_7616170)

"In our country **we still find farmers who use oxen to pull carts to farm,**" said Congresswoman Susana Monreal Avila, who represents one of the largest agricultural states in Mexico. "This is what they use **because they don't have the access to other tools and that places (them) at a disadvantage.**" Speaking to a group of U.S. activists and students touring Mexico with Food First, a Berkeley-based advocacy group that promotes policies to eradicate hunger, Monreal Avila said she's heading a group lobbying to renegotiate the agricultural provisions of NAFTA, which she blames for the deterioration of Mexico's agrarian industry. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox defends NAFTA as a program that has brought progress to the country and increased agricultural trade with the United States. **"We are now exporting more than ever," Fox told The Herald during a recent visit to Monterey County. "Maybe those who didn't modernize couldn't compete.**

Answers to: Not Enough Water

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[] The plan can make farmers competitive and self-sufficient even with coming water problems

Wise et al., Director of Policy Research at Tufts University's Global Development and Environment Institute, 2012

(Antonio Turrent Fernández, Timothy A. Wise, and Elise Garvey, Achieving Mexico's Maize Potential, GDAE Working Paper 12-03, October 2012, <http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/wp/12-03TurrentMexMaize.pdf>)

Mexico now runs a production deficit of roughly 10 million mt/year and an import bill for maize of more than \$2.5 billion/year. This review has demonstrated that **Mexico has the potential to regain self-sufficiency in maize relatively quickly based on existing technologies** and without relying on controversial transgenic maize varieties. Turrent's surveys remain the most comprehensive guide to Mexico's maize potential, suggesting that within 10-15 years Mexico could increase annual production from current lands to 33 million/mt; irrigation and infrastructure projects in the southern part of the country could add another 24 million mt/year. This would be more than enough to meet Mexico's growing demand for maize, estimated to reach 39 million mt/year by 2025 (FAPRI 2011). Additional research confirms the viability of these estimates. Following the prevailing international consensus, public investment should go where the yield gaps are the greatest, among small-to-medium-scale farmers. This is also where private investment is scarce and where market failures are prevalent. Indeed, **the most promising improvements identified in this review came from the provision of basic farmer-led extension services on rain-fed lands using existing technologies. Such programs** do not rely on the introduction of new improved seeds and they **have been proven to improve resource use and promote conservation**. In fact, **researchers recently published in Nature a study estimating that closing yield gaps through improved nutrient and water management could increase production by 30% while reducing inefficient use of inputs** (Mueller, Gerber et al. 2012).

Aid Makes Farmers Self-Sufficient

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[] There is no link to their turn – the kind of assistance we provide will make farmers self-sufficient and reduces aid dependency

ActionAid, an international charity for children’s education, 2012

(Real Aid: Ending Dependency, https://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/real_aid_3.pdf)

The kind of aid that helps support dramatic decreases in aid dependence is what ActionAid calls real aid – that’s **aid which empowers poor women and men** to realise their rights, **and reduces inequality. It might do this directly, by supporting smallholder farmers**, empowering women or building schools. Or it might do it indirectly, by supporting tax systems, better governance or economic development. It is accountable, transparent from beginning to end, and gets the most out of every dollar spent. **It supports developing countries to make their own decisions**. Substandard aid, however, does not do this – and there’s still a lot of it out there.

Aid Makes Farmers Self-Sufficient

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[] And we reduce dependence on remittances, money sent home by people forced to go to other countries for work

Cohen, Professor of Anthropology at Pennsylvania State University, 2001

(Jeffrey H., Transnational Migration in Rural Oaxaca, Mexico: Dependency, Development, and the Household, American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 103, No. 4 (Dec., 2001))

Two models (dependency and development) have dominated the debate over the outcomes of migration and remittance use (Brettell 2000:104). Dependency models focus on the socioeconomic costs of migration, while development models point toward the economic growth that can come from the careful use of remittances. **Dependency models argue that migration exacerbates local socioeconomic inequalities, increases economic dependency,** and drives unproductive consumption within peasant households while creating pools of cheap labor waiting to be exploited (Reichert 1981). In this scheme, **rural communities become little more than nurseries for the young (future migrants) and "homes" for the elderly** (those no longer able to migrate). **The outcome of this process is the social disintegration of sending communities as the able-bodied are siphoned away by the pull of job opportunities** and the disruption of local practices as remittances are wasted (see Brana-Shute and Brana-Shute 1982; Didiz Briquets 1991; Guidi 1993; Martin 1991; Papademetriou 1991; Rubenstein 1992).

War on Drugs Failed – Violent Backlash in Mexico

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[] **The War on Drugs has failed in Mexico – military force causes cartel backlash, cartels are resilient, government corruption, and police desertion rates.**

Colonel Chase, director of strategy research on the Southern Border, 2012

(David, "Military Police: Assisting in Securing the United States Southern Border," December 3, Online: <http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf&AD=ADA561048>)

These efforts by the Mexican government have met with some success especially with the targeting, capturing and killing of DTO leadership. However, there are fears that little real positive effect has been achieved and some believe that **Mexico's war on drugs is proving to be futile altogether. Critics claim that any attempts at progress has been slowed and hampered by several problems. First, the strong response from the Mexican government is one factor in the increased violence as DTOs fight back in response. Second, even as DTO leadership has been arrested or killed the organizations themselves have proven very resilient** by becoming more adaptive, less vertical in organizational structure and by becoming multi-nodal. Other problems cited include the fact that **the Police are generally viewed as corrupt, brutal and susceptible to bribes despite purges of senior police leadership and intensive retraining efforts.** As recently as August 2010 a purge of the federal police force was conducted and resulted in more than 3,000 officers being fired for being corrupt. **Even the Mexican military is facing problems.** Ever since becoming involved in the crackdown on DTOs **the Mexican Army has been continually charged with human rights violations to include rape, killings, disappearances and torture.** As recently as **2010 there were over 1,200 human rights complaints against the Army.**²⁸ **Another problem that the Army faces is a very high desertion rate, particularly among soldiers sent to fight the DTOs.**²⁹ **Exacerbating the problems with the security forces is the lack of effective rule of law highlighted by a judicial system that is ineffective and corrupt** itself. A recent study has found that of all the numerous cases brought before Mexican courts **the conviction rate is only around one percent with known criminals routinely being released.**

War on Drugs Failed – Cartels Splintering into Small Groups & Arrests Fail

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[] Cartels have fractured into over 300 trafficking groups, arresting the head of the Zetas achieves nothing more than good publicity.

Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, 2009 (Ted, “Troubled Neighbor: Mexico’s Drug Violence Poses a Threat to the United States” *Cato Institute*, Online: <http://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/troubled-neighbor-mexicos-drug-violence-poses-threat-united-states>)

Since Calderón took office in 2006, **the Mexican government has for the first time given the military a lead role in combating the traffickers**. Approximately 36,000 troops are now involved in that effort, in addition to several thousand federal police officers. **The principal outcome of that strategy, however, has been an even greater level of violence, with military personnel increasingly becoming targets. The military also has now been exposed to the temptation of financial corruption that had previously compromised Mexico’s local and federal police forces** so thoroughly. Decapitation Strategies Don’t Work **The belief that neutralizing Mexican drug kingpins will achieve a lasting reduction in drug trafficking is** the same assumption that U.S. officials made with respect to the crackdown on the Medellín and Cali cartels in Colombia during the 1990s. Subsequent developments have shown that assumption to be **erroneous**. Indeed, an October 2008 report by the Government Accountability Office found that **while opium poppy cultivation and heroin production in Colombia had declined since the start of Plan Colombia, coca cultivation and cocaine production (the country’s principal drug export) had actually increased** by 15 percent and 4 percent, respectively. ⁵¹ The elimination of the Medellín and Cali cartels merely decentralized the Colombian drug trade. **Instead of two large organizations controlling the trade, today some 300 smaller, loosely organized groups do so. More to the point, the arrests and killings of numerous top drug lords in both Colombia and Mexico over the years have not had a meaningful impact on the quantity of drugs entering the United States. Cutting off one head of the drug-smuggling Hydra merely results in more heads taking its place.** Indeed, one might wonder how serious Mexico’s anti-drug campaign will be in the long run. U.S. leaders held out hopes that Calderón’s predecessor, Vicente Fox, would disrupt the trade. Similar hopes were invested in earlier Mexican administrations, but a noticeable pattern emerged in all of those cases. Early on, **new Mexican presidents typically went out of their way to impress on U.S. policymakers that they were serious about cooperating with Washington and taking on the drug lords. Then,** within a few years, **the efforts dwindled into futility marked by official corruption.**

War on Drugs Failed – Price Spikes Benefit Cartels

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[] **The War on Drugs increases cartel profits - they can justify jacking up prices to compensate for risk of punishment.**

Becker, professor of economics and sociology at the University of Chicago, 2013

(Gary and Kevin M. Murphy, professor of economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, "Have We Lost the War on Drugs?," *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 4, Online: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324374004578217682305605070.html>)

Prices of illegal drugs are pushed up whenever many drug traffickers are caught and punished harshly. The higher prices they get for drugs help compensate traffickers for the risks of being apprehended. Higher prices can discourage the demand for drugs, but they also enable some traffickers to make a lot of money if they avoid being caught, if they operate on a large enough scale, and if they can reduce competition from other traffickers. This explains why large-scale drug gangs and cartels are so profitable in the U.S., Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and other countries.

War on Drugs Failed – Prohibition Empirically Not Feasible

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[] Boosting drug prices just increases black market profits --- no serious reduction in demand.

Williams, columnist for Psychology Today, 2011

(Ray, "Why 'The War on Drugs' Has Failed," *Psychology Today*, June 6, Online:

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/wired-success/201106/why-the-war-drugs-has-failed>)

At least 500 economists, including Nobel prize winners Milton Friedman, George Akerlof and Vernon Smith **have concluded that reducing the supply of marijuana though interdiction without reducing the public demand, causes the price** and therefore the profits of drug cartels **to rise**. Despite over \$7 billion spent annually towards arresting and prosecuting nearly 800,000 people for marijuana offenses in the U.S. in 2005, according to the FBI, the federally-funded Monitoring the Future Study reported that 85% of high school seniors found marijuana "easy to obtain." **Numerous experts have criticized The War on Drugs as the wrong approach to deal with the problem. They argue that by favoring domestic law endorsement in instead of treatment, the government has focused on enforcement instead of dealing with treatment as a social problem. In addition, by making drugs illegal rather than regulating them, The War on Drugs creates a highly profitable black market, and increasing levels of violent crime. Prohibitionist policies based on eradication, interdiction and criminalization of consumption simply have not worked.** Violence and the organized crime associated with the drug trade are getting worse, not better, despite the current policies. The alarming power of the drug cartels leads to a criminalization of politics and a politicization of crime. And the corruption of the judicial and political system is undermining the foundations of democracy in several Latin American countries.

Answers to: Colombia Proves Effectiveness

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[] They're misconstruing the facts – the War on Drugs was effective, but only because the US gave aid to Colombian farmers. Our aff is an essential piece of the puzzle.

Shirk, Prof of Political Science at the University of San Diego and Director of the Trans- Border Institute, 2011

(David A., The Drug War in Mexico: Confronting a Shared Threat, Council Special Report No. 60, March 2011)

Despite the major differences between Mexico and Colombia, U.S. efforts to support Mexico can draw some lessons from its efforts in Colombia. U.S. antidrug assistance through Plan Colombia **greatly bolstered the capacity of the Colombian state to combat DTOs and make long-term gains in citizen security.** Although Plan Colombia exhibited many flaws—including human rights violations and unresolved problems of violence and internal displacement—intense binational cooperation, intelligence sharing, and joint tactical operations provided a decisive advantage against both DTOs and insurgent threats. **Military and law enforcement assistance was only part of the equation. Robust economic assistance,** averaging \$200 million a year over the past five years, **has consolidated security gains in Colombia.** Furthermore, this aid facilitated the transformation of Colombia's urban slums into resilient communities and helped decrease unemployment from 15 percent to 11 percent.

Mexico Rural Development Negative

Mexican Rural Development Negative – Table of Contents

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Summary

This negative contains several answers to the fundamental arguments of the rural assistance affirmative. Here you can find arguments to answer the affirmative's advantages like:

- Drug violence is declining now, which means the status quo is sufficient to solve the problem
- Mexico's economy is growing – so farmers aren't as poor as they used to be
- Deforestation is declining now

You can also find more substantial arguments against the rural assistance affirmative like:

- The War on Drugs policy has been successful and should continue – this is a defense of the status quo that proves the affirmative is an unnecessary step to combat drug violence.
- Foreign aid creates cycles of dependence – this argument states that governments that receive aid are more likely to become corrupt and reliant on aid to function.

Glossary

DTO: Drug Trafficking Organization or drug cartel; a large and sophisticated gang that produces and distributes drugs.

Enrique Peña Nieto: The current President of Mexico.

Felipe Calderon: The former President of Mexico who completed his term in November 2012.

Mérida Initiative: The program through which the US is currently providing a substantial amount of aid and security assistance to the Mexican government.

NAFTA: The North American Free Trade Agreement was a deal between the US, Mexico and Canada negotiated in the mid-1990's that made it easier for companies to ship goods across the borders but also had a variety of negative effects on average people.

War On Drugs: A policy by the United States Federal Government that gives foreign military aid to foreign countries in aims to identify and fight drug cartel/organizations to destroy the illegal drug trade.

No Harms – Violence Declining

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[] Violence in Mexico has been declining

Castañeda, foreign minister of Mexico during the administration of President Vicente Fox, 12
(Jorge, CATO Institute Economic Development Memo, No. 16 • September 24, 2012,
<http://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/edb16.pdf>)

Time for an Alternative to Mexico's Drug War False Premises for Launching the Drug War First false premise: violence in Mexico had been increasing, and something had to be done about it. Absolutely false. **Violence in Mexico had been declining by any indicator, mainly the most important and reliable one: willful homicides per hundred thousand inhabitants. From the early 1990s through 2007, violence in Mexico declined from around 20-odd willful homicides per hundred thousand a year to about 8 per year in 2006 and 2007.** That is still higher than the rate in United States, but **it is one-third the rate in Brazil, one-tenth of what Colombia saw in its worst years,** and one-third of what we have in Mexico today. Violence in Mexico had been declining for 20 years, but then spiked from 2007 onward. The year 2011 saw violence in Mexico reach Brazilian levels.

Answers to: US Drug Consumption Add-On

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[] Legal prescription medicine is just as harmful in terms of addiction and lost economic output – reducing drug trafficking won't get rid of drug abuse.

Renick, writer from Bloomberg News, 2011

(Oliver, "Prescription Drugs Cause More Overdoses in U.S. Than Heroin and Cocaine" Jul 7, 2011 <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-07/prescription-drugs-cause-more-overdoses-in-u-s-than-heroin-and-cocaine.html>)

Accidental drug overdoses from prescription pills have more than doubled in the past decade as deaths from illegal drugs decreased, a Florida study found.¶ **Prescription medications were implicated in 76 percent of all overdose deaths** in Florida between 2003 and 2009, while **illicit drugs like cocaine and heroin were present in 34 percent of deaths**, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Ten percent of overdoses came from a mix of both illegal and prescription drugs.¶ Unintentional poisoning is the second leading cause of injury death in the U.S. after automobile accidents, accounting for 29,846 deaths nationwide in 2007, the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, said. In 2007, the U.S. government began the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, a \$9 million program that provides state funding for recording and monitoring prescription drug use.¶ "By 2009, **the number of deaths involving prescription drugs was four times the number involving illicit drugs**," the report said. "These findings indicate the need to strengthen interventions aimed at reducing overdose deaths from prescription drugs."¶ **The number of annual deaths from lethal concentrations of prescription medicines increased 84 percent** from 2003 to 2009, **while deadly overdoses of illegal drugs fell 21 percent**. Deaths from the narcotic painkiller oxycodone and anxiety medicine alprazolam, sold under the brand name Xanax, more than tripled.¶ Availability¶ "The sense is that **the widespread availability of prescription drugs is causing people to switch from illicit drugs like cocaine and heroin**," Leonard Paulozzi, a medical epidemiologist at CDC's Injury Center, said in a phone interview.¶ Paulozzi said most prescription overdoses were in men between the ages of 45 and 54.¶ **Heroin death rates dropped 62 percent** in the period. **Cocaine overdoses** increased until 2007, and **declined in 2008 and 2009**, researchers found. Methadone rates rose 79 percent, the study said.¶ The federal government spent \$15.1 billion on the so-called War on Drugs in 2010, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Efforts to combat illegal drug use included prevention, treatment, law enforcement and interdiction.

Answers to: Drugs Hurt the US Economy

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[] Economic decline decreases the risk of international aggression and war.

Tir, Associate Professor of International Affairs at the University of Georgia, 2010(Jaroslav, "Territorial Diversion: Diversionary Theory of War and Territorial Conflict", *The Journal of Politics*, Volume 72: 413-425, Project MUSE)

Empirical support for the economic growth rate is much weaker. The finding that poor economic performance is associated with a higher likelihood of territorial conflict initiation is significant only in Models 3–4.14 The weak results are not altogether surprising given the findings from prior literature. In accordance with the insignificant relationships of Models 1–2 and 5–6, Ostrom and Job (1986), for example, note that **the likelihood that a U.S. President will use force is uncertain, as the bad economy might create incentives both to divert the public's attention with a foreign adventure and to focus on solving the economic problem, thus reducing the inclination to act abroad.** Similarly, **Fordham** (1998a, 1998b), **DeRouen** (1995), and **Gowa** (1998) **find no relation between a poor economy and U.S. use of force.** Furthermore, **Leeds and Davis** (1997) conclude **that the conflict-initiating behavior of 18 industrialized democracies is unrelated to economic conditions as do Pickering and Kisangani** (2005) and **Russett and Oneal** (2001) in global studies. In contrast and more in line with my findings of a significant relationship (in Models 3–4), Hess and Orphanides (1995), for example, argue that economic recessions are linked with forceful action by an incumbent U.S. president. Furthermore, Fordham's (2002) revision of Gowa's (1998) analysis shows some effect of a bad economy and DeRouen and Peake (2002) report that U.S. use of force diverts the public's attention from a poor economy. Among cross-national studies, Oneal and Russett (1997) report that slow growth increases the incidence of militarized disputes, as does Russett (1990)—but only for the United States; slow growth does not affect the behavior of other countries. Kisangani and Pickering (2007) report some significant associations, but they are sensitive to model specification, while Tir and Jasinski (2008) find a clearer link between economic underperformance and increased attacks on domestic ethnic minorities. While none of these works has focused on territorial diversions, my own inconsistent findings for economic growth fit well with the mixed results reported in the literature.¹⁵ Hypothesis 1 thus receives strong support via the unpopularity variable but only weak support via the economic growth variable. **These results suggest that embattled leaders are much more likely to respond with territorial diversions to direct signs of their unpopularity (e.g., strikes, protests, riots) than to general background conditions such as economic malaise.**

No Harms – Economy Growing Now

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[] The Mexican economy is developing now and jobs are becoming available

Flannery, Latin America focused analyst and writer, 2013

(Nathaniel Parish, 6/24/2013, Investor Insight: Is Mexico's Drug War Doomed To Failure?, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanielparishflannery/2013/06/24/investor-insight-is-mexicos-drugwar-doomed-to-failure/2/>)

In spite of the violence, Mexico's economy has continued to move forward, even though foreign investment and GDP growth are both starting to slow. **Every day one million people and more than one billion dollars worth of goods cross the border. Gruesome drugwar violence tends to dominate the public debate on Mexico, but along the U.S.-Mexico border, the most important bonds between the two countries are economics.** In her book *Two Nations Indivisible* Shannon O'Neil explains that "Integration with Mexico has allowed giants such as General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, General Electric, and Hewlett Packard to lower costs and compete in global markets where they would otherwise be excluded—creating more exports and jobs for both the United States and Mexico in the process." **Chrysler, GM and Ford have all invested billions of dollars and hired thousands of workers in Mexico**, a fact that helped these companies earn a combined US\$12.7 billion in 2012. Despite the benefits of cross-border cooperation, a number of companies also face serious challenges when it comes to managing their operations in Mexico. Nissan and Pepsi both suffered attacks against their facilities and HSBC has seen its reputation severely damaged as the result of a cartel money laundering scandal.

Status Quo Solves – Mexican Government Increasing Poverty Reduction Efforts

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[] **The Mexican government is substantially increasing their poverty alleviation efforts****Fox News 2011**

(Mexico's Peña Nieto vows to reduce poverty, Sept 11th,
<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2012/09/11/mexico-pena-nieto-vows-to-reduce-poverty/#ixzz2XqGXcKZK>)

President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto said in an address to political and business leaders that he **planned to focus on reducing the poverty that afflicts 52 million Mexicans and to boost gross domestic product growth**, which has averaged 2.4 percent annually over the past three decades.¶ The president-elect told the approximately 300 movers and shakers from the worlds of business and politics who attended the annual Lideres Mexicanos magazine dinner on Monday that he was aiming to produce positive results.¶ The 46-year-old Peña Nieto, who will take office on Dec. 1, said **his administration would aim to create 1 million jobs annually and restore Mexico's status as a world leader**.¶ Existing social assistance programs that only "give money away" will be changed, with new policies being implemented to help families get involved in productive activities, Peña Nieto said.¶ **Tax, energy, labor and security reforms will be implemented to boost economic growth**, the president-elect said.¶ **The economy has tremendous growth opportunities and Mexico is part of the MIST** (Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea and Turkey) **group**, which is similar to the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) group of fast-growing emerging economies, Peña Nieto said, citing analysts.¶ "Mexico has a great opportunity to project itself in the world and gain the confidence of capital to promote its economic growth," Peña Nieto said.

Status Quo Solves – Drug Production Profitable

[] Drug trade solves widespread poverty --- small farmers who cultivate drugs stay afloat.

Keefer and Loazya, research economists at the World Bank, 2008

(Philip and Norman, The World Bank, "The Development Impact of the Illegality of Drug Trade," *The World Bank, Policy Research Working Paper*, March, WPS4543)

Repression of the drug trade naturally reduces the wealth of agriculture workers in poor countries that grow poppy seeds (Afghanistan) and coca leaves (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru). Their welfare losses are usually considered insignificant relevant to evaluations of prohibition, precisely because their farming activity is either criminal in and of itself, or contributes to criminal activity in other countries. There are four reasons to take these welfare losses more seriously. First, the cultivation of poppy seeds and coca has not been historically criminalized, nor is it everywhere criminalized; these farmers are therefore not criminals in the usual sense nor in their own perception. Second, they are poor and the welfare losses caused by economic setbacks are proportionally greater. Third, the benefits of prohibition seem to be scant, such that even the lightly-weighted welfare losses that prohibition imposes on cultivators may be relatively large. The fourth reason is perhaps the most important: **the losses that farmers incur may arise in part because criminalization leads to a transfer of rents from them to drug traffickers.**

Turn - Aid Hurts Small Farmers

[] Aid introduces farmers to the international food market – they'll get crushed by corporations and driven off their land.

Ewelukwa, Fellow at the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, 2005

(Uche U. "Centuries of Globalization; Centuries of Exclusion: African Women, Human Rights, and the "New" International Trade Regime" *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice* 20 Berkeley J. Gender L. & Just. 75)

Ultimately, the unregulated influx of cheaper goods from the North could significantly displace local production, lead to the loss of traditional market domain of small farmers, and threaten the livelihood of millions. While data is not currently available to demonstrate the effect of dumping on farmers in rural communities in Africa, the problem **in Mexico** is replicated in many communities around the globe. As the IATP report rightly notes, the displacement of farmers as a result of agricultural dumping "is happening around the world, in places as far apart as Jamaica, Burkina Faso and the Philippines." 337¶ A second problem with dumping is that Third World **farmers who venture to sell their product to exporters "find their global market share undermined by the lower-cost competition."** 338 Additionally, dumping has important implications for a nation's food security. 339¶ Trade liberalization also triggers changes in the supply and distribution of produce that privilege large-scale producers and suppliers. **Trade liberalization in services opens doors for foreign investors to establish large grocery stores in place of the traditional open-air markets** that are prevalent in Africa. **As large grocery stores spring up, the tendency would be for the stores to turn to agro-businesses for their supply of produce because local farmers lack the capital and the know-how to meet the quality standards the grocery stores demand.** In Africa, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations ("FAO") reports that small farmers risk being swept out of agriculture by a wave of supermarket expansion. 340 The FAO reports that the wave of supermarket expansion is not limited to major cities but has spread to rural towns. FAO's Kostas Stamoulis predicts that "the onslaught of supermarkets will improve the quality and safety of food sold locally as farmers strive to meet supermarket's quality standards for the domestic market," 341 and argues that supermarkets [*130] could provide "a stable, dependable market for farmers' produce and may boost employment in cities and surrounding areas by providing jobs in transport and distribution." 342 The impact on small farmers is likely to be catastrophic. For example, **giant corporations could institute new quality and safety standards in order to wipe out local competition.**

No Harms – Deforestation Rates Declining

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[] Deforestation is slowing

REUTERS in 06

(Reuters 18/10/06. “Brazil declares Amazon not for sale” Carbon Offset Projects > Brazil reforestation >Project-related news. <http://www.carbonpositive.net/viewarticle.aspx?articleID=448> Thursday, 19 October 2006)

The Brazilian government says it wants foreign help to preserve the Amazon but rejected any sell off of what it described as the heritage of the Brazilian people. Environment minister said the Amazon was “not for sale” and the country **had its own plan for Amazon conservation which it would table at the** annual **UN** climate convention conference in Nairobi next month.¶ **It’s believed the government wants an international loan fund set up that is tied specifically to action to prevent native forests being cut down.**¶ Silva added that Al Gore would be asked to support the Brazil plan. The climate campaigner and global warming film-maker and author is in Brazil promoting his book, based on the film An Inconvenient Truth.¶ **The rate of Amazon rainforest loss has slowed** in recent years but large areas continue to disappear each year to make way for agriculture. Between July 2004 and August 2005, 18,900 square kilometres of forest were destroyed, an area almost half the size of Switzerland.

No Harms – Trends Show RE-forestation is Occuring

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[] Reforestation is actually occurring globally.

Beef Myths.org, 2007

(Beef Myths, 2007, "Amazon Rainforest Deforestation and U.S. Beef Consumption"
<http://www.beefmyths.org/beefmyths/amazonrainforestdeforestation/>)

To understand the issue of tropical rainforests and destruction we have to look at the big picture, i.e. total forest destruction. According to current estimates, on an annual basis, 0.38 percent of the world's forests were converted to other land uses during the 1990s. To partially offset this loss, large areas reverted to forest during this same time leaving a net deficit of 0.22 percent per year.[1] **The world's temperate-zone forests are actually expanding due to reforestation by affluent countries and reduced losses caused from fires and pests.** The rate of tropical forest loss was 0.8 percent, with the greatest losses occurring in Africa and South America, though the greatest rate of loss occurred in Asia.[1] **Since 1990 the rate of loss has been decreasing.** America had its own surge of tree-clearing in the late 19th century. We cut huge tracts of Eastern forest to fuel small pig-iron smelters. **After the advent of coal-fired steel furnaces, virtually all of the forest was allowed to regrow. According to 1996 government statistics, we actually have 14 million more acres of forest land than we did in 1920.**[2]

Status Quo Solves – Mexico Receives Aid to Reduce Deforestation

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[] Mexico is already receiving a significant amount of aid targeted directly at deforestation

Latino Daily News 2012

(Mexico To Fight Deforestation With \$15 Million Loan, November, <http://www.hispanicallyspeakingnews.com/latino-daily-news/details/mexico-to-fight-deforestation-with-15-million-loan/19938/>)

Mexico will receive \$15 million in financial and technical assistance to support climate change mitigation efforts. The program will create a dedicated financing line, accessible by communities and ejidos or their members, for identified low carbon projects in forest landscapes in five of the states with the highest levels of net forest loss: Oaxaca, Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Jalisco and Campeche. ¶ **The program is sponsored by the Forest Investment Program** (FIP) under the Strategic Climate Fund, which supports governments in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, promote sustainable forest management and enhance forest carbon stocks. Mexico's Investment Plan under the FIP was approved in October, 2011. ¶ **The program includes a \$10 million loan for financing projects that must reconcile economic profit for the communities and generate environmental benefits through reducing the pressure on forests and promoting enhancement of carbon stocks.** Through the dedicated financing line, the program will attend one of the underlying economic causes of deforestation and forest degradation by removing the obstacles that limit access to credit by offering the financial terms and conditions required for these projects. ¶ A \$5 million grant will provide additional financial and technical assistance to support the viability of the individual projects. The grant will strengthen the technical, financial and management skills at the ejido and community level for conducting low carbon strategies. ¶ **The program is a pilot project** that will permit obtaining lessons for its replication in other key geographic areas in Mexico, **demonstrating a viable business models that promotes reduction of deforestation** and degradation while increasing economic returns, and the corresponding financial structures that are required.

Status Quo Solves – Mexican Laws have Reduced Deforestation

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[] Mexico is making substantial progress against deforestation now

Gardiner and Pichardo, vice president of the Global Legislators Organization and president of GLOBE Mexico and a former deputy in the Mexican Parliament, 2012

(Barry and Ignacio, Mexico sets global benchmark on tackling deforestation, Daily Times, http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=6607&it=news&printer=1)

Below the global radar, **a major victory was secured in Mexico** on Tuesday, April 24, **in the worldwide battle to prevent deforestation** and forest degradation, which are collectively the world's second largest sources of greenhouse emissions. **A set of legal amendments was approved by the Mexican Parliament that sets a powerful global precedent for empowering local communities to address deforestation.** In so doing, the vote also positions Mexico as the first country in the world to legislate in support of efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (the so-called REDD+ agenda). This is a crucial development, and is of global importance for several reasons. Up until now, debate on REDD+ has predominantly been within the UN climate convention and the executive branch of governments across the world. However, approval of these legal amendments by a domestic legislature (the Mexican Congress) highlights an important transition towards engraining the approach within national legal frameworks. In addition to this shift in focus, **this Mexican package of legal reforms takes a critical step towards ensuring that local communities who sustainably manage their forests receive the economic benefits derived from any future carbon payment scheme.** By enshrining this in national legislation, the Mexican Congress is building a groundbreaking, forward-looking legal framework that supports the concept that forests should be worth more alive than dead. As important as the Mexican precedent is, however, this argument now needs to be won across a critical mass of other countries if global deforestation is to be truly addressed – and its contribution to global warming arrested. Although Brazil has made headlines in recent years for reducing its deforestation rates, a report published by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in late 2011 showed that the global net loss of forests between 1990 and 2005 was 72.9 million hectares. This is unsustainably large, even though the net rate of loss is slowing.

No Solvency – Drug Production Shifting Elsewhere

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[] **Mexico is no longer the global hotspot for drugs – it's shifting to Honduras and Central America.**

Tico Times, 2012

("Central America replaces Mexico as front line for drug trafficking, UN says"

http://www.ticotimes.net/More-news/News-Briefs/Central-America-replaces-Mexico-as-front-line-for-drug-trafficking-UN-says_Sunday-September-30-2012 Tico Times)

Central America is replacing Mexico as the top front for drug trafficking from South America to the United States. The change is inciting an increase in regional violence, according to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.¶ **"The implementation of the Mexican security strategy (beginning in 2006) increased the importance of Central American links (with the traffickers) that had begun many years ago,"** said the study released last week. **The study cites an increase of direct major drug shipments from Central¶ America to the United States and a decrease in shipments from Mexico to the United States.¶** Drug trafficking has undoubtedly contributed to the increase of violence in Central America, which has reached "extreme" levels, the study said.¶ However it notes that gangs or "maras" remain a major cause of violent deaths in urban parts of the region.¶ **Honduras maintains the highest homicide rate in the world with 92 killed per 100,000 in 2011.** El Salvador has a homicide rate of 69 per 100,000 citizens and Guatemala has a rate of 39 murders per 100,000. Costa Rica has the lowest homicide rate on the isthmus with 10.3 murders per 100,000. For comparison, the United States homicide rate was 4.2 per 100,000 in 2010, according to the most recent statistics.¶ According to the UNODC, Central American countries play a key role in the transit of cocaine from South America, but **"Honduras is now the most popular entry point for cocaine."**¶ "Approximately **65 of the 80 tons transported by air toward the United States lands in Honduras,**" where authorities found 62 secret airstrips between February and March 2012.¶ The activity of drug trafficking in that country increased "dramatically" after the 2009 coup against former President Manuel Zelaya, as "law enforcement fell into disarray, resources were diverted to maintaining order, and counternarcotics assistance from the United States was suspended," the report adds.¶ The **Mexican drug cartel Los Zetas** has expanded its presence into Guatemala, by operating in local cells made up of ex-members of elite military corps.¶ "It is said that Los Zetas **traveled to Guatemala** and created a local faction around 2008. Since then, **the group has played a prominent role in the violence in that country,**" the UNODC report said.¶ In 2010, 330 tons of cocaine entered Guatemala for the United States, according to official U.S. figures cited in the report.¶ As for El Salvador, authorities say minimal cocaine passes through the country, which is confirmed by "radar data suggesting very few shipments go directly from South America to El Salvador."¶ However, the official figures could be underestimating the size of the cocaine flow, the report added.¶ **Drug trafficking from Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama,** while still minor compared to Honduras or Guatemala, **also has increased "significantly" in the past years, the document said.**

No Solvency – Drug Demand Makes Production Inevitable

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[] **Production of drugs is inevitable because of US demand – drug trade remains too profitable.**

Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, 2009
(Ted Galen, *Troubled Neighbor: Mexico's Drug Violence Poses a Threat to the United States*, POLICY ANALYSIS NO. 631, February 2, 2009, <http://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa631.pdf>)

Robust Consumer Demand Makes Victory Impossible That sobering reality has ominous implications for the strategy that advocates of a “war on drugs” continue to push. Their strategy has long had two major components. The first is to shut off the flow of drugs coming from drug-source countries, through various methods of drug crop eradication, developmental aid to promote alternative economic opportunities, interdiction of drug shipments, and suppression of money-laundering activities. The second component is to significantly reduce demand in the United States through a combination of criminal sanctions, drug treatment programs, and anti-drug educational campaigns. At best, efforts at domestic demand reduction have achieved only modest results, and the supply-side campaign has been even less effective. Moreover, with global demand continuing to increase, even if drug warriors succeeded in their goal of more substantially reducing consumption in the United States, it would have little adverse impact on trafficking organizations. **There is more than enough demand globally to attract and sustain traffickers who are willing to take the risks to satisfy that demand.** And since **the illegality of the trade creates a huge black market premium** (depending on the drug, 90 percent or more of the retail price), the potential profits to drug trafficking organizations are huge. 66 Thus, **the supply-side strategy attempts to defy the basic laws of economics, with predictable results. It is a fatally flawed strategy,** and Washington's insistence on continuing it causes serious problems of corruption and violence for a key drug-source and drug-transiting country such as Mexico. Thus, the notion that the solution to the violence in Mexico is to win the war on drugs is as much a chimera as the other two so-called solutions. Given the healthy state of global demand, there is no prospect of ending—or even substantially reducing—the trade in illegal drugs. There is only one policy change that would have a meaningful impact.

No Solvency – Farmers Can't Compete

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[] **Farmers can't compete with subsidized American goods – no amount of aid can incentivize people to remain farmers**

Hesson, MA at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 2010

(Ted, Oaxaca Trip: NAFTA and Mexico's Small Farmers, January 21,

http://www.longislandwins.com/index.php/blog/post/oaxaca_trip_nafta_and_mexicos_small_farmers/)

Then came **NAFTA** in 1994, which **hit the Mexican agricultural sector hard**. As part of the agreement, **Mexico had to eliminate all tariffs** on agricultural imports by 2008 (from what I understand, there are no longer any tariffs on agricultural goods). **That meant that small Mexican farmers wouldn't be able to compete with subsidized U.S. imports**, including corn. According to a 2002 article in Business Week, the average Mexican farmer then received \$722 in annual subsidies, while U.S. farmers stand to collect \$20,800 per year. From 1990 - 2000, the market price for corn decreased 58.3 percent and and market price for beans decreased 45 percent. Decreased subsidies hurt Mexican agriculture, but there are other NAFTA-related factors that affected this sector of the economy, as well. Support to small farmers from the Mexican government has declined by 31.26 percent since NAFTA came into effect, and the Mexican government has not enforced pre-NAFTA quota rules, which would limit agricultural imports. In a country where 10 million people—a quarter of the workforce—live off the land, the inability to compete has increased poverty and forced more people to consider migrating, either to the U.S. or other parts of Mexico. Since NAFTA was enacted, 2 million people have been displaced from the agricultural sector while the rural poverty rate has climbed to 85 percent. Here's what the Witness for Peace information packet has to say about the change: "Because **[small farmers] can no longer produce food that is cheap enough to compete with U.S. imports, an increasing number of Mexican farmers have been forced to abandon the countryside**. This is disrupting the social and cultural fabric of rural Mexico. **It is not unusual for a small Mexican town to have lost half its population to migration over the past twelve years.**" In the small villages across the state of Oaxaca, **the history of corn cultivation goes back thousands of years. But** with rapidly growing Mexican imports—1/5 of corn consumed by Mexicans is now imported—**those traditions seem headed for extinction.**

No Solvency – Farmers Can't Compete

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[] There is not profit in farming – everyone is shifting to other types of work

Paley, an editor-member of the Media Co-op, 2013

(Dawn, March 11th, Corn on the Border – NAFTA & Food in Mexico,
<http://dawnpaley.ca/2013/03/11/corn-on-the-border-nafta-food-in-mexico/>)

“NAFTA created a disloyal competition, because the United States and Canada continued to subsidize agricultural producers, and we pulled the subsidies,” said Herrera, who has worked in Mexico’s agricultural sector for over 30 years. **“It became impossible for small and medium producers to compete with producers from Canada and United States.”**¶ Agricultural subsidies in Mexico chalk in much lower than they do in Canada, which according to a 2005 estimate provided \$3.7 billion to farmers, and the US, which paid out \$19.1 billion in the same year. Mexican farmers, the majority of whom farm plots smaller than five hectares, receive between \$78 and \$102 per hectare per harvest cycle in government support, according to Herrera. “The peasants are often so poor that what they receive from [PROCAMPO, the federal assistance program for farmers], they use to satisfy their basic consumption needs,” he said.¶ A 2011 study showed that for small farmers in Mexico to produce a kilogram of corn it cost \$3.72, compared to \$1.67 per kilo in commercial farms. Both groups sell their product at a loss and rely on state support and other income to survive. “I have a hectare that’s maybe a quarter planted, and it gives me a ton (of corn per harvest),” said Pedro Viafuerte, who has land in Mexico State, but who works as a custodian in Mexico City in order to earn an income. “We use it for our personal consumption... and to fatten our livestock, because it doesn’t fetch the price it should.”¶ **“Because it is so difficult to turn a profit growing traditional foods,** according to a report published by the Agriculture, Society and Development journal last year, **most Mexican peasants no longer grow corn and beans as a means of economic survival.** Instead, **“most of the production that peasants obtain** from their land plots (maize, beans, kidney beans, etc.) **is for self-consumption ... the greater part of monetary income is obtained from** other activities linked to the land (fruit, flower or vegetable production) or of **another type (commerce, paid work in factories or construction in Mexico or the USA).”**

No Solvency – Insufficient Water

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[] Droughts and climate change make farming in Mexico unsustainable

Tegel, GlobalPost's senior correspondent for South America, 2012

(Simon, Mexico's drought turns farms to dust, July,

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/-americas/mexico/120716/drought-farms-climate-change>)

The lack of rain is forcing the region's farmers to draw ever more heavily on the aquifers lying below their fields. Yet that is no solution either.¶ The aquifers' sole source of replenishment is the rain itself. And just 3 percent of the precipitation that falls here ever makes it to the aquifers. Most of the rest evaporates.¶ As a result, the farmers are having to dig their wells deeper and deeper into the rocky ground.¶ Rafael Armendariz, 65, is president of the community of Benito Juarez, a few miles from Constitucion. He says that wells, which a generation ago produced water from a depth of 250 feet, now have to be excavated, at great cost, to around 800 feet.¶ To make matters worse, CONAGUA, the national water commission, has not done any hydrological studies of the local aquifer. No one in Benito Juarez knows how close they are to the aquifer running dry.¶ "We don't know what else to do," says Armendariz, as he predicts that the current generation could be the last in Benito Juarez to work the land. "Farming is the only thing we have ever done. That is why we keep at it."¶ And the costs of deeper wells go beyond their excavation. Alejandro Rodriguez, 46, uses three wells to irrigate his 338-acre peach and apple farm on the outskirts of Chihuahua city.¶ His monthly electricity bill for pumping that water from an aquifer 350 feet down can reach almost \$10,000. As the wells go deeper, the electricity required increases exponentially.¶ The regional government talks about climate change but has done little, says Martin Bustamante, of the Chihuahua branch of El Barzon.¶ **"We have never learned to live in the desert and now that climate change has arrived, we are finally going to have to catch up or face disaster,"** he warns.¶ He is calling for government support for farmers to acquire more efficient, state-of-the-art irrigation systems and for no aquifer to be used unsustainably. He is also pushing for a way to have thirsty urban areas pay the region's farmers, who, effectively, manage the natural watersheds that supply the cities' water.¶ Above all, he wants existing laws to be enforced so that the amount of water actually withdrawn from aquifers does not exceed the concessions authorized by CONAGUA.¶ Outside observers may think northern Mexican governments are overburdened trying to contain drug war violence.¶ But for residents like Armendariz, water is the real security issue.¶ **"Violence? If the rains don't come, it will only get worse because more people will be out of work. You cannot fix that problem if you don't secure the water."**

Answers to: Aid Trains Farmers to Deal with Water Shortages

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[] Increasing droughts will doom farming efforts.

Rush, writer for the Executive Intelligence Review, 2013

(Cynthia R., Mexico's Drought Demands, 'NAWAPA-Plus' Infrastructure Projects, June 2013
http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2013/4024mex_nawapa_plus.html)

"Our country is now suffering the consequences of desertification, at the same time that drought and water scarcity are affecting worrisome [land] extensions due to over-exploitation of aquifers," Conafor said in a late-May statement. **"The North of the Country Is Dying of Thirst,"** read a May 21 Televisa headline.¶ According to Arturo Osornio Sánchez, Undersecretary of Rural Development at Mexico's Agriculture Ministry, **18 of Mexico's 32 states are "collapsed" due to both drought and frosts.** The National Meteorological Service had forecast that rainfall for May would be only half the average rainfall as measured for that month over the past 40 years.¶ **Looming food shortages pose a national security threat,** warned Benjamín Grayeb, president of the National Agricultural Council on May 3. **Agricultural production could drop by as much as 20% this year,** he added, with a particularly dangerous decline in grain production.

No Solvency – Assistance Will Fail

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[] **Assistance to farmers won't reduce violence and may even make things worse**

Felbab-Brown, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, 2011

(Vanda, Human Security and Crime in Latin America: The Political Capital and Political Impact of Criminal Groups and Belligerents Involved in Illicit Economies, September 2011)

It is important that social interventions are designed as comprehensive rural development or comprehensive urban planning efforts, not simply limited social handouts or economic buyoffs. The latter approaches have failed – whether they were conducted in Medellín as a part of the demobilization process of the former paramilitaries (many of whom have returned as bandas criminales)¹⁵ or in Rio de Janeiro's favelas.¹⁶ ¶ The handout and buyoff shortcuts paradoxically can even strengthen criminal and belligerent entities. Such buyoff approach can set up difficult-to-break perverse social equilibria where criminal entities continue to control marginalized segments of society while striking a let-live bargain with the State, under which criminal actors even control territories and limit State access.

Dependency Turn 1NC

[] The plan creates a dependency on US assistance which makes development problems worse and undermines the government

Bräutigam, Professor in the School of International Service at American University, 2000

(Deborah, Aid Dependence and Governance, http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Pdfs/swap-/swap404.pdf)

This study analyzes the political economy of aid dependence. **Large amounts of aid** delivered over long periods, create incentives for governments and donors that have the potential to **undermine good governance and the quality of state institutions**. These incentives are not always acted on, but when they are, large amounts of **aid may reduce local ownership, accountability and democratic decision-making, while fragmenting budgets and lowering tax effort**. Large amounts of aid, delivered to countries with weak institutions create some of the institutional problems that lead to ineffectiveness. In aid dependent countries, **donor agencies and foreign experts often take over many of the critical functions of governance**: substituting their own goals for an absent leadership vision, using foreign experts and project management units in place of weak or decaying public institutions, and providing finance for investments whose operation and maintenance is neither planned for nor affordable. In these countries, aid has been part of the problem. And longterm **dependence on aid creates disincentives for both donors and governments to change the rules of their engagement**.

Impact – Aid Doesn't Go to Farmers

[] **Aid creates a large bureaucracy that destroy the effectiveness of the plan even before it gets to the farmers and actually reduces development**

Bräutigam, Professor in the School of International Service at American University, 2000

(Deborah, Aid Dependence and Governance, http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Pdfs/swap-/swap404.pdf)

The goal of governance reforms is primarily to increase the quality of public institutions and to reduce corruption. Yet large amounts of **aid and technical assistance enable bureaucracies to continue functioning without at the same time creating any incentive for them to cooperate with efforts to** increase meritocratic appointments, **reduce corruption** in procurement and provision of services, **or cut back on unsustainable numbers of public employees**. In addition, **aid dependence means that countries** are deeply exposed to some of the most criticized practices in the aid system: **by-passing** instead of **building capacity**, poaching talented staff from government offices, providing unnecessary and unwelcome technical assistance. **This directly affects the institutional context within which bureaucracies operate, and has created some significant barriers to the development of more effective states**. Finally, high levels of aid tend to lessen pressures that might push the development of bureaucratic accountability. In aid dependent countries, accountability for the funding is valued most highly by those who provide the bulk of the funds: the donors. Many aid dependent countries have not developed the capacity to carry out extensive audits. Instead, donors substitute their own accountants and reporting, creating an enclave of accountability that rarely grows beyond its borders.

Impact – Elites Maintain Problems to Get More Aid

[] And this turns the case – political elites will prevent success because they want to keep getting money from the US

Bräutigam, Professor in the School of International Service at American University, 2000
(Deborah, Aid Dependence and Governance, http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Pdfs/swap-/swap404.pdf)

Political elites also have little incentive to change a situation in which large amounts of aid provide exceptional resources for patronage, and many fringe benefits (vehicles, study tours, etc.) **that would not otherwise be available to officials in low-income countries.** A senior planning officer in Mauritius, a country that has never been aid dependent by our measure, once described his “thankless” task as “asking the nasty questions,” about proposed projects, questions that ensured that he and his colleagues “will not win any popularity contest...with [our] political overlords” (Bheenick, 1986: 53). **With aid given outside of budget constraints, planning officers and political overlords alike are spared the need to justify their aid requests.**

[] And this leads to bad practices in the government which makes underdevelopment worse

Bräutigam, Professor in the School of International Service at American University, 2000
(Deborah, Aid Dependence and Governance, http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Pdfs/swap-/swap404.pdf)

Budgets in many aid dependent countries have collapsed under the weight of many hundreds of projects and policy conditions. Yet aid dependence itself inhibits the budget restructuring required by economic crisis. **Aid dependence tends to exacerbate problems of budget fragmentation,** repetitive budgeting, and cash flow management. Budgets that are essentially aggregates of donor projects are divorced from planning and policy objectives. **Continued provision of large amounts of aid over long periods of time removes the hard budget constraint from government calculations of what is affordable and sustainable in policy choices,** and genuinely hard budget constraints are essential for keeping government commitments at sustainable levels. Finally, countries that are heavily dependent on aid tend to have lower levels of tax effort, suggesting that **large amounts of aid may serve to reinforce inadequate revenue collection efforts.**

War on Drugs Solves – Specifically in Mexico

[] **The War on Drugs is succeeding – criminalization has weakened cartels and aid has strengthened Mexico's military.**

Poiré, director general at the Center for Intelligence and National Security, 2011

(Alejandro, "Can Mexico win the war against drugs?," *Americas Quarterly*, Vol. 5 No. 4, Fall 2011, ProQuest)

Addressing this escalation of crime and insecurity required not only a plan for domestic action, but also recognition of the transnational dimension of the problem. That recognition has been the key to our comprehensive, multifaceted approach. **The National Security Strategy**, launched in 2006, **rests on three main tenets: severely weakening criminal organizations; massively and effectively reconstructing law enforcement institutions and the legal system; and repairing the social fabric through,** among other things, **enhancing crime prevention policies. To date, there have been significant achievements.** Our **enhanced intelligence capabilities and close collaboration with U.S. agencies have allowed us to arrest or kill 21 of the 37 most-wanted leaders of major criminal organizations.** Moreover, **Mexican authorities have seized over 9,500 tons of drugs** that will never reach U.S. or Mexican children, and captured more than 122,000 weapons since 2006-most of which were bought in the United States. At the same time, **the professional caliber of Mexico's Federal Police force has improved significantly** through strict recruitment, vetting and extensive training-even as the force has grown nearly sixfold to 35,000 federal policemen. But it is not just a question of numbers; police intelligence **capabilities have been reinforced** by the recruitment of an additional 7,000 federal law enforcement intelligence personnel from top-level universities. **A new judicial framework is in place,** thanks to the introduction of legal reforms designed to strengthen due process guarantees, provide fuller protection to victims and increase the efficiency and transparency of trials. Much of this has been the result of the introduction of oral procedures in the federal court system, which is expected to be fully implemented in 2016. **We have also achieved significant success in dismantling criminal financial networks. Authorities have confiscated a record amount of cash from the drug cartels-although more can still be done-and special investigative units are spearheading a national effort to combat money laundering.** Currently, Congress is working on passing a bill aimed at increasing the capacity of the federal government to investigate and prosecute money launderers. To improve Mexico's social fabric, **we have focused on the economic and social roots of crime and addiction** since Calderón took office. We consider drug addiction to be a public health problem. Accordingly, **national legislation has decriminalized personal consumption of drugs, while directing drug users to proper medical help.** Also, **public spending devoted to addiction/prevention programs has more than doubled** during the first five years of Calderón's administration.

War on Drugs Solves – Proven in Colombia

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[] The War on Drugs is essential to dismantling trafficking organizations and reducing violence – it worked in Colombia.

Walser, Senior Policy Analyst on Latin America at the Heritage Foundation, 2009

(Ray, "U.S. Drug Policy in Latin America," *Testimony before the Committee on the Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, of the United States House of Representatives*, December 7, Online)

The vast majority of Colombia's paramilitaries have been demobilized and the FARC has suffered serious reverses. Heartening news indicates that coca production has finally begun to decline in Colombia, realizing one of the most significant long-term benchmarks for success in Plan Colombia. These are not the signs of a failed war on drugs, but indicators that a capable Colombia is increasingly able to meet the internal challenges posed by the drug trade. **The Obama Administration has demonstrated its confidence in Colombia and the government of President Alvaro Uribe by moving forward to deepen its strategic ties under a new Defense Cooperation Agreement that will utilize facilities in Colombia in order to monitor trafficking over land and at sea and gather valuable intelligence needed to advance the fight against traffickers.** Colombia and the U.S. are pressing forward with this agreement despite the distorted misrepresentations and threats issued against Colombia by Venezuela's Hugo Chávez and his allies. Likewise another indication of strong cooperation was the August 2009 renewal of the Air Bridge Denial. On the other hand, the picture elsewhere is not as rosy. Coca production appears to be on the rise in Bolivia and Peru. Earlier this year, Washington was deluged with anxious expressions of concern regarding the threat Mexico drug cartels posed to the stability of our closest neighbor. The names of dreaded and emboldened drug organizations -- the Gulf and Sinaloa Cartels, La Familia Michoacana, and the lethal drug soldiers Los Zetas have become far too familiar to the public in the U.S. Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, has become the epicenter for Mexico's narco-carnage. Again, the Obama Administration, like the Bush Administration before it, recognizes the gravity of the situation and is continuing to deliver promised assistance under the Merida Initiative. It has regularly expressed its readiness to back Mexico's President Calderón in the drug fight. Professionals throughout the U.S. government recognize the urgency of their mission in cooperating with Mexico and the importance of delivering swift and targeted help. Congress can also help by streamlining the disbursement of assistance, cutting down on red tape, and by following through with the provision of the \$450 million requested in the FY2010 State Department budget in order to demonstrate sustained legislative support for this critical program. Likewise, **the new Administration, with the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice in the lead, has added additional teeth and stronger missions through the updating of its National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy and with the assignment of additional law enforcement personnel to the border. It is moving ahead to block the southward movements of arms and bulk cash into Mexico, using the ample authority already granted by existing gun legislation. Vigilance and security on the U.S.-Mexican border along with active cooperation with Mexico's law enforcement are the watchwords for success in defeating Mexico's dangerous cartels.**

War on Drugs Solves – Increased Cost of Drugs Deters Buyers

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[] The War on Drugs drives up drug prices by adding risk to trafficking and production – these costs deter consumers.

Calukins and Lee, 2012

(Jonathan - Professor of Operations Research at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College and a consultant with RAND's Drug Policy Research Center, and Michael - drug-policy researcher at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College, "The Drug-Policy Roulette," *National Affairs*, Number 12, Summer, Online: <http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-drug-policy-roulette>)

What makes illegal drugs so expensive is precisely the fact that their production is prohibited, and that this prohibition is often strictly enforced. One factor is what economists call "compensating wage differentials," or compensation for taking risks. **Suppliers of illegal drugs court real dangers, including arrest, imprisonment, physical injury, even death.** Thus, in addition to seeking wages that compensate for their time and allow for normal profits, **people employed in drug distribution also seek compensation for assuming these risks** — much as coal miners and deep-sea divers typically earn higher wages than people performing similar jobs under less hazardous circumstances. Another factor is the inefficiency that stems from having to operate covertly. **The precautions required to evade detection make the production of drugs very labor intensive.** Grocery-store cashiers, for instance, are more than 100 times as productive as retail drug sellers in terms of items sold per labor hour. Similarly, hired hands working for crack dealers can fill about 100 vials per hour, whereas even older-model sugar-packing machines can fill between 500 and 1,000 sugar packets per minute. **This labor intensity of drug production, combined with the high wages demanded for that labor, are what drive up the costs of drugs;** by comparison, materials and supplies — glassine bags, gram balances, and even guns — are relatively cheap. How would these dynamics — and, with them, drug prices — be altered if drugs were legalized? To begin, **legalization would cut production costs in source countries. Cultivators and preparers would no longer fear crop eradication; the need to employ only manual labor would disappear. Production could expand and mechanize, becoming more efficient and therefore less expensive.**

War on Drugs Solves – Key Arrests Made Recently

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[] **Mexican marines have arrested the leader of the Zetas, one of the most powerful cartels in Mexico – this is the first step in a new War on Drugs operation that will crack down on cartels.**

Associated Press, 2013

(“US federal official: Top leader of Mexico’s brutal Zetas drug cartel captured” Associated Press, Monday, July 15 http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-federal-official-leader-of-mexicos-zetas-drug-cartel-captured/2013/07/15/85376a4c-edab-11e2-bb32-725c8351a69e_story.html)

MEXICO CITY — Miguel Angel Trevino **Morales, the** notoriously brutal **leader of the** feared **Zetas** drug **cartel, has been captured in the first major blow against an organized crime leader by a Mexican administration struggling to drive down persistently high levels of violence,** a U.S. federal official confirmed.¶ Trevino **Morales,** known as “Z-40,” **was captured by Mexican Marines** in Nuevo Laredo, the Mexican media reported. The U.S. official who confirmed the media reports was not authorized to speak to the press and asked not to be identified.¶ **Trevino’s capture removes the leader of a corps of special forces defectors who splintered off into their own cartel and spread across Mexico, expanding from drug dealing into extortion and human trafficking.**¶ Along the way, **the Zetas authored some of the worst atrocities of Mexico’s drug war,** slaughtering dozens, leaving their bodies on display and **gaining a reputation as perhaps the most terrifying of the country’s numerous ruthless cartels.**¶ **The capture** of Trevino Morales **is a public-relations victory for** President Enrique Pena **Nieto, who** came into office promising to drive down levels of homicide, extortion and kidnapping but **has struggled to make a credible dent in crime figures.**

Answers to: Cartels Splintering/Price Increases Fund Cartels

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[] The existing War on Drugs approach is the only way to beat cartels – if you take away drugs, they'll resort to other black market activities. They have to be dismantled – and the US successfully destroyed 612 trafficking organizations last year.

Kerlikowske, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2012

(Gil, "Drug Policy in the Americas," CSIS, Online)

This Administration condemns the gruesome drug-related violence and is committed to partnering with the Mexican government to disrupt the cartels that commit such brutality. These organizations pose a significant challenge—they don't just prey on citizens through drug distribution, but diversify their operations through human trafficking, contraband smuggling, financial fraud, and extortion, spreading violence, corruption and terror wherever they operate. These groups are in business for money and power and there is no limit to the schemes they will employ to extract illegal proceeds from our societies. In an interview with PBS in May, Alejandro Junco, the head of Grupo Reforma, put it well: **"Once the dominating cartel establishes territorial control, it turns the most profitable part of its business—selling protection. Kidnappings, extortion, piracy, contraband, sale of organs, prostitution—cartels will turn to anything illegal that makes money. The profitability of drugs is actually quite low compared to the profitability of these other areas."** The United States takes our responsibility to disrupt and dismantle major drug trafficking groups operating within our borders very seriously. **Last year, U.S. law enforcement agencies disrupted or dismantled 612 drug trafficking organizations** on the Attorney General's Target list, which focuses on the major drug trafficking and violent criminal organizations operating within the United States. We have interagency task forces operating in every part of our country to identify and disrupt major drug distribution networks within the United States. **We welcome a dialogue on the best tactics to address the threat posed by transnational criminal organizations. We recognize that it is appropriate to examine what works best. But we also recognize that transnational criminal networks would not disappear if drugs were made legal. Transnational criminal organizations don't derive all their revenue from drugs, as I just mentioned. They would not simply disband if drugs were legalized. They are diversified businesses, profiting from human trafficking, kidnapping, extortion, intellectual property theft, and other crime.** Institutions like CSIS play an important role in helping develop a rational, balanced approach to the international drug issue. **Too often, we face a polarized debate—legalization at one end of the spectrum and a "war on drugs" at the other. The Obama Administration is committed to a third way forward. Legalization is not our policy, nor is locking every offender up. Our approach focuses on the public health challenge of drug consumption and science of addiction and tackling the international security challenge posed by transnational criminal organizations.** There are no simple answers to the global drug issue. It is complex and threatens the health and security of people everywhere, regardless of citizenship. I'm grateful for the opportunity to provide some insight into the global policy landscape and this Administration's approach. Thank you.

Answers to: Cartels Backlash Against Enforcement

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[] **The War on Drugs is key – it's the only approach that punishes crime, which creates a disincentive to participate in cartels.**

Rios, fellow in inequality and criminal justice at Harvard's school of government, 2013
(Viridiana, "How to win the Mexican drug war," *Huffington Post*, April 12, Online:
http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-04-12/opinions/38492205_1_cartels-drug-violence-trafficking)

Because **trafficking is a business and fighting is a business strategy**, drug cartels choose to fight whenever war brings more benefits than costs. And **the cost that governments can more efficiently impose on a criminal entrepreneur is prison**. Cartels have chosen to fight in certain areas of Mexico because it makes business sense. **South of the U.S. border, only 6 percent of all homicides produce a trial and judgment**. As such, killing trafficking enemies to take over their territory, and potentially increase illegal earnings, is profitable. In short, **war pays in Mexico**. So **the right way to fight a drug war in Mexico is not to aim at eliminating criminal organizations**, as many have assumed, **but rather to create conditions in which war does not pay**. This will not be achieved with the strategy Washington has embraced. Even if all criminal organizations were eliminated, new ones would emerge as long as profits could be made from cocaine. A war against drug organizations is an endless war. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto plans to hold a national forum Tuesday with academics, laypeople and others to discuss how the country can best achieve peace. Now is the time for Mexico to choose the right direction. **Mexico must craft a system of incentives, using arrests, sentencing and imprisonment, so that criminal organizations cannot find it profitable to kill**. Rather than help Mexico fight an unwinnable war against criminal organizations, **the United States must help its neighbor battle impunity. Ours must be a war to make sure those who kill face consequences**; a war to improve Mexico's justice system, because only 31 percent of the population believes it would be punished after committing a crime; a war against the sort of outbreaks where, in one day, more than 130 prisoners escape a jail near the Texas border. **The goal must be to make violent crime a risky endeavor**, rather than a discretionary choice made by criminal businessmen. A war against impunity can be won. A war against drugs cannot.

Answers to: Prohibition Fails

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[] Prohibition is a necessary first step - plan cannot succeed without first having security from violence.

Felbab-Brown, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, 2011

(Vanda, Human Security and Crime in Latin America: The Political Capital and Political Impact of Criminal Groups and Belligerents Involved in Illicit Economies, September 2011)

Counterinsurgency or anti-organized crime policies that focus on directly defeating the belligerents and protecting the population tend to be more effective than policies that seek to do so indirectly by suppressing illicit economies as a way to defeat belligerents. Efforts to limit the belligerents' resources are better served by a focus on mechanisms that do not harm the wider population directly, even though such discriminate efforts are difficult to undertake effectively because of their resource intensiveness. ¶ In sum, counternarcotics policies have to be weighed very carefully, with a clear eye as to their impact on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism. Seemingly quick fixes, such as blanket eradication in the absence of alternative livelihoods, will only strengthen the insurgency and compromise state-building, and ultimately the counternarcotics efforts themselves. ¶ Effectiveness in suppressing illicit economies is critically predicated on security. Without constant and intensive State presence and security, neither the suppression of illicit economies nor alternative livelihoods programs have been effective.

Aid Tradeoff Disadvantage

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Summary

The Aid Tradeoff DA argues that the United States has set its foreign aid budget for the year and that in order to fund its AIDS prevention initiative, "PEPFAR," it reduced its aid to Mexico. If aid to Mexico was increased to fund rural farmers it would take away funding from its AIDS prevention initiative. If these programs collapsed, prevention programs, like the ones producing would fail and we would see an increase in the prevalence of AIDS, which kills millions worldwide, including thousands upon thousands of Mexican citizens.

Glossary

HIV/AIDS – a disease that inhibits the ability of the human body to defend itself against infection. It has become more prevalent over the past decade, and the US devotes a substantial amount of foreign aid to fighting its spread.

PEPFAR – the name of President Obama’s program designed to reduce the rates of HIV/AIDS infection and mortality.

Food prices – refers to the average cost of food in a country. Food prices can go up or down depending on the cost of food production, shipping, or scarcity due to natural disasters.

Remittance – refers to the money that immigrants send back to their home country.

Aid Tradeoff Disadvantage 1NC (1/2)

A. Uniqueness and Link: Budget cuts have slashed aid to Mexico and farming programs – the plan would be funded through a trade off with research for an AIDS cure.

Dr. Shah, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, 2012
(Rajiv, "Testimony By USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah Before The Senate Committee On Foreign Relations On The Fy 2013 Budget Request," March 6, Online: <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/congressional-testimony/testimony-usaid-administrator-dr-rajiv-shah-senate>)

While foreign assistance represents less than one percent of our budget, we are committed to improving our efficiency and maximizing the value of every dollar. American households around the country are tightening their belts and making difficult tradeoffs. So must we.¶ Even as we face new challenges around the world, **our budget represents a slight reduction from fiscal year 2012.**¶ **We've prioritized, focused and concentrated our investments** across every portfolio. In global health, **we propose to close out programs in** Peru and **Mexico as those countries take greater responsibility for the care of their own people.**¶ **We've eliminated Feed the Future programs** in Kosovo, Serbia and Ukraine and reduced support to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia by \$113 million **to reflect shifting global priorities and progress over time by some countries toward market-based democracy.**¶ And we're keeping our staffing and overall administrative costs at current levels, even in the midst of a major reform effort. It is through that effort that I spoke about last year-USAID Forward-that we've been able to deliver more effective and efficient results with our current staffing profile and operating budget.¶ **Our budget prioritizes** our USAID Forward suite of reforms.¶ That funding allows us to invest in **innovative scientific research and new technologies**. Last year, **our support of the AIDS vaccine research** through PEPFAR **led to the isolation of** 17 novel **antibodies that may hold the key to fighting the pandemic.** And we're working with local scientists at the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institutes to develop new drought-resistant seed varieties of sorghum, millet and beans, as well as a vitamin-A rich orange-fleshed sweet potato.

Aid Tradeoff Disadvantage 1NC (2/2)

B. Impact: Current foreign aid funding allocation is key to the implementation of a widespread AIDS cure that would save millions of lives.

Dr. Shah, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, 2012
(Rajiv, "TESTIMONY BY USAID ADMINISTRATOR DR. RAJIV SHAH BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS ON THE FY 2013 BUDGET REQUEST," March 6, Online: <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/congressional-testimony/testimony-usaid-administrator-dr-rajiv-shah-senate>)

Thanks in large part to the bipartisan support we've had for investments in global health, **we're on track to provide life-saving assistance to more people than ever before.** Although this year's request of \$7.9 billion for the Global Health Initiative is lower than FY 2012 levels, falling costs, increased investments by partner governments, and efficiencies we've generated by integrating efforts and strengthening health systems will empower us to reach even more people. **That includes PEPFAR, which will provide life-saving drugs to those around the world afflicted with HIV and expand prevention efforts** in those countries where the pandemic continues to grow. **We can expand access to treatment and lift a death sentence for six million people in total without additional funds.** **We're also increasingly providing treatment for pregnant mothers with HIV/AIDS so we can ensure their children are born healthy.** And because of breakthrough research released last year, we know that putting people on treatment actually helps prevention efforts-treatment is prevention. **All of these efforts are accelerating progress towards** President Obama's call for **an AIDS-free generation.** Our request also includes \$619 million for the President's Malaria Initiative, an effective way to fight child mortality. In country after country, we've shown that if we can increase the use of cheap bed nets and anti-malarial treatments, we can cut child death-from any cause, not just malaria-by as much as 30 percent. In Ethiopia, the drop in child mortality has been 50 percent. Last year, we commissioned an external, independent evaluation of the Presidential Malaria Initiative's performances. That report praised the Initiative's effective leadership for providing "excellent and creative program management." And **we will continue to fund critical efforts** in maternal and child health, voluntary family planning, nutrition, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases-cost-effective interventions **that mean the difference between life and death.**

Answers to: Cuts to AIDS Prevention Now

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[] AIDS prevention funding has increased to other organizations under the 2014 budget – programs are still functional, but on the brink.

Aziz, policy research coordinator at the Center for Global Health Policy, 2013

(Rabita, “Obama 2014 budget: continued support for Global Fund, paired with PEPFAR cut leave Blueprint goals in question,” *Center for Global Health Policy*, April 10, Online: <http://sciencespeaksblog.org/2013/04/10/cut-to-pepfar-support-for-global-fund-in-obama-2014-budget-leave-blueprint-goals-in-question/>)

“We applaud maintaining funding for critical Global Fund programs as an important step. But reaching the President’s promise of an AIDS Free Generation means implementing his analysis that spending now will save billions in the long run by halting new infections, and this budget does not do that,” said Matthew Kavanagh, Senior Policy Analyst for Health GAP. **To reach the tipping point in the epidemic we need to expand programs in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and many other countries, but now PEPFAR will not have the funds to do so.**” The budget also requests \$2.6 billion for USAID global health programs, which includes \$330 million for HIV/AIDS programs, a drop from the \$350 million enacted in FY 12. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation tuberculosis programs under USAID will receive \$191 million, a massive cut from FY 12 levels and amounts already diminished by recent sequestration cuts. **Global health programs under the Department of Health and Human Services budget request will receive \$393 million, of which \$132 million will be available for global HIV/AIDS** through September, 2015. **This is a significant increase from the \$348 million received under the FY 2012 budget, and the \$350 received under the FY 2013 CR. Allaying concerns** voiced by research advocates at Monday’s rally in Washington D.C., **the President’s proposal includes a boost of \$472 million for the National Institutes of Health** over the FY 12 request. **The institutes’ Office of AIDS Research gets \$312 million of that, a boost of \$46.0 million.**

Answers to: US Sends Aid to Mexico Now

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[] USAID has substantially cut aid to Mexico to focus on capacity building – and existing aid is funded by the military.

State Department, 2013

(Transcript of budget briefing, “Senior State Department and USAID Officials on President’s FY2014 Budget Proposal,” *State Department’s Bureau of International Information Programs*, April 10, Online:

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2013/04/20130410145570.html#axzz2Zlppqda2>)

QUESTION: Thank you for being so forthcoming. I didn’t expect an answer at all. (Laughter.) I expected the usual answer, which is not what I got, so that’s good. Just on **the Latin American drug initiative, Merida and Plan Colombia, and their legacies** --
 ¶ SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE: Yeah. ¶ QUESTION: -- is there any – **are** those **still left**? ¶ SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE: They are. **But** they – **the programs in Mexico and Colombia are on** sort of **a downward glide path**, because – **for two reasons. One, the assistance to those countries in the past have been very, very high**, and they were driven largely by big military equipment, which are very sort of expensive. **Now we’re** sort of **normalizing those programs to be much more in a capacity training types of programs. So you’re going to see – there are decreases in our budget compared to 2012 with Mexico and Colombia**, but **we’re** also – but we’re **increasing our accounted drug efforts in the Caribbean, where things seem to be moving in terms of drug trafficking and crime**. So programs like our regional Central America security initiative go up. ¶ QUESTION: Do you have a breakdown of how much they’re – they will be decreasing next (inaudible)? ¶ SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE: Yes. Let me just get my notes here. Hang on one second. Yeah. It’s right here. Yeah. **Mexico, we’re providing \$205 million, which is about \$124 million decrease from 2012**. And Colombia, we’re providing \$323 million, which is a \$61 million decrease.

Answers to: Private Donors Fund Programs

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[] Private groups can't replace federal funding – they aren't prepared for disaster response.

Vorozhko, staff writer for Voice of America news, 2013

(Tatiana, "Budget Cuts hit US Foreign Aid Programs," *Voice of America*, April 3, Online: <http://www.voanews.com/content/budget-cuts-hit-us-foreign-aid-programs/1633892.html>)

Still, these efforts can not close the entire gap in aid provided by the US government -- especially in the area of health and disaster assistance. "The private sector is not going step in and provide the medical care, the food, the water that is required when you have humanitarian crisis," noted Ingram.

Link Extension – Aid Budget Set for 2014

[] USAID’s budget is set for 2014 – they can’t afford new programs, any new spending will have to trade off with existing priorities.

Morales, staff writer at Devex – an international aid think tank, 2013

(John, “USAID chief defends budget in Congress,” *devex*, April 25, Online:

<https://www.devex.com/en/news/usaid-chief-defends-budget-in-congress/80790>)

Why will 45 percent of food aid budget be spent to buy locally-produced food in crisis areas? Will cuts in HIV/AIDS funding erode progress in the fight against the disease? **Why is the U.S. reducing its aid budget for Latin America and Caribbean?** How far the USAID Forward reform truly moving forward? **These were a few of the hardline questions American lawmakers posed to USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah** faced Congress on Wednesday **to defend President Barack Obama’s budget proposal for the agency in fiscal 2014.** [¶] [¶] Appearing before the House appropriations and Senate foreign relations committees, Shah churned out hard data and narrated anecdotes to defend the proposed 6 percent cut in the United States foreign aid budget for next year. [¶] **“The FY 2014 request for USAID managed or partially managed accounts is \$20.4 billion, six percent below the total enacted funding for FY 2012,”** Shah said at one point. **“In this tough budget environment, USAID is committed to maximizing the value of every dollar. We have made tough choices so that we are working where we will have greatest impact, and shifting personnel and funding resources towards programs that will achieve the most meaningful results.”**

Link Extension – USAID Budget is Tight

[] The USAID budget is tight – there’s no room for new programs, the plan WILL trade off with existing projects.

Dr. Shah, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, 2013
(Rajiv, “USAID Forward PROGRESS REPORT 2013,”
Online:<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/2013-usaid-forward-report.pdf>)

Like any robust reform process, we face significant challenges across a spectrum of efforts. Designing country strategies was more time and labor intensive than originally anticipated, particularly because a large number of partners were engaged in the process to determine tough trade-offs. In the year ahead, we will continue to prioritize the development of country strategies and enable better coordination with our partners to reconcile competing priorities and focus on areas where we each have a comparative advantage. Our effort to focus our assistance programs has been successful for the past two years either because we successfully exited from sustainable projects or because our programming was too minimal to have a true impact. **As we look ahead, we must continue to make tough choices and use each country’s strategy as the backbone for decision-making to ensure the greatest development impact.**

Aid Tradeoff Disadvantage Answers

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Glossary

HIV/AIDS – a disease that inhibits the ability of the human body to defend itself against infection. It has become more prevalent over the past decade, and the US devotes a substantial amount of foreign aid to fighting its spread.

PEPFAR – the name of President Obama’s program designed to reduce the rates of HIV/AIDS infection and mortality.

Food prices – refers to the average cost of food in a country. Food prices can go up or down depending on the cost of food production, shipping, or scarcity due to natural disasters.

Remittance – refers to the money that immigrants send back to their home country.

Non Unique: AIDs Program Will Be Cut

[] President Bush's HIV prevention program is scheduled to expire at end of the year

Wadman, 2013. [Meredith Wadman, writer for Nature.com's News Blog, "Report recommends devolution for US global AIDS relief programme", February 20th, 2013, <http://blogs.nature.com.proxy.brynmawr.edu/news/2013/02/report-recommends-devolution-for-us-global-aids-relief-programme.html>.]

The huge, ten-year-old US programme that provides HIV treatment and prevention in dozens of developing countries needs to begin shifting to host-country ownership of the programme, according to an advisory report released today. The 700-page report, from the US Institute of Medicine, also says that the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which spent more than \$38 billion between 2004 and 2011, needs to increase its emphasis on HIV prevention, particularly through sexual transmission. "There really needs to be an emphasis on looking at the prevention portfolio, on sexual transmission," says Ann Kurth, a member of the authoring committee who is executive director of the New York University College of Nursing-Global. Jen Kates, a committee member who is the director of HIV Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation, a health policy-focused non-profit in Washington DC, adds, "The critical issue for the future is how to sustain what's been done." Transferring ownership of PEPFAR programmes, which were launched in 2003 under US President George W. Bush as an emergency response to a global epidemic, will not be simple, given the diverse constituent countries and their range of health infrastructures and capabilities. **"The authors are stuck not knowing what to suggest in terms of transitioning from US funded and run programmes to local ones,"** said Roger Bate, a health economist who specializes in malaria and HIV/AIDS at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington DC think tank. He adds that Republicans in Congress are less likely to support funding health systems — where progress is difficult to measure — than the handing out of drugs and condoms. **The 2008 law that last authorized PEPFAR expires at the end of the 2013 fiscal year. It required the IOM assessment released today.** Congressionally-authorized programmes can, and often do, continue to operate in the absence of authorizing legislation if Congress is willing to fund them in its annual spending laws. A related commentary by the authoring committee chairman, Robert Black of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland, appears in the Lancet today.

Non Unique: Cuts to AIDS Prevention Now

[]

[] Multiple disease programs hurt by cuts already

Aziz, staff writer at Science Speaks – a medical news outlet, 2013

(Rabita, “Congress finalizes FY 2013 budget with PEPFAR cut, Global Fund boost,” *Science Speaks*, March 26, Online: <http://sciencespeaksblog.org/2013/03/26/congress-cuts-pepfar-boosts-global-fund-as-fy-2013-finalized/>)

The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief took a hit while the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria got a boost **last week when the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution bill to** avoid a government shutdown and **continue funding the government through** Oct. 1, **the end of fiscal year 2013**. The House voted 318-109 to approve a version of the resolution that was passed by the Senate earlier this month. For the first half of FY 2013, Congress had funded most federal programs at FY 2012 levels, with an end date of March 27. **Under the resolution, PEPFAR is slated to receive** \$4.067 billion, **a \$176 million – 4 percent — cut** from the FY 2012 level of \$4.243 billion. **An additional 5 percent cut from the automatic across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration, means PEPFAR’s total is \$3.863 billion — \$380 million below FY 2012 spending and the lowest funding level since FY 2007.**

Non Unique: Cuts to AIDS Prevention Now

[]

[] **Multiple cuts have been made – destroys AIDS and other disease eradication efforts**

Aziz, staff writer at Science Speaks – a medical news outlet, 2013

(Rabita, “Congress finalizes FY 2013 budget with PEPFAR cut, Global Fund boost,” *Science Speaks*, March 26, Online: <http://sciencespeaksblog.org/2013/03/26/congress-cuts-pepfar-boosts-global-fund-as-fy-2013-finalized/>)

The National Institutes of Health saw an increase of \$71 million over FY 2012 funding, but **will still be subject to the 5 percent sequestration cut. This will cause substantial spending reductions** at the National Institute on Allergies and Infectious Diseases—home to significant investments **in HIV and TB research. HIV clinical trial networks will take a significantly larger hit than 5 percent**, with potential adverse impacts on both HIV and TB clinical trials. **Earlier this month, amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, outlined the human toll of global health sequestration cuts in this brief.** According to the brief, **162,200 people will lose access to HIV/AIDS treatment, potentially leading to 37,000 more AIDS-related deaths, and 72,800 more children becoming orphans.** AmfAR estimates that **63,400 fewer HIV-infected pregnant women will receive prevention of mother-to-child transmission services, leading to more than 12,000 infants becoming infected with HIV. 35,300 TB patients will also lose treatment, leading to 4,200 more deaths from TB.**

No Link: Private Donors Fund Disease Programs

[]

[] Private donors fund AIDS prevention programs regardless of the federal budget.

Vorozhko, staff writer for Voice of America news, 2013

(Tatiana, "Budget Cuts hit US Foreign Aid Programs," *Voice of America*, April 3, Online: <http://www.voanews.com/content/budget-cuts-hit-us-foreign-aid-programs/1633892.html>)

Raj Kumar is President of Devex, an organization that researches and reports on international aid. He thinks that people with HIV-AIDS might suffer the most. "**We are in a world with 30 million people living with HIV**, for example. **Many of them are dependent on US foreign assistance,**" he said. **One bright spot in the aid picture is the increasing role of private philanthropies, like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.** And **corporations are also becoming involved in development -- in communities where they do business and want people to be able to afford their products.**

No Link: Private Donors Fund Democracy Programs

[]

[] **Private donors will fill the gap in aid that promotes regional stability.****McInerney, Executive Director of the Project of Middle East Democracy, 2011**

(Stephen, "THE LOGIC OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY: AMERICAN DONORS,"

POMED, May, Online: [http://pomed.org/wordpress/wp-](http://pomed.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EMHRF-paper-the-logic-of-the-donor-community-American-donors.pdf)[content/uploads/2011/05/EMHRF-paper-the-logic-of-the-donor-community-American-donors.pdf](http://pomed.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EMHRF-paper-the-logic-of-the-donor-community-American-donors.pdf))

Private foundations and nonprofit institutions can be a valuable complement to U.S. government donors, and there are some important comparative advantages that such private institutions may have over their governmental counterparts. It is also true, however, that with the economic recession that began in late 2007, the budget and economic climate among private foundations is also weaker than it may have been a year or two ago. Charitable giving, grant-making, and corporate support for American nonprofit groups declined in both 2008 and 2009. The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported in October 2010 that giving to the United States' 400 largest charities fell by 11% during 2009, the worst such decrease in 20 years. Nonetheless, in many cases, private foundations have more flexibility and fewer bureaucratic hurdles than government institutions, and may be better equipped to react quickly to the dramatic events of the past few months. It appears that private donors are leery of becoming involved in uprisings that are still underway, but eager to provide support in response to local demand in countries like Egypt and Tunisia where the ruler has been overthrown. In an op-ed in February, Open Society Foundations Chairman George Soros declared that his foundations were prepared for "establishing resource centers for supporting the rule of law, constitutional reform, fighting corruption and strengthening democratic institutions in those countries that request help in establishing them, while staying out of those countries where such efforts are not welcome." Since the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, it appears that numerous private foundations are rapidly exploring opportunities for providing support during the period of transition.

No Impact: Spread of AIDs Declining

[] Studies show that the spread of AIDs is declining.

Newman, 2006. [Maria Newman, reporter for the New York Times, "Spread of AIDS Is Slowing, U.N. Report Finds", *New York Times*, May 30th, 2006, http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/30/health/30cnd-AIDS.html?_r=0].

The report estimated that **at the end of 2005, some 38.6 million people worldwide were living with the H.I.V. virus, up more than 6 percent from the United Nations estimate of 36.2 million in 2003.** "The numbers of people living with H.I.V. have **continued to rise, due to** population growth and, more recently, **the life-prolonging effects of antiretroviral therapy,**" the report noted. South Africa's AIDS epidemic, which the report called one of the worst in the world, showed no evidence of decline. It estimated that in 2005, some 5.5 million people there were living with H.I.V., or 18.8 percent of all adults. In 2004, almost one in three pregnant women who attended public antenatal clinics were infected with the virus, the report said, and "trends over time show a gradual increase in H.I.V. prevalence." The report also said that there are more new H.I.V. infections each year than AIDS-related deaths, and that the virus continues to spread in China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa and Vietnam. It found that 1,800 children a day, mostly newborns, become infected with H.I.V., and that only 20 percent of all people who need treatment have access to anti-retroviral drugs. But the report also held some encouraging news. **H.I.V. prevalence is decreasing in Kenya and Zimbabwe,** it noted, **and in 8 of 11 countries studied in sub-Saharan Africa,** the percentage of young people having sex before the age of 15 declined and condom use increased over five years. In the capital cities of 6 of the 11 African nations most heavily infected by H.I.V., declines of 25 percent or more were reported in the prevalence of the virus among 15- to 25-year-olds. "**The majority of epidemics appear to be leveling off,**" the report said.

No Impact: Spread of AIDS Declining

[]

[] The spread of AIDS has leveled out since its peak in the past. The affirmative's plan will not increase the spread of AIDs

World Health Organization, 2011. [World Health Organization; UNAIDS; UNICEF. Global HIV/AIDS response: epidemic update and health sector progress towards universal access: progress report 2011. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO; 2011. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502986_eng.pdf.]

In 2010, an estimated 2.7 million [2 400 000– 2 900 000] people were newly infected with HIV, 15% fewer than the 3.1 million [3 000 000–3 300 000] people newly infected in 2001 and more than one fifth (21%) fewer than the estimated 3.4 million [3 100 000–3 600 000] in 1997, the year when the number of people newly infected with HIV peaked (Fig. 2.1–2.4). Between 2001 and 2009, the incidence of HIV infection has declined in 33 countries, 22 of them in sub-Saharan Africa. In that region, which continues to have the majority of the people newly infected with HIV, an estimated 1.9 million [1 700 000–2 100 000] people became infected in 2010. This was 16% fewer than the estimated 2.2 million [2 100 000 2 400 000] people newly infected with HIV in 2001 and 26% fewer than the annual number of people newly infected in 1997 (when the overall HIV incidence in sub-Saharan Africa peaked). In South and South-East Asia, the estimated 270 000 [230 000–340 000] people newly infected with HIV in 2010 were 40% fewer than the 470 000 [410 000– 530 000] people estimated to have acquired HIV infection in 1996, when the epidemic in that subregion peaked.

No Impact: AIDs related Deaths are Declining

[]

[] **Less People die from AIDs now than ever before.**

World Health Organization, 2011. [World Health Organization; UNAIDS; UNICEF. Global HIV/AIDS response: epidemic update and health sector progress towards universal access: progress report 2011. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO; 2011. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502986_eng.pdf.]

The annual number of people dying from AIDS-related causes worldwide is steadily decreasing from a peak of 2.2 million [2 100 000–2 500 000] in 2005 to an estimated 1.8 million [1 600 000–1 900 000] in 2010 (Fig. 2.6). AIDS-related mortality began to decline in 2005–2006 in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia and the Caribbean and has continued subsequently. Two signal developments have caused this decline: first, the increased availability of antiretroviral therapy, as well as care and support, to people living with HIV, especially in sub-Saharan Africa; and second, fewer people newly infected with HIV since the late 1990s. The effects of antiretroviral therapy are especially evident **in sub-Saharan Africa**, where **an estimated 460 000 (or 30%) fewer people died from AIDS-related causes in 2010 than in 2004**, when access to antiretroviral therapy began to be dramatically expanded (Fig. 2.6).

Remittances Disadvantage

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Summary

The Remittances Disadvantage argues that although currently there is a large flow of remittances, i.e., money sent back home by Mexican immigrants in the United States to Mexico, that the Affirmative's plan, in reducing immigration and thus the remittances that these immigrants would have sent home, will destroy the Mexican economy and lead to increased drug-related crime, as well as hurt US security.

Although some regions depend on remittances more than others it is true that remittances are now Mexico's second highest source of income. With 1% of Mexican's surviving on remittances alone and with millions more using it as a way to invest in a more stable future through education and small-business investment, it is hard to discount its impact on Mexican life. Further, the future potential of Mexican's using remittances to imagine an economic reality for themselves that is not controlled by a corrupt government or greedy multinational companies should not be discounted.

Investing in the plan, although it would make life appear to be more bearable in Mexico, will not solve the larger economic issues in Mexico - Mexican's can earn a day's wage in one hour of work in the US. Plans that prevent immigration to the US, however well intentioned, will not only lack the ability to solve poverty better than the status quo but in actually push more people into poverty and/or to the drug trade and other illegal job opportunities, increasing drug-related violence and the power of drug trafficking organizations. These drug trafficking organizations because of their ability to transport illegal materials and undocumented people across the border pose one of the greatest security risks to the United States. For the right price, what or who might these organizations, who are actively being attacked by combined Mexican and US drug enforcement programs, allowed to pass over our border? The potential size of this impact could be enormous and cannot be ignored; think 9/11 or bigger.

Glossary

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – the value of all legal goods and services created by a country within a year.

NAFTA – A trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States that is controversial for eliminating taxes on corn from the US in Mexico. The eliminating of a tax on imported corn (aka a tariff), made corn, which is made cheap through government support in the US, even cheaper than Mexican corn, destroying the ability of small, Mexican farmers to make a living.

Remittance – refers to the money that immigrants send back to their home country.

Standards of Living – this term refers to how comfortably a population is perceived as living. For instance if people in country X have access to fresh food and water, affordable housing, and quality health care and education then many people would say that people in country X have a high standard of living. On the other hand, if people in country Y were eating but, access to quality food was unstable and very few people had access to an education beyond the 8th grade many would consider this a lower standard of living. As this term only refers to material wealth it is often considered a subjective term, open to a variety of interpretations.

World Bank – an international organization that gives loans to country's with the goal of reducing poverty.

Remittances Disad 1NC(1/3)

- A. Uniqueness and Link. Slow economic growth and poverty provide incentives for immigration to the US, the remittances that follow are critical to Mexico's economy

Villagran, Smart Planet Correspondent Mexico City, 2013

(Lauren , February 27, 2013, "Slow U.S. growth, zero immigration hurt remittances to Mexico", www.smartplanet.com/blog/global-observer/slow-us-growth-zero-immigration-hurt-remittances-to-mexico/9904)

While the number of families heavily dependent on remittances comprise only about 1 percent of the Mexican population, some regional economies do depend disproportionately on income from remesas. (These tend to be states such as Michoacan, Oaxaca, Guerrero, and others that send the highest number of immigrants north.) A drop in the cash sent home can seriously injure a state's economy. Although Mexico's economy recovered from the recent recession far more rapidly than that of its northern neighbor, the country's economies are inextricably tied, and sluggish growth in the U.S. inevitably holds Mexico back. As the U.S. economy improves, so should remittances -- eventually. BBVA Bancomer expects remittances in 2013 to remain flat. The wild card in the equation may be U.S. immigration reform. Will lawmakers give educated immigrants — especially professionals in math and science fields — preference in obtaining a green card, as has been proposed? What will become of the low-wage workers in agriculture and the service industry, many of whom send cash home to Mexico? Importantly, will undocumented immigrants be given the same rights as others, to bring their families to the U.S.? "People send remittances here because there are still links," said Antonio de la Cuesta, director of political analysis with CIDAC, a Mexico City-based think tank. If Mexican immigrants bring their families to the U.S., they won't have a reason to send remittances. But any assumption that immigration has permanently slowed would be premature, said De la Cuesta. The conditions that pressure Mexicans to migrate north haven't disappeared in Mexico. While Mexico's economy is providing greater opportunity for people here than in the past, economic hardship is still widespread. Mexico's social development agency said some 13 million Mexicans were living in extreme poverty at last count. Roughly half the population lives below the poverty line, according to the United Nations. And wages are stagnant. While that has attracted foreign investment, particularly in manufacturing, many Mexicans know that what they earn in a day here amounts to an hour's wage north of the border. "There are still incentives to migrate," said De la Cuesta. "The situation in Mexico remains difficult."

Remittance Disad 1NC(2/3)**B. Internal Link- Remittance levels are tied to immigration rates, a decrease in immigration would limit the amount of money sent back to Mexico.**

Mandelman, Research economist and assistant policy adviser at the Atlanta Federal Reserve, 2008

(Frederico, "Remittances Ebb and Flow with the Immigration Tide", Econ South. Vol 10, No. 3, Third Quarter, http://www.frbatlanta.org/pubs/econsouth/econsouth_vol_10_no_3_remittances_ebb_and_flow_withimmigration_tide.cfm)

Latin America has some of the highest levels of remittances, both in aggregate and per capita, according to the World Bank report. **Mexico**, for example, **received \$25 billion, or approximately 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), in remittances during 2007.** These financial flows are particularly large in Central America and the Caribbean. In 2007, remittances made up 25.6 percent of total gross domestic product in Honduras, 24.3 percent in Guyana, and 21.6 percent in Haiti. **These high levels of remittances to Latin America are clearly related to the rate of immigration from the region. The World Bank's 2007 report, titled Close to Home: The Development Impact of Remittances in Latin America, estimates that Latin American migrants (both documented and undocumented) in the United States increased from 8.6 million in 1990 to about 16 million in 2000, nearly 10 million of whom were Mexican.** About one-third of El Salvador's natives live abroad, mostly in the United States, and almost 50 percent of Grenada's population has migrated to a foreign country.

C. Impact - A decline in remittances would destroy growth and development in Mexico.

Lizarzaburu, contributor BBC Spanish American service, 2004

(Javier, "Mexican migrants' growing influence" BBC news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3582881.stm)

Despite the relative stagnation of the US economy, this flow of money keeps growing, according to recent data. In 2003 it increased by 35% - the total amount sent that year to Mexico was more than \$13bn. **Remittances from Mexicans in the US have become one of Mexico's most important sources of income - second only to oil and surpassing the traditional tourism industry.** According to Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington "**remittances have probably benefited Mexico more than NAFTA**" (the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the US and Mexico). **The flow of money from the US to Latin America largely exceeds the money from foreign aid that the region receives. For many, remittances have become a form of foreign aid that helps the families back home to alleviate poverty, spur investment and achieve higher standards of living.**

Remittance Disad 1NC(3/3)

A Mexican economic collapse would create a failed state run by drug gangs turning the case and threatening the security of the United States.

Roberts and Walser, Research Fellow and Senior Policy Analyst for Latin America at The Heritage Foundation, 2009.

(James A. and Ray "Growing Instability in Mexico Threatens U.S. Economy and Border Security" Feb 12 09 www.heritage.org/research/reports/2009/02/growing-instability-in-mexico-threatens-us-economy-and-border-security)

In addition to the drug violence and corruption, **Mexico is also suffering from economic turbulence**. For instance, **remittances sent home** by Mexican emigrants in the U.S., **which are "Mexico's second-largest source of foreign income** after oil, **[sank] 3.6 percent to \$25 billion** in 2008 compared to \$26 billion for the previous year ... and central bank official Jesus Cervantes said **the decline will likely continue this year**.[5] Furthermore, Mexico's large and important automotive sector has been slammed by the same economic woes facing Detroit.[6] Mexico's economy is now forecast to shrink by as much as 1.8 percent in 2009.[7] And the peso has weakened 32 percent against the dollar over the past six months-the second-worst performance among the world's major currencies after Brazil's real-on concern the economy will sink into recession as demand in the U.S. falters for Mexican exports.[8] **Consequently, the Central Bank has been forced to intervene in an "extraordinary" way to prop up the peso.**[9] **Adding to the economic gloom, Mexican government revenues** (more than one-third of which come from PEMEX, the state-owned monopoly oil company[10]) **are declining steadily**. This revenue drop is the result of lower oil prices and declining output due to longstanding PEMEX mismanagement and inefficiency. Major political and economic reforms are needed now,[11] yet recent **economic turmoil has made the political price of such reforms considerably higher**. All of these developments are severely impacting the price Mexican businesses and governments must pay to borrow money. Unfortunately, current ratings of Mexican debt and the attendant risk premiums probably do not fully reflect Mexico's dire straits. Potential foreign investors should beware. A Vital American interest **Mexico's ongoing political stability and economic health are critical to the prosperity and national security of the United States. The Obama Administration must make confronting the many challenges facing our southern neighbor both a foreign and a domestic policy priority**. In order to realize this vital American interest, the current Administration should do the following:

Answers to: Remittances Falling now

[] Remittances will increase now.

Harrup, writer at the Wall Street Journal, 2013

(Anthony, "UPDATE: Mexico's February Remittances Down 11% on Year" April 1, Wall Street Journal, <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20130401-706541.html>) VP

MEXICO CITY--Mexicans living abroad transferred home \$1.59 billion in February, 11% less than in the same month a year earlier, the Bank of Mexico reported Monday. It was the eighth consecutive month of declines in remittances, which are a significant source of foreign-currency inflows, ahead of tourism and occasionally exceeding foreign direct investment. February's remittances brought the total for the first two months of the year to \$3.06 billion, a decline of 7.1% from the first two months of 2012. Continued weakness in employment among Mexican migrant workers in the U.S. and peso gains against the U.S. dollar are among likely causes of the decline in remittances, which had reached a record \$26.1 billion in 2007. A stronger peso tends to discourage Mexicans from sending money home, as the recipients receive fewer pesos for each dollar, although the peso was little changed against the dollar in February, averaging MXN12.72 compared with MXN12.79 a year earlier and MXN12.69 in January of this year. **Banorte-Ixe said in a report that the leap year in 2012, when February had 29 days instead of 28, was the principal cause of the double-digit drop in remittances in February of this year.** The bank said recent **data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest a rise in the number of Mexican migrant workers in the U.S., after a decline in the second half of 2012, and that coupled with improvement in the U.S. labor market, it expects remittances to start rising in May.** "Although remittances will continue slowing substantially in the first quarter, we consider that flows will recover significantly in the second half of the year," Banorte-Ixe said, adding that **migrant workers who aren't U.S. citizens tend to send more money back than those who have U.S. citizenship**

[] Remittances are stable now.

KITROEFF, writer at New York Times, 2013

(NATALIE, "Immigrants Pay Lower Fees to Send Money Home, Helping to Ease Poverty", www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/us/politics/immigrants-find-it-cheaper-to-send-money-home.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

The lower costs may be one reason that remittances have held steady even as fewer immigrants from Mexico have come to the United States and the recession has cut into incomes. Overall remittances to Mexico declined during the global recession but picked up again after 2009.

Answers to: Immigration Rates Declining

[]

[] This argument doesn't assume the rising flow of immigrants fleeing drug violence in Mexico over the past year.

Darby, FBI agent and columnist, 2013

(Brandon, "Immigration Discussion Remiss to Ignore Cartel Violence," Breitbart, April 27, Online: <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2013/04/27/Immigration-Discussion-Remiss-to-Ignore-Cartel-Violence>)

Another significant concern in relation to illegal immigration began to become visible around 2006: Mexican drug cartels. Since that time, **thousands have been killed as cartels battle each other,** along with any public official or private citizen who attempted to interfere with their operation or territorial control. **Entire police forces have** either been disbanded for helping the cartels or have **fled for the lives of themselves and their families after refusing to be corrupted.** **Some of the cartels,** most notably the Los Zetas, **have** crossed the line from being a criminal enterprise into being an armed insurgency, having **more power and control in many regions than the Mexican government.** **In one instance,** the **Los Zetas forcibly entered the town of Ciudad Mier and caused thousands to flee for their lives.** Many of the town's 8,000 civilians were driven away from their homes and communities. **Many of them found their way across the border and into Texas. They could arguably be catalogued as war refugees or asylees.** The Mexican government's refusal to admit a state of civil war exists in their own territory complicates any effort to properly aid these victims and properly classify them. The US government, as of yet, has not made an honest assessment of the incompetent neighboring government. Instead, these victims simply become classified as illegal aliens. **There has been an increase in Mexican citizens requesting political asylum in the United States,** according to Fox News Latino. **Though the numbers are currently relatively small** in comparison with such requests from citizens fleeing nations like China, **they are growing.** The Miami Herald reports that **three times the number of Mexican citizens won political asylum in the US in 2012 than from six years earlier,** reaching a 2012 total of 130. The Herald also references a 2012 US Department of Justice report revealing 9,206 Mexican citizens applied for political asylum in the US.

Link---Farmers

[] Many of the migrants sending remittances are farmers from rural areas

Hossain, UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, 2005

(Angel , "Recent Developments in Labor Migration and Remittances to Mexico", The Journal of International Policy Solutions, irps.ucsd.edu/assets/004/5380.pdf)

There are several profiles of migrants who make the decision to improve their lot in life by crossing the border into the United States. **The typical immigrant is a young, unmarried man from a rural area of Mexico;** often with a connection for a job opportunity in the United States. Recently, more women have migrated **with the intention of either providing for their families via remittances,** or someday reunifying their families in the United States. Regardless of the migrant's social status, Mexican nationals residing in the United States remain tied to their home villages and cities. **These ties are responsible for the multi-million dollar remittance market that US commercial banks and money-transfer institutions are eagerly trying to infiltrate.** Interestingly, there is a culture to the Mexican border towns that encourages immigration to the United States; whether it is teenagers sneaking across for fun, or "commuters" legally crossing each day for work or shopping.⁵ **Many Mexican agricultural workers who are now legal US residents reside for some part of the year in Mexico and another part in the United States.** Their cyclical pattern of migration increases the social contacts of young men in Mexican villages and makes it easier and cheaper for their friends and relatives to cross the border with them.⁶ It **is likely this pattern of migration will continue to increase as older immigrants become established in ethnic enclaves and facilitate the entrance of newer immigrants.**

Link---Farmers

[] Rural farmers are a major source of remittances to Mexico.

Hossain, UCSD Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, 2005

(Angel , “Recent Developments in Labor Migration and Remittances to Mexico”, The Journal of International Policy Solutions, irps.ucsd.edu/assets/004/5380.pdf)

III. Effect of Remittances to the United States and Mexico

a. Contribution to Rural Economies

Remittances represent the largest economic impact of migration on receiving areas of rural Mexico. Remittances can empower new groups, such as women or the landless, and they can provide a way for migrants to fulfill social and financial obligations to their families and households. ¹⁴ **Although it is nearly impossible to calculate the exact amount of annual remittances since it often flows through undocumented channels, there is no dearth of economic models designed to estimate the impact of remittances to rural economies.** A fundamental assumption in interpreting the effect of remittances to rural parts of Mexico, revolves around the migrant’s household. Family members who remain behind may reorganize their consumption and production activities in response to the migrant’s ¹⁴ Taylor, 3 ¹⁰departure; or in anticipation of receiving the migrant’s remittances. **There is an optimistic potential for the effect of remittances to reduce poverty in rural areas. Assuming the decision to migrate originates in a poor household, remittances may reduce poverty in migrant-sending areas by raising the incomes of the household or by facilitating production of goods and services in the community where the household participates.** ¹⁵ By adopting the household model for sending village communities, a predictable increase of economic growth occurs, linking economic growth of the household to the growth of the surrounding community. In a study of a typical Mexican migrant-sending village, estimated **“remittance multipliers” from migration were found to be equal to 1.78.** ¹⁶ **That is \$1.00 of a migrant’s remittances generated \$1.78 in additional village income, (an additional 78 cents on top of each dollar remitted).** ¹⁷ The additional income was created by expenditures from remittance-receiving households, which ¹¹generated demand for locally produced goods and services, contributing to the income of others in the village.

Answers to: Plan Wouldn't Stop All Migration

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[] Mexican poverty is a major incentive for unauthorized immigration to the US. Increasing growth would drastically reduce immigration.

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 11

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, <http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf>)

U.S. spending on immigration enforcement increased from \$1 billion to \$15 billion between 1990 and 2009. During this time the U.S. unauthorized immigrant population increased from 3 million to almost 12 million. 4 Experts recognize that given the pull of higher wages in the United States, it would take unrealistic amounts of personnel and funding— not to mention the use of lethal force—to stop unauthorized immigration through Mexico. **The enforcement-only approach to migration is ineffective because it ignores some of the principal causes of unauthorized migration to the United States: poverty and inequality in Latin America, particularly in Mexico.** 6 Although every migrant has his or her own story, most of those stories include the inability to find work or earn enough money in their homeland. **In a 2010 case study of an immigrant-sending community in Mexico, 61 percent of male migrants reported that economic opportunities—higher wages and more jobs—were the primary motivating factor for migration to the United States.** 7 As the 2009 United Nations Human Development Report stated, migration “largely reflects people’s need to improve their livelihoods.” 8 **In order to address immigration pressures directly, the United States must consider a more balanced development agenda toward Mexico and other migrant-sending countries in Latin America. This includes elevating the importance of poverty reduction and job-creation projects targeted to migrant-sending communities—particularly in rural Mexico, where poverty and migration are concentrated. Building sustainable livelihoods in migrant-sending communities not only has the potential to reduce a major cause of immigration to the United States but could also contribute to the fight against violence and lawlessness in Mexico. While the reasons for the violence are complex, poverty and a lack of economic opportunity for Mexican youth certainly facilitate involvement in illicit activity along with out-migration.** 10

Answers to: Immigration not key the Remittances(1/2)

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[] Immigration rates drive remittances to Mexico.

Mandelman, Research economist and assistant policy adviser at the Atlanta Federal Reserve, 2008

(Frederico, "Remittances Ebb and Flow with the Immigration Tide", Econ South. Vol 10, No. 3, Third Quarter,
http://www.frbatlanta.org/pubs/econsouth/econsouth_vol_10_no_3_remittances_ebb_and_flow_withimmigration_tide.cfm)

Latin America has some of the highest levels of remittances, both in aggregate and per capita, according to the World Bank report. **Mexico**, for example, **received \$25 billion, or approximately 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), in remittances during 2007.** These financial flows are particularly large in Central America and the Caribbean. In 2007, remittances made up 25.6 percent of total gross domestic product in Honduras, 24.3 percent in Guyana, and 21.6 percent in Haiti. **These high levels of remittances to Latin America are clearly related to the rate of immigration from the region. The World Bank's 2007 report, titled Close to Home: The Development Impact of Remittances in Latin America, estimates that Latin American migrants (both documented and undocumented) in the United States increased from 8.6 million in 1990 to about 16 million in 2000, nearly 10 million of whom were Mexican.** About one-third of El Salvador's natives live abroad, mostly in the United States, and almost 50 percent of Grenada's population has migrated to a foreign country.

Answers to: Immigration not key the Remittances (2/2)

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[] Immigration rates are a key driver of remittances

Amuedo-Dorantes and Mazzolari, Assistant Professor of Economics at San Diego State University & Assistant Professor of Economics at University of California Irvine 11

(Catalina and Francesca, "The Effects of Legalization on Migrant Remittances" Immigrants and Minorities, Politics and Policy, 2011, Part 3, 113-132, Springer)

However, as some developing economies have grown accustomed to remittances, policy-makers have become increasingly worried about the potentially transitory versus permanent nature of international money transfers. This concern has been aggravated by recent news regarding the drop in migrant remittances for some economies, as is the case with Mexico (4).¹ **A variety of factors are likely to affect the temporary versus long-lasting character of remittance inflows, such as changes in the cost of remitting funds, changes in the composition and magnitude of migration flows, and changes in the characteristics of the existing immigrant stock. As a result, US immigration policy, via its impact on both the immigration inflows and the immigrant stock, can have a significant impact on the volume of remittances.**

Answers to: Remittances cause Dutch Disease (1/2)

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[] Remittances have a real economic impact beyond short term consumption, long term ripples.

Balderas & Garcia-Contreras, Assistant Professor of Economics, Sam Houston State University & PhD in International Studies from the University of Denver, 2009

(J. Ulyses , "The effects of remittances and relative price variability on inflation: evidence from 32 Mexican States" Indian Journal of Economics and Business, Dec, 2009)

The money Mexican migrants send back to their communities has reached unprecedented levels and has become a source of essential economic support for more than 1.4 million households (1) in the country. According to information released by the Mexican Central Bank, **Mexico received \$16.6 billion in 2004**, an increase of 24 per cent over the same period in 2003. (2) In a recent study, Zarate-Hoyos (2004) estimated that on average a family receives \$476 per month from remittances. **Although most of these dollars are spent on current consumption, remittances also have some multiplier effects that have a positive impact on different sectors of the economy. Balderas (2009) found that remittances have a positive impact on gross capital formation in Mexico, meaning that remittances do constitute an input of the productive process to the point that they have a larger impact than the impact foreign direct investment** has over the gross domestic product of the country. While discussing the effects of remittances on foreign direct investment and gross capital formation, Balderas argues that the difference in magnitudes is explained by the stability remittances have experienced over the last several years, compared to the high volatility associated with foreign direct investment.

Answers to: Remittances cause Dutch Disease (2/2)

[] Remittances are necessary to reduce poverty and all for sustainable growth in Mexico that can withstand shocks from globalization.

Singer ,Assistant Professor of Political Science at M.I.T., 2008

(David Andrew , “Migrant Remittances and Exchange Rate Regimes in the Developing World”, , Prepared for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, April 3-6, 2008, <http://www.international.ucla.edu/cms/files/singer.pdf>

Over the past two decades, migrant remittances have emerged as a significant source of external finance for developing countries. **Remittances**—which arise when migrant workers send money back home to their families—**constitute a steady stream of foreign exchange that helps to alleviate poverty and stimulate economic growth** in migrants’ countries of origin. Remittances are an important lifeline for some of the poorest countries in the world, but also constitute a sizable share of GDP for emergingmarket countries. In countries such as El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and Jordan, inflows of remittances exceed 15 percent of GDP. In 2004, a total of 34 developing countries had remittances inflows greater than 5 percent of GDP. The World Bank estimates that total recorded flows of remittances reached \$167 billion in 2005; this is a staggering sum that dwarfs other financial sources, such as official development assistance, bank lending, and private investment. Annual flows of remittances even exceed foreign direct investment (FDI) for the majority of developing countries.¹ The rise of remittances challenges our understanding of the influence of global finance on national policy choices in the developing world. **Remittances are “unrequited”: they do not result in claims on assets, debt service obligations, or other contractual obligations** (Brown 2006; Kapur 2005). In contrast to purchases of financial or productive assets, which can be liquidated and repatriated, remittances cannot be withdrawn from a country ex post. **Moreover, flows of remittances tend to increase during economic downturns as migrants send more funds back home to cushion their families.** The contrast between remittances and other capital flows is remarkable. **International bank lending, sovereign bond investment, and FDI are highly procyclical in their reaction to the state of the domestic economy.** For example, bank lending will dry up if a country experiences a financial crisis, thereby exacerbating the subsequent recession. Similarly, bond investors will withdraw their funds from countries experiencing high inflation and fiscal difficulties, while FDI will decline sharply in reaction to a downturn in economic growth (Mosley 2000, 2003; Jensen 2006). It is these types of capital flows that scholars have in mind when they argue that financial globalization generates insecurity and income volatility for domestic businesses and individual citizens (e.g., Garrett 1998; Scheve and Slaughter 2004). **Remittances, in contrast, actually smooth the incomes of domestic residents and shield policymakers from the vagaries of the global economy. In short, financial transfers from migrant workers are a form of insurance for developing countries against exogenous shocks** (Kapur 2005; Lopez-Cordova and Olmedo 2005; Lucas and Stark 1985; Rapoport and Docquier 2005; Yang and Choi 2007).

Answers to: Remittances cause moral hazard

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[] **Non-Unique- Remittance spending on education, health and other public services already dwarfs spending from the Mexican government.**

Amuedo-Dorantes and Mazzolari, Assistant Professor of Economics at San Diego State University & Assistant Professor of Economics at University of California Irvine 11

(Catalina and Francesca, "The Effects of Legalization on Migrant Remittances" Immigrants and Minorities, Politics and Policy, 2011, Part 3, 113-132, Springer)

How much of these potential **losses would result in lower investments in Mexico?** Researchers have found that **remittances are primarily used to pay for daily expenses**, such as food and rent, **with the rest being used to improve housing conditions, education, and health**, along with other purposes. For instance, Durand et al. (22) found that about 76% of Mexican remittance receivers use the funds for consumption purposes, 14% spend them on housing, and about 10% use remittances for productive purposes—a figure that coincides with the one reported by Amuedo-Dorantes and Pozo (15) and Amuedo-Dorantes (forthcoming) for Mexico. Likewise, Suro (23) reports that, for Mexico, about 9% of remittances are either invested or saved, with up to 7% being used for educational purposes. Therefore, using these lower-bound estimates, about **\$289 million in investment funds and \$225 million in education could be lost per year. How significant are these sums for Mexico?** To serve as a reference, we compare the estimated figures to government funds dedicated to investment and education purposes in Mexico. In an International Food Policy Research Institute' report, Skoufias (24) discusses one of the investment **programs promoted by the Mexican government**, FONAES (National Social Enterprise Fund), which promotes employment and income opportunities by financing productive projects. In 2000, this program **had a budget of \$80 million, a much smaller sum compared to the \$289 million in investment funds that would be lost with the reduction in remittance inflows.**

Answers to: Remittances cause Labor Shortages

[] Immigration boosts remittances which are key to the economy – wage levels, capital accumulation, small business investment, and education all benefit from remittances.

Martin, chair of Comparative Immigration and Integration Program at UC Davis, 2003

(Philip,. “Mexico-US Migration” 2003. Institute for International Economics, http://www.iie.com/publications/chapters_preview/332/08iie3349.pdf) VP

Mexican immigration has a positive impact on wage levels in Mexico. 14 Economic studies suggest that during 1970-2000, Mexican **immigration to the United States helped raise average Mexican wages by about 8 percent.** Upward pressure on Mexican wage levels especially benefited Mexican workers with higher education levels.¹⁵ Moreover, **Mexican immigration plays a pivotal role in raising the level of remittances, which in turn help encourage Mexican capital accumulation, small business investment, and educational attainment.**In 2003, Mexican immigrant **remittances reached** nearly \$13 billion, equivalent to **about 2 percent of Mexican GDP** (Hanson 2005).

[] Remittances have a multiplier effect throughout the Mexican economy

Canas et al, business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2012

(Jesus, “The Vulnerability of Mexican Temporary Workers in the United States with H-2 Visas” from *Migration and Remittances from Mexico: Trends, Impacts, and New Challenges* edited by Alfredo Cuecuecha and Carla Pederzini, 2012.) VP

Because **remittances have become a major source of income for many developing countries**, there is a large, and growing economics literature on the determinants and effects of remittances. Most of these studies concentrate on the economic impacts that such flows have on receiving or home countries.¹**For Mexico, a growing body of research examines the effect of remittances on poverty, schooling, labor force participation, inequality, and the financial sector.** We begin by briefly summarizing the expected economic effects of remittances from a theoretical point of view and then what **empirical research reveals about the effects of remittances in Mexico.**¹ From a theoretical standpoint, remittances can have both positive and negative economic consequences. **Households that receive remittances are made better off because they have higher income, which boosts either their consumption or savings or both. These households may be able to make investments**¹ that they previously could not, **including** sending children to **school.**¹**Both** of these effects should **spur economic development.** Investment helps¹ secure households future income stream while **higher consumption** usually **generates multiplier effects throughout the economy that help all households,**¹ **not just those receiving remittances.**

Answers to: Remittances cause Human Trafficking (1/2)

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[] Immigrant remittances are too small scale to be used by criminal or terrorist networks to finance their activities, criminal groups will use other sources.

Logan, director of Souther Pulse Network Intelligence, 2006

(Sam, "Remittances and Money Laundering in Mexico" International Relations and Security Network, Nov 27, <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Articles/Detail/?ots783=4888caa0-b3db-1461-98b9-e20e7b9c13d4&lng=en&id=52697>)

Money laundering efforts are largely initiated by Mexican actors, so it would seem that remittances play an important role in hiding the origination of illegal wealth. **But money launderers prefer to employ bulk cash transfers.** Cash packages are taped to human smugglers, who easily walk across the border from the United States to Mexico. **In other cases, smugglers shovel cash into 40-foot containers, sending it back to Mexico on flatbed trucks. Of the many methods used to launder money earned by the sale of cocaine** and other drugs inside the United States, **cash remittances are not the top choice for money laundering experts** according to the treasury department. "The vast majority of illicit funds we see flowing from the United States to Latin America via remittances tend to be laundered proceeds," US Treasury Department spokesperson Molly Millerwise told ISN Security Watch, adding that **"while remittances can be used by bad actors to move money, they are generally not an efficient method for laundering."** Commenting on the formal financial sector's other worry, terrorism finance, Millerwise said: **"While there is believed to be terrorist financing in Latin America, remittances from the United States to Latin America are not a prevalent means for financing terrorism in the region."**

Answers to: Remittances cause Human Trafficking (2/2)

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[] Remittances can flow through legal channels even if the earners are here illegally.

Federation for American Immigration Reform, 2009

("Remittances to Mexico", www.fairus.org/issue/remittances-to-mexico)

Even as the federal government expands its criminal investigation of companies hiring illegal aliens, it has been helping those same workers send money home cheaply. In 2001, Presidents George Bush and Vicente Fox devised programs to reduce the cost of sending remittances abroad, as part of the Partnership for Prosperity Program, an initiative to promote economic development.1 **New remittance programs, such as Directo a Mexico, aim to bring Mexican migrants into the mainstream U.S. financial system, regardless of immigration status. Directo a Mexico, allows customers without Social Security numbers to wire money through the Federal Reserve System to Mexico's central bank at little cost. About 27,000 transfers are made through the program each month.**2 **Banks and other financial institutions eager for Hispanic customers have joined in.** Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and Harris Bank, have launched initiatives to capture a larger share of the Latino immigrant market. **U.S. banks have lowered transfer fees, accepted the matricula consular (Mexican consulate-issued ID cards) as identification, acquired stakes in Mexican banks, and established cooperative arrangements to facilitate remittances.**3

Answers to: The affirmative helps the Mexican farmers (1/2)

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[] **Comparatively remittances do more to eliminate poverty and build economies than direct aid.**

Hathaway, Dean Melbourne Law School, 2008 –

(James C., Fall, 2008, "The Human Rights Quagmire of "Human Trafficking"," Virginia Journal of International Law, 49 Va. J. Int'l L. 1, p. lexis

More generally, the transnational criminalization of human smuggling per se should raise important concerns for the human rights community. In at least some contexts, (nonabusive) human smuggling - as contrasted with human trafficking - may actually enhance respect for human rights. n198 Kyle and Koslowski conclude, for example, that there is often a symbiotic relationship between smugglers and migrants that challenges absolutist assumptions. n199 **There is, in particular, mounting evidence that remittances from migrants are the single most effective tools of economic and social rights empowerment, dwarfing the impact of official foreign aid programs.** As World Bank senior economist Dilip Ratha concludes, **"Remittances are large, counter-cyclical, and pro-poor. They are better targeted to the needs of the poor than official aid or foreign direct investment."** n200 Lant Pritchett has determined that if wealthier countries allowed an increase in immigration equivalent to just three percent of their labor force, the citizens of less developed countries would gain about \$ 300 billion per annum n201 - three times more than the direct gains that would accrue from abolishing all remaining trade barriers, four times more than the foreign aid now given by [*35] governments, and one hundred times more than the value of debt relief. n202 As such, **any holistic analysis of the human rights consequences of seeking to prohibit simple smuggling should take real account of the critical role in global wealth redistribution played by migration** (which is in turn dependent on smuggling), not to mention the real and immediate enhancement of life possibilities for the persons smuggled into more prosperous and less threatening states. n203 It is too simplistic to assume that all, or even most, smuggling is rights diminishing.

Answers to: The affirmative helps Mexican farmers (2/2)

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[] Direct aid is a poor development model since it encourages recipients to recreate the conditions of poverty that triggered the aid in the first place.

Williamson, Professor of Economics at Appalachian State, 2009

(Claudia R. "Exploring the failure of foreign aid: The role of incentives and information", Review of Australian Economics, July, 23:12-33, <http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs11138-009-0091-7.pdf>)

Not only do the governments of countries receiving foreign not exhibit incentives to promote efficient usage but also special interest groups and **individual citizens** within these countries **also face incentives that can contribute to the failure of aid**. For example, similar to the moral hazard situation facing government is **the "Samaritan's Dilemma"** facing citizens. Buchanan (1975) not only identified that foreign aid may prop up brutal regimes but also that aid created the Samaritan's Dilemma. **By giving foreign aid, the "Samaritan", or the donors, alters the incentives faced by those receiving it. If the recipients believe that future poverty will increase the likelihood of more foreign aid, aid could actually worsen incentives to invest. Instead of saving and investing, citizens now face an even stronger incentive to consume and become dependent on the donors;** hence, the Samaritan's Dilemma. **Boone (1996) empirically supports the existence of this dilemma. In his analysis, foreign aid has zero effect on investment.** Instead, individuals chose to consume. Thus, **aid finances consumption rather than investment**, supporting Buchanan's prediction. Coyne (2008) provides an example of the Samaritan's Dilemma. Prior to the collapse of the Barre regime in Somalia, foreign aid accounted for more than 70% of Somalia's budget. The aid actually created a dependency that has made change in recent years more difficult.

Remittances Good- Mexican Economic Growth- Extension

[] Remittances key to the Mexican Economy growth by directing money to local producers and businesses.

Taylor, professor of agricultural and resource economics, University of California, Davis, 1999

(J. Edward, , "The New Economics of Labour Migration and the Role of Remittances in the Migration Process", onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-2435.00066/pdf NP)

“Macro” economy-wide effects of migrant remittances **If migrant remittances contribute positively to incomes, they may have a multiplier effect on incomes, employment, and production** in migrant sending economies. **Households and firms are linked together through markets.** Expenditure linkages transmit the impacts of remittances from the remittance receiving households to other households and production firms in the economy. **economy-wide modelling techniques can be used to trace how remittances influence income and production** as they work their way through the migrant ending economy. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, such models have not made their way into the migration-and-development literature, at least at the macro level. The few studies that employ economy-i&modelling techniques study remittance impacts generally produce optimistic findings. For example, Adelman and Taylor (1990) found that, **for every dollar sent or brought into Mexico by migrants working abroad, Mexico’s gross national product (GNP) increased by somewhere between \$2.69 and \$3.17,** depending on which household group in Mexico received the remittances. **Remittances reduced the largest income multipliers when they flowed into rural households, whose consumption and expenditure patterns favour goods produced domestically, with relatively labour-intensive production technologies and few imports.** When migrant remittances go to urban households, more of the money leaks out of the country in the form of import demand. **These estimates also reveal that migrant remittances have an equalizing effect on the distribution of income among socioeconomic groups in Mexico. In the first instance, they favour relatively poor and middle-income rural and urban families.** In the second instance, they create second-round income linkages that also favour the poor. As a result, \$1 in remittances translates into a \$0.29 to \$0.38 increase in small farmer and rural-worker incomes and a \$1.11 increase in the income of urban worker households, despite the fact that most remittances do not flow into the latter group. In other words, many of the benefits of remittances accrue to households other than the ones that receive the remittances.

Remittances Good- Poverty

[] Remittances prevent the deaths of millions of people by lifting them out of poverty.

Wainer, Senior Immigration Policy Analyst, Bread for the World Institute, 2012
(Andrew, 10/24, , "Remittances and Immigration",
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-wainer/remittances-and-immigration_b_2010873.html)

Today, remittances are mostly used for survival--they prevent millions of families from falling into (deeper) poverty, but they don't change the economic status quo. It seems to be that remittances' greatest potential - fueling productive investment that generates jobs and income and reduces immigration pressure - is untapped. It could be better employed by U.S. development agencies and regional governments to provide alternatives to unauthorized migration for the next generation of Central Americans. There's scant evidence that border enforcement has impacted undocumented immigration to the United States. The poverty rates in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are 38 percent, 51 percent and 59 percent respectively. **Poverty and the lack of economic opportunity will drive immigrants north no matter how high we make the border walls. Remittances can't solve Central American poverty itself, but they can be part of the solution for providing opportunity to would-be immigrants.** Northern Triangle governments need a national framework for investing remittances into productive enterprises. Remittance recipients need training and support on how to invest in sustainable enterprises. Without collaboration between the diaspora, U.S. development agencies, and regional governments, the impact of remittances will remain limited. **U.S. development agencies are well positioned to facilitate the productive use of remittances into its development agenda to better harness remittances for development in Central America. There are U.S. development programs like this in Africa, but their implementation in Mexico and Central America - the source of more than 80 percent of all unauthorized immigration to the United States - is lagging.**

Remittances Good – Poverty Extensions

[] Remittances reduce poverty and increase education

Canas et al, business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2012

(Jesus, “The Vulnerability of Mexican Temporary Workers in the United States with H-2 Visas” from *Migration and Remittances from Mexico: Trends, Impacts, and New Challenges* edited by Alfredo Cuecuecha and Carla Pederzini, 2012.) VP

Turning to empirical evidence, remittances appear to reduce poverty among recipient households in Mexico. Esquivel and Huerta-Pineda (2007) report that receiving remittances reduces a household’s probability of being in poverty by about 6-10 percentage points, a sizable reduction given poverty rates that range from 16 percent to 44 percent of households, depending on how poverty is measured. Lopez-Cordova (2004) shows that the fraction of households receiving remittances is negatively associated with the poverty rates across all Mexican municipalities in the year 2000. Most research on Mexico finds evidence of a positive effect of remittances on educational outcomes. Hanson and Woodruff (2003) suggest that living in a household with a U.S. migrant increases years of schooling among girls whose parents have low education levels. Remittance inflows raise household income and relax credit constraints which perhaps enables families to pay school fees and delay girls’ entry into the labor force. Borraz (2005) finds a positive but small effect of remittances on schooling, with the impact only occurring for children living in cities with fewer than 2,500 inhabitants and whose mothers have a very low-level of education. Lopez-Cordova (2004) shows that the fraction of households receiving remittance income is positively associated with school attendance rates and negatively associated with child illiteracy rates across Mexican municipalities in year 2000.

Remittances Good- US Mexico Relations (1/2)

[] Remittances are a critical part of US Mexico relations---they solidify economic ties

Fossett, writer for the Inter Press Service, 2013

(Katelyn , Apr 30 2013, "In U.S.-Mexico Relations, a Shift from Security to Economy", www.ipsnews.net/2013/04/in-u-s-mexico-relations-a-shift-from-security-to-economy/)

"President **Obama having a visit [early in his second term] symbolises the importance of Mexico to the U.S.**," Chris Wilson, an associate at the Mexico Institute, a think tank here, told IPS. **The United States is Mexico's largest trading partner,** and the two countries engaged in nearly 500 billion dollars worth of trade in 2012. Much of that trade is in what are known as intermediate inputs, referring to semi-finished U.S. goods that are finalised with Mexican resources, a process seen as increasing the competitiveness of both countries. **Remittances sent home from Mexican immigrants living in the United States are also a substantial factor in the countries' economic ties, totalling more than 20 billion dollars last year.** **The upcoming summit's focus on economics squares with a narrative gaining traction in media coverage and academic circles in recent years that paints a picture of an economically booming Mexico.** "During the administration of Calderon, **the perception of Mexico in the media was largely one of drugs and violence – the headlines about Mexico were about drugs and trafficking, organised crime, gruesome violence,**" Wilson recalls. "But the new [Mexican] administration has come in at a time when economic growth is pretty robust. **They are trying their best to shift the narrative of Mexico by talking more about these economic issues: the reforms that are happening in Mexico that will promote growth, new investments coming into Mexico that will promote growth.**"

Remittances Good- US Mexico Relations (2/2)

[] US Mexico relations are vital to environmental protection

Mumme and Sanchez-Rodriguez, Professor of Political Science at Colorado State University & Emeritus professor of Environmental Sciences at UC Riverside., 2010

(Stephen, and Roberto, Emeritus professor of Environmental Sciences at UC Riverside. "Environmental Protection and Natural Resources" 2010.

<http://usmex.ucsd.edu/assets/024/11636.pdf>) VP

The bilateral framework for addressing shared environmental challenges along the U.S.-Mexico border is today crafted around a triptych of agencies and programs with distinct missions whose role and functions have become increasingly **complementary in the NAFTA era**. The oldest of these, with particular relevance to the management of border water resources, is the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC), whose mandate is found in the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty. **The IBWC oversees the allocation treaty water resources,** hydropower operations on the Rio Grande River, and flood control infrastructure on both the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo and Colorado Rivers in their boundary reach. It **also has a hand in the management of sanitation and water quality along the border**. The 1983 U.S.-Mexico Border Environment Cooperation Agreement, popularly known as **the La Paz Agreement,** **provides the basis for binational dialogue and programs addressing water quality, urban and industrial environmental problems, biodiversity protection, environmental education, environmental enforcement, and environmental justice**. Complementing the La Paz framework and contributing to its implementation, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (**BECC**) and the North American Development Bank (**NADB**), established in 1994, **provide leadership, technical support, and financing for needed border environmental infrastructure projects** along the border. While these are the leading agencies and programs guiding binational cooperation on environmental matters, **other agencies**, the Border Health Commission (BHC) and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), also established in 1990's, enrich the institutional mix and **contribute to binational capacity for environmental protection along the international border**.

Remittances Disadvantage Answers

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Glossary

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – the value of all legal goods and services created by a country within a year.

NAFTA – A trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States that is controversial for eliminating taxes on corn from the US in Mexico. The eliminating of a tax on imported corn (aka a tariff), made corn, which is made cheap through government support in the US, even cheaper than Mexican corn, destroying the ability of small, Mexican farmers to make a living.

Remittance – refers to the money that immigrants send back to their home country.

Standards of Living – this term refers to how comfortably a population is perceived as living. For instance if people in country X have access to fresh food and water, affordable housing, and quality health care and education then many people would say that people in country X have a high standard of living. On the other hand, if people in country Y were eating but, access to quality food was unstable and very few people had access to an education beyond the 8th grade many would consider this a lower standard of living. As this term only refers to material wealth it is often considered a subjective term, open to a variety of interpretations.

World Bank – an international organization that gives loans to country's with the goal of reducing poverty.

Remittances Falling Now

[] Remittances are continuing to decline

EFE, Spanish language news agency, 2013

(Leading Spanish language news agency and the fourth largest news agency in the world. "Remittances to Mexico fall over 13 pct in May" July 1, 2013. http://www.laprensasa.com/309_america-in-english/2116540_remittances-to-mexico-fall-over-13-pct-in-may.html) VP

Mexico City, Jul 1 (EFE).- **Remittances sent by Mexicans living abroad fell 13.2 percent** to \$2.03 billion in May, **compared to** the same month **in 2012, the Bank of Mexico said Monday.** **May marked the 11th consecutive month that remittances have fallen,** the central bank said. [¶] The average remittance totaled \$286.81 in May, down from the \$329.81 registered in May 2012, the central bank said in its monthly report. [¶] A total of 7.1 million transactions, the majority of them electronic funds transfers, were registered in May, the Bank of Mexico said. [¶] **Remittances** totaled \$22.44 billion **in 2012, down 1.57 percent from 2011.** [¶] Remittances sent by Mexicans living abroad are the country's second-largest source of foreign exchange and help cover the living expenses of millions of people.

Remittances Falling Now- Extensions

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[] Remittances and immigration are low

Villagran, Smart Planet Correspondent Mexico City, 2013

(Lauren , February 27, 2013, "Slow U.S. growth, zero immigration hurt remittances to Mexico", www.smartplanet.com/blog/global-observer/slow-us-growth-zero-immigration-hurt-remittances-to-mexico/9904)

The U.S. recession, then slow U.S. economic growth over the past two years, plus tighter border security and anti-immigrant laws at the state level have conspired to either drive immigrants back to Mexico or convince people here to sit tight.

Deportations have increased as well. Meanwhile, drug violence along the border and cartels' targeting of migrants has also deterred immigration north. Together those trends have put a dent in the dollars Mexicans wire home.

Both remittances and foreign direct investment are well off the highs reached before the recession, \$26 billion in 2007 and \$27 billion in 2008, respectively.

The cash sent back to Mexican families totaled just \$22.4 billion in 2012, down 1.6 percent in dollar terms from the previous year (partly due to an appreciating peso),

or up less than 1 percent in pesos adjusted for inflation. By comparison, foreign direct investment last year isn't likely to reach the \$20 billion mark, compared with \$20.4 billion a year earlier. **In Latin America's second-largest economy, income from**

remittances ranks just below what Mexico earns from petroleum, tourism and the automotive industry -- yet remittances account for only 2.3 percent of the GDP.

"The effect of remittances is felt mainly in the homes that receive them," said Juan Luis Ordaz Diaz, senior economist with BBVA Bancomer. "They're a salary for those homes -- probably larger than the salary they would receive here."

In other words, according to Ordaz Diaz, remittances don't have the power to sway the Mexican economy on their own. Their real impact on the Mexican economy comes in terms of consumption, he said. Nearly 1.4 million families in Mexico depend heavily on what their relatives earn in the U.S.; the average remittance is about \$290 per month.

Immigration not key to Remittances

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[] Migration rates not linked to remittances, a number of factors dictate how much money is sent back to Mexico, for example where is an immigrants family located.

Cortina and Ochoa-Reza, , Dept of Poli Sci at U of Houston and Facultad de Derecho UNAM, 2008

(Jeronimo Enrique, Facultad de Derecho UNAM, "More Migration and Less Remittances?", policydialogue.org/files/events/Cortina_Ochoa-Reza_More_Migration_Less_Remittances.pdf)

Conventional wisdom argues that the relationship between migration and remittances is positive and reinforcing. The basic idea is that as the number of migrants in a host country in period one grows, the level of remittances sent to the home country will increase in period two, ceteris paribus. Likewise, as the level of remittances received in the home country increases in period two, the level of migration to the host country will increase in period three. These phenomena could be summarized in a nutshell as "more migration, more remittances". Although there is substantial evidence to prove that this dynamic is true, **we will argue in this paper that the relationship between migration and remittances is not always positive and could be negative depending on demographic, banking and immigration policies that are seldom analyzed comprehensively by scholars or policy makers. In this paper we will present evidence to show that an obvious factor molding the relationship between migration and remittances is the demographic composition of the migratory flow, which could be an unintended byproduct of immigration policies in host countries. A migration flow of children and women, following family reunification policies, will potentially lead to a significant reduction of both the supply and demand of remittances. As the money will now stay in the host country, this will result in a counterintuitive dynamic: more migration, but fewer remittances. In short, remitters will become savers.** In order to show how this dynamic operates we will analyze the case of Turkish and Polish migration to Germany and of Mexican migration to the United States.

Remittances Hurt Mexican Economy- Dutch Disease

[] Dutch disease- easy money from remittances prevents long term investments in building the economy

Yu, undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. 2013

(Tim, "The Significance of the U.S.-Mexican Remittance Corridor", —Progressive Economics Forum Student Essay Contest May 3, 2013, <http://www.progressive-economics.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Yu-Essay.pdf>, Callahan)

Dutch Disease' and Remittance Transfers: **The large and sustained inflow of remittances has fuelled speculation about whether a remittance-driven appreciation in real exchange rates could emerge.** Empirical evidence from the World Bank (2009) has suggested that **a positive relationship between remittances and real exchange rate appreciations could exist. Changes in the equilibrium exchange rate have had several effects on the distributional impacts of remittance inflows, comparative competitiveness of the traded and non-traded good sector, and long-term economic development via 'Dutch Disease' effects.**¹¹⁹ If 'Dutch Disease' is found to be present, it could indicate that **the short-term effects of remittance inflows may come at the expense of reduced long-term economic growth, particularly in the manufacturing and traded good sectors.** Other economists, however, have sought to downplay such fears about a remittance-driven 'Dutch Disease' in recipient countries. DilipRatha argues that 'Dutch Disease' effects of remittance inflows are unlikely to have similar effects as natural resource windfalls.¹²⁰ This has been supported in a separate study on eleven remittance-receiving countries conducted, which found that higher remittance receipts was not linked to slower economic growth or 'Dutch Disease' effects in the manufacturing sector.¹²¹

Remittances Hurt Economy- Moral Hazard

[] Remittances create a moral hazard that reduces the need to enact policy reforms in Mexico to fix the real problems in the economy.

Yu, undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. 2013

(Tim, "The Significance of the U.S.-Mexican Remittance Corridor", —Progressive Economics Forum Student Essay Contest May 3, 2013, <http://www.progressive-economics.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Yu-Essay.pdf>, Callahan)

Governance Issues: **Several scholars have suggested that remittances could pose the moral problem of reducing government incentives to enact policy reforms.**¹²² **Compensatory remittances** have the ability to help offset adverse economic shocks, but **may postpone** (or, even worse, **discourage**) **policies that could be crucial to longterm growth.**¹²³ **Remittances that behave 'counter-cyclically' could have the effect of reducing the political will amongst Mexican households to pressure governments to facilitate necessary investments in public and physical infrastructure, or ensuring tighter controls over fiscal discipline.**¹²⁴ By serving as a 'buffer' between recipient households and the governments that serve them, **remittances can delay much-needed reforms by not only reducing public pressure, but also decreasing the likelihood of a political crisis that would make such reforms mandatory.** Government initiatives, such as the '3x1' Program, therefore, may be altruistic and well-meaning in nature, but could encourage poor fiscal discipline and divert attention away from more pressing issues.

Remittances Hurt Economy- Labor Disincentives

[] Labor disincentives- remittances will reduce the incentive for many to find jobs or invest wisely with easy money coming from America.

Yu, undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. 2013

(Tim, "The Significance of the U.S.-Mexican Remittance Corridor", —Progressive Economics Forum Student Essay Contest May 3, 2013, <http://www.progressive-economics.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Yu-Essay.pdf>, Callahan)

Labour Disincentives: **Remittance inflows can have the adverse effect of reducing labour incentives amongst recipient households.** As Ratha writes in a separate article for The Economist, "**there may also be an economic cost associated with reliance on remittances.** Like any unearned wealth, **they may foster idleness among those who benefit.**"¹²⁵ **The net effectiveness of remittance receipts can be offset by household labour decisions,** particularly **if remittance-recipients decide to: (1) reduce their labour market effort, due to a reduced desire to work; or, (2) make poor investments (i.e., spending funds in areas that would normally invested towards subsistence needs) and depending upon remittances as a primary source of income.**¹²⁶ **This may result in** Yu 30 **lower productivity levels, and lead to a reduction in the available labour supply** within local communities in Mexico.

Remittances Hurt Economy- Labor Disincentives- Extension

[] Remittances can reduce labor and make consumption more expensive long term.

Canas et al, business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2012
(Jesus, "The Vulnerability of Mexican Temporary Workers in the United States with H-2 Visas" from *Migration and Remittances from Mexico: Trends, Impacts, and New Challenges* edited by Alfredo Cuecuecha and Carla Pederzini, 2012.) VP

On the downside, remittance-receiving households may reduce their labor supply because they now have a source of funds other than their own labor income, hence they can consume more leisure. **Remittance inflows** and the associated higher consumption levels **can lead to price increases and exchange rate movements that further undo some of the positive economic effects.** Such price and exchange rate changes **affect consumption** not only among households that receive remittances but also among those who do not. **Remittances can exacerbate income inequality by widening gaps between those households that receive funds and those who do not.** Income inequality may be ameliorated, however, if remittances lead to improvements in employment and earnings among non-recipient households. Whether remittances boost economic development on net thus depends on a host of factors. In addition, **short-run effects may differ from long-run effects.**

Remittances Cause Human Trafficking (1/3)

[] Remittances in unstable areas are used to fund human trafficking.

Financial Action Task Force, 2010

(Inter-governmental body developing policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. "Money Laundering through Money Remittance and Currency Exchange Providers" June 2010. <http://www.fatfafi.org/media/fatf/ML%20through%20Remittance%20and%20Currency%20Exchange%20Providers.pdf>) VP

Note: MR=Money Remittance

MR services offer widespread and legitimate services to immigrants. They serve the unbanked, provide a convenient, efficient and cost-effective means **to send money** to an immigrant's home country and often **can reach** remote **areas** and locations **beset by political instability** that are otherwise outside the networks of the international banking system. However, **investigations in some countries have shown that the services provided by some MR businesses have also been linked to human trafficking and the repayment of "human trafficking agents". As an example, in certain trafficking cases, money remittance providers have been used to pay mules, intermediaries, airplane tickets, etc.**

Remittances Cause Human Trafficking (2/3)

[] **Trafficking enables all aspects of terrorism**

Keefer, Colonel U.S. Army War College, 2006

(Sandra, "HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR THE UNITED STATES." <http://www.dtic.mil/cgibin/GetTRDoc?Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf> &AD =ADA448573)

Is there a link between terrorism and human trafficking? According to Christine Dolan, panelist at the recent "Terrorism Nexus" seminar hosted by The World Affairs Council of Washington, DC, **the answer is a definitive, yes.**¹⁴ Trafficking and terrorism are linked. **Terrorists use the transportation networks of smugglers and traffickers to move operatives.** In many parts of the world, profits from drug trading provide funds for terrorism, and in certain regions of the world trafficking is a large and significant component of that economy. Examples of this include the Balkans, Southeast Asia, Philippines and parts of the former Soviet Union. In the Balkans, trafficking is a major source of profits for organized crime groups which have links to terrorists. In Southeast Asia and the Philippines, **trafficking is significant enabling potential terrorists to move their money easily through the channels of the illicit economy.**¹⁵ The national and international enforcement environment changed significantly after the September 11, 2001 attacks. **Today the conditions could be right for terrorist and human smugglers to join forces.** Emphasis is now being placed on targeting alien smuggling organizations that present threats to our national security. **This emphasis recognizes that terrorists and their associates are likely to align themselves with specific alien smuggling networks to obtain undetected entry into the United States.** Three factors have created an environment in which terrorists and smuggling enterprises may combine their criminal efforts to pose a significant national and international threat. These factors include the fact that the criminal organizations involved are growing in volume and sophistication; and those same organizations' developing the ability to exploit public corruption; and lax immigration controls in source and transit countries.¹⁶

Remittances Cause Human Trafficking- (3/3)

[] Remittances are used to finance human trafficking and other criminal activities.

Financial Action Task Force, 2011

(, Inter-governmental body developing and promoting policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. “Money Laundering Risks Arising from Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants” July 2011. <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Trafficking%20in%20Human%20Beings%20and%20Smuggling%20of%20Migrants.pdf>) VP **Note: THB-Trafficking in Human Beings, SOM-Smuggling of Migrants** Criminals involved in THB and the SOM are primarily using cash transfers both directly and through the use of cash to acquire goods and services. From the evidence obtained and also according to the OSCE report “Analysing the Business Model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better Prevent the Crime” reviewed, three patterns emerge on THB that could be applied to SOM: money sent back to the country of origin of the traffickers where it is often invested in legal businesses such as restaurants, bars, or properties such as apartments or houses; money used both in the country of origin and the country of destination to support a lavish lifestyle for those involved; money invested in other criminal or legitimate activities in the destination country. 139. Because of the predominance of cash handling/transactions those involved are great users of: money service businesses (money remitters); cash couriers; hawala (informal banking system); cash based activities (e.g., mobile phone selling); cash converter activities (e.g., casinos). 140. Although the information obtained from the private sector was limited in extent, and the NGO Stop the Traffik is working with the sector to raise the profile of THB and SOM, financial activity unusual for the business types has been used to identify human trafficking activity (e.g., multiple ongoing payments to internet classified advertising services). 4. To inform law enforcement agencies on the laundering of funds coming from human trafficking/smuggling. 140. Conclusions from the answers to the questionnaire were that information relating to ML arising from human trafficking or migrant smuggling is often generated from operational investigations. What is clear however is that to-date the focus has been much more on the crimes themselves and not on the laundering of the proceeds of those crimes 141. From the literature and the case studies there is evidence of links between human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants and other forms of organised crime. Those being trafficked are often used as drug couriers. There are also identified links between the proceeds of THB and SOM with corruption and terrorist financing. Information provided at the Cape Town workshop by GIABA showed that in West Africa, there is often a link between THB/SOM and corruption, and information provided in respect of the activities of terrorist organisations in Ireland linked THB/SOM to terrorist financing.

Answers to: Mexican Economy Impact---Alternate Causalities

[] Alternate causalities – labor reforms – those are critical to the productivity of Mexico’s economy

Ringley, Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation, 2013

[Drew, “Mexico Poised to become an ‘Aztec Tiger’”, 2/19/13,
<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/02/19/mexico-poised-to-become-an-aztec-tiger/>]

It is long overdue. According to the 2013 Index of Economic Freedom, published by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal, **Mexico ranks below the world average in labor freedom, and Mexico’s powerful special interests have made sure previous reforms were watered-down and ineffective.** As the Index notes, **an inflexible labor code makes it difficult for employers to terminate employees** who, for whatever reasons, **are not cutting it at work. The result: lower productivity and reduced profit margins for firms to sustain themselves during tough times.** Mexico’s teachers union—the largest in Latin America with nearly 650,000 members—provides an example of how entrenched special interests create these inefficiencies. **The union promotes teachers based on loyalty and seniority—not merit. The Mexican labor code also fails to hold educators accountable for the quality of their instruction.** In the end, these policies only hurt the students that educators say they are trying to help.

Answers to: US-Mexico Relations (1/2)

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[] Relations are high now

Guilamo-Ramos, Director, Doctoral Program at NYU School of Social Work, 2013
(Vincent , 5/28, , "The U.S. and Mexico Have Much to Learn from Each Other",
www.huffingtonpost.com/vincent-guilamoramos/us-mexico-relations_b_3347068.html)

Barack Obama's recent visit to Mexico, the fourth of his presidency, represented an important, deliberate attempt to shift the focus of Mexico-U.S. relations from security to economic improvement. But it also represented much more -- a chance to allay the public's profoundly negative conceptions of Mexico by shifting the conversation to education, labor, environment, and other human-scale issues that are truly vital to the future of both countries. While much media coverage focuses on Mexican immigration battles, drug wars and narco-trafficking, the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico has been evolving in complex and positive ways. That is really not so surprising when one considers that the Latino population in the U.S. surpassed 50 million not too long ago, and people of Mexican ancestry account for more than 60 percent of this total. Mexico's economy and middle class are growing. And there is Obama's pivotal "100,000 Strong in the Americas" initiative, launched in 2011 to expand study-abroad exchange opportunities between the U.S. and Latin America. Increasing student exchange, and building understanding through higher education, offers at least the potential to help offset the tarnished public perception of bilateral relations. Not incidentally, this cross-border tradition contributes heavily to both countries' economies.

Answers to: US-Mexico Relations (2/2)

[] The environment is resilient and can recover from pollution quickly without human intervention.

McDermott, reporter citing research done at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Science, 2009

(Matt, Tree Hugger.Com," Good news: most ecosystems can recover in one lifetime from human induced or natural disturbance",

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/05/most-ecosystems-can-recover-from-disturbance-in-one-lifetime.php>)

There's a reason the phrase "let nature take its course" exists: New research done at the Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Science reinforces the idea that ecosystems are quiet resilient and can rebound from pollution and environmental degradation. Published in the journal PLoS ONE, **the study shows that most damaged ecosystems worldwide can recover within a single lifetime,** if the source of pollution is removed and restoration work done: Forests Take Longest of Ecosystems Studied The analysis found that on average forest ecosystems can recover in 42 years, while in takes only about 10 years for the ocean bottom to recover. If an area has seen multiple, interactive disturbances, it can take on average 56 years for recovery. In general, most ecosystems take longer to recover from human-induced disturbances than from natural events, such as hurricanes. To reach these recovery averages, **the researchers looked at data from peer-reviewed studies over the past 100 years on the rate of ecosystem recovery** once the source of pollution was removed. Interestingly, the researchers found that it appears that the rate at which an ecosystem recovers may be independent of its degraded condition: Aquatic systems may recover more quickly than, say, a forest, because the species and organisms that live in that ecosystem turn over more rapidly than in the forest.